



**The following are letters written from Kate Walden Myer to her husband Albert James Myer. They have been transcribed here by Margaret Hageman. They were researched by Bob Gilbert at The Army Heritage and Education Center- (AHEC), Carlisle, PA.**

June 23<sup>rd</sup> 1862  
Saratoga Springs, NY

My Dearest,

Your letters of the 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> have been forwarded me from Philadelphia. It seems you do not receive all I write. With the exception of one or two weeks I wrote twice a week; those two weeks, once a week.

There was nothing important in any. I hope however the photograph of the children is not lost. I have repeated in my letters anything necessary in particular that you should know. Do you know dearest I never expect long letters from you and you are under a miss-apprehend, when you say that I ask line for line, letter for letter. I feel quite sad you should be so mistaken and should have exerted yourself in your last to write a long letter. I do not deny I am very anxious for a word of tidings very frequently just a line to inform me how you were up to the latest possible dates. That affords me more unmingled pleasure that a long letter because it contains what I most desire to know and I can feel that you have not been annoyed or just so inconvenienced to write me. Such brief notes on a piece of paper contain information sufficient to make me happy – do believe me. I have always endeavored to convince you so. When I am uneasy at not having heard a word from any source for twelve day on a fortnight as you frequently have failed to write in such intervals, and I express to you my uneasiness and anxiety to hear, why do you so misconstrue it as to think I demand long letters I have never once asked or wished long accounts from you in any of your absences least it might be troublesome for you. You have strangely confounded me in this case with your Aunt who I have known to complain if you wrote her briefly. But I much prefer short letters for the reason just stated.

You wrote me on a fragment of official business paper a few lines, before I left Philadelphia “by Command General McClellan”. It contained everything that was dear to my heart and goodness of yourself. I wish General McClellan command you often to write me such letters. He is truly a good general, now. What can I say to convince you I am sincere in preferring short notes. If only one line from my husband, whom I love so deeply. I am content. It is the intervals between notes I objected to, when too long, especially while you are exposed to danger.

Words cannot express how I feel when I think of your getting sick. I saw that sick soldiers coming from Philadelphia heart rendering thoughts it has inspired. Have you the shirts and things I sent you in one parcel? Ripe the collars off if they are in the way.

I sent you some postage stamps in this letter. The summer crowds have not yet arrived, but there seem to be many strangers walking past here. Our little girls are the pets. People look up at the windows to see them, as they walk by pointing to them, I fancy, admiringly. Those dear little ways and words they do and talk, passing irrecoverably away without your seeing or hearing them. I assure you, people always think of your privations and speak of it often.

I have been very well satisfied with this house, Dr. Bedortha's house. I came and they will try to make me comfortable. I cannot bear to think of being deprived of your presence longer. It is a different thing for me to bear alone my cares from what it was when you were with me to cheer such and explain every fear or omen. How I miss your loving tenderness; and what dreary thoughts, I cannot banish away as you would for me. I had a chill last night; was kindly cared for and it was not of long duration I believe it has left no ill effects. I thank God, for I was unhappy then in dread of harm, but today I have hope again. Please direct to me at Dr. Bedortha's Saratoga Springs. Write only a line or so at a time. The newspapers are full of details. Little Kate says she wants Papa to come and see us here. Little Helen tries to talk about you. I tell them your messages and little Kate understands them. I am ever thinking of you with grateful love, and am your loving wife.

P.S. I hear from your Aunt who is better, thought she is not in good health. We have sent her one of the little photographs with a frame, of broad white enamel of paper and gilt rim, making it quite a picture and a fan from little Kate. I think of you and pray for every blessing for you and me and ours.

Hamburg,  
Nov 6<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dearest,

We are here on the Lake Shore. All appears to be about as when I saw ---- before. I do not know that there is anything to detain me here, and I wish to be with you, my own dearest. We took the most fatiguing way to travel; - the sleeping cars seem to be preferable for me. Cornelia Myer did not come on with me. Mother is pleased with her present of the legal tender. How soon do you, wish me to come? Let me know, and say whether I shall have another servant. That is, two. They are very scarce, and Maggie had struck for higher pay.

I think I must come on as soon as we are rested; it will be more agreeable than when the cold sets in. I pray that a merciful God will watch over me. Please write to thy loving wife, who thinks of you so fondly.

I will write to you there. Do not think I will delay a moment unnecessarily to return to you. I pray God will bless you and keep you from harm and bring us happily together soon.

Thy own loving wife

Hamburg,  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1862

Dearest,

We were all pleased with your kind letter to James. I like the photograph only I do not want to have them distributed indiscriminately. I think they are mine exclusively. Mother and James were in hopes of seeing you; they kept a gardener all summer, and raised many nice things to feast you with and seem to have been much disappointed at you're not being able to come. It is lovely here to me and only needs your presence to make me comforted. The lake looks beautiful. I am getting ready to go to you, would leave next week if you wish. The sooner the better for the baby as it will be cold traveling if we delay much. Please send me a check for two hundred or three. I sent you your keys to your bag; was so much fatigued, and busy with the children that I had no opportunity to write at the time.

