

Command again until he joins. Much love to you all L.D.B.

to Will. He has so much to do in his office that I suppose he seldom feels like sitting down to write a friendly letter, and he too is a good deal like Sam, but has a good deal more head. Selfishness is a very conspicuous vicious virtue and ought to be cultivated by all who unfortunately find themselves deficient therein. Was Ally Newman the victim of Bidwell's spoils, who opened that store in Sharp's building of which an account was contained in the Journal you sent me? Those rascals appear to have done a pretty large business and to have got away with their plunder safely. Ally is not a young man of principle, and will probably get into ugly scraps pretty often. He is too "fact" to be honest. My letter writing is pretty near done for the present. When we move you must not expect to get anything more than notes from me & these will be short and infrequent. I have some envelopes already superscribed with a half sheet of paper in them, ready to send you a line by any opportunity. You must keep writing however as we shall receive our mails occasionally & it will be pleasant to hear from home whenever the mail arrives. A disappointment there will be much more than there is now, when I can console myself by hoping that to-morrow's mail may bring me one. There is some prospect that the regulars will be brigaded by themselves as one or two other regiments are coming down to join us. If this is the case a General will probably be assigned to it, but I may be in

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My Dear Wife:

The hard times are coming fast!

After living all winter on soft tack and fresh beef we are about to go back to regular soldier's fare, hard tack and fat pork. Hard as it was last fall we shall no doubt find it harder this Spring. We are now to have two waggoners to our regiment where we had five last fall. This is a very small allowance when the waggons must each carry ten days rations for six mules. However we have made our bed and we are compelled to lie in it, whether we like it or not. I think I shall buy another horse to pack my traps and enable me to keep myself somewhat comfortable. I had a chance to buy one to-day very cheap and thought the matter was settled, but my Lieut. was so much occupied with other matters that he let the opportunity slip and the best was sold for \$20. It belonged to the old woman who darned my socks; she left to-day for Washington, and by way of celebrating her departure we came very near burning the horse down. My little property would all have gone I suppose if the house had burned. Poor Mother! It would have broken his heart and he never could have been convinced that it was not intentionally done, as we have often told him that we intended to burn it down when we left. The above was written last night altho' it is dated to-day. I soon commenced with the intention of writing you a long letter on this sheet, but fear want of time will compel me to abandon the idea, if not want of ideas. The Military Justice Bureau bill has passed; the Assistants are to have the rank of Col. of Cavalry with \$3000 & no allowance, or

enrolment. The bill passed the Senate on
Friday. I write to Robert by this mail &
urge him to exert himself to get the appoint-
ment for me. I hope he saw that the bill
had passed, tho it is quite as likely he did
not. I have not heard a word from him
since he reached Washington. The place is
just such a one as I would like to have
but as there will be a great struggle for
it, I have but faint hopes of succeeding.

I sent you \$50 in a letter on the 15th
and \$20 in one on the 21st. I have also
sent my pay account for April, or rather I
sent it to Robert who if he remains in
Washington till the end of the month, is to
get it cashed and give the money to you.

There will be \$147⁹², out of which he will pay
Lucas & Brady \$15 and perhaps something more if
he buys me a pair of saddle-bags. This is
the last money I shall be able to send you
for some time. Capt. Putnam's little boy
died of small-pox - it was the eldest - and
the Capt was threatened with it himself. The
whole family had it. Lieut Putnam
corresponds with the Pratt girls and as like
as not will be marrying one of them some
of these days. Have you ever got the grape
vines or roses from Nettie? I suppose not or
you certainly would have mentioned it.
He is a great old black-skite and promises
an infinite deal more than he performs.
If I should happen to see him I think he
would lend the things, particularly if I
stod by and saw that he did it. He
probably thinks he can make nothing more
out of me and that it is not worth his while

to waste any more of his generosity upon
me. In your letter of the 14th you speak
as if I had not been explicit enough about
my application. I was explicit, but unfor-
tunately nobody has paid the slightest atten-
tion to my directions. I asked my friends to
get some letters from influential friends to
recommending me for the place and that
these might be sent to me or Mr Chase.
Instead, Robert writes a batch of begging
letters to sundry persons who if they read
them at all, pitched them into their waste
paper basket and thought no more of them.
Mr Collins's letter would have been a very
useful one if it could have been present-
ed to Mr Stanton now, but as it is, he has
probably never seen it or has forgotten
it. I think some of my friends, had they
intended themselves might have obtained
some letters that would have helped me.
I wrote to Sam Clegghead asking him to
write to John Sherman in my behalf, but
have heard nothing from him. I shall not
think very kindly of him, if he has not
done it, altho' I do not suppose it would
have done any good as Sherman is sup-
porting Capt. Anderson in my regiment for
the same place. I have stuck to Sam thro'
thick and thin all the time, knowing him
all the while to be a very selfish fellow, so
full of No 1. that there was no room for much
else. I wrote to Wm Conner at the same
time, more than a month ago, but he
has not answered my letter. It is possible
it miscarried. The letter to Sam was en-
closed in that to Wm, as I did not think of
writing to him until I had commenced writing