

your little family surrounding you. Then if you could but keep you! but that I suppose cannot be thought of and an answer by to be sure a little longer.
God bless and keep you and all of us.
Thine ever,
Augusta

Dayton O. Dec. 27th. 1863

My dear husband, what can be the reason you do not get my letters?

Every Monday morning I send one, and again, every Wednesday or Thursday.

When I see how much good a letter does you I feel sorry not to be able to send more; but to think the "dear things" don't reach you when they are sent is quite too bad; I hope since writing your last of the 21st, that you have received several; Filding Lowry was situated much as you are at one time; no letters came for a long time, then came 12 at once!

I wrote immediately on receipt of check on Philadelphia Bank, also Pay Rolls, and Truck key. — The pay Roll was cashed by Major Sherman (Howard didn't know his whole name) at Columbus. This name I forgot to tell you

but mentioned all the other items in three
or four letters at least. — I also told you
that Johnson Perrin's interest had been paid
in September, ^{or August} when it was due; and thanked
you for the \$80. which I needed badly to pay
off bills. — With the other money I have
paid \$65.00 on Life Insurance, and have
not quite enough left for taxes which are
about \$42.00. — I wanted the Ogden Note
sold to help me out, but I cannot get
it done, so I shall have to borrow, but can
not let it stand long, so shall be glad
when you can send me more. — Now if you
had received my former letters ^{most all} that is
already written might have been left unsaid
but it cannot be helped I suppose.

The first of last week Mrs. Cerwin told Father
that Robert had sent you a pass wherewith to go
to Washington, that he might transact some
business with you, and I hoped your last letter
would be written from that place, and that
you could write something rather more definite

concerning your future movements, but was again
disappointed. — The letter before the last (18th)
seemed sad, at which I could not wonder
after reacting of the sad spectacle you had wit-
nessed in the morning; but whatever might
have caused it, it would have done me good
if I could have caressed you into gladness
again, wouldn't that have suited you too, my
dearest? Oh! what a spoiled, petted dear
fellow you will be, when I get you over
more! Are not you afraid to expose yourself
such a bad boy you'll surely be?

Our little ones have been quite sick with colds
this last week; but the older ones were able
to go out to Seris early on Christmas morning
& with all the family but me and Baby; to
see the Christmas Tree and take breakfast.

I was sorry not to go but could not take little
Mary out. — They had a merry time at home
and out there, but I think have enjoyed most
of all going to the Bazaar, and spending their money
It is nearly gone, ^{and} the rest will probably go
soon.

Greatly wish you could see this wonderful Fair
so unlike anything I ever saw before. Howard
and indeed all who saw that at Columbus
say that ours far exceeds it in tasteful decora-
tions, and excellence of the articles. The linen
and cotton Fair is larger, being a State affair, but
not nearly so tasteful as ours. The prettiest
things have been sold, but it still looks well.

Gen. Rosebury, his wife and brother (Bishop) visited
the Bazaar Christmas night. I should have been
there to see them but little Mary was not well
and Frank felt worse, and was exceedingly distress-
ed at the idea of my leaving him.

This is Mother's Birth day and dinner will soon
be ready, when we expect some sport, as we have
prepared presents, of which we think Mother has
no idea. — Then; Mary is awake and will have
to come up.

Evening — We had sport indeed for
Mother would huddle out the oysters and not
discover the new ladle, Mary's present, till
finally Betty brought her glasses; Then Betty

Offered to fill her glass with water, when under it was found a shawl-pin which she had admired, and I had smuggled into the house. Ella had one of her pin cushions and Robbin your photograph and Frank a fancy photograph. — Then Betty had got up a fine dinner, so we only wanted you and Howard.

Father asked Robbin what he would give to see you, Frank answered \$100.00, but Rob said a 'kiss'. Then they both come to go to bed. Rob has brought me some papers which he says are two letters for you. He is an unwarmed correspondent, and I wish he could write that you might get more letters.

Ella Gardner came up Christmas day and is staying with Henrietta. Lib, poor woman is so hoarse that she cannot speak above her breath. — For Cran and his family dined with her yesterday. By the way I didn't tell you if "little Joe's" have been let escape on their journey home last week, at Harper's Ferry they changed cars at midnight

and little Joe misunderstanding his father's directions, fell into the canal, a distance of about 15 feet; fortunately he could swim and he hung fast to the wall which he reached; he called to his father that he was freezing and could hold no longer. He told him to hold on and he would come to him but Joey begged him not to, as he could not help him out if he did. He then reached door shuts, but he could not reach to them, at last some one ~~thought~~ thought of the bell rope which fortunately was long enough, the little fellow seized hold and came off the wall like a cat, not a word did he say till safe by the fire surrounded by anxious friends when his nervousness overcame him and crying out "Oh, I wish I was dead" he cried on heartily. This is the younger boy, about eight years old I believe. He was once bitten by a rattlesnake, and has had numberless accidents and escapes. — I won't urge you dearest, for you know best what to do; only rest assured, that one of the happiest days of my life will be that which finds you safe at home with