

Wokesville April 9. 64

My Dear Wife:

I am sorry you did not receive a letter from me on your birthday. I have been writing you a good many lately and did hope that one would arrive on that day so that you might receive some sort of an offering from me. It is pleasant to have such an occasion so kindly remembered by one's friends, and I hope it will ever be so in our little circle. — I wrote Robert a letter to-night which I trust will reach him soon after he arrives in Washington. It was intended kindly to suggest to him that he had better not make a Judy of himself about me. It is to be hoped that it will answer the purpose, as I do not wish my name bruted around Washington in connection with the Bureau of Military Justice. Reduced in rank as the place is it is beneath the dignity of one occupying my position to make any great effort to get it. I hope I made Robert understand this. If Mr Odlin had not written to Mr Stanton, I hope he will not do so, directly. I would like to have a letter from him to Mr S. in my own hands to be used at my discretion.

in two or three days. This rain I hope will stop the contemplated movement for some time. April here is a very rainy month and I want the rain to be ended, if possible before we leave the pleasant places we now occupy. It would cause a great deal of sickness among the officers and men to be put into camp ~~on~~ the wet ground with shelter tents over them. It should be avoided, if possible, and should be deferred till the last possible moment unless the weather becomes very bad. We cannot very well be moved until other troops are sent here to take our places. There have not been designated yet, and all things considered I hope to be able to date my letter at Wokesville for three weeks yet. I am afraid the season is destined to interfere very materially with operations in this part of Va and cause them to be very much delayed, and when commenced they will probably be ^{made} very disagreeable by the mud and rain to say nothing of the rebel bullets. You see I have nothing but words to write you, you get the best I have ~~any~~ how, so I suppose as a good wife ought to

be you are writing satisfied. I shall not close this letter till tomorrow, as something may occur to me in the mean time. Good night.

A letter to him unless it were a private one would never reach him & he would probably never hear of it. Besides, it is too soon to use it now. It will be quite time enough when the bill has passed and we know what its provisions are, to approach Mr. Stanton in that way. If I could get Mr. Chase to speak to him and ascertain whether he has committed himself to any one else, I should wish nothing more at present. After all I do not know whether I ought to accept the place or not, without having gone thro' a campaign and seeing some fighting. This will be the most distinguished one of the whole war and will result almost certainly in the capture of Richmond and possibly in breaking the back of the Rebellion, about which we have heard so much talk. If I were to consult my own wishes and had no dear ones at home, I should certainly much prefer staying here. I know however, you would much rather have me out of harm's way, and if I could get such a place as would enable me to render the government good

service for good pay with a prospect of being able to hold it indefinitely, if no family interests intervened, I should not hesitate to accept it. But after all, the thing is so uncertain and the pay is so little more than I get now, that it is scarcely worth worrying over.

It has rained heavily all day. It will please you to learn, no doubt, that I am living in a house, because you will think I am much drier and more comfortable. There however you would be mistaken, as I am not so dry and no more comfortable. My roof leaks, which my tent did not, and my room is warmed by a little stove, while I had a good large fire-place in my tent & always had a cheerful fire. However I have nothing very grievous to complain of and am certainly much better off than I would be in a shelter tent in this kind of weather. Gen. Warren is in a desperate way to get his Corps together at Culpeper and it was rumored that we ~~should~~ be moved up