Affectionately
inscribed
to my wife
by her husband
U. M. Jordan
O.S.
Company G
23rd Regiment
 Ala Vol
Montgomery Feb 22nd 1862

Dear Julia,

To day, I have purchased this book for the purpose of noting such items of interest as may come to my knowledge, my thoughts too will often find expression here. Such thoughts as are private thoughts that perhaps may never find utterance to any one. I often get sad and feel solitary and alone at such times it does me good to write. Such are my feelings to day and that is the reason
that I have this book. I know clear sure that when you read these pages your own good heart will throb in unison with mine. When I fell it up I shall send it to you. Take care of it and should it ever never get back home from this yet but one ear given to my daughter. Tell her that I wish her to keep it as a sacred relic from her father how I love that child beyond measure. Every letter syllable and word will be written in love pure and genuine.
Feb 23

Left Montgomery this morning at about 9 O'clock, traveled about 18 miles this morning losing two horses, we had to climb about three miles. It almost used me up.

25th

Been Mustered in just three months.

To a Minneter,

Dear Wife, we have left Picketon Ga. You never saw just such a demonstration yet. One of those gay from a little girl she must remember that you all
battling for me too.
Oh, such a beautiful Nosegay Julia. I will send you one of each flower. I think you ought to have it.
At dinner we got a splendid dinner. Turnep greens
when we left.

Wednesday the 26th. We got to Cleveland last night and stayed there till 2 o'clock. Left there and came on about thirty miles when the Engine ran off the track and of course
a general smash
one poor little fellow got
both his legs mashed up
I never saw such a line
in my life. The first thing
that made me aware of what
was going on was a drum
falling on my head. It
aroused me to the danger.
I was not excited at all
while it was going on but
after it was all over I was
terribly excited.
What do you think the little
fellow that got hurt
turned out to be a woman.
She said she belonged to
Capt. Harper's Company
Col. Clapp's Regiment.
She was dressed in men's
clothes and looked to be a boy about fifteen years old. I passed out at the door by her she looked up at me and asked me to relieve her. I looked down to see how she was fastened and pulled away some clothes and took up something when I looked at it it was one of her thigh bones. The blood ran all over my hand. I could not help her and went on. They got her out after a long time. Went off 25 a house about a mile and good dinner. The lady's name was Dwent, a noble specimen of a woman kind who I got back the regiment had gone back.
to Athens and left about 30 of us. We took a box car and went down too. We stayed there that night and 27th of Feb. 62. Left Athens this morning and arrived at Knoxville about 10 a.m. We remained at the Depot till late in the evening. The order came to March. We came out to the University of Tennessee and are quartered in the buildings. I am nearly barefoot. Our shoes are on the care somewhere but when they will reach us is more than I can tell.
March the 1st 1862  

Did not have time to write anything yesterday had too much business to do. The weather is comfortable here now. This clear. Wife is the most beautiful country I ever saw. The Tennessee River runs at the foot of the hill on the East. A blue range of mountains beyond in the distance. Away towards the north is some pretty peaks. I can give you no accurate description of the scenery this place. I received a letter from you yesterday how full of love and affection and how badly will you be disappointed when you find that I am
not coming home, I am grieved myself more than I can tell just to think that I came so close to you and could not go to see you. My poor old mother how hard she will take it, but there was no help for it.

O'clock. It has been turning colder all day and seeming now and then this fleeting now.

Cavalry Company stationed here took twenty-five Union prisoners yesterday and brought them to Knoxville today. Our boys are getting sick every day we only muster forty now.
Sunday evening March 2nd
Nothing of interest has transpired today. It is warmer than it has been since we came here. We went on inspection today. Came back and wrote a letter to you.
Oh! So drearyful to think that I have got a good and pretty wife at home, a smart daughter there, and a poor old mother and am not allowed to go and see them. How I long to see them. There is no one here that even thinks that I ever think of them. They do not understand there. Is it, yet. Do you suppose that I am
going to make all my troubles known to the boys that are far from home and all its endearment. My thoughts are continually with you when I lay myself down at night. I think of you, thinking of one another and feel too I wonder if you are well, I wonder how you look. I wonder what you are doing and how you look. I know you are thinking of me and I am far away. Oh, for one more look at my wife and child once more to be under the watchful care of a fond wife and mother. Once more to hear the infant prattle of my child.
It does seem to me that I could come back satisfied to stay the balance of the war. Suppose that I was to go home, I would have to leave again, and would not the parting be dreadful, worse than the first parting. I am willing to risk it though. Yes, I would risk it, though I know the parting would kill my Julia. I feel sad and lonely this evening though I have in a crowd all the time. I have been in service over three months and in all that time I have not been as lonely as I am at this time. Yet I am lively and gay.
Monday March 3rd
It rained all night nearly
and hindered to continue on
through the day. It is raining
now and I have had nothing
to eat this morning. Wash
is cooking breakfast. Julia I
often laugh at myself when
I am cooking. What a figure
I must cut? But everyone
else does the same, and why
not I. Dear Wife, I had made
some great calculations before
I left Camp Menninger. I was
intending to send for you
and you to come to Mobile.
And I was to get a furlough
and then we was going to see
John. We would have had a
fine time. Would we not
But while I was making all these fine calculations, some one else was planning otherwise. The Order came to bring us here. I left there with high hopes, saw a pretty rough time getting to this place, and now I know not what our destination may be. Some think that we are brought here to suppress Unionism; others think that we will go to Cumberland Gap or Murfreesboro. But what will be my destination? Oh, I have no wish to lift the veil that screens the future. Who has? I may be in a little soon. I may never get in one, I may come out victorious or I...
may be a prisoner in the hands of the Enemy. Sometimes I think death would be preferable to that. Was it not for you dear wife and our child and my mother I would. But a prisoner might get home again. He might be released and again return to the old homestead.

The old Homestead, what reflections the word calls up. All the hopes, the joys, and sorrow past, come quickly to mind at the thought. Ah, how I like to be one again at my home there is where I have passed the happiest part of my existence. Some clouds have passed but one seems to remain. Such
But who ever saw me grieve
None could tell that I ever
was sad or sorrowful about
anything. Such is my nature.
Such my disposition. Always
dancing, Always gay.
I find the value of such
a disposition. It makes one
friends when nothing else could
It was that clear, wise, that
first won your heart, your
your pure heart. Ah! How
precious to me now is the
knowledge that, that heart
is my own. That you yourself,
are mine, all more debt-
bounds me up a many a
time when troubles come
and all seems to turn
against me. I know you.
are, and always will be as devoted as ever. She happy knew that we lived together all years in service before me. It gives me pleasure and comfort too to know that there is one fine, trusting, loving, confiding woman back in Alabama. That is mine, all mine. That is continuously droning of me a poor Confederate soldier. If I can just keep my health I hope one day to see you again and to come and live with my family in a quiet peaceful free and happy home surrounded by happy children. I have lost all the pleasure of this. She will be a great large girl by
The time I get home again
To dear wife I know she is
funny and smart. It
would be a real pleasure to
see and take her on my knee
and hear her express her
infant ideas. But alas all
that pleasure is not for me.
It is for you my dear. Enjoy
it. I can feel some pleasure
in that. Yes real pleasure in
having that the woman
I love best can enjoy the
exquisite pleasure by
pretending with my only
child, Julia. Yes know how
I love that child. Take good
care of her and praise her
right. Do not trim her hair.
It is my, that I never shall
be done.
3 o'clock in the morning. It seems tolerably pleasant this morning, but has gradually turned cold. It is snowing now, a kind of homely snow, half sleet and half snow. I am colder now than I have been since I came here. My feet would freeze if a friend had not loaned me a pair of shoes. They are No. 105 round so that I can get to the fire.
We will suffer if it gets much colder. We are not used to very cold weather and will have to get acclimated before we can be comfortable for my own part. I expect to stand it firmly. I make it as a prediction that I will stand the winter better than I will the summer. Well we will see what we shall see. About dark it is very cold and wintry. The ground will be frozen by morning. The snow melted as fast as it fell until the last when it day on the ground and on the top of the houses. I have seen it snow more frequently in my life.
March 14th. So day one year ago Old Abe took his seat. So day is fair and cold the ground is froze hard this morning. I call it good healthy weathered myself some of the boys are shivering over the fire while I am comfortable. Strange that I should stand it as well. But I have had my hair cut short. Thingled is the word. And every morning I wash my neck and head and I account for it that way and I also think that is the reason that I do not take cold. I have often heard that if one would wash the back of the head every morning they would never take cold.
Yes to day clear, Julia, a year ago Lincoln took his seat and the war began in earnest. Some thought that three months would end it, others that six months would, but time has shown that they were all mistaken. I do not remem-
ber that I ever told you so, but my opinion has been all the time that it would last during Lincoln’s Administration and I have seen nothing yet to alter that opinion. I still think that it will last that long. The next election in the north will be upon the issue peace or war and the war will continue or end according to which succeeds.
Our boys are getting sick every day. We have lost two of our company since we came from New Orleans. One died last night, and W. H. Saffon the night before. Poor fellows, they have lost their lives on a good and glorious cause. It grieves me to see them die and have no chance for revenge on their foe.

