

life and the love then for be erased from my mind. They have
taught me in early life, and always seem to predominate that
we are being, that to some degree we are governed by the circumstances
with which we are surrounded. If that be true can one be reason-
ned. I think so. In the absence of those we love and their
society so profitable especially to man who becomes reckless in the
absence of genuine female society. How apt we men are to adopt
uncultivate habits and society of a pernicious and ruinous
character. And can I claim any superiority of my race no-
Could I say that during my absence so painful that I
have stood aloof from the amusements presented and
participated so extensively by our associates. Why has
this been the case with me. Not for any desire that was
natural, but impulsive. You can't imagine how much of
my time has been spent in suspense and anxiety. Thinking
of you, and the time that must necessarily elapse before
my life would be rendered real and happy, by your
association, the absence of which caused me many times
to plunge into the stream of amusement to be wafted
unconsciously by every breeze. Various are the scenes to
which the little bird drifted, eaves learning some valuable
lesson of life. Again since I have been in the Army my
ambition and aspirations have seemingly been crushed. How
little is mental ability and true worth appreciated, much
less encouraged. And for such thing, alone I have any
aspirations. The Military has but few charms for me

How I long for a time when my studies can be resumed
and I can at least start on the road to fame, though in that
obstacles like mountains rise, that almost cause me to falter
and say "Can't succeed"; having spent the best portion of my
life in the Army the very time my studies should have been
the most vigorously prosecuted. Though there is yet time,
and I believe that I have the ambition and energy to
succeed. Also that my moral habits and love of purity
are not destroyed, and only need be encouraged by some
true and noble heart, to shine brighter than ever. I feel that
to accomplish my desires in this life, for a time many
adverse circumstances will have to overcome, as well as
my life be spent perhaps in obscurity and limited circum-
stances for such are mine owing to financial misfortunes.
This objection I am determined to surmount, and if the mind
has been given me and health and life granted to end my
life in a useful public career, at the expense and sacrifice
of everything that can be of benefit. No matter what pleas-
ure they would produce. In this, Mollie I earnestly
solicit your aid and encouragement. I feel that it is needed
of our society necessary - to enable me to ~~reach~~ take the ardu-
ous task with a cheerful and hope full determination. Would
then have something to live for, to labor for, that they
might be happy. But could you, who has such kind
parents, and good home, everything to render you happy
leave that for one, whose record and intentions you have
just perused, and strive with him under the many adverse
circumstances, with which we might be surrounded.
Mollie I have no fortune, no wealth to lavish on you

Oh I am poor now, owing to unavoidable accidents. Yet
this does not deter me, but causes a sober consideration of the
future and the difficulties. Creates a new desire to succeed
and be happy. Now Mollie I have not tested
your patience in reading such a long letter for no purpose
I wished to make a clear conscience. Let you know all
before we meet. And then no distinction could be alleged
against me. My affections are too great for you, to allow
me to act disingenuously. Now let me ask one thing
of you that I wish to know have you been deceived by
me. Are you yet willing that our promise should be
redeemed as soon as I get home. I wish to know
that fact as soon as possible. because anything to
the contrary I desire to know before leaving the army.
I must beg pardon for writing such an uninteresting
letter and so long. seemingly I have been so
wrapped up and absorbed in my thoughts and reflections
that time and space have unconsciously consumed. There's
almost day light and the night spent in my room
writing to you. no way to spend it so pleasantly as the pleasure
of your presence is impossible. Hope that you will not think
me despicable for writing this letter or take any offense the way
I have written. May the time soon come when we will
have the privilege of meeting. And then I hope to find one
that's true, and happy. I have no doubts of the former. And
forget to tell me of your health. Am so anxious about you. Write
soon. And fondly.

Admiringly Yours,

Yours.

R. P.