

FIGURE 6. From final page of the manuscript, *If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem*. Papers of William Faulkner, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia.

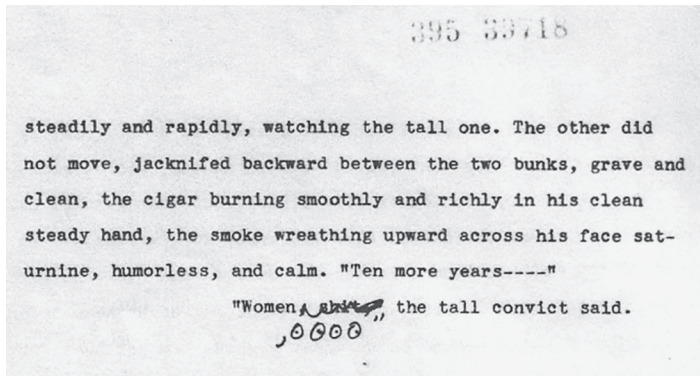


FIGURE 7. From final page of the setting copy, *If I Forget Thee, Jerusalem*. Papers of William Faulkner, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia.

with the convict back in prison (see figures 6 and 7). Another ten years have been added to his sentence. He seems content, even pleased, with his fate. When asked by another inmate whether he will miss the company of women, his reply (the last line of the novel) is quite different from Harry's last line:

"Women, shit," the tall convict said.

Faulkner began composing "The Wild Palms" and "Old Man" as two separate stories but soon realized that the narratives were related to each other, not by plot and character but by theme and image. Both stories are about freedom versus imprisonment, the disorder of life versus the security of incarceration. Faulkner now began writing the novel in alternating stints, bringing "The Wild Palms" to a point of high intensity, then shifting to the comedy of "Old Man," then returning to the drama of "The Wild Palms," and onward until the end of