

Richmond Va.
May 20th 1862
My dear Wife,
After severe marches and
frequent halts, our Army has at last reached

the vicinity of Richmond. Worn out by the
exposure and fatigue of such a tramp, I
left camp two days ago and came to the
City with the view of taking a little medicine

to cleanse my system and prepare myself
for the struggle which will come off here
before many days. You must not infer that

I am very sick - such is not the case - I
felt it to be my duty to myself to take enough
medicine, if possible, to prevent a spell of sickness.
I shall go out to the Regiment tomorrow, it is
only four miles from the City. What physic I have
taken has been under the direction of Dr. Clark
He says I'll be all right in a day or two.

The City seems calm this morning. The buzz
and confusion and trepidation which seemed to possess
the people a few days ago, has given way to a spirit
of quiet determination to drive the enemy from
their hearthstones or perish in the attempt. Such
a spirit is worthy the ancient days of the good
old Commonwealth, and I assure you southern
troops will fight with ten fold the zeal, now
that they see a sacrificing spirit manifested

by Virginians. You will learn from the Richmond papers that all the authorities both state and Confederate have resolved upon the destruction of Richmond rather than surrender it to Yankee rule. The papers also contain accounts of several little skirmishes with the enemy at different points. There is nothing stirring here, about which to write you, besides what you will see in the Daily papers.

I promised Henry Forney when we left Williamsburg that I would telegraph Eliza about his wound and condition as soon as we reached a telegraph station. I found it impossible to forward a dispatch without coming up to Richmond, and by the time the army got here

or near here, Dr Clark had telegraphed her

all that was necessary. It was a severe trial for me to leave Henry in the hands of the enemy - but Dr Walls, the surgeon said it would peril his life to move him - If it would have done any good, I would gladly

have staid with him to administer to his comfort;

but that would have done no good - in fact it

would have been wrong. My first and highest

obligations were to my company - and when the

order came to fall back from Williamsburg, I had

to move with the Regt. and Forney was left behind

Dr. Bates, however, remained with him and

will make him a good nurse.

It will be a comfort to Eliza to know that the Military Governor, appointed by the Federals for Williamsburg, is an old acquaintance and friend Gen Forney's, and as soon as he found out that Henry was his brother he took him under his special charge and I understand is doing every thing for his comfort.

Miller Francis has resigned his position in the army and leaves for home tomorrow. I send by him, for you, Two hundred dollars (\$200--) which he will hand you - If he should forget to hand it over, you can inform him that I wrote you I had sent that amt. by him.

I believe I did not write you in my last letter that I had been appointed Major of our Regt. The Dept. has seen proper to do me justice at last. Tom Hayden has been appointed Quarter Master of the Regt. Brewster will become the Capt. of my old Company. I think Wyatt and Box will be elected Lieutenants. I have such a trifling old steel pen with which to write that I find I am writing a miserable scrawl - so I'll close till I get hold of a better. I haven't heard a word from

you since Tom Martin came out. Do let me hear

from you often, darling. Your letters are all of life

to me. May the Good One spare us to commune face

to face, and permit us to be as happy once more in the

society of each other is the prayer of your devoted husband C.