

KELLY'S FERRY, JANUARY 26th/64

Dear Frant

I rec'd your letter last Saturday night & should answered it sooner but we had orders Sunday night to be ready to march at 8 o'clock the next morning; we know not which way we were going; we were ready at the time & march to this place only five or six miles, to relieve the 101 Ill. regt. Our duty is to unload boats & guard the stores here, have full rations draw soft-bread 2 days & flour 1 out of 5 & the other rations in good quantities; We moved into the camp of the regiment that left & the Col. gave me square tent with a fly over it for a cover right near his, a nice fireplace in, all I had to do was put up the ends, it is real large. Bill, Tom & myself occupy it. This is the roughest place I ever saw; all rocks, now and then & homely women, high rocky bluffs all around. the boat comes up once or twice a day; Frant I was very glad to get your letter, I had looked more than a week for one from you; I began to think you had forgotten me almost, or else was sick. You seemed to be in a melancholy mood when you wrote, you write as though the present was gloomy, the future dark, that life was not as pleasant as in days gone by; you said you cared for nobody & nobody cared for you; Now Frant you know better; you have friends that are good & true, one at least & I know plenty who are your friends; you have friends enough; all you want is to think, what care you whether all are friends or not, cherish those who are! Be what woman should be pure & lovely, be good _____ & leave the rest to him, who doeth all things well; & all will come out well. To be sure these are gloomy times, but if we do our duty each one in his place, we shall be gay & happy still; in spite of rebs or _____. I guess by your talk there is a good deal said about you at home. if so it is caused by their jealousy; or else they wish to pull you down to their own level; there are some who hate you because you have a stronger hold up on my affections than they. I know it is so Frant & they will pull you down if they can; perhaps Frant I have done some things I ought not to have done; if so forgive them & think of me as one who loves you, I have sent pictures & letters; to others, but you have had the preference in all my thoughts & in all my wishes; I don't think they would make you _____ think you are that

kind, but might make you think I did not care anything about you; I can see in some of your letters a want of confidence, throw it all aside & write to me as you sometimes used to talk to me & when we meet I will prove to you I am, Edgar, & that my love for you instead of decreasing in your long absence has grown stronger. You thought my letters read very down, it must be a mistake if they do (I never was more cheerful than since I got back to the reg't never so full of fun; never so and never). I am glad your father is coming home. I hope you will see him this time, I would like to be there a few days while you were at home, wouldn't we have a real old talk, & would not we be happy for a little while at least. I have written plain; perhaps some things I ought not if so they are mistakes & of the head and not the heart. We might as well be plain tell each other our thoughts as keep them to ourselves. Let us be friends what . I made some splendid fried cakes the other day & a short cake as much as a . Give my love to all my friends. Good night. Nashville, Tenn.