

action Williamsburg

May 11th 1862



In Camps 35 miles from Williamsburg
on the Road to Richmond.

Dear Mrs. your kind and always ^{me} welcome
letter of the 6th was received by me last night and I having time
I take this opportunity of answering it. I am rejoiced to hear that
you are regaining your health and hope by the time you receive
this you will be intirely restored to good health. I wrote a letter to get
write after the Battle of the 5th at Williamsburg in which our Regiment
bore a very active part and although we was in the thickest of the Fight
we came out of it with the loss of 3 Killed & 5 wounded Dear Mrs
it is nothing to go into battle but after the battle it is or full to
look around ~~and~~ see so many dead lying in all shapes as a few
hours before was full of life and as active as I am but
such is War. I passid over the Battle field on the morning of
the 6th I voluntery to go and look up the dead and wounded
if there was eney and such a site met my eyes I hope and
pray I may never see again. We wiped the Enemy but
we had ~~know~~ cowardly foe to deal with and many a
man was made to bite the dust before they gave way
it was night when we silenced their fire but we had
no idear we had wiped them and we made big ^{Latin} calcu-

Direct-as before W. A

to go into it early next morning but when morning came the
Enemy had retreated leaving their dead & wounded on the
field we captured a quite a number of prisoners ^{able} who was un-
to get a way I saw about 350 of them they are dressed in all kind
of clothing and all of them says they calculate to be murdered
before they reach their destination I saw a Capt Lee of the
5th North Carolina Regiment - he says all he has left out of 89
men is 5 and they are wounded with himself Our Regiment cut
them down like grass. The fight took place two miles from
Williamsburg the Enemy having strong fortification there with
they had to abandon Williamsburg is quite a place containing
I suppose about 3 or 6 thousand people the Enemy tried
hard to burn it but they was followed so close they had no
chance they left the Town full of wounded and dead
the dead was buried by our men and the wounded will be
taking care of. we are about 25 miles apart Williamsburg
and only 35 miles from Richmond the Southern army is
so broke up I hardly think they will make much of a
stand. Although it is hard to tell what they calculate to
do this thing I do know that those that was in the fight
of the 3rd is completely demoralized and it will take

a long time to make them fight again and by all accounts
General McClellan will not give them time to recruit
their army as he has said he would push them to the
wall and either make them fight or surrender but enough
you need not feel uneasy about me for so far I am well
and in good spirits - You say you have heard that the
Union Army is but half fed such is not the case as far
as we are concerned tis true sometimes we have to go
hungry but it is seldom the case as for our clothing they
are good and if we had more we would half to throw it
away So dear Ma you need not worry yourself about me
in regards to clothing or what kind of fare I have
but yet I thank you a thousand times for offering to give
me what ever I want - I wish this war was over for there has
been blood enough shed and homes enough left desolate
Oh dear Ma if you could only see the Country I have
travelled over in poor old Virginia so the houses burned
the land with no one left to till it - it is all most
to hard to think of but such is Secession and I believe
Secession means desolation & destruction We are encamp
on a Union mans farm he left every thing behind him

this will find you all well I will close
P.S. Thanks for the stamps
Write soon as you get this
Love off^r Albert.

and went and joined our army I suppose the Rebels
has confiscated his property but now he has got it
back again and I do not believe all the Rebels in
the Seceding States can reach it from us. there is no
backward movements know and if nothing happens
to us we will be in Richmond before next week
there is a Rumor that Norfolk is in our possession but
I do not put much reliance in the Report as New
Papers is very scarce we can tell very little what is
going on. We have not got our money yet and I do
not believe we will get it in some time I will
then give you some money not to keep for me but
you can give it for your self As for the money
that John has got of mine I suppose he has spent
it and that is the last of it. So I will not say
eny thing about it untill I return. I will say
more about this in my next. Give my love to P^rce
Edmond Ann Louisa Henry & Clara not forgetting
to retain a share for you self, tell Anna Louisa
I thank her for her letter and the papers in the
I will try and answer as soon as I can do so. Love off