

wrote it be convenient for you to have me spend
a few days, with you in the course of ten or three
weeks from now, if you will choose to come. It

New Bedford 5 mo 31 1863

Dear Deborah,

Whenever there ^{has} ^{been} any news, which I think ^{there is} ^{would} interest you I have always embraced the first opportunity to inform you - Well I have heard to day that Mr Thos Mandell is engaged to Miss Osgood, I don't remember her name it is not Harriet, but the one who has been there so much - Mr Osgood preached here to day, and I understand that they will go to New York this week and be married there by Mr Osgood - Mr Mandell has seemed very pleasant lately, when I have seen him.

Ms. A. 9. 2. 31. 64

Perhaps this engagement had something to do with it.

I presume you got my letter I sent you last week stating that I was unwell. Last Tuesday I walked down to the office & remained a short while - it fatigued me so much that I did not get over it all the rest of the day. I have not been down since but think I shall venture tomorrow. I have not exactly been confined to the House as I have walked out and rode out several times to brother Daniels. They are all well. Arthur is expected home soon having been transferred from the Gulf Squadron to the Atlantic and has a chest full of gold.

You cannot tell how disappointed I was in not being able to attend the Convention and not seeing the departure of the 54th Mass Col Regt. *Tempora Mutantur* - the Advertiser was spicy in saying that the Nation & State had carried out the Fugitive Slave Bill, in sending back over 300 Slaves to South Carolina and that the Boston Cause ought to be satisfied. I have not yet decided whether I shall remain in the military service, I think it most probably I shall - My friends think that if the proper arrangement can be made I had better go it seems to me - It strikes me that the proceeds of Phillips' lecture

before the Cooper's Institute
is most judiciously investe
ry in sending the A S ^{to Soldiers} Standard
I suggested & wrote Olive Johnson
three names - First My friend
Lieut Guerin who is with
Genl Wild at Newbern, second
Rev Wm Jackson ^{Colonel} Chaplain of
54th Mass who is an excellent
& worthy man Third - Ruth
Russell head nurse at Hilton
Head - she has written occasion
ally for the Tribune - I want
to see you very much - The
Fates seem to be against us -
We are all well - Frank is
spending a few days of his
vacation at Capt Packard's
returns tomorrow - He is ver
fond of Country life - Family
unites in sending love to all
Write soon - Sarah & I have been
for a few days very comfortable
Yours Joseph Ricketson