

(No. 3.-)

Fort Hamilton May 17. 1813

My Dear Wife:

Your second letter reached me yesterday. I wondered that you had said so little about the children in your first, but there was so much to say, that I supposed you grew tired before you got through. Your second has amply supplied all omissions. On Friday morning before breakfast, I wrote you a short letter which you ought to get to-morrow. — I am now very comfortably settled. Yesterday, I had the bedstead to move into our old dining room which is henceforth to be Mrs. Offley's squalling. The Chaplain takes the small bed-room, but what they intend to do with the back room, I am not informed. My rooms are very comfortable and as Emma comes to clean them up, they are in good order. She has no other work to do there, so I have engaged her to look after my rooms for the present. She comes about seven o'clock so that she does not interfere with my occupation as I go to the office as soon as I have doffed my fixings. She says she wants to live with you if we ever keep house there again. Doubtful.

I haven't seen any of your lady acquaintances since you left, except on the occasion mentioned in my first. If I feel like it, I will go up to the Vanderpoels this evening. — I am sorry you can not give a better account of Frank. You had better get him a pair of wooden drum-bells — you can have them turned — not large nor heavy — and try to drill them by Lewis' book which I have put in the box. Perhaps it would be well to get a pair for each of the children & for yourself and drill them all together. If you can make them think it is play, they will take to it very kindly. — If I haven't sent the book you may as well buy it. I know you can't do much now, but when you are not able just let Mary at it, for she seems to need exercise and development as much as any one. If there is good about it, tell her I'll send her several kisses every time I write. — The Doctor told me yesterday to send his regards to you. He predicts a very unhealthy season here, and several of the officers have already been sick. Capt Putnam is not yet well, tho' much better & tho' Dr himself has the shaker. As for myself I am in tip-top condition and hope by taking good care of myself to remain so.

You ask my opinion of the 'arrangement' you have made. I am satisfied with it, only I think you have put the rent at too high a figure, unless rents have gone up very much since I left. In my opinion it is at least \$50 too high, tho' we did pay \$700 for the Concord lot. If the rent is right, you pay too little; so that either way, there ought to be a difference of from \$50 to \$100 in favour of you farther. If you made the bounding balance the rent you wouldn't be very far out of the way. These are my views; you can do what you please. —

I will try to get some Polonian seeds when I go to town again. Have it been there since the week you left and don't expect to go very soon. It is cheaper to stay at home and I am trying to read more than I used to. — May Smith I learn has obtained the Presidency or a Professorship at Girard College with a salary of \$2500 and a house. I suppose he will soon resign. What effect this immense migration will have on my movements I have no notion. If I could get a comfortable position like that I would mind resigning myself, but if I can help put down this accursed rebellion in any way, that is obviously my first duty; perhaps I can do as much preparing men for

How much do I owe Acker & M^r? Don't forget to mention all other
accounts. Write after, Dear, and I will try to do the same
for them L.M.B.

to the account on top.
Not in the long box. It is
I don't seem of that fine for

the field as by commanding them their myself - The
first business in order is the saving of the country, after
we are assured that we have a country to live in that
is fit for your new Christians to live in, then we will
be justified in looking around to see how comfortably
we can live. - Tell Mary I got the paper & am
much obliged, give her a kiss for me! As to the
fence, I think it ought to be painted. The cheap-
est plan would be to buy the paint and get some
one to put it on by the day. George Atkin I think
painted the other side. Perhaps, it would be well to see
him. Dan Iddings can tell where he may be found.

I am very glad the children were pleased with their pre-
sents. How does Ellen get along at school.
If she learns as fast there as she does at making
wax-flowers, she will do, as 'Uncle John' says. How
do you like your neighbors? I don't mean to ask
whether you like them, but rather what is the state
of their obnoxiousness. The children, I know, will be
intolerable and I would advise you to have them
educated to dislike disagreeable children. An angry growl
and an ugly display of teeth might drive away a mul-
titude of annoyances, and do no harm to anybody.

The boys did not hold everything. The grid-iron which Em-
ma said you wanted, got left out. She washed it but did
not bring it into the bed-room until the box was sealed up.
She may have taken a fancy to it herself, but she has not
got it yet. - Kisses and love to every body not excepting
"Mary and Father". Tell the children to be good and I'
'll come to see them some of these days. Remember
me to John Howard & W. & all inquiring friends.