

War Bolivar  
Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> 1862

My Dear Sir,

The greatest victory of the war has been gained - we reached Proterising day before yesterday - we I believe the 12<sup>th</sup> the next day we reached War here - or at least War S. B. Washingtons - we found the enemy occupying Bolivar Heights - (the place fortified by us - when we were here) we gained Proterising Heights from the war - for great mistake on the part of Genl. Miles Comdg. the field yesterday evening (Sunday) we sent Artillery to the London Heights - on Saturday the enemy were wasting Ammunition by firing upon our signal flag on Sat. yesterday we sent in a flag of truce demanding a surrender which was refused - we commenced firing after 2 o'clock - last night two of Miss Regiments got into a fight on Miss own boats - mistaking each other for Miss enemies - rebels enjoying the fun - we put all our Artillery in position last night - The 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion - Latimers Battery - Independent - on the London Heights - the Louisa; Johnsons Bedford battery - Just in front of the Bolivar Heights - they all opened in earnest just after sun rise some of A.P. Hills Artillery moved close upon just below in the direction of Bolivar - there was on occasional fire from the London Heights - from Artillery belonging to D. H. Hill the fire was very severe indeed - sometimes

They were completely obscured by the dust from  
the explosion of shells - The fire was terrific -  
about 8 o'clock the Rebels with the White flag towards  
the lower position of Mine justifications near the  
Chas. Towns Furnace - Genl. Miles carrying the  
flag was mortally wounded by a shell from  
the Rebel heights - another started with it, he  
was also killed - The third one was more success-  
ful - though they continued firing from  
the Rebel heights for about twenty minutes  
finally they stopped - Genl. Jackson rode up  
after our commissaries but there -

He killed a good many after this success  
they marched down and struck camp -  
He captured a little upwards of eleven thousand  
& five hundred prisoners - forty eight pieces  
of Artillery, including six batteries complete with  
horses &c. He took about six hundred Negroes  
I understand that about fourteen hundred  
Cavalry escaped last night - I saw in little  
or no danger as they returned our fire but  
probably this morning - Our loss was one killed  
and fourteen wounded - This is all we know  
can be able to ascertain it may turn out more  
after awhile - They might have fought  
us much longer - Lately the war has been  
going on as I would wish - Just think of the  
series of victories since we left Orange, yesterday  
one month ago - Yesterday I was up at Shiloh  
Town - found all well - They are very anxious  
that Jennie should visit them - says she  
must come down soon should I return to  
Maryland, they say she would be much  
pleased to see them where she is - They say

say they want to see her every way -  
She would like her visit very much I wish  
she would do so - she might come to Winchester  
by way of Staunton - Mr. Mullin would  
see that she would get to Staunton.  
I would like to hear my Col. Winford and  
also Mr. Porter - Wilhoit was not in any  
of the fights - says he was knocked down  
by a bomb - he and Dickinson ran  
from the field together - at one of the  
fights - he is not with the Co. now - It  
is under the command of Angus Bledsoe  
Longstreet was fighting yesterday - in fact  
I hear that they turned both his right and  
left - when Lee came up with reinforcements  
when they held them at bay - There has  
been much commencing over there today  
but they heard my particulars - Yesterday  
Genl. Gordon of Lynchburg was killed.  
The most of the troops he captured here were  
new troops - one very fine looking regiment  
from Va. - there was a Brigade of Home  
Guards from Fed. City and Co.  
We have marching orders from our Division  
and has been fulfilled I trust to the sat-  
isfaction of the country - he will cut new  
bounties elsewhere - I sincerely hope the war will  
continue in the same spirit it has in the last  
two months - I dread a winter campaign  
for our soldiers - They will be badly clothed -  
There was there such a victory as the one  
gained this day - What was this victory at  
Fort Donelson as compared with this - You  
will recollect what a gloom that cost ours

Whole Country - There be killed Thousands of Men  
some of Mine Regts were almost annihilated - we  
fought three entire days - we killed, six thousand  
rebels fell into Mine hands - then we gain double  
the number with such small loss - History  
does not contain its parallel.

Of course I cannot form the least idea when  
I shall be at home - Perhaps not until this  
War is over - but it be when it may I hope I shall  
find you restored from your bed, of long  
suffering - and be able to fight (again) the battles  
of your Country - I was truly glad to hear  
that you were improving -

I am writing this not knowing when I shall  
have an opportunity to send it - every thing in  
it may be quite stale & it reaches you - But  
as you are acquainted with the ground and  
different positions occupied by our Forces I thought  
it might not be uninteresting to give you a  
brief, though imperfect description, of it -  
You will perceive that it was altogether a  
fight with Artillery - though in a short  
time the Infantry, would have performed  
our part - The Enemy proved this.

I sometimes fear that the success of the last few  
weeks, have been too good to last - "That a change  
will come over the spirit of this dream"  
But let us hope for the best - putting our  
trust in God. Sec - and the troops under  
his command. I saw Capt. Scott yesterday  
they were well - your Bro. + Bro. Perrin are in  
Engl - Good bye Sir my love to Jennie - all at home  
Campbell - Sister Brothers Sister Corah +  
myself to Sir Emma

Truly Yours  
Wm.  
Comd'g Engr. Country  
Emiles Dirpsino