

Newport Barracks N^o.
Jan^y 20th 1864

dear Maria

Since I last wrote you I have rec^d from you four letters one day before yesterday and this yesterday the last dated Jan^y 11th and (as news) it contained, to me. This is the first time my darling little ones have been any way sick since I left home and I was feeling in very low spirits till I had a talk with Dr. Carpenter and he quieted my feelings soon by saying that the mild kind of Canker Rash commenced as you wrote they came down - I was always afraid of that disease but hope the next letter from you will put a stop to all my fears for their safety - I hope you will not over-do but get a plenty of help, and have them both well taken care of - I would be glad could I take care of them for you during their sickness but here I am so far away I wrote to Dr. Morgan to go and see them if he heard of their being dangerously sick. I want you to tell me just how they are - you know that some kinds of Canker Rash is very dangerous - I will not borrow any trouble but wait patiently till I