We arrived at Aunt's, - found Elizabeth ready for me; though she had not succeeded in finding me a servant. I had to allow Maggie to go home, and had to take care of the children myself, carry the baby, and this after my journey was a good deal more that I was well able to endure. It appears that servants are scarce, and so consequential it is most disagreeable. The unpretending Maggie stayed all day, returned at nine in the evening with the greatest possible increase of self-importance said she did not know whether she should return with me; doubtful. On our way to the cars in the morning she raised her demands; said she had improved her time to call on Mrs. Spaulding's servants; instead of staying with her own friends. I had to send her down to visit for a week or more, and again was without a servant for a little, but now have a smart little girl from the village. I write this as it is so amazing.

Do you want to see us, dearest? I pray we may soon meet and have a joyous time unclouded. I do not hear from you quite as often as I would like. James' letter is all since I saw you. I wrote you from Aunt's; and from Hamburg next day. Do you like Rev. Dr. Ba--- great question? I want to be happy here and hereafter with my beloved husband. I will write you from there. Do not think I will delay a moment unnecessarily to return to you. I pray God will bless you and keep you from harm and bring us happily together soon.

Thy own loving wife

Hamburg. Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, 1862

My Dearest,

Your precious letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> was delivered Saturday after a silence so discouraging; though yesterday came ones written previously and shows my dear husband's kind heart had not neglected me. It is of the 15<sup>th</sup>, the postmark, after the 20<sup>th</sup>, looks as if it had not been mailed for some days after it was written. The check came in that receive Saturday. I cannot say yet what day. I can leave here and set out to join my husband owing to a

cold the baby has which I hope will be well in the course of a few days. I wish it might be cured directly as it troubles him. I thought this morning we might start someday this week. I will however wait to see how he is before designating a day. It is hard for him to bear, as the nose is fat and makes it difficult to nurse, he coughs also I am anxious to be with you. May we be so greatly blessed as to meet happily through the mercy and goodness of God, so often manifested to us.

It is my hope and desire to be always with you. I should be glad if you could accompany me when it seems necessary. I should come to see Mother. Both she and James are pleased with your messages. I think it is a great satisfaction to James. Mother had a cough James appears in good health for him.

Our little girls like it here they have more range but I think they would be too much exposed to cold. Dearest you need not feel it unavoidable coming to New York. I do not ask it should all go on well, you need only come to Baltimore. Unless you have business in which would any way make the journey necessary. I will stop at the house you have indicated when arriving in the places. You are the dearest, kindest husband, and I love you with more tenderness can you ought in humility to think. How handsome the photograph is. I am fearful everyone who knows you have had it will be begging for it. You may look for a letter in a day or two appointing, if nothing prevents, the day of our starting. The prayer I put up daily for you has been answered. I thank the Lord. May we be mindful of our duty to him.

I am lovingly your wife Kate

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 1862  
Hamburg, NY

My Dearest,

I have had an ill turn and must wait a few days in the hope that I can be sufficiently well to travel. I shall not delay unnecessarily. When I can tell you how I am, you will be glad that I have waited to be better. James is going to Buffalo to telegraph you that I am not going to-day, and I write in haste.

With loving thoughts I am thine.

Kate

Buffalo  
July 11<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dearest,

We have arrived this far on our journey safely. On leaving New York Wednesday in the day but many annoyances attended us, and I had a sad day from cares and small troubles

added to all, I felt so disappointed at being hurried away from Washington and as it has proved so unnecessary.

I spent some of my time in New York looking about the shops and purchased almost nothing. I received and made a few calls among the latter Mrs. Banks, a most friendly, unpretending woman, who also spoke very handsomely of your corps.

Austin Flint, Junior is at Gramercy Park with his bride –a lady I can cordially admire. He is most fortunate in his choice.

The house is kept in the best manner and deserves to be recommended, Mrs. Johnson was quite obliging. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard, Mrs. H. said she presumed you informed me she had applied to you for her brother's admission in the Signal Corps. She seemed to feel herself under great obligation for your prompt, and she says, very kind letter, so unexpected- she says she is so very grateful. I begin to think you must have been unusually kind.

I find Aunt as well as I could expect, Miss. Myer and Miss Hubbard are both with her, the former only temporarily. I gave your check to Aunt. James met us here yesterday. He was not prepared to take us all with him so we go this afternoon to Hamburg. I hope you are well get on very nicely housekeeping. I – you have Col Root guest – and care of the carpets. There is no Bohemian glass in New York like ours. I saw a punch bowl of the same style only not so finely cut for fifty dollars.

