

Camp near Fort Sherman

Aug. 24th 1862

My Darling Wife:

You cannot conceive the joy which your letter of the 17th inst. has given me. How anxiously I have anxiously the days have passed, since I first learned of your illness, only those who have known the sad experience can imagine. - On the march in the camp, by day, by night, my thoughts have been with you, and of you. Self-reproachful, pining and desponding, in their nature, every thought has made me the more ^{sure} ~~sure~~ ^{sure} that some ^{one} ~~one~~ ^{one} should cross my path, that we might feel again the shock of bitter forebodings and a day of gloom and night starved. And now to get a letter from Germa - is a triumph, an invaluable joy. Oh! I would that I were with you, to make your travels lighter if I might - to beguile the weary hours with loving words and tender reassurances. - But I am content. It is enough to know that you are surrounded and are in safe tender careful hands, as they are. By the way, let me say that I must reassure that she can hold all thoughts toward you, as most affectionately and tenderly as she can. I did think that she was not yet quite well.

without reason, at my neglect, and I supposed
that she had forgotten, that the expression of this, would
wound your feelings - I never thought that she had
evil feelings towards me, any more than I have had
towards her - I know that I have never thought of
her, but as a very dear sister - though certain
phenomena in my conduct, be well capable of bear-
ing a different construction, and I do not know but
an evil-disposed, or thoughtless, reporter of my con-
versation, may have added immensely to the probability
of this conclusion - I know of no instance, in which
I have ever uttered a word, which any one could
construe to be anything but kind and friendly towards
Angie - Yet there may have been many, for I know
how easily any little irritation causes me to say more
than I feel - Besides that, detached portions of conver-
sation are very susceptible of a different shade
from the one which their original setting threw
over them - You know Buena tells us that he
who talks much "must needs sometimes speak
amiss," and I know of no one to whom his axiom
more literally applies than to myself - You know
I am particularly fond of analysing character. In
fact, it is a hobby with me. I may some-
times have applied - perhaps indelicately - the
lens - or dissector rather - Scalpel, I mean -
to my grandmother's foibles - for such
things - she, with other humans, inevitably

has - I have no memory of such a
fringe, except one - and that came to you
I am more than grateful to her, for the kind
care which she took of Emma, during her illness -
I suppose she would disclaim the kindness to my
wife, and attribute it to her sister - in fact - this
is the same in effect - I must be thinking then, with
regard to the grief springing from our friendship,
but I am very sorry now - I do not hope I shall
conceive her any more errors than I have now -
and I think, she may then consider that she has escaped
from the blight of any affection, with a little caution
could be reasonably expected - I am looking very
for an "imbraglio" with Lucia - I know of
sufficiently absurd for us to quarrel about, unless it
be that because she is of adoration - or at least an
attempt of adoration - of his wife - which I never
expect to, and never expect to - I would be well
to - Let me see, - good "cousin" of mine has been
in case of Donna, Angie, and Diego - I
I am threatening to have a few years ago, and
any allotted expression, in the lake of five or six
certain epithets of her, are destroyed, but
open the offending ones? They are postmarked, but
I don't know how you had but let me
to have them sent in the lake - but on paper
would never be found - I am sure of it

inclined, grand nephew, of her youngest grandchild her
last descendant - in the very last days of the "Council of Peace"
would be sure to find the Israelized epistles, and, after gaining
the same, would, ^{at once} break off a proposed alliance, with the
last representative of the Donnell "Papist". I suppose
they must be destroyed - Use your own discretion, as to
time & manner - I think the best way to prevent their
being sent, would be to publish them, under the
title - "Letters of a Teacher" - by a lady. - I was
amused at James' account of Pratt - She (R.)
seems to be quite as much of an enigma as her father
and her activities as little capable of comprehension as his -
From, to me, her action appears the most mysterious in
the world. I never knew her to exhibit any thing
like warmth of feeling, toward any one but myself and
only to me, because I mingled her into it - I should
have expected her, to do just as I she is not like other girls - I
never knew her to have a wrong but once in my life - She is more
like other girls about expressions of affection than
some other respects - The lifting of her eyebrows, is just as natural
- or at least as common - an expression of good feeling and friend-
liness, as the wag of his tail is to a dog - I have no doubt, that the
reason why she is not more cordial toward James, is that
she fears James will think her abstruse and presumptuous
answering to claim relationship & silly - And you know she would
do without friendly favor, rather than expose herself to that &
One thing you may rely on, that she is not affected nor excessive
she opens her eyes - If she half chide them off out her lips
and looks aside wise, - something is a shew. It is twelve
o'clock - Midnight - There is a rumble of artillery in the distance -
God grant that it may be the precursor of the last battle of the
war - Sweet slumber be with you, my dearest darling,
and bring Peace & health to you, to night. -
Aunt Abigail



Mrs. A. W. Bourgee

Corneant

Ashland Co.

Ohio

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