

Richmond Va. ^{Copyd}

Feb. 23 1863.

My dear wife,

I expected by this time to be at home with my dear family; but the fates or rather the Generals have been against me. Gov. Shorter's application in my behalf, to the Secty of War was defeated by Gen S. to whom. I then made a regular application myself for "leave of absence" to attend my courts and visit my family. This was refused. I then tendered my resignation, stating to the Generals that while my head sanctioned the proposition "our Country first," my heart told me there were other solemn obligations resting upon me that must not be disregarded. With my resignation I asked four days "leave" to take my resignation to the Secty of War in person. This was granted. I reached here Wednesday night - telegraphed Gov. Shorter what I had done. Receiving no answer from him, I put my paper into the hands of Senator Clay & Mr. Curry that they might secure the acceptance of my resignation. The Secty of War was unwilling to accept it; ~~and~~ said he had rather grant me a furlough than to do so.

So you see after many failures I have at length accomplished my purpose.

I should have left here this morning at 4 o'clock for Ala; but after going to the Cars through a terrible

snow storm, as great if possible, as the one described
in one of my former letters, I learned that the
Carrs could not leave for Petersburg on account
of the snow. Thus I am hung up here and
do not know certainly, when I will be able to get
off. My delay here will make it necessary
for me to go to Randolph Court before I go home.
This is hard upon me who has not seen wife
& children for twelve months; but you know I am
something of a philosopher and take every thing
quietly as it comes. My trip to Randolph will
not detain me long. The state Docket is taken
up on the first day of the term. It will be tried
before I can possibly get there now. But it is ne-
cessary that I should see the Sheriff & Clerk that
I may know what has been done during the last
year, and besides I may accomplish something
for the Grand Jury by being with them before they
adjourn.

You may begin to look for me Friday or
Saturday & from that time on till I come. I would
give a month's wages to be with you to day.

Say nothing about my tendering my resig-
nation. I have much to tell you in connection with
my application when I see you. My "leave" is for sixty
days

I got your last letter the night before I left Camp.
I think it more than likely I shall go home by Montgomery.
I want to draw my last year's salary as Solicitor. Kiss all
the children for me, Lucy & "Bill" particularly.