Dear Little Mary,

May 3rd, 1864

I received a letter today from Uncle... dated 17th of April, enclosing a three cent piece of 1862. He says "Enclosed, I send a three cent piece, which I think you had better give to Little Mary, as I have never given her anything yet."

By the way, I want you to get her picture taken and send one or two, my family collection being incomplete. She is about as old as one of the other children, more when they were first daguerreotyp'd.

Pap is now in camp at Petersburg, Virginia, but the Army is on the eve of a great battle, under General Grant's direction. Frequent letters come to me, and each one bears evidence of deep love for the wife and little ones. She urges the impending struggle with anxiety, dejection, yet in ever cheerful.

God grant a great victory, and...
return of me their Husband and Father.

In former in coming years, my little girl will wonder, at so small a present to be sent away, but in those dark days, when rains are near and we look at our s at a curiosity.

This too her Father is in the little field, where nothing can be taught.

I trust she will learn to value the hearts intention above the small cost of any gift. To show her how to estimate things by her idea. Bisht standard, I quote another passage from the same letter.

"Then I came into the field last fall and found no cents in my pockets, I carried them until a short time before I went home, when I lost two of them.

While there, little one day was playing with four, when I showed him mine telling him that one all I had. He immediately proposed to give me all he had, but I suggested that he should give one to me and one to Mark who also had one, and we should all have two. This he did immediately and seemed very much pleased with the arrangement. I intended to give them mine before I came away, but forgot to do it, and they are still in my pocket. You may imagine this two cents are considerably above par in my estimation."

The generous spirit of this little boy comforts the small gift of one cent.

Little Mary must ever remember to let her intention be pure in either giving or receiving, let the thing be great or small. Remembering this the little "two cent four" may prove a treasure of incalculable value.

Little Mary, now ten months old, plays on the floor as she did the other three years.Replying the little one may live long to
Dear Mother and Father. I have kept the letter and "Then and Since" as long as she lives in memory of her living parents.
A. T. B.

Dear Mother, I did not write this for your eye but finding it needed copying, I did it, and have put away the copy with the care for our youngest darling. Then I thought I ought the pleasant to you to see that your loving heart was understood and lovingly appreciated, so I include this to you. — I saw the others this afternoon, he was turned out of his rooms but expects to reopen somewhere in three or four weeks, when I shall try to get the picture for you. — You think you can get suit to me, for which I am grateful indeed; it will be a very amusing time when your letters must cease, and you in the midst of danger. Your name will ever be in my lips through materially unless to the dear Letter who knows our deepest and most secret desires. May the Lord bless the Congregation.