Nashville is in the hands of the enemy. Twenty-three Regiment of our force were taken at Fort Donelson among them 3 Cala. If that be so, Alfred is among them I cannot believe it. They were at Norfolk the last I heard of them. I and you will both be sorry if it is so. I cannot
Here it is again "Orderly from the Company" What would they do without an Orderly. The working man of a Company. My Officers seem to have a great deal of confidence in me. I manage the boys as I see proper. It is all right with them. Everyone seems to be glad that I am the Orderly of our Company. I have to keep myself neat and clean. Pankins and Barnes does the cooking; I will have to pay them something extra. I had much rather do it than to cook myself. I cannot cook and attend the duties of my office. We got better eating here than we did at Pug River. The beef is fat closer fed. It is fine.
you my own sweet wife ah. I trust oh for the reality to be once again at home, my wife by my side, my child on my knee, and in the presence of my own family. I have a strong hope that such will yet be the case somehow i am always in high hopes. I am glad that it is better to laugh than to be crying oh I am glad that I have the disposition I have. It is much better to be gay than sad. I pray dear wife to teach my child the same thing.
This night again and I now have a little leisure till call which comes off at 8. We are still quartered on the university buildings. No one pretends to know how long we will be stationed here. The cold is not near as it was this morning. I saw lots of ice this evening a foot long. I am going with two pair of drawers and one pair of pants and two shirts with my uniform coat and am perfectly comfortable. My ears being a little when the wind blows poor things they have no curly locks to protect them I think short hair becomes
I know, though, that you would not think so. It does not seem to me that it does. I am in good health. I wish you could see me as I stand writing these lines. I am standing before the fire, a cup in my hand. The room is about eighteen feet square and twenty three of us sleep in here. You cannot imagine how it is done. Neither can I. If you tell me, but it is a fact. We have plenty of straw to make our palletts on and bed comfortable among. Good boy, love a pleasant night to you. And sweet dream.
March 5th. Was snowing lightly when I got up this morning. Rather cold but I do not feel it. One of Capt McNug's men was taken sick yesterday after dinner and died about 2 o'clock last night. How uncertain is life! I went to the Hospital. Oh there are so many sick there. We are using the houses built for the school of the Deaf and Dumb of Tennessee. It is one of the prettiest houses I ever saw. I had to get a pilot to show me one man. There is a beautiful hot house with all kinds of flowers in it and all in full bloom. The yard trees laid off so pretty it did me good to look at it. I could
not stay long enough to examine everything as much as I wanted to. But I will again soon and will like more time to look at the grounds. One thing I saw took my attention. It was what I suppose to be a deaf and dumb alphabet. I of course could not understand it. There were fingers and hands in all imaginable positions. I saw no one that could instruct me, and I left in complete ignorance of the deaf and dumb alphabet.

Julia I have a real business offer I have not been stopped less than six times since I began this morning. So orderly this that and the other and by three o'clock
a time I have adopted an accommodating turn, I listen patiently to all their wants and give my decision as the nature of the case demands. I will recite here one of the trials of my position. The first day that I took charge as Col. of the 1st Ohio at Montgomery. That night one of the men got drunk and raised a fuss with another. They began to fight and I separated them. (It is proper to say that all the Commanding Officers were gone and of course the Command resolves on me) I ordered them to be silent but one would not and I could have no peace nor quiet till I had him tied up and gagged. That's one of the trials
I have had no trouble with the men since, Capt. Reid has not come in yet. The lieuts all appear to have the utmost confidence in me. They frequently go off and leave me in command. I had much rather stay and not though the boys obey me very well. But they trouble me a good deal asking questions. I guess by the time I get home that your questions will be answered with pleasure. Your propensity for asking questions is nowhere to our boys here. Begin to tell anything and on to one, you will be asked fifty times before you get through, the poor fellow was not tempted at all.
Evening. We are all in fine spirits. I went in town today and got a set of cooking utensils, not with my money though. A friend kindly got them for me. When I came back, the first thing I saw was the balance of our uniforms. Our pay came today. I am sorry now that I sent to you for money, as I have a pair of shoes now and can claim socks and all the boys are gayly as crickets. This evening I bought the cooking things to keep from cooking myself.
I think I look fine in my Cap Shirt Coat and pants. It is the best fit that I ever had in my life. I saw a man to day who said that we will be under Sam Smith and will be sent to Kentucky now and I am not sure what one knows for my own part I have become almost perfectly unconcerned where we go. The only regret I have is that I am leaving my family farther every time we move. But there is one thing the Lee gets closer every time I get farther.
March 6st When I woke this morning the snow was about a half inch deep on the ground & it is snowing now a fine pretty snow. Oh, I enjoy it so much. I love to see snow it makes everything look so pretty and white. I wish you was here to enjoy it. Knoxville looks so beautiful. The ground and the tops of the houses all are as white as snow. If it continues on all day like this now it will be a foot deep by night. I am dressed out in full uniform this morning. I enjoy cold weather and military life so well. I just think suits me to a T. I am a man that can stand it. It is fine.
There was a party in town last night. All our officers went to it. I did not go. When they were fixing for it I thought of my young days of you and a thousand things that are too tedious to mention. I had an invitation and should have gone if I had. I preferred to stay in my quarters and think of home. Home, how sweet the word and how many are away from that blessed place. However poor, still it is home there are thousands of good and true men now away from home that will die without a kind sister, fond mother, or devoted wife. The smooth
their pillow. A sister I never had. A fond mother and loving wife I have. It may be my fate to die away from home. I'd rather the Yankees would kill one than to sicken and die. It's seen too much of that kind of death not to dread it. But a death on the battle field who dreads it and fear it, I repeat if it is my fate to encounter the great master or I get home, let it be in the field of battle among the noise and tumult of contending armies. The war of cannon and battle of small arms. That is the death I would wish to die if it's to be before I get home.
Some of our sick left at
Camp Mervinger have just
got here. They report a storm
there which killed seven
men. It blew away tents
and one large two-story
hospital blew over. I am
glad that I was not there.
Four of our men are still
behind. One they say will
die. It is still snowing but
seems to melt as fast as
it falls. Oh Julia seeing
these boys come in this
morning makes me think
of you. My own wife dear,
In one thousand
worlds such as this.
I do not know why I do
not get a letter from you.
I have got but one from you
and that was sent to
I lost that yesterday while
in town. I had some to
mail for the boys and pulling
that out with the others and
suppose in pulling back in
my pocket I must have
missed it. At any rate it is
gone & regret it seriously I read it every day and it did
me good every time I read it.

Dear Wife I sometimes
think that you think that
I ought not to have gone
into the service that I did
you wrong in leaving you
at the time I did and I blame myself a great deal
that I have caused you pain
But such is the nature of things. Would it be any better had I
stood till now? Would I think you have had any more friends
would I have left you in any better conditions than you are? I think not. I had to go
and taking all in all I took the best time that I could
to go. In the fall when I was in good health and you in a
good fix to be left, I would have gone had I stood till
now and you and I both could not have been
better fitted then when I left. So is the world, how I
stayed at home I would have been called a coward.
an office seeker.
This night again I got a letter from you today. I was glad and relieved. I sat down as soon as I read it and answered it. Somehow I can't express my feelings like I once could. I feel like something had come between us. I cannot tell how I feel. You cannot imagine my feelings. I can't find words to express them. I feel as though there had been a wrong done. I know not who had done it. Oh, human nature. How often at fault.
It is one of the most beautiful nights that I ever saw. I can see a man nearly a quarter of a mile. The snow is almost equal to moonshine. I would give a month's wages to have you here in Knoxville with me this night to help me enjoy the scenery. That is so beautiful. The cedar all covered with snow. Every body looks happy and gay. I am sitting in the lieute- room writing by fire light. Now and then I raise my head and look towards the south where my and your home is but the sunny south for me. Good by my love and pleasant dreams to you.
March 7th. It is clear and cold this morning. The ground is hard frozen and the snow is as beautiful this morning in the sunshine.

