Barrancas Florida
June 16. 1861

My Sweet Darling

Your long sweet and interesting letter of the 18th came to hand to day and as Capt Baker has leave of absence and is going home this evening I avail myself of this opportunity of answering it immediately - I cannot promise you an interesting letter - Things are going on here quietly - Not quite so many details for fatigue duty as when you were here. Genl Walker has made several changes in the Brigade - He is going to concentrate the 1st Regt west of Ft. Barrancas - I think Baker's Company will remain where they are - The 7th Regt will be concentrated North of the Barracks proper - Two of the Independent Rifle Companies have been ordered off on Monday and they do not know where they are going - I think from what I can learn that they are going over towards the East Pass to build batteries - Three other companies are going with them

not from this Brigade. The man that came over from Pickens is still in custody. He is a little more communicative than at first. He is a very determined looking man. I place no reliance in what he says in fact he does not say a great deal. He said there are nine companies in the Fort some not full good many sick. says they have four Batteries and a great many eight and ten inch Columbiads. Any one can take it for what it is worth. You will recollect the restrictions about what is written from here. Well Darling I hope I shall see you in a month or less time from what you write I shall apply for leave of absence about the 8th of July. I do hope I shall get it. I do not know what I shall do if I do not. Pretty near go crazy I reckon. Darling you do not know how well I appreciate your letter how I enter into all your feelings and how much pleasure it gives me to read such things in your letter. Dearest you must

not feel badly over my absence
I want you to be a real soldier's
wife. and bear up with the absence
of your old dear well and cheerfully
In reference to the vegetables I do not
know what they cost. Hatch
paid the express charges on them
and hence I had nothing to pay
We are getting vegetables from Mobile
and Montgomery tolerably regularly
now and get them fresher than
from home. but I do love
so much to get such things from
home. It makes me think so
much of all of you. I wish I
was there to get some of the grapes
I could eat your share and mine
to I reckon. Be particular
and take good care of yourself
darling and don't get sick. as
far as the fuss in the family is
concerned while it is unpleasant
to have unpleasant feelings to-
wards any one yet I think Ma is
perfectly right in letting Miss Maria
know that she noticed her conduct
Why don't she go some where else
if it is so disagreeable to her

that she can't speak to any one - will she continue in Infants or not. I hope you have had rain - we have had a fine one and it is so much pleasanter now than before the rain John McRae has not got any furlough yet and I think it doubtful about his getting one - Mr McMain is getting along here very well - he does not have large congregations and occasionally has none at all. I hope it will be better when the Regts is concentrated - I received to-day a letter from my Father written the 27th May - mailed in Richmond by a friend He is very low spirited and despairing of Maryland for the present - he hopes for the future and that is all he can do - all were well bodily - I wish I could get a letter to him, They would be so glad to hear from me - well Darling I must close - My love to all everyone - I will write as often as I can well - I wrote Henry yesterday - Well Dearest good by My love again to all - many kisses of love from your old Dear

Herbert