

Hd Qrs 20th AC  
October 1st 1864

My Dearest Mother

I feel it a duty as well as a privilege to answer Franks, Leroy's & Stella's letter of Sept 18 which was recd last night I am happy to say that I am well But the news is painful to me. I thought but little that when she kissed me Just before I came away from home my dear Aunty would never see me again

I am very buisy now and have but little time for any thing else I wish I could have been there & pay the last respects to Aunty but it cannot be so I must wait and trust in that God who doeth all things well and pray that all may be well though I believe that "all things work together for good to them that love and serve God," and that "these afflictions here will work out for us a far more exceeding and Eternal weight of Glory."

I can but commend you all to the Mercy and loving kindness of him who will not let a Sparrow fall to the ground without his special notice and who says I will never leave thee nor forsake thee

Evening. I have just returned from Cousin Fred Hartstone's.

He sends love & I know it must be sweet he is such a nice man his Family were nearly over the whooping cough when he heard last from them and were doing well The Band he is in played such a nice piece this evening it is a new one Tomorrow I guess we will have to go to Decatur with the Correll to graze it. How long we will have to remain I do not know. but I am sure the Lord will go with us and I pray he will always keep me and lead me in the path of rectitude & virtue

I believe I can say truly I love his word and I want to love him with all my heart

I cannot write to Ella to tell her how I feel with regard to this sad but always certain event to all mankind but tell her I have heard and could I be a comforter I would not permit sorrow to linger in any of your homes

The weather is quite pleasant and I enjoy myself well

We have about 100 horses & Mules in the Correll where I am at work we can buy many things at the commissary's tho I live on other mens pockets But our Pay Master Major Campbell is in town and I think we will recieve our Pay soon you probably hear of all the didoes the Rebs cut up on our RR in our rear Old Billy Sherman is a going to fix them if they dont play out

Please excuse me for this time

Give my sweetest love and kindest regards to all

Your Most Affectionate Son  
Charlie