



Camp in the field near Harper's Ferry  
Aug 23<sup>d</sup> 1864

My dear wife -

I recd your sad  
sad letter announcing the death of our  
dear darling boy - The blow was more  
than I could bear - To have our fond  
hopes so suddenly blasted - Oh God  
it is hard - And if it is hard for  
me God only knows how you  
can endure such a loss - I can't  
write now - I can't realize the awful  
fact - It has made me sick both  
body and mind, I can't do any  
thing nor think any thing, and I  
almost envy the brave Soldiers  
who are now giving up their lives in  
our front this morning, I will  
write now when my ears are  
not stuned with the carnage  
roar, and my heart and hand