

Hilton Head S.C. Jan 1st 1862

A happy new year to my darling Wife,
Dearest Emmy, I did not intend to write again so soon for we are expecting a mail every day now & I am hoping against reason, to receive your minature by this. but I will be as patient as possible, I intended to wait till the mail arrived expecting to have ~~all~~ a letter to answer at any rate, but as the Vanderbilt leaves for New York to day, thought that I would send you a few lines ^{^now} and write you a letter after I get yours.

There is nothing new. to write about. everything goes on in the same quiet way, every day very much alike. The weather continues pleasant and warm, and ~~y~~ my health continues, good, better than it generally is at home. There is considerable sickness in the Regt. & one man died Monday, and another will die soon, probably.

Brewster is mopeing around, looking rather poorly, but I think that he is homesick more than anything else. I am glad that, that complaint dont trouble me, as much ^{^as} I love my precious wife and babies. I beleive that I have sense enough not to be homesick here, if it is was not more than a few miles to you I might be homesick enough to bring me home pretty often.

I am anxious to hear that Nelson is getting well for it is hard for him to be confined to the house all of the time notwithstanding the fact that he has a good little wife to take care of him. tell him that I think of him every day, and every time that I go anywhere, always wish that he was here to go with me. I know he would like to be here as well as I do I wish Hattie “a happy new year” and expect her to have a custard pie made for my new years present when I get home. The same to Lewis, and my dear little sister Ruth of course. The first place that I visit when I get back will be there & Hatties. I should think they might write to me, they can’t think how glad I should be to have a letter from any of them

The Dr. has turned over a new leaf in earnest I think, for he tends to his business firstrate, and is very popular here. the patients think as much of him as we do at home, and he is like very much by the whole Regt. He was unused to the business at first, and did not get along as well as I expected, but he will come out of it all right.

Oh! My sweet Wife how I should like to see you today, if I could take you and the babies, all in my arms at once, and give you one kiss, it should be worth everything but I will be patient, “there’s a good time coming”

I cant write much more now for, I have got to wash again, yesterday, I mended my stockings and drawyers. I tell you, it will be worth a great deal to you, my coming out here, for I shall be worth something, when I get back, I shall know how to cook & wash and mend and be a great deal better nurse when you are sick, but I must say goodbye now give my love to all, you know who that means. dont neglect to write often, and think of me all of the time.

Leander

P.S. Mr. Hall is a good deal better. I dont know as his wife has heard from him, so thought, I would add this I suppose you visit there now, you grass widows ought to be sociable. Good bye my sweet darling

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