

M^{rs} Emma Bell

My Dear Wife,

Camp Stanton Dec^r 11th 1863

I received your letter sent by Sister Mary to Shelbyville, but have not received a line from Clarksville - you had better have your letters examined, & get the Fort Master in C. to attend to them. I still enjoy good health, I am as prudent & careful in diet & exercise & content as possible, I feel that I will stand the confinement very well, & be exchanged before Spring - My friends, Coleman, Napier, & others say that I am as bright & cheerful as usual. I hope you will take good care of yourself never despond, & in thinking of me, let your mind dwell on the pleasure of meeting again, & the happiness that may yet be in store for us, At the same time trusting alone in a just & most merciful God for a continuation of his blessings upon us. We have preaching very often at night in the different barracks, but I am sorry to see so much gambling of different kind through the day. Mess^{rs} Wright & Doach from Yellow Creek came here with Jeff Coleman, they are well, but very desponding. I see that a ^{large} number of the prisoners have petitioned to take the oath of allegiance & their names sent to Washington, I do not know when they will be released. Give my love to my children & Sisters, I frequently imagine that I see them as cheerful as when I was in their midst. Were it not for my anxiety to see you, I would enjoy myself very well for a prisoner. Remember me to the neighbors & friends, also to each of the negro family. Your Husband Truly
H. B. Bell

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