

2013.70.30

Head Quarters Third Division, Army of Kentucky,

Franklin, Tenn. May 9th 1863

My Darling Wife –

Today I rec'd your mothers [sic] kind letter - dateted [sic] May 3d & oh that for once I could see you & answer it – vebally [sic]! what a grattification [sic] it would be to me. My darling one how happy I was to hear that you was getting a little better. Me thinks I now see you looking better and hopeful for the future - yes my darling girl and - sweet wife, do have courage & we will soon be permitted to see each other - I know how hard & trying it is for you to have your husband absent from you when you are so sick & sometimes I think I cannot endure it. I feel like busting the chains of military power, & law which is so severe on us at the present, & coming to comfort my dear darling sick wife - but you know that would not do - a court martial would shortly follow & I would then be disgraced which I would be willing to bear - for you - but you could not. No I know my sweet wife could not see her husband deserting his post at this our Counties [sic] trying hour. I think as you do, my sweet one, that General Rosecrans ought to have let me come home & seen my dear, when she was so sick & that his principle of allowing persons to go home to save pecuniary loss & also to save the life of the applicant –

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not a very good principle. for what soldier would not rather loose [sic] every Cent of money or all his property rather than loose [sic] the opportunity of being with his near & dear friends when they are so sick! - Your mother did not quite under stand [sic] me when I told her that only those who applied for furloughs & leaves of absences were permitted to go home - who could show to the Genl [sic] commanding that they would loose [sic] large amounts of property by remaining - & those who applied on the ground of their own personal health - are permitted to go - So you see our friends may be ever so sick - we cannot visit them on that ground, but we can do so by [stateing] we could be the looser [sic] of much money, & by a surgeons certificate that it is necessary to save our own lives. So Rosecrans takes a pecuniary & selfish view of the subject I think & so do all the officers - think so, but my honey I will promise you that no - effort will be spaired [sic] to see you as soon as possible. & I wish you to reast [sic] easy as concerns my health for I am now well and in no danger at all. Oh my good one tell me in your next letter all about your sickness & what room you are in - I sometimes think you are up staires [sic] in your room & then I think you are in the room which opens into the parlor - Many times per day my eyes wander away across the land of Tenn. Ky. Ind. & Illinois & come peeking into the door for

you, wont [sic] it be so nice when they come really! You must thank your dear ma for writing me & tell her I do like to have her write every day & that she need not say anything –

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about mistakes or poor composition or poor penmanship for you all could not make worse errors & mistakes than your humble servt [sic] (C.T.D. ). Am sorry that your ma's eyes are sore - undoubtedly she has been broken of her rest considerably Darling how do you rest? do you sleep well? I am so sorry for you darling. I accept the kisses you sent & return as many more. Your folks appear to be quite busy in - working at the mill [Seat] setting out trees & c. Where is it? how far from town.

Today has been a pleasant one again - I've been working in the office considerably to day but I ride out towards evening around the camps for exercise & to see the troops - We are living very well my dear now that box of fruit &c which you sent me was very nice Lieut Elkin just received a box from home and we are living very well indeed - So are the soldiers - our Head Quarter Camp is real pretty - I will try and give you sketch of it pretty soon & send it to you.

General Hooker I learn has not succeeded in driving the rebels from their old ground but he has returned to his old encampment - I do not know how successful he was - but I guess he punished the enemy considerably. I presume the 8th Ill Cav. was in the fight & also my Bro [sic] Charles - I shall look anxiously for the results - We have very fine fortifications here now - could withstand successfully the attack of five times our numbers - Tis now quite late so I will retire on my couch & finish in the morning - so good night my own sweet darling wife until mornng [sic] may God protect

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you & me also & us all

Sunday Morning, May 10th/63.

Good morning my sweet wife - may you feel as refreshed from your night's rest as this beautiful morning air is to me - pretty Sabbath day. A good nice breeze is blowing - so that although the sun shines without obstruction by clouds - the air makes it very agreeable in camp. I am going to church this morning on the opposite side of the river. they have quite a good & respectable congregation & pretty good singing - how much I do wish I could have my pretty darling wife to accompany me. or that I were in Freeport to accompany her this day - How pleasant it used to be - love to go to church at Freeport. How much I used to wait for my darling & happen on the road about the time she would. I wish I could send you some present from here - something for my love but I guess I will be obliged to bring them. You must not worry about me sweet one try & be cheerful & happy & you will soon be well & I know I will never be absent from you again when you are in such a delicate condition – Accept all my love darling I live only for you & I do

hope this war will soon be closed that I may be with you - all the time - Do you worry much about the loss of our dear little babes? Sadie no doubt the all wise Providence knew best. Good morning love & I shall expect a letter every day –

Your affct [sic] husband CTD

Mrs CTD

Freeport Ill