

Iowa City. May 4th 1864

Wednesday evening.

My Dear Husband.

Looked very confidently
for a letter to-day. — none came. The date
of your last. (which was to Hugh,) was
Apr. 24th. I am getting a "little" anxious
& impatient to hear from you. — I fully
expected a whole batch, this morning, as
none ^{had} "come" since last Wednesday. — however
will write you a few lines as per agreement.

Have been getting some
— what domestic this week. — went down on Monday
& washed twenty-two pieces, taking mostly socks
handkerchiefs & the dirtiest things. — I finished
them out & out & ironed them; & must say,
I do not like it; nor do I think that those
who have not been brought up to it, can
ever acquire the same tact. — & what is
more & perhaps worse, never relish the
labor. — & I do think that those men

who enjoy seeing their wives engaged, in
such service, all their lives: Should marry
a good sound strapping "Biddy" of a
cook. or his washer-woman. — it is as
impossible for a woman to fill so many
places & still be her own domestic, as for
a man to be his own shoemaker, doctor, lawyer
& still be his own farmer: because farming
cooking & washing, are the foundation of all
home comforts. — but each one to his own taste,
(if he can,) or rather to the one cultivated in
him. — I must say it gives me pain to
meet nothing but hard angular toil worn
hands & know that they have never known
& never will know any other days. — & could
not appreciate them if they came: wealth to
them, is what it is, to the miser: something
they prize, but cannot enjoy. & such people
are the tightest & closest of any other: you
will say this a necessity. but that is not
wholly so. the constant exercise of the
pinching sharing profits; unfits the mind for
any more expansive thought or scheme:

I am tired too of being asked so often, if you
"are going to do your own work." & some ask
me how the southern women "put through
their time". The irish-woman who was
washing in the wash-room at the same time
with me; & who is very "thick with one" said
"aye, that's what I want to see some more of the
southern women doing," — meaning washing.
— here is the out-spoken sentiment that actuates
this war on this side. & envy has had
no little share in bringing it about; those
negro lovers are the ones, who manifest the
least real Philanthropy of any class,
so far as my observation goes. just as
those strict-sectarian-godly-given-people;
have least charity & fewer christian
virtues, than those of less pretensions. — I know
I must be wearying you with such stuff;
& some of it, you don't believe. — I will try
& not not worry you, with what, we see.

— Of course, it is natural to speak of what
is before me all the time, & greets me on every
side.

Hugh says there was another speech
in the University to-day urging the boys
to enlist & also an exhortation from one
of the boys who had enlisted; which caused
some hard feelings among those who had
not; — who in course of his remarks
almost branded those that remained as
traitors & cowards: the other boys rose
& replied, that they should obey their
parents before any one else at ^{their} age entitled
them to submission to their authority control
& yet they were loyal as any one else.
— forty-five have enlisted & one or two
professors — but not Mr Wells: his wife
says she wishes she had power to enforce
the draft on some that's here & so much
in favor of the South; the Copperheads
I suppose she means. I am just the
other way. I want only abolitionists &
secessionists to fight; & fight till they
are satisfied & not drag peaceable
union loving folks into their quarrel.
— my paper is full as you see; so good nights
& pleasant dreams to "yeed." P. P. P.

Powa City. May 5th 1864.

Thursday noon.

My Dear Husband.

Have just recd yours of the 28th Apr. — was very glad to hear from you, was feeling very anxious. — Sorry you have lost. I was not aware that gold had ever been as high as you gave, you must have given the highest the market has ever been. — do not go against your judgement again, as we did in coming to this fair city. — I was just about to treat myself to a handsome silk that was at Daniels on the strength of your past gain: — am very glad I forbore; it would have annoyed my very sight. — there is only one safe way by which money can be made at gold or stocks & that is on real capital, though small you are never forced to sell & can hold a year. I send a paper that clearly shows how bank bills are pushed below to sustain greenbacks & is rather right in principle.

- all Southern hills will be worth greenbacks
just as they are now where the army have
passed in subjugation. - which is no longer
than they were before. I refer to Tenn. hills.

Inclosed you will find Ellbridge Smith letter
to you, & part of his envelope.

I do not like here one bit & do hope
you may have success enough to retrench our past
folly. - if not, we are cast into a pretty hole
to dig our living. I feel inclined to reverse the
blessing on "the glorious west." - Texas or Fla would
be paradise compared to a home in the "prairies
broad & free."

Clarance comes to me & says "write to Father, I've had
my tooth pulled." it is one that has troubled him for
years. & he feels very proud of his pluck. - He went
to the dentist's - wish Edgar was out too.

Ellie was glad to hear from her Papa, & said "now
kiss me like Pa-pa said. - Dreamed last night
that you came home; - hope it may be so soon
& I go to you. - My kindest regards to Euclid

God bless & keep you from all harm is the
constant prayer of your own Papa.