

Mobile Jan 21<sup>st</sup>/61

My own dear dear wife I have closed one letter to you to day and after closing it I went out to Mr Alexanders and sat and had a chat with the old woman and oh dear she had such lots to say about you and how Much She wanted to see you Sarah told Me the reason she did not write you was that she could not get a letter good enough she said she had two now that she had written but was afraid to send them I told her that she would make a poor correspondent they all think a great deal of you or appear to I went from there out to Mrs Swains and took tea she is just the same good woman as ever I like her to I asked her to let Mary go with Me and stay with you until the ship came back here I told her that I would give her her passages and that you would take charge of her when she got across and that you was goin with me in future for I am not goin to suffer any more as much as I did this passage I have weighed well all the sick spells and all the rest and find that they are nothing compared to what I suffered this passage without you so you may make up your mind to put the boys to school and take the baby and come along with me I think you had better put them to school in England or if they like there teacher where they are they might stay where they are and I think it would be more like home for them so you can get there cloths ready and every thing for I shall not go back to Brunswick as long as this trouble lasts for I never will have anything to do with men who helped ruin this our dear country I hate them and always will as one of the worst curses that god ever sent on earth and I would despise him were he a brother if he helped to ruin this country oh dear L you cannot imagine how

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through  
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MMN #36116

Date: Jan. 21, 1861

Description: Capt. John Curtis letter to wife

I feel I sigh and feel as tho my heart was to full  
at times it seems as tho it must burst it came  
upon me so sudden and the thought that one false  
step of our embicile government now would deluge this  
our beautiful land in blood is awfull to contemplate  
and to see the work goin on here makes my blood run  
cold both of Mrs Swains sons belong to a company here  
and a guard was sent after them the other day and  
they were both taken and carried to the fort down to  
to the point where they have to come in to the real  
hard work such as wheeling sand and diggin ditches  
and in fact they are under the regular army discipline  
and the feeling is awfull here to hear there never was  
any enemy hated as these Southerners hate a Yankee  
ablitonment if a man was pointed out as one of them here  
his life would not be worth ten minnits purchase  
and I do not blame them for the north has been trying  
to run over the south for the last fifteen years and  
those cursed creatures north with the aid of British  
gold has worked the ruin of this our glorious country  
I ask myself often is it possible that this great Union  
has broke and my answer is the firing of guns and  
the sound of Martial Music in the streets every hour  
in the day, what must be the feelings of those reptiles  
in human form who have completed this ruin thank god  
yes I thank god that I had no part or lot in it if I  
had I would seek some unknown region and there  
spend the rest of my days brooding of the ruin I had  
helped make I never would look my dear Wife or children  
in the face again. I have but one hope and that is  
that the south will be allowed to secede and all go out  
of the Union and then form a new constitution and all  
come back again but that will be the work of some

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years at least; orders have come down to day for the  
commanding officer at the fort to remove all buoys and  
put out all lights at the Mouth of the Harbour and Make  
all ready for an invasion and every heart is sad and every  
one looks as tho the death knell had sounded in his ears  
but I still hope they will not send out an army or under  
take to drive them back for the South will have to be  
annihilated to a Man as Mr Benjamin the great statesman  
told them at congress the other day he said in his speech  
that the North might kill their South but conquer them  
No Never, Never, Never and to here the bitter expressions that  
is used here against them is awful, One company came  
down here the other day whose capt was worth one hundred  
thousand pounds the Lieut. the same amount and also the  
Sargent, and a plenty in the company worth twenty thousand  
pounds now what is the use for the North to try and  
drive such men as them when they will give up all the  
comforts of a luxurious home and go down here to the fort  
to live on corn bread and salt pork with out a murmur  
I have just been talking with a young Man who has been on  
duty down there a week he is merchants book keeper and he  
says that they all lay on the ground and take that fare  
with out saying a word only venting curses on the abolition  
devils who compel them to suffer it in fact there never  
was any thing like it in the history of the world there  
was none allowed in the companys but sworn men who pledge  
themselves to never be conquered so there is but two things  
for them to do either to be conquered or die oh L I Wish  
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mean thought as well how dear my country was to me  
untill now. Every day we hear of Brothers here writing letters  
to brothers there telling them never to recognize them again  
and sons to fathers and fathers to sons the same family  
affections Sunday Jan 27 Well dear L another week has passed  
since I wrote you and it has been the worst weather here  
that ever was seen but now it has cleared off and  
it is pleasant the political troubles do not abate any yet  
Louisiana went out yesterday Georgia has gone and all  
the slave states are going one after the other as fast as they  
can, and every gun that is fired instead of making me  
feel glad goes to my heart like a death knell and the wisest  
heads here amongst us cannot come to any conclusion  
about the end, I went out to Mrs Barry the other evening  
and it came out to dinner and I had to stay all night  
& got a welcome such as suited me and I think Mrs Barry one  
of the best of women she appears more like you than any one  
I ever fell in with she says that when you come again you  
must make her house your home she has a real good warm  
Irish heart and a good Irish heart is the best in the world  
I have been so busy this week I have not had time to  
look around me I have now drawn Eighteen hundred  
Bales and when you get this I will be on my way rejoicing  
to meet you and those dear boys Mrs Swain will not let  
Mary go and she feels real bad I can tell you to think she  
cannot go on I will have to go alone again but ^ the last time  
for some time if you will get a good school for the boys  
we will take our quarters on board of the W. Z.] and there  
we will stay untill these troubles are ended Mrs Twain  
also wants to be remembered to you and in fact they all want  
to see you much and still think that if we did not go  
a long voyage which I shall go if I cannot get something  
to do here that will pay I have written for another piece  
but the owners will not sell and I shall put [?] another ship  
with Edward Stenson next fall unless I make some arrangement  
before I leave as my money is doing nothing I will write again soon from your John  
& expect a good letter from you to day

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