Please let me hear from you. The baby is not very well but not sick. Katie and Helen are the same. Helen has cried to return to her Washington home.

With truest love I am thy loving wife  
Kate.

Hamburg  
August 26<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dearest,

I have been taking so much care of the children and so heavy is the dear boy that I have scarcely felt able to write even if I could find the time and have been not so well as I need to be in order to do anything, besides having just returned from the most fatiguing of exertions to the city to obtain a girl.

While there a rain and wind storm came up but I was so anxious to return the same day to the little ones that I continued my search in the rain, without finding the one I was looking for; and arrived two minutes too late at the cars owing to a dilatory driver. I was bitterly disappointed, and so fatigued, I cried with home and heart sickness. I could do nothing but return to Aunt's, turn my wet clothes into the kitchen and go to rest. Next morning to re-commence my engrossing occupation of servant hunting after two more visits to and undreamed of and thickly settled part of the town, making for the same

person, in addition to others, that ended without success, I obtained the one in view and brought her home with me; to my unspeakable thankfulness I found all well. I am going to try and get rested and then write you a longer letter.

The purchaser of our wood lot, Mr. Burkert wishes to hear your decision whether you will sell the wood lot on the other side the rail road in Hamburg at, I believe, forty dollars and acre. Mother seems to wish to let him have it and says Mr. Marshall approves of it. Please let the latter; or me here know, for he is waiting an answer.

Dear one, did you not observe that, in the letter I penned with haste about the silver, I first expressed my loving thanks for every kind word you had written in your letter, I never do find any words that satisfactorily convey my fervent love for my revered husband. Nevertheless I do not mean to pass in silence the dear, true precious lines you have lately sent me. My heart replies unceasingly and holds you, my dear love, in the closest embrace. It is that the children seem so much yourself that I love them and tend them so devotedly; and my hands so full and frame so wearied, have had to wait to leisure time to commune in writing with you and am our loving one, Kate.

Hamburg  
September 7<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dearest;

I wrote you a short letter last week as it was hurried away sooner to the village than I thought they would be ready. It is an effort for me to write – not from want of subject – but from having so much that I would like to say, not any indispensably necessary to remark upon, so that from the crowding thoughts I know not what to select, with little cares and occupation for my hands, weariness and fatigue my attendants, I am prone to wait for these symptoms to pass off before taking out pen and paper, but that in vain, and I only rouse my energy by the thought that my love; you cannot understand such feelings; and then I commence and end a letter with poor success as to convey an idea of my countless tender thoughts of you.

I have not referred to details or news of your letters, but I have not been insensible to their import. I am glad to hear of the success of your officers' partientarly. I ought to have sooner informed you that I have had your gold pencil long in my keeping. The deed has been received. There are no horses here but the two teams; which are in use, and could not be spared.

I hope your writing is diligently pursued with a view to completion in my absence, that you can have leisure for us. It is with bright pleasure I read what you are doing in the temperance cause. It needed but that and I call my husband perfectos. It amuses me to think of your drying peppers- provident as the squirrels and like good housekeeping. The good things you mention will gladly be put up for our use.

I have urged mother to visit us; her weak lungs seem to make it very desirable she should spend the winter in a milder climate. James would be glad to accept the opportunity. All that can be said has thus far had no power to convince Mother; she thinks it impracticable. The livestock must be taken care of, and the milk, etc., requiring servants and there is no one, in whom confidence can be placed, at liberty, in the range of our acquaintance to superintend. The more we talk it over; I am reluctantly obliged to admit the force of her arguments.

I presume you will think it agreeable now to invite your Aunt to spend the winter with us. I will cordially second the invitation. We have rooms sufficient to admit of a retirement for everyone at times when solitude might be a relief, it was different when boarding. I have initiated that you would probably ask her; yet said nothing definite knowing that it would be more acceptable if the invitation came from you. You write at once and leave it to her pleasure whether to come with me; or later in the season: if you see no reason contrary.

I have had dressmaking and sewing to tax out country home with. It must drag along another week. The weather is beautiful. Summer and Autumn are lovely here, the lake is so much company to contemplate; the white caps looks so refreshing, - they are my favorite aspect of the lake; I think of you when I look at them and know you would love those snowy crests too, dancing toward you, for they would refresh you. I love the works of nature so much it gives me enjoyment to be in the country at all seasons, and winter seems more pleasant than any, to me, in the country. How your little ones would delight to have your company in their rural walks and employments. They are so happy and contented. They have innate or inherited admiration for pastoral sights. You lose much pleasure from privation of their society. I wish you had time to study them, you could not ask for other entertainment. They are giving promise of invite I think Prof. Fowler was correct in his estimate of Helen.

