

Camp Near New Market, Va.

My ever dear wife,

April 19th 1862.

My facilities for writing are poor, as you will perceive, but I cannot longer refrain.

I am enjoying most excellent health, which I know is a matter of the first interest to you, next to my personal safety - I have not yet received any letter from you ~~and~~ and have heard from you nothing since I left West yesterday evening ~~and~~ I received a letter from Alpheus Ringes who said he had called to see you. The letter was done up in white envelope, and I hurried off to read it thinking it was from my loving wife. You can hardly realize my disappointment. But still it was some relief to hear from you indirectly - only he said nothing about your health, but I suppose you were all in health or he would have said something about it.

You will see by the date of this that we have moved we have advanced some 15 or 20 miles since day before yesterday, we left our camp at a Woodsbrook at 1 o'clock in the night - the weather was beautiful the order came the evening before, and of course as there was a new 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 full view of our gigantic army
and the most beautiful country I ever beheld, I
about sunrise our advance which extended
a mile ahead of us came upon Ashby's Cavalry
with a battery - they fired 5 or 6 shells at our men
which did no damage, our Daum's battery flew
up the hill like lightning, planting their guns in
a range with Ashby and let him have it as
fast as they could load and fire for about 10
minutes when Ashby ceased, and as the boys
say, "skedaddled" in double quick time, and we
lost sight of him, for fear the enemy under Jackson
might be concealed in the woods. The forces were
sent out as skirmishes - passing along parallel with
the road, after passing along about a mile, we saw
our cavalry ahead start off in full gallop with a
yell, they had discovered the enemy's camp, and a few
minutes soon would have captured the whole of them
one Lieutenant was caught and brought back a prisoner,
he had fallen from his horse, at Mount Jackson
I began to get tired and Dr Hood our Surgeon very
kindly gave me his horse which rested me and I
on fire, here we took dinner, and took off to the right
on another road some twelve miles in a mountain - and
at night came within three miles of the main
road again, it was very warm, I was most of

of the way, here we encamped for the night, and
next morning, crossed over the river by fording it
this took nearly all the forenoon, I rode the 2d horse
over, to night I am staying at the hotel in town
it set in raining and I got permission to do so
from Col. Pord, I still think there will be
no fighting in this valley, Jackson is in full
retreat, and only has about 7000 men and we
have about 30,000, I hope I shall get a letter
from you in a day or two, at farthest, and
how you have been getting on, this is
all that troubles me, my trunk has not
come up yet from camp though I got
all safe from Winchytia, and took dinner
meat in my dishes, it was so nice, it is
thought by some that when Jackson is shut
out of the valley this division will be marched
out of service, but it may be only a camp
rumor - 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 dear
little Terya and write often, our mail carrier
is going out and I must close, I don't pretend
to find you particular as, now as we are all out
of state - we will probably remain here several
days yet, Yours ever faithful and loving husband
20. 1862