Camp near Shelbyville Tenn
May 1st 1863

My own Darling

This is the 1st of May and a lovely day it is - clear warm and bright - Some of the officers of the Artillery have gone to a pic nic near our camp - The Ladies up here indulge in such things accasionally - although invited I did not feel like going and have remained in camp all day - as one of the Brigades of our Division has been ordered out here near our camp I expect I will go out on picket again on Monday - I thought when I was last there that I would not go again - but now I feel differently and I do not know how much longer we will remain here - I received to-day a long or sather several letters from home - They were written on the 18th and 22nd of April - They had only received one letter from us this year our letters are unfortunate in not reaching them. Sister has lost her eldest child Georgia, you will remember her - I expect her death grieved them all very much - Sister wrote me about it - she was only sick five days, was very patient and resigned. poor little thing she is gone to a happier world - where her Mother hopes to meet her - Sister's letter was quite sad - all the rest of the family

were well - all of them are very anxious for the war to end and to have George home with them. Mollie especially seems to miss him so much an officer has just come by and pressed me so hard to go to the pic-nic that I have partially consented I may go directly - I wonder what you are all doing at home to-day - Well I am better off than most people - here I am writing of two places and calling them home when they are a thousand miles apart almost - well you understand me don't you Darling? Somehow Darling I have not been feeling well lately. I have very little appetite - I have not tasted a piece of meat for two days and considering how little else we have except bread & meat it is a little singular - I feel better however than I did and I think my fasting has done me good - you know it is a favorite remedy of mine - well Darling I believe I will ride down to the pic-nic party & see what they are doing - so good by I will finish this to-night Your own devoted & dear - Hubert.

Well Darling I went to the pic-nic remained about an hour and left - I was only introduced to two Ladies one married one single - There were plenty of Gentlemen and not caring to push in I kept out and pretty quiet - A Young Lady however gave me a flower - one who saw me there and whom I would not know if I were to meet her - Don't you feel a little jealous - I expect I will call on her - but to tele the truth I feel very little like

it - I can not say much of the beauty of the Ladies I saw there - In fact I did not see more than two or three that I considered good looking and they were nothing to boast of - well enough of this - I rode out yesterday evening in a direction I had never been before and I was struck with the appearance of the country - The scenery in some places was remarkably fine - The fields were covered with a green verdure and every thing looked so fresh and pleasing - I felt like I would like very much to go out in the woods with a pleasant party and spend a quiet day - and in fact as I passed a splendid beech grove I felt as if I could throw myself under its shade and indulge all alone in giving way to my own thoughts - I am afraid sometimes that I am a dreamer notwithstanding my apparent practical worldly manners - The rough & tumble life (pardon the expression) which one leads in the army is very well calculated to cure what the world calls romance - nevertheless I believe I still have some left - But enough of this - There are many rumors of moves changes &c &c, but we still remain in camp - How soon we may be called on to move I cannot tell, but I expect pretty soon - our artillery organization is not complete yet - I do not like things at all as they now are - I hope they will improve - There will be I think a good deal of feeling about the

promotions or rather the appointment of Field officers - I want to send you some money the first safe opportunity - I do not care to risk the mail if I can do better well Darling it is now Saturday morning - I was suddenly and unexpectedly interrupted last night and had to lay aside your letter It is a lovely morning the birds are singing the dew drops are sparkling and all is bright and peaceful - "only man is vile" I want to go to church to-morrow - I have promised to go by for the Officers of Mc Lyes Battery, well darling I must hurry up if I would mail this to-day - Give my love to all the family, tell Eddie Papa thinks often of him and is very anxious to see him - Bless his little heart - I hope I will be able to get home this summer but think it doubtful - I expect to be on the move - I have read the official report of Genl Bragg of the battle of Murfreesboro I think it well written, his tribute to the private soldier is very fine and well deserved. of his criticisms of the Generals I have nothing to say - I know what my officers say I think Genl Bragg is mistaken about Anderson's Brigade checking the advance of the enemy after Breckinridge's repulse - The enemy were checked when he arrived, well My Darling I must close - again my love to all - write me as often as you can I will write again on Sunday night or Monday morning - I wish you could be up here with me now you would enjoy the scenery and I could take long rides with you which would be very pleasant But I do not know how soon I must move our army is a despotism - I despise it - with much love & many kisses for you and our boy Good by your own devoted Hubert