

Dayton O. May 31st / 63

Dear Luther,

Not disappointed again,
for your letter came yesterday afternoon.

Even my last was not very satisfactory, as Maunie was going away in the morning, and I felt hurried and confused with that, and the visit at Lili's.

The children are all on the upper porch, as it is too wet in the yard to allow them to play there. Robby gave me eight kisses for you this morning while I was dressing him and said he was going to write you a letter. He told me a few minutes since to tell you that he liked you. Frank says he sends a thousand kisses, also that he was going to send you some roses but couldn't. He seems quite well but is not fleshy. Lilla is not quite well, and as the heat seems to hurt her

I have concluded to keep her home till next Fall. She needs a little home training too before I am sick. She makes many good resolutions I can see, but finds them as hard ^{to keep} as other people do.

They are still very unwell at Eliza's, and Mrs. Brady's cough is quite bad. Twice a week the latter sends me a loaf of her good bread, and generally a pie or cake.

It is very kind in her, but I fear it is not right for her to burden herself in this way.

She grieves over the bread you got ^{last} yesterday ~~written~~ ^{although} I have assured her that it was eaten, and tasted good because it came from her. — I have not been in either house since I came, but make my calls at the door. I am very busy and can get little help in my sewing. Besides Kitty and Sally are altogether too knowing to make a ^{long} visit quite agreeable. My visit at Lib's was almost too long for me, and I prefer going on short excursions at

present. — I believe Aunt Ann proposes to have me there tomorrow evening with the Holts; I would a little rather not go, but if no others are invited will do it if possible.

Mother had been intending to ask Judge Holt faintly and George and Mary Shaw here for some time, and as we had some cake ^{over} left after Han left we concluded it would be best to ask them last week.

Mary excused herself and George (she is too sick about my time) but Judge and Mr. Holt with Martha and Belle came, also Uncle John and Aunt Ann. We had a very pleasant evening; and I brought you down to spend it with us. The Judge pronounced your picture very excellent and Mart says she thinks she ought to have one, that she would like to "hang Leather" herself. This was called forth by Aunt Ann's saying that she meant to have a little frame too and hang you up, as she

didn't want you shut up in an album
so you see she is really pleased.

I did not tell Mat that I would
give her a picture, but if you do not
want the only spare one still here, I will
give it to her, be sure and tell me.

The taxes of which I spoke are for Sam
and I fear will be quite as large as I
told you. Father looked at the receipt
for the last Sam taxes and supposed
the sum I mentioned, nearly right.

Uncle John said he had written to you
this week, had not tried to sell that
Ogden note but would. He said too that
Robert talked about having him (Uncle) get
the Jewett notes and count them over,
but he told him to do it himself. You
had better keep at him yourself, Uncle is
very busy and Robert don't like the trouble.
We must attend to our own business as far
as possible.

That pamphlet on closing photographs came

last Friday, and Mary seemed pleased with it, says she is going to show it to Mr. Miller (he is a small man, she thinks it is C. W. Miller) and ask him what he thinks of it. — Mary has just returned from church and sends thanks for the book, with much love.

Evening — The two little boys are in bed and both asleep, I believe. Betty took all three over to Uncle Christian's this afternoon; and Father took Mary and me to Liza's. Lib kept us to eat some fine strawberries, which we enjoyed very much. Elliott amused us all with his fun and talk exceedingly; he is very interesting.

On our return, Robby came to me with two little yellow flowers which he said he "begged them to pull" for me. Dear little fellow! — all of the children are inclined to get me flowers.

Father told Mother to put her spots of milk

into the water trough. The milkman brought the milk and it was duly put in the trough and covered, but this evening Betty found it full of water, couldn't find out the culprit for some time however; finally Rob, said he only poured four cups full in and Frank too concluded to acknowledge some share in the business.

I teased Lere for gossip or news today but could get none for you !!!

Many want to know whether anything has been heard of the book on wax flowers.

No more news from Vicksburg yet; I begin to fear disaster there. — I hope that Eastern campaign will not need you; it may be selfish in me; but I am afraid I can not bear up under that trial; yet I must try for a great many are depending on me.

I didn't know till a few days ago that some soldiers made a small attempt

to arrest Father; He tells the story on himself; some one near Father was pointed out for them to arrest, and they mistook him for the man; "Oh! no said Father I'm not the one you want". Of course it was but a mistake of a moment but served to get up a good story. Mamma was released on taking the oath. I understand that he says it has been rather an expensive lesson, but he now knows that a man makes more by managing his own business and letting other people alone.

I forgot one of Rob's funny sayings. We were listening to Father read the paper in the dining room, when the young roger appeared at the door and said "Mamma, Orleans molasses is very nice indeed". We then discovered that he had been helping himself in the kitchen!

How are Mrs. McC's. children? and, how do you get along with your new neighbors? How

was the question about the Quarters settled?

I suppose it is the artillery soldiers that are to be tented is it not?

I am glad to hear that you have been to see the Vanderpoos. Mary should have received a letter from me last Wednesday. You do not say whether they are really to move or not.

I don't know whether that engagement is a good one or not, as I have no acquaintance with Mr. H. — I heard once that he made sport of these girls, but hope it was a mistake.

Two sheets again! What shall I do to keep from troubling you with long letters?

I can't get you and can't be fatted so it seems impossible to keep from writing to the best and dearest man in the world.

If you were only with me a kiss and embrace would do away with the use of my tongue but they cannot be. I don't wish to discourage you from performing your duty, but don't be afraid to come home to stay just as soon as possible.

Good night dearest one. Augusta