

Mobile Jan 31st 1861

My Own dear dear Wife Shortly after sending off your letter on Sunday & received your kind good letter and it gave me new heart in these trying times these are truly the times that try mens souls every thing in the political world stands about the same and every one stands agahst at the great revolution now hanging over us and it is all ready to burst upon us all it wants is a spark to ignite the pile and the world never saw such rassive[?] and blood shed as will come to pass in this our dear country there is a little more quiet feeling to day than for some time past | the Southern Women excel the Mothers of the first great Revolution they are all lending a helping hand, The Author of Bulah made three thousand sand bags for the fort and the rest are all at work making bandages, lint &c in fact they all were the southern cockade on the side of there head which is a rosett of green ribbon with a silver star in the center some have gold stars trade of all kinds is dead ladies who used to flount out in there rich attire have made there last years stock over and every one is hound ing up every cent for fear they will never get any more Oh dear it is to to harrd but there is no help for it and those infernal Black republicans north have the whole of the responsibility on there shoulders What can a man think or what can his feelings be when he stops and reflects and says to himself have I cast a vote to help break this great and glourious country of ours, if he has the common feelings of humanity & would rather he would carry his concieice than I should I believe if I had been guilty of such a thing it would set me crazy but thank god I have not and your husband is free from having any thing to do in this great and momentus question

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by an individual through
Maine Historical Society

MMN #36117

Date: Jan. 31, 1861

Description: Capt. John Curtis on approach of war

Well dear L I have now drawn 2500 Bales and am a
getting along first rate have filled up a few Bales at
one penny so I have done better than I expected for I
once never thought I should sign another bill of lading
for a penny but its are here now a penny for English
ships and 7/8 for Americans and we do not know
what moment war may be declared between the North
and South and all Northern ships stoped here but I am
clear for according to the laws passed here there is
enough of our ships arrived here to clear her and I
feel glad I can tell you Link Sholfield has taken
up at 7/8 and Fanny and Emma is still in the Bay
and I do not believe they will come up at all, old
Chin is loading her. Well dear L I have been out to
Mr Barrys and stayed another night and I like his
wife ever so much and I know you will be pleased
with her She says you must come and stop with her
when you come back she is one of those real good Irish
women and one of the best of wives. I was up to Mrs
Alexanders last evening Mrs Marshall was there and
sung some songs but the troubles here break the
spirits of both women and men and you hear
nothing talked of but the revolution and where ever you
see two gathered to gether there you hear the all absorbing
topic of the country discussed in fact nothing else is
mentioned it drives business and pleasure from
every ones minds and oh dear the people appear
beside themselves to night Capt Stinson, Leach and
Hallett have been in my room and we have had a
talk about going into the Pacific Ocean and forming
a colony on some of those Islands and there end
our days in peace I for one will take you and the
little ones and go I know you will go where
ever I do so I told them when they begun to say

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that they did not know whether there wives
would go or not that I knew you would go
with me and you will; yes dear L you and those
dear little ones will go with me and stay by and
with me Oh how I love you it grows with me
and now my country is gone, the love I had for
her has gone to you and I some times am afraid
to think about it for fear you will go to but when
I think of your love for Me I know nothing but
death will ever part us. I do hope to get another
good long letter from you before I go but I fear
I shall not Oh I wish you would write longer
your letters will always be sent to Me if one
arrives after I am gone and you do not know
what comfort and consolation they are to Me in
this trying time it seems to Me some times as
tho it was to awfull to think about. I have
written Mr Jameson to join me in Liverpool that is
on condition that his wife stays away I have a
dutch man now and I do not fancy him and
I hope to get some one soon that I like | it is
after twelve o'clock so I will wish you and
those dear boys good night and go to bed
and god bless and keep you all safe untill my
return Feb. 1st Well dear L another day has gone and we
have the same old story and that is war is enevatable and
god only knows what will be the end | poor Capt Wyman
is here and on his arrival he had the sad News of the
death of his wife to hear she was young and had a
babe thirty days old and was well as ever the night
she died the cause of her death was the bursting of
a blood vessel in the heart for which there could be no
causes assigned and he poor fellow take it to heart
he started to go home but the dreadfull state of the
country frightened him back for he had to give

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an account of where he blonged and where he was
from and where he was a goin and what his politics
was and he said those fellows who asked him was
armed to the teeth and it frightened him so that he
turned back Now dear L I want you to make all of
your arrangements to go with me on my return and
we will never part again untill this troubles is ended
for without you now the world is nothing I think you had
better make arrangements for the boys to go to school
where they are for they will not be so loan some as to put
them with strangers I cannot hardly reconside myself
with the idee of leaving them behind but it is for
there good and I must submit. The English mail
came through to day and no letter from you Oh dear I
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accound to stop so short for I shall be here long enough
to have had two more from you for I shall not get
away before a week from to night. I will now leave this
open to tell you what transpires between this and to
morrow I expect you have my journal by this time to read
and that will keep you buisy for a day or two and I have
written you long letters every week since but they have
not been as good as I could wish but under the circumstances
you must not complain Feb 2^d another day is past and
gone and nothing new got up every thing hangs
over us shrouded in gloom and every one fears what
may come next god knows what is for the best
and I hope he will keep mens hearts in his hands
so as to keep them from murdering there brothers
if the 4th of March passes over without blood shed
I think every thing will go right Oh how I shall
get along to see you my own dear Wife and
darling Children and also to hear the fete of my
country I leave it with him who marks the sparrow's
fall so god bless you all untill you see your own John

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