

Dayton O. June 21st.

1863

Dear Luther,

I am still out of bed and feel rather disappointed that it is so.

Your letter came yesterday, and I was glad that you did not give up to your want of inclination for writing a short letter (not a poor one, as you said) is better than none.

Robby has not seemed quite well and I feared chills, but having dressed him rather more warmly and kept him from exposure, he seems quite bright again. The little fellow found some beetle or insect of another kind, which Father says was striped and spotted thus he called a "Union Bug". The next morning I heard him and Frank

talking about a "Bitch bug", Frank tried to crow like a rooster, this morning in bed, and then asked me, if roosters were made to "wake people up".

Father and Lib returned from Columbus on Friday; Joe came the day before.

Poor Father had quite a charge on his hands both going and coming. Mary sent a case of Pond Lilies to Kate Kelley and she and I together sent for an aquarium for Mother (^{total} expense \$3.50). This Father brought with him instead of packing.

They will not receive anything for free yet, although I have had to have a great deal since my return, besides I did not fully realize how much care the children must have been to Mother, till I came back; I thought therefore that you would not object to my making a small present. I would not mention this, only I am determined to have no secrets from you however small.

I forgot to tell you I believe, about Joe Cranis change of politics. He has become a great abolitionist. He said that he had seen too much since this war began; for instance, he said to one little boy as white as himself, "go and tell your grand mother" something or other (the mistress of the Maroon was designated by Grand mother). The child looked up and said it was not his grand-mother, and that he was a slave.

Mr. Davis says that when Joe calls a colored waiter, he says "come here father-in-law". Of course this is his funny way of replying to the teasing he gets.

When bantered here at home, he said "why to be sure; I am going down to take tea with Mr. Brady and sleep with Dr. Jewett. You see he looks out for the sitting part as well as ever.

Father has enquired again about painting the fence, of a man who seems to be highly

recommended by all careful business men
and he makes its ^{probable} worth \$25.00; Father says
he works by the day if it is wished, and
we think of having it primed, keeping
careful account of expense; then perhaps
putting on a second coat^{ing}. This however
can not be done for two weeks, as Father is
obliged to be absent up north; and wishes
to be here when the painting is done.
I fear by that time I shall not have the
funds. I am not sorry however that
I paid Uncle John, on several accounts.
If you wish it I will send you an account
of expenses, as nearly as I can; merely for your
satisfaction. I have got nothing for myself
but the children all had to have hats (I think
worse than myself) and shoes will wear out.

Thread, buttons, paper &c. &c., are needed and sewing
and washing and gas take their share. Father
does not use the gas, she is waiting to see what mine
costs. I hope he will, for mine is the only cheerful
looking woman in the house in the evening.

Father went to Dr. Swett's yesterday and copied
those notes. He said the payments were far

down ~~by~~ Uncle's and Miller's names, but by whom they were made not mentioned excepting in one case. When you have found out all about it I hope you will let me know. Is Johnson's interest due in July? I have forgotten.

Father saw Colonel Sprague and had good talks with him. He says he withheld Howard's commission as adjutant some time on account of his youth; but ^{now} became entirely satisfied ~~with~~ ^{of} his ability to fill the place before giving it to him. His habits are entirely unexceptionable and he is popular with the whole regiment. Father ~~said~~ said he would like to know about his courage, but supposed it had hardly been sufficiently tested. The Col. said that it had been, ~~as~~ much as if he had been in a great battle, that he felt himself competent to judge, had watched him carefully, and was satisfied that he possessed it to a high

degree. — I must confess that I have never
had a fear for him in any of these
particulars, nevertheless it was gratifying
to be assured of them by his Colonel.

Wonder which Commanding officer feels
the happier; the one who can commend
and who receives respect and love from
all under him, or he who wraps him-
self up in his own grandeur, and acts
the petty tyrant? Needn't answer, guess
I can tell myself; don't carry the letter
any how. — There's a high-coll from the
Barracks; how ^{familiar} ~~naturally~~ it sounds!

Evening — Mr. & Mrs. Brady have just left.
She says her cough is better, but she is very un-
well, lost all her ambition for house work, baking
and so forth. Laid down every day she is "so lazy"
as she expresses it.

Kebby brought me this ~~ship~~ ^{sheet} of paper which he
said was "a letter for papa."

Good night - dearest and best love.

Thine only, Augusta