

Federal Point, Near Fort Fisher

February 22<sup>d</sup> 1865

My Dear wife.

I have received yours of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. which is the first letter that I have received since I left the Point of Rocks. Though you hoped the one bearing the date of the 6<sup>th</sup> inst. might reach me first, it is a great disappointment to me not to see the others; and especially the answer to the one that has caused me so many anxious hours since it was written. In fact, I hardly know how to write to you, without seeing your answer to that.

Perhaps it is to be a part of my punishment, but if so I must bear it. Your last letter is a dear good loving one. It is like yourself. But I wish to know what you think of me. I think you will not doubt my love for you. But I will not write any more about it till I get that letter.

There is a mail in now. Perhaps that will bring it. I do not dare to think of what it will be.

Do not be uneasy on my account. There will be no need of my going into the Co. again unless I choose. There are so few, that can do the

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duties of the Dispensary, that I can always get detailed  
And besides, I have recommendations from some  
of the best Surgeons in the Army. There has been  
a detail sent in, for me to go to the Post Hospital  
at this place, but Dr. Dearborn, wants me to stay with  
him for a while, and, as he has always been a good  
friend to me, I shall do so, though it would be much  
pleasanter, at the Post Hospital.

It is quite cold here, here, and we do not  
get much to eat, and very poor eating, at that,  
but as I have found so much better than the rest  
generally, I cannot find any fault.

You will probably get all the news  
in the papers, before you ~~it~~ will see this, it will  
not be of any use for me to try to tell you  
anything that is going on here. But I must fill  
up with something. Fort Anderson surrendered  
to our forces yesterday, no this morning, and we  
hear that our forces are moving on toward Wil-  
mington, and we expect they will occupy the place  
by tomorrow, but everything is very uncertain in war.

We have the news here today, that Sherman has  
taken Charleston, and I think it is very likely to be  
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of Wilmington. I wish that I was with them.

If I had no dear little wife, I should not be in the rear. If it had not been for you, I might have had a commission before this time. So you see that I have made made some sacrifice for you and a greater one than you can understand perhaps. But let that pass. I only spoke of it to prove to you that I do love you better than I do myself, notwithstanding all that letter is going to say to me. Oh! Emory, if you do reproach me I will never see you again, if there is a bullet that can find me, or kill it. But why do I write this? the letter that I have before me, tells me that you love me better than everything else in the world. But I will not say anything more on this subject. You ask if there is any prospect of my being paid soon. We shall be paid, it is very likely, before the middle of March. But you must not want for anything in the mean time, if there is a dollar in the world that belongs to me. If you do not like to draw on Mr. Buck, for that money, I do not think that any of the traders in town will hesitate to give you credit on my account. But you must get

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all that our children need, if you will not do the same for my wife. If you feel that it is laziness yourself under disagreeable obligation to me, after what I have told you, I cannot find any fault: but I had much rather you would use what little I have, before you go to doing any hard work, with your feeble health. You must remember that you owe something to our children, if not to me, and that your loss to them could never be replaced.

But I do not know what I am writing.

I will close this now. My own darling wife, let me repeat what I have so often told you - that I have always loved you better than every thing else in this world, and if I have ever done anything to cause you unhappiness, it was not from any lack of love for you.

But I cannot say what I wish to.

Hoping to hear from you again very soon, I am, very truly

Your affectionate  
Husband

I have read this over, and cannot tell what to think of it. I cannot understand it. If I send it it will give you a good idea of the state of mind that I am in. Oh! my wife, do not blame me. But I do not care. Tell me just what you think.  
L. Harris

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