Fort Hamilton
Dec 16th 1862

Dear Wife: It is past four o'clock and a dark, rainy afternoon, so dark that I can't read what I write. But having been with you yesterday and acquired while there a realizing sense of the value of paper, I thought I'd see what I could do in the way of economizing it. This sheet is my first effort and I want you to let me know how it strikes you. I had an indivisible amount of such paper when I left home and I suppose I have yet, which has become quite valuable, if we can use it in the way for letters to those who care more for what is written on this paper...
Are you aware that I have a hopeful nephew or two in your locality whose names you have not desired to mention lately? Where is Diana when, I dare Corwin what are they doing? You have scarcely mentioned the name of any Eliza or Parcell's family. How is Sunny, and what is she doing? I might go on ad infinitum but this is tedious enough to put you on the track of giving me some information of not useful information, Tell Robert to write to me soon and let me know if he is going to Washington this winter.

letter tomorrow but not very strongly, or it is more than probable that I shall have to wait until Monday. We raffled for the Afghan to-day at DupontWoman's. With you mad, Tell Lizzie and Robert to be good children till they get the measles, and Frank to hang and get well. Tell Rob that Cal B. wants to see him again. Goodby. Remember all many time for me. I am, my dear, L.
You ask me to give you some news, well that is rather hard to do. We are pretty near as much isolated as you are in D., and yet our new for New York. You ought to get the paper some time this week for a very sanguine article from Greeley. I dare say there is not a sanguine man here, but there is pleasant to read such hopeful satiation. It also contains Becher's Thanksgiving sermon, which I have not read, but mean to. Becher has another skating article on the Whendt and Kei, admiring how I was there, and I suppose you would like to read it. The Independent of Long.

The cattle woman came the other day for her money. She said the bill was twenty-two dollars, and Emma says it is right, but as I could not find any memorandum from you showing how much we owed her, I paid her ten dollars, and told her I would write to you about it and pay the balance in a week or two. With which arrangement she seemed very quite satisfied. I sent your two (2) dollars in Portage note in my last hand and will send you XX in this letter and some more in P. Note, if I can.

I am anxious to hear how you are getting along with the children and hope I shall to get a letter to-morrow, but not very strongly, as it is more than probable that I shall have to wait until Monday. We raffled for the Afghan to-day at McPant won cock. wish you read. Tell Lillian and Bobby to be good children, and they will get the buckle and Frank to hang and get well. Tell Bobby that Col. B. wants to see again to-day. Tell them all many things for me. I send my love to you, C.