We had a plate of baked apples on the tea table, delicious to eat, but not a very beautiful dish, little Kate's bright eyes spied them on coming to her seat and she remarked "I will take a rotten apple" Perhaps you may not like the attitude, but you cannot deny the humor. Helen to try her perception next dinner, passed her dish back for supply of soup, says, "please give me some more gravy".

With tenderest love,  
Kate

Hamburg  
September 16<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dearest,

I wish you would not try very sedulously now to write your paper on Signals, since I know it wearies you and is likely to make you sick; wait till you can be surrounded by your family. I have no news from you since the 3<sup>rd</sup> am uneasy lest the warm weather has affected you; I hope we may be brought by kind providence together soon. I will endeavor to come sometime the latter part of the month.

The children are well, though the baby is variable in mood and has swelled gums and restless days and nights; - only two teeth have cut through- I have no nurse; the one from the city left last week. She was a specimen of class. Employed by city ladies, smart independent of the mother, disciplining the children when not observed; teaching them to deceive, and holding them in fear to tell me of her. From all I have seen, I desire to spare my little ones from such association; and have concluded to have no servant at all for them. The young person you mentioned that you would send, was a good girl to go on errands, to bring the water from the pump, to scrub etc., but was very objectionable to be with children, quick tempered and I impute some vulgar words they have heard so her. So her I think to improve matters by substituting a higher order of lady to assist me, I have not decided precisely, but have, in view one of the Landous; Elizabeth; or the youngest sister. The salary is not more than I paid Maggie. Please send me a check for three hundred.

Have you written a note to your Aunt to invite her? You must let me know your answer to Burkhert the man who wishes to purchase the wood lot. What do you know of the route via Elmira and Harrisburgh? I think we will take it as more direct. Please answer these several questions. You can conceive I am busily occupied with my cares. I am not at leisure; but I feel much better satisfied and the children are happier than when we were favored with the assistance of girls who accept a situation for which they are little qualified. It is a delightful thought that we are hoping to see you so soon and I am thinking of it all the time, and am thine with warmest love, Kate

Hamburg  
September 21<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dearest,

I have had nothing from you since the date Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> – am quite disturbed. I hope to hear you are well. There is an application to purchase a few acres, by the owner of land in the woods back of us, who would like to enlarge his farm by the addition of the Bauer or Bower lot owned by us – deeded 20 acres; it is not wood, land is poor, of no use to our farm, except as a passage from our front to the rear, for which purpose it was purchased, also the neighbor was undesirable. Mother says there is no use in keeping it only to retain a road; which can be reserved by us. This farm is so large it is expensive to cultivate it on a large scale; it would be well to reduce it. The offer is for the poorest part; quite back, adjoining Conrades. Please answer by a line to Mother. I would be glad to hear if you have received my letters. I hope to come with the little family next week to you; will write more fully when I hear from you.

In earnest prayer that you are in good health.  
Your loving wife, Kate.



Wednesday 1 O'clock

Dearest,

We have arrived at Aunt's safely, having stopped at Albany and Rochester. The children appear in good condition. I am thankful truly to our Heavenly Protector for the safety of our journey- I was so apprehensive. My heart yearns to be with you to an insupportable degree. I am so lonely without you. I cannot bear to be away long from you. If you are as impatient to see us, you will fly to see us, or meet us; though I do not wish you to have the fatigue. I hope we shall find all well at Mothers. The children have been well; now however Katie and Albert are ailing some. My dear husband, let me hope you will now resign and devote your thoughts to domestic life. Mother begs you will resign. I have been impatient to see you and hear that this weary contention with place and Secretary was to be discontinued. I take no time to say how dearly I love my husband in this note; making haste to send it off, as you are not coming as I hoped thinking of you with inexpressible tenderness. I am thy loving wife Kate.

Washington.  
Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dearest,

I hope you received my letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> in due time and had not long to wait for a missive from this part of the country. I feel impatient to begin some act that may lead to your recall. Will you direct me and mention every one's name that you wish me to see about your business. There is so much in others of self to consider it seems as if your officers would not do for you as faithfully as you hope. I know they will be interested to organize the corps and will think that is what you are only anxious to hear but there is no fear that the corps will at present be broken up; as long as the military use signal corps; point however with me – do not believe it is of so much wish your officers- is to have you recalled.

Capt. Tafft called yesterday evening and said if I were going to write to-day to say that Gen Canby had arrived and was to have change of the business that the signal corps required, and that things looked brighter: whether he means anything more than the common interests of the corps; or your own individual needs I do not know.

It is my hope, dearest, that you will be as cautious about exposing yourself to be taken prisoner as you can. Do not walk or ride in any lonely road in the vicinity. It would not be likely you would be exchanged promptly. Write me that you will be careful against being surprised. Please write me whether I am to enclose a draft in an envelope to your father when the money comes which you directed to be sent to me. If anything is to be written to accompany it, will you please write it and send it to me.

