

Army Physician Dr. Van Buren was attending her
so I determined to satisfy my doubts having full con-
fidence that he would think me very silly to worry
myself so considerably so I had my dear little one
brought down & to my horror he told me he feared
my fears were only too true - I never received such a
blow. I felt humbled to the dust. I feel comforted to
remember in all my joy at the birth of this sweet
little girl I never lost sight of the Giver of so great
a blessing and my heart was overflowing with
thankfulness. I trust in his Mercy he will
restore her sight but if it be determined otherwise
I bow in submission to his Will and shall try by
a habit of cheerfulness to prevent her feeling the
extent of her privation. She is the merriest little
thing you ever saw will laugh & play lying in
the cradle today she laughed alone when I was
talking to her, she is the healthiest baby I ever
had, has not even had a bad attack of cholera
she is remarkably pretty beautiful features & even
her eyes are pretty - I never was at all anxious
about her looks, I have always said if she had
every limb & faculty perfect I was more than
contented, I only mention it in order to show you
what an interesting little creature she was and
now doubly dear from being unfortunate.

As you have probably heard the most exaggerated
accounts, I will give you exactly the true state of the
case - The Physicians think it has taken place since
her birth that the right eye will probably never
be sight without an operation and the left eye be
restored by an operation which is often performed
without any serious consequences Dr. Van Buren applies
an ointment to the eye how every other day, Strab-
monium which has the effect of dilating the pupil
and it has improved her eye very much, he says
the different parts are all much better defined
and he is very much encouraged that it has im-
proved in so short a time - He is giving her at the
same time small powder which have been known
to absorb humors - He would not advise an operation
till we see how far Nature assisted by Art will
remedy the injury - I shall give you Dr. Hays' opinion
he is the first authority in this country for disease
of the eye, he has charge of the Blind Hospital in Phila^{del}.
& has made it his study - What a blessed thing Hope is
I can be cheerful even happy now with the assurances
of the Physicians that there is every probability my
little girl will see - Some have seen & others have read
of worse cases being successfully treated - At first it
was natural I was very unhappy & lost my
milk so entirely, my poor little baby cried