

Sunday Dec. 15. 1862

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My dear wife: I don't think you can complain of my not writing often enough; but I believe you will gladly take the trouble to read & I do to write them. So here goes for another!

The other day Mr. G. sent a beef-steak, enclosed in a note, I believe, to Col B. and asked him to send to Dr. Old in the 4th Lot. He wrote back that he would cheerfully ~~send~~ ^{forward} him every thing else sent from a beef-steak to a bullock. However he consented afterwards to modify the expression so as to make it not quite so rough. This little incident led to my finding out the cause of the rupture between them, she was in the habit of coming to the pub with her daughters, & leaving them outside, to spend an hour or so with him. The old fellow's vanity, perhaps, made them misconstruct their delicate little attentions; so happening to call upon him one day, when he was fully tight, he took some little liberties which offended her prodigiously and she has never been back since. I hear he also ~~tried~~ tried the same game on a Mrs. Converse which she at once reported at the "Brown Stone" house; causing immense indignation in several prominent quarters of the world. What he did to Mr. C. I have not heard, but in proposing to advise Mr. G. new sills were he passed his hand over he become somewhat more demonstrative than the laws allow.

2) We are having some excitement about the Bust
consequent on a proposed change of the Leads.
Thimmuck and I are going to the Mary Garden on
Monday to hear the Band of the North Carolina
Play, the leader of which wants to take Sen
Nigro's place, if he is discharged. We had another
candidate who was given Nathaniel Mason seen
to arrange for the band, the piece was very
beautifully arranged, but we have pretty well
satisfied ourselves that some body else arranged
it. So, we consider him pretty well out of the
ring. — The boys are beating tattoo. would it
you like to hear it again? — I hope when you
read this we shall all be rejoicing over a great
victory; but I confess I feel very anxious about
it now. Gen. Bayard who was killed yesterday I
have heard was to have married a daughter of
Col Bowman of West Point, next week. If
we should be defeated, I shall be believe them
over; and I think we may ^{then} well sigh despair. If
we are successful I look for a speedy quelling
of the rebellion. — General was ordered to join
his Battery in Tenn. to-day and left this after-
noon. This is pretty hard on him, as he wanted
to go with Capt Arnold who applied for him but
the General would not allow him to go. Now
when 7 Batt. J. has just sailed, he is ordered a-
way to join his own battery in the west. He
was very much provoked, but he obeyed the or-
der promptly.

3) Have you the Atlantic for December? if not, let me
recommend a pretty good story, called "A Woman". I
have read a part of Dickens' Christmas Story in Mon-
day's West, date Dec 20, but do not think much of it.
It appears to me to be the poorest he has written.
He is a search several, anyhow & I wonder that he
ever wrote anything fit to read, — Please ascer-
tain when my taxes must be paid and how
much they are, as I must be trying to raise the
money, if John H. can't collect those costs. — I was
lucky in getting my money of the Paymaster, as he
ran out the next day and has not had any
since. If I am as lucky at the end of this month
as I was last there will be no difficulty about the
taxes. Please ask J. H. if he ever sent Ogden's notes
to me, as I never received them. If he has not
let him keep them & collect when due. You
will be home by that time & will need the
money. I must write to R. J. Lee soon in a few
days about my Service note, of which I have
heard nothing since I left home or rather
since Robert came to see ~~last~~ ^{last}. — 11th I have
just got your letter of the 10th it was a
good while coming but not withstanding the
blow very welcome. I am sorry you are not
in better spirits; you must make an "effort"
and achieve cheerfulness. There is nothing like
keeping a stiff upper lip (you will think I have

4) one when you see me next) and taking things as they come
we can't see very far into the future, not further than the
end of our nose, and appears to our vision now, a dark
and terrible trial, may in the brighter light of five years
hence mean the sunny assurance of a glorious blessing. All
we should be concerned about is to faithfully do the work
that lies plain in our path, and take no concern for
the future, It is very hard to put this philosophy in prac-
tice, but if we earnestly try we shall acquire more
or less of its spirit. - Don't I may give way to your de-
spondency; you have too many who will unavoidably
be affected by it, to allow you to or so without a struggle

it till they come
out "so" - there are
try. Every one who
to his, their faith
have the nearly
to me; I shall try
- you to have as
then the children
as soon pretty long
a rank begins to
its my mind shall
I showed nothing to
the great battle;
may a determining
I shall feel
I know the best
side is successful.
- in my heart
- in; the prospect;
and I hate to
to be careful to mind
the will get well all the
- glad he is well again
grow to be a big boy, '93 the
- you got better by him a letter
- recently had to see, what says to the
- in me.

5) fight against it. — I wrote "tinted" paper, — I sent along with this the N.Y. Times of yesterday to Mr. F. A. Conant, an excellent article on Intervention which I think he will like to read, — Emma is doing as well as I could wish & I have had no occasion to find fault with her, — I am very sorry the children have taken sick whelgous are away, I am afraid it will defeat the object of your trip, besides bringing a shadow upon the holiday season in your family circle, it is a pity

the children didn't wish till they came home before they "broke out" so, there are many inquiries after Robby, Every one asks how he is that seems to miss their pink one, I hope he will have the measles lighter, — Don't fret about me; I shall try to get along & I want you to have as good time at home after the children get well. I ran things as soon pretty dry and try to make up for past lagging & sloth. It seems to excite my mind while yet the fire train of I should wish to be called into the field, in the great battle; but get decided at 2. Day may be determining the destiny of our country. I shall feel better and more united I know the best is the worst. If you decide to be successful in my love for a triumphant embark of the rebellion; of otherwise, the prospect of any thing but encouragement and I hate to contemplate it. We shall be careful to mind you is every thing you try & the will get well all the sooner for it, Don't stand I am glad he is well again & hope he will meet to & draw down to be a big boy, '93 the way of you have him behind 'had you got better try him a little harder, then Robby not to taste the pleasure of the great victory to the Union. Now then all many many for me. Aunt Mary