

Memphis Tenn

My Dear Wife Elizabeth it is with pleasure I take my pen to let you know I am well at present and hope these few lines may find you the same I scarcely knew what to write about indeed I have nothing in particular to write but it is some time since I wrote to you and I fear that you may think that I am forgetting you my dear if you do not get a letter from me soon I sent you a few lines to you by William Ogilvie and a teapot taken from an old secesh it is a nice thing and I thought you would like it I sent you a few Books likewise which I hope you may find interesting I likewise sent you 40 dollars in money I have received two months pay since I sent that by Kerny I expect to be paid again soon as I should not have sent you so much I have only 10 dollars now on hand I don't need much money still the weather is so warm and I am a great hand to drink and I don't like to drink so much water so I now and then take a glass of ale or lemonade which costs 10 cents a drink now dear wife I think it is good for my health still dear wife if you do not want me to drink ale I will not do it I drink about one glass a day C (?) Arthur came to see me the 28 of last month he bought me a ticket for the theater for two nights and I went with him the play was good but when they sung some union songs some of the citizens left and many of the ladies stuffed their fingers in their ears so they could not hear it it was provoking to see them the 3 of July I worked pretty hard as two of my nurses was sick and I wanted to clean up my ward for the fourth I tell you the sweat Run good the fourth of July we were inspected by Major General Hurlbut he pronounced our Hospital the nicest in town we had an extra good dinner in the Hospital that day there was no demonstration made by the citizens and all was great (?) in Memphis I was called up at 1 o'clock that night to take in a patient who had got drunk and got to fighting and got stabbed twice and was bleeding very fast we had to hold him by main force until the doctor could stop the bleeding I must confess dear Elizabeth that I was uncommonly melancholy that day for it called to my mind where I was on the last fourth then I was near you my dear and could kiss your sweet lips but that now I was far far away from you and perhaps never may kiss you or behold your lovely image again yes dear I felt sad the fourth of July but our poor boys had a good fourth at Vicksburgh for that stronghold was surrendered to them on that day my dear let me know how you spent the fourth I

hope you enjoyed yourself better than I did for oh how often I think of you my dear dear wife and oh how I long to embrace you to my heart as of old and hear your sweet voice calling me your own dear husband dear wife I often wonder if it can be possible that I am dear to you a shoulder can I be so dear to you as you are to me can you love me as well as I love you do you miss me as much as I do you are I as deserving of your love as you are of mine I don't think I am for you have left all for my sake so you must love me or you would not have done that and dear wife if I live to return to you I will strive to do more to make you happy than I have done heretofore and I hope to spend many happy days with you in loving and being beloved in return when this cruel war is over my Dear Elizabeth Earth has some sacred spots to me oh how my thoughts love to hover around such places and travel back to the spot where you and I used to sit in the shades of evening on the block in your father's door yard yes dear it was there we first learned to love each other there we first plighted our vows to each other most sacred spot another sacred spot to me is the Grave of my dear mother there sleeps the nurse of my infancy the guide of my youth the Counselor of my riper years my friend when others deserted me she whose heart was a stranger to every other feelings but that of love there she sleeps until the resurrection day and I love the very earth for her sake then there is the grave of our first born babe and then dear there is the spot my mind loves to dwell upon because there are those there that love me still and are often sighing and wishing I was there that is the place dear wife where you and I went down on our knees together and implored the blessings of high heaven to rest upon each of us and keep us from all harm and to comfort and cheer us on to duty and to finally bring us together again in his own good time and then parted with a god bless you and put your trust in god my dear I know you will never forget that spot you know where it is how often I think of it and I believe if we were ever in the presence of almighty god it was when you and I were on our knees together I felt him there strengthening me for the parting that must soon be oh dear wife that has been the hardest thing I ever done and the remembrance of it can never be erased from my memory as long as life lasts my dear I will finish this as soon as I hear from you I am expecting a letter every mail I am not as fleshy as I have been on account of the warm weather I sweat so much I suppose you will soon be in the harvest kneck and heels my dear I shall not have any to do I can't say that I am sorry if I hear I shall have

it prity easy and I am so glad that you can take it easy to for you know that we have both of us worked very hard in harvest ever scince we wear married dear wife this is a very prity place in sumer the buildings in the town are good and then as I sit at my window and look out over the town and see the prity shrubbery and wild forrest trees scattered through the town and then the woods on all sides of the town that are so green I cannot help but admire the wonders works of god when you write agane give me your Brothers Wifes adress writen plainely and I will write to her acasuinely I supose that our two dear boys are growing finely and I hope they grow in knowledge as they grow in years and my sincere prayr is dear wife that they may prove a blessing thear dear mother that has suffered so much to bring them whare they are I will kiss you dear wife and then put this away untill I hear from you may God Bless and comfort and shield you from all harm and hasten the day when I may return to your loveing arms sweet dear wife forget me not forget me not when far away from you I be for whatever be my lot beleave me dear ~~III~~ I will think Go letter dear to one I love .. Go like some bright thing from above — Breath in her ear sweet words of love = Go letter dear Born by the dove = With greatfull words how I could I bless — the who my weery loneliness = Hath sought by love and acts to chear = I love the chosen wife most dear = My voice is weak I can but pray = That blessings bright may light thy way Go letter sweet and speak thy ~~wø~~ words = That thrills my spirrets inmost chords = from your loveing Housband I can not tell the how much I love the my dear Wife

my Dear wife your no 4 and 5 came to hand yestarday one writen the first and the other the 4 they both came together so you see that the mail is not regular and this is the reason that letters does not come and go regular you said you had not herd from me for two weeks now this is strange I always answer your letters the next day after receiving the same and dear wife you acused me as a reason for not writing to you of unfaithfull ness because I told sarah about a woman writing to me in this place and you said you did not care a darn I might go and see her and love her but that you would not continue to love me if I loved her now all of this is foolishness and I am very sorry my dear wife that you have not more confidence in your and yours ondy than to think that I would go to see a stranger woman Dear wife wat must I do to convince you of my integrity and to drive away your douts and fears I write many foolish things to sarah and to others but when I

write to you my dear wife I write the truth and nothing else oh my wife if you could but feel or know how much I love you you would have no fears = my dear the bargain I made about the reaper he was to pay for it this fall but I told him I would not crowd him if your due bill is due you can collect it anytime but don't crowd him my dear we have been hard up ourselves but keep the due bill and let him pay you part this fall I ment to have the work he done in husking turned on the reaper I suppose you turned that way . . I am glad that mother has been up to see you I think I must write to her one of these days = my own Elizabeth I know you want to see me very much but no more than I do you I long to clash you in my arms once more it is very warm here my dear it just wilts a person down still I stand it well I had a swim in the missippia last night and I have time enough in the day to use a palm leaf fan so that I am very comfortable my dear your letter of the 4 gave me fresh courage you speak like a true soulder I am sure you do not want me to come home and leave the rest of the Brave boys to fight it out alone god bless you our liberties have been to dearly bought for us ~~not~~ to let them be taken away from us without a mighty effort to save them and I shall leave my bones in the sooner than to give up the contest and leave my comerads to fight it out and I beleave you my dear will love me better for it than you would if I should sneak out of it you said you seen to of my letters published in the papers speaking rather plainly about coperheads and you cationed me not to speak so plain