The friend of cousin Katie Sandson's who called to see her when you were in the other day; was here again yesterday says he is intimately acquainted with young Beardslee, was in his room an evening since you left; as far as repeated to me, obtained a clear account of your removal; and of course a highly wrought relation of his wrongs at the hands of

your board which he lays to your influence. Our informant inquired first of the young man of his plans, naturally as an acquaintance who hoped to see him down with them at headquarters of the army; he answered that there was talk of consolidating operations of telegraph duty; that he was just engaged in exhibiting his father's machine as yet. In answer to the inquire why you were sent away the young B said why you had incurred the disfavor of the secretary by some disobedience; or had go the Sec's at variance with you by want of adroit management on your part; that the notice in the papers you put in was one thing; he then stated his own cause, that thought he was the only officer who could manage the telegraph machine used; who could understand how to repair it, and much more of that strain, that others officers had been sent off to us it and had been three months at a time unable to use it, that notwithstanding that , you could reduce his rank; and his father was so offended he went to the Sec and made such representation as got him ordered to Washington: the young man did not tell the other side – his own differences he also said some, vague, things about having been quartermaster down there - that some Capt. had wasted things for which he had to be responsible. This is the substance of the report of the conversation.

It is evident that Mr. B, Senior must have stirred up the already prejudiced Sec to the act that is so cruel in its effect. My informant say B said he could refer to other officers, he not clearly understanding whether members of the telegraph Co, or your own corps, the latter be thought, and received the impression there were others dissatisfied officers in the Signal Corps.

My Cushing's letter had already been acted upon, Mr. White says, so he returned it.

I think of you with truest love,  
Your loving wife Kate

Washington  
Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dearest,

Your letter was handed by Charles, yesterday, to me, and gave satisfaction that you were thus far safely on, and well. I pray for you my husband; and think of your absence with such unceasing regret, the secretary would repent, if he only knew, thought, he is said to be a cold-hearted, callous man in his feelings.

You write that if Gen. Canby and Hardee will try, you will be recalled; but I feel too anxious to wait for them. So for Hardee, you must be aware he is not one to influence, he would also not wish to mention any name or subject to the secretary that he imagined unpleasant. Gen. Canby however might influence and would not feel any fear; or -- could be induced to overcome his extreme silence in speech: and would not neglect to hope he would exert himself. Still I am not content to rest alone upon his movement in the matter; but earnestly beg you to let me appeal to such senators of the military committee as I can quietly find. Your officers would think only of the subject of interest

to themselves if they speak; of the establishment or organization of the corps in writing to you would think that also of interest to you; forgetting entirely that it is secondary and subordinate to your being recalled; which I do not know that they desire much.

Would they think to ask your recall if they were speaking with senators? My desire to see you will make me your best advocate. I know that almost any senator will interest himself for me if he hears me. Let me know if I may put myself in the way of seeing whom I can, if you are willing; and it seems the only way to get you recalled; tell me which is the best way to find them, Wilson, Nesmith, and those whose wife may not have accompanied them. I wish you may consent; and inform me in your answer how it is best to find them if I shall go to the senate and send in a message to them? Or how; and where? I feel such a desire to ask myself; and such a want of confidence in any of your officers that I hope you will afford me facilities and instrumentation. -- -- -- want to get them to take it in hand as soon as congress convenes.

The enclosed letter was sent me from your office with a request to know if they had anything to do with its contents; I have sent word how it is marked and that I should forward it to you. Indeed I feel for the writer; it is too bad; dearest, I hope you will send him rejoicing should you let him know I have read it, tell him I sent it to you with approval. I did not feel at liberty to submit it to the officers in the Signal Office. Did I do right? Major Nicodemus called the other day advised me to keep up my spirits, said he should write you, I look as brave as a Col's wife should. I could not conceal, notwithstanding, a slight April indication in my brow; he brought me a very kind message from Mrs. Canby which was of utility towards carrying out the friendly advice he gave. She said I had her sympathy and she was coming to see me. May it be a pleasant thought to you, dearest, your loving wife, Kate.

Washington  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dearest,

What a surprise- your letter enclosed in Mother's. I hope you had a pleasant visit; and I am sure they will derive pleasure in thinking of it. May you now have safely traveled the distant route; and in health be resting at your station. I have said nothing of it to any of your men; that they may be in ignorance of it if you wish. Your letter of Nov 30<sup>th</sup> from Cairo was incomprehensible as to place, as you said nothing in it of your movement. The letter written previously on the 28<sup>th</sup> was received later; it was a lead penciled page; was in an envelope directed in another hand which I could not recognize; and no number or drawer specified. How was it that you did not direct it? It puzzles me.

