

[Letter has raised imprint: "CROTON"]

P.S. Henry has gone to Fortress Monroe) On picket
May 20th /64

My Darling.

Though I wrote you yesterday as there is a chance I will begin another letter to send as soon as there is a chance. There has been a hard fight here today. and the enemy has been driven back. I do not think they will trouble us any tonight. Last night they were skirmishing along our front all night I have not heard the particulars of the engagement to day Our reg^t was engaged and I hear has lost considerably. I was sent out on picket last night, so. was not in the fight. and the line of pickets weher I was stationed was not attacked, though the shells and bullets came in where we are considerable fast We do not expect to be relieved tonight but we shall be likely to have a more quiet time than we did last night It is much pleasanter on picket than to be in camp, if the enemy are not too troublesome, I hope we shall not be releived for a week

I have been reading over your letters to-day, and then tearing them up into little bits. It almost made me cry to do it but I cannot carry them with me. I hope I shall get another soon I should like to see you tonight and kiss you once if no more. I suppose it would be hard to leave you again but it would be worth all that just to look at you if I did not speak to you Well darling, I must go and lie down and try and get a little sleep for I am in great need of it so I will just say good night, and God bless darling. Leander

May 22^d

Dear Emmy. We were relieved from picket, about midnight after I wrote the first of this, and we went into our tents and laid till morning, which is the longest time I have been in my tent for a long time. I received a dear good letter from you today, dated the 16th inst. it is one of the best letters that I have had. I do not know as I have told you much about where we are, as you do not seem to know where we are. We are in Butlers army, as you supposed but as to our getting to Richmond before Grant, is another thing, I do not think it ever was the intintion of the Gen. to make any attack on that place from this side, but merely to break their communication from this line. This we fully accomplished, and fought our way to within 10 miles of Richmond. Our position was one of great difficulty, as we could not move in any direction without an army on our front and rear, and we did not have force enough to fight both ways without giving the enemy too much advantage. We should have done well enough if it had not made our attack on their intrenchments. Our work is very hard and I cant get time to write without stealing away from my work to do it The facilities, for getting letters, is better here than in any place we have been in. If you direct to fortress Monroe they will come quicker.

Do not let your fears for my safety give you too much uneasiness for I feel that God has been good to us and it would be wrong to doubt His goodness now So take good care of yourself my darling and

May 23^d . I was obliged to leave this letter rather short, yesterday, but mean to write a few words if no more, every day, when it is possible.

There has been no fighting here, except some skirmishing. along the picket lines, since the 20th. We are strongly entrenched in our position here. and I do not know whether we shall stay here, or try to advance. You must

[fragment letter ends here]