

of mankind would take sides  
against one. In fact it seldom  
lays to take up arms against any  
individual transgressor, tho' very  
popular sometimes to talk loudly  
against the transgression itself.

I was terrified at first by your  
announcement of ~~Harriet~~ <sup>Kate</sup>'s  
arrangements, but I was pleased  
to find upon a closer scrutiny of  
your writing that it was <sup>the</sup> son not the  
father who had succumbed to her  
charms. The original Mrs. T. was  
a thorough bad parvenu of whom  
I have heard some silly stories, which  
has become of her daughter whom,  
it was once said the Chen intend-  
ed to marry? I suppose she has gone  
the way of all women flut but I  
have not heard from her for a long  
time. She used to be a great friend to Kate  
Chase I believe. Poor Kate! her reputa-  
tion is no fairer at Washington than  
it was at home. I always pretend igno-  
rance when any thing is said to her dis-  
paragement, out of regard to her father.  
Well, here I am at the bottom of the page  
and ready to say Good night, peaceful. If any bright  
ideas come into my head I'll write them <sup>in the</sup> morning

The night has brought forth nothing to do I can try your by again  
and close my letter. Yours  
L. B. B.

Wokeville April 6<sup>th</sup> 43

My Dear Wife:

Your of the 31<sup>th</sup> of  
March came last night, but having  
despatched an epistle to you yester-  
day morning, I could not think of  
answering it immediately, even  
to tell you the name of the "the"  
who is a more prompt corrupter  
ent than yourself. And upon second  
thought I don't think I shall tell  
you now, <sup>just</sup> to see whether you will  
try any harder to beat her!

Now that I have "taken my pen  
in hand" I don't want you to ex-  
pect any thing but words, for I do  
not believe I ever felt more empty-  
headed than I do this evening.  
We have nothing to do, nothing  
has happened within the range of  
our observation and beyond the circle  
of your knowledge. The newspapers  
give us all the items we get and

and for the past weeks they have been as dull as ditch-water.

The Gothamites have got a new "excitement" now and it is to be earnestly hoped that these restless souls will have some peace until it is over. It is a pity that so much effort is made to raise money, a great part of which is wasted. In my short experience in campaigning I have not seen a dollar's worth of good done by the funds of the Sanitary Commission. It would be very unjust & untrue to say that they have not accomplished much good, but nothing to be compared to what the outlay should have secured. It grinds me to the soul to see what has got the patriotic and the benevolent so much money should be so diverted from its proper uses. If they could only make all their con-

tributions through their own agents there would be much less wasteful and much more good done, tho' even then, no doubt, much would be stolen and wasted. Unhappily they trust their stores to some who treat the soldiers with brutality ~~and~~ while filling their bellies with the eatables and making themselves snug with the comforts provided for them. Perhaps there is not so much of this as I think, but I am afraid there is rather more than less. I would like to expose some of these fellows and I will if I get a good chance and it does not require too much trouble. It is a thankless business to expose such meanness, and it generally is to expose any meanness for the mean streak in human nature is so universal that the average