Please write the cover with care; I cannot consent to the loss of any; and you most important might – be the one sure to be lost. I have not kept count of those I write: they are several; but not very important as to news; except one inclosing one from Capt. Babcock, who begs with feeling for leave to return to be married: since he has thus far

gone in his troubles, please, make him content: he obeyed so well. I allude to it here lest you may not have received his letter which I enclosed. The other most important and I believe up to this all; was one in which tells you what cousin Katie's friend repeated to me of his visit to young Mr. Beardslee. By that I was led to conclude that the father is the instigator or instrument in irritating the Secretary against you; causing him to give orders in the anger of the moment; and deciding him in his prejudices.

It is not the Signal Corps that is at all likely to be broken up. It is yourself, individually who is concerned, and unless I can do something, you will be considered provided for with your place, and duties at Memphis or in the field in Tennessee. Either you're resigning; or what interests I may inspire are the percent alternative upon which you must act. In my anxiety for your return to me, it makes me suspicious perhaps, but it truly does appear to me that your officers here may not care to have you here; not that I see indications in Major N., he does not display the slightest word or manner that would lead me to suspect him; he has called twice; the last call from his hearing that you had sent him a message in my letter, which he came to hear; was gentlemanly and ingenuous, not acting, I believe, really. White, Ashley and for aught I know Capt. Spencer and others may be glad of your return to them if you are recalled; I have not seen Capt. \_\_\_\_\_ Capt. T., however is changed in manner somewhat. I have seen him twice, when the impression left was to me disquieting or what I do not know only I felt he was quite pleased with the state of things; whether because his duties are lighter or that he has more authority now; I know not; he seemed more lively; and gay than before. This is only my impression. Only do not intrust to Capt. T anything that is to help you recall: or any of your personal interests.

I have cheerful hopes of seeing you soon. You could instruct me how to see those who can demand your recall. They will not be deaf to my pleading if they are as I think, kind hearted gentlemen; for we ask only what is common justice. The call I made Mrs. Canby was, as I thought useful and satisfactory; but could I have had the same opportunity to speak to any Senator; or the Secretary; it would, I feel assured, have been at once promptly effected.

I think of you with, O! such loving thoughts; and pray for you so earnestly. The little ones prattle kindly about their Papa. Here is an ocean of love for you, and we miss you unspeakably. Aunt sends her love. Keep up your hope, dearest love; and pray that you may soon be permitted to come, and that you may find us all well. Hope and pray.

Your loving wife, Kate

Washington  
Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dearest,

I have not heard of your arrival, after your journey. I hear they have given you some duty to do; like finding the best way of communicating between Memphis and Cairo. I think of you constantly, with fervent love; and earnest prayer to our Heavenly Father for your

welfare. I am reflecting how improbable it is the Secretary would have been so hard as to have deprived you of so much comfort and happiness with me in our own home, could he have known us both.

Among calls I have received one from Mrs. Canby: she did not speak fully and decidedly, as if she were at liberty to tell all, but said as much that Gen'l says everything is being done he can do; and impressed it upon me when she saw my eyes swimming. It would be satisfactory if I understood clearly whether he means for the benefit of the corps; or for your recall; she must have known that was the question with me, do you not think so? You have not told me whom I may apply to in case you are not recalled this fortnight.

I sent yesterday by Adams Express to you 100, and will send another when you inform me that has reached you; or more if you direct. I have not sent the 1,000 to Cleveland have waited for a few lines to enclose from you; if not necessary will send the draft without letter. Please write me, which.

Shall I send a present of 20, to Rev. Dr. Boardman, Philadelphia as in remembrance of the little boy? So it being Christmas it will be an appropriate opportunity. Have you heard whether the draft for 100 sent to Cleveland the day you left, has reached there? I do not know but I have sent the draft for the same amount, without waiting to hear from you, I wrote you about it soon after you were gone.

I have been interrupted much since beginning this letter. That outbreak – the two women among themselves; the one is slovenly, the other is neat and does the greatest part of the work of the day, so they could not harmonize it intercepted the work of the day. There are many calls, both fashionable; and beggars of whom there are some deserving and cannot be turned out easily, but it occupies much time to attend to them. The shopping for the family requires a good share of attention. I made calls, and had company to dinner one day.

