

Camp 26th Va. Regt.  
Burton's Farm  
May 18th, 1863

My dear Pzt:

Recollecting that it has nearly been a week since Mr. Minor left camp, and your oft repeated request that I should write often, I have seated myself to say something to you, though I have nothing definitely to write. This is glorious weather and it makes me feel more anxiety and a greater desire to be at home with you all than I really did in the winter. I should like to see the crops budding forth and how as spring throws its mantle over everything, how home looks - I want to see most dreadfully too you and the children. But there is no telling when that pleasure and gratification will be extended to me. Furloughs have been stopped. The whole country is awaiting the great events that seem on the carpet. Of course then soldiers can't leave their posts at so critical a time. When we were sent to the other side of Richmond the other day, we made sure that we had been started to Fredericksburg, and were greatly surprised to find ourselves stopped in the immediate vicinity of Richmond. I hardly think in the present "situation" of affairs that we shall be sent off from Richmond. It is stated on good authority that the enemy is 10 thousand strong at West Point in King Wm. such being the case Richmond is threatened from that direction and our presence will be imperatively demanded in this vicinity. I look upon this move of the enemy however as a feint, made to detract attention from Gen. Hooker and divide the forces that are fronting him under Gen. Lee. I hardly think they would attempt to march on Richmond with 10 thousand men unless they were persuaded that no troops of consequence guarded the approaches to the city. This force then of the Yankees at West Point, I conclude, will be apt to keep us in the neighborhood of Richmond.

I have not heard from you since the Yankees made their raid through King & Queen. I conclude that there must have been great fright and consternation among the male portion of the population from what I have heard. There never was the like of hiding in the woods and bushes. Some even left their wives to withstand the vandals and protect their household goods, and vanished to the woods. Write me about it.

We had a fine sermon yesterday from the Rev. Mr. Poindexter. He sometimes comes to the Regt. and at such times dispenses to us the bread of life. He is a good preacher and his discourses are not without effect.

I want to send back by the first good opportunity the flannel shirts and some things else I have here to be kept until winter. They are very excellent shirts. I have had the ring made for Bett and shall send it in this letter. I am fearful it is too small - if it is give it to Kate and send me another botton and I will have another made.

No. 100-100-1000  
 Department of Justice  
 Washington, D.C. 20535

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Has Cousin Jack arranged matters with Thos. Croxton about the land? Did he accept the money. I have about a hundred dollars more I want to send you. I should have sent it by Mr. Minor but I had not then collected it. Be sure to have a plenty of peas planted in the corn.

I don't believe I have anything more to write, and I am afraid the mail will leave this letter, and then you wont get it until next Saturday.

My best love to you and the children and may God in His infinite mercy and goodness protect and guard you from all harm and lead you in the way everlasting.

Oh how I should be rejoiced again to see you and to be with you -  
Farewell -

Yr affect. husband

Jos. L. Pollard

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