

My dearest husband

I was so glad to get your letter this morning, it cheers me for all day—

I think the pain in my shoulder was dyspepsia for it is quite gone, I feel only tolerable today. My stomach is so horribly out of order . I try to eat, but every mouthful sticks in my craw so I have determined to try how I get only taking only fluids such as beef gravy, wine, whey, whiskey & milk. I am not very sick at my stomach, but I get sick at my meals too often for my own good. Dr. Perry has given me iron & quinine today but Mrs. Van Buren prescribed for me. They are all very kind. Mama is anxious for me to have Dr. Van Buren. Sometimes it seems a pity when he is in the house & could watch me so closely, but do as you think right about it. I think I eat with more appetite but it troubles me afterwards. I felt afraid perhaps that the Rebels would get to Lancaster & your Uncle might send for you. Last night I worried greatly about it, but today I concluded not to, knowing you would not leave me under any circumstances now.

Mama wants to add a line. Be cheerful about me & make a great deal of money day after tomorrow. It will be only a week before you come. Dody is flourishing. Goodbye with a boat full of love.

Your devoted wife

M—

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[Line from Edith Nicholson]

My dear Son,

Mary has not been at all well today. Perhaps the cool wet day may account for it. She has not been able to get into the dining room these last two days – We both think it such a pity not to have the advantages of Dr. Van Buren's skill – he talked to his wife. I am sure for she is all kindness – She says he regretted the day was bad on account of the little invalid – I have no doubt this Dr. we have is a good enough country doctor, but I do want her to have the best to be had & I am sure from the interest they take in her we should have him watch her [?] more closely – I am so thrown back by these [?] -- that I am so discouraged & Mrs. Van Buren told me she knew not quinine & iron was necessary for Mary & I asked the Dr. (Perry) and today he brought some – She has taken one only yet – I do not think it could be thought wrong to tell Dr. Perry that as we have a physician in the house we do not now need his services – What do you think? – I am so anxious God Help me – perhaps unnecessarily but I seem to have lost what little judgment I had. Mary rested quite well last night – Good bye my dear son –

Edith.

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