

you say starting wife that you have not received a letter
from me since the 18 of Feb I cannot tell why you
dont receive them for in looking over my act with
you I find that this is the fourth letter written to you
since then " My poor sweet wife you do indeed have
trouble for I see that Marshall has been sick so you
had to be up with him night and day and you all
alone it is really to bad wife and god knows how I feel
about it you tell me not to fret or feel bad about you
how can I help it darling my dear boy sick and my poor
wife all alone and almost tired out taking care of him
my dear wife I love you all to well not to feel uneasy
while things and matters at home are as they are oh how
I wish this cursed war was ended so that I could again take
my place by your side to guide you and cheer you
and relieve you of many of the cares and duties you
have to perform you will pleas thank my kind friends
and neighbors the Cohanes and Wheelers Especially that
good kind Julia Cohane for there kindness and favors
towards you tell them I will strike so much the harder
to reach the black hearts of traitors while they take care of my
dear wife and children at home I have been sending you
quite a number of papers and magazines lately and you
do not say whether you have receive any lately or not you
will pleas let me know if you get any or not for if you dont
get them I will quit sending them March 15 I will try
and finish this letter you will perceive that I have
been three days about it but I have had so much
to attend to and my letter so long that I could
not finish it sooner arthur came to see me
yesterday he gave me 2 dol in silver for pocket piece
and I find that it is good for our eyes to look at
Specia Line my love to all my friends
and rest assured that I bestow upon you more than
it do upon all the rest tell Miss Sarah she will not
make much by delaying so long to write I have struck
her of from my list of correspondents Germans rest
has ~~revisited~~ but he has not
a thousand times my dear Mr & Mrs Haines

Adams Gen. Hospital
Memphis Tenn March 12
My Own Beloved Dear Wife
Joy to the my good
wife and hapiness attend the through all the varied
Scenes of life I am seated my Dear at the the same old
stand where I have written so many letters to you with
my mind and thoughts resting on you and sweet
home and praying silently that you might be happy
and contented and safe from all harm and your
virtue and integrity as pure and lovely as it was
when I took my leave of you and said farewell and
committed you to the care of him who is able to save and
supply all your wants and give you comfort untill
we meet again = it is night and all have you to
bed everything around is still and quiet except the
Sporadical shout of revelry without and the occasional
groan of anguish and pain within " of some poor
suffering wounded soldier as he lays upon his cot
perhaps never to raise therefrom untill it is our painful
task to put a sanitary shirt and draws upon him
and wrap a sheet around him and carry him over
to the Dead house which is the last duty we have to
perform towards them I say it is night and I am think
ing most of thee my own sweet wife " I am wondering
if you are well and hoping you and the children are
well and happy the day has been pleasant and I have been
down to the Landing and watched the steamboats as they
took their departure for up the river and oh how I wished
that I was on them so that I might be carried nearer to
the side of my dear lovely wife but alas my dear I
am denied that great joy and must wait with patience
the the will of god concerning me I have let my good
Gold pen full my dear wife and it struck on the point
and broke the diamond off so that I will have to
buy a new one and borrow another to finish
writing this letter

I have not anything new to write about my dear two of
my patients died yesterday both of them are from Ill
and leave wives and children to mourn there loss one
of them came to the ward with measles and took the
typhoid and Pneumonia and then took the Erysipelas
in his head and died the other alas came to the ward
with one of these private and bad diseases which I am
sorry to say to many of our soldiers are catching this one
had it in its worst stages and finally died and in
looking over his Effects I found a letter from his poor
wife who had heard of his conduct and my heart bleed
with sympathy for the grief she manifested at the great
wrong he had done her but she would forgive him all and
begged that he would remember his marriage vows and
return to his former love for her and forsake all others
she asked him to think of his child and the disgrace
he was bringing upon it then she went on and told
him how she loved him and would continue to love
him until death notwithstanding the great wrong she
had suffered my dear wife it was a most affecting letter
indeed and a mans heart must be harder than steel
if he could not resist such earnest pleadings from his
own wife I think it had an effect upon his mind still
he had a disease upon him that he could never get rid
of and such hurried him to soon I fear to the judgment
bar of God there to give an account of how he had kept the
vows made to his wife when he took her from her fathers
care into his own oh my dear I thought of you while I read
that letter and how thankful I was that God had kept
me from wronging my good wife in that way and bringing
such agony and sorrow upon her and breaking her tender
sensitive and loving heart Oh my dear this is one of
the many vices and great sins that our soldiers many
of them are given to and which I have to guard against
but thank God here Elizabeth the love and respect and
rejoice I have for you keeps me from being tempted and
I never have the least desire to indulge in anything that is
wrong

I very seldom leave the Hospital except to take a run for air
such day and to go to church and my evenings are
either spent reading or writing to friends or loved ones
and very often I spend them with my good friend
Mary talking of you and telling over our amusements
in bygone days I shall miss Mrs Mannon when she
leaves when will be soon she is such good company and
has always been as kind as a sister to me Miss Powell
another particular friend of mine left for home to day she
got a dispatch from home stating her mother had returned
from the Army and was laying dangerously sick
and wanted to see her she used to bake me a pie twice
a week and send it to me by Mrs Messeroll so I will
miss my pie as well as miss my kind friend it
is not very healthy here at present most of the boys
are complaining and many are dying two or three
of the women are sick and the hospital looks more
sad and cheerless than usual still kind providence
blesses your husband with health that is good except
Rheumatism that troubles me quite often I wish
my dear wife that I could write so as to give you a
clear and right Idea of how everything looked and
really was down here so much suffering so much
wretchedness and sin it really seems that most all
have forgotten that there is a God and that they must
be judged some day of the deeds done in the body —
but I will stop writing for the present and wait until
your next arrives so I will wish you good night and may
sweet angels guard you while you sleep and when you
wake may you feel how good and kind God is to you
so that you may sing praises to him for the innumerable
depths of your soul and be comforted by the influence of
his holy spirit applied to your sad and lonely heart a kiss
for you and then good night my dearest and the best
of wives  March 13 My Dear Elizabeth My Better
Half Yours of March 9 came duly to hand with Sarahs
likeness all right but at first sight I thought it was a
picture of your own sweet self but was sadly disappointed
when I turned it over