A cavalry company took seventeen Union men and brought them to Knoxville last night. One, a private, and one justice of the peace among them. They killed one in taking them. Any man that would turn against his own country, such a country as this ought to see. They are known to have been the strongest kind of soldiers. All soldiers should get pretty close as when they shoot. They should shoot many and join him, but in that they prove themselves mistaken. The cavalry promised them as they were crossing the mountains.
We will remain here till our sick get well, it is thought. I do not think so. When the order comes to move Col. Beck will go and leave his sick here. Col. Garret has been ordered off. I do not know where to but would not obey the order. Our Col. will though. We have not a half a regiment fit for duty but he will go. Just he would go home and stay there. He is no military man. I could drill a regiment of men better than he can. The fact is he never has attempted to drill us, but once and made a failure. Then Col. Bell does all the Battalion drilling. We are not well drilled in Battalion drill. And as not in a very good state to fight just now.
There it is again "Orderly from the Company." What would they do without an Orderly.
The working man of a Company.
My officers seem to have a great deal of confidence in me.
I manage the boys as I see proper.
It is all right with them. Everyone seems to be glad that I am the Orderly of our Company. I have to keep myself neat and clean. Farkins and Barnes does the cooking. I will have to pay them something extra.
I had much rather do it than to cook myself. I cannot cook and attend the duties of my office. We get better eating here than we did at Pug River. The beef is fat closer fed. It is fine.
Home, sweet Home! When shall I see thee? Oh, I fear I will be a long, long time before my eyes will be blessed with the sight of home and all its endearment. You will have read these pages again and again before you will see me. Dear, your fond trusting heart will have beat in unison with mine as you see the author of these lines.

Ah now, then out eternal home!

Then separates husband and wife, mother and son, father and child.

All three in me even in my own person. Say it not so my own sweet wife. Do you not feel that keenly as I do? Dear, then not miss one day.

Husband at morning and midst night,

Yes, I knew then I don't have an answer to that question. My own heart tells me that.
Julia, I can't help writing in this book. I shall fill it a good deal quicker than I thought for. And then I shall want another. I will look out for that. Some how I feel when writing like I was talking to you, kind of a way it gives me pleasure. I think that one day you will read these pages. Sometimes I look away towards my home and think that I may never see you again. That's the chances of war are doubtful and that it may be that I will not live to get back home. Then I become sad and gloomy. All the happiness I have been with you comes before me and I wonder to myself if such is in store for me again.
I do not think I have a deep enough sight to have been able to see your kindness or to have been able to express the fondness or the fondness for the Gentleman. And perhaps may never return from this journey or this journey to return. So let those of steel from you feel always always by my side. Such escapes are in quite my heart, and to the way to your young heart and your own.
I have no one here that can bear my
sorrows or enjoy my pleasure. No
one to whom I can pour out my
whole heart to, as I did to
you. To one to give or to receive
me. No fond confiding wife to
listen to my sorrows or my joy or
share my joys. Then blame me
not if I sigh, blame me not
if I sound for all that I have
left and long for the time the
happy time when I can return
to the old homestead to my
wife my own loving and
confiding wife who has a heart so
close mine who loves none but
me. Doubt me not. I am true
to you, to myself, and to the
word that I have spoken.
A minister from Knoxville came over to day with a carpet sack full of Testaments. Most of the boys took one and myself among the rest. They were given to us by the Knoxville Bible Society. I have been wanting something to read for sometime and now I've got a Testament. I shall read, through you have no idea how bad I miss my books and paper. I have not read more than one hour in all, since I have been in service. I've got nothing to read. And I do love to read as well. I turn back and read this book over nearly every day. I will not scribble any more to day. God bless you my love.
March 8th. The skies clear and beautiful to day. We can see the Blue Ridge from where I am sitting. The top of it is covered with snow and is one of the most beautiful scenes that I ever saw. I have no language sufficient to portray the beauties of this county. I can sit here and enjoy it and wish for you to be by my side to enjoy it too. But there is no hoping that I can only half enjoy it without you. Sometimes I feel like there is only half of my self here anyway that the other half of me reas with you. I know that my mind and thoughts are with you more than half the time. You are the first in my thoughts when I awake and the last at night.
We formed our company and marched through Knoxville this morning. I heard General remark that we were a fine looking company. They did not see half of the company. We went to a shop to have some guns repaired, but could not get it done. I firmly believe that ninety-nine in every hundred here are environment. They ask about four pieces for everything that a soldier wants. I thought I'd get some soda so that I could have some good biscuits. The price was seventy-five cents per lbs. I declined buying at such prices. This is the coldest weather that I have experienced this winter. I suffered with cold more frequently in Ala. than I do here. More cold does not affect me in the least.
I should like to know what Allison is doing. He is to get up a company and give me a position. I have not heard what he is doing. You write that you do not get a letter from me often. Than one in two weeks. Dear wife it is not my fault. I am satisfied of all the letters that I have written to you alone. Could be found that you would find they would encourage once a half a week. I have been in service about fourteen or fifteen weeks and I guess that you have received more letters than that. I know you do not blame me. They no doubt get mislaid. I shall begin to number them and then you will know when one gets mislaid. Yes that will do.
March 9th. It is cold and clear.

This Sabbath morning Report says that twenty eight of the cavalry stationed at this place was taken prisoners a day or two ago. I hardly think it possible.

I wish I was at home today. I would go to church. I have been reading in the Testament and somehow I would like to go to church today. And I have the same desire to see you that I used to have before we were married.

