

Chattanooga Tenn -  
Nov - 29<sup>th</sup> 1862

Darling Wife -

I don't know  
~~what~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ matter with me that I am so  
neglectful in writing to you - I suppose it  
must be all accounted for - by attributing  
it to the Dumps that have so long possessed  
my spirit. I have been absolutely unable  
to do anything - write read or think - just  
gloriously and all pervadingly blue - I  
think I am recovering in some measure  
the normal tone of my mind now - I was  
over to the battle-field on Missionary Ridge  
the day before yesterday, so you see I am  
much better in body. The late battles here  
have been of an <sup>un</sup>accounted character - I do  
not think our loss in all of these will  
exceed 2000 men - The enemy did not  
fight - Had they showed their usual stub-  
bornness they could never have been driven

from Missionary Ridge - Now the field has scarcely the look of a battle-ground except in one or two places - There are hardly any of those usual signs of conflict to be seen - How it was possible for 5,000 men at least to be driven from that ridge ~~without leaving~~ more evident signs of the conflict I cannot conceive - There are but two places along that whole line of 8 or 10 miles in which the timber was scathed by the conflict - I have seen none of timber cut up worse than any of this in a fight in which not half as many men were engaged - Frank Field of Monroe - in the "9" did his yesterday of a wound received in the charge up the ridge on the 25<sup>th</sup> - Forces are now pursuing the enemy towards Atlanta - The "det" army is terribly demoralized and I do not think there will be much further fighting anywhere - I wrote you a bit of a account day before yesterday - The account itself was not worth your time to read so I put a

\$50 - I'll write it - to reward your trouble - You say you will not get certain things unless I say you may - That is very dutiful I am sure - I am afraid it is a little too strong however for you - Now I know no more what you ought to purchase than does "our eldest" of the flavor of ~~quality~~ ~~fact~~ is, I want you should dress well, as just as well as we can afford - I do not wish you to buy articles of clothing merely because they are in style - I assure you style is not taste - I do not think you always make this distinction - I do know however that you do, or did, own clothing - You had so to say - made your allowance go as far as possible - You had - as it were - been compelled to adopt that most ruinous of all modes of dress whether in man or woman - viz: 3<sup>rd</sup> in doing, getting and making things, by piece meal and in haste - In that respect Anyie is much like you - Did you ever think how differently Nora dresses? Yet she is better dressed, and yet cheaper - Do you know the reason? Why do your night dresses wear better, and look better, proportionately, than your outer garments? Because in them you do not violate the

sense of the word "costume", or "habit".  
It does not mean the garment which we wear  
today and lay aside for another tomorrow. It  
means the accustomed garb - the habitual dress.  
Do you not remember Dreesa which Mrs. Huxorn  
with but slight changes for a whole term until they be-  
came hallowed in our assembly as a part of her  
presence? They became her habit. I have very  
frequently heard her tell what she would wear  
for a year a head and just ~~before~~  
what kind of dresses she would purchase.  
This is both true taste in dress and actual economy.  
Who ever saw Mrs. Huxorn poorly dressed? How and  
then she will mistake and get an unbecom-  
ing robe, but if she does she always manages  
to wear it but a time when becomingness is  
unnecessary. You do not do this. You never  
have a costume - a habit. The great principle  
of dress in gentleman or lady is this - few  
clothes and good ones. I do not write this  
because I wish you to refrain from buying  
what you need or what you desire. I sincerely  
wish you to remember this principle when-  
ever you buy anything. The lady who has 20  
good dresses and no fine ones is poor in world-  
robe beside the one who has two passable ones  
and one fine one. Never buy with the thought of  
an occasion, but with the idea of a habit in  
your mind. If I had an income of half a  
million I would speak in the same man-  
ner. Of course you and I must have an eye  
to the economic side of the question.

I may be disabled at any moment  
and our means of support be deprived  
of their chief supply. Again, if I remain  
in my present place for a time there will  
necessarily be a time when for a few months  
I must be out of business - when I do leave  
the service, for one cannot yet vote high -  
dress in the legal profession as if he were a far-  
mer. And during this time you know we  
must live on what we have. Now when this  
may come we do not know. We must manage  
to save a little sum to begin life with if pos-  
sible. Now whatever you want for me - whatever  
you wish to give you a costume, by all means  
buy it - but do not get anything because it is the  
style. It is false taste and unworthy of you.  
Now - you must not regard this as a lecture.  
It is not so meant, Darling. You and I have  
both some defects in education, and must try  
and remedy them. I have sent you this money  
without saying anything to father about it and

he will probably send you more - He  
certainly will if you need it. I know  
that you need clothing and I wish you to get them  
but I wish you to use good taste and judgment  
in purchasing them - As for the fur I desire  
you should have them - Get good ones not of fine  
in any manner. I am very sorry Darling that  
I cannot be with you long enough to buy some  
of the things which I know you ought to have. But as  
I cannot you must do as well as you can  
without your lice.

I have sent home to father  
\$300.00 besides the \$500.00 I sent you - This  
makes - I believe - \$900.00 which I have sent  
home. - If \$6.00 or so of that are untouched I am  
contented - I do not think my expenses for the next  
three or four months will be very heavy - My board  
costs at the cheapest about \$16.00 pr. mo. My  
clothing is now very good except under shirts and  
drawers - These I think you must send me as they  
cost awfully here - A pair of boots which I  
bought yesterday only cost \$18.00 I had waited some  
time hoping things would become cheaper, but

there seems to be out prospect of that  
and I must have boots for the wet  
weather - I will send you some more money  
in a day or two, and have you get me some  
silk drawers and undershirts - You will be  
surprised at their price - but they are in the  
end much cheaper than last costly ones, as well  
as more convenient and portable - Here they  
would cost \$16.00 for shirt and drawers -  
There I think you can get them for \$11.00 - I  
will send you the size and you must not forget to  
sew on the buttons -

Tell Angie that her little  
message was most heartily welcome and fully ex-  
pected - I am truly glad that she can come  
that to see our move - I am very sorry for  
Drew - She did right - It will all be well  
some day. God bless the dear good girl - but  
as Anna is engaged - I am glad of it and  
cannot make her a better wish than that her  
 betrothal may be fraught with as much pleasure  
as our own, and her marriage the occasion of our  
sweet delights - I do not know whether

shall write to her at present or not.  
I have written to her twice without getting any  
reply, and in my present mood am not likely to  
send another at present -

Now, if you do not  
think this a good long domestic letter you  
may send for one of that stamp - The reply  
has returned from the postoffice: I must  
close - So good bye Loving wife -

Yours truly  
Ellie

Mrs A. W. Young

Ohio

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