

Camp Butler, Newport News, Va.

Sunday Evening July 21, 1861

My dear wife:

Yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> + 18<sup>th</sup> was duly received  
bright. You must keep up as good courage as you  
can. You have done bravely so far, under the hard  
circumstances in which you are placed. You have been  
ten times braver than others who say more. Again I  
say to you that you must get some older girl or woman  
than Jane as soon as you can. What have you been  
thinking of that you have not engaged some one already.  
I expect every letter to hear that you are sick all alone.  
We are both in hard places - My anxiety for you almost  
takes my courage away - I look forward to the time  
that is to elapse between this and our arrival home  
with much more anxiety than I ever have  
before, for I fear for you - and you on the other hand  
are in trouble on my account - Well, my dear, we  
must both have more courage and hope that  
in the hands of Divine Providence all things will be  
for the best. It is but about three weeks now  
before our time is out, reckon it the longest that  
it can be reckoned. It is less than three weeks -

I am much pleased at my nomination, as it  
ensures me some business for the next year. I am  
glad to see you act with so much discretion -