

Charlottesville Va Sept 3<sup>d</sup> 1864

My dear Wife:-

I feel it a duty and a desire to write to you - but I feel a great degree of reluctance to do so. To think of you is to think of our lost treasure - and to think of him is but tearing my heart asunder. While I am busy about my duties day times I get along very well but when I lay down at night all alone in my solitude, my mind dwells upon my dear boy and my dreams are visions of how and he makes up one of the number. I wake up with the terrible truth that we have lost our precious boy. The thought of going home and not seeing him in his accustomed place makes me shudder. I try to bear my bereavement with as much fortitude as I can, and hope that I am not unreasonable. And then I reflect that our loss is his gain I feel more reconciled, and feel that there is a duty involving upon us that to perform will ensure our meeting our lost treasure again. My mind has