

1874
AUG 12
Mrs. Emma K. Towry

No 227 West 6th St
Erie
Penn

Greensboro N.C.

Dec, 20 "1870.

1 - a.m.

My Darling Wife -

Your letter of the 16th inst was received today and read with amusement - I did write you a little note with Lodie's letter which might have - much have given you sorrow - I was terribly galled by some recent attacks of the newspapers and hardly know now what I did write. I had a vague idea, the next morning that it was a mean unmanly thing, and so wrote you, in effect, that day, making my excuses, and confessing, as I thought, my wrong. A day or two after wards I wrote again - I think, that if you will read those letters again, you will see that you have cause for joy and not for grief in them. I had felt an unworthy harshness, or rather

er, inclination to blame you, ever since you went away. It would seem to me, as if you had gone because you wanted to be away from me. Of course I knew better and was ashamed of the feeling but it would come, sometimes. But I kept it in my own heart and during that long struggle, I said to myself all the time - over and over again - as I rode and as I fought - "Emma is happy and she shall never know that I ever had so unworthy a thought." I determined to conquer the very least trace of it and I have done so. It did not make me think ill of you at any moment but only blame myself and take shame to myself that you could have such a feeling. - Darling, you cannot guess how I wrestled with it. I have knelt hour after hour by the bed -

side with your sweet picture pressed to my lips and begged you and God to forgive me and keep me from such an unworthy thought - And all the time I loved you - no dear I worshipped you, as I do now. My only happiness was that you were happy and I believe now, my greatest sorrow was that you should be happy away from me - or rather as I would say to myself, that you wished to be away from me that you might be happy - I felt that you were right. I did not once blame you that you had gone, but it grieved me unceasingly that you should be compelled to go. Can you not see it dear, I wish to lay my heart open to you and I do feel that you will be glad to look into it. It is a brighter and less selfish heart than you have lately known - Will you

not read it a right? The note I wrote that night was the utterance of an overworked, overwired brain and a heart as raw as the raspings of hate could make it. I suspected that the letter of Lodie's friend had been prompted by an idle curiosity to know whether I had left, or intended to leave the state. That galled me and made me foolish. Can you not forgive me? Darling, you know I never destroy your letters. I cannot bear to see one burn that is written by you, but I do not know what I shall do with this one - Please do not ever intimate again that I desire your death. If you knew what a daily and nightly terror it is to me, lest I should never see you again I am sure you would not. If your letters are missing

for a day or two I am nearly wild with fear - I came back from Raleigh last night, where I have been for three days, and when I found there was no letter from you I was heart sick with apprehension - I could not eat any supper and hardly slept till daylight - Darling, I thank God, I shall see you again as I believe and our hearts and lives will be one once more. I count my defeat as nothing, if I can get back my wife, get back her love her heart and her happiness, as I am sure I shall. I will go to Lenoir, to the west, anywhere - anywhere for your sake - your sweet love's sake - as gaily and happily as I first came to your arms. Don't be down hearted Darling, the battle is over, the victory is won.

Shook
Loving him
a big kiss
letter in the
morning
Don't think I
mean to
know. I'll come
to -
Bless you dar-
ling -
Althorp
- I expect it
would be put
any but for you
not to get at
letter, please
I'll be glad
to see you
and you for
see -
Please write
-
Harrison

There may be some pinching -
some hard times, but the battle is
over. We shall have happiness
and success - you and I - dear
wife and our little darling. Only
don't be impatient - I can tell this
old man of the sea - digest until it
is finished. Then I can go

"Où va le vent" and all
the fuss for being in light march-
ing order. If I could get away
and could get any money I would
see you in a few days. But you
must not come here. It would sud-
den and trouble you and I shall get
along brackly. Never fear for me. I
shall report for duty, up there in Erie
some day in the Spring, with a face like
the full moon. But we are fortunate
after all - Just think what has happen-
ed here - Dr Egger had been a
way for stealing coal from Scott's

Good
about Mrs Shaffer is the public talk
of Raleigh - I suppose Grung has
it about, or his crowd, just to
kick back for the constant fight
Shaffer makes on him - I don't
see how it has been kept from
his ears so long - I am in daily
fear that he will hear of it, and
that blood will be shed - and
his home destroyed forever - He
seems to have no suspicion - but
I cannot resist it - however much
I try, when I see her - You see other
folks have some troubles, that we do
not -

Now dear, I will enclose you
\$500 and just as soon as I can get
some more, you shall have it - Do
not be impatient - You know I am
bending all my energies to get off the
book and cannot do anything else

Good thing
I can

It is now
3.00 - I had

written to
you once but

was too busy

but I did not

like the letter

so I have not

sent this - Good

bles you both

I am from you

are relieved with

this letter - I

bring in your

arms - Good

bles you both

with love for

and family

and friends

and hope.

and to tell you the truth, there is nothing else doing - hardly - There is absolutely no business - action here - I have brought a suit for Dukes and hope for some money from them but do not wish to rush it until Jan. 1st - I have been trying hard to raise some but am afraid I cannot otherwise. However, I will keep trying. Don't blame me Sweetest - If you can hang on a while longer and not quite give out I will help you - I am afraid you took more than your share of the fun - wishing, etc, as you generously do - I hoped you would clothe yourself for winter out of what you had but it cannot be helped now - Only don't be downcast nor gloomy nor desperate nor quite forget to love me and I will bring you a harvest yet of all this