

RHODA BARNES to MILTON BARNES

Home May 8th 1865 Monday Morning

My own dear Milton \_

I am in such a fidge to know what is going to be done with the "Army of the Cumberland" [and] I cannot find anything in the papers at all reliable or satisfactory - [the] Government has taken the Rail Roads for some time to come - and for whom or for what I'd like to know - I should'nt wonder if you'd be stopped home here some of these mornings without the least warning - & cheat us out of the pleasure of anticipation - I felt so unsettled and fidgety yesterday I could'nt settle myself down to read to any profit - Every one seems so set on the soldiers getting home right away that it would be a great disappointment if anything should now turn up to delay their coming - I have almost quit counting the time until Sept[ember] 1st - now - Grandpapa say[s] Mr McFarland & Mr Barnes will be home the last of this week or the first of next - These are stirring times - My love - Yesterday morning Rosy McCullough arrived at Dr Clarks from Oregon - she came Saturday night on the train[,] staid [sic] all night at Herring's Hotel - & then John Adams took her out in a buggy - she said it did'nt suit her to stay in that climate - & [since] it did'nt suit her husband to come home with her she thought she'd come while she was able to travel - It is very probable that so many years sojourn in California - Australia & Oregon have made him quite different from what his letters would lead one to suppose - Time alone will tell - Then this morning Ben Thompson stepped in just as unexpectedly - but not such a surprise [as] he is going to his Regiment - & thought that Will Clark was at home & he'd come this way for the sake of his Company - We get our butter & eggs from [the] Loflands this spring - I took Tirza & went out Friday afternoon for it - & we staid [sic]

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until evening - they are very kind in their blunt plain way - the old Col[onel] was telling how fortunate he was in the selection of that horse of yours - thought it would have carried you through if it ~~he~~ had not been stolen - I like to go out there - & they always seem to like to see me - the old folks make so much of Tirza - the Col[onel] hugs & kisses her - leads her round to see his lambs - he told her she must bring her papa down when he comes home - They expect Gordon to send word for "Sade to meet him [in] Philadelphia if he gets home soon<sup>[?]</sup> - for which occasion Mother is making Sade a new drab silk - If they were sure he would'nt marry Mollie - they'd be gladder.

You inquire [-] in a letter I got Friday - of [sic] what Charlie is doing - as far as I know - he is only loafing about Herring's Hotel & such places - he told me several weeks since that there were so many openings he did'nt know which to go into - & at the same time told me he had written to you for papers showing that he was discharged from the service, said he had lost his - wanted I should write the same to you - which I did soon after - I suppose you knew Jim Johnson had gone into partnership with Herring in the Hotel - gay team! aint it? The interest attached to him & Charlie while they were regular "boys in blue" is about at an end - I sometimes fear it will [be] the same way with all, but hope not - they will at least have the satisfaction of an approving conscience - feeling that they did their duty as men - as Ohioans, as Americans -- Their fame as sold~~ers~~ers will increase rather than diminish through many generations - It will be as a precious heirloom for grandchildren & great-grand-children to be proud off [sic] - & dont we who have kept the fire at home burning brightly [sic] - who

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have waited - longed - hoped - & tried to encourage our absent ones by letters full of fond loving words - & tearful prayers - sometimes trembling with fear - again rejoicing with grateful hearts - shall we too not in a more humble way deserve a place in tradition [-] in memory - if not in history - beside the heroines of the Revolution? hav'ent we too been brave & true - even just a little[?] - Love us much - & praise us a little & we shall be better satisfied than those who have won so gallantly many laurel wreaths on many bloody fields -

Well my dear in the midst of so much to make us glad & hopeful - we still have some heart strings - every thing wont come all right just at once you know -

Through the influence of the Copperheads with Tom Oldham at their lead - Presbytery has been influenced to send [Rev.] Milligan back again - so they may just carry on - I have given them up - I am like the swearing driver whose potatoes all rolled out of his wagon down the hill - "I cant pretend to do justice to the subject", so I wont say any more - Tirza looked kind of pleased and kind of cute, when I read to her what you said about [top of page 1:] her ~~not~~ [sic] writing you any letters now - she has got to be so wild & fond of playing out of doors that she dont write half so nicely as she did - nor care half so much about pictures & books - I [am] sorry [sp?] she is so - but I suppose health ought to be regarded first - Mother was telling her this morning that she wished you'd hurry and come home to teach her some manners, for you had more patience &

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better success than we have - The thought of Pa coming makes her  
laugh - & her eyes brighten - I have some more letters to write to  
friends hoping soon to see you - with a fervent God bless you -  
Good bye - Rhoda -

[Top of pages 4, 3, 2:]

Give Major Davis my congratulations, I wish some more folks who are  
worthy could be as fortunate, even if it is at the eleventh hour -  
but - get thee behind me all such ambition[.]