

Portsmouth Va
Feb 25/64

Dear Sister

You must excuse me for not writing to you sooner, and now I have to get my letter written by a friend, in camp, I am with the company out on Picket, have been since last Tuesday the (16th) and I do not know how long we will have to stay. Did you read the account of our march up the Peninsula, to release our men in the Richmond prisons we got within nine miles of Richmond, when we found the rebels all ready for us, they had the bridges taken up, and logs fastened along the shore, so that we could not swim our horses to land, if it had not been for a

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

h
-6

soldier, who was under sentence
of death for murder and escap-
-ed and fled to Richmond, we
would have made a charge
into Richmond, and as the men
were supplied with matches
Richmond would have soon
been a pile of ashes, as we
would have had help in there
And this good plan of Gen.
Butter was spoiled by a traitor
The fighting will soon commence
here, the boys are all in good
health and eager for the fight
to commence, I think secession
is nearly played out. I send
the check for you to get the
money (\$260.00) as I guess you
can not get it without the
check. Give my love to all
and hoping to hear from you
soon. I remain your loving
Brother Ben. Schwartz

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

2