Lafourch Bayou Feb. 11th, 1863

Dearest wife,

Today is a rainy day, and I cannot do much but stay inside and keep as comfortable as possible. My dear I was glad to get your letter yesterday and glad to hear that you were all well with the exception of the natural infirmity of your sex. I hope you came out of it all right.

My dear I think you are to be pitied for that and other infirmities that you are entailed with but you seem to bear it without much grumbling.

My dear we are all broken up as a regiment and the different Companies are scattered along the road doing guard duty. Co B is stationed at this place, the Col. has his head quarters at this Station also. This movement has separated the Musicians for.
the present as each O takes its
drummer & fifer but I don't
have the trouble of taking care
of them I perhaps this will not
last long
About your sewing it makes
me indignant every time I think
of Clark Hoyt and I have been
tempted to write him a letter
stating to him what I thought
of him I have a good mind
to have you stay there until I
come home when you move
if you do I want you to take all
the locks and bolts that I
had put on to the Door and
take them with you when you
move as it regards the paint
things if you could find some
place to store them until I come
back I sometime think that
I will get some of the Boys
together and give Clark Hoyt
a good licking when we get back but I don't think that it would be Christian to do so.

My dear the time of enlistment is near and if we live our time out we shall not regret our
enlistment. I think that some of the Boys are improved by the soldier life and some are hardened but I think on the whole that the life is calculated to call out the noble sentiments of the soul.

There are a great many Negroes here but not as many as there has been at one time. There was 1800 but some have gone back to work and some have enlisted and some have died. It is difficult to tell what the ultimate condition of them will be. The war news in this part of the country is not encouraging although they are going to try...
again to take Wickedsigh. I hope it will be successful. But I do not expect it, because we do not seem to succeed. For some reason or other, my dear cap-
time to do your duty and I hope we shall not be separated
for a great while. It may be some
dreadful to you without me
which I hope it does as it
would be very to think that you
would rather have me away
than at your side. My dear I am in
hopes that our separation may result in
a state of feeling which may enable us
To live harmoniously together at all times.
Let me my dear endeavor. To study
the happiness of each other as much
as possible and willingly practice
that self denial that will enable
us to throw aside our own preferences
for the wishes of each other."
my dear wife it is after Taiue at night and the true Toads are chirping. There is no frost in the Ground in this climate and the weather is quite warm. I am afraid that we shall have trouble with some of our men as some of them or one of them has been engaged in stealing some of the Hispanics and other things about the Sugar mills and a complaint has been made to our Colonel today. We or some in our Squad have heard who the principal man engaged in this business is but we do not feel at liberty to mention who the person is as I think that it will leak out of itself. We have had a good name as a Regiment but I am afraid that this matter will injure our reputation and may injure our prospects for continuing in this position of Guard duty. The Regiment have been before us. They have had to go to Dickenshurg not fight because they could not be held to Guard this District.
and we are in hopes that nothing may transpire to cause us to leave this post until our term expires. There is a fair prospect that we shall stay in this place until our term expires.

Long dear Sam; I am glad that my principles are such that I have been enabled to resist the temptation to enrich myself dishonestly, in fact, I have never had an inclination to take that which did not belong to me.

The time is now half past 5 in the morning, and as I do not feel sleepy I get up almost every morning at 5 o'clock. I used to be up at 4 or 5 o'clock, but I have got into the habit of waking up at 5 o'clock and I cannot seem to slumber after that. It is so damp and chilly from the dew is very heavy here at night.
I suppose you are in the arms of Morpheus about this time taking your morning nap until the children awaken you early... the Muskets are quite thick here now and while I am writing now they are flying around my dear Wife, it seems to be established that our time is out by the 6th of June and we think that they will start us for home by the 1st or 2nd of June... my Drum Corps is all broken up as long as the Regiment is divided up but I think the Colonel will order them together by and bye for practice... It struck me as strange that Galbraith did not come to see you but I know that they don’t make a practice of coming to see us as often as they do the other members of the family... I will try and write to Agnes and she should have done so before this
but that I cannot bear to write unless I write to you... my dear my tent mates are all asleep around me some of them have been on guard all night and they are sleeping at the rate of 10 to 10 an hour.

I have filled 2 sheets almost in this letter my dear and I hope the content I will from interest to you at any rate my dear remember that I love you and respect you and that my great desire is to be with you. I don't wish to have you think that I am sick of soldiersing because I like it better than I did when I first went. Well my dearest wish accept my love and kind wishes for your health and the children's and believe me to be your loving husband. J.D. Bryans.