Mother writes that she has some anxiety about your health, that you will allow your cares to rest too constantly upon you. It makes me uneasy that she should think so, as I had the same feeling, but hoped it was my imagination. Think of the necessity of your good health and try to avoid too much anxiety. Mrs. Canby did mean her words to be very significant and perhaps it was for your recall she must have known that the Signal Corps interest was less to me than your absence. If the Gen does not affect anything; tell me whom I may apply to. I have been to call on Lee Welles, Seward P M Blair: the two letters did not receive; Mrs. Welles says she is coming to see me. Please answer what requires reply in this. -- -- --

Washington  
Dec 22 1863

Dearest,

There have no news of you been received; since the letter Mother enclosed. You can form some idea how unhappy I feel when I think you may be ill; or have been seized by the rebels, or any trouble having occurred. It seems unendurable. I have sent over to

your office to inquire if they had heard and they have nothing. Every day until I hear from you will be a heart-yearning, prayerful suspense. Dearest, dearest, how I long to know what is the reason of this non-arrival of tidings. I do not like writing till I hear; nor like myself; so unsettled.

In the past week, I have made calls, and saw Mr. and Mrs. Lane. They appeared to feel sympathy for our annoyances. I have asked you to allow me to apply somewhere for assistance; do let it be to such a quarter as might be effective – it is just as much trouble to go to the small as to the great. I send this to let you know we have not heard from you since your visit home on the lake.

How I desire to hear from you, and see you. I hope you have directed me to do some act for our mutual happiness. I pray for you in your absence my beloved, thy loving wife.

Washington  
January 15<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dearest,

Your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> received a day or two since; and that of the 11<sup>th</sup> are here. That for Aunt I will enclose to her. Gen. Canby's will deliver as soon as the weather clears. I wrote you of the kindness and cordiality of Mr. Morrill's offer to serve you. I know it will be gratifying to you: it was in a personal call from him; before any assistance also was solicited by me. You may direct me to ask of him what you wish. I think if I could go to the Secretary's house to ask him he would not refuse.

So to the claims of the Signal Officer, (I suppose you mean Mr. Felt) probably Maj. Nicodemus can refute them. You can trust him in that; and I believe he is acting true to you.

I have had to do my calling, shopping and errands in a carriage without which it could not have been done without injury to me. The expense was great; but then the children all accompany me and have the air and exercise, and then there is some style in it. The cost of our fuel amounts now to three dollars a day alone, 4 tons lasting twelve days. I have drawn out all the funds in my name at Riffs. I have sent your father a draft of two hundred. Please inform him (if necessary), as it was enclosed to him without any written explanation. I could not spare more to him of that deposit: with our expenses; with the hundred sent you and the same sum yet reserved for you; & what Aunt took; there remains only little more than a hundred for our household expenses.

Shall I send you the money to Cairo or where if you are going to require it? Can you make any arrangement to pay the quarter's rent the day it becomes due? Do not feel sad, dearest, about your military troubles. You will have opportunity to make it all right, no doubt. They will not refuse to bring you back for if I find it is going to be defeated by one application or one way, I will try another. I have shared your despondency my own dear one, all along; yet my hope is so confident of your return now. We are not entirely neglected. I wrote you I had left my card at Secretary Seward's. In due time theirs were returned and this week came an invitation from them to Colonel and Mrs. Myer; showing

you are not slighted; though the card I left at their door was only my own, without the title.

We have heard from Aunt that she had an adventurous return, being detained to a portion of the train running off the track, ten hours; the snow drifts after Elmira; there disabled engine at Batavia making it from Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> when she left till the following Monday when she arrive at her home. During which time she had sat in the cars three nights resting part of a day at Elmira; and a portion of Sunday and a night at Batavia. I had not thought her able to endure so much. I opposed her taking the night train, and would have preferred her going by day; and other various objections to her going; though she could not help the state of her health which should make me considerate and charitable towards her.

The little ones partake of the interest in your return; and talk and watch for the Secretary of War as he passes by.

I think of you with tenderness beyond expression, thy fond wife Kate.

Washington  
January 26<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dearest,

I have your letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> your application is declined by the Secretary. I learn through a kind friend, Mr. C. whom I asked to apprise me whatever the Gen C knew. Do not be discouraged; there is an appeal, besides I do not think it has been well managed and perhaps he will relent, he has not been approached by those whom he would not like to refuse. The plea of my health has been used; Mrs. C. says; though not what. I wish they had not presented, for it is such a subject of too delicate a kind to be handled and of course the sec has become indifferent to the plea which probably every man uses to go home, imagining it would strengthen his claim, and all women now are habitual invalids real or imaginary.

I ought to have gone to him myself; it would have served to remove his Juridical more than coming through others, and made your path easy in your business with him after this misapprehension of your character. If I am able to go about I will make what effort I may, which ought to have been allowed me without waiting for the Gen?; though he has felt kindly interested. I will if able to go, apply to Mr. Morrill for advice. I called yesterday without seeing him; he will do anything which may look likely to succeed I am told, and have felt it myself, that however, many influences of our political friends I may have, that my own going with my request would have been more direct. It is difficult to go now that he has refused, and would have his pride aroused; though it would perhaps be a more effective way; than any other. I will keep you informed if I shall be able to do anything to go to the President in the most agreeable.

