

[at the side of the letter written sideways...]

Father has been spiling more blood and is quite unwell to-day. The rest are well

[at the top of the letter written sideways...]

I am afraid you will not be pleased with This letter and I would not send it if ~~it~~ I had any more paper. But it is so late now I can't get any more. So you will have to take this or none. Oh Leander if you knew how lonely I have been sometimes the past week you would not blame me for cursing the fate that separates us

I feel satisfied that my life is not a long one, and how hard it is to spend ~~the~~ so much of it away from you. But you don't feel as I do about it ~~and~~ If I could only feel as though you wanted to come home, I should feel better. But I begin to feel as though you had rather stay than not E.

Hampstead Sept. 20th/63

Dear Husband,

In the first place I hope you will excuse this dirty sheet of paper as it all I have and this is a borrowed one. I should feel just like talking with you if I were alone, but Clara is here and I must hurry it though as usual. We are having another rainy Sabbath and it makes me home-sick

I received two letters last week from you, I didnt have any trouble reading your last one as you thought I would. I thought it was the prettiest hand I ever knew you to write. I advise you to write so all of the time.

I havn't had a letter from Joseph yet, but Julia had one last Monday and I happened to be there and heard a part of it read. I hadn't heard from you for over a fortnight and was anxious to hear from you, and what do you suppose he wrote? He said you were well but awful lousy. Julia laughed, and I laughed with her, but after I got home I went to bed and cried about it. I never have heard anything about you ~~that~~ since you have been away that made me feel as bad as that did. I never can think of you now without thinking of that, and I wish I didn't know it it makes me so figetty. I felt almost as though it were myself.

Your advice to Lewis was very good perhaps, but needless. He loves his family too well to leave them unless he is obliged to, and I am glad of it. His substitute got the three hundred from the town and he had to pay over the other two hundred to Caleb Moulton; and a precious little will the government get of it after it has passed through a few more hands like his

I wish you could have been here and see what a mean, swindling piece ^{^of,} business this draft has been through the whole of it. All Moulton had to do ~~when~~ to get the conscripts accepted was to tell the surgeon they were copperheads. And I suppose you or Joseph would have done the same according to what you write to William and Julia about copperheads. If you did but know it they are all the friends you have got here. And they are ~~know~~ ^{^no} more in sympathy with the rebellion than you are. Jeff Davis has said that Valandigham is his greatest enemy because he is for having the old union restored. Julia says our Constitution may be wrong and is wrong if it allows slavery. And so I asked her what in the world we were fighting for. I knew before that they were not fighting for the constitution but I never found one that would own it before

She said they were fighting to put down the rebellion. I never saw a person a little tintured with republicanism but that would insinuate that the Constitution might be wrong and that those men that made it were nothing but men after all. That is all the thanks those good old patriots get in these days. You say you love your Country, I should like to know what you mean by your Country. ~~I always supposed it meant the laws~~ (I loved it when we had one)

It has become so alterd under this administration that I should...

[fragment letter ends here]