

From Alice Trego to Joseph H. Trego

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Mound City
Sept[.] 22 [1862]

My Dear Husband

I received a letter written the 22nd[,] another yesterday reminding me of neglect. I wish thinking would answer the place of writing; you would have no cause to complain then.

It is Sunday morning. I went down [to] the garden after breakfast to see how many peaches there were left on the trees. I did not find many, the children commenced picking them, as soon as they were formed. Howard and Rebecca thought they were pretty play things.

However, my journey was not lost as I found the worms were working in the roots and would in time destroy the trees. I worked as long as I could then came to the house, found a few more things that needed my attention. By that time, I was almost ready to defer my writing til sometime in the week as I have all Summer. I have just been out to eat Water Melon, almost the first this Summer, would not have had them if Hiram Hunter had not been here to get them for me. Everything is taken in town to sell and I have not an opportunity of getting anything[,] only by chance.

I suppose you did not know that Hiram was Harriet'[s] brother, he was with the Third Regt[.] last summer and winter[.]

The Black soldiers went to Fort Lincoln yesterday, guarding Rebel prisoners[.] They have been down in Missouri once, some of the union men came up to see what it meant. I suppose they were alarmed. They say they know which were Union and those that are not; they say (the Colored men, I mean) that there were a great many men, told our troops, that they belonged to the Union. When the troops were gone, they would call them all kinds of names. There was a report yesterday that Jim Lane was

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authorized to raise four Reg of Black.

Now I must tell you how Jennison is working against Cap[.] Seaman[.] Charles Clark came here when things were [wor]king to suit the men here, with an order from Jennison or rather from Robi[n] son, to Seaman. Seaman told him if he [did] not go home, he would have him arrested. He went, came back in a few days with an order from Head Quarters, ordering Seaman to give him some kind of Of[f] ice was the purport, it so happened that some of the darkies were tired of drilling[,] went back to Fort Scot[t], so Charley was sent after them, but he refused. this was a good joke, but Seaman did as ordered. Charley was in the dark again. When he came again, tried to convince the darkies that if they would go back to Lawrence, would get their arms. This was after Dr. Michel had scared them, and they began to think that it was necessary that they should have some defence.

And another reason they were easily persuaded[,] they had been wanting to go back. (Harriet says to get around the women[,] that has nothing to do) and get a little Whiskey too. Charley gave them a \$5.bill, and told them to get some beer. When the money was gone, they took the Flag, and started. by this time the matter was inquired into, and Charley soon put into the Guard house and kept there all night. I have not heard much of him since.

More about peaches. We have had peach pie, but dont enjoy them half so well as I would if you were here to share with us. Almost every meal some of the children say, Mother, dont you wish Father was here to have some too. sometime I feel more like getting up from the table and leaving, than eating. Then I think perhaps next summer you can be with us, and try to console myself in that way of thinking. I want to see you so much I almost think I will go to Helena.

You say you want I should write and tell you how I feel. I shall have to acknowledge that I am incapable. When you come home I will try and tell

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you. If you ever get home again, it is doubtful about my excepting your resignation to leave us again[.]

I wish there was some way that you all could get away from there.

Katie told you about the party she had. Mrs[.] John Watters girls were here, and Sarah, and Mary[.] We all wished you and several of the Comd[.] were here to enjoy the party with us.

Oh! how I wish the war was over, and slavery abolished. Sometimes I feel as tho I could help to kill off[f] some of our own men, it is really discouraging to see how they manage. All the best men here are wishing that bombshells will be thrown into the White house soon.

The newspapers report great things of McClellan's late skirmishes, but I don't suppose it will amount to a row of pins.

It is reported that Cashius M. Clay is ordered to report to Gen[.] Butler. It will make a strong team. I wish you could have such generals in your department[.]

Dont despair[,] perhaps there will be a change for the better. It was reported by the Conservative that Gen[.] Steel is to take Gen[.] Curtis place. I don't know as it will be a satisfactory change...

A part of the time, Eleanor has been combing my hair while I have been writing. one of us will have to wait. it don't work well together.

You wished to know about our Cow. We have had very near enough cream all Summer. A few days ago she was lost[,] the other Cows, came home, seemed very discontented, and that is the last we have seen of her.

It has been so dry, Simpsons Cows failed to make butter for us. we were without butter for three weeks; I bought 5 lbs. week before last, that was very nice.

After you left I got Jim to make the garden into sweet potato hills. He made room for 215 plants, only 20 of them died, the rest grew finely,

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only charged 75 cts for the work, got them, set them out, and watered them. When they were nearly large enough to eat, Harit found six large hogs in, one morning, of course the garden was plowed. Some of Franks carelessness leaving the bars down. Edwin sold Nick to the artillery comp[.]

I think that I have forgotten to tell you about little Harry['s] death, died in Aug[.] with the disentery[.] Mabel just escaped with her life, she could neither walk nor talk for a long time.

Ed is quite unwell with tooth ayche and face[.]

Well I left off very suddenly you see and have not had the time since to write[.]

The time passes away and it is night before I am ready for it. The first of the week I commenced clearing the Bookshelf that you put upstairs. we brought the books and put in the Book Case[.] thought I would finish the next day and tisnt' done yet. I have been sleeping down stairs all summer. It seems now I would rather sleep down stairs but I want to fix this room ready for com[.] I cant help thinking you will come to see us. I suppose your Colonel is dead as such is reported. I only hope Montgomery will take his place[.]

It looks a little now, as if the war would amount to something or rather you know what your are fighting for, but of corse there will be more desperate fighting. I get more and more anxious every day to see the end. I was visiting at Judge Lowe's on Friday[.] Miss Sarah Watts was there. she said they had lately received a letter from Lt[.] Morse[.]

I hope when this reaches you, it will be cool weather and soon think you will be improving in health, and spirits, and sincerly hope there will be a change to cause a general rejoicing. When our Cow

came home her milk wasnt good, turned the calf in a few times, and we get a right smart lot of milk now. Tom and Rory Balle have been getting some hay for them, and Old Comet. And he is fat as need be.

Ever since Olathe was sacked there has been a picket guard every night. The citizens take turns or pay \$2 fine, one night

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there was a man came near the line, was halted, went on, the second line fired at him, chased him, he ran in the brush, that was the last of him. at several different time they have brot in prisoners. Wheeler, & Curry brought in a horse thief the first night they were out...

Mrs[.] Lowe tells me they have received another letter from Lt[.] Morse, saying you were not so well, I want very much to hear of your recovery. I am very near sick thinking of your situation. Please forgive me this time for neglect[.]

From Your loving Wife