

Hittin' Hill, S. C. May the 2^d 1863

Dear friend Mrs Harris

I read read myself

to write you a few lines in answer to a kind letter which I received from you I was glad to get it although it came very much unexpected

Harris had been telling me I should get a letter from you but I thought he was only a joke as he most always is I have thought a number of times I would write to you and get as far as this I got

one all written and my courage failed me and I tore it up it was so far & I feel ashamed to write now far I did not expect of writing

answers to such a good letter as the one I received from you you said you thought it was long but it was not half long enough the longer the better when they are as good as that was I

think you have a better opinion of me now than you would if you were ^{more} acquainted with me you spoke of my being a friend to Harris I do not know how any one could be other, wise far I

think I never met with a finer man, in all of my travels he is always so pleasant that he makes every thing pleasant around him, and to

he thinks so much of you & those true Dear

1.1.1 - 1.1.1 makes every thing pleasant around him, and to

Transcription:

[raised imprint reads:] "EXTRA"

Hilton Hed, S.C, May the 2 1863

Dear friend Mrs Harris

I now seat myself

to write you a few lines in answer to a kind letter which I received from you I was glad to get it although it came very much unexpected Haris had ben telling me I should get a letter from you but I thought he was only a jokin as he most always is I have thought a number of times I would write to you and got as far as this I got one all written and my courage faild me and I tore it up it was so poor & I feel a shamed to write now for I em not capabable of writing answer to such a good letter as the one I received from you you said you thought it was long but it was not half long enough the longer the better when they ar as good as that was I think you have a bitter apinion of me now then you would if you wer more a quainted with me you spoke of my being a friend to haris I do not know how any-one could be other wise for I think I never met with a finer man in all of my travels he is always so plesant that he makes evry thing plesant around him and to he thinks so much of you & those two Dear children that is one great thing I like in him

I do not like to see a man forget his Dear
one because he is out of their reach he speaks
of his family after a while seems to gather & have
after told him I would like to get hold of
his babies & see every part of children more
in their & should be if I had them of my own
I suppose you would think you as happy with
your two children then you would be without
them I always thought my wife would be
happy with out them but I can't tell as long
as we never have her blessed with them

I am unable to write you much news about the
regt^l as your husband for I have not heard from
either has got detailed in the 4th regt hospital
so I got a chance in the ordnance department
near by him and I had not been detailed but
a few days before he left and went back to
the regt^l I was very sorry for I made up my
mind to be near by him I would of rather
given twenty five dollars then so of had him
left but he did not like I have almost made
up my mind to follow him if he is not I
am sure you it will not be long before I shall be
with him when he left he was in good
health but was feeling very anxious to get a letter
from you as he has not had one for a long time
you asked my opinion about the war I am
proud of you as he has not had one for a long time

Transcription:

I do not like to see a man forget his Dear ones because he is out of their reach he speak of his family often when we ar to gether I have often told him I would like to get hold of his babies I am very fond of children more so then I should be if I had them of my own I suppose you seam to think you ar happier with your two children then you would be without them I always thought my wife would be hapier without them but I cant tell as long as we never have ben blessed with them

I em unable to write you much news about the regt^t or yor husband for I have not herd from either haris got detailed in the gen hospital so I got a chance in the ordinance Department near by him and I had not ben detailed but a few days before he left and went back to the regt^t I was very sorry for I made up my mind to be near by him I would of rather given twenty five dolers then to of had him left but he did not like I have almost made up my mind to folow him if he is sick. I asure you it will not be long before I shall be with him when he left hear he was in good helth but was feeling very anxious to get a letter from you as he has not had one for a long time you asked my opinion about the war I em unable to give it. it for it is [carid*] in in such

a way it is hard to know say, a piece about I
think our destiny is three years I end about as
willing to stay a L is I should be quiet if any
wife was contented with her's but she is so torn
it makes ^{me} little discontented I wish she was
near by you for I think she would be more
contented she wants to come and hear I should be
glad to have her here I have no place to send her
if I had I should not hesitate one moment
you said you would write if you dared but you
knew not how afraid for she is only a few
good woman like you self so I assure you
if you write you will get answers

now Mrs. Harri I will close hoping you will
excuse me for writing such a poor letter for as
I said before I end not capable of writing a
decent letter and by that reason I end a
charm to write so far that remain I hope you
will excuse me for the poor letter I end about to close
you must not worry about your husband for if he is
taken sick or is placed any where where he needs
my assistance I shall not hesitate one moment to
go to him and will aid and help him in every way
that is in my power and that is more of others that
would do the same I thank you for remembering me
in your prayer as I end not a praying man I shall
have to show my kindness in a different way as you
in your prayer as I end not a praying man I shall

Transcription:

a way it is hard to form my opinion about I think our destiny is three years I am about as willing to stay a while & should be quite if my wife was contented at home but she is so lonesome it makes a^{me} little discontented I wish she was near by you for I think she would be more contented she wants to come out here I should be glad to have her but I have no place to put her if I had I should not hesitate one moment you said you would write if you dared but you need not be afraid for she is only a dear good woman like your self so I assure you if you write you will get answer

now Mrs Harris I will close hoping you will excuse me for writing such a poor letter for as I said before I am not capable of writing a decent letter and by that reason I am ashamed to write so far that reason I hope you will excuse me for the poor letter I am about to close you must not worry about your husband for if he is taken sick or is placed any where where he needs any assistance I shall not hesitate one moment to go to him and will aid and help him in every way that is in my power and there is many others that would do the same I thank you for remembering me in your prayers as I am not a praying man I shall have to show my kindness in a different way as you say I hope we may be better acquainted some time

I have always thought I was a scared since I have got
acquainted with L that I should like you very
much for I have a great opinion of you for your
pictures tell plain enough & have his well
satisfied to do so I think what I have written
has been written to please you for I am not one
of those kind I always say what I mean
and I guess I have written all you will
want to hear of our best what I reading
do not hesitate to write to my wife any
time you feel so disposed to do so for I know
she would be glad to receive a letter at any
time from you and I should be happy to
receive another from you I can't say an answer to this
for it is not worth calling a letter
now I will close for this time please to hurry
after reading please to expect this with my
best wishes from your friend

James C. Hayes
Ordinance Department
Hilton Head, S. C.

Transcription:

I have always thought or at least since I have got
acquainted with L that I should like you very
much for I have a good opinion of you for your
picture tell plain enough & Harris is well
satisfied to do not think what I have written
has been written to flatter you for I am not one
of those kind I always say what I mean
well I guess I have written all you will
want to bother your head about reading
do not hesitate to write to my wife any
time you feel so disposed to do so far I know
she would be glad to receive a letter at any
time from you and I should be happy to
receive another from to I can't say [an*] answer to this
for it is not worth calling a letter
now I will close for this time please to burn
after reading please to except this with my
best wishes from your friend
James E. Haynes
Ordinance Department
Hilton Head, S.C.