Camp, near New Market, Va.
April 19th 1862

My ever dear wife,

My excuses for writing are few, as you will perceive, but I cannot long remain
silent. I am enjoying most excellent health, which I know is a matter of the first interest to you, and I hope my personal safety. I have not yet received any letter from you, and have heard from you nothing since I left here yesterday evening I received a letter from Alphonsus Riley who said he had called to see you. The letter was done up in a white envelope, and I hurried off to read it. Hickman it was from my loving wife, you can hardly realize my disappointment. But still it was some relief to hear from you myself—only to hear nothing about your health, but I suppose you were sick in health, or he would have written something about it.

You will see by the date of this that we have moved. We have advanced some 15 or 20 miles since last night. We left our camp at 5 o'clock in the morning the weather was beautiful. The order came the evening before, and of course as there was a severe class of sensations on my mind I slept none, but got ready and at 12 took a cup of hot coffee and got ready with my company to March, intending if I found I could not stand it to fall back to the camp. I got on quite well indeed—we were on the turnpike, an excellent road...
as we progressed, and as the morning light broke upon us from over the mountains, it revealed to me at once, a true view of our gigantic army, and the most beautiful country I ever beheld. About sunrise we advanced which at least a mile ahead of us came upon the whole cavalry with a furor. They fired off a shells at our men which caused no damage, our Dear's bullets flew up the hill like lightning, plantation. Their guns were a range with deadly and let him have it as fast as they could lead and fire for about 10 minutes when Ashley ceased, and as the boys say, "the devil" is done quick than, and we lost sight of him. For fear the enemy might Jackson might be concealed in the woods, the forces were sent out as skirmishers, passing along paralleled with the road, after passing along about a mile, we saw our cavalry ahead start off in full gait, with the yell, the devil discovered the enemy's ranks, and a few minutes soon would have captured the whole of them. One sent, was caught and brought back a prisoner, he had fallen from his horse, at Mount Jackson I began to get there and Dr. Houck our Surgeon boy Kinch gave me his horse which notice me and I on foot. Here we took dinner, and took off to the right on another road some twelve miles in a direct course at right came within the thick woods of the main road again. It was my corps. I went most of
of the way, we are encamped for the night, and
most morning, crossed over the river by ferrying it.
This took nearly an hour. At noon, I rode to St. Louis.

I am staying at the house in town.

I am writing of a camp residue, and I am guessing to go to
from St. Louis. I still think there will be
no fighting, in this battle. Jackson is in full
response, and only has about 10,000 men and 4
new about 30,000. I hope I shall get a letter
from you in a day or two, at farthest, and
hope you have been getting on. This is
one that troubles me, my train has not
come up yet, from carmel, though I got
all safe from Winchell, and took delivery
at the end of my list, it was so nice, it has
thoughts done I think when Jackson is out
of the valley. Their decision will be made
out of the valley, but it may be only a small
manor. I have to write this in pencil
having no pen with me, but you will be
glad to get it in any shape. My dear wife,
if you are as eager to get it as I am to get
yours. Remember me to mother and our
little Terje. And write often, our mail carries
is going our turn. I must close. I doubt whether
I shall find you particular, now as we are all out
of state - we will probably remain here several
days yet. Your ever faithful and loving husband,

25th 1861