Camp on the road to Harrisonburg Va.
14 miles from New Market.
May 4th 1862.

My dear wife,

When I wrote to you last some forty days ago, I had been unwell, and the dear boys pretty bad for about a week which saw me almost down, but was getting about over it when night before last, runs came at one o'clock in the night to move us & the next morning I had not yet gone to bed when the order came and of course got none of our tents night, we packed up every thing, and started on the hike. It was fifty worn, but I think it fifty were for 8 or 10 miles when I began to give out. Dr. Hood my very good friend came up and took me to his home as before which was quite acceptable. I do assure you we stopped a few minutes by the way as moved, and Johnston went to house near by and got some buttermilk. It was not very choice article, but I came in a good bukky it kept me from getting thirsty, and I drank it all only once on the way which is much the better plan. That was at one of the boiling springs which are found occasionally in this valley. It quelled up out of the ground strong enough almost to turn a water mill. It was the most pleasant flavored when I used last night, the latter was quite delicious, a little before sun down it turned into a fire to succour, and pretty soon our tents came up, and the tents and we were here thrown up and ready for living again, I was as the boys say "up the hands," i.e. was given out, my horses were partida up, and one of
there was so sore and stiff I could not bend it with great pain. Of a
out boy George, a black contraband soon got coffee and being 24 hours
bought. I ate a very heavy dinner, Johanna prepared the bed, and I
drew became insensible of all external things except in "there nature's
sweet restorer, sweet sleep," which I enjoyed most kindly. I tell you,
I got up this morning took a cup of coffee, and felt first rate, my knees
which were and were from stiffness and pain, which went away,
cause by wakening on the road's turnpike. I took a good bath, put on
my under clothes and feel like a new man, right place we got "out
of the wilderness," where we have been before, it was a nasty place, we are
now in a nice cleared field close to the road. It is sunny and a most
beautiful May morning. The most of our I have rained. I drove free
into Virginia, the fruit trees are just coming into full bloom which
fills the air with their aroma. The birds are singing among the branches
and all nature seems to be wearing a new aspect, and every body is
free of cheerfulness and smiles. The rebels, whose influences came
cause to 20 as though it was on its last legs.
Oh, how are you this beautiful morning? Are you at home? or have you
gone to Pennsylvania? Has our new little Charley got well yet? how is
you health? My dearest wife. I do hope it is well with you, I am now
living near us and in good spirits. The most so that I have been since I
came out, I have had a pretty hard time of it so far, and have to face
up with so much inconvenience that for a while I got almost
discouraged. I feared some of my previous letters were rather gloomy
affairs, it was no wonder, but things are much improved now.
Having teams to carry our baggage along with us makes all well.
Dear Sir,

of difference, it is so much better. I don't know what our luck will have been thinking, but I told you in a previous letter I believe how we came to get there. Just before starting, and before yesterday, I wrote a long letter to your young father. Mrs. Allison, I hope he will get it, but I was so uncertain I could hardly write at all, and did not make it as interesting as I might have done. I have received your letter of the 28th, informing me of your receipt of my money, which was a relief indeed, for I was afraid you would never have

for the need of some. I don't think you have enough for your own use, but we will probably be paid off again in a few weeks, our pay

Bills have been made out and sent on to be paid. By the way, I am writing to

be your paid. I would like very much indeed to be with you at least today, but am writing myself to think of it much, I am determined to go

loved, and see it through where it must last too long. I hope you will

will show up once your temporary incarceration like a true hero as

I know you to be, and when it is all over and I am through with,

 Providence, meantime to return to you, and your next enjoyment will be

are all the sweeter for our times and memories. The worst days trouble in

and know nothing of effects of this war. It is not like while it is brought right

to their own doors, as it is here, and I sometimes almost think that some

of our home speech would have it as few weeks. It would open their

eyes. We are occasionally undergigion some changes here, our brigade

is now under command of Brig. Gen'l. D. J. Terry, a Vermontian,

Shields is still in command of the Division, when you write say

Shields. Division, 2nd Brigade. The view of Winchester, or our Middletown,

will do. I am sorry you couldn't get my Winchester letter.
I hope you may have a splendid good visit to Pennsylvania. I know it will be good for you. I want you to become a big fat woman by the time I come. You know my habits. I am looking for women. I hope to be a bonfire for better girls. We will have a lovely letter by this time. I hope for interesting letters. The boys are mostly here, except some of the older ones. Where I may try to get discharged, I have discharge papers made out for 7 of them. They are the home I think during this winter.

We are now in Rockingham county, within 5 miles from Harrisonburg. This county town, we will probably see join Jefferson's forces, as Strasburg. We are only 25 miles from Strasburg, but no one goes out to see. You know in November you will see the account of our movements in the Weekly paper. Now I must close. I am told of nothing new here that would be interesting to you. We are very much circumscribed in our operations. We can know but little except what we do in our own regiment. We listen to camp stories which are never reliable, and I never pay any attention to them. We occasionally get a Baltimore paper when it is 2 weeks old. We generally get the Evening Star and Jefferson's. This letter is nearly done. I am sure there is no writing to do. Now, my dear, affectionate one, I am now writing with of the. Remember me to mother and Judge and write a letter for yourself. The warmest assurance of my devotion and affection from your faithful husband of 20 years.