

Fort-Meade D. T.

Oct 26. 1879

Mrs. A. V. Nichols

Carson City Nev.

My dear Madam,

Your very kind
letter, accompanied by a
handsome copy of "Sage-Bush-
Leaves", reached me just as
I was starting on a visit to
Head-Moose. During that visit
I was so unfortunate as to
acquire a severe cold - one
indeed which seems to have

permeated my system so
thoroughly, as to render me
almost incapable of any
kind of effort, either physical
or mental, which will, I trust,
satisfactorily explain my
long silence. Under any cir-
cumstances I would prize
this little book very highly
for its own intrinsic merits—
for the kindly and cheerful hu-
mor which every where pre-
vails from beginning to end;
but its value to one is infinitely
enhanced by the circumstance
that the writer found a place
even among his last thoughts

for his old friend and Com-
mander, and friend time, even
at the moment when the world
was gliding away from him,
to remember me and request
that a copy of his book might
be sent me! How much of
"Nichols" was shown in that
single ^{and touching} circumstance, those
alone can appreciate who
knew the great big heart that
beat in his manly breast!
Dear "old Nichols"! his heart
went out in kindness to all
the world, and the very last
person he ever thought of, was
Nichols himself! With a

Mind sparkling as a diamond
— a heart filled to overflowing
over with the "miser of human
blindness" — a courage which
shrank from no danger —
he had in addition, that which
charmed and fascinated from
the very first moment of his
acquaintance.

He joined me for the first
time, at F. Seavernth, in the
spring of 1861, and by his
open, frank, genial and
straightforward manner,

at once so rooted himself in
my affections, that in all our
subsequent trials, hardships,
deprivations and dangers, my
heart clung to him precisely
as though he had been a mem-
ber of my own family.

Indeed my children grow
up to look upon him and
love him as though he in
some way belonged to them -
and it is very hard for them as
well as for myself to realize
that ~~one~~ none of us will ever
listen to the bright sallies of
his ^{ever ready} wit or hear his cheerful
voice again!

I hope my dear Mrs. Dwight
that you and your little fam-
ily will accept my warm-
est sympathy for your
great loss, and always con-
sider me at your service
and glad to be called upon,
if at any time you may
think I might be of
service to you -

In the mean time, be-
lieve me very truly
your friend

A. D. Sturgis
B. Cong. Serv.
N. O. C.



Mrs. A. B. Nichols
Carson City
Nevada

Rice Sidney
Delmar

keep these

Fort-Meade D. T.

Octr 26. 1879

Mrs. N. V. Mighels
Carson City Nev.

My dear Madam,

Your very kind
letter, accompanied by a
handsome copy of "Sage-Brush-
Leaves", reached me just as
I was starting on a visit to
Dead-Wood. During that visit
I was so unfortunate as to
acquire a severe cold -- one
indeed which seems to have

[page 2]

permeated my system so
thoroughly as to render me
almost incapable of any
kind of effort, either physical
or mental, which will, I trust,
satisfactorily explain my
long silence. Under any cir-
cumstances I would prize
this little book very highly
for its own intrinsic merits --
for the kindly and cheerful hu-
mor which every where pre-
vails from beginning to end;
but its value to me is infinitely
enhanced by the circumstance
that the writer found a place
even among his last thoughts

[page 3]

for his old friend and Com-
mander, and found time, even
at the moment when the world
was gliding away from him,
to remember me and request
that a copy of his book might
be sent me! How much of
"Mighels" was shown in that
single and touching circumstance, those
alone can appreciate who
knew the great big heart that
beat in his manly breast!

Dear "old Mighels"! his heart went out in kindness to all the world, and the very last person he ever thought of, was Mighels himself! With a

[page 4]

mind sparkling as a diamond -- a heart fill'd to running over with the "Milk of human Kindness" -- a courage which shrank from no danger -- he had in addition, that which charmed and fascinated from the very first moment of his acquaintance.

He joined me for the first time, at Ft. Leavenworth, in the spring of 1861, and by his open, frank, genial and straightforward manner,

[page 5]

at once so rooted himself in my affections that in all our subsequent trials, hardships deprivations and dangers, my heart clung to him precisely as though he had been a member of my own family.

Indeed my children grew up to look upon him and love him as though he in some way belonged to them -- And it is very hard for them as well as for myself to realize that none of us will ever listen to the bright sallies of his ever ready wit or hear his cheerful voice again!

[page 6]

I hope my dear Mrs. Mighels that you and your little family will accept my warmest sympathy for your great loss, and always consider me at your service

and glad to be called upon,
if at any time you may
think I might be of
service to you --

In the mean time, be-
lieve me [illegible]

your friend

S. D. Sturgis
B.' Maj Genl.
[illegible]

[envelope]

[postmark: FORT MEADE DAKOTA OCT 28 1879]

[stamp removed]

Via Sidney
Nebraska

Mrs. N. V. Mighels
Carson City
Nevada