

Close you I should indeed feel that I was alone alone
with none to cheer and none to mourn.. I should spend
the remainder of my days in doing as much good as I could
and thinking over your many acts of kindness to me and
mourn your loss until death should release me from all earthly
woe then I would gladly sore away to meet you again in
mansions of eternal bliss.. oh dear wife no other woman could
replace your loss to my poor heart.. for I could never love another
as I have loved you sweet Elizabeth.. I wish my dear you
would send me the likeness I left of Sarah the first chance.. I
would like yours if I could get a perfect one Mrs Mann wanted the
last one you sent so I let her have it she has it in her album
and likes it very much.. I seen John Morrison of my company
as he passed through on his way to the rig he called to see me
and threw himself upon my neck and kissed me a dozen
times and called me his best friend.. I never had such a
warm and heartfelt greeting from any male friend before
I sent you 26. dol my two months pay with I received I wish dear
wife it had been as many thousands you are so worthy of it
all Feb 18 I shall now try and finish my letter which
I commenced 2 days ago but have not had time to finish
before as I have been fitting up my ward to receive
Measles Cases.. I have now 9 cases of the kind and
expect more every day I think my lived one that I
shall know something about the various diseases
that man is subject to.. I am enjoying fine health
I bathe all over every day and find it is a great
benefit to me.. now my dear one I want you to
be happy and wait patiently trusting in God for my
return I miss you very much my good wife and
think of you nearly every moment of the time.. I was
thinking the other day as I sat patching my pants and
pinchin my fingers that if my dear Elizabeth could
see me now she would laugh.. Darling I hope you
may enjoy yourself dont put to much about me
until after my love to all kiss the children and
I will love and remember you for ever W H Hammett

Adams Gen Hospital

Memphis Tenn Feb 18

Darling Wife Elizabeth

With very great pleasure I take my pen again to write
to you my own sweet dear and most beloved wife
yours of the 10th came to hand this evening.. and
untill its receipt.. I had intended to go to a social
get up by the ladies belonging to the union league
for the benefit and comfort of the private soldier,
the ladies have rented a hall and paid for Gaslight
for three months and mean to give a social party
every Tuesday evening.. and they cordially invite the
soldiers to attend and spend the evening free from
cost our girls wanted me to go this evening but
after receiving your letter I changed my mind and
concluded I could enjoy myself better by writing to
you for I can find no party or social gathering where
I can be happy while I am far separated from her
that I live so well and better than all else the weather
still continues warm and pleasant and there is little
or no change in military or civil matters since I last
and I must fall back on the old story no news.. refugees
and deserters from rebellion still continue to come within
our lines and they look as though they had endured
much hardships and privations the union spirit is
fast gaining ground in this city.. the citizens are having
large union meetings and devising plans and discussing
matters towards bringing the state back under the folds
and protection of the glorious old stars and stripes..
Then there is a good many weddings and marriages
lately among the negroes.. the other night Mrs Mann
and I went to see the negroes dance as she wanted
to see how they performed and I wished Dear Wife
that you could have seen them you would have laughed
untill your fat sides would have ached the fiddler had

only one string and there he sit drawing his bow
back and forth while another major kept shooting
with his hands now you can imagine what kind
the musick was while about twenty majors were back
dancing as though to day was the last day and tomorrow
the end of the world while the sweat was running in
streams as they enjoyed each other and went through
with the dance " we did not stay very long as the
order and atmosphere of the room was very strong and
unpleasant " yet we were amply repaid by satisfied
curiosity for our visit " the majors are a happy set when the
days work is over " and the white folks gone to bed " I am
very sorry to hear that you have all got such bad colds I hope
you are all well eae this still I fear darling lizzy that you
are imprudent and careless I fear you expose yourself to much
in the cold and do not put on clothing enough when you
go out " I hope I may soon be home to attend to you a little
and see that you are more carefull " you wanted to know what
I would do if you my dear beloved wife and children were
situated as these poor refugees are " oh my loved one I should
get to you and relieve your suffering or die in attempting
to get to you " but thank God Elizabeth you are safe yes
safe and far from such miseries as for me I can suffer
any hardship face any dangers endure any tortures " let me
but know that you my own beloved and much adored
wife is safe and surrounded by plenty and among friends
yes I can suffer and endure death most chearfully for you
Good kind wife may heavens richest blessings rest upon
and surround you and may God comfort and cheer and
shield you from all harm " and I will struggle and face
the dangers of war and fight manfully to obtain liberty for
you and me knowing that you are happy and contented
you say when I come home you will kiss me so much that
I will beg you to leave off " now sweet one you know I never
will get tired of your fondness no I like to be loved by my
pure kind and gentle wife to well did I ever tire of your
love yet sweet one no you never will as long as I draw

this fleeting breath " and after death dear wife I hope to
meet you and be kiss by you in heaven if I leave
to return to you my dear I will never want to leave
you again no I shall spend the remainder of my days
in content with you loving and being beloved in return
and you can go with me if I have to go anymore but dear
wife when I was with you you know I was a great hums man
and asked for no greater pleasure than sitting by the fire with
my head in your lap as you sit by my side knitting but oh
I must not recall these beautifull and fond recollections of the
past or I shall have the blues before I am done writing
and be sighing and longing for the return of those happy days
when I can again behold my darling Elizabeth with
her smiling face and hear your kind and gentle
voice as you are striving to cheer and comfort me when
I feel sad yes dear wife now when I am sad I miss you
you and the sweet consolation with you alone can give
yet good kind mary often speaks kind words of cheer to
me which reminds me the more of you for her voice and
looks so much resemble yours own " yet she is onlly my
best friend while you are all my own my best and truest
friend my kind and loving wife " whom I can clasp in
my arms and express my own feelings by kissin your sweet
lips " I think Milt Oster was smart to get his wife in such
a fix while home on furlough " by the great kind spouse dear I
felt rather skitish about what might be the result of my
conduct while home " but have got over my unease now for I
know I should have heard if anything had hapened I think
through my good Elizabeth that I will not venture home on
another furlough for fear that something might happen
and what should I do if I could not be there I don't you think
that this is a very wise conclusion to come to " you little
fat loving wife of mine " what should I do if I had not such
a good dear wife to love me and write to me and tell how much
you think of me I shud be miserable without you to love
and think of " and if I shud be so unfortunate as to