

Eric Penna Hosp. 1863

Wednesday P. M.

Husband, Albion:

I have been con-
sidering to-day how a soldier's wife
who truly loves her husband, even
live and not be a Christian. To
me it seems that it would be
a living death. No Christ, no Heaven
no hope of meeting in the "Hereafter."
Oh! it would be so terrible!
It seems to lead one right home
to Heaven to have you a soldier
hourly exposed to death in such
dreadful forms. There would be no
hope in life could I not "look upon"
through it all. Is it so with you
Sister, do you love and trust
God. Who cannot err in all his
doings with His creatures? -
I promised to tell you of Emma

You remember my writing you of Mr
Knight's sickness last summer.

He was brought to Dr Fuller, and
Soma was his nurse. I do not
know as I have written you that
for the two years she has been at
the Dr's she has studied medicine
and the human system constantly.

Her constant care and association
with him during his illness re-
vealed to her a startling fact - that

his constitution was effeminate - that
he inherited a scrofula, but Soma's
words express it all that "he was a
mass of infirmities" and with these

bodily infirmities his family were very poor
and always had been, but was unambitious
and did not expect that they would
ever be any other way. Soma was

in trouble, went to the Dr who had al-
ways been opposed to her marrying him
and told her frankly that if she be-

came his wife, she would be totally
blind in less than a year. His disease
as her husband would be transmitted
to her and with her own imperfect system
this would be the result. She had
feared this herself. What should she do?

Blindness, poverty - she dared not expect
anything else. Could she marry him?

After he had so far recovered as to
leave the Dr, she wrote to him, kindly
telling him all, asking him if she

should fulfill her engagement.

He immediately returned her letter
writing on the last one "A release from
bondage" which "the only look and
only word she has heard of him.

Her wedding clothes were all ready,
they were even to have been arranged
on two weeks, when it all ended

there. Soma felt his unkind treatment
keenly. She had loved and trusted
him as every true woman must then

so soon to be her husband, and his
unkindness was terrible. but she
says "It was for the best" and I
think she feels it in her heart.
I had such a good visit with
her. Next to Fergie she is the dearest
of all friends. — I did not get
the letter from you expected this
morning. It is two weeks since
the last from you was written. How
much may have transpired in the
time. Sometimes my anxiety to
know of your situation is almost un-
endurable. I mean to be ready
to leave for Nashville, should you
send for me, in an hour's warning.
— I hope though that you will come
home, resign, if you cannot come
without. —

I send some papers with this.
The sales have but little interest.
They may help to while away an hour
or so.
Lovingly - Wife -