I feel like I would like to get on a train and go to see you this morning. It would be such a pleasure to pay my love visits this morning than the drum beats for guard mounting and I must attend with my guard.
Sunday at home is almost always a day of rest. In the Army it is the busiest day of the week. The first Sunday in the month is Regimental inspection, and every other Sunday in the month is Company inspection. It always takes a long time. After it is over we can rest the remainder of the day. I should like to be at home to stay. Yes, I want to be there any day there is time and have some money enough. I would go too. I would apply for a furlough straight out. Soldiers are entitled to 20 many days in the year and I believe that I could get one for the field, staff, and Company Officers have found out that I am not to be fooled with when I act my heart.
Beck had as soon loose an eye tooth as to give a furlough. But still if I had the money I would try it. Oh how I could enjoy myself at home today with my family telling them my trials and hardships in the service and listening to their words of sympathy and also to their trials for they suffer too. I wrote you a letter today it is No 1 I also wrote For one Oh I wish I could be there to see her get it. I want to see her bad enough, but I should like to see her get a letter from her papa. I know she will not expect any big things when she gets it. I have just returned from the hospital. The most of our boys are doing very well some of them are quite sick.
I came back by the P.O. and called in at a restaurant and got some cakes and sweet milk. The first milk that I have drank since I came into service. Oh, it was something like home. I thought I could not do without milk, but I got along very well. I have some lemon liqueur. Without drinking a bit of coffee, I do not know what it is that keeps me so healthy, unless it is because I have temperate in all things. I have not tasted whisky but once, that was at Camp Wilcox, and then it was administered by the doctor, when I had the measles, all those who got drunk were more liable to collapse than those who do not.
I have no desire for anything of that kind and of late I try to live right. I am leaving off my old habits and am trying to live a more consistent and correct life. And I wish you would to Julia, I have seen so much of death not a day but some one dies that I know or I hear of some one that I almost knew and I am getting familiar with death but still it is horrible to see so many die far away from home and friends. I have seen them curse, swearing, praying, singing in all kinds of ways. Some wishing for their friends, some cursing them most men regretting that they had come to it.
March 10th It turned off warm yesterday evening and commenced raining with night. We use Cistern water and have just about used it all out so the rain came in good time but not enough to last long. Raining this morning a little and has the appearance of being bad weather. It is thought that we will leave here in a day or two. I wish we would. I do not feel safe here. And besides, there is no regularity here about any thing. Some days it is one thing and some days another. It is hard to keep up with the run of things. So you see I shall be glad to get away from this place to a place where we can have some regularity.
I wish Capt. Reid would come in, there is a probability that I can get to go home recruiting. I would like him to come in then and let me try it. I do not suppose that I will be able to get many recruits; but I am anxious to try the thing. The Chief said yesterday that he would take me with him. Oh but would it not be fine fun to go back home recruiting for the Company and would consume all the for a few days I would take my family to church. I would often wear full uniform. Oh but would I not attract attention. Everyone would listen so patiently to what I would say. I could enjoy myself, as well too
March 13th: Did not write any
yesterday had no time and have
but little to day; but am desirous
To insert a few lines to my
love to day. There is but little
news of interest here. Only
report says that our forces
have evacuated.
It says to have been well.
Another letter: I am sorry
if it be so but I suppose they
must be good policy.
I confess that I cannot see it.
I am sorry to hear of any reverse
of our arms, but we well
have to suffer such things
now and then. I have no doubt
of the final result. We never
can be conquered while there
is one true man left.
I have up to this time had high hopes of going home, but from what I heard to day, hopes have almost died out. Recruiting officers are to be sent home to recruit for the Regiment. I had promised that I would put on that service but now I think there is but slight prospect that I shall do so. I am the only Sergent that is able for duty in our Company and I do not see how they could spare me just at this time. I am sometimes I cannot help but mourn at what seems to be my fate, luck or what ever else you may choose to call it.
Just to think that I should not be permitted to go and see my own wife and child. How often have I dreamed of the meeting with them. Oh! I dream of this often. Gros bless her is always so lively and full of fun. And I would like to see her so much; but to hope for such a is “hoping hope.” If I could make the Col. Denceable of my offer, I think he would let me go, but that is the only he will not be made sensible of any such things. So here I may stay till the end of the war so far as he is concerned and never get to see my folks my ears are frost bitten. Sure am
March 19th I was taken sick yesterday very suddenly and was very bad. I am not fit for duty today though am a great deal better today. Just as I expected Lieut. Merriweather starts home this evening even in the morning and I am not going home. After being promised so faithful too that if any body ever did go from this company that I should be the one, I was minded my plan will come sometime and I shall not fail to make good use of it. Oh it is hard if it is fare I can't help but take it hard though I say but little do not feel like writing any more.
March 14th. It is a great deal better to day. I visited the City to day. All kinds of reports an circulation about the enemy. Possibly some may be so. Came back and wrote you a letter. But it did not express half the sadness that is in my heart. Oh I am so sad and no one here to soothe my sorrows or console my penquish. Oh that I could have gone home on the recruiting service. I at least could have seen you all once more and have given them all the right kind of a decent taking. I have such a cough that I can not write any more to night.
March 13th. Dear Felicia, it has been raining last night and this morning. I see the clouds now. Cumberland mountains and Blue Ridge. Our boys are all active this morning. Dreadful news has reached us. Our forces and the Enemy were fighting yesterday in thirty miles of us and we are all packed up ready to march at a moment's notice. One thousand of our Cavalry was cut to pieces. It is uncertain that we will go but we are all on the 'qui vive.' It seems anxious to go and retrieve the losses of yesterday.
I am perfectly well to day
Oh excitement is half of my
living. I had gone to bed Col
Bell came in and asked for
Sgt Jordan. Told me to get
up put on my clothes that
be wished to see me. I did so
in double quick time and
was with him. Both our
senior were in Town. He
gave me the
and told me to go after
them that some news had
come in and tell them to
be quiet. I did so and
had them here in short
order. Shortly after I came
back orders came to draw
all the meat we could and
cook it by clay light that
we might be ordered off early in the morning then you ought to have seen them. Such a bustle. I told them to go to bed and sleep that we was not ordered off yet and for Heaven's name to be quiet. Our Regiment has the prize of being the most orderly and best behaving and that has been here yet. We may leave here in an hour or we may not. One regret I have that the day after tomorrow will be one month since your last letter. Sometimes that I have received think that I am not anxious to hear from home I want to hear from you before I go hence.
March 17th. Could not write any yesterday. Bad no time. We left Knoxville about 12 noon, and came about eight miles. Camped in a beautiful grove. We loaded our guns before starting. I got very tired before night, but I did not fail in a single duty. My head is almost too heavy but I dragged along and was at the head of my Company all the time. Several of the boys gave out. Three Regiments, one Battalion and a section of battery in the Brigade all in the march now. We are resting now till the baggage Company to some distance behind. We only have thirty one of our Company along all the rest are left at
Knoxville Post and to
I have not tired to day as bad
as I did yesterday The road is
hilly and muddy The best land
I ever saw Now and then the
most beautiful views and
scenery that I ever looked at
Julia We are now in the lower
part of a Soldiers left Song
marchas is hard a poor fellow
I did not get any letter from
you before I left Knoxville I
regret it because I do not
know whether you are
that we have left Mobile or
not This day was a month
ago you wrote to me that
letter I have received and
it is the last word that I
have received from home
It is time to write now now
March 28th We arrived at Clinton last night about dusk. It is on the other side of Clinton River. It does not look like much of a place. I am sure this morning I feel the effects of the march. We are here without tents. I suppose today we will go over to Clay. I heard that they are all Union men on the other side of the River. It is about two hours all day. I can see two camps on the other side of the River and one on this side. This begins to look like war. Sure enough, I have heard of but few Southern men. Since we left Knoxville I wonder if I will ever see you again. I dreamed of you and even
last night I thought that I took you in my arms and she kissed me and hugged me so sweet Oh but it was just a dream. We crossed the river this morning and camped about a half mile from Clinton. It is a poor looking college and has the appearance of being almost deserted. All the southern men left this morning or rather the last thousand dollars is offered for his head I wrote to you to say that it was five thousand but I suppose that it was only one. We are to remain here till Thursday morning when we will leave for Jabez Brown nine miles from here a bad road to I am told.
Oh Julian, how different is one life now to what it was a year ago. Then we were together then we could enjoy each other. But now we are a long way apart. I am living a Soldier's life and may never get home again. May never see you my wife. I may get into a battle get wounded or killed. You may die God forbid. And I may return home and find it desolate. May return to the old home stead and find the folks of my house fled forever. Oh if that should be the case I had rather be killed in battle. Think you that I fear to die in battle by no means I dread not the battle field.
March 19th. Dear Julia. We have got our tents up this morning and in good time too for it is raining now. We are to remain here to day perhaps longer, but we are to leave soon. I am sitting on a box in my tent writing these lines. I wonder how you will feel when you read these pages. Wonder if your loving heart will beat any faster. Wonder if your heart will beat in unison with the sentiments that are expressed in some of these lines. How I would like to be by and see you reading these pages. I could judge then how you felt what emotions excited you. Whether your love for me was still the same. Yes I know it is.
Instead of going on we are going to move back on the other side of the River. It looks to me like a retreat. I do not like to do it. I had rather fight them where we meet them. The enemy have passed the Cumberland Gap and it is said are coming down on us from two directions. Well, let them come, we will give them the best fight we can. I do not like to retreat at all. Though it may be policy to do so, and I have no doubt as for we could prevent them crossing perhaps. But there is not a man that likes to retreat. The Col. looks excited. I am like that too. I had much rather see him look cool and determined.
March 20th Dear Julie. It is cloudy this morning and looks likely for rain. Our tents are all struck, the baggage has gone on the other side of the river. The order to go back has been countermanded and so we are here awaiting further orders. On this uncertainty, it is trying to a man's patience. I cannot in this state of things tell what we will do but it is thought that the order will be to go onward. I trust it will. I do not like a backward movement. We started to go on and I say lets do it by all means. Oh Julie you cannot imagine what thoughts do come to one here two or three prisoners are brought in by the pickets almost every daytime are returned and some are released.
You would laugh to see me fixing my bed of a night, how many cushions as I can get are piled up then I spread my blanket down put my knapsack under my head. Place myself on one side of it and pull it over me and sleep dear Julia as sound as not as comfortable and agreeable as if I was with you. I often say to myself that there is no danger of being smothered in the feathers. No danger either of falling off of the bed steal. Our boys are as busy as bees cooking from day to day; nations for our march to Jacksborough. The order forward has been given and in the morning we start for the above named place nineteen miles from here.
And is said to be a bad road of that
I suppose we will find out to our
satisfaction in the next day or two.
One Surgeon came in from Knoxville
and brought the letters on but that
same old answer "none for you"
met my eager inquiry and I turned
away more sorrowful than I ever
have been for Col Boll had
just asked me if I had written
home when I told him that I
had he replied that it was well
"that it would be the last chance"
that he did not expect to hear
from home in a month. It has
been longer than that since I
heard from home and I conjure
that I am hurt more than I
care to express. Over a month
and I have had no word from you.
Tomorrow we start another move, the destiny of which no one knows. Before I hear from home again I may and confidently expect to be in a battle may be killed, wounded or what is worse taken prisoners. And then yes, that is the question. What then? Why I may put in prison ironed and chained down. But I will never take the oath of allegiance to the old Government. I never never never. I and not in chains for ages and then not take what am I not a free man? And can I not have a voice in who shall be my ruler? Julia. I fear that evil awaits me. I feel so seriously solemn this evening. Blame me not, love. I am thinking of you, my love.
March 31st. I slept cold last night on the bare, cold ground, with nothing but my blanket.

