

From: Paul Laurence Dunbar

(1) To: Miss Alice Ruth Moore, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Washington, D.C. Mar. 21st 1898

My dear Wife:-

I have your letter and have
duly kissed the proper spot
on it. Parts of it are very sweet.
Other parts very disappointing.
Wife of mine, Love &
Ethics move next well in
double harness. If they had
I should not have broken the
promise that I had made
you after years ^{to my mother} from my
childhood up and upon which
one of the strong hopes of ^{my} ~~my~~
life was builded - would
not have estranged the best
friend my manhood has
known and whose silence
now is worse than his accusations.
But enough of what is past,
and irrevocable.

I am sorry that you can-

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not see as I see. But if you wish to make a sacrifice it is none of my affair.

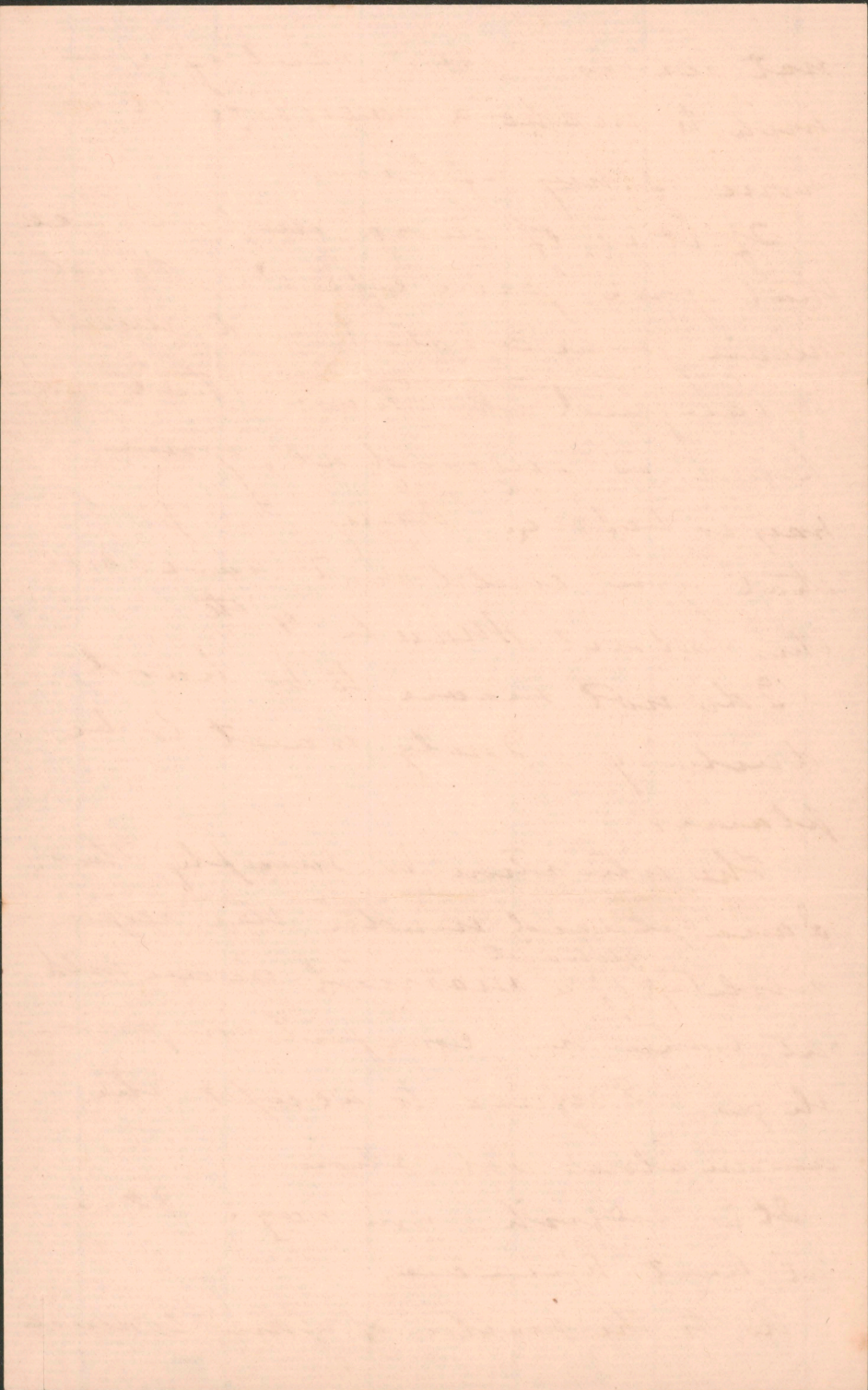
If it is of more importance that your principles (I do not mean principals) judgment is laughed at than that your honor is sneered at, your way is before ^{you}. Only I regret that you could not have seen this about March 4th.

I do not mean to be hard, darling. I only want to be plain.

The situation is simply this. I am placed under the responsibility ^{restraint} of a married man without either his comforts or privileges. I refuse to accept the anomalous situation.

It is selfish - you say: It is at least humane.

As to the matter of your coming



dear, I shall not broach the subject again. I leave it entirely in your hands.

But I shall hold myself responsible for nothing that happens in an enforced separation of three months from my wife.

Do not think me hard or cold, but believe me just.

Seriously Yours Husband.

