

(11.)
Camp Reed,
Jackson Tennessee
February 1st 1863

Affectionate Wife and Children, I wrote
a letter to you one day last week and told
you that I would write again today,
this is Sunday night, am still well, I
hope that this letter may find you all
well too; I have nothing of any importa-
nce to write to you at this time it is
very rainy and muddy down here -
which makes it very uncomfortable to
get around and I stay close to my
quarters, I am very anxious to get home
but the trouble is how can that be done
Furloughs are played out there is no
chance to get one, and the doctor will
not discharge a man until after he is
dead, or nearly so, and so long as I
have good health, there seems to be no
chance for a discharge, I thought if
I was fortunate enough to get Worley's
place that then I would have a good
chance to get out, I won, but we don't
get any word from Worley or from his
papers, and I am almost out of heart
about that, we heard that he has gone
into the army somewhere in Rosecrans
Department, he ought to be treated as a
deserter he is not doing right, I want to
get out if I can get out honorably,
would you want me to get out any other
way, if so say so, and I will tell you
what I can do, I want to get my money
before leaving or making an effort to get home,

It is more honorable to desert than to stay in
this abolition war to free the niggers, and
enslave the white man, write to me
what you are willing for me to do,
You said that you did not care for the
property if you could only be with me
could we take a new start somewhere
else, I think that would hardly do, tell
me in plain words shall I make the
trial, if you think best I will do it,
I would run the risk of my life willingly
to get to you and the children and stay
with you, I see but little signs of this war
being ended, I think that a portion of
the north are trying to arrange so as
to go with the south and that will
make the war last longer and we
will have a war between the East and
West but I hope not war is the worst
curse that any people was ever cursed
with, Dear Jane I will stop writing this
is a bad pen, and I can't see the lines
and I will have to do my writing in
the day time after this, write to me as
soon as you get this letter without
fail, this is two letters and you number
your letter, tell the children to be good
children and help you do all the
chores and learn all they can until
Pap comes home, Good Bye

From your absent Husband
Wm Standen
To his Affectionate Wife
and children