

Ocala, Florida  
July Friday 1863

My Darling Wife

I would have written to you long before this but being constantly on the move I had no opportunity. We have had a great deal of trouble with our cargo but we have succeed[ed] in getting it all from Bay Port. General Fenigan [General Joseph Finegan] ordered the barrels of Rum to be destroyed and Colonel Thomas [Colonel Robert Brenham Thomas] arrived at Bay Port for that express purpose. When the military authorities seized it we got the Sheriff of that County with a writ of repleavy [replevy] and had it taken from them just as they were going to destroy it. It will all be here in a few days, a large portion is already here. We have disposed of some of the Rum and expect in a day or two to sell the balance. I know My Darling Wife you and only you can imagine the anxiety of mind I have experienced since we beloved one have parted. The greatest anxiety Darling was leaving you in that condition— next was that all my labor would be lost if General Fenigan succeeded in destroying our cargo and nothing gain[ed] for you my precious One. General Fenigan has issued an order to the commanding Officer at Bay Port to prohibit the Schooner Martha Jane from loading with cotton. But My Darling he cannot prevent us and we are now making arrangements to with parties here to load her for half. The middle or last of next week I expect to be with you my precious one and Oh My Darling how I hope to find you well again. I would not Darling have left you no matter what was at stake had I not known you to be left in good and carefull [*sic*] hands. Tell your Father Darling we are getting along favorably with our cargo not as well as I expected to do when I left home but under the present circumstances we are progressing finely. Remember me my precious one to all. And Oh My Darling how I do hope to find you on my arrival at home up well and with a little one in your arms to greet me. News from the Seat of War at present is any thing but encouraging but Darling I believe all will be right and it will end well to our cause. Hoping to see you in a few days my precious One.

I am your anxious  
Husband  
Jacob E. Mickler

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