

South Bank Tennessee River
Near Tusculum Ala.
Nov^r 12th 1864

My own, precious Fottie -

We got a mail this morning, and in it was a letter from my own wife & her folks. It was your letter, in pencil, written on the 31st of October, and acknowledging my letters from Gadsden (one by Steinhilber's boy) and on the back, the money from Rev. B. by whom I suppose you to mean Brother Brankham. - You also tell me of your going to C.S. on the 8th inst, and of Miss Betty Groves' visit, ~~and~~ the information of the departure of that sweet, old gentleman, M^r Iverson Graves. Peace & joy to his rest! - I shall never forget the urbanity of his manner, and the genuineness of his spirit. His voice faltered as he kissed little Frank and said, "God bless you, my little son". I felt that I was bidding him farewell, indeed, and that we would never meet again. I have never met any one, who on so short an acquaintance, I was so much impressed with. -

I wrote you by a mail opportunity on day before yesterday, & I am sorry I sent the letter. I fear you will not understand it. - I get so discouraged sometimes with the inefficiency of our army in all of its departments, that I lose all my confidence in it. - We were delayed here the first 8 or 10 days getting up supplies, the weather all the time bad, & rain falling every day. - For the past four days our Engineers (?) with their lazy, slow and undisciplined corps, have been keeping us waiting, while they are peacing out the Ponton bridge, the boats we have not being sufficient to span the broad, noble Tenn. I think we will certainly cross tomorrow morning.

Ben says to be remembered to all. He sends his
love to his wife. - I have promised him a visit
to her Christmas, whether I go or not. - Don't
give yourself any uneasiness, my dear angel, on my
account - I am very comfortable, & have a
plenty to eat. By the time the money, which I
wrote Stradley to send you, reaches you, I hope you
will have enough to do you until the 1st of Jan.
By which time I will be able to ^{D.D.} send you more.
In your letter of the 14th of Oct. you told me that
you would have \$100. after buying some sugar, paying Dr
Coffin &c. (I don't want you to pay more.) I told Stradley to
give Margaret \$20. & send the rest of my October
pay, viz: \$175. to you by mail. This, with the
remittance from Oxford, will give you, with
what you had before, enough to make \$300. I
hope, - I wrote Aunt Susan a letter thanking her

for her affectionate attention to you. I think of you daily,
eye, hearing my dear, precious wife. Poor, and unworthy
as they are, ^{my} prayers are for you and our cherished child-
ren. - May God, our Merciful Father, bless you & keep
you. While I am reminded of it, let me ask you
particularly, if you have received the tabular forms
sent Frank, shewing my losses, &c? Don't forget to
answer this question - Continue to write me, and
direct as before - I will get your letters, eventually,
and when I do they rejoice my heart. My love to
Lamb - give much love to Mauma, & remember
me to the family. - Tell Frank & Mary in your arms,
and hold them to your dear heart for me - Ellie. -
Tell Frank Pa thinks all the while of him, & longs
to kiss his dear little lips. - I rejoice to hear by your
letter of the 17th (that is, Randal) that Mary is improving.
May God grant our children length of days & good health,
my dear angel, and may they always be a blessing
to you. - Don't you, my own, loved, cherished wife.

Ellis