

a little selfish. Darling
Oh how I wish I could see
you to day. I will tell you what
I would like I would like to have
been at home this morning so I would
have gone down to Sunday School & then
after that you was into the Swamp
as we used to after rainbows &
stroll around the woods untill night
do you remember the Red Bags?

Sat I guess this letter will find
the fire pretty quick for I dont believe
you can read it. I declare I am going
to be an awful poor writer I guess
I shall how to go to school a while
& learn to write dont you think I had
letters? the 17th Regt. is here now
down at the Fort Barracks & expect
I shall get a pass to morrow & go
& see them I spose they are feeling
happy to think this time is out &
they are going home I know I should
if my time was out. I spose you girls
are all waiting anxiously for them. I do
realy pity the poor fellows for the
girls will allmost eat them up. Wont they?
But I am afraid the girls will get sick of
the soldiers after a while for

I am a friend
among them I am a friend
I am a friend among them I am a friend

51st Street New York
June 7th 1863

Dearst. Sarah

I was very very glad indeed
to receive your letter last night
I am sure yours letters are as gladly
received as they can be. perhaps
more so than mine are. But Sarah
you must excuse me for not giving
you my adress it was a mistake
which I am very loath to make
it was very late in the evening when
I ^{wrote} finished the letter & thought I would
write untill morning & then write a
little more & give you my adress
But the Boy came around very early
in the morning & I gave him the letter
not thinking but what it was all done
But accidents will happen to the best
of folks. Sat I am realy surprised
to hear that Mary Ward told you

such an everlasting great lie
I all ways know she would lie
a little But I didnt think she
would tell such infernal great stories
as that I never mentioned such a
thing to her dont you see what
she is at? she wants to make you
open up that you have got my likeness
^{she would really like to know how I feel}
that I cant believe that Mate Tray ever
saw that ring. if she did she picked
my pocket when I was a sleep
no one knew any thing about it
but Montrose he saw me when
I got it. but he didnt know what
I was a going to do with it. & I made
him promise that he never would
tell Mate that I had got such a thing
of course he mentioned what I was
going to do with it. But Mate is
only surmising I guess I dont believe
she was saw it ⁱⁿ But I never could
have any thing but what she would
find it out some way she is for
ever watching me I dont believe I
ever don a mean trick as a good
one but she would find it out ^{some}

I dont think Trace would
tell her for he made no
such a good promise. But
if she has seen it what does it amount
to there is nothing criminal about it
is there? I like it her best rate as
well as in any Hospital we have got
times here, it is much more comfortable
here than it could possibly be at
the Regt. But for all that I had rather
be there than here if I was able to
do my part when I got there, as you
say I am not expand to the dangers
here that I should be in the field
but you know a Soldiers must expect
peace & safety while in the service
I should hate to have it said of me if
I had been in the service 3 years & then
come home all sounds that I had
served the most of my time in the
Hospital that wouldnt sound good would
it? or that I had Decided as pretended
to be sick to get rid of a Battle
as a great money has that I know of
Then you are thankful that I was not
in the last Battle are you? not you