

[LETTER 1]

Station[?] Belle Memphis [April, 1864?]

Dear Belle

I was distressed after leaving home that I had not said good bye to you and the children I was so flustered about getting off late I forgot all about it. When the cars reached Cairo the boat was waiting and there was no time for letter writing I was much disappointed at not getting the Olive Branch [passenger steamer] she left in the morning. I am in Hopes that we will overtake her at Memphis I dislike the idea of having to wait a day or two at Memphis in that Horrid Hotel. I don't know why it is but I feel very sad to-day I have the blues and did I have my own way I should now return to my own dear home and with them who gives it all its charm I promise you that I will remain but one year longer in the army and if any good luck befalls me I will quit it sooner I will leave the rest of the fighting to other hands The wind is blowing great guns and the leaves roll as we used to do then when we crossed the ocean in '57 those were happy days There as we sat on the prom of the vessel watching the porpous[sic] playing in the waves We must go again one of these days, when the wars are ever over The boat has just passed Fort Pillow. The new made graves and charred houses remind one of the terrible butchery that will ever make it a memorable spot Yes we all remember and after I can will try and avenge it We reach Memphis tonight should you not be enabled to rent the place I think you could get John to live there without our employing him We could give him the garden and use of cows & I let

Lou have the hogs at \$100.00 but
he is to turn them out of the
pasture see that he does it for
they eat a great deal of grass
and are a great annoyance See
that John keeps at the apple trees
until he finishes them don't let
him neglect them My dear baby two
or three days more will finish them
I suppose you will not have more time
to plant the others I will write to Jim
I have them secured from the cattle in
the fall I paid the rate and gave
it to Ben I shall make the disposition
of the property I spoke to you of
Ben & Mr. D_____ on to address
some plan about it I had a talk
with Ma about it and the thought
I was right I also signed that Deed
and gave it to Mr J.T. I have
been reading Mrs. Halliburton [novel] all
morning and am much jealous
tis so nice Try and write me
weekly after this I will do the
same and when you go tell me
where to address your letters I have
forgotten Annies Chin up my own
dear child and keep in good spirits
I will get back as soon as possible
and if in no other way will resign
I will write again before leaving
Memphis if I remain over extra
hours and you can expect one
from Vicksburg I am your own
devoted Binni

Memphis 25th

Dear Belle I fear I shall
be Compelled to wait here a day or
two The Olive Branch left yesterday
so I am on the stump I have already
met several St. Louisans so I
am not all alone I will
write tomorrow If I remain here
that long. The storm of
yesterday is over all is bright and

warm I can't[?] tonight for
now My Heart is at Farley
fondly my own dear wife.
My darling child kiss the
Children. Ever Binni