

What do you think of my envelopes? ^{for Mrs.} George Brinkley's these
3^d Div 6th Corps Hospital Feb 25th 1865-

My dear wife,

I have just received your letter of the 19th. I had begun to despair of hearing from you again, it is so long since I had heard from you. But right upon the heels of my despairing came a very welcome letter from you and Helen. Do not think I attempted to make any display of poetical genius when I wrote those lines. It was simply a spontaneous expression of my feeling. If they please you I accomplished my wish. When I read the verse you quoted I could hardly realize that it was an effusion of my own brain. I think I must have outdone myself.

I am suffering to day - now don't laugh with the Mumps, yes, the mumps, and I am obliged to keep pretty close quarters. For the moment the cold air strikes my face it gives me great pain. I had had them when I was about seven years old on both sides, and it is a little singular that I should have them again. But such is the fact. You can judge how much I feel like writing.