

War Trace Tenn.
May 11 1863 -

My dear wife -

I have not seen your letters since writing to you
the last of the 4th May.

It is a great comfort to me to hear
that you and the young ones continue well, indeed
I have ^{not} been sufficiently gratified for the continued health
and safety of my dear ones in the terrible vicissitudes.
When I meet constantly men who have wives and
children as dear to them, as mine are to me, who tell me
that they never hear from them - They hear of the
country being on fire, that the home has been
destroyed so that even the toll for them -

My own health continues fine - The price of cavalry
credit is that I now weigh 140 pounds -

I don't see any immediate signs of a fight - Our
horses are sent daily 2 1/2 miles to graze, the mules for
the transportation of the army ditto - This don't look
like fight. They pile up a number of wagons in my
camp, which could not be carried away if we were
to move - Mrs Wilson returned a few days ago from
Nashville - Dick is still in Memphis with W^m Stone
and is anxious to get home, but I fear he will not
have the energy to work his way through -

I am writing to you now on a look on my knee
just before breakfast and shall have to suspend as it is
now nine at hand & I have not yet worked -

You must do the best you can, with that precious family of
yours, and I will do the best I can to get back to it.
I may be obliged to wait some after the end of the
coming campaign, but I am pretty sure if I can only
get through it that I will devise some plan of
getting away from the Army of Genoa.

I should indeed wish an hour's talk with Colonel
My heavens! how much she would say in that
time? I am afraid I shall have a paper
Dixie in my admiration of the life. I took tea with
a Mrs. Col. Erwin, whose husband an ugly but
good & sensible old fellow, is brother of Mrs. Anne
Patience's first husband. They have a charming place.
Have you not read the story of Chippa up?

There was an old mail coach looking every
human of about 18. but around up for 24. I was in
on the lawn among the pine trees & vines, I was
willing to accept her at that rate, until I
thought I actually saw Spain.

I met Col. Erwin at a review some months ago, and
got him a place without knowing him & the old man
seemed much pleased to meet me & make my acquaintance
there - Write him to all the dear ones
Affectionately - S.

Mr. Blair when visiting of Genoa - he is still at Galla
Lima some 14 miles to sea now. I think he would enjoy being
in this country and at the risk of being shot here. It is the most
beautiful farming & grazing country the eye can see in
5 -

Rev. William Du
for
Mrs E. V. Semple

Mobile

Ala-

Wm. Trace
Tenn
May 18/63

War Trace Tenn.

May 16, 1862



My dear Wife--

I have rec'd your two letters since writing to you the last of the 6th May.

It is a great comfort to me to hear that you and the young ones continue well, indeed I have not been sufficiently grateful for the continued health and safety of my dear ones in the terrible year past. When I meet constantly men who have wives and children as dear to them as mine are to me, who tell me that they never hear from them---Th y hear of the country being over run, that the home~~s~~ has been destroyed etc. & there ends the tale for them---

My own health continues fine--You will scarcely credit it, that I now weigh 164 pounds---

I don't see any immediate signs of a fight---Our horses are sent daily 2½ miles to forage, the mules for the transportation of the army ditto-- This don't look like fight. They pile up a week's forage in my camp, which could not be carried away if we were to move---Mrs. Wilson returned a few days ago from Nashville---Dick is still in Murphreesboro with Dr. Avant and is anxious to get home, but I fear he will not have the energy to work his way through---

I am writing to you now on a book in my knee just before breakfast and shall have to wind up as it is now near at hand & I have not yet washed--
at
You must do the best you can, with th~~e~~ growing family of yours, and I will do the best I can to get back to it. I may be obliged to wait until after the end of the coming campaign, but ~~th~~e~~~~ I am pretty sure if I can only get through it that I will devise some plan of getting away from the army of Tenn.

I should indeed relish an hours gossip with Clara---My heavens! how much would she ~~s~~ say in that time? I am afraid I shall become a perfect Quixote in my admiration of the sex. I took tea with a Mrs. Col. Erwin, whose husband an ugly but good & sensible old fellow, is brother of your Aunt Rebecca's first husband---They have a charming place. Gave me real tea & out of China cup!

There was an old maidenish looking young woman of about 35 but dressed up for 24. & seeing her on the lawn among the rose trees & vines, I was will-

-ing to accept her at that rate, until I thought I actually saw paint.

I met Col. Erwin at a service some months ago, and got him a place without knowing him & the old man seemed much pleased to meet me & make my acquaintance---

With love to all the dear ones

Affectionately S.



Tell Clara I hear nothing of Jewett--he is still at Tullahoma some 14 miles to our rear---I think he would enjoy being in this country even to the risk of being shot here---It is the most beautiful farming & grazing country the eye can rest on.