

Sever City, May 14, ^{tho} 1861

My dear Wife

I rec^d your letter of the 2nd inst
this morning and as the mail leaves in
a few minutes I have only time to write
a few lines, I am sorry to see you in
such poor spirits and hope that you will
not give way to your feelings so as to let
it affect your health, I have been staying
here for a few days disposing of my own
and will return to the mountains tomorrow
and in the course of 10 ten days will have
everything under headway as the grass
will then be sufficient. You may set
your mind at rest about my engaging
in the present political difficulties, although
my feelings would prompt me to rally
to the Standard of the Confederate States
My duty to my family restrains me,
I am not willing to risk my life
in the present unsettled condition of my
business. My family & their happiness is
all that I have to live for, and so long
as my wife continues to be what she is
I shall esteem it my first duty to
consult her wishes & happiness — direct
your letters hereafter to Central City instead
of Sever City — The coach is hitched up