

[Letter has raised imprint: "CROTON"]

Gloucester Point,  
Yorktown Va.  
May 3<sup>d</sup> 1864

My darling,

Though I have written to you once to day, It seems as though I could not go to sleep, without saying good night, if no more. I have nothing new to write, except that we expect to move in the morning and if we do I may not find a chance to write again for a day or two, but I shall write as often as I can. I do not think that I shall send this tonight, and I may be able to tell you something about where we are going, so I will not write much now. I feel easier now that I have got a letter begun. So good night my precious wife I am going to bed and dream of you. Leander

On advanced picket  
in the vicinity of Petersburg Va.  
Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup> 1864

Darling wife. I intended to have written again the next day after writing the other page, but we broke up camp and moved on that day, and there has been no chance to write since. I received a very mournful letter from you, on the day we started, and have been wanting to answer it ever since. I do not wonder that my darling is low spirited, being left alone without any husband to take care of her, but do try my precious, for my sake and the sake of our darlings to keep up as good courage as possible, and do not think that I am sure to be killed for the chances are that I shall not be, but if it should happen otherwise, you must, remember that you have a great deal to live for still, and you can always think that your husband loved you better than all the world besides. For my part I feel confident that I shall come back to you sooner then you expect, and that we shall be very happy yet. I do not know as I shall have a chance to send this at present, but will improve the first opportunity. I do not feel like writing to you, anything about the county, or what we are doing I only care to convince you of my love, and sympathy with you always. Our duties will be very hard in this campaign as we have to march, and carry everything we have, we have to carry and ~~eat~~ cook our food, besides carrying our tents and clothing. We have thrown away everything we can possibly spare, and some have thrown all except what they wear. I do not know but that is the wisest course, for ~~the~~ we are liable to lose our knapsacks any day, but we take everything as easy as possible.

It came the hardest for me to burn your letters, of anything, but it had to be done. I shall always keep the last one till I get another, I suppose we shall not get letters very regular now, for a while. There was quite a sharp fight here yesterday. It commenced on the left of our line of pickets, about a mile from here. Our reg<sup>t</sup> was not engaged I beleive. (There are about 100 of us, about a mile in advance, doing the picket duty) I have not heard the particulars of the engagement, but you will learn all about it by the papers

There darling I will not write any more now, but if there is a chance, will write again before I mail this if not, good bye for a time. Write often. for your letters are the greatest I blessing that reaches your. Husband L.