

[raised imprint reads: "CARSONS"]

[written along the left side: "I will send you the Banner evry week after this"]

Hampstead Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> /61

My darling husband,

It is a long, long time since I have written to you, and I ought to have written if I hadn't received any from you but I kept waiting expecting to hear from you evry day. but I wish I had written now it will be so long before you will get this. I wish I could hurry it on to you. I worried and fretted and felt almost as bad to speak of you ~~sometimes~~<sup>^of the time</sup> as I did when you first went away. Last Friday Augusta informed me by the way of a note, that the Dr's folks had a letter and that he wrote you were enjoying good health and <sup>^was</sup> "the same old sixpence" and I felt so much better that I could wait patiently I thought for a whole week if I did not receive one before "And a patient waiter was no loser" this time at any rate I was so pleased with your package that I was nearly beside myself. And indeed we all were. Father was pleased because you noticed him, and the children took it for granted that the shells were all meant for them, and I knew that the letters were all mine, and I could hardly wait to read the first I wanted to get to the last so bad, as I do when reading a novel

But all our joy was turned to sorrow before night for just night we heard brother Nelson had broken his leg

He was at work in Hale's mill and a log roled on to him and broke both bones of the leg below the knee

Dr Hovey set it and I think it's to bad they didn't have Clark. they say he is a good surgeon. He has warented him a good leg but I don't know how much good that is going to do. They had both of the "fools" but Woodman didn't come till it was set. Poor fellow it will be a winter's job for him

Mother is over there now, and I am keeping house I am sitting here now at a quarter before nine, my feet on the point of freezing as usual writing to you. I have had evry hindrance in the world this evening, Adaline & Albert & Lot have been here to see the shells, and [Lim\*] come over this evening. I would have staid at home from church to day and wrote all day but I wanted to see Julia, but didn't see here after all. There! Annie has got one of her crying spells in her sleep. she <sup>^has</sup> had them ever sense she commenced having the chicken pox. It went harder with her than with Josie. She was sick nearly a week before she began to get any better. And such a looking child you never saw. John Ordway came in one day (we trade with him mostly now is that right?) and she said she saw him looking at her and she guesd he thought she was a pretty looking creature We made her a bed in the room and she would play till she got tired out and then ~~she would~~ throw herself on her bed and drop asleep. She would do so several times through the day so you can judge she was pretty sick if she was sick enough to go to sleep in the day time

Tell James Hall I spent an hour with his wife to day and ate a ~~doug~~ one of her dough-nuts and a piece of <sup>^her</sup> mince pie for him. Poor little thing I called to see her yesterday, she had been up to see Eastman's folks the day before and heard James had the measles, and she looked as though she had cried her eyes out, and I don't blame her. I dont beleive I should sleep ats all if I knew you were sick off there and no little wife to take care of you. "By the way" where is that young widow you wrote me about once?

What kind of a nurse does the Dr's wife make? I wish you would explain that little word you used about her twice in your letters. You understand me don't you?

You took that too hard .that I said about some of your language in your letters. I had no idea of lecturing you a thousand miles away. But I know it isn't natural for my husband to be coarse and I dont know as any thing you wrote would be considered so, but there - I can't explain it and I wish I hadn't written anything about it. Write evry <sup>^thing</sup> and not keep anything back that you wish to say and that will suit me ~~bat~~ any rate.

I deliverd the cigar's to the Maj., R. wasn't in, and he was as pleased as a child with a new toy. He told me Reufus had a letter from you the day before and that he - the Maj.- I mean had sent you tow papers that day. I was over to Julia's last Thursday and William had got three papers done up to send you. I would send you the "Banner" this week but Emerson has had it and daubed it all up with cranbury-sauce, and if I send it I shall have to send you some of Mrs. E. cranbury sauce. I was over to Julia's thanksgiving-day no the day after I mean. I was at home thanksgiving-day and we had no company but Nelson Morgan. I met Emily at Julia's and that was all. We were talking of you and Elmer most all of the time I read one of your letters you wrote William. Emily thinks you might afford her one letter. I wish I wasn't so sleepy I can't write to you as I want to. I didn't go to sleep till I can't tell when last night and the wind rocked my bed so that I couldn't sleep the latter part of the night But there is one thing very important that I must write about. It seemes strange you never have told me how you sent that money I never had receivd it nor heard from it. and dont know where to look for it.

I was very sorry to disappoint you about those minatures but I will tell you just how I am situated I have got just two dollars to buy what ever we want to live on for the rest of this month (I dont mean evry thing we want to eat of course.) unless I call for it before the month is out and I don't like to do that. And then how to get to Haverill with my two children in cold weather I know not. And that is the nearest place I can get them taken at But I will try dearest evry way in my power for there is nothing that would give me so much pleasure as to send them to you. But dont worry about us on account of what I have writtin, for you know there ~~is~~ will be all of this month due me at the end of the month. We have had uncommon weather here this Fall and so far this winter. There was a little sleighing just about thanksgiving time, but it become warm and rained and carried it all off and we have had none since. We had several days since the snow come almost as warm as summer. Now my precious husband you must make this letter answer for this time and I will write again in a week certain, and I will write evry week and so if you don't get them you may know I have written. My regards to all the poor soldiers I am acquainted with and especially to James Hall, Capt Sleeper and Addison Noyes And now God bless you and keep you safe my darling I am almost ashamed of this letter but I know you will excuse your poor little sleepy Emmy

[written along the left side:]

"You musnt think we are badly of from what I wrote for the children and I are all well clothed and that is the reason I am [belhind\*] hand"