

Swann House  
Parkersburg, VA  
April 1. 1863

My dear Jane

On looking out this morning we saw a great change in the appearance of Parkersburg. We left it at night bedaubed with some of the dirtiest mud that ever is saw, but in the morning it was bedecked with dress that sparkled and how so as to excite the envy of the most accomplished laundress. To be plain we had a good fall of snow. The weather is exceedingly changeable, but I have been very fortunate in being free from exposure to it. This is a very comfortable house to stop at, and I am enjoying myself pretty well. It is very different from campaigning, and after such a rest it will go strange to commence again.

We had another fire last night, or rather in the evening. Although this one took place at a more seasonable hour than the other one, yet I did not attend, but contented my self with looking at it from the door of the hotel. From the appearance of the light in the sky I inferred that it was a good ways off. So it turned out. Johnny and some other youngster went, and in returning reported that it was at the military barrack near the outer rail-road depot.

There was a great ball here last night, but none of the Roundheads attended it - I suppose the reason was because none of us were asked.

We have been notified to day to be ready to leave. We have everything ready for it, except embarking the horses. They are furnishing us barges for them and they are to be towed down the river by the Steamer Coal Hill NO. 2. On this steamer we are to go ourselves. The boat does not look so large or so nice as the one I came on from Pittsburg, but will no doubt do well enough.

The difficulty I mentioned yesterday as having occurred at Point Pleasant is no doubt all settled by this time, as two boats stopped here on their way up and state that they passed that place unmolested. At any rate we will have an escort of nearly two hundred armed men.

If we get enough room we will likely enough have a pleasant passage. The Ambulances were loaded on the same barge with our wagons, and Norman Maxwell will mess with us till we reach Cincinnati. Our party will consist of him and Johnny the QM. and myself.

I might take up your time and my own today by filling this sheet with nothing, but it is approaching to dinner time, and as we expect to start soon after dinner I will bring it to a close so as to give me time to mail it.

I hope darling that you have had a more pleasant journey homewards than you had coming in - I would have liked to go with

you and might have done so too if I had known what a detention there would be here. But it is now about to be march again & I must turn my back farther on home for a while, but we will live dearest for the present expecting a speedy return.

Direct your letters always to Washington, D.C. till I give you farther directions.

Hoping this will find you well I am darling.

Ever yours affectionately

William