

2013.70.42

Head Quarters Third Division,

Army of Kentucky,

Franklin Tenn May 31st 1863

My own darling Sadie,

Although I wrote you this morning Love—yet this blest evening with beauty & loveliness is enough to cause me to write again—because I feel lonely & as though I wanted my darling to be here and enjoy it too. How exceedingly lovely this evening is. It is one of those kind of evenings—fraught with beauty & loveliness which makes the heart feel its own insignificance [sic] and long for the sympathy of these we love—

I have spent the day very pleasantly indeed—read a good portion of the time—& read the little Bible which you gave me & of which I think so much & towards evening I took a pretty ride out from the camp a few miles—oh how pleasant it was—the farms (save where they had been destroyed by the army) looked blooming indeed, every thing looked like the handy work of the Allwise God. & this evening I read again the little Bible—oh how struck I was with the Epistle of Paul to the Corninthians Chap 7—I happened to turn to it. You know

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how it treats concerning marriage—the duties of Man & Wife exhorting them to be faithful one to the other—&c &c—and towards the latter portin [sic] of the Chapter it treats, or points-out what should be the course of action of a husband or wife in case one dies—whether they marry again or not. It says or Paul say [sic] it is well enough [sic] for them to do so but appears to indicate to the contrary in some portins [sic] of the Chapter—and the thought struck me then—how long would it be ere my Sweet and loving Wife would become anothers & my name almost forgotten. Oh my Sweet one you can imagine ~~how~~ what a thrill of sadness passed through my poor heart but I know the thought was not right but I have consoled myself many times by the thought that if I fell here on the field I would meet my Sweet Wife in heaven What a happy & consoling thought my Love. Some how it is very repugnant to the mind the Idea that all you have as a precious treasure when you pass away becomes anothers, but I suppose in a true Christian sense and light the idea is a selfish & unholy one—So my Darling Sadie—whilst I am now speaking of the Subject (for I may never brouch [sic] it again) just mentioned—I do not wish

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you to think that I am so selfish as the previous lines of the letter would indicate. No I will say now that should anything happen me [sic]—It is my wish and desire (how so ever much my natural feelings might be opposed to it) that you marry again. Oh how bad I do feel this evening—I feel as though my all had flown away. You will excuse me won't you love. I should most earnestly desire to be permitted to see you again—but Gods[sic] will—not mine be done—I have thought more of the Bible within the last few days & the necessity for being prepared [sic] for the—final hours—than I have during the Service before—Oh that I was a Christian a good one. Would it not be so nice Sadie—for us bouth[sic] to love God with all our hearts and Sole [sic]—let us pray for each other my love, will we not? How do you spend the long and beautiful evenings my love? do[sic] you not get lonesome? and [sic] at times unhappy? I believe it would be better for this army to march now I am to remain dormant in camp & better for my self—then our thughts [sic] & time could be engaged—and consequently more contented and happy. Now my Sweet wife I will be honest with you—the most of the time whilst I am on duty especially at day I feel well and contented, but frequently when night comes when I get Seated in my tent, how much do I then miss your Sweet Society—your encouraging Smiles & pleasant voice—but we all hope and pray that—the

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time will soon pass away—when our hearts are to be so sorely tried—Now Sweet one you are the only one to whom I say anything conserning [sic] my feelings in regard to being absent from you—the officers—would not know by my appearance that I was married for I am whilst with the troops & men cheerful and for all they know happy—but oh my dear one it is a very great sacrifice for me to remain absent from you & especially was it when you were sick—had you not gotten better immidiatly [sic] I think I should have come home without Leave as I should have considered the circumstances justifiable—and would have been willing to have—Subjected myself to any & all humiliation on your account—for I considered my promise to you binding when I said I would be with you in sickness as well as in health at the marrige [sic] alter—oh my [Good] Wife you cannot imagine how my poor heart felt for you then—I could have done anything almost to have been with you. and now it is my [determinate] if you do not get better (which I think you will) to resign & come to you—Capt. Lupten & Capt. Polk [both] of Genl[sic] (Baird's?) Staff are home now on Sick leaves of absence. & they were not very sick neither [sic]—So you See I am unfortunate in not getting sick—my Bro[sic] is well now. Lieut Mayer is also & he is making a good officer—he is considered one of the best Lieuts in the Regiment—my boys are all in good health now—do you

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remembr [sic] the boy Sanders who was so sick at Rockford? He joined the company a few days ago—not having been with it since we left Rockford—he is not well & I shall get him discharged—Has Stephen left the printing off? what do the folks think of a draft? do[sic] they not now think it best to have a few Negroes “fight”? I see the powers are taking steps in that direction I saw quite a [flattering] notice the other day in a letter written to a person here—he was giving the news of the town & said that James C. [Charl] married Miss [Tarlux], & after giving a few more items—said that Capt Dunhams [sic] beautiful Wife had given birth to “twins”—I am anxious to hear from Henry and Charles—I saw today that Charley's Regiment

had done well on a [scout]at the Potimic [sic] & I suppose Henry was in the Vicksburg battles—
Just as I am writing I see another storm is

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coming up—we have had severel [sic] lately—How is your dear Ma now? And how is Agnes? I
feel interested in Agy [sic] and would like to see her doing well—and also the other girls—but
little Agy[sic] as I used to call her always was a peculiar friend to me—do you remember how
she used to intercede & do anything I wanted her to do? Now my Sweet one when you write me
give me a long letter will you—tell me about everything—Tis now about 10 o'clock So My
Darling “good night”—pleasant dreams to you is (the prayer?) of your faithful husband C.T.D.

(Sadie)