Auburn, Ala. July 4, 1864

Dear Wife:

Another opportunity has presented itself for me to send a letter across the river which opportunity I gladly embrace. I am still well and at the Hospital. My news is not important. The two Armies at Atlanta is still bying in close proximity to each other and are skirmishing regularly. We are expecting every day to hear of a regular engagement. But our army had fallen back five miles in our last news. The soldiers and citizens are perfectly sanguine of success if they ever attack us. The prospects for good crops is as good as ever was known. Thus everything is apparently favoring our cause and it is generally believed the war will end this year. And from my observation I believe the people is becoming prepared to receive it. There never was such a reformation in the world as taken place in our army. Such a thing as an oath is a thing as boasting (?) is never heard. They appear to be ready and willing to (leave) it to him who rules the destinies of wars. I received a letter from Henry Tumlinson today he was well. John Novark is here and is about well. We are among a very kind and generous people. They are generally religious and wealthy and donate freely to those that need it the best of their living. And as I have before stated this is a beautiful little country town situated on the railroad leading from Montgomery to West Point and about 60 miles from the former and about 25 or 30 miles from the latter. I had never heard of David Moss having gone home until I got your letter. I was very sorry to hear of it as it left me entirely alone on this side of the River and I have not heard from the Command in about 8 or 10 months. You can tell Mrs. Castleman that George was well about 3 weeks ago. Dear, I am very glad to know that you are doing so well but I fear you are striving too hard. And was exceedingly glad to hear that you had professed religion. It has caused me to think more about my future welfare and I hope it will be the means of my reformation.

Colonel Jack Baylor is here and is going to take this across the River for me. And this is the third letter I have written in the last 14 days. And I hope out of the three you will get one of them. My duty is very light at this time. I am the Time Keeper for the Hospital. (Though) it is very confining. I have to strike the College Bell once for every hour in the day. The cupulo is a room about 15 feet square and it is my room. I sleep in it and the belfry is one story above the main building, I can at one glance see the whole town and surrounding country and a beautiful sight it is. Take good care of our babies and your self. And I hope by the help of God to see you once more. Give my love to your father and mother and to all the children.

Your king and adoring husband

And until death