

all in his power to
make it you so - but you
must be more comforted
He at Elvington then
you could be any where
else then dead. Be
never so lonely without
you - now that I have
John - one text
I know you have
I did see Grand
or Bro & date - My
went to be in Richford
The next day, but we
thought they were there
& had written to Mr
Gordon - the day we
would be at the Depot
May God bless you - dear
Mother. My love will find
his love to you - all. You
long to see me. Tell
my love to the boys & 47 days

about us in this one time of great trial and
I should have written sooner, but I waited till
I should get to Fanny's & feel more quiet &
settled. Yes dear Mother this is a deep sorrow
indeed. One last, our only one is gone & not
him seems to have gave all the brightness of
this present life for us & for their sisters.

My precious darling Charlie - He was so young,
so full of spirits & of fresh hopeful life!
so anxious to do his duty, so delighted that
he had at last got into the army.

Getty McGurie wrote Hatty that Doc Hunter
said he was talking with him about an
hour before he fell & that he looked so well,
& so bright and that he was so delighted with
the branch of the service he had chosen & so
pleased with his Captain & his company &
he wrote to Hattie that he had not been so well

satisfied since he came to Virginia. Dear little fellow! he had not time to serve his country much - he had not time to get worn out & broken down, but I think he would have stood it well, for he had such a fund of animal spirits & would have laughed at what others would have complained. Does it not seem strange, dear Mother, that they should not have been taken so soon, but just a month after they entered the service - both in their second battle - both on Sunday - while so many have gone through the whole war un-harmed. But you must not think me mummer, dear Mother, No, God has wonderfully supported us, giving us such bright & realizing views of their happiness in Heaven as reconciles us, in a degree, to their absence from us for a time. I feel as if my home were gradually being transported and having no home now on earth, I realize more that our home is in Heaven.

Mr Gordon persuaded Mr Powell to give up his office in Richmond & to come here to live this winter. He offered him his board & \$250 if he would come & take charge of Chapman's

education. He has 15 boys besides Chap - & had not time to give him the attention he required, as he is a great deal more advanced than any of the others & is nearly ^{or quite} ready for College. We all felt convinced that Mr Powell could not continue this office life but at the sacrifice of his life. He is very thin & weak - indeed I think this last years trials have been enough to have killed him & I am sure he would have fallen a sacrifice if he had continued in Richmond. I hope that this winter in the County with the occupation of mind which the study necessary to conduct Chap's education, will give him, will restore him. Mr Gordon & Fanny are as kind as it is possible to be - I hope Mr G. will let me board as I should feel much more comfortable - but at any rate I felt it my duty to meet their kindness in the spirit in which it was extended & he will my Husband now that he requires in wife's tender care to soothe & strengthen his spirit as well as care for his bodily wants. It was a trial to us both to leave the girls & especially dear Ruin - but there are times of trial & each one must be willing to take their share. They have all comfortable homes where they are useful & beloved &

every body is kind to them. I do feel so sorry for them
then, Mother, that they should have no brothers -
My brothers have been so dear to me & such a
comfort to me all my life, that it seems such
a pity to me, that having known & felt the
comfort of such loving brothers as theirs were,
they should be bereft of both & should have
to live, through perhaps a long life, without
any brother. Rebecca & Hattie both look delicate
& not very strong, though they are well - Dear
Pina is the picture of blooming health.
They all try to bear up under this heavy trial
for their Father's sake & mine.

Give my love to all my dear sisters & tell Rebe-
ca that I went to see Maude as I passed
through Richmond. I was only there a part of one
day & only saw her for a few minutes late in
the evening. She was delighted to see me &
seems to be very warm-hearted & affectionate.

She looked at me as if she felt very sorry for me
& asked me to write to her, which I shall try
to do as soon as I can write a cheerful letter.

I am sorry dear Mother that you think of leaving
Rebecca this winter - Richmond is so expensive a
place that I fear you will not have many
comforts there, though I know dear Frank will do