I wrote you my suspicions of Capt. T.E.: they are probably correct, for not having insinuated them to anyone save yourself, yet a subordinate in the office has cautiously

told me that there was treachery and partaken in also by his clerk, named Lauder. Do not mention it; but act upon it when you can. What interest he can have; except you are displaced, he may think to be chief? Do not make any change; for my information is only for your private ear.

My love attends you; and my prayers.  
Your loving wife, Kate

Washington  
April 28th 1864

Dearest,

You are missed, much, more than can be expressed. I leave the things you used on my bureau, in my room; and the office untouched, that I may imagine you still here; though I feel a yearning towards you that proves I cannot deceive my heart that you are not present. No one has been here, except to see the baby, the doctor once came as she was having a running ear, which he says is not unusual, or a cause for anxiety.

All Tuesday passed without the call from Mr. G. after his dinner, I sent cousin to inquire; she did not see him as she was informed he had company to dine: we sent next morning when he gave the papers, here enclosed, saying he had sent you the others; no message at all and therefore I sent again the same morning to him, but he had left. Ms. G did not know, Wednesday afternoon I sent again, he did not ask whether the papers had been laid before S,- that said the whole thing or corps ought to be abolished. Mr. G. probably thought it no use to ask; he had written you. I telegraphed them to Burnette House Cincinnati that nothing had been done – to that effect.

Do not be depressed in spirit, my dearest one. Take a happy view of such disappointments – and it may be they are “blessings in disguise”. When you have attended first to business, try to read something to divert you, rest and drive away cares. The children are well and such as can express love for Papa. Your wife lovingly, Kate

I have your kind lines from Baltimore. White sent the books – ten of them, which I will send. Do you want the finer print books laying on my table to be sent?

Washington  
July 30<sup>th</sup> 1864

My Dearest,

I have just received a letter from you dated the 17<sup>th</sup> post-marked 20<sup>th</sup> in which I find you in ignorance of the important news of your military position or non-position, sent you on the 5<sup>th</sup> July by me, extract cut from the chronicle, in a letter I was told the New York papers all had the list of the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month, congress having adjourned that day, therefore concluded you or some of your friends would see the list; even without the letter to tell you how you stood. A list of appointment in the Signal Corps was sent to the Senate on which your name was not at the head, but Lieut. Col. Nicodemus, no Col. at all



named. Lient. Col. Furst, Kisher and Marston, Majors the list was confirmed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Sunday sometime between 1 and 3 A.M. so Capt. Tafft said, whom I saw a day or two after; as he understands it, you are out ranked and out of the army; (or if in must resign) that he thinks writing thirty days from adjournment of Congress this is the position of your commission in the army; he says he is going to resign, is much dissatisfied. It is a disappointment that you did not receive my letter; nor see any of the papers. I have been expecting you to arrive before this, if you are out of the army. If you resign first where must you be, in New Orleans or here to do it? I own it is so unpleasant for me to travel I hoped you would be at liberty to accompany me home. It is so much to take without assistance, four children and my servants and cousin not accustomed to manage. I have delayed for you and am so much surprised to see you are not posted; and have never told me whether to expect you if you were not confirmed. I have drawn all the money at bank: the rent is due and I have nothing to pay with. I hope you have saved some pay to bring or to draw when you are here I have taken box 18 1/2 P.O. Washington. I know not whether to wait for you or not. It is so inconceivable that you should not have heard.

Hamburg  
January 12<sup>th</sup> 1865

My Dear One,

I have only your dates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> I find little leisure to write, doing without a nursery-maid, as you know; it is not to be supposed you can have any idea of the constant, small, occupations without respite. I do not write for this reason, as well as I should otherwise. I ponder how you progress; what detains you; how you pass the time; and similar quarries and speculations. I do feel uneasy at your proximity to Lawyers, who have, as you acknowledge, deceive you, their selfishness rendered it impossible for them to be ingenuous and candid. I wish you would leave them while you may; and take the care entirely in your own hands. In all the instances you have desired assistance thus far, what have they accomplished; yet you will have all these to pay with fees munificent. I know from last winter what it seems you prefer to hear from expensive counsel that the S. would not reinstate you. When it has been reiterated to you thus often from high political quarter it seems absurd for you to keep this attitude of a suppliant.

I am so weary of waiting for you to expose the treatment you have received, and of screening the person who has stolen your rights. Why can you not take the case yourself? I cannot bear to see you supposed to be so dependent. When you are in Washington, it has accrued to me, best it have the man in charge of the house required to lock it on leaving it when going to his business, or meals. It may not be known to him how many beggared in the day time would go over it on pretense of seeking some owe. I am disturbed by the thought of so many valuable household goods and wares being so exposed. I am anxious at your trust in lawyers.