

Dayton O March 22nd.

1864

I have been off sight seeing, instead of writing to you Dearest. — Uncle John called for Mother, Mary and me, to go to see the 'Stereo-ticon' at Buckle's Hall.

It is an immense stereoscope I should think. The views are thrown on a large canvas, as by a magic lantern. — Well worth seeing I can assure you. There is an afternoon exhibition tomorrow, and we mean Betty to go with the children. — Robert and Eliza were there tonight. R. said it was probable that he would go to Washington after the election; I told him I wanted him to let me know a day or two beforehand so I might wish to send something. So think well and send me word if you want anything particularly. — He said he would see you unless you were fighting. I think this

as he spoke, so lightly, but said nothing. If you do escape this time; do come of it all, I feel almost desperate safety, at times; and do so long for a family with husband and father at its head. — Perhaps you are as safe as at home, dangers assail us every where and I often try to imagine your condition quite as free from danger, as if exposed to a 'Dayton mob'.

Wednesday Morn. — Baby is quite sick with a cold; indeed we have all had colds.

Frank, Abby and Baby have had ^{some} sore eyes connected with it.

I wish you could have heard Bella ^{just now} play ^{ing} the first part of the little air over which she and Aunt Mary had such a quarrel the other day. Her execution was very good. I shall have to watch her, and keep her stimulated till it is less of a labor to her, but she will finally do well at it, as well as at more solid accomplishments. — She is

gifted in almost every direction, unless it is in drawing, but lacks perseverance.

I shall be much obliged for the roses and vines if sent; but have you any objection to my dividing with Mother instead of Lure? She is just beginning ^{with} her plan and will appreciate them more highly besides being unable to buy for herself.

The rubber card dropped out of the letter and Master Rob secured his Birthday present considerably before the 8th. of April.

He told me to "tell Papa that he is welcome for sending me that."

I have succeeded in getting both boys at work in making red, white and blue candle lights for my birthday; and Mary conducts the secret part with them and I superintend the labor. — Rob makes little stumpy ones like unto himself, and Frank long slender ones, in his likeness.

I can't say that I agree with Mother who just suggested that for the children's

edification, my letters ought to be preserved
she wants them sent home. Don't worry your-
self about it - however. —

Breakfast is ready, and Mother is
nursing. — Then comes Rob or Aunt Mary
back, he is wearing a yellow pasted-on
crown with a cross in front.

This letter must end hastily, as I do
not wish to impose on Mother any longer.

Papers say Gen Grant reviews the Potomac
Army today. — Hope you'll please him
in your brigade.

No time to correct mistakes.

Goodbye Dearest

Augusta