Dayton 6, Dec. 14th, 1862

Dear Husband,

Little Rob had to give up and have the measles; he broke out all this morning, but seems to suffer from the cough. I hope however that a day or two here will find him much more comfortable. He was very sensitive and would not allow Frank to look at his face this morning; he however told me to tell you and Emma that he had the measles, in his own words "I've got the measles." Frank and Bella still cough too much, but the doctor's prescription tonight will doubtless make them better. I too am taking medicine but fear all this sickness will not send me to you much improved. I consulted the Doctor tonight as to when I might take Tilly back; he said that unless something serious made its appearance, I might safely venture the Monday after New Year's Day. That is some time hence, but on counting I saw it brings it out just to the day you had set the 6th. of January! I had intended to start the Monday after Christmas, so as to prove you in the wrong, but the fate is against me.

I went up to the office myself this morning but was disappointed of getting a letter. Perhaps tomorrow's mail will have one. Your letter of the 18th came on Thursday and I was glad to find mine for that day had arrived. Many thanks for your kind expressions of confidence, child...
think the idea in my checks which excitement you cause
me look better than usual.

Mollie tells me that things are going on well, but you must be patient. She
wants me to have Thanksgiving dinner this year, but I must agree with her.

I hope the weather continues good. I have been out several times to see
the flowers. I have bought some seeds for the garden and hope to have
different flowers than ever before. I have also bought some greenhouse
plants, and I think they will be good. I must add that I am not quite well
yet, but I hope to be well soon.

I am looking forward to seeing you again. I believe you will be here soon.
I hope you will join us for Thanksgiving dinner. I must now sign off.

Wife of Mr. Brown
and to unwell to leave in charge of the children, although
she insisted she was not. She has had one of the worst
spells of headache I have ever known her to have.
I don't know what Uncle John would say to me for delaying to
try fourth vapor to inform you of Will's safe arrival home.
He is looking well, and is often visiting, also trying to reach
some men before Christmas, on which day he must report
at the first of duty which is Memphis now. Letters from him
came yesterday from Holly Springs. Wish I could tell you
exactly how to direct a letter to him as I know he and mother
would be much pleased if you would write him; he wished
us to tell him all about you. If you should write do be
careful how you speak of any of your officers, commanding
or others, there is much risk in sending letters to the field at
any rate, and there are always enough envious ones willing
to pick up anything that will injure a better officer. Don't
say foolish but just be prudent if you please any good man.
Mother directs her letters to him thus. "Lient. Howard, Tov.,
care of Col. Sprague of 63rd Reg. O. V. I. in Camp near Holly Springs,
Mississippi. Only see how your little woman can settle away
when she is talking to you! She thought she had nothing
to say, and there is a sheet nearly full, of nonsense perhaps,
but just as full of love if you will "keep your heart and you
open to receive it," as I am quoting your last my dear.
I must leave a small space to tell you how the children are in
the morning so love and kisses till then. — August
Monday morning — all as well as can be expected. Is my
unt and going that I cannot go up to the office but am
going to watch for uncle John. Goodbye, dearest, regards.