

of dear ones those they have purchased Peace; with those much as now will mingle with their gratitude for future immunity from war and its horrors.

Dear Husband,
Luther, dearest -
Oh, it is hard to be calm in these dark days, heart to say "Thy will be done!"

Heaven also has will, please for the dear one's life, even when we know that the only relief the end to us happens. Never! What a joyous wife I am! Oh the good news, the slow joy quieted by the outbreak, even as I used to feel unduly and happily after enjoying on your "Dear Jesus" when the war!

May open brightly to outdoor sunshine, would that it was as bright within! — There are many hearts shut to day I doubt not, for the troops leave tomorrow, and ^{they} may encounter as much danger as any now in the field. I understand that some expect to go to Kentucky and perhaps farther.

I heard that Liza Hall was going and as Henrietta has felt very much for me, I naturally returned the sympathy yesterday, however, I met her and Lizzetta in a store, and thought she did not look very sad, yet was afraid to ask her the question, so asked Lizzie, she told me that a brother of Henrietta's was going as a substitute. A brother could not have made me feel

it was like war! When the war!

a great deal better I confess, still there is much difference, and her brother is not to their family what mine is to ours.

She heard us talking and called out "No, he's not going; but I thought about you yesterday" meaning that she had thought then that he would go, and could fully enter into my feelings.

Davis, my shoemaker, says he is all ready to go, but will equip and send a young man ^{who wishes to go} in his shop, if he will be accepted, which he does not think likely as he is not quite eighteen. Suffer says "yes indeed he's going as that is all he can do for his country!"

I have been hindered by a grand excitement. The boys have been grumbling because Sella was allowed to go to church "all the time" and they kept at home.

Betty sent in word that she would take them, and as she happens to be in a good humor I have consented. Rob wanted to know whether he could go next Sunday

too, but I advised him to wait till after he had tried this time before asking for another day.

Miss Susie Spens is to be married in the church next Tuesday evening, to a Philadelphia gentleman; and leaves in the midnight train for her new home.

I am very anxious to know whether Robert has returned, to hear anything he may know concerning your affairs, but I shall hardly be able to leave home today as Aunt Sam Gardner is coming here.

Immediately after receiving your letter on Friday I sat down and wrote you a short answer, and told you that Mr. Odlin had promised to write to Mr. Stanton and enclose the letter in one to Mr. Chase. I believe he did so yesterday; Uncle John I have not seen since I spoke to him about the matter on Friday.

Sella's letter came last night, as good as the rest, and deeply felt. The pretty little

flowers she put carefully away with those you sent me, saying she meant to keep them as long as she lived. - I hope she may be blessed with many another letter from the same dear Father.

May this call for the National Guard be the precursor of great successes! The men are all good humored, as far as I can hear and see; one can't help laughing at their jokes as they pass each other in the street. The copper heads make merry over their going, but possibly they will raise a howl when the draft is made, which is expected soon.

A year ago today I was sorrowful at my speedy departure for home, leaving you awaiting 'orders', and a perilous trial before me. The expected little one now ten months old lies sleeping in her cradle, and I am safe, yet sorrow still! Yet by another first of May, not only you, but the whole Nation may have passed safely through these perilous times and all be joyful together! No! not all, for many families will heavily feel the loss

Evening — Since writing the above I have been to Robert's. He came home last evening. — He says he fears you have no chance for that place, as it is thought that if any this man gets it, it will be a ~~wounded~~ ~~about~~ I think Conolly is the name. Sherman said he should use his influence for him and not for the person you supposed.

As for the coming battle he thought perhaps two men, Grant and the President, might know when it would take place, possibly Grant only.

George Wotton will go down as soon as it is over and is to telegraph some one in Washington, who will telegraph Robert so that we may have the earliest possible tidings from you; I hope it can be done, and we not kept in suspense about you. — David forgot to get the book for you which Robert intended to send in the saddle bags.

