

on are my thoughts by day and dreams at night

to attempt to describe the satisfaction that letter
afforded me Dear Bro. it received one at the
same time making the second one for him
We both answered them but saw no chance of
getting them down until after that memorable
battle of Sharpsburg. Oh! that it almost makes
shudder to think of it. long will the 17th of Sept/62
live in the memory of the 53rd Va Reg & its friends
Oh! it was an awful day imagine my feelings
if you can when I saw my comrades & friends
falling all around me from the death dealing
shot & shell of the enemy and knew not how
soon it would be my fate. Thanks be to a kind
Providence I came out unhurt but narrowly
escaped a ball passed through my blanket be-
tween my body and right arm. I shot my
gun until I could hardly get a cartage down here
Finally they gave way I took ran hotly pursued
by our Brigade the 53rd leading the charge until
pursuit was dangerous. They were said to be
three to our one. But I am wandering from what
I started to write about after the battle I wrote
you another letter & put them both in one envelope
& enclosed that in another with a note & directed it to
E. Brown & my requesting him to send it down the
first chance I also wrote Cousin M. a short
letter enclosed him the one Bro. A had written &
sent that to E. M. with the same request but

before I sent ^{Henry} W^m Hunt - talk of going down
home & I gave them to him with a pocket Bible
Bao of bequeath to Endora & beg him to try and get
them down he said he would I told him if he saw
no chance of ^{getting} home to send them E. M. in K. She has
since sent me word that she sent them down
I also loaned W^m Hunt 20 dollars which he said he
give you soon as he saw you. I cant tell what he
done with the Bible Mrs C. says Cousin M. has never
gotten it. Soon after I sent them I learned I could
get a letter home through Edward Phillips I set
down and wrote you another, and in a few days I
received your letter of the 31st of August. I sat down
again and wrote you a long letter of six pages
giving you all the news and answered all you ask
me in the letter. I am very sorry that none of them
never reach you. I have received 5 letters from you
including the one by Mrs C. if you have written
any others they have not come to hand. Dear Mat
tell Cousin M. & Sister I greatly sympathize with them
that they seem dearer to me than ever tell them to
try and bear their afflictions & live humble Christians
and meet their loved ones where separations will
be no more. Tell Cousin M. I buried Bao of The
but I could under the circumstances and that I
save all he had of importance about him
I have his money a \$192.00 a lock of his hair
and a button off his coat which will bring

home to her & should it ever be my good fortune
to get there. Dear Mat- you ask me to try and get
a substitute & if I cant do that- try and get a
pass to come to Mathews in the Christmas I am sorry
to tell you to do either is utterly impossible Dearest-
I know you do not want to see me any more! Thank
I do you for you are the joy and pride of my life
It is you and little C. that makes life bear to me
now. Dear Mat- I must tell you I am in a hard place
and know not what to do. When I think of my sufferings
both in mind and body which are indescrivable and how much
my services are needed home I am tempted to try and
get there I see no probability of getting there if I
remain in the service. The war is likely to last for
years yet and I cannot reasonably expect to survive
it. besides this you are threated with an insurrection
and how better can I die than defending my family
& friends to do this I came in the war and now
that you are threated I consider it is my christian
duty to come to your rescue & protection Dearest Mat
you know that I love my country but I love my
family better. My darling wife I have a great
deal to write but ~~must~~ have not time nor space
I Charles is waiting for me to write him a few lines
I am now on piece duty in this city. The enemy is
in full sight and speaking distance and we expect
them to shell the city every day & a general engagement
to take place I read your letter to old Abe and think
it very well done but dont think it ^{would} do any good provided
I had any means of sending it to him give my love to all and
may the good Lord soon bring us to meet again in the flesh is my
humble prayer & heart desire Your affectionate Husband J. J. W.

at the hospital
a few days ago
and a few days ago
I have a great
deal to write