Awaiting orders, what does that signify to me in our hop move, etc.

Everything packed up, rations loaded, and all waiting for the order "fall in." They have reduced our cooking utensils to one frying pan and a coffee pot. The hard if its fare, but we have to submit.

I paid out in Knoxville 120 dollars and fifty cents for cooking and now a tin cup, coffee pot and frying pan is all that I am allowed to carry.

Well I can stand almost anything I will get along somehow I suppose. At any rate I am willing to try. It is colder to day than it has been for several days. I suffer more with it than I have at any time this winter.
Think you that I want to hear from you and see you too. For the last few days I have wanted to see you all more then I ever did in my life. My mind is continually with you. My dream about you is really in my mind. She appeared more like an angel than human. Her little white arms wound around my neck so affectionately she kissed me so tenderly and lovingly like how I enjoyed myself in that short dream. Like it was but a dream! Would that it had been real as something that was tangible that could be felt. Oh, there is one such felicity for me, I fear sometime that another destiny awaits me. That never again shall I hold my beautiful child. Sue. Again that I may be my fervent prayer.
Dear Julia, We left Clinton this morning about nine o'clock, and after traveling about five miles the column was ordered to about face and retrace our steps back to Clinton. A general murmur of disapprobation ran through the whole lines. Even while I am writing the 20th Ala. Regt., passing. What the motive can be I cannot admire. It is amusing to hear the boys talking to each other. But to me it is a melancholy amusement. I like not to turn back at all, not my inclination to take back water. It is not according to my feeling at all. I had rather go in now than to turn back. The roads are muddy, rocky and hilly and it is tiresome traveling sure.
...conjecture. At the present moment I am composing a letter to Knapp, which I shall send by the 25th. The general impression is that now will be the proper time to act. We will go to Vorse and Eben the 15th.

I sent you a letter yesterday, I am afraid you will not receive it until after the battle. I am going to write a letter to you every day and you will know every detail of our movements.

I am at our old camp at Clinton. I am getting fairly well. I arrived there on the 15th and have been there ever since.

Yours truly,

[Signature]
March 22nd. We left Clinton again the evening crossed the River and are now some mile and a half from that filthy place. As we come on the snow on Cumberland Mountains looks beautiful. It has been snowing all day a little but melts as fast as it falls. Some think our destination is Corinth Mississippi, but there is no telling as yet. I think myself that we are this far on our road back to Knoxville. It is all mere conjecture as to where we will go. A large Army is assembling at Corinth and we may go there. I can not tell where we will get to yet.
March 24th. Did not write any in this book yesterday because I wrote you a letter and also one to your Da. Yesterday was a sunny day. Sometimes sunshine and sometimes snow, but it melted as fast as it fell. When I got up this morning it was pouring down thick a kind of homing snow. It is not very cold though to me. We can cook better in a frying pan than I thought for but still we could do better if we had all our things. Col. Beck does not like our Officers much, hence he would not let us bring any thing but pans and coffee pots. Patrick and the Col. does not get along very well.
I am told that the fact is we have or did whip the Yankees in Missouri. They acknowledge a loss of ten thousand and over two thousand, but we fell back to secure a better position since they claim it as a victory. Jancy, I suppose has returned from England and says we will have to fight it out that we need Count on no help or sympathy in that quarter so I have thought for some time. We must burn our cotton and keep the enemy from getting it and depend on ourselves.
We are cooking up four days' ration this evening. We are to start for Kingston in the morning. Well, they have marched us about so much that I had rather fight than not. I don't know how far it is, but in a few days I will know. Yes, when I foot it all the way I will know.

Julia, you do not know how bad I want to see you. I want to hear from you so bad I am nearly crazy just to think that the last letter that I got from you was dated the 17th of Feb., over a month ago since you wrote to me. Oh, Julia, Julia! Have you concluded that you do not want to hear from me? I will bear it as best I may. And think at least, that you have some good reason for not writing. But you don't know how hard it is.
Far away from all that I hold dear and sacred in this world, have offered my life as a sacrifice for the principle that I have ever held, am still and dragged about till I had rather fight than not and do not expect to see you in a great while for I have too much self respect to ask a thing that I know would be refused, do not know that I shall ever see you again and my daughter wonder if she is as pretty as I think she is wonder how she looks wonder if you think of me as much as I do of you wonder too if Gus does not often keep your mind from me and sometimes prevent you from writing your husband a letter when you thought to have done so.
March 25th I have been in service just four months to day. How different the times now from then I received two letters from you last night each one enclosing five dollars I cried like a child when I read them but I can travel to day with a light heart I have heard from home and all is well there I also got a letter from Grand mother at the same time. How much good it does me to get letters from home. We are all bound for Kingston at the junction of Roebsten and Clinton Rivers. It is really clear this morning. It is thirty or forty miles to Kingston and I anticipate a hard and tiresome journey to day and tomorrow.
I have not received Gussie's indigestion yet from the way you write, I suppose it was mailed at the same time with the letters. Oh yes there it comes now. Well I have looked at, and all the boys have to look too. It is not a good one but still it is a treasure to me. The hair too all came safe. Mother's pipe shows to advantage. I shall keep it as a great treasure and it and my Testament will be the last thing that I give up. It does not resemble you much as I remember her thought it has brought her back to mind again. I had almost lost her features but when I looked at her in your type she came back as was the last time I saw her which was five months ago yesterday.
Julia you don't, well yes you ought to know how much good it does me to look at Gussie's picture. It seems as if she was before and I return you my sincere thanks for sending it to me. I now have something that I can look at and that seems to look at me. Yes it does me good to look at it. I feel better after going at it awhile. I think when you get mine you will see a likeness of myself as you ever saw. Every one that saw it said it was a good one. And I was of the same opinion myself. I hope you have got it before this time. Gus looks like she was laughing about something. I guess it was the idea of holding Grandma's pipe that caused her to be so well pleased. Will I must stop now for awhile.
We are now 4 o'clock five miles from Camp and are crossing a creek called Bull Run. It takes about three hours for a Regiment to cross a creek on a log. I have crossed over an writing on a steep hill side. Col. Farreth men are close behind us. Every time I stop I look at Gussie's Ambrotype it does me good when orders to march I rise and march again seemingly. Whether it does me good really or is imaginary makes no difference. The good is alone a benefit is derived from it and whether I ever see her again or not I now have a precious child of my own and will die with it by my side.
March 20th, Dear Julie. We only traveled six miles yesterday. Last night was fair and beautiful. I lay down with my feet to the fire and about three o'clock there came up a heavy thunder cloud. It began to rain and I soon had a tent up and was snugly ensconced in it and sat there in the dark. Such as last night is the disagreeable part of a soldier's life. I dreamed of you last night. Oh, bless her heart. I wish I could see her. My child. Wonder why it is that I love her so. I have not seen her in four months, but when her ambrotype came it brought her picture as fresh in my memory as if I had seen her but one hour before. Oh, I lose much of the bliss of married life, the pleasures of my child when she is the most interesting. Such is life. Such is mine at any rate.
6 o'clock. We have broken camp in a grove of timber. It looks likely for rain. I am considerably worried but I am not going to give up. Soliloquy: a hard time marching through the woods and over hills and rocks. One road to clay has been muddy, and we have proceeded slowly. We anticipate a better time tomorrow. I tell the boys that your two letters and Jessie Ambrotype has lightened my Knap sack at least half. Her eyes are about two much but still the twinkle of the lid is there. It is such a treasure to me. I can't think of how she looks the morning I saw her last. So pure and innocent. What a treasure she must be to you.
March 27th We started soon this morning and are resting on a high hill this is a hilly country and some of the richest land that I ever saw. Better than the plains of Montgomery. It is partly cloudy today. We have a long march ahead of us. The Col seems to have a prejudice against our Company. We won't agree to do anything for us only what he is compelled to. I am sorry that I am in the Regt. I am well pleased with our Company. The Officers and men do well enough. Well I am about rested and am ready to travel again. Gussie's eyes have twinkled at me again and I am rested by the sight.

