Dear Husband,

I am sitting on our upper porch, the vines have grown, covering the front balustrade, and Father has put up Howard's old tent so as to shield us from view, on the east side, leaving niches at each end of that side. So I have a pleasant airy room from which to write to you — your letter came promptly this afternoon, a good long one and very satisfying, with the exception of your health. You have must have been a bad one to keep you confined so long; I hope you have had company and books to help you bear it pleasantly.

I heard the report that Gen. Brown was relieved, and today it is announced that he
is retired, so I hope all difficulties with him are at an end. I have no doubt that he did well in publishing the book and remarked at the time, that he was exactly suited for such an emergency.

Remember me to Capt. Ernestine and offer my congratulations on her success.

I was proud of our Wrench when I read an account of that performance of Nymphs and men.

Is Mrs. McKellar keeping Rosalind Hall and how are you managing? Is Mrs. McKellar going to the boys, as they are inclined to like it more or less? Ask the husband, then, as he is absent. I don't believe Mrs. McKellar will allow me to do much writing, but I must try to write to her some time.

I should like to know just how you are living before I write to them.

You will hear of the capture of most of Morgan's commands, though the paper printed also, but the Morgan himself sneaked off somewhere. It is to be hoped he will not be caught.

Emily Quesin is here today before yesterday, she is probably on her way to California. Mother and her husband are here on a visit, and if Emily does not take charge of some colored children in the East, she will go home with Mother. She prefers doing so, in taking the children.

Mother, Father, and I understand in a laugh when I read your return about going where you are managing? I'm glad they are doing it themselves. Yesterday I was obliged to interfere and help them on the push all afternoon, for throwing them into the shape of clothes, this not being the first time it is like that. There Frank slept on his arm as she came in (that too being an old of figure) I concluded it would be best to keep him in bed. As for keeping them clean, I hardly try to do it any more. In the evening they are presentable once.
time. Belle will have to help me dress them or they will fare badly. Mr. McCook's father was killed in the fight with Morgan last Sunday. The General, I hear, has command of a reserve corps at Nashville, and Kate received a pass from1 her cousin so she has gone to her husband. She and Harriet Green were here last night. I am Ell. 

says that old Major McCook heard that the murderer of his son Robert was among Morgan's band and sent in that account. He was not, for although the poor man had the greatest provocation, yet cannot bear it to think of the hatred that must have been in his heart.

We have sent off a box to Howard this week. There is quite a complimentary notice of him in a letter from one of the Senators to his father, which is printed in the paper this evening. I will try to get one for you. Uncle John is very sanguine about our Country prospects, what do you think? Did you see that H.W. Beecher declined preaching on
lecturing in England, disclaimed any desire to influence her with regard to American affairs, was indeed entirely un

The Collins have a cousin visiting them who came with them the other day to the lessons in wash house making: soon after the first lesson had begun, Mary made her appearance with this query, "I've got a seamstress down there, what shall I do with her?" I advised her to drop the subject and get as many "greenbacks" out of her as possible. She is from Washington I believe, and one of the Vellandghan school.

Val sent his wife and to prepare a fine wardrobe so she could receive much attention, also not to have the settled part

door, removed. That is needed to ex-
cite sympathy in election times we doubt.

I am told too that she would get some of the Dayton Mantua makes to make her
dress, and had to send to Baltimore to have them made. I don't vouch for the truth of this, and did not hear whether want of time, or too much procrastination to sew on buttoned button, was the reason they declined.

I weighed Baby today and found she had gained nearly two pounds; it seems as if crying did not harm her a great deal.

Who will command Lt. Lafayette now?

Tell me all the changes that will be made in consequence of retiring those affairs.

Don't use your foot too soon, except, I will have to repeat some of your cautions to me about making haste slowly. I am so glad I think that you have the Captain back. I did not think of Mrs. M.E. leaving you, and felt sad that you were quite alone. Give my love to Mrs. Burke when you see her, it was kind of her to offer assistance. Does Emma still take care of your rooms? Tell her that I have again...