

Camp near Tupelo Miss

June 21st 1862

My own Dear Wife:

At last Darling I can announce the reception of the valise - It is true I do it on very dingy paper and with a poor pen and not very good ink - but I know my darling will excuse these when I assure her it is the very best her old dear can do - I felt like writing you a long letter and after diligent inquiry & search I found this sheet and here I am writing. I sent a letter by Maj Johnston this morning which I expect you will receive before this. It was through him that I got my valise - well next about the contents - The bottles were broken & most of the potatoes rotten and consequently the contents were not in a very good fix - Shirts drawers handkerchiefs and socks were mildewed, but will be good enough for a soldier - your Bible our Bible was unfortunately in a very bad fix some of the leaves are loose and the whole of them are very much disposed to come out - The needle cases were likewise damaged - Robertson asked for his as soon as he saw the valise - and returns his thanks for the valise my dearest I thank you most sincerely. The shirts and drawers are especially welcome - I have them in water now and I hope the stain and mildew will come out - Dearest you can hardly imagine my feelings when I read your note sent with our Bible - Darling you touched some tender chords in that note and I felt that with you it would be easy for me to be a better man - I will endeavor through Gods help Darling to be a better man - For my own

sake but most of all for the sake of my Darling
wife and sweet boy - Yes Dearest when I feel
that your prayers are added to mine - I feel
that I will succeed - May God help me -
Well Darling I have not mentioned one
other thing which gave me zest I must write
it - more pleasure than all else - That you
know Darling was your likeness - It came
through less injured than any thing else - In
fact it is not injured at all except slightly
on the outside - How long and earnestly I
gazed on that loved and familiar face! How
I studied each part of the picture and oh!
Darling how I longed to see and be with the
original - I think I hope I may be before
a great while - as I have already written home I
intend asking for a leave in about two weeks
or little more - I hope I may get it - Darling
I shall carry the note that accompanied
the Bible in my pocket book - your picture
already occupies a place over my heart
each mile always remain with me -
oh! Darling how I wish I could be with
you to-day - I feel somehow especially
like I wanted to be with you - I could
rejoice by you so contentedly this evening
I could lay my head in my Darlings lap
(would she let me?) and there let it slumber
I feel like I especially wanted it there
this evening - when will I have it there?
oh! that I could answer soon with
the certainty that it would be so - Darling
you want me to write you a long letter just as I
feel - well let me tell you how I feel this evening
I feel like I had the dearest sweetest and
best of wines and that I loved her better and
better every day and that I am hardly worthy
of her - and wish most heartily that I were -
Well I expect I have written enough of
my personal feelings and thoughts and I will
now write of other things - However I will wait
until later - this is immediately after dinner
So my Darling Pet - Good by for an hour or two
Your own old Dear - A. Herbert

Well Darling now I will finish my letter
to you. Jerry is out here he thinks our
Lth should be sent to a Hospital - He will
very likely go to-morrow - I do hope I will not
get sick - I had headache a few days ago
but feel very well now. Nothing speaks
this evening - Every thing indicates that
the army will move from here before
a great while - I hope we may accom-
plish something if we do move. Nearly
every body hear talk is beginning
to despair of the Southern Confederacy -
How is it about Eufrata? For my own
part I have ceased to think about it almost
I feel like I was a sort of automaton
being moved about for I know not what
and carried I know not where -
I am like "Micawber" waiting for some-
thing to turn up - and I ardently
hope something will turn up soon to
relieve the pressure at the South - I
hear that Pugh says the Southern Con-
federacy is on rising ground and that
Richmond is impregnable. Well I
have seen so many impregnable
places fall during this war that I begin
to be suspicious of impregnable places
and as for the rising ground I do not
see it - I hope Pugh and Cochran
will come up here. I hear that Bragg
has invited Pugh to come - I want
to hear him talk - I will not let the idea
of subjugation enter my head but a
great many people seem to think of
these things and talk of them - God
only knows what would become of us
if we should be subjugated - I do
not think I could live in the South - I
would be in favor of moving north or at
least of getting away from the South - Let us
get among the masters and not live
among the slaves - But notwithstanding
our prospects look dark and gloomy

