

Feb. 27, 1863

(Letter with no envelope, is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Stafford Co. House, Va.
Feb. 27th, 1863

My Dear Wife –

Yours of the 21st & 22nd was recd. this P.M. I think them the best you have ever written one – Your business details are interesting, your general items of information well given. & I have experienced much pleasure in the perusal – Sorry that the little one must so soon resume the usual run of her life & be the source of weariness to you & to us all – As for the money expenditures, you have done as well as you could & I have nothing to say – Only where you settle accounts take receipts - & if you can get the note of Dennis & cancel whatever is due upon it – The next I send you may pay to Albert & whoever else you think fit – Guess Hiram Bradley or Beecher had better be remembered – You had better keep a little on hand for emergencies & also use for your own comfort as you please – That wagon must not be forgotten – I should like to be clear (**Pg. 2**) of all old accounts like Mr. Atwater's of which something was said in one of my letters lately – I begin to see the pile had got pretty large; but we shall make some hard pulls upon it if my life & health are spared for a few months - \$ nearly 400 are now due, half of which I expect to receive in a short time, perhaps next week – We have this afternoon, that is David & I, made out the muster roll for the two months ending tomorrow – Guess you may expect \$200 next time which will stop \$12 interest – that is something – I wish you to employ some one to do your washing every week if you try to do without a steady help – But do not wear yourself out rather than hire two hands to aid your own – On the whole I feel very much satisfied with the way you have managed affairs & shall repose confidence in your judgment & capacity for the future – Hope the cattle will sell well & those sows be prolific & profitable – Should think there might be some hay to dispose of if (**Pg. 3**) it is worth anything – We use a monstrous sight of it here & grain also – It would make Carmi stare to see what piles of corn roots are carted off every day – Went on picket yesterday morning – It rained hard all the A.M. & in the night we had a regular pouring down of whole water – It would have done you good to see us – no shelter but our rubber coats or blankets – I did not get wet any to speak of – kept up a good fire & stood or sat around for 24 hours – Back to camp this morning all right & now at 10 P.M. feel perfectly well – Tea & bread & roast potatoes constituted my rations & they tasted good – You ask about our living – We generally have two cooked meals a day – Lately our breakfast has been fried potatoes & meat, either fresh beef, ham or pork, with tea & coffee & bread – Sugar we use freely – Sometimes our dinner is a soup. Made by boiling a few bony bits; throwing in potatoes & onions if they are to be had – But usually we get along any how (**Pg. 4**) at noon munching a slice of bread, or perhaps crumbing two or three hard tacks in a cup of tea – Tonight we had soup as above & it went well, Occasionally, we have butter cakes with molasses – Two or three times we have lately

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got some meal & with part flour succeeded in extemporizing some tolerable pancakes – We are living quite well here, better than at Fairfax & I observe that my hands are less bony then they were two weeks ago – I guess we are laying on fat under J. Hookers recent orders concerning vegetables – We have good water here – But many complain of diarrhea & I believe would if should camp in Canaan - It is curious to me that folks should have such busy bowels – My own demand attention once every 24 hours & that is all I know about their operation – My appetite is tip top – relish ham or hard bread – salt pork or rice – can chew an onion or content myself with the remembrance of such things & put up with an empty haversack – Wish the whole army could feel as well as I do – But here I be, the rest abed – by the way in new bunks – I must get up into mine – Would like to see my good wife & those 4 joint responsibilities – The stars shine & those on picket are more favored than their predecessors –

Good night – Many kisses & much love –
A. U.