

No 12

Memphis Tenn Sept 2nd

My Dear Wife Elizabeth

a very nice woman by the way she writes I will write to her as soon as my hands come back to their natural feelings dear mother I scarcely know what to fill up this letter with I have no news I get a line from Orville in your last letter he wanted me to be at the landing every boat that come from the north he said he was going down to the g's with goods for the sutler and was afraid the boat would not stay long enough for him to come and see me he said he had a package for me and wanted to see me real bad on business I cannot imagine what his business can be however I cannot venture out as far as the land in yet if you have not sent the overhauls yet you need not do it for the weather is getting cooler indeed for the last week wife it has been so cold that the patients have had to lay in bed all day under a double blanket to keep warm tell Sarah Jane she and keep on writing to me and as soon as I am well I will answer your letters Give my best respects to father and John tell them to try and get a good man on the farm remember me to Turner and to Bennett tell our Colvone I am much obliged to her for her promptness in answering my letters I have a letter due from Orville and one from her recently sent to G Mordoff and to all my friends in General if there is any trouble about disposing of the old scorch in my place and if should get home on a fury about the right time I will dispossess him with a revolver I shall come home the first chance I get it will cost but never mind that be as patient as you can dear and get as good looking as possibly I send you a pile of kisses from my heart trust in God and believe me to be yours until death Thos Hammon

It gives me great pleasure that I take my pen this morning to acknowledge the receipt of two letters from you 1 dated Aug 16 and no 61 dated Aug 23 I should have answered yours of the 16 sooner had I been able but my dear wife since I last wrote to you I have been very sick Indeed it is now 10 days since I was taken down with rheumatism it commenced in my feet and knees which swelled up most fearfully and I could not move them only as the boys moved them for me and then it seemed as if it would take my very life the pain was so great you know my dear how it affected me at home it was as bad here and then I had the fever with it which made it so much the worse but the Dr succeeded in breakin the fever and I felt better while I lay in this condition I received a letter from you and I from Sarah but I was suffering so much dear wife that your letters layed two days unopened and unread I need not tell you dear how much I thought of home and oh if I was then to have the kind and loving care of my dear wife yes I thought of how you used to bathe my swollen limbs and feet and hands and rub them with your soft smooth hand and then press upon my such kind and loving kisses that done me more good than all the medicine that could be prescribed well dear wife it moved from my feet and knees up into my hips and Back and then into my shoulders and elbows and hands which were so much swollen that I could not hold a pen and even now my hands are so lame and numb that I can scarcely write you will perceive a change in my writing but thanks be to god I am getting better am able to walk around considerable I went down onto the street yesterday but my dear you have no idea how sore my bones are and how it pulled the flesh off from me I have not yet come to my appetite you will probably feel anxious to know what kind of care I had I will tell you my dear wife that if I had not known anything about what it was to

No man can have the kind and loving care of a darling wife to wait upon me when sick I should then be able to say I have had the best of care for my boys all felt bad to see me down and they done all they could for me and would move me so carfull and then Mrs Messerow my lady nurse she done all she could for me she bathed my head and would sit by my side and talk with me and listen to me while I told her how much trouble I used to be to you dear wife she faced up oysters for me pancakes and honey and wrote and jellies and done all that could possibly be done to make me comfortable and their is no care nothing but a dear wife or a fond mothers care that could have been better than what I got then all the ladies of the Hospital used to come and see me once or twice a day and have a little chat and then leave I tell you dear wife I do enjoy the gentle society of a good and true woman very much here in this rough memphis their is a good influence come from it that cheers a man on the path of virtue I have had my ward emptied and filled up again since I wrote last I have some very sick men now and many deaths to report the Hospitals here are all full and we hear there are still about 800 more sick down about ricksburgh and Helena yet to come dear wife their is an immense number of sick soldiers in this department dear wife you wanted to know my opinion with regard to hiring 1000 until spring and keeping the grain over I am sure my dear I am not fit to advise about it I am so far away from there and know nothing about the markets as the prospects of grain I can say nothing more than to tell you to use your own judgement and get the opinion of father and John I think that if I could get 30 cents for oats I should take it sooner than keep them over give my best respects to Mr and Mrs Flack I am glad they go to see you acassually my dear unless my memory fails me I think that the way the thrashing is mentioned in the agreement it is worded that I shall pay for half the thrashing now if it is worded in this way I think you had better let Bryce see it and get his opinion on it for I dont st know they can make thrashing include

liring teams and picking bundles stacking straw and
such work I am glad dear wife that you stand up
for your rights with the old overhead I think dear
if you can sell the farm for 27 or 28 or you had better let
it slide my dear wife you have been saying a good deal
to me about a furlough and I must say something to
satisfy you on that point the dread of parting with
you again caused me to determine not to try and get
a furlough but stay my time out but since you have
written so often for me to come home I have thought as soon
as I possibly could be spared I should try and get a
furlough and go home to see you for I want to clasp
you in my arms as bad as you do me but dear
wife the chances are very very poor of my getting a furlough
for as long as the Hospital is crowded as it is now it is
impossibly but if we can get emptied out and no prospect
of filling up right off I think I can get away but
perhaps lose my place as wardmaster by it but I don't
care about that I have been wanting to get to the
regiment anyway now dear wife you see what the
chances are for me getting a furlough but if I
do get a furlough my dear I hope that you
may have our business matters all arranged and
settled in such a shape that I will have nothing to
trouble my mind with but just visit with you
and the children God bless you dear how happy
could I spend 20 days with you I should not
want to leave the house at all dear wife I
will try and come home in Nov or Dec if I
possibly can still I may not succeed and don't
you make to much calculation upon it and
hope there will be nothing for me to do but visit
with you my lady nurse is going home on
a 20 days furlough she starts to day I don't
know how we shall get along without her we
will miss her much I got a letter from
Thomasas your Brothers wife she is well
sends her best respects to you she apprises