

Near Coal Harbuor Va.
June 8" 1864

My Darling.

As this is your birthday I cannot let it pass without writing you a few words, though I have writin but a few days ago. I wish I could be with you that I might give you a kiss. if nothing else for a birthday present. I wish I had something to send you in this. but I have never been so poor since I have been in the army, as I am at present. We have not been paid since we left home, and I have no money, (though that is of no consequence) but I have lost nearly all my clothes, and am ragged and dirty, but everyone else is in the same condition, so I do not mind it so much. Perhaps the best ~~news~~^{present} I can send you, is a piece of news which will be sure to please you, Last night, there came an order for me to report to the Brig. Head Quarters to take charge of the mail, as P.M. for the Brigade. I shall have to stop at the Brigade Head Quarters and shall not be in the fighting.

There is not much to do, and I shall have an easy time. So I hope my darling will not worry so much about me now. I shall get more time to write though perhaps you will think there is no occasion for me to write any oftner than at present. I received a letter from mother yesterday, which I wish to answer to-day. By the way, when father thought of selling his farm, I told him that I though it likely I might have some money that I could let him have for a while. and he thinks if I do he should like it. Now I do not know whether you have got any that you will not want to use or not. I expected, when I left home, that the town would pay me something, but have not heard whether they have done anything about it or not. I wish you would ask William about it and let me know. as soon as possible.

When we get paid again. there will be another installment of the Gov^t bounty (50,00) paid us, which, with our regular pay that is due, will amount to some over a hundred dollars, if we are paid all up, but I cannot tell when we shall get it.

I should like very much to let him have some if possible, without leaving you short. So you must tell me how you are situated. Tell William to write and let me know what he think the town will be likely to do in my case. I saw Allen Martin this morning. Their reg^t is near us. but I have not seen any of the boys from N. yet I have not seen Elmer since I wrote you last. He told me then, that Frank Jackman was killed, and Charles Ayer was wounded. I will not try to tell you any~~thing~~ news from the army, as you get more from the papers than I ever heard of here. I can only tell that I am alive and well, which, perhaps, is the most important news for you.

Well Emmy. this is not much of a love letter, considering that it ^{is} written on your birthday, but never mind, you may be sure you have my love just the same, and shall have the letter, when I do not have so much business to write about. I will not take another sheet this time, but will write again very soon. So good bye, again, dear wife. May God ever bless you and the little ones, is the constant prayer of your,
Leander