Heaven's choicest blessings be bestowed upon you - with much love and many kisses for you and the boy good night your old Dear Hubert,

Baranca Florida
Dec 19th 1861

My Dear Darling

I often wonder how you are employed and what are your thoughts - a few moments before I commenced this letter I was wondering just in that way - I suspect you are very likely in bed and may be sleeping. I have just returned from seeing some men in reference to enlisting for "the war" - What do you think Darling of my going in - Well I am in - The temptation of going in with Robertson with his light artillery was so great that I have concluded to go in with him - I am busy trying to raise the company or assisting to do it. I do not know yet whether many of the Rifles will go in or not. Cochran says he had rather have my position than be Lt Col of a regiment - I do not feel exactly that way about it but I would much prefer it to the Captaincy of an infantry Company Robertson offered me the position of his own accord, and being the

kind of service I preferred above all others I went in I concluded to go in - I have this advantage over enlisted men I can resign I hope my Love that you will not feel that I have done wrong in going in - I think it will be a month or more before the battery is equipped and ready for service - In the mean time I want to get as long a leave of absence as I can and stay with you as much as I can - and another thing my Love I want you to be with or near me during the time I stay here - I may possibly not be home before Feb ruary - Keep a cheerful heart when this war is over we will be happy together - I pray for it and I feel that it will be so - My pay is I think $100. per month - The same I have had this year with better chances for promotion and distinction - I feel that it is a grave responsibility and I have tried to think of it as I ought. and I sincerely hope it will meet the approbation of my friends

If the news we have heard in reference to Englands demand of the surrender of Mason & Slidell be true and it seems to be confirmed I do not think the war can last over a year longer - It looks very much like ~~Eng~~ Lincoln was trying to get up some decent pretext to end the war - Well enough of war & politics - We are all getting along here about as well as usual - McIyer is well and has been entertaining us as usual with snatches of song &c. Reub is well - Henry Shorter leaves for home on Sunday next I expect to send a letter by him We have not much to do - Drilling is light and every one is looking forward to the time when he will be at home - Christmas is near here - I wish it was so I could be with you all - I expect all the family and connections (I do not know that that is the right word) will be with you except myself - Whom will you have for Preacher next year. I hope you will have a good and acceptable man.

Cochran left us to-night - I miss him a good deal - Mr Bullock is not expected to live - I received yesterday a letter from Governor Shorter saying that his case was considered hopeless - He will be a great loss to his family and his country - In many respects he is a wonderful man - and I doubt very much whether I shall ever look upon his like again - what a brilliant career was opened before him, Let me hear from you darling immediately upon the receipt of this - I feel great anxiety to know how you feel about my going in again so early, Give many kisses to our boy and tell him I expect to entertain him and his Mama after a few years with stories of my campaign, I will be something like a veteran will I not? Serving through our war of independence and it may be when the history of it is written that he may see his Father's name there - If he showed I hope it will be so mentioned that he will not be ashamed to own it - My love to all - Tell them I busy and have little time to write - God Bless you my own sweet wife - May -