Over imagination has a great deal to do with wellfare in the Trials of Life. Don't you think so?
You never saw a Regiment marching. Well it is beautiful sight to those not engaged in it. The men all trudging along with their Knapsack and Muskets. The foremost Company has to move very slow and even then if they march in order the rear Company will be at double quick more than half their time. When starting on a march the first Company goes ahead the first day. The 2nd day the last Company goes ahead and so on till all have gone ahead in turn. When stop I lay off my Knapsack and make a pillow of it till we start again. We seldom go more than two miles before resting. We have stopped now for dinner and have marched more miles this morning. We have thirteen to go yet but these eyes trouble me now and then and I get on finely.
March 28th. The sun is shining beautifully this morning. It will not rain now till we get to our place of destination. The people on the road are all Unionists. We traveled fifteen miles and a half yesterday hare on seven and a half to go to day. Col. Garrath Regiment is passing us now. We are out of meat and our flour was cooked last night without any cutting. It eats first rate too. I am standing the trip very well I have a bad cold but the exercise does me good I shall write you a letter as soon as we get to Kingston. It was said that there was five hundred of the Enemies Cavalry there when we started and a few Enemy infantry but they left when they heard that we were coming. Alabama troops are dreaded up here more than any other from what cause I know not oh those eyes how they tremble.
Our company was the rear guard today. We had to stay behind every thing, push wagons up hill when they stalled and do various things. I have a severe cold and I think my head will rise again and am nearly sick now. All the boys in our company get their knapsacks halled but me. I fought along but came very near failing. I would stay and rest and then rise and go again. I told the boys that I was the best man in the company. Had I been as well as I am for... I would have kept my place in the rank. Since the 16th we have marched about seventy miles and so far as I know have done no good. We haven't took up here in about a quarter of the town of Kingston.
Kingston is a small town in the
York of the Clinton and Holston Rivers.
It is somewhat better in appearance than
Clinton. Not near so muddy and nasty.
The water we use here is not good but
still I think it is healthy. It looks
like it has once been a Town and some
fellows had hitched his teams to it and
drunken it about a half mile long.
It is full of soldiers now and the
Citizens are said to be all Jenisonist.
The Tennessee regiment came ahead
of us and poured out three hundred
and ninety gallons of whiskey at this
place. I am glad of that for I never
have any trouble with the men
when they keep sober. On one March
here we could catch a glimpse now
and then of the Cumberland Mountain
and now and then of the Clinton River.
A beautiful country but hard to travel.
April 1st. I have not written any
dime the 28th March only a letter to
you. I have been very sick and
am not much better to day though my
head does not hurt me as bad as
it did. Got my clothe in this morn
ing paid sixty cents for washing
and ironing three shirts three pair
of draws two pair of socks and
one towel 4th Julia how I miss you
when I am sick. Every mornning since
we came here my head has pained
me severely And want you to rub
my head I feel like a touch of your
soft hand would cure it but alas
that cannot be We are to far from
each other to think of such a thing
But that does not hinder me
from wishing to day my head in
your lap and have you to rub its
pain from it. Ah me, me, me!
Julia: I had a dream last night. A terrible dream. I thought that I was going home and went to a small ferry. While there a boat stopped. I concluded to go aboard to see if anyone was there that I knew. On going in the cabin a lady and a little girl was sitting with their backs to me. I spoke to some one near, on hearing my voice the lady turned her head and looked at me. Ah, Julia, the lady was you and the little girl was Sue. But oh you had changed so much. You appeared to be about forty years old. I glad to see you but you seemed to care but little about me. A long I was leaving the boat I found another and other of my acquaintance. She told me that you all had started to mobile to see me. I ran out to stop the boat to pull was just below I jumped off and sank.
up to my chin in a kind of mud and water.
I looked around there was others in the same fix. I was coming and
whining them I was told by someone that I would have to wait my turn
for help. In the meantime... Great long ones was eating small
our Anda mone to fasten in my ear. I made a tremendous effort to get
it off and in the effort found hard
solid place I got out at last after
desperate efforts without any help
but the boat had gone and you with
it. The dream continued sometime longer but
I awoke with a start. Julia if I am a hundred
years I shall not forget how you appeared
in my dreams. So it is as plain to me
as if it had been real, There appears to
me most of you on a bright young face.
they this older great deal older
Ah what can it mean
April the 2nd I commenced another letter to you today. I am not well. I had a chill this morning but I am not out of it now. I have written of it in my letter to you. Six companies of this regiment left here this morning to assist the 90th Ala and I believe the 9th Ala. The 11th company was left with three others to guard the persons on the River. When they were about starting the Col ordered me to get the flag. I did so and came back with it.

I inquired of him who was to carry it. You will have to take it as far as the River. He said he would. I went on to the ferry about two miles. He asked me if I would not like to go on and carry the colors. I told him I would but that I was too unwell and my company was behind. He then gave it to another sergeant.
As I came back I called at a house and got breakfast. It reminds me so much of home. Came on and took on a chill and have been sick all day. I think it is cold. I shall not say anything about it in my letter No 6 to you.

Apr 3rd I am feeling better today than I have felt for several days though the medicine I took has not acted well. Our Regiment came back today but I am glad now that our company did not go. They did not go but about thirteen miles. The fighting was all over before they started. It was only a skirmish at best at which the Third Tennessee lost four men. One Sergeant was killed. They killed twenty-five or thirty of the enemy and took so many more prisoners.
The 20th Ohio did not get in the fight at all. They are bringing back about one hundred and fifty bodies. I understand that the third South Carolina wasted the whole county where they went. It is said that nearly every man in the third Tn. has a house. They only left the citizens those days. Nations War is a cruel thing but I do not believe in needless cruelty. I think that policy dictates that we should punish such a crime as to make these Unionist our friend. You know my opinions of such men. You know I have no use for them but to take the last mouthful from women and children whom we are not suppressing as a policy of which I disapprove in any time.

I finished your letter today and hope you will get some.
April 5th. Did not write any yesterday. 

I wrote several letters for the boys. 

Capt. Reid came in yesterday. The boys were all glad to see him. I know I was. But little of interest to now. From the signs of the time, I am inclined to think we will stay here longer than at first thought. 

But as to that, there is no knowing and but little chance for guessing. We have but little drill now every day. I have not drilled any since we left Knoxville. Since I have been here I have been too unwell to do so, but am well now and shall go this evening. We are badly drilled and should drill all we can. It rained last night, but has cleared off. Beautiful this evening. Oh, how I would like to be at home today!
One of our Company boy the name of Wheeler went to sleep in his great coat last night. He is under guard today and will be Court Martialed. The penalty is death by the law; but sometimes there are extenuating circumstances. In this case I do not know what the circumstances are and can be no judge. But I fear the worst. He was asleep when the soldiers came round and they found the poor fellow in that fix. This morning instead of his returning to quarters he was put in the guard tent, so much for not having the powers they will to resist temptation. I will at the proper time state what his sentence is. Poor fellow, I am sorry for him. Sorry to see that it happened to one of our boys.
Apr 7th I did not write again on yesterday I wrote a letter to Juba. I went down in town to day to get some paper but could get none nor nothing else that I wanted. Went out on Battalion drill this evening. Gen. Lee better came over to see his drill. He is quite an ordinary looking man. Dark skin heavy grey hair long hair and it's pretty long. He reminds me of a Dutchman, but is not as fat as they generally are. He did not stay long with me. He went on to see other drill I suppose. He was riding a fine horse and by any one Wheeler spoken of. In the other page was lectured pretty severe on released from confinement.
Dear Julia, you have no idea what a life I have here. And I can give you no adequate description of it. One must experience it to know it as it is. When you read the glowing account that some author has given of a rich lieut in the army, think not that he tells you all of a soldier's life. Far from it. He only portrays the bright side of a two sided picture. It is not agreeable and disagreeable. All sweet has its bitter. And although one can bear a great deal of dissatisfaction expressed, still there are few who wouldn't try it again such as the nature of men. The agreeable part to me is that I have had almost absolute command of the company. My orders and judgements have never been countermanded.
The disagreeable part is that I am confined in a small space not allowed to cross a certain line without a pass and the most disagreeable of all I am not with you. Yes, my dear could I again be permitted to return to my home in peace. I flatter myself that love would reign supreme there. Alas! we never knew what a treasure we have till that treasure was lost. Then it comes home to us. We see our dissipation and it is before my dear we could not imagine how greatly we would miss each other. It was too much a matter of course with us. We did not think that we could be separated but when the evil came we then knew how great was the love we had for each other. Oh, you little thought that you were telling me good bye for so long a time perhaps for you - forever. Whether did I say love.
Julia, I did not think that I would have so much of my thoughts of home in this book, but should you ever read these pages you will then see where my heart is. You will know by this time or by the time you have read this far that I am thinking of home and you often than anything else. If you my thoughts are ever there when I see a woman I instantly *if she be old to think of young* to you. If I see a child in a moment it is compared to you. Do I see a horse or negro or land it all has to pass the ordeal of a comparison with mine at home. I have too much time to make this comparison public but still they are made no one in this camp thinks of home as much as I do not one.
Apr 8th Rained again last night.

