

May 5



Miss Anna A. Woodworth
Care of Washington Townsend Esq
Natchester
Penn^a

1862

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Camp near Falmouth, Va May 5th 1862

My dear Sister

I yesterday received your letter of the 28th April. Since I wrote you last everything has remained without change, excepting the arrival of troops, Artillery, Cavalry & Infantry - we are said to be waiting until the Railroad between Aquia Creek landing & Fredricksburg is in running order, when we will cross the river - The rebels destroyed the wharves at the landing, burnt the bridges along the road & removed all the rolling stock - the three bridges across the Rappahannock were also destroyed by fire, leaving only the stone piers remaining - we have thrown two bridges across, one of Canal boats, the ^{other} of india rubber pontoons, on which the flooring is laid: they are sufficient to pass Artillery & wagons.

Fredricksburg is a city of some 6000 or 8000 inhabitants, many of whom have left, closing their stores and dwellings - those who remain do not appear to entertain very cordial feelings towards us, & pass by with entire indifference.

The Country is green and beautiful. The wheat is several inches high - lilacs are in full bloom, & the trees are rapidly putting forth their leaves - everything is pleasant, though the weather is cloudy. We had a slight rain this morning - with prospect of more.

The movements of the rebels amuse us, but do not alarm us, as there is no fear of their ever attacking us, while we keep this far in their front. They are said to be 13 miles away from this place, on the Railroad leading to Richmond.

There is so little of interest taking place that I scarcely know how to pass my time - I was busy for an hour or so to day examining some clothing and shoes which had been issued to the men - found it of inferior quality & make, & recommended that an abatement of \$1 per pair be made to the soldiers -

The last letter I had from home said Ellen was much better, but whether able to be out of bed or not I do not know. I did not hear by last mail - They are all well as Uncle Charles'.

I hope you & our wife get better before long - and that you will enjoy better health - my cold is less troublesome, and will doubtless soon leave me - We are much troubled to obtain vegetables here, the demand being so much greater than the supply - everything is high here unless bought of Uncle Sam - who sells at cost without any charge for transportation.

I will write as often as we have a mail I hope you will write frequently

With kind regards to all, & love to yourself

Remain affectionately

Your brother

R. H. Woodworth

I suppose you have heard of the rumored removal of General McClellan -