No 11 mistake ~~Thomas E. Hopkins No 3~~ orig

~~My dearest Elizabeth~~ Memphis Tenn

that resembled you so much and it took considerable to convince her different I have shown your likeness to many of my friends and they say it looks like mary but I do not see so much of a resemblance you are larger she is about the size you were when first I seen you but you both have your hair cut alike I know my dear that she has not so good and true a heart as you have yet I think so she is a fine woman and takes such good care of the sick in her ward my lady nurse looks like mrs Dilote she is a good woman her name is Margarote Messerow and then there are two thor ladies hecer that I feel a brothers love for thear names are Margarate Miller and Margarote Dopper they alway call me brother and come to me when they are in trouble I have to go and walk with them go to church with them and it does seem to fill in a measure the longings for home I should miss the ladies much if they should leave for most of the soldiers if you go out with them are teasing you to drink as fool ten pins or play billiards so I do not go out with them often but after supper I generally take a strole by myself or with some of the ladies whose company I do enjoy so much while I am far away from my darling wife if there is one I like better than the rest it is the one that resembles you I like her because she has a look that recalls to my mind with much force the memory of her I love so much that is at home in Ill now dear wife you must not become jellous for all theas ladies are married and husbands in this war and if it was not for the kind and sweet influences that they throw around the Hospital I should be the most discontented heroen in it for most or all of those in charge our pesant officers are drunkards and the worst kind of cracters they frequent those dells of infamy and it would be a poorly managed Hospital were the ladys sent away and the influence thear presence casts around many that would be rufians without I suppose my dear you have seen Leanter and Bush he called to see me he has a noble heart I will hate to see him go back without me for I am very tired of Hospital duties while such officers has charge about let Sarah read all your letters I dont want them to read all I write to my dear but I send you my heart and many kisses and hope by boon hear pure my dear wife adieu Thos Hannah

No 11 Memphis Tenn 1862

My Dearest Elizabeth Aug 21

Yours of the 9 came to hand yesterday and never have you writen a letter to me that gave me reason to repine over it than the one I am about to answer may God bless and take care of you my own dear and true wife I am pleased that marshall is better for I know how bad you would feel my dear to lose him I hope you will take good care of your health my dear for I feel so bad to hear that you are sick and do not enjoy yourself I guess your acts dear are all straight but I have not time at presant to figure them up will do so the first opertunity and if I discover any mistake will inform you of it you said you hoped I would continue to love you my dear I will continue to love you as well as ever wife was loved yes dear unless you give me reason to feel otherwise I will continue to love you as long as this world revolves around on its own axell as long and lasting as eternity my dear ~~my love will be to you~~ my love will be for you unless you give some cause that will change my heart yes dear wife every days absence from you serves only to make my love stronger and stronger for you my own Dear Dear Elizabeth oh how thankfull I am to god that he has given me one sweet beaing in this world that I can love and that love for you dear wife is my guardian angel that keeps me in the path of virtue and with the help of god shields me and saves me from all the disgracefull and awfull temptations by which I am surrounded and you need have no fears my dear wife my marriage vows will be kept as sacred as the word of god with his divine assistance I shall never disgrace myself nor you by any thing that I may do while away from you by cowardice or shirking duty or any abominable indulgences have confidence in your husband dear and fear not for I know if you could but feel how I love you all fears would fly now dear we must feel thankfull to god for all this for I have no strength nor power in me to resist all theas things but what comes from god yes dear it is the divine influence of his holy spirit that guides me and it is prayer and earnest supplication to god that brings the spirit to resist and I believe the prayers of my dear and

loveing wife at home thea are being answered every day oh dear
thear is power in prayer so keep on my dear and dont think
that I ever go to bed at night before asking God for his
blessings to rest upon you to take care of you and the children to
keep you in the path of virtue and honour and to give you power
to resist the temptations of the wicked and that he would give
you a longing and thirsting after righteousness but I must stop
writeing in this ottle hopeing you will excuse me for dwelling so long
upon one point but when I begin to advise you or to tell you how
much I love you my whole sole soul is meeting so much more
than I can tenght and my heart yerns to clasp you to my ~~heart~~ bosom
that I could write for ever and then fail to put my feelings
on peper = my dear I know and imagine your felings while
you was writeing how you ~~felt~~ should feel if you had dealings with
another man you said you should feel that our marage contract
was broaken and you never could look me in the face again
you cannot imagine how thankfull I felt I stopped reading and
thanked god most earnestly that your Ideas were so pure and good
and oh how I ondered when I thought and asked myself the
question what I should do if you should yeal to vile temptation
I think it would be one of the most terrible things that could happen to
me and I should loose all controll of my felings and commit some
act that would damn my soul in eternal perdition but
blessed be god dear I have no fears in god is my trust and
he is all powerfull and mighty to save if we only ask him
you say dear and I know that many a brave soldiers wife has
yeilded to the vile tempter and become sunk in degredation and
sin I should never want to see home again if I was there husband
my dear you make me proud when telling me that thear has
gone a good report of me to my sweet home no I am not proud
but thankfull that this is the case and I feel incouraged
to go on and strive to do better still and oh may god help me
ecince I have left home I have always tryed to do my duty as a
soldier and one who fered god he who has assisted me in all,
that was good and if I ever return I mean to never give just
cause for any person to say anything to impure my caracter
I have never written to your Brother but would do so if I
had his adress but I have not you send me the adress of

your aunt in England but said nothing why you dive dear
do you want me to write to her or have you heard from her
ecince I left I write to your mother wich is dear to me
an acount of my darling wife quite often but get no answers in
return I am indeed very sory dear wife that you lost your tooth you
must look like old scratch an acount of it badluck to the pankoke
that done it anyhow I guess I will know yet dear wife if you
have ondly lost one tothe you were right in saying you believed I
should love you though you looked old yes dear I will love you
though you should lose all your teeth and eyes and become
bald headed you need not laugh my love nothing can
change but I think you must get the tothe replaced by
another before I get home so that you may look as much as
posibely as you did when I left and be very carfull when you
eat pankokes again if you had been eating soldiers crackers
I should not have been as much surprised as I was never
mind dear wife nether I am spared to come home or not gods will
be done meet me in heaven where parting will be no more
oh I am so glad that you are striveing to live a christian and
will pray that god will assist you an you speak of the Hordships
that Thomas had to pass through yes my Elizabeth after reading
all you can and having it discribed to you as well as posibely
you can then form no Idea of the soldiers hordships I am
glad that stands it so well now my dear wif I have
answered your letter and made remarks upon it and I scarcely
know what to fill this sheet up with I wrote ondly a few
days ago to you how ever I went down to the lining room
to draw clothing yesterday the room is in charge of an
old lady that looks very much like your mother she goes by
the name of mother in the Hospitol a fine old lady
she is I got engaged in conversation and gave her my history
wich you have horde me repeat so often of cource I told her
how I became acquainted with you and how ~~you~~ you worked
me while taking after me I put all the flurishes on you
know I thought she would laugh untill she would hurt
herself to see me mimicing it of she then made me go and
get your picture and show her and as soon as she seen
it she said it was may Mannon the lady I told you of