"Our dear little rustic home"

April 11th 1865

My darling husband -

have you heard the glad tidings from Richmond? I feel like crying or
singing "Hail Columbia - Yankee Doodle" - and all such glorious old national
airs - or some such things to manifest my very peculiar feelings and emotions,
and yet I am just as calm in manner outwardly as ever you saw me - You know I
don't make very boisterous demonstrations when I am excited - I never yet had
any great cause for joy - that with it I did not have something to dampen &
cool any proneness [sic] to a flush of hilarity such as some folks indulge in -

There is ever some low murmuring voice of sadness or sympathy to check my joyousness -
perhaps it is better so - I think I'm just as glad and as thankful - that the long
[sieged Capital city of Rebeldom, has at last fallen into the rightful hands -
although I didn't hurrah - nor cry nor even laugh - only a pleased smile - nor
didn't get drunk as so many of our citizens did - not any to their honor I think -
an odd proof of loyalty that is - for a man to drink stuff that robs him of his
usual allowance of sense & degrades him far below a decent dog - a beautiful fix to get into to rejoice over a victory that has cost - oh who dare try to tell the cost, God who knoweth the crushed hearts & seeth the tears of those who have given of their all - given a sacrifice to them more dear, more precious than even their own life - He alone can compute the cost of to us such an important victory - Mrs Neeland said she would freely have forgiven her husband if on such an occasion he had been carried home insensible as many were - I couldn't agree with her - I've never yet known of a circumstance that rendered a man excusable for drowning his manhood - all that's pure, noble, reliable or lovable in ( I dont know how much) filthy drugged whiskey - Bah! I've perfect contempt for such a man - I never could respect nor love such a man - but I dont think I shall ever be so tried, shall I my dear old darling? you will be "one of the very few gentlemen who will come out of the army as refined as when they went into it" wont you? & better too I trust[,] my love - Mr Lyons & J.K Casey were two I heard of being helped home - Friend Davis tells that Friday night[,] [November 7] our second illumination, he took a girl home & she helped to steady him as they walked up street when they went into her house he began to get sick - & said he must go - he started for the front door - but she led him to the back door, & then he said "I just more than puked all over the yard" - now was'nt that the very quintessence [sic] of a good time rejoicing[?] - how disgusting! what a delicate regard for the respect of one of the fairer sex - whom every one supposes to have
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been Miss Mary Savage —

After the news came that Lee & his army had surrendered - bells were rung violently &c &c - & notice sent around for a general illumination - we lit up our windows very nicely but I didn't go down town - I got tired of the excitement the other night - Those [sic] is to be something more of the same sort on the 13th according to [Governor] Brough's proclamation - you know that is the day of the celebration at Fort Sumpter [sic] [Sumter] - there is to be a meeting of Thanksgiving in [the] day time - that I think is as it ought to be - I am so anxious to hear where you are & what you think of it - I'm in great hopes that you'll not have anything to do where you are even if it is not true that Lee has surrendered - Some Folks are sanguine enough to think that the war is about over - that our gallant old veterans will be home in a month or two, & poor old Grandpapa says we'll soon get letters telling us when they are coming - I cannot realize it to be that good - can you[,] love? But I feel quietly hopeful and cheerful - but poor Mother [-] she is glad & still she is so sorry - Last Saturday was the anniversary of that sad Red River battle - it seemed to bring all Mother's trouble back fresh again - she cries & cries so much through sympathy with her I cannot seem as joyful as I feel - my glad anticipations I have to keep all to myself - it seems to vex her -
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Tirza is very delighted with the lights & noise - & says
"Hurrah for Lincoln" of her own accord - My admiration just now
is for Grant & Sheridan - I am so glad that Richmond was taken before
Sherman got around there - I didn't want him & his army to have that
honor - I was reading in the paper this morning - some blows about
Sherman [-] he was going somewhere & his private company was Maj' Gen'
Leggett[,] Stanton's son & some others - do tell me if that is Douglass'
hobby - If so, stuff for Major Gen's [sic] must be scarce down there
indeed - from Sherman down to the lowest private in the 78th are a set of
braggadocios - it is perfectly disgusting - for a moment I had a notion to
throw paper & all in the fire - but I suppose it is no use to let such things
provoke one - Your letter written near Knoxville came in good time - another
instance of the mercy of God in it - Oh my love - let us try to be thankful
[sic] - & hope & trust that soon[,] very soon[,] [we] will be restored to
each other & happy.]

[Top of same page:]

Charlie told me to write you that he'd lost his resignation papers -
[top of pages 3 & 2:] and wanted you to slip those at H'dquarters & send him
- said he'd written to you -- I wouldn't go to any risk to please him so -
you [have] done enough for him, & have no right to replace by stealth what
he has lost by carelessness, or perhaps pretends he has lost it[.]

[Top of page 1:]

I heard from Ruth yesterday - she said she'd write to you but she'd
lost your address - I couldn't but laugh, for that is always her say so - & we've given it so often she [had] been in Wheeling, visiting Clark [Barnes] in the Hospital - he is wardmaster [-] & the Adams - They'd heard that Frank was safe after the first of the fighting - & were expecting James home discharged - They hav'nt bought any farm yet & are going to stay where they are this year - I wrote twice last week - hope you'll get all I sent [-] I will write again Friday - after the fuss - Tis whispered that [Rev.] Milligan is going to resign - tis too good I fear - Good bye love - Your own loving & true Rhoda -