My dearest wife, you are kind to write. Already I love you, and I have cast out everything else to make room and still my heart is full to overflowing, and yet you make me love you more. And now that you have become a mother, I can do no more than praise God for the day I met you, and praise Him forever for the love that can never be confined.

My darling wife, let not your heart be troubled for me. I believe in God, and no real harm can befal me.

When the battle is over, it may be my fate to be numbered with the slain, but I shall have behind for my darling wife, and my precious child, a good name, which shall shine with no mean luster, and having planted my feet upon the eternal shore shall look back with guardian care.

Camp 4th Vol. Regt.
Near Petersburg Va.
March 21st 1865

My own dear Carolina,

I avail myself of the present opportunity to send you a letter. Just has heard me no little, to allow him to go home on furlough, and to induce me to consent; has made the money to carry him there. He has been very faithful, and on that account I more readily yield. Besides, he can carry you a letter, and also tell you all about me, and then when he returns can bring me something to eat.

Of late I have not had the opportunity of writing to you as often as I wanted, and I have no assurance that any I have written have reached you. We have been changing about a great deal lately, until now we are very near Petersburg, and almost at the celebrated Crater. The big blow up.
We are very near the Enemy now, and are compelled frequently to depend upon our words for protection. The most danger we have to apprehend is from the mortar battalions of the Enemy. You will recall that they can throw shells great heights in the air, and fall perpendicular nearly down into our works. They then explode. It seems to me to fill you at the death of one of the most estimable soldiers of my Sec. Maj. E. W. Law. It occurred on yesterday, and from the explosion of a mortar shell. Then were two others in the Regiment slightly wounded. I have succeeded in procuring a large tool kit and have brought it in full view of the enemy. I have dug out the ground under it so as to be secure from all missiles except the kind I have mentioned. My feeling I am exposed, but I will not fear what man may do unto me.

I endeavor to take the Bible as my counsel, which says, "yea, not them that kill the body, but rather them which are able to destroy both soul and body." My Darling, you certainly must have been praying for me. I feel that I am supported by the strong arms of our God, whom we serve, and I find myself imbued with a fortitude to endure and a resignation to submit, with almost calmness to me. True I desire above all things in the wide world, to be with you and take you in my arms, and lay you lightly to my faithful bosom, while I whisper in your attentive ear, "Well done, my beloved wife, you are the foremost in the army, the first and the best and you did it, everything you have done, with the sole view of preserving my happiness. My Darling, my cup of happiness is full, and yet you daily add to the measure. Surely surely..."