It rains almost every night. The camp here is a muddy sloppy place
for a few hours after it rains. I slept sound last night, but you
and Gus both came and also little Tony. Oh that that child had lived
I would have raised him as well.

He looked so natural last night.

Gus was so loving and sweet.

She jumped at me papa, papa,
my papa, and put her little arm
around my neck. Ah they are but
dreams. I hope of what yet will be. Coming events cast
their shadows before.” May that
be a shadow of the event when
I shall return home and oh let
the event be not long in coming.

Surely this war cannot last.

Always surely it will have ended
I heard that a draft is ordered in the State of Missouri on January 2nd. I hope for the honor of the State that it is not so. But such preparations on the part show that Davis is getting in earnest about the matter. Every man from eighteen to thirty-five will be made soldiers. I suppose the draft is right. I am a Davis man; but I have thought all the time and still think that the only way to bring peace to this distracted country is to carry the war in to their own territory, and conquer a piece. It is the only true policy for the Confederate Government to pursue. We now have armies large enough to carry success anywhere we wish to go. And we should not lay idle but be up and doing.
April 7th I received a letter from you yesterday and wrote you one. We have gained a great victory at Corinth. We have at last account taken twelve thousand prisoners. A great many of our men were killed and we have killed a great many of the Enemy. Such will ever be the case when we can get them on the land. I bought a bucket full of sweet potatoes yesterday. The biggest one was no larger than my thumb. But still they reminded me of potatoes. Went to the spring the other day and saw two little girls. One said hurrah for Jeff Davis and his soldiers. She was not as large as Salley Salters. It is raining again this morning. It seldom does anything else now but rain. What if that dream should come to true? There is no telling the joy that it would bring.
Col. Burt in dress parade told us of the great victory we had won near Corinth. Told us we should rejoin, with exceeding great joy. Official must not forget the arm of the Most High. And proposed three times three for the success of the Southern Cause. And we gave it with a will. He then said that the men of the South had done well, but the women had done better. And I now said he proposed three times three for one woman at home you ought to have heard us. We made the music ring again and again. Some horses broke loose that were tied close by. The artillery fired moments guns one for each state, and everyone seemed to rejoice as the Col. said with exceeding great joy.
April 12th. Have had no time to write for the last two days. On the 10th we started for Corinth, Miss. We marched from Kingston to Sandin eighteen miles. We were all worn out at the last named place. We took the cars for Chattanooga. Traveling in the cars is not pleasant at all. Fifty men are put in a car, and knapsacks is the only seats. And as to sleeping there is but little chance for doing that unless one can double up about three double. The scenery on the route is beautiful. We pass through a tunnel on the 11th near a half mile long. It was very dark while in the tunnel. Chattanooga is a beautiful place for a town and what I saw of it looks very well.
but I had no chance to see much of it. We left there this morning about sunrise. Oh, the scenery is so beautiful from there to where we now are. We passed through another tunnel to clay but not near as long as the first one. The mountain sides all put forth in their green leaves about half grown flowers all along the road. Oh, I thought of the violets at the bridge and the ditch. Steep hill in so high that I could not see the top from the car. Oh, how I did want you with me to help me enjoy it or rather to make the enjoyment perfect. Should this war end and we both live, we will take a trip through the country and enjoy it together.
Again on Alabama's soil I feel more like I was at home than I have since I left Hoth Point. We are cut off from Brink and will have to fight our way through a body of ten or twelve thousand of the Scamps have taken Huntsville and will of course have to be got away from there we are Camped close to the Tennesse River on the Rail Road near any reinforcements. It is confidently expected that a battle will come off in a few days. Well let it come I am already as I expect to be. And will so confuse my life to rid Ala of the Scamps who have dared to invade her soil had I my way they should be driven off quickly.
April 13th--Saw Sunday dear wife and we are cooking two days rations. We had an alarm yesterday evening. I had just finished the sixth page. When the drums began to beat, the long roll. Men was running here and there. Excited some of them to the highest pitch. I took my time forming the company at my leisure without any excitement at all. At length the Regiment was formed and marched across the river about two miles opposing to meet the enemy every minute. We met women, children, and negroes coming in hot and heavy. We engaged this morning, but no one knows where. But I hope still on we might drive the scamps from Alabama.
Sunday like what is there not in that good day A day of rest inspires And should be kept sacred In the army however there is no rest. That blessed day is as busy a day as any. But little rest for the soldier. Some of the most terrible battles that have ever been fought was on that day. This day was a week ago our forces gave the enemy a terrible thrashing near Corinth. We eat supper in this camp and slept there. At home I want to be at home to enjoy the beautiful Sabbath day with my wife and family it must be so delicious to me now. I would love to take you all to church and to enjoy it with you. Oh Julia you know not what a peaceful change has come over me.
April 14th—Nothing unusual has taken place today. We are still here and there is a probability of our doing anything else. The enemy have left Huntsville so it is said recruiting officers are returning with a good many recruits. No chance to get furloughs now and but few want to go now. I would though for I have no idea that we will get in a fight any time soon. The scamps burnt a bridge on this road some eight miles from our a stream called Widand Creek. We ought not to have stopped here we should have kept on and prevented them from burning that bridge. I would have them on easy going thing then.
April 15th. It looks likely for rain again this morning. Surely there is something in the dream. I am tired of this war. A stanza of poetry that I saw this morning I think is very expressive of the times now.

It ran thus:

