

24th July '69.

My dear Annie,

It is nine o'clock, & as is my custom, here I am in my snug little room, delighted beyond measure with your letter of yesterday (23^d) which I got after waiting very impatiently at the P.O. — even though I effected my entrance with ease, charging boldly through a great big notice of "No Admittance".

The dear little letter now lying before me repays me for my anxiety, & relieves me, as you can well imagine, of great concern.

The news of Baby Jane's improvement was all I looked to complete my thankfulness to the Almighty for his special mercies, & that being supplied I hope I shall say my prayers tonight with a heart not unmindful of his tenderness

and compassion. He has indeed been
my successful loss & your cause,
for it is difficult to overestimate
the advantage of the battle at Manassas.

Richmond has been all along the
object of their attack. It was to be
assailed by four columns, McDowal,
Butler, McClelland, & Lyons; the
1st pushing by Manassas, the
2d by Norfolk, the 3d by Staunton
& the 4th from Memphis up the
Lyn & Fern R. Road. Richmond
thus was the object, the essential
object of the enemy. He struck
at that as the very heart of the
"Rebellion". Without this nothing
could be accomplished, such is
their own confession by the magnitude
of their preparations. Well, how have
they succeeded. McDowal has been
utterly routed & his vast stores
captured, sixty guns & nearly
thousand stand of arms remaining

in our hands! There is complete
failure in one part of the
design. Then, Mr. Butler, has
allowed his chance to escape,
he cannot pass Manassas &
General Auger can beat him
here; already has this 2d column
been discomfited. In Missouri
our successes have been cheering
& with the Northwest our disasters
show how vastly superior our men
are to the enemy, nothing but bad
Generalship occasioned that; but,
in my judgment, ^{even} this will result
to our advantage, inasmuch as
this column losing the support
of those with which it co-operates
must either fall back, or be
overwhelmed. In addition Mr
Lincoln will be driven to direct
taxation, & will not get his Woodruff,
without which his vast levies
will be more dangerous at home

thaw abroad, with Sully's plan
of the campaign broken up as
I have shown you, with the lack
of organization to begin with,
with the moral effect of their defeat
against them, with the daily
increasing conviction of foreign
sympathy in our behalf, with
a depleted treasury, & a demor-
alized Army, the cause of
Constitutional Liberty has no
need to fear the ultimate result.

But, the war is not at an end
yet. Sad as it is to think of we
must not disguise the fact, that
the humane people of the North
of whom "Jennie" speaks, clamor
for — Union, which means
blood & subjugation. And they must
take the consequences. This, tho'
I regard as decisive of the result.
We have shown the usual how

vigorous our Nationately is, & we
 long the Nation born at Sumatra
 & baptised with blood at Manassas,
 will be hailed by the great powers
 of Europe as a member of
 the family of Empires. Cotton
 has constituted our reserve and the
 true, & is less likely to fail us
 now than ever. The popular
 fiction is, that Jackson fought
 behind breastworks of it at N.O.
 You know some rascally way
 says the Ladies do always, but
 we in reality are entrenched
 with bales of the great staple, &
 behind that rampart can defy
 the combined power of the Continent.

But we have a wall in our
 people, a wall of hooves & behind
them there is safety. By the way
 the Col. of the 11th Regt: the famous

11th Co., to be remembered in song
& story, is a friend of mine & his
wife one of my innumerable
southeasters. I wrote you about the
whar in Lynchburg, don't you
remember? — I can well understand
the gravity with which you received the
news. It is appalling to think that
Christian (?) men are capable of
such things; but, the North, witness
their talk of Salice is full of
austere hypocrisy, & the truth is not
with them — Of course I speak of the
majority, for it would be illiberal
& ungenerous to deny that they have
a minority of good men who cry
out against this barbarous warfare.

But, to confess the truth Annie I
felt sadly ashamed that I also was
not there. I have spoken brain and
darling, but have done no heroic
deed — You see I lay my heart
bare before you & of right despair, for

does it not belong to you? & since
you see something — is it patriotism
of worldly pride? Let us hope that
this is the former which prompts my
requests. There is a story which Comm.
Saw brought — he reached here today —
which I must tell you. It shows
you the temper of Salice kindly friend
A Company of Ladies & Quakers followed
in rear of the Army, accompanying it
to Richmond, — more than one Mrs.
Sickles, I fancy, in that unwomanly
group — & as they feasted dispatches
came from time to time that the Rebels
had fallen back — that this point had
been carried — that certain bands
of flint had ignominiously surrendered
without a blow, & large supplies
of fresh beef capitulated at the first
summons — that victory was assured —
that Culpeper was taken, & they
drank, & doubtless talked of
hanging traitors & confiscating their

when to! Here came messenger in
haste with great news - The messenger
came by scores - by hundreds - by
thousands, bare foot - but no
astirley - they ran furiously - no
doubt to proclaim a great victory -
all running in mad haste to the
Presence - & so they ran over
the fine ladies & over the fashionable
gentlemen & trampled upon the
frivolous, foolish creatures who
without womanly decency, ^{or manly hearts} had seen
such base & treacherous men! - I
should be telling an multitude if I
said I was sorry for them. The
five members of Congress taken care
of this precious party. - Uncle Sam
who tells me this is in the highest spirits
& will go to C. C. in a few days to
Command in the South & the Baltic
& the fleet. I shall talk about Clay
with him tomorrow. And new good night &
almond Ripes!