

I wish this expense could be avoided, but I cannot see how it can.

After all I am more disturbed about the behavior of the children. It seems impossible to make them modest and well behaved. I am nearly discouraged.

Robby has not been well the last day or two but I have attended to his diet, and watched the pears and apples so closely that he seems better tonight.

I'll go to bed now and close this in the morning. Good night Beloved Husband.

Monday Morning— Howard will post this in the office in time for the mail so I will close immediately. All well as usual. Good bye My Dearest.
Augusta

Dayton O. July 14th. 1861

Dear Luther,

I wrote you a long letter last week and sent it in ^{the office} Saturday afternoon; so I suppose from what you told me in the letter I got shortly afterwards, that it will not go till tomorrow morning, for which I am sorry, as I always like to feel that there is one on its way to you. — I was very glad to get your letter, but could not help feeling blue about the Rum and Whiskey. It does seem to me a vulgar sort of hospitality; and, from what you ^{had} said about the temperate habits of the officers, I had hoped that such things as whiskey and Rum were quite out of date with you.

Why do not you substitute native wines? They cannot hurt and certainly are more genteel! I cannot see why men must estimate each other by the quantity and quality of their liquors. One thing is certain,

women don't take any such nonsense into account when choosing a husband, and they don't fancy that any one should base their friendships for their husbands on any such slippery grounds. Stand on your own merits, dearest, they are sufficient. I am very sure.

There is my lecture, Good Man, and you discuss every word of it, both good and bad.

Poor Aunt Lib. is sinking rapidly they think over there, although she did not seem worse to me today than last Sunday. Mary says her fever ran rapidly all morning, but she was quiet when I saw her.

Cliza still lies on the bed most of the time; I saw her a few minutes this afternoon, Sister Brady too. - Mr. Brady leaves for Kansas next Thursday, to take Robert's place. So there is another widow.

Mrs. DeGreeff called on me to night. How I liked your absence; of course. I told her that about her husband assuring me I would get accustomed to it, but she declared I wouldn't. - All agreed that it was not the right way to bring up a family. Mrs. DeGreeff expressed

her willingness to live on Potatoes (or what I believe) if that would secure her husband to her. I agreed to this also, whereupon the gentleman threatened to have an interview with you, concerning the best amount you could support us on. Don't be set up too much now, and name too low a figure.

I got a queer letter from Caleb Smith today for you, and will inclose it to you. It was directed to Col. Biven.

I am very impatient to have your position settled. I saw by to-day's paper that there is a chance for your being cut out of your commission in six months after the war is ended. - At present however I am concerned about your portable quarters, and the least amount of baggage that will render wife and children respectable in case we stay with you. Till I do know I shall busy myself with what I already have in the house; but it will take me some time to get ready and I shall require help to do it. Aunt Lib's illness prevents Aunt Mary, and even Mother from helping me much.