

murdered. Their throats cut from
ear to ear. Several of our men
were found in this condition, who
had straggled a little from the col-
umn to cut a corner or something
of that sort. In retaliation our men
on our return burnt almost every
house on the road. This was a hard
night. Our men got very much exas-
perated & one day when I brought up
the rear, I some sad work in pro-
tecting helpless women & children from
outrage, when the Rebels had been
firing from their houses on us, & the
men were bent on revenge. I in-
variably gave them the protection which
every man of honor will give any woman
as long as she is a woman. But I shudder
no doubt they were all "burnt out" before
the whole army got by. It was sad
business. I am willing to fight men in arms,
but not babes in arms. Never again. Sam.

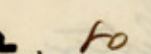
The questions will be answered next time.
Wednesday Eve.



Dec 14, 1864

My dear Sir,

I thank you for
your valuable criticisms &
& hints. A woman knows so
much more than a man,
after all. I wrote you another
letter almost exactly the same
right totally different in the turn
& bearing of it. You would be
much amused to see how the
same words could be made to
so much different effect.

We have just returned
from a "raid" (I suppose it
would be called) towards the
North Carolina line for the
purpose of destroying the Western
Rail Road. We had a hard
time, but were perfectly success-
ful in our object. I'll tell
you how we destroyed the road.

The roads are very perfectly laid
here, & you cant tear them up
rail by rail. Not only are they se-
curely fastened to the "chairs" as they
are called, but the rails are riveted
together by strong wrought iron bars
which connect the joints passing
under the hollow - for the rail is in
this shape, seen endwise -  so
you see the rail in one continuous
whole. Well now you take a Regt.
or Brigade & form them along the
track, select a spot where the rail
is easiest to get at, & all hands
in that vicinity take hold & raise
it up - up - until over it goes, up
side down with the sleepers or "cross
ties" still attached & on top. Mind
you the rail does not break, but
as it goes over of course it lifts
a portion from the ground & as this
comes up it is seized by the men
& passed along, so there will be

one successive & unbroken roll
for perhaps a mile - just as
a plough share turns a furrow -
and it is very quickly done too. The
next thing is to pry the rails off
the ties; break the joints by 20
or 30 men taking hold & swaying
to & fro. The ties are piled up to
a sharp ridge & the rails laid
across the top, balanced so that
the weight of the ends will bend
the rail nearly double when heated.
Then set fire, & you see a grand
sight, the next morning you see a
ruin.  This is the shape of the pile
 This what you see left in the
morning. The bent & useless rails.
Well, we left 20 miles in that shape.
The Rebels sent a large force to
cut us off, but we out marched, &
out witted them. Our stragglers fared
hard when caught by the enemy's
scouts & guerrillas. In fact they were

The question will be answered next time.
Wednesday Eve.

[14 Dec 1864]

My dear Sae,

Thank you for your valuable criticism & &[sic] hints. A woman knows so much more than a man, after all. I wrote Sam another letter almost exactly the same & yet totally different in the turn & bearing of it. You would be much amused to see how the same words could be made to do much different duty.

We have just returned from a "raid," (I suppose it would be called,) towards the North Carolina line for the purpose of destroying the Weldon Rail Road. We had a hard time, but were perfectly successful in our object. I'll tell you how we destroyed the road.

The roads are very perfectly laid here, & you can't tear them up rail by rail. Not only are these securely fastened to the "chairs," as they are called, but the rails are riveted together by strong wrought iron bars which connect the points passing under the hollow—for the rail is in this shape, seen sidewise-[drawing]. So you see the rail is one continuous whole. Well now you take a Regt. or Brigade & form them along the track. Select a spot where the rail is easiest to get at, & all hands in the vicinity take hold & raise it up – up – until over it goes, up side down with the sleepers or "cross ties" still attached & on top. Mind you the rail does not break, but as it goes over of course it lifts a portion from the ground & as this comes up it is seized by the men & passed along, so there will be one successive & unbroken roll for perhaps a mile – just as a plough share turns a furrow – and it is very quickly done too. The next thing is to pry the rails off the ties; break the joints by 20 or 30 men taking hold & swaying to & fro. The ties are piled up to a sharp ridge & the rails laid across the top, balanced so that the weight of the ends will bend the rail nearly double when heated. Then set fire, & you see a grand sight. The next morning you see a ruin. [drawing] This is the shape of the pile. [drawing] This what you are left in the morning. The bent & useless rails. Well, we left 20 miles in that shape. The Rebels sent a large force to cut us off, but we out marched, & out witted them. Our stragglers fared hard when caught by the enemy's scouts & guerrillas. In fact they were murdered. Their throats cut from ear to ear. Several of our men were found in this condition, who had straggled a little from the column to cut a corner or something of that sort. In retaliation our men on our return burnt almost every house on the road. This was a hard sight. Our men got very exasperated & one day when I brought up the rear ??? some sad work in protecting helpless women & children from outrage, when the Rebels had been firing from their houses on us, & the men were bent on revenge. I invariably gave them the protection which every man of honor will give any woman as long as she is a woman. But I have no doubt they were all "burnt out" before the whole army got by. It was sad business. I am willing to fight men in arms, but not babes in arms. [illegible]

Lawrence