"The peasant quit his cot and plough untill the field unsoos the grain. War reigns in every valley now, and desolation marks the place. Such is the state of affairs now in our poor dear Scrodden County. Julia my feelings have been truly strained to day. The Col. has for some time seemed to have a spite at me. To day it broke out and he gave me a severe scolding threatened to reduce me to the ranks. I told him that I should be very..."
if he did so, but that my sense of right and truth compelled me to do as I had done. The cause of the whole thing was this. In making my report to the Surgeon I reported seventeen sick and unfit for duty. The Surgeon in his report to the Col reported five. The Col said that I had made an incorrect report in order to screen the Company from guard duty. I informed the Col in the best language that I could command that I have too much self-respect to do a dishonorable or mean thing if I knew it. He certainly insulted me grossly and for which I shall certainly hold him personally responsible at the proper time. My report was correct and they cannot make it otherwise.
He is a superior officer and as such I am bound to obey him but it is now out of his power to make me respect him. He has insulted me when he knew I could at the present time have no chance to take or get satisfaction. For such men I have the most supreme contempt. It is all the satisfaction that I can get for the present but I trust that the time is not very far distant when it will be no offence for me to tell a man precisely what I think of him - a thing that I shall be certain to do as soon as the penalty will not be death. I have too much sense to put my neck in the halter by talking.
Apr 16th. We are on picket guard today. We are on the northern side of the river though it runs nearly north and south here. Nothing of interest here now that I know of. The difficulty about my report has ceased and I will not be reduced to the rank now though the insult is still unsatisfied. And will remain so I suppose till the end of the war. And then well I will have it out the rest of my life. This is no idle promise in my part. It is the firm and settled purpose of my soul. I shall not forget the fifteenth of April. If it is so hard to be an underling I guess he thought by appointing me that he would have a willing tool that would do his bidding.
But he was slightly mistaken. Should we get in a battle I shall fight as manfully for my country as I can, but I am certain that I could fight more willingly under another leader. He will raise such a storm about his own feet that he will not be able to quell it. We are now incurring the wind and we long will reap the whirlwind. He will never gain honor as a Col. and I here make the prediction that he will one day return home shorn of all his laurel. Even now two-thirds of his regiment hate him and as they do his late majesty. But using the sword I have too much sense to expect in any man and what I have written on this page.
April 17th - I am sitting now dear wife on a plank by a large oak. Directly in front of me is the River and some half dozen dwellings and shanties called Bridgeport. On the other side of the River is our Camp And a long range of hills or mountains called the Sand Mountains. It is some four miles off. The trees on it looks like little bushes. The line of the mountain is straight and as level as a floor. Now and then a residence on the top of it relieves the eyes. I think if peace exists in the land that I should like to bring you up here and live. This is indeed a beautiful country. The land is good to on top of the mountains said to be a level pine barren for many miles. I want to go up there but can not get the chance I have but little time to look over the country.
Well this book is nearly done and but little of interest has been written. And I awfully fear that your expectation will not be realised. It has served me to while away several weary hours. It has caused me to notice men and things more close than otherwise I should have done. If it gives you one moment of pleasure of the reading of these pages occurs you one third of joy or happiness I shall be amply repaid. I take a pleasure in scribbling here. Sometimes I say to myself that one day my wife will take this book open it will read it will look on this page in the very letter that I am now forming. And I confess dear Julia that the thought of it gives me pleasure. Ah how consoling the thought that I have a wife. Yes I have a wife indeed.
Apr 18th. We came in from picket duty about two o'clock yesterday and found Lieut. Meriwether here. He had brought on a good many things for the boys himself. Other things my watch and some clothes and a letter from you. Here we stationed, I should be glad of the clothing not a month since I wrote any in this book. And why? Because I was sick and could not write. Tomorrow I start home. Oh how glad I am and how much surprised I was when the Capt told me he was going to send me. So you will be surprised too and I know. But I will get home about the 20th. Now that will be bad.
May 17th. Well I suppose I shall start home in the morning. My instructions to proceed to Hayneville and procured a warrant for one J. E. Green and deliver the same warrant to the sheriff and have him arrested for desertion and bring him to Knoxville by the 13th of June. Also to see Mr. Adam Smith, Mr. Delmar, and Mr. K. Farrell and bring them also if they will not come to telegraph to Capt. Reed in the case of Col. Bill for further instructions.
May 18th I am now at Athens
And have just eaten dinner
a good one too. I took the
train at 1/4 past nine this
morning. It took my best
to get ready by the time it
started. Oh I am going home
I will not get to stay but
a few days but that
will be so much
pleasure. I shall be so
happy while there I wonder
what I will do. We are
in motion again and I
will have to quit writing
for the present.
May 25th. Th Montgomery again. What changes have taken place since I was here last. No human can tell. I am here in my room alone clear Julia. I went out to the Camp clear Julia this evening and saw a great many of my old neighbors and friends. Julien and Jimmie they all say you look better than they ever saw you look. I trust that I may say the same. And Julia they say is so pretty and smart. I shall see you also soon but only for a few days but even...
that will be a heaven to me. I intended to buy Gus some dinner
here but I remained at camp so long that it was dark before I got
here again and all stores was all closed. But
what is the most astoni
using thing to me that
I have often yet is the
officers in 15th Illinois
Legion. I did not see
one but what would
be laughed at in actual
service. Jim Burgess,
Frank Pruitt, Col.
Barnett for instance.
Oh but they could not
begin to do what I have
I can see why I would do for a Maj Gen among such good officers in that cut as artillery officers. Why a good artillery officer would think that the whole of it was a burlesque of the service. By the by they are going to make Glasgow Surgeon of the Legion, and what then? Why giving me his place? The first I suppose is a certainty and the latter is only talk. Well there may be something of it after all. I see
seen stranger things than that And things that seem more near that never
Well my love good night one more night and I will be with you tomorrow night I shall be in Greenville or Mayneville and the next what then Oh let not anticipate I am away it is the 20th of the month but it come now or not at all so once again good night and sweet pleasant dreams to you Oh you do not know that I am so near you good bye
May the 29th My dear husband left this morning and oh, how sad and lonely I feel the tears will come to my eyes all the time. I have had one sweet week of enjoyment. I love my husband so much, it almost killed me to have to part with him. I do hope and pray he may live to get back home again. My own precious hero and how I love him. Poor little Gussie tried to comfort me and get me to hush crying by saying dear papa would come back again not to cry any more. Oh that
is such a comfort to me. Our sweet child I am glad she got to talking pretty before her dear father left. at least my very heart to think he came home and found her saying yes and no instead of yam and noman but she was a pretty child before he went off and it pleased her dear papa for her does not like bad children. Oh I do love my husband. If his life has to be so unkind in this war I want to die to. I dont want to live any longer than he does. Oh I hope we may both live to spend our lives together. It is all the happiness I ask. My eyes burn so bad I can hardly write it is crying so.
much makes them hurt but I can't help it. I went down to Mr. Evans this evening & could hardly choke the sobs back while talking. I see nothing else but trouble I do hope my husband will get a position in Billiards Legion & perhaps I could get to see him then once in awhile. Oh my darling my darling you know not how I love you. May 30th I have just heard that Edmund Reylander died yesterday at one o'clock pm fellow he didn't last long after getting home he had been sick two or 3 weeks in Montgomery I am sorry for Salin she wanted to go to see him but couldn't get any way if I had been in her place I would of walked but what I would have gone
He is to be buried this evening at 3 o'clock. I want to go if I can. I feel lonely and sad. I will quit writing and go and help stack hay on Tallis's dress.

May 31st, 1863.

I have been at home all day and felt so lonely. I went to the burying yesterday. There was a good many there. I looked at Edmun but he did not look natural at all. He was so pale. He knew he was going to die. He called them all and told them goodbye.

Mrs. has gone down to Mrs. Evers. Gussie is sitting by me singing, "Bless her heart." She is such a comfort. Oh, my darling husband, I want to see you. Go to bed. June 4th. I have just come from Mr. Evans. He got back from town.
yesterday he says they are fighting at Richmond, our people are whipping them at last account the 3rd Ala. Regiment is cut all to pieces, the Col. Comanx and Lieut. Col. both killed poor Brother is Alfred I am afraid he is killed I do hope and pray that Mr. Jordan may never get in a battle I went over to Jimmys Sunday and rode horse back Jimmys at home now.

June 13th I am lonely this evening I want to see my darling husband so bad, got a letter from him today it done me so much good I was so glad he was well I came from job yesterday he is better but has a very bad cough yet I hope he will get well Brother Alfred was
wounded in the battle at Peck- e and Brother Julian has gone after him we need rain very badly indeed the crops is dying if I could just get to kiss my darling husband one time how happy I would be June 14th I went fishing this morning but did not stay long enough to catch any I have been looking for Tilda today but she didn't come June 16th I have just come back from Mrs. Roylander's it is the first time I have spent the day there in a long long time they all seem very friendly indeed I and the went too old field to church yesterday the Royker girls and Roylander girls were there also they all taken dinner
with me as we came from church. I wouldn't like to be in
Mrs. Byrkin's place certain and
have all those beggars to contend
with oh I want to see my darling
so bad this evening
June the 20th. Mrs. Bylander spent
the day with me. Today I got
a paper this morning which
states that they were expecting
a fight at Cumberland gap.
I am so afraid my darling
will get killed or wounded.
And oh I am so uneasy
about him. I do wish I could
hear from him.
June 22. Ma and myself
went to church today.
Gussie had a chill while there.
I'm so sorry she has taken the
chill again. I saw Dr. Bryant.
he said they were sending all the sick soldiers away from Knoxville they are afraid our troops will not be successful at Cumberland Gap. I do hope they will I don’t the Yankees to get my husband. I am so uneasy about him I can’t rest.

August 22nd It has been a long time since I have written any in this book a good many things has happened in the interval I want to see my husband so bad as ever I was near Clinton when I heard from him last he had lost all his clothes and Thanks to I sent him some clothes and ten dollars in money. They have never drawn any yet. I think he got
Beck ought to be thrown out of office. He is no account at all. I hope Mr. Jordan will be promoted yet. Brother Alfred got wounded in the battle of the Seven Pines. He is not well. The command has taken Brother John. Of course, he will be discharged. But if he gets the answers they promised, he very apt to kill him. Brother Al. has gone to Mississippi to see Brother John.
To take from clothes any yellow soap and pounded starch half as much salt. The juice of a lemon lay it on the stain with a brush. Lay on the grass dry until the stain comes out; dip in buttermilk and in the hot steam wash in cold water. Stains caused by acids may be removed by tying up some yeast-rich in the starch. Part-scrape some soap in soft cold water & boil the linen till the stain is gone.
Potter

Sept 28th

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Total} \\
3.25 \\
20.5 \\
\hline
5.34
\end{array}
\]

In Twfes

Bessie 115 11
Suzette 108 12 96
Chathe 10 62
Bergevins
Ch 46

Home 2, 3 Clock
Amanda
I wish you
arrived now
Please send me the following articles:
1 Sack of salt
15 lbs of sugar
5 lbs. Coffee
1/2 Drum of good letter paper
10 lbs of Rice
If you can engage one bundle of letters at 30 cts or upwards to be delivered by the 20th, let me know as soon as possible.
Yours,
C. M. Jordan