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Dayton O. Dec. 20th.
1863

If I wasn't afraid you were talking
"iron" as the boys say, I should be almost-
tempted to write you no more letters
my Good Man. Perhaps you wonder
what I mean. Didn't you promise me
more letters like that good long one
of the 13th, if I didn't write oftenier?

It was so interesting that it would
not be objectionable at all to have it
repeated as often as you please.

Father and Mother wish to have a part
of it published; of course omitting ^{the authors} names
and also the attack on editors. They
think it would be well enough to let the
public know something of the knittles that
beat the Potomac Army.

I can see no harm in it and if I can
will copy that part which speaks of them.

I hope your next letter can tell me something certain about your prospects.

As for your being sent to Columbus, that is hardly probable, being too lucky; if however you were I can hardly see how it will be possible for us to be with you on account of the expense. Howard and Sam Davis have to pay \$10 a piece, a week for board.

With four children and a nurse the expense would be enormous; and then the clothing would have to be more than we can get along with at home.

Sella says she don't care so much about your coming during the holidays, just so you can come sometime soon, and I feel very much in the same way; not having made up my mind that you really were coming my disappointment will not be so great.

It is such a relief to have you out of immediate danger, that I am comparatively happy even though ~~that~~ you are ^{still} away. You mustn't take that for permission to

stay away however; I was only rejoicing over the least of evils.

Your "spring like" weather would be quite acceptable to me, for we are having a severe cold spell, and I find it hard to keep Baby and myself warm. The little boys don't seem to mind it and would fly in and out all day to the discomfort of the whole family, if I would allow it. I let them run out as much as I can on clear cold days, but keep them in during snow and rain storms.

Father came from Columbus last evening he saw Colonel Sprenger there, who he says is displeased at Howard's detention, he wants him with him, and thinks the authorities had no right to detain him being a regularly appointed Adjutant, also complains that they show a very selfish feeling towards the officers in the field. I don't know what the result will be, but fear H. will be sent off.

Little Mary has been taking a long nap, but threatens to arouse now, in which case I may say goodbye to you for a time. There she is!

Evening — Katie Brady and Sally Corwin have been here this afternoon; they said their mothers were well; Sally said her mother thought her father might stay till Spring because he had so much business.

Fen & Lib took their three little girls to Andover yesterday, and were much amused with Bessie's behavior, she saw everything and remembered what the others had seen in other visits and wished to see all they had told her about.

They saw Gen. Burnside and stood by him as he spoke to the assembled crowd: were much surprised that he had no sign of the military man about him, although Lib said his hat looked as if it had gone through the war!

Judge Holt has been quite sick, but Father said he was sitting up today. — Ann Odlin is sick with small pox in Washington; her father and mother have both been quite ill at home so that they cannot go

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to her, but her sister Louisa lives there and as she has had the disease, she can nurse her safely.

I think some of my letters have miscarried as I have written twice a week; I should be glad to write oftener, but cannot; I have not tried to dress either myself or the children any more than to make us comfortable, still I cannot succeed in that; dear Baby is very sweet, but that does not keep her from hindering my work; they boys tear out parts faster than I can make them and Belle is almost as bad about tearing her clothes.

I would feel better if I could walk oftener but don't see how it is to be accomplished. Mother always says she will take baby, but I see that she is already overtasked. Betty is in some respects good, but unreliable some times sick, but not very fond of work.

I tell you all this, that you may not think hard of me for not writing oftener.

Your letters are such comforts to me that I would gladly contribute to your

comfort as well ^{as} you do to mine, but
come and see for yourself how impossible
it is.

Mary says thank you for the leaf, and
tell you she thinks you were very kind
to remember her. She has not been out of
the house for nearly a week till today,
looks badly but still works on.

Father brought home and that new wax
flowers were wanted in Columbus before Christmas
and she is trying to make them, as well as
a pond lily which she intends to donate
to the Bazaar. Sella has made mine little
cushions like yours for the Bazaar. I can
make nothing but will go and spend all
I can spare. — You ask again about the check
I have written two or three times that it, the
pay rolls, trunk and key have arrived; the
letters must be lost. I also sent the Photographs.

Goodbye Beloved One, write often and come
as soon as you can. Oh! if it was only to stay!

Thine ever

Augusta