

Mary Louisa Near  
St. Mary's Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> 1860

Dear, Dear Sallie,

I rejoice more than words can express to received [*sic*] your dear, dear letter dated yesterday. Oh, how happy I am to possess a heart which in my estimation has no equal. Believe me Sallie without you for my Bride this world would be a blank. If fate should decree you for another's Bride I could not long survive the issue of such a union. To meditate upon such such [*sic*] a result makes me shudder. I am confidant and do firmly believe that we are destine[d] for for [*sic*] one another. And furthermore I feel sanguine that nothing can prevent us from being united but cold death he who destroys lovers as well as any other mortal. You cannot imagine how dreadfully bad the musquetoos [mosquitoes] is here and at Fernandina. Tonight we had to pertake [partake] of our supper on the deck under a musquetoe bar. And now I am writing to you dear Sallie under my bar while millions of them a humming around my head. Fernandina has not her equal in those abominable insects Smyrna and Indian river not excepted. Battern Island [Batten Island] would be a paradise [*sic*] compared to Fernandina in regard to musquetoos. It is impossible for me to name any deffinite [*sic*] time as I mention in my last epistle to visit you. If I should name any perticular [*sic*] time I would most positively go as I never have nor never shall disappoint you who is dearer to me than life itself. I can promise dear Sallie to visit you verry [*sic*] soon, some future time when I connect with the Steamers and while dischargeing [*sic*] at Fernandina. I can then promise to visit you. I do wish it was tomorrow. Remember me to all of you dear beloved family and Miss Mary must kiss you every night before retireing [*sic*] for me. I will mail this letter at St. Mary's tomorrow morning as I go by. Yours I received a few moments before I left Fernandina. You must address yours dear Sallie to me as you always do.

Good night dearest one and sometimes think of your Affiance  
Jacob E. Mickler

Transcribed by Nicole J. Milano, University of Florida, 2009