

clear and simple and I think you can write almost anything to them. Love and kisses to you all. Love

to pay at that rate to Dr Jewett. As soon as Dr J's note is paid, I want to have a little work with Robert. He promised to pay me for my law books this spring, but I suppose he only meant talk as usual. I wrote you about the military justice bill and how all my expectations in that quarter had been sadly dashed. I was never thus, from childhood's love to be set!!!

I have already told you I believe that I sent a long letter to Ellen on the 12th, which you have probably received within a day or two. I will expatiate on the subject you suggest, in my next, as it will form a very appropriate sequence to my last, but I shall try not to be too long wended hereafter. Continue to make suggestions and let me know if I write above her capacity. I do not think I have, and I think there is too a great a tendency to write down to children. Let ~~that~~ the language be

Rocksville Va

March 18th 64

My Dear Wife:

I was not exactly certain when I laid down last night whether this morning would find me on the way to Libby or in some other way incapacitated from writing to you. The morning has come however and here I sit at my table pleasantly engaged in scribbling a few lines to you about nothing.

Last night information came down to me from Head Quarters that the Rebel were massing their Cavalry at Hamilton's Crossing, with the supposed intention of making a raid on the railroad. Of course we made every preparation to welcome them with bloody hands to hospitable graves should they attack us, but the night passed away without an

alarm and we are smoking
our pipes this morning with our
accustomed nonchalance.

Mr. Hoker has been making
us another visit. He said he
has no rare flower seeds, but
those he sent were raised in
the public gardens and are fresh
and good. He suggested send-
ing you some choice roses,
which suggestion I applauded.
He also says he will send some
choice grape vines. If he does,
have some of the earliest ones
planted on the south and west
sides of the house. Should he send
at all he will probably send more
than you can use. In that case
you can give Mr. Pierce the sur-
plus, since he has found a
place where he can grow them
profitably. I suppose Mr. P. will not
care to divide the roses, as he has

all the best varieties now. I re-
ceived no letter right before last and
last night there was no mail at
all. Consequently I am anxious to
hear from you again to learn
how little Bessie is getting along.
I trust the poor child is getting
well.

I sent an ~~order~~ ^{order}-rubber
business card for Robbie's birth-
day. It is something new and will
please him I suppose. I will
also send him a quarter if
I can get hold of a new
clean one. Should I fail to
do so you must give him
one on my account.

Has John Howard collected
the Ogden note? ~~It~~ was due some
days ago I think, and ought to be
paid promptly, or if not, Ogden
ought to pay 10 per cent un-
till he ~~pays~~ ^{pays} the note, as I am obliged