

my consent, I feel like carrying you off out of the reach of war and holding you fast.

I may be the wife of a brave soldier, but needs a brave wife of a brave soldier. Luther, dearest

one, forgive me, but I cannot help feeling as, you will think I change suddenly, but it is now evening and the first of my letter was written this morning. — This separation from

our little one will be a great trial too, yet I think the ^{lesser} evil of the two. Our future is not heavy and we cannot make them as comfortable away from home. With Robby I could not stir hardly, while Frank can go every where with me, and be a dear little comfort beside.

Mary is insisting, that she will burn this letter. but it will have to go; she says give her regards she is afraid to send her love to you. Don't think, my dearest, that I do not wish to come

for indeed I must see you; I only regret not being able to bring all. It would be no easy matter to pick up these little ones and be off home with the short notice to which you will be liable. I could start with one of I must. — I think too that I can do without a new trunk; how would it do to pack bed clothes, your shawl and the books in a box and send them on by Express? Can you tell Father how accounts stand between you?

is quite cheerful this evening and thanks you, (oh set up with him let say that), is the best must I ever saw. Sister says tell you she wants to see you very much and hopes you will come; Mary proposes that I shall write to Ben Wade and tell to defect you I am afraid the old fellow would be contrary and not do it. I did. There's no way, I'll have to do things like this over again now, but I'll say I'll say it as often, if our I get on safely at of this. There only August 1861

Dear Luther, I am sitting at the north eastern window in my room — There is Robby with his shoes and stockings off. They are on now, and he agrees that there is "mussie mattha-ah" with his feet and has kissed and hugged me till my neck aches. — We have had heavy showers since yesterday morning, and feel refreshed by them. I feel better too as Robert prophesied yesterday. He said rainy days were always hard on grass-widows, wait till the sun came out and I would feel better. — I had just got your letter and the uncertainty of your position made me feel a little more depressed than before. I cannot say that I should grieve at all if you are not confirmed for this life seems worse and worse every day; nor do I think you ought really to be mortified if you are not. The only

trouble, is the useless expenditure of money
which you speak of. I hope you have
rented no rooms nor a house. My plans
have changed entirely. I think I shall telegraph you agreed to it that we would give her that
you tomorrow, not to do any thing in that way
until you get this letter. — Even if your
appointment is confirmed, your subsequent
movements must be very uncertain, and
I think any great expense ought to be
avoided. The most economical plan
I can think of, short of staying at home,
is to take Frank and go to you in the
East, to stay as long as you wish us to, leaving
Selma and Robby with Mother, and this is
the only plan to which my own immediate
friends accede at all. Mother and Mary
have done all they can to get us ready, but
I found this morning that Father was
very much opposed to the former plan
and said he never could give his approval
for and Lib felt the same way but
could not speak to me till I mentioned
this last idea of mine; ~~for and Lib~~ ^{they}
gave a radical acquiescence, and Father
though he thinks we had best stay at home
says that will do better. But I do not
wish to leave them there without compensa-

sation, of course. Mother will not be able to do
her sewing while they ^{children} are with her. She can
earn about \$3.00 per week, and I thought if
provide an extra quart of milk and get their
washing done. — They would then be well taken
care of, much more comfort for them and
for us, besides much less expensive. Frank
will need no nurse and the bother and expense of
one will be avoided. I am sure the board
of three children and a nurse would be
much greater than my plan; and to be
plain, I am not able to bear the fatigue.
I am troubled with that old weakness, and lately
am much annoyed with pain, soreness, and
numbness in my left side. — I am afraid
dear Husband, that you will feel disappointed
in not seeing all of us, but I can but think
you will see it in the same light if you
will ~~do~~ think of it. You would find
too that the care of a family, and a house
would infringe upon your duties; they of
course will have to occupy the greater
part of your time, and I don't believe you
realize the hindrance we would all cause you.
Oh, how I hate the whole of this sad business
Why must you be torn from us all?
I cannot help regretting that I ever gave