

in some new ones to fill their places and that is
no agreeable task you will be sure and get Robert's
likeness from Sarah and keep it for I don't want to
lose it I shall not wonder if an order comes after
me soon not from my company officers but from
corps commanders ordering them to send all belonging
to the 17th regt corps to their respective commands and
I shall not be sorry for I long for a change for dear
wife it keeps me melancholy and sad to see so much
sickness and death and then my best and kindest
friends are going to leave the first of may and
their places filled with strangers and I care not about
staying and forming new acquaintances Mrs Russell
and Mary and Mrs Miller and Stephen Mrs Davis and
Dowell are all going home I am expecting Robert
along every day and wonder why he don't come
Mrs Powell has just fetched me in a pie with I will stop to eat
you will excuse me my dear wife if I have to postpone this until
tomorrow I wish I could send you a piece of my pie for it is
Good Dear Elizabeth I have waited another day and still no letter
from you my own beloved and much adored wife so I have
not received any this week but I guess one will soon come
Oh darling how dear you are to me and oh how much
I love you and how I long to see your dear sweet image
once again and hear your cooing me your dear tiny boy
my dear I saw a woman to day in charge of the police
who was well dressed and good looking about your age and
dorking she was drunk and uttered the most profane
oaths and disgusting language I ever heard come from human
lips she was one of those bad characters and she acted so bad
pulled up her clothes ~~to the~~ in the sight of about 100 persons
that they put her on a drag and held her and kept her
from exposing her person you cannot imagine how bad I felt
Dear wife I thought of you who love me as you used to do
and put your trust in god with to me often Give my
love and respects to all and believe you will ever be
beloved and fondly remembered by your husband
Wm Hurnett

Adams Gen Hospital
Memphis Tenn April 10

My Darling and Sweet Bosom Friend and Wife
Oh how my heart does warm up and beat with love towards
the when I think of the my most Beloved Wife it is
Sunday to day and this morning as soon as I got up
I thought of you and the children and longed to
be with you I put on a clean shirt and a clean
white collar and went into the kitchen and Mary
asked me why I was putting on such unusual style
I told her I was doing it in fond remembrance of you
I told her that every Sunday morning you fixed me up
and combed my hair and she said you were kinder
to me than what I deserved — well dear wife I have felt
very lonely to day and I have been thinking mostly of the
I have sat at my window nearly all day and looked
out into the streets it is a beautiful day and I hear the
church going bells and see many on their ways to
their respective churches — then I see many with their
shops thrown open and they are transacting business
the same as if this was not gods holy Sabbath day yes I can
look out into a shoemakers and tailors shop and I see them
stitching and pegging away then I can look into the saloons
those cursed holes of infamy and vice and see our soldiers
enter and come out and go staggering along the sidewalk
cursing and swearing or singing some drunken and low
song and I think oh if his poor wife mother or sister
could see him in such a state what tears of bitterness
they would weep then I can often see these abandoned
and bad women pass along drunk and oh the horrible
speeches they will make if they find anyone low enough
to stop and fool with them this town is full of such
women and it is hard to tell when you meet a true
virtuous woman well my dear after looking upon
such scenes as these until I become disgusted and
almost ashamed that I belonged to the human ^{race}

I thought of the truly virtuous and upright ought to be honored and respected then I thought of you my dear and got your likeness and looked upon it a long time and after gazing upon every feature with to me looked so kind and loving so honest and innocent and pure oh how my heart leaped with joy and pride to think that I had a beloved and dear wife that I believe was pure and I knew was so good and kind perhaps I love you to well darling Lizzie for my own happiness for I really feel proud of you and date upon you as ~~a mother does upon~~ with all the sincerity that a mother does upon her child and I feel that you are worthy of all my love and that my confidence is not misplaced - after looking upon your picture I felt so lonely that in order to pass the time more cheerfully I took my pen to write to you and commence one of these long letters though I shall not finish it until I hear from you for it is only two or three days since I answered your last letter Dear wife since I have been in the army I have seen how fallen and low and degrading the human race can be brought and when I have seen those hordes of women so many of them on the streets and see how bare and how they were my heart has been pained and has only found relief when I thought of my pure and good wife that was so far away from such scenes in a peaceful and quiet home I do really believe that those kind good women from the north who are here taking care of our sick and wounded soldiers are the only virtuous women in Memphis and notwithstanding they are sacrificing so much for the good of the sick and wounded they are often insulted and looked down upon by those shoulder stroked Gentry who are about the worst characters in the army for they are of a privileged character and instead of good examples they often set the lowest and meanest there are exceptions you know my dear I am now the oldest employee in this hospital they keep sending away one attendant after another some for drunkenness some for stealing some for neglect of duty and ~~some~~ other misdemeanors and I think

who has kept me thus far from committing any wrong act and I have adopted a rule to consult my own conscience and do my duty as near right as I can and by the help of God I hope to put in the balance of my time and acquit myself like a man if I ever return to you my dear I will have the satisfaction of knowing I shall my duty as near right as I knew how I have made many warm and true friends here for which I feel a strong tenderness and strong attachment for and I shall be very loath to part with them my dear you know not how valuable a true and warm hearted friend is here among strangers and how much more you prize them than if you had found them acquaintances at home What how I would like if you could or were acquainted with some of my friends here I know you would like them Robert and Mrs Messeroll and Mary all have promised most faithfully to come and make us a visit as soon as I get home for I have told them so much about you they all want to see you now dear wife I will lay this aside until I hear from you and in the meantime I will pray for heavens richest blessings to rest upon you and may you be happy and contented in the love of God my darling Lizzie Good night God Bless and protect you from harm April 14 My Own Sweet Wife this is Saturday and I was in hopes of getting a letter from you my most beloved but was doomed to disappointment I hope we will come tomorrow everything Darling has went wrong this week and I have felt the blues rather more than usual Mrs Messeroll was taken sick and went into the country for to spend 4 days in order to enjoy the quiet and pure air of the country and I missed her very much and then before she got back Robert my old friend Robert took a notion to go to his regiment with his brother who came along and left and then when a young man belonging to my regiment had to leave as there was an order came after him so all my old hands are gone and I have to break