

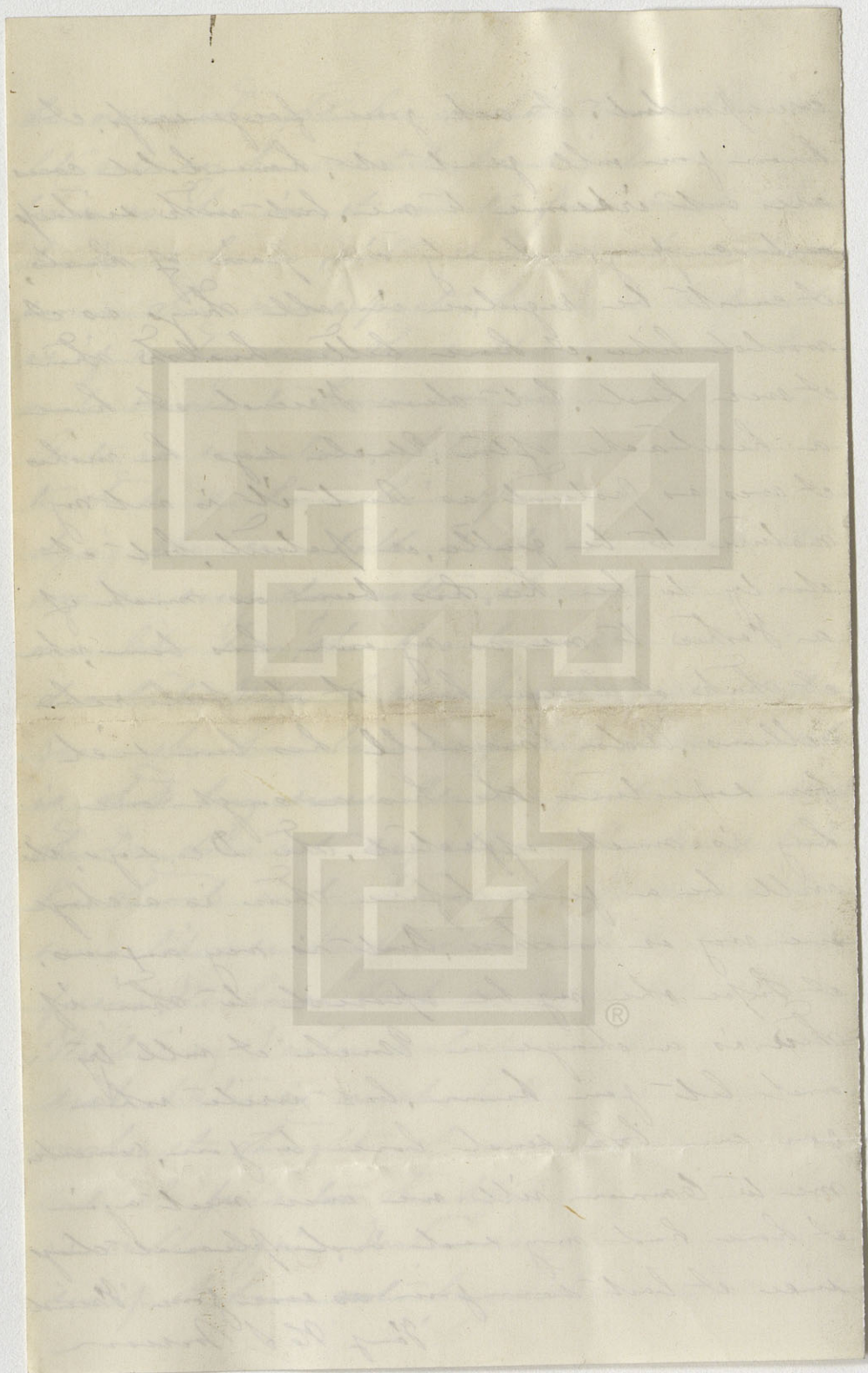
March 28 1865

Dear Friend,

I would have written to you sooner, but it wasted every day and week for a change in Uncle he only grows weaker, now he is confined to bed almost all the time, I never saw any one sick as he is, he has been home more than a year, but has never complained of any thing but his limbs being weak, he does not cough as much as he did when he was out, in general sleeps well, and has a good regular appetite, he was so thin we did not think he could get any thinner, but we see he has

he never thought he would be better, nor
let one say he would, he may live a long
time as he is, it cannot fear much while
he is as he is, still this may be a change
somewhat more expected, he is as composed
as if nothing was the matter, he is ready
and seems to have no desire to live,
Aunt is so calm, while it cannot bear
to think or have him speak to me of
dying, she can talk of it as though it
was an every day matter, I never saw any
one like her, she has been the most
devoted Wife I ever knew of, for sixteen
years she has been a faithful nurse, it
is short long since Uncle first took sick
she Dr does not say it is his lungs, but
his throat and stomach, it does not
seem like sickness when there is no suf-
fering, We have had a Hospital all
Winter, my Father and sister have been
sick, sister is much better, for some
weeks it thought it would leave her,
but I feel too thankful to think she
is well again, Father is still complaining,
so if I have not been a regular

correspondent, I ask your forgiveness, I
know you will grant it, household cares
are not irksome to me, but with sickness
and company, and only one pair of hands,
I cannot be regular in all things as I
would like, I have better health than
I ever had, but dear Friend I have
a headache often, Uncle says he wishes
I was as patient as Aunt, it is not my
nature to be gentle, or patient, but I
do try to be, he has been as much of
a Father to me as my own has been, when
I think of losing him it do feel re-
bellious, Aden Marshall has been sick
for some time, she has a cough one
day is much affected, the Dr says it
will be a year before there is a change
one way or another, Aunt is very anxious,
I hope she may be spared to them, if
there is a change in Uncle I will try
and let you know, but write when
you can both send love to you, remem-
ber me to Emma till we ever meet again
I have had my sad and pleasant days
since I last saw you as ever your Friend
Mary H. S. Brown





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