We are not whipped yet and if we can manage
to keep our large armies together for three
or four months longer we will not be in
such a bad fix. It would not surprise
me any day to get an order to march
somewhere - probably to East Tennessee
as I am an unlucky individual
I expect such an order will come
just about the time I want to go
home. That would be bad would
it not - Johnston promised me to
go and see you and tell you how
I was getting on - He can tell you
a good deal that I could never
write - You can preserve this letter
to show your boy some day what sort
of paper his Pa Pa had to write
to his Ma Ma on - Bless the dear
little fellow how I would like
to see him. and he is always calling
"Pa". I wish I could hear him
give my love to all the family
and write me a long free letter
I do not know where I am to
get an envelope from - but I
reckon I will find one - I hope
to get some paper to-morrow -
Sunday - yes darling Sunday and
I promise to read my our Bible
and think of my darling Nannie
God by my love may be ever bless
and preserve you - with much
love and many kisses for you and
the boy I bid you good by
old dear Hubert



Mrs S. W. Beach
Eufaula
Alabama

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June 21st 1862

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At last Darling I can announce the reception of the valise – It is true I do it on very dingy paper and with a poor pen and not very good ink – but I know my Darling will excuse these when I assure her it is the very best her old Dear can do – I felt like writing you a long letter and after diligent inquiry & search I found this sheet and here I am writing . I sent a letter by Maj. Johnston this morning which I expect you will receive before this. It was through him that I got my valise – well next about the contents – The bottles were broken & most of the potatoes rotten and consequently the contents were not in a very good fix – Shirts drawers handkerchiefs and socks were mildewed – but will be good enough for a soldier – your Bible our Bible was unfortunately in a very bad fix some of the leaves are loose and the whole of them are very much disposed to come out – The needle cases were likewise damaged – Robertson asked for his as soon as he saw the valise – and returns his thanks. For the valise my Dearest I thank you most sincerely. The shirts and drawers are especially welcome. I have them in water now and I hope the stain and mildew will come out – Dearest you can hardly imagine my feelings when I read your note sent with our Bible – Darling you touched some tender chords in that note and I felt that with you it would be easy for me to be a better man – I will endeavor through Gods help Darling to be a better man – For my own [page 2] sake but most of all for the sake of my Darling wife and sweet boy – Yes Dearest when I feel that your prayers are added to mine – I feel that I will succeed – May God help me – Well Darling I have not mentioned one other thing which gave me yes I must write it – more pleasure than all else – That you know Darling was your likeness – It came through less injured than any thing else – In fact it is not injured at all except slightly on the outside – How long and earnestly I gazed on that loved and familiar face – How I studied each part of the picture and oh! Darling how I longed to see and be with the original – I think I hope I may be before a great while – as I have already written home I intend asking for a leave in about two weeks

or little more – I hope I may get it – Darling
I shall carry the note that accompanied
the Bible in my pocket book – your picture
already occupies a place over my heart
each will always remain with me-
Oh! Darling how I wish I could be with
you to-day – I feel somehow especially
like I wanted to be with you – I could
remain by you so contentedly this evening
I could lay my head in my Darlings lap
(would she let me?) and there let it remain
I feel like I especially wanted it there
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Oh! that I could answer soon with
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best of wives and that I loved her better and
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well I expect I have written enough of
my personal feelings and thoughts and I will
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[page 3]

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to you – Terry is out here he thinks our
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but feel very well now – Nothing new
this evening – Every thing indicates that
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a great while – I hope we may accom=
plish something if we do move – Nearly
every body I hear talk is beginning
to despair of the Southern Confederacy –
How is it about Eufaula? For my own
part I have ceased to think about it almost
I feel like I was a sort of automaton
being moved about for I know not what
and carried I know not where –
I am like “Micawber” waiting for some=
thing to turn up – and I ardently
hope something will turn up soon to
relieve the pressure at the South – I
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Sunday – yes Darling Sunday and
I promise to read my our Bible
and think of my Darling Nannie
Good by my love may Heaven bless
and preserve you – with much
love and many kisses for you and
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