Camp, near, Bridgport Ala
August 1st 1863

My own Darling Wife -

I have just read your letter of the 27th and when I finished I concluded I would set right down and write you - Your letter did me a great deal of good and made me feel much better after reading it - There has been a good deal of excitement down here for the last two or three days - The Yankees are as thick as black berries on the other side of the river and are quite impudent - They have a high bluff and two good earth works and some eight or ten pieces of Artillery - some of them heavy pieces. and I can't say how many men - In position they have a decided advantage over us and if they attempt it can make this side of the river very uncomfortable & they may even be able to cross the river - I have no idea what they intend to do - but I hardly think they will cross the river and try to reach Chattanooga from this point - Day before yesterday in the evening Genl Anderson came to me and told me to go down to the river and select positions for two guns and open on the enemy at day-light next morning - accordingly I went down selected the positions and took two guns down that night - about 11 o'clock I received orders not to fire without there was some pressing necessity - My guns are still there - but no prospect of firing them soon - The Yankees come down to the river bank and shout across to our men and ask them a great many questions - one of our men told them in reply to "what was the news from Charleston" that "Genl Gilmore was killed" - In that

so said the Yankee - certainly said our man - They offered to give coffee for Tobacco &c &c - They seem to be planting some heavy guns on the heights on the other side of of the river - But enough of the Yankees a few weeks will tell what they intend doing - I went again yesterday Darling to see Mrs Harris about getting a room for you - She will not consent to take you under two weeks - But if you can get off about the 10th or 12th of this month and the Yankees seem disposed to let us remain here I would be glad for you to come I think it will be a right pleasant place to stay at it is quiet and retired - away from soldiers - I think the old man is a Preacher - at least every body calls him Preacher Harris - I do not think I can get more than one room in fact they do not care to take in any one and it is only as a matter of accommodation they do it at all - The best vehicle I can offer you to ride in will be a wagon - If you come prepared we can ride horse back as often as you wish - I have a bay horse here that will take you along very well - I am sorry it is so difficult to procure room here for I know it will disappoint Mollie as well as yourself for her not to come with you. Write me at once Darling what you think of it and whether you can come - Do not place much stress upon it for I am by no means certain we will remain here long enough for you to make the visit - you have been disappointed so often that you had better be prepared for another one - I can write you again several times before you will have and will try and meet you in Chattanooga when you come - if you do come - I am no better off in the money line than when I wrote from Shelbyville to bring money enough with you to pay a month's board - and your travelling expenses - The Pay Master is not here and I do not know when he will be - consequently I have no money - I do not expect I will draw any before the last of this month I expect you can get some one to come with

you as far as Chattanooga - about Eddie - I will leave him entirely with yourself Darling - If you think he would be troublesome do not bring him - In case you do come and should be compelled to leave in a hurry he might be troublesome - So I will leave that matter entirely in your hands - But I do not think it necessary to write any more about this just now - You will be about one and a half or two miles from my camp - and with an old Gentleman a Lady and their family - I do not expect they will be able to feed you very well for that was one of their objections to letting you - That provisions especially flour was very scarce - In relation to selling our house and lot "(You see I talk big)" I do not remember what Mr Young gave for it but there is so much depreciation in Confederate money now that six thousand dollars is not as much as Two thousand was three years ago - at least it so in this country - or in other words you could buy three years ago with one dollar more than you can buy now with three These are simply my views - Mr Young is right there and can judge much better than I - But whatever you do of course Darling will please me - while on the subject of houses and lots - Has Cato ever paid you the office rent for last year - Seventy-five dollars is too little for it now the way every thing is selling and I believe if he will not give more than that for it that I will lock it up next year - Why that will not more than buy me a pair of boots It ought to be worth at least one hundred and Seventy-five dollars - Have you read Carl Hill's address to his corps - He gives it to the exempts - calls them "worthless creatures" and "poltroons" who have stalked from the field under the provisions of the exemption law. I intend cutting out one of them and forwarding it to Henry R. Shoter and if he gets fighting mad to invite him to meet me on the field under Yankee fire and then if he feels like fighting it out to tell him to pitch in on the Yankees and to give them Bits -

well my Darling it is now after dinner - Every thing has been remarkably quiet all day and it is the laziest weather or as [illegible] as any weather I ever felt - But my evening naps have been disturbed so much the past three days that I do not feel sleepy this evening and will finish this letter - Your picture of yourself and Eddie talking about me in bed affected me a good deal - Poor little fellow - I wonder if he understands what it is to want to see his PaPa - and if he would know me if he were to see me - I expect my letters have been rather gloomy lately - But I am over that feeling now - Every thing goes on in the company pretty much as usual - I have had eight men to desert since we left Shelbyville and I expect others will do the same thing - But that does not trouble me at all now - my company is getting gradually smaller and unless more men are given to me I will be compelled to give up two guns and make mine a four gun Battery like every other Battery in this army - except one or perhaps two - Bruton has been talking of taking the step he has for some time and he does it now because he is second in command - He was nearly crazy when I got to Shelbyville last winter and says he would not undergo the same thing again for any thing I am glad of it - for I never could have felt easy to have left the Battery in his charge - Richardson will be my second now - and with all his careless ways and loose talk he will do better than Bruton - Stockton too is a good officer - and I do not know who will fill the vacancy - probably Southwick will fill one and Sergt. Geigler the other if ever I am promoted - George is very well - he is now the third corporal in rank and if there should be three vacancies among the sergeants he will be one which is no mean position - He is now at the river being gunner at one of Stockton's guns - well Darling I have written you a long letter - but I expect you like myself do not object to them - Give my love to all the family - my next letter will be to Mr Young - I must now bid you good by - I hope we will see each other soon - But I have not such faith in it as would remove mountains - much love and many many kisses for my Darling Sour boy who wants to see his PaPa

Your own devoted & anxious - Hubert