

getting along how many ducks and geese are you have
raised and if you ever have seen anything of our old coon
and all such things would interest me much how the fruit
is how much you raised in your garden and how much
you weigh I expect you must go near 200 pounds at this
time and try and send me a letter once a week shure it
does me good dear wife to know that I am not forgotten by you
and that you are trying to have the dear children remember
their father wish perhaps they may never see again my dear
Wife I hope you will not think of going to Ohio this winter and
leave the farm for you know that we cant hold it long and if
you should leave it they might get possession of it I want you
to stick to it as long as there is a plank left and make all you
can out of it now think my dear you have got those two boys
to take care of and you know how much money you have to do it
with you may never see me again I may never be able to provide
for you or to continue or manage your business then you are
thrown upon your own resources and your own abilities and if you
go down to Ohio your mother is boarding out and you will have
to do the same think of the expence and then dear you cannot do
in another persons house with the children what you can in your
own and you will be continually vexed and annoyed and then
there is your traveling expence down and back and the farm
left to be plundered of what there is can it now your mother
could come and stay with you as well as not and you could
be comfortable she has nothing to lose by so doing and you have
much if you could sell the farm it would be different after
considering all these things dear Elizabeth I think you will see
that I am right I will not urge you to comply with my
requests but after thinking the matter all over if you chose to go
dont let me know anything about it for I know I should be troubled
in my mind beyond endurance and god knows that I have
anxieties now more than I can bear think what would become
of my dear ones if I was taken away and I can truly say
this world is a world of trouble and I long to be with
you my dear wife I love you you know I love you better
than my own life I think god that I have one so dear to love
and I will love you until I die and then will love
you in heaven where all is love I write to your mother last week
and I write to my step mother and to Sarah one of the James and
she wrote another letter to me and to Brother Robert and to
Mrs. Colburn and to H. B. Cornell so I think among them
all I shall surely receive some letters in return but one letter
from you dear wife would be dearest to me than a dozen
from them all write to me often and try do not forget me
and let the temptations of this vile world allure you from the path
of virtue from your loving Husband Tho. Hamner
A kiss dear wife for you

No 8 Adams General Hospital Memphis Tenn
July 29th 1863
My Dear Wife Elizabeth
I share of my joys and of
all my trials the only earthly friend to whom I can
look for sympathy in time of trouble I take my pen
to acknowledge the of yours Number 6 which came to
hand yesterday I was glad to hear that you were well
but began to think you were rather negligent about
writing as it is sometime since I received any letter
from you until yesterday I see you dated it the 12
and it was the 28 before I got it which makes 16 days
it has been on the road they must neglect mailing
your letters or something for a letter ought to come
to me in five days from you I have nothing new
to write but still I suppose you are anxious to hear from me
and I will do the best of I can I do not feel in very
good humor this morning owing to a severe headache and
an aching in my Bones and other matters trouble me
in my mind but I will be all right in a few days
again I am often troubled with these gloomy and lonely
spells thinking about affairs at home and of you and
the little ones until I become almost desperate and I fear
that could I be you well provided for I could
do my utmost to rush into battle and there end
an existence that to me is miserable at times
for this cursed war ought to be ended long ago
and might have been if officers had been as
earnest about it as privates but then when I think
of my loving and beloved wife and children and
of the bitter and distant feelings that exist between
between you and my connections and of the
small sum that you have to live upon and
raise the children I would preserve that unpropit-
ious life of mine for your sakes and for you I
want to live but this is all dear wife that binds
me to this miserable cold and friendless and death

full world for I love you with a never dying love
and want to live in the sunshine of your presence
once more and strive to make you happy in this
world and to help you home to heaven by doing
a duty in my family that heretofore I have neglected
but oh my dear Elizabeth and Wife of my Bosom you
cannot imagine the grief and sighs it causes me when
reading your letters and knowing how things and
matters stand between you and our folks now dear
I hope you will not think that I am chiding you
I will not ask you to like them I know they are
proud and think themselves above you this was the
case when I was at home they were above me because
I took no pride in opening ground and putting
our stile but I treated their pride with contempt
and did not care still dear wife don't you think that
some blame rests upon you for this state of feeling that
now exists you know that you cannot bear to see
them put on stiles when they can't afford it any better
than yourself you are high spirited and therefore you
condemn them and harbor a hard feeling in your heart which
is wrong now dear wife don't let these things trouble you if
you are independent of them don't trouble them let them use
John's wife as they please but never mind it you know dear
wife the promise you have made to me that you will strive
to meet me in heaven now dear wife you must return good
for evil love them that hate you and god will provide and
protect you but as long as you maintain this bitter
enmity and jealousy and hatred in your heart you are
sinning against god and against heaven you are breaking
his commandments now dear wife I know they are wrong but
that don't say you must be wrong to me let this be your
motto let others do as they will I will do right I will
serve god for the pleasures of this world are but for a
moment compared with the eternity to which I am fast hasten-
ing to and I will not have to endure the scuffs or the spears
or the crosses of this world long I can bare them I will
not mind to them I will return good for evil for by so doing

I shall gain heaven at last where endless happiness
will be mine forever and where I will be equal to the
proudest king on earth let this be your study strive to cultivate
this spirit asking the help of god and if you and I never meet
again in this world we will meet in heaven where we will
be happy for eternity for the bible says my dear the way to
heaven is full of trials and crosses and tribulations and you
and I dear will have to travel this road if we ever get there
we will have to return good for evil we will have to learn to love
our enemies instead of seeking to injure them now dear I
know you will not love me any less for writing as I have
done for you know it is all true you are right in not
helping to support such stile in others as you say our folks
put on I am sorry you did not see William Ogilvie when he was
up you did not say how you liked the secret receipt I sent you
in the Book you don't say much about any of those things
I send home I am a friend to good Books and will send all
I can to you hoping for my sake you will read them faithfully
Sarah did not say you were gone from home all the time she said
she had been up three times to see you and you were gone I think
you are mistaken about John I think he does not care for the money
but I don't know I want you to look out for yourself in business matters
I am expecting Mordeff every day will be glad to see him will
send you more books by him to you I think that if those patriotic
men that are so fond of celebrating those dearly bought victories wear
to shoulder their muskets like men and come and help us
to finish up this war so that those brave men that are
left that have been away from their dear ones at home for over
two years could return they would show them selves more worthy
to be called men men I suppose they claim to be I believe in
trephcing but making so much puff and celebrating is played out
with me I would like to see every man between the ages of 18
and 35 forced into the service to fill up the ranks of our militia
regiments and help to bring this to a speedy end and then when
we all get home have one grand celebration in giving thanks
to the god of battles the god of victory. Dear wife when you
write again I would be interested to hear how near you are commencing
harvest how the corn and crops are how those big chickens are