

Dayton O. March 22nd.

1864

I have been off sight seeing, instead of writing to you Dearest. — Uncle John called for Mother, Mary and me, to go to see the "Stereo-ticon" at Buckle's Hall.

It is an immense stereoscope I should think. The views are thrown on a large canvas, as by a magic lantern. — Will write seeing I can assure you. There is an afternoon exhibition tomorrow, and we mean Betty to go with the children. — Robert and Eliza were there tonight. R. said it was probable that he would go to Washington after the election; I told him I wanted him to let me know a day or two beforehand so I might wish to send something. Do think well and send me word if you want anything particularly. — He said he would see you unless you were fighting. I tremble

as he spoke so lightly, but said nothing.
If you do escape this time; do warn
of it all, I feel almost desperate
safety, at times; and do so long for
a family with husband and father at
its head. — Perhaps you are as safe as
at home, dangers assail us every where
and I often try to imagine your condition
quite as free from danger, as if exposed to
a 'Dayton mob'.

Wednesday Morn. — Baby is quite sick with
a cold; indeed we have all had colds.

Frank, Betty and Baby have had ^a sore eye
connected with it.

I wish you could have heard Bella ^{just now} play ^{ing} the
first part of the little air over which she
and Aunt Mary had such a quarrel the other
day. Her execution was very good. I shall
have to watch her, and keep her stimulated
till it is less of a labor to her, but
she will finally do well at it, as well
as at more solid accomplishments. She is

gifted in almost every direction, unless
it is in drawing, but lacks perseverance.

I shall be much obliged for the roses
and vines if sent; but have you any objec-
tion to my dividing with Mother instead
of Lure; she is just beginning ^{with} her plan
and will appreciate them more highly
besides being unable to buy for herself.

The rubber card dropped out of the
letter and Master Rob secured his Birthday
present considerably before the 8th. of April.

He told me to "tell Papa that he is welcome
for sending me that."

I have succeeded in getting both boys at
work in making red, white and blue
candle lights for my birthday; and Mary
conducts the secret part with them and
I superintend the labor. — Rob makes
little stumpy ones like unto himself, and
Frank long slender ones, in his likeness.

I can't say that I agree with Mother
who just suggested that for the children's

edification, my letters ought to be preserved
she wants them sent home. Don't worry your-
self about it - however.

Breakfast is ready, and Mother is
nursing. - Then comes Rob or Aunt Mary
back, he is wearing a yellow post-graduate
crown with a cross in front.

This letter must end hastily, as I do
not wish to impose on Mother any longer.

Papers say Gen Grant reviews the Potomac
Army today. - Hope you'll please him
in your brigade.

No time to correct mistakes.

Goodbye Dearest

August 10