

RHODA BARNES to MILTON BARNES

NOTE: Although many of the preceding letters have evidenced Rhoda's deep religious faith, this one expresses the stern calvinist view of predestination in its reference to the death of a soldier and family friend - Clark Wiser. Milton and Rhoda were members of a Presbyterian congregation but, as later letters indicate, were thoroughly alienated by the dubious support of the pastor (Rev. Milligan) for the Union (e.g., RHODA BARNES to MILTON BARNES, March 25, 1863).

Home - Oct 5th 1862
Sunday Afternoon
[completed Oct 6]

My ever dear husband -

I kind of expected a letter last night but did not get one - I am afraid that you have left Louisville - and therefore it takes longer for your letters to come - I received the one you wrote Sabbath last [September 28] on Wednesday, & mailed one for you on Friday [letter dated October 2, 1862] - Mother & Mrs Thompson have gone down to see Clark Wiser who is daily expected to die of fever contracted in Camp Chase^[Ohio] - Tirza is playing on the floor, we have a little fire in the grate & I am boiling the tea-kettle on it to make us some coffee when Mother returns, - quite a home picture is'nt it? - but there is something wanting to make it complete - I wish I could feel more contented, I wonder if I ever shall get used to it - who is preparing your Sunday dinner[?] do you enjoy it as you used to at home? have you a good appetite? - Mother put up a can of our own peaches for you yesterday - made them very sweet knowing your fondness for sweet things - I will make a jelly-cake tomorrow - & fix up a little box for you if nothing happens to prevent, Mother says when you get them you must not eat them all at once for fear you get sick - but I tell her you will give the largest share away, she says if the weather was cooler she would put a bottle of cream in for you to eat on the peaches - & a nice roll of clear butter - perhaps we can do so if you dont get too far away - when we send another box to you.

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Sunday Afternoon

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I am so fearful of you taking fever - do be careful - and if you feel unwell dont let it run on without taking some remedy - do you have any idea of getting home on furlough? It would be so nice to be looking for you home some of these times. - - - After supper - We heard just now that poor Clark [Wiser] died a few minutes after Mother was there, poor fellow [-] it seems so hard, I cannot keep him out of my mind - So young & so healthy - he has only been home about ten days - ~~he~~ in his spells of delirium he raved about Camp & war all the time - tis a sad trial for his poor Mother - he was her firstborn. - Folks think Wiser will be more down on the war than ever - but it was Clarks['] time to die & he might have taken sick at home just as soon as in Camp. The hand of an All-Wise Providence is in all things, though we think it seems very hard.

Bed-time- - dont be alarmed my darling - when I tell you that Levi Brown called again while Mother was at Church & had a little chat enquiring about my husband and everything in general, Tirza crawled up to him & he took her on his knee & she looked at his bright buttons - but she knew it was not her Pa - he asked me if I was happier than when I was single [and] I told [him] Yes I was[.] he asked me if Sadie Burns was happy - he has very romantic notions about such things, but he is a good honest fellow. Good night my darling - Tirza is crying for me to take her & we are all sleepy - I will finish in the morning - Monday morning 6 o'clock - Tirza is crying for me to take her & I am getting this ready for the morning, ^{tis} ~~this~~ quite a nice walk for me - I wish you could see Tirza - she is so cute, seems to know so

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much - tries to say so many words - & looks so knowing - - Mr Gunters[']
poor baby died of croup the other night[.] I felt so sorry for them - &
so anxious about our own idol - I trust God will spare her to us - she
seems well & grows finely - has a little cold sometimes -

[Inverted at top of page 1]: As I will ~~w~~rite soon again I wont wait to
write anymore now - Write often My love, to your loving & true wife
Rhoda.

Tirza & Mother send many good wishes & good kisses - take care of yourself
my dear - & trust in in God who will support in every emergency.