

Camp University Franklin Co. Tenn.  
Aug-7<sup>th</sup> 1869

My Dear Wife -

I recd more letters from you today - Surely you are doing handsomely in the literary line - I sent you a scroll by this morning's mail but somehow I feel sorely tempted to send another - I am afraid I shall get into the habit of writing to you every day if I am not careful - For some reason or other our Court Martial was ordered to adjourn for a few days - I am ordered to prepare more charges & suppose - There are enough now - I tremble when I think of what is before me in this respect - If I have to prosecute all these I am afraid I shall have a long job or else justice will be hurried - I must sit up late to-night to post up our Courts Martial - -

~ And as you think I am not always "correct" - You are right, and funny enough, just as I read your letter I turned to a sheet of paper before me on which I was writing an application for a leave of absence for a brother officer and there it was "absences" again - Beaucoup de mercies de vous. To return the compliment I look through your letter and find the "tating needle" lost - ~ ~ And as "Siggie's letter" fretted you. There was something about it which made me feel unpleasantly and I attributed it to the tone of that part of it - but then you know how terribly her woman's pride has been shocked. Surely she can hardly be blamed for taking a little revenge - which is evidently her intention in what she says - If you try again in Cleveland or some other good place I have no doubt you will succeed - If you don't I will learn photography myself on purpose to do your picture -

1863  
An order has come from Division Headquarters for me just now and I must attend to it - Some damned C.M. business I suppose - No more tonight Love - Albin -

Aug 8<sup>th</sup> - Morning -

Contrary to my usual custom I have not returned to my "bunk" after getting up to attend "reville Rolled". The truth is I have exertion to sleep very late this morning for "the devil has business on his hands."

The Court Marshal begins its trials today at 10 am. and I have to be ready to prosecute - I am more and more surprised at being appointed judge Advocate. It is the first time any one below the rank of Lt. Col. has acted as such in this Division, and this is a very important court too - I suppose it is the result of my being a criminal and making a good defence - You need not look for a scrap from me again - before evening - If I write all day and then make up the record at night I shall have enough to do - without writing to "maiden or wife."

You have had a very economical fit lately have you not? That's the result of your long confidential chat with Father - who by the way is not half so prudent and saving as might be supposed from his homilies - He is a good adviser however and you could not have a better Mentor - not even excepting a certain descendant of his - now an officer in the U.S.A. (But in regard to the going to Cleveland - I don't see why I cannot well afford to let you go there - I shall be able to send home, each pay day - which must come pretty soon - at least \$300 - You know I have an income of about \$1400 per year - and if I get any

promotion shall have over \$2000 - My support, of course, costs considerable - very much more than it would if I were in civilization - But I think you can have sufficient to dress "trimmily as my wife" - to continue your music, and get at home and contented at it too - in Cleveland - Recollect that we are not making a fortune now - if we can live inside our income and have a little margin for contingencies it is all I expect as I live.

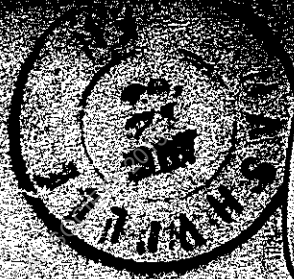
I do want you to be an accomplished and attractive lady, and I think you could do much towards this by a visit in some city - I do not so much desire you to seem accomplished & elegant as to be so. I wish your judgement to pervade your whole being - If it were not that you have an unmounted capacity for this you would not now be my wife, for I should never have loved you - I desire that you should study dress - the art of the Toilette, - fitness of attire - I know your natural taste is excellent, but I think that by careful study and criticism of others you may improve it greatly - I do not mean to study fashions, but styles of dress - decide what colors, and modifications of existing modes, are becoming to your self and others - The essence of truly educated taste is always becoming & attractive in appearance - no matter whether old or young - As an instance of this let me just mention Mrs. Capron - who used to teach at Kingville - Mr. Holyoke even could not spoil the lady there - You could not guess what was my remark in regard to your being "the pleasing attractive lady I would for my wife", brought to my mind - so pleasing and yet so peculiar I could not describe it - yet I would not take much - for the memory of it -

I have been hard at work all day Evening - Aug 8<sup>th</sup>  
at that infernal Court Martial - My pen has scarcely left my  
hand - never unless my head has been sorely puzzled - I am not very  
tired, however; far less wearied indeed than I expected to be - Besides  
that I am in first rate spirits for the pay matter has been arround and left  
\$4.29-74 with me - Quite an inducement to be good natured, is it not?

— And so my Avouching of forbidden themes gives you  
pleasure - I am very glad, for it gives me pleasure to write of them.  
I have always had an almost unconquerable inclination to write and  
speak of you, to you. I do not know why. Why - when we were scarcely  
more than tolerably acquainted I used to be tempted and don't know but  
I did trespass in this respect very early in our acquaintance - It has always been  
a source of pleasure to me that you have been susceptible of such intimate  
passionate enjoyment - I have always desired that my wife might be an  
"epicure" in this respect - I have desired that she might enjoy in their full-  
ness all the pleasures of sense - that she should look upon them and expect them  
but I would have her enjoy them - not as a brute - not the mere intercourse - but as a  
lady - as a refined and delicate woman - enhanced by fitting surroundings  
sweetened by playfulness - sanctified by love - I believe this sense may be cultivated (and  
why should it not be?) the same as that of taste or smell or hearing - which should  
not the sensual act be enhanced in gratefulness by all the attractions of dress of gesture  
and coarseness which prove such potent instruments in the hand of the avoucher? Why may  
not one cater to passion as well as appetite? Why do so many men neglect beautiful women  
for comparatively plain mistresses? Because the mistress adds to her natural charms every  
possible charm of surrounding and manner - You may perhaps not know the real extent  
of this influence - let me illustrate - When I desire to remember you in your loveliest  
mood - almost involuntarily, or quite so - my mind goes back to that evening at James-  
ville when you felt so "cute" - do you know the reason of it? Your playful manner was like a  
charm to your beauty - had you been any wife that might the influence of manner would  
have been the same - And darling, while I think of what would add to my own enjoy-  
ment - I would not forget yours - I know that my manner may doubtless have been the same  
influence upon you and I would have it ever pleasing - I have been pained that you  
should think my pleasure could be separate from yours - that I could enjoy what you  
ever possess or feel with dislike - but so - do you remember one night at Columbus?  
I thought you refused me but through playfulness and I was by no means displeas'd -  
It but added to my desire and would have brighten'd enjoyment -  
But poor love Husband Albion much you do his  
lovely count when he can only dream of his love's face - wish he were  
with her and pray that this cruel war may end

Annals

Husband  
Albion



Mrs A. W. Tourgee

Convent

Ashtabula Co

Ohio



Aug 8 11  
Camp University