

Action

Camp near Falmouth December 19th 1862

Dear Pa & Ma

With pleasure to me I take this opportunity of writing a few lines to you to let you know that I am well and hope these few lines will find you all enjoying the same one of Gods blessings Dear Parents I suppose you feel a little anxious about me as our Army has been in a nother fight with the Enemies of our beloved country at Fredericks Purly The Town was shelled by our General on last Thursday on Friday morning our Grand de Corps crossed the River on ^{some} pont bridges with safety we not losing a single man on the bridge as we was on the left under General Franklin. on the write they say we lost quite a number of men in crossing but I can not say how many. On Saturday morning we, that is our Division was ordered to the front to take the first line of battle. As it may be interesting to you I will give you a little ^{tin} descrip of the Country hear for a ^{miles} about 1/2 from the River there is a beautiful track of land back of this it is full of woods in this the Rebels has their batteries most of them masked to sweep us to destruction if our General was foolish enough to make us charge on the batteries as that was the ~~usally~~ ^{usally} way they could

be talking on Saturday our Regiment was under fire all day
of the Rebels Artillery but as we had a good position there was
only 2 men hurt in our Company there two was the only
ones lost in the Regiment as we was supporting a battery the
noise was perfect in fact almost deafning to ones ears not accustomed
to the noise of artillery. There was very little infantry engaged in this
fight that is where we was posted but still we was under fire in
fact I for one would rather be engaged almost hand to hand than
to be under the fire I was under on Saturday. The Rebels shells
bursting almost over our heads for full 6 hours yet we could
only answer them only with our Artillery which was firing
a deadly misshing of balls into them. This was kept up untill
dark when our Division was relieved as we was about out of Range.
On Sunday every thing was still only now and then one would
hear the discharge of a Cannon. Monday came when we was ordered
to the front again and I hardly think there was one but thought
it would be a hard day for us that lived to see the sun go down
but they were all mistaking as there was hardly a Gun fired
where we was only only 7 or 8 shots from our side we staid
in the front all day and when night came we was ordered
to sleep on our arms we had hardly felt a sleep when we was
ordered to get up as quietly as we could we did not know what
it meant more did not know where we was going untill we got

to the bridge which we recrossed in safety. I can not tell
what we went over the bridge for without it was to give the
Rebels battle more what we recrossed for without our Generals
found it an impossibility to defeat the Rebels one thing I do know
there was very little Infantry engaged where we was as the fighting
was mostly done with artillery. Give my love to Edmund Edmund
Louisa Henry & Clara tell them I wish them all well and to
think of me once in a while. Now in your last letter you asked
me if Pa should put that money in the bank for me if he
wants to you the money tell him to do so and all I wish it
was 10 times that amount if it would be any benefit to him
Give my love to Pa tell him I am well but I wish this war
was over so I could be home once more with him. The weather
has been first-rate for active movements in the field but even
if the Rebels is forced to leave their breast works there will be
terrible slaughter on our side as they hold a position almost
impossible to drive them from. I have very little more to say
at present only I am well and hope you all are the same
you must write to me Dear Ma as often as you can and
I will try and do the same so hoping this will reach you
I Remains yours
Wm. P. Silbey
to my mother
C. All cut-