

letters. - I don't know what the first bill is, but know there is one. - I left the account on a slip of paper in a black
box in the parlour, under the picture, and told Emma about it; but didn't get the first account in time I can
not say. - Uncle John says
he thinks he will have some
money in two or three days, for
heps ~~5000~~ \$ 86. 00 - will that
more than pay your taxes?
and so what will they
amount? Please to con-
sider to answer all my ques-
tions in my letter.
Do you think that I am
getting gloomy about my-
self and think I am go-
ing to die, on the con-
trary I feel better than
usual, and the doctor
encourages me to hope
that my 'weakness' will
be helped, perhaps more
will prosper during
and before my confin-
ement. Truly feel more
deeply the responsibility
of a parent. I feel that
my dearest - and help me
to bear it. - By the way
hello and a day, Papa
swears, for I haven't been in
Mr. Conter's room: he cannot
be too angry before them,
but what I want is that
we shall not get all our
letters with their letters.

no letter since last Thursday. I fear one has miscarried,
and as I think it quite time my question about the
Christmas presents should be answered, that very letter
may contain the answer and accompanying money, I do
hope tomorrow morning will set all right.

The children are doing pretty well; Robby has had some
thing like dysentery with his measles, but I think him
decidedly better tonight. A slight cough remains by
Frank, but a little care will probably take it away.

I believe I forgot to tell you that Robert had gone
to Washington; he went last Thursday quite suddenly and
Mr. Brady went on Monday. Eliza said she tried to
get him to write to you before he left, but he told her
you would much prefer a letter from her. She talked
and asked questions about you for some time and
said she would write to you and before I went back,
she meant to I know, and I hope will.

Are the Mac. Clellan men jubilant over Burnside's retreat?
That Potomac army seems fated! For two or three days
past I have been allowing myself to dream of having
you back, the war being over; but this it dispels the pleasant
delusion; for the time at least. Let me tell you in
another have nothing to hide. - hello and a day, Papa

what way this dream came, you will laugh no doubt but will rejoice too, so here it is. — Mother sent me a little picture of Frank taken when he was a mere baby; and immediately the thought came, "babies are sweet, and I don't care if I do have another." I said to Mary, "Mother has done exactly what I needed to ~~put~~ me in a happier frame of mind", she said "Oh! if that's all I can show you some more", and Mother got down all the rest of the little pictures, Robby's was best, but they all conduced to make me a happy woman, and I think that the coming little One will cause me no more gloomy feelings. From that I went to dreaming, and thought if Mother could keep me till Fall or possibly till ^{the} Spring after, then you might join our family circle and the little house be more cheerful than ever. I trust it may yet be so, but it does not look so promising now.

But dear Husband, I must hope that you will leave the Army as soon as you can honorably do it. Families cannot be dragged over the country and do well; I shall have to leave you and attend to the children if you do remain in the public service, and that you know full well would render all unhappy.

With a political life too, I am disgusted, it will make an honorable man descend to mean tricks. My boys must learn trades (with your permission, sir) and I mean to teach them to enable the work by well stored minds; why should they not? I believe they will be wiser and better men if they are thus brought up, and if ever they go "stumping" the county or state, then will

their Mother be sadly distressed. — There Sir Major are my sentiments, and I don't believe even you can change them. No more Ossifers, no more Editors ^{of political papers} and no more politicians for me! Hear you? and, understand you? Neither do I want any fancy farmers! Robert has been crazy on that subject again, and would have Eliza go to see a farm belonging to one of the Keasors; Madame, didn't like it however, and Robert didn't seem quite so much pleased on closer survey as he expected to be.

You are undoubtedly, satisfied by this time that you can make a bare living as you now are situated, now darling whether I live or die, I do beseech of you, that after due deliberation you make one change more, and only one, let it be some manufacturing business that is likely to be a lasting one, and that will not make ^{the home of} widows and orphans desolate; Devote yourself heartily to mastering it and to prepare situations for your sons; think how much pleasanter it will be for them to learn their business from a kind Father than from hard strangers.

Then, when the day's duties are over and you sterner lessons taught, cannot you with your literary tastes again bind your boys to you and your home by pleasant readings and conversation; Then, (~~but~~ ^{and} that would require the comfortable salary you are supposed to be earning) Sella and little somebody must do their part by joining in the general entertainment, and ~~join~~ ^{aid} the boys in giving home concerts.

Mother's part must have been partly prepared through the day in making all comfortable for the glad reunion at night. Now Dearest isn't that better than anything we have

yet tried? It will not do to wait till our children are grown before we plan for them; we must square our lives to suit theirs long before they are old enough to go from the nest, and if in the mean time we have not secured them a pleasant home, ten chances to one, they will leave their expense for a home, and seek unhallowed pleasures. They can be manly and love home too, and will be if we are true to ourselves and them. Our parent can hardly ~~do~~ all, both are needed. May we be spared to each other, to do this work!

I had no thought of delivering such a discourse when I began, but if you will be kind enough to read and think earnestly, I shall not be sorry. We are both too impatient to talk quietly on such matters; I can write them better and perhaps you will read them better than listen.

Life seems different to me lately, so much more serious and yet so much more richly freighted with happiness than we often discern. There is often a yearning for a higher life, but I want you to feel with and aid me; you know more, and can keep me from bigotry; yet I am afraid to ask you lest you be driven from me; I wish we could throw off all restraints of prejudice against old or new dogmas, and earnestly seek to learn how to live as Our Father would wish ~~to~~ have us. — We love each other now, but unity of feeling here, would insure a deeper and better love, and not only ourselves but children and friends be aided and helped on by our example. I cannot say more but my heart is full. — Good Night dearest One.

Thursday — Father has brought me your welcome letter, dated the 11th. August but post marked 15th. Ships clocks will not again interfere with my pleasure in getting