

307 N. 12th Street
Richmond Va Sept 18th 1883

My dear Old man

I will let some of the Chaps rest today and write a letter all to my old man if you cant write as often to Old man as they. I received three letters from home this morning which made up in some degree for my disappointment in not getting any Monday morning and I have a big scold laid up for the next day any fail to write. I just as certainly expect letters when 8 o'clock A. M. arrives as I expect my breakfast and though that meal may amount to very little yet it is a meal - The Dr gave me a soft boiled egg for my breakfast this morning and I ate it with much relish - I passed the day yesterday without pain, had a good nights rest and have thus far been very comfortable except a little uneasy feeling about 12 m - which soon passed off and I am very much in hopes we may be getting the best of these horrid attacks and that in a few days they may be overcome entirely - I am surely sick and tired of them if ever a poor mortal was and I trust the day is not far distant, when my health will be on a firm basis again. The Dr is trying to make me think so any how and it looks as though he ought to know, for a man who has been 27 years laboring with and studying the sick ought to be able to diagnose a case like mine and find the remedy. He has not yet been able to get my liver to do its full share of the work and the kidneys consequently have to take much of the bile which the liver should carry off - but he is working in the right direction and I have great confidence in his skill and tact in managing difficult diseases.

I am glad to hear such good news from our household
each day - that you all keep out of the bed and are
able to be up and about - Should any one be sick I should
be strongly tempted to pull up stakes & travel homewards.
I fear Mr Whitaker's sickness shows some local cause of
disease in our neighborhood and you should see that our
lot is kept well cleaned & lime well put - I think
de-odorizers should be used in the sleeping room also.
I expect the hog pen on Whitaker's lot is the cause of
sickness - It is a great nuisance to any premises and
should not be allowed by the authorities, for a man has
no right to make his own family sick any more than to make
his neighbors sick - I have feared that pen all this while.
Tell him I say, to sell his hogs clean up the pen and put him
two inches thick over it - I am pained to hear of Mrs Black-
well's affliction and so much fear she will lose her little
girl - It would be terrible on Mr B were he to lose his children
& if it is really Diphtheria it will be most likely to take
them both. If this dire disease should take root in
Durham it will indeed be a terrible calamity. I know of
nothing more fatal - Do keep our children away from it by
all means - I am glad to know Minnie is improving & of
also the others who were sick. I do so sympathize with
those who are not in the enjoyment of health - we cannot
appreciate the blessings of a sound body until we get sick.
How unthankful we are to the Great Giver of all
good! who crowns our lives with loving kindness and
tender mercies - I received a letter from Mattie last
Saturday but sent it to Kate Santorn as I did Kate's
& Mattie, so they will both hear from each other

as well as from me at the same time. Kate's letter was
a tirade for not letting Matt visit her last winter and
a pressing invitation for her to come this winter - I wrote
her that my health was too feeble now to be making any
rash promises for the future, that if I recovered my health
it would then be time to talk about pleasure trips & such.

She seemed to be entirely in ignorance of my ill health and
I guess will be greatly surprised to hear such sad accounts
of her old friend "not yet 60." She may think now it is not
such a joke after all that her friend may not reach 60 -

I wrote Grand ma Zick today telling her about the
Richmond fruit market and advising that she ought
purchase here at the prices - I wrote D Mcleamy at
Lehigh Hill to keep a look out for some peaches and
pears and if he sends more than you need to complete
your supply you can let her take them at what they
cost. He may send pears but I doubt if he can get
the peaches for they seem to be very scarce this season.

I have about concluded to burn coal this winter at home
I have written Jimmie to get the prices of coal in Durham
both hard & soft - I am in love with the soft coal
used in grates here - It makes a lovely cheerful fire
and can be graduated to suit a warm or cold day
at pleasure - Wood is such an expense and trouble -

Mrs Jenkins the Priest of the Retreat has just been
in to make a call and seems to try to make herself
quite agreeable - She is a High Church Episcopalian
and tries to run the Retreat somewhat on that plan -
- uh - There are generally a number of Sailors here sick
and a ward in the basement is set apart for them -

Dr Wheat tells a joke on Sister Jenkins - A Miss Williams of
Hilmington was here for treatment 2 or 3 years ago and it so
happened that she wished to be baptized. Mrs Jenkins thought
to make a good impression upon the sailors and had the ceremony
performed with great solemnity in the sailors ward. They
looked on very devoutly and she thought much good had been
accomplished. Imagine her chagrin the next day when she was
told that the impious wretches had taken a brood of
Kittens, that happened to be about 8 or 10 days old, and
performed the rite of baptism ^{upon them} going through with all
the ceremony they had witnessed the day before. Sailors
are a queer nation of folk and when wicked are very bad.
Cousin Augusta Christian has not called to see me yet and I am
at a loss to know why - Joe has been only once but has threatened
to call several times since his first visit. He takes queer
notions sometimes. I have heard from Hunter only once and
sent that letter home. I am expecting to hear from Sam tonight
or rather from Mary to whom I wrote making enquiry as to the
particulars of Sam's accident on the Sunday during the storm.
I will have to write Cato tomorrow as she writes so seldom
as she is employed, I can't expect more than one letter
per week from her. Now about old man - Only one letter from
you since I left home and you promised so faithfully to write
often - if not every day. Wonder if Father Robert will answer
my letter to him? Think I am powerfully smart to write so
much to the household besides my other correspondence - I
close this letter at 4 1/2 p.m. after having had quite a com-
fortable day and all my symptoms satisfactory. I report
this with great pleasure. Tell Minnie I haven't been out today
but the reason is it has been raining most of the time - I am all
your aff. Sonth

Eleven minutes a day is time to be used