

Camp Stone well Va
May 2nd 1861

Dear Sister -

I have just finished reading your letter by Mr Middleton, he was detained some days on the road, but got to camp this morning & I expect to get my box tomorrow.

I am surprised at your placing any credence in the rumors of movements of the army as I have so often told you not to believe these idle rumors. Why! The Rich-
mond actually had us in line of battle & many other mishaps going on several days ago, whereas there has not a hostile gun fired yet.

I have not yet seen Mr Middleton but he is in camp. Some of his boxes were brought down this evening, the rest will be down tomorrow.

My last box has just given out, so this one comes at a very acceptable time.

But I fear that things are becoming almost as scarce at home as in camp though