

Sunday Eve Jan 24th 1864

My dear Wife

I have spent another sabbath day upon earth under circumstances and impressions such as never before surrounded me. The love of God never appeared so great nor the name of Jesus so sweet. I feel that he is a personal savior to me near, sure and very precious. The Chaplain attended service so that I could hear him from my bed and the first hymn beginning: "One thou is above all others," fell upon my ear in such tones of richness and beauty as our language can express. Then he prayed. Oh what a delightful exercise his prayer. It brought intense satisfaction to my soul. Next came the hymn: "How sweet the name of Jesus sounds" would I could give you some conception of the joy infused through my soul as those strains burst forth. The sermon was from that passage in which Jesus commends Christ to the Ethiopians. All the exercises had a significance unknown to any similar occasion in my whole life. The meaning of such phrases as "Gods Love" Christ our savior in giving his life for us, and many others came to me direct and vivid and full of bliss. I felt them with a fervor truly heavenly. Thus you will see what a day of holy joy the sabbath has been to me. Of my wounds I can speak most satisfactorily. The sores has in a great measure left them. This I think is owing to my sound condition of body and the application of water. Yesterday

Monday Morning Jan 25th. Every thing is progressing favor

morning I could not stir. Today I am handling myself
in bed and in all probability shall soon be ~~out~~ out of it.
Friendly attentions continue unabated one lady a Yankee woman has
made me a Custard. Others have sent in Jelly Rice Water Toast
Fowl & Soup so that I am not wanting to some gratification
of the palate. My Company & boys have sent up regards and Company
B men laid out in efforts for my welfare. They have sat up with
me nights turned and supported me in bed and bless them
for the goodness they have shown to my person. And now my
dear wife and children let us honor the great preserver and benefactor
how much occasion since I enlisted has he given for our service
to him. I know you will be penetrated with devout feelings upon review-
ing his great and signal mercies at all times he has cared for us
and may we not be less constantly mindfull of our obligations.

Oh that I could speak his praise in the courts of his house
Oh that I could commend ^{his} the exceeding worth he has seen by those
who have experienced his love. I am apprehensive ^{the} that messes
will make bad work conveying this intelligence. Not unlikely
you will receive it first through others. Our letters from this point
are one day behind those on the Nashville road. But I trust for
the best and I hope you will exercise all hope and resolution.

Tell those children to love the name of the Lord and how he has
exercised his sparing mercy towards their father.

Believe me your husband in bonds of affection and lively faith
towards God. Truly Yours A. W. Mason