

No 12

Memphis Tenn Sept 2 [1863]

My Dear Wife Elizabeth

It gives me great pleasure that I take my pen this morning to acknowledge the receipt of two letters from you 1 dated aug 16 and no 11 dated aug 23 I should have answered yours of the 16 sooner had I been able but my dear wife scince I last wrote to you I have been very sick Indeed it is now 10 days scince I was takeing down with rheumatism it comenced in my feet and knees wich swelled up most fearfully and I could not move them ondly as the boys moved them for me and then it seemed as if it would take my very life the pain was so great you know my dear how it affected me at home it was as bad hear and then I had the fever with it wich made it so much the worse but the Dr succeeded in breakin the fever and I felt while I lay in this condition I received a letter from you and 1 from sarah but I was suffering so much dear wife that your letters layed two days unopened and unread I need not tell you dear how much I thought of home and oh if I was thear to have the kind and loveing care of my dear wife yes I thought of how you used to bathe my swoolen bimbs and feet and hands and rub them with your soft smothe hand and then press upon my such kind and loveing kisses that done me more good than all the medicine perscribed well dear wife it moved from my feet and knees up into my hips and Back and then into my shoulders and elbows and hands wich wear so much swoolen that I could not hold a pen and eaven now my hands are so lame and numb that I can scarcely write you will preceive a change in my writing but thanks be to god I am geting better am able to walk around considerable I went down onto the street yestarday but my dear you have no Idea how sore my bones are and how it pulled the flesh off from me I have not yet come to my appetite you will probely feel anxious to know what kind of care I had I will tell you my dear wife that if I had not know anything aboute what it was to to have the kind of kind and loveing care of a darling wife to wait upon me when sick I should then be able to say I hæ had the best of care for my boys all felt bad to see me down and they done all they could for me and would move me so carfull and the Mrs Messerow my lady nourse she done all she could for me she bathed my head and would sit by my side and talk with me and listen to me while I her how much trouble I used to be to you dear wife she fixed up oysters for me pankakes and honey and toste and jellies and done all that could posibely be done to make me comfortable and thear is ~~no care~~ nothing but a dear wives or a fond Mothers care that could have been better than what I got then all of the ladies of the Hospital used to come and see me once or twice a day and have a little chat and then leave I tell you dear wife I do enjoy the gentle society of a good and true woman very much hear is this rough memphis thear is a good influence come from it that chears a man on the path of virtue I have had my ward emptied and filled up again scince I wrote last I have some very sick men now and many deaths to report the Hospitals hear are all full and we hear thear are still about 800 more sick down about vicksburgh and Helena yet to come dear wife thear is an imence number of sick soldiers in this department Dear wife you wanted to know my opinion with regard to hireing 1000 untill spring and keeping the grain over I am sure my dear I am not fit to advise about it I am so far away from thear and know nothing about the markets or the prospects of grain I can say nothing more than to tell you to use your own judgement and get the opinion of father and John I think that If I could get 30 cents for oats I should take it sooner than keep them over give my Best respects to Mr and Mrs Flack I am glad they go to see you acasionely my dear unless my memory fails me I think that the way the

thrashing is mentioned in the areement it is worded that I shall pay for half the thrashing now if It is worded in this way I think you had better let Boyce see it and get his opinion on it for I dont see how they can make thrashing include hireing teems and picking bundles stacking straw and such work I am glad dear wife that you stand up for your rights with the old coperhead I think dear if you can sell the farm for 27 or 2800 you had better let it slide my dear Wife you have been saying a good deal to me about a fourlough and I must say something to satisfy you on that point the dread of parting with you againe caused me to determine not to try and get a fourlough but stay my time out but scince you have writen so often for me to come home I have thought as soone as I posibely could be spared I should try and get a furlough and go home to see you for I want to clasp you in my arms as bad as you do me but dear Wife the chances are very very poor of my getting a furlough for as long as the Hospital is crowded as it is now it is imposibely but if we can get emptied out and no prospects of filling up right off I think I can get away but perhaps lose my place as wardmaster by it but I dont care about that I have been wanting to get to the rigment anyway now dear wife you see what the chances are for me geting a furlough but if I do get a fourlough my dear I hope that you may have our buiseness matters all aranged and settled in such a shape that I will have nothing to trouble my mind with but just visit with you and the children God bless you dear how happy could I spend 20 days with you I should not want to leave the house at all dear wife I will try and come home in Nov or Dec if I posibely can still I may not suceed and dont you make to much calculation upon it so I hope thear will be nothing for me to do but visit with you my lady nurse is going home on a 20 day fourlough she starts to day I dont know how we shall get along without her we will miss her much I got a letter from ~~Thomas~~ your Brothers Wife she is well sends her best respects to you she appers a very nice woman by the way she writes I will write to her as soon as my hands come back to ther natural feelings dear Mother I scarcely know what to fill up this letter with I have no news I got a line from Oglvie in your last letter he wanted me to be at the landing every boat that came from the north he said he was going down to the 95 with goods for the sutler and was affraid the Boat would not stay long enough for him to come and see me he said he had a package for me and wanted to see me real bad on buiseness I cannot imagine what his buiseness can be however I cannot venture out as far as the landing yet if you have not sent the overhauls yet you need not do it for the wether is getting cooler indeed for the last week wife it has been so cold that the patients have had to lay in bed all day under a double blanket to keep warm tell sarah jane she must keep on writing to me and as soon as I am well I will answer her letters Give my best respects to father and John tell them to try and get a good man on the farm remember me to turner and to Bennett tell Mr Cohoone I am much obliged to her for promptness in answering my letters I have a letter due from Orville and 1 from her remember me to G Mordoff and to all my friends in General if thear is any trouble about disposing the old secesh in my place and if should get home on a furlough about the right time I will dispossess him with a revolver I shall come home the first chance I get it will cost but never mind that be as patient as you can dear and get as good looking as posibely I sent you a pile of kisses from my heart trust in god and beleave me to be yours untill death Thos Hannah