

Tulsa N.C. May 26 1863

My dear wife

I read your sweet letter last night and it grieves me much to think that I have to answer it so disagreeably. I have planned & worked to leave here so that I might get to Milton on Saturday, but find I cannot do so without necessitating another visit in two or three weeks. I have not yet sold my cloth although I have heard from it & expect it daily; so my clothes are dependant on my stay. I haven't been able to arrange fully and satisfactorily either my own or my father's business, although I have succeeded in some things beyond my expectations. I know you had rather wait a few days this time than spare me again. so look for me Thursday week, and be sure to write me as soon as you receive this. You know how I want to be with you - how I love to stay with you. What a dear, precious, sweet, good little woman my heart clings to in my darling wife. I wish I could make you as happy as I wish you to be. that I could bring down all the blessings which as a good wife you deserve; for Annie I don't write this because my heart loves you so; but my head prompts it. My esteem for you is like my love - just as deep and fervent. You are so loving, so good, so prudent, so womanly. God bless you and may he in his kindness spare you to me through a long life; for you are the

source & fountain of my earthly bliss. I have
no dream of future happiness, not brightened
by your dear companionship. And I have an
abiding hope & trust that we will yet have a
home, our own, and pleasant accompaniments &
and dear joys. The thought is sweet to cherish.
As I shall stay from or five days longer I may go
& Wilmington at night I hardly think I shall.
There are no pretty, nice things here now. I keep a
sharp look out. I have bought Ma a palm leaf
fan. You need not buy the cloth. If I could buy
it, it would trouble me getting it here.

I shall keep the dress for you, all think it so
pretty. and I know it will be pretty when it maps
up my sweeties. I have seen nothing so far pretty
enough to exchange Ma's gingham for. Stock here
now very low. Everything down here is greatly ad-
vanced in price. Sugar \$1.50 to \$2. Butter \$1.25 to
\$1.50. Beef 40 to 50 cts. and everything similar high.

The blockade is affecting business very much
particularly the Hotel business. All the specula-
tors have left. Gen Hill is too much for them.
I am very glad of it although I shall not make
so much - it is certainly working well for the
country. I have not sold Lane as yet. I told
Rumtee he might try her a few weeks and I
would then trade for one he has if we could
agree. I can sell her readily. I wish I could
learn at what price Lane could be bought. Good
bye. Be of good cheer. You live always in the heart of
Your husband George