

Sunday, Chattanooga, [Tenn.], 28 May [18]65

I have just reached here, 7 pm, my dear good wife, & am to leave for Nashville & Louisville in the morning, & hence I sit at once down to write to you lest something may prevent my doing so before I leave. Our journey has been as pleasant to us as it could well be in our situation. My health continues very good, but Mr. Hill has suffered from constipation & consequent headache, but thanks to blue mass & Epsom salts he is quite right now.

Genl. Cobb has just come from the supper table where he met Genl. Upton, just in from Atlanta, who told him that you had come there the day I left. God bless you my darling good wife. How much I regret their haste in sending me on.

Your affection for me is so sacred, so thorough, devoted & unselfish that when I reflect upon it I feel a pride in you that enables me to bear bravely up in the face of adversity. I wrote to you pretty fully from A [Atlanta]. You had better sell my horse, and if you see no prospect of doing so at La Grange, ask [Missing Name] to do so for you at Atlanta, where the Yankeys [*sic*] are buying fine horses.

I see by the papers that neither Mrs. Clay nor Mrs. Davis [Varina Howell Davis], who are both alledged [alleged] to have been very bitter & sarcastic en route with their husbands, have been permitted to stay with their husbands, & both have come South, but to what points I have not heard.

It may be that objections may be made to your visit North, but I do not think so, & I hope that Henry Bishop may soon go out for you. Enclosed I hand you a note to the Maitlands, which should be presented before any trial for treason of me, should this course be determined upon. Should Henry not come you can go without him, leaving Buddie temporarily with Mrs. Hill & Attie, should you not want to take him, with Mrs. Philips—going quietly, so as not to attract attention, for I am satisfied that the Govt. would not want to prevent you unless urgently brot [brought] to their attention.

There is no truth, as I learn, in the alledged [alleged] feminine disguise of Prest. Davis [Confederate President Jefferson Davis] when arrested. Reagan [Postmaster General John H. Reagan] & Stevens [Confederate Vice President Alexander Hamilton Stevens] are at Fort Warren, Burton Harrison [private secretary to the president] at Washington, Seddon [Secretary of War James A. Seddon], Campbell [Assistant Secretary of War John A. Campbell], and Hunter [Secretary of State Robert M. T. Hunter] in the James River, & the Prest. [president] at Fort Monroe. Our destiny is possibly Fort Lafayette, N. York harbour [*sic*]. Nous verrons. As long as my wife's love burns warmly & bright, & she will bear her trials after the example set by her savior, "here's a sigh for those who love, & a smile for those who hate, & whatever skies above, here's a heart for every fate." I write to Henry from here tonight.

You can learn from Col. Eggleston by a private note when the travel is open through the railroads in Augusta, Mandeville, & Richmond to Ball, or Washington, & also of this

route, & then if any Federal Officer who is a gentleman would take charge of you, & of this father O'Reilly might approve [?] you or Minor [?], your travelling would [be] facilitated, or you might go with Philips when he goes on to defend Clay. Should it be impossible for you to go at all, from any cause, Buddie could be sent with instructions to Wall & Filor [?]. I trust the servants will remain faithful to you.

Should they not, your best cause will be to Board at some economical place & give up your house, if compelled to stay in La G. [La Grange]. I hope Steve is with you. Give my love to him if he is, and to my noble Buddie, my dear loving Attie, & my darling Ruby. Give a hundred kisses & my love to my servants.

God bless you my darling. I'll write as often as I can, & shall not expect to hear from you until after you learn the place of my confinement.

As Ever Yours
S.R. Mallory

Transcribed by Nicole J. Milano, 2009