

Boston Mass
April 23 1864

My dear Mrs Harris –

I was delighted to receive your very kind note of April 17th with those very acceptable Photographs of your dear Husband & Mr Colston. and will hasten to reply - in the first ^ place will say your Husbonds is very good, but not as good looking as he is, Mr Colstons is very perfect – I thank you very much for them They shall occupy a nice place in my Album – I wish I could have seen Mr Harris while at home and I do not blame you one might for feeling so bad to have him go again into the service

I think the “Soldiers wives” generally have ~~been~~ endured thier three years seperation bravely and it is a cruel thing that the War must continue – I do hope our Regt may be as mercifully preserved as they have been in the previous campaign – I wanted to go with them, and had a summons and urgent request from Col Bell to return with them, made my arrangements and preparations accordingly but a few days before they were to start an order was issued that no Matrons were allowed in the field and I could not be with my Regt – I did not care to go into a General Hospital and consequently did not go at all but I would willingly have gone and done them all the good I could

I am quite sure it would have been the voice of the Regt to have had me with them They were all good and respectful to me always, God bless & preserve them –

Mr Harris will recolect of my speaking oftentimes of a dear Brother who has been some years at the South and when the rebellion command could not get away but after trying ever means in his power succeeded at last [in] escaping by runing the blockade and came to us last November A few weeks of such rest & joy as we had only ourselves knew when he was stricken with malaria fever and hermorage of the Bowels and after most intense suffering ^of three weeks passed away never more to return – Our anxiety for him while he was at the South was so great that we never thought that if he came to us he could die, “But Gods ways are not our ways” and we must submit but it does seem that we are strangely afflicted for Death has ~~been~~ taken thirteen dear Members of our family near & dear within the short space of 7 years

I think it must have been very hard for the Soldiers to have gone back after their visit home and I think they are homesick now –

When I decided not to go into Hospital again I ~~decide~~ accepted the situation I have now here as saleswoman in “S.N. Gauts Store 474 Washington St” – have been here three weeks and like my business much

Mr Harris will recolect I used to have the Chills & fever while at Beaufort, [well*] I have them yet at regular intervals and they make me suffer much I tell you – and as I am having a Chill today you will excuse this disjointed epistle for I feel quite ill – I want to tell you Mrs Harris that you do not seem a stranger to me for your Husband used to talk so much of you and the dear babes that I am acquainted, and hope to have a speaking acquaintance yet

I would like very much to have your Photograph to put in my Album beside your Husband I shall write to Mr Harris soon and I would be happy to hear from you often - will always answer at the earliest opportunity I had a visit from Mr & Mrs Haynes while

he was at home – Perhaps you know he has not reenlisted again consequently he will be at home next Sept if he lives

I am sorry that your health is ~~feeble~~ feeble for I know you cannot bear as much as though you were strong but you must lean firm on the “Almighty Arm” and rest all your sorrows and weekness there – you are never forsaken or alone – but will be cared for tenderly though you are smitten

I hope the term of service will expire much sooner than they have enlisted for and all be made happy again Be assured My dear Mrs Harris I shall ever remember you and family & especially your Husband for his kindness & respect, to me and all the regiment I shall ever respect for their goodness – when I began this I did not expect to write as much but you will pardon – Please tell Mr Harris when you write that I calculated and expected to have gone back but for the new order issued –

Hope to hear from you soon

J A Sawyer (Boston
G N Gauts 474 Washington St