

LOOKOUT VALLEY, February 29, 64

Dearest Frant

With greatest pleasure I sit myself to commune with thee by means of ink and pen. How I wish it could be verbally instead of this slow way. With what pleasure it would be to spend the evening with you and sit by your side and talk over what has ___ since last we met. It would take sometime. I have got a good deal to say. Then I would not wish to be alone, but these things can be now. So, I would adopt your plan, that is; say nothing more about it. When the times comes "perhaps we'll find something of more interest to talk about". What do you think? I am all alone tonight. Oh, oh, how pleasant it seems; it is so seldom I am alone here that I prize such moments greatly. For then I can think over (undisturbed) pleasures of the past and the happiness I ___ with you, how time magnifies the pleasures of the past as the space of time ___ they seem to grow nearer and clearer instead of growing dim with age. It is no use to be silent or delicate upon the subject of the feeling that exists between us. Frant, I loved you when I was at home and if I loved you then, I truly love you now. I have seen you faithfully, too, and when I have been _____. In our long absence, you have shown by your consistency and your indifference to the stories concerning me to be worthy of the love I can bestow upon you when I have been down hearted and weary. Your letters have cheered me when I have been tempted to do wrong. Your image has risen before me and I have stopped. Yes, Frant, you have been to me as a ___ to keep me ___. How different it has been with me. I have been careless, sometimes, even harsh, but I ask ___ to forget it all and I will try in the future and give you no reason to complain. I will give you my undivided love. You may think ___ by the past; I cannot love one, but I can as well and as truly and as any other person. Let the girls talk. if I write to one of them (I shall not write as much as I have) let them brag. When I get home I will ___ them. They don't know it all. The summary of news is very small. There has been a fight up to Dalton about 40 miles from here in which our forces came out ahead (Marshall is doing well. His toes

WV

are getting along first-rate. Bill and the rest of the boys are getting along after the old sort. Healthy, ___ and jolly. The boys have had a great deal of time in our ___ today bought a few gallons of beer. They have gone tonight to get some more. I did not choose to go with them, but preferred to stay and write this letter. I think I shall feel as well as they in the morning. Don't you? This sheet is full so I will bid you good-night. Yours in love, Edgar

You hold this paper up to the light and you see that it is mine. It has got ES on it.