

if you had ever been on board of the Ship I could describe to you the way you might view me writing. I will try. I am sitting in the after cabin on the Sofa in a red shirt and pants with your letter before me & alone and thinking as I might of times that has passed say 23 or 24 years ago when I first thought you would make me the most happy of my race how some of those times fills my heart with a thrill of joy almost to pleasant to think they are passed never to return can you recollect when I lay sick with fever and pain came and kissed my forehead can you remember the winter evenings we spent at William Dunham's oh the comfort it is to think we can talk all those over when I return if we are spared to meet again how pleasantly those with numerous others oh Susan how I want to press my hand on you and clutch your flesh and kiss those dear lips that has so often fill my whole soul with pleasure can you while you read those lines call any pleasant sensation to mind I think you can many and I suppose this will be your bosom companion for many days & nights oh how I wish it could be my lot if only for one hour I think I hear you say there can no one be more welcome the tears fill my eyes and sorrow my heart to think I must be separated for 20 months more but I will try (with God's blessing) in that time to fill my place of your side & never make it vacate it in this life with all those dear dearing thoughts I will try to hair up under my present afflictions and thank the kind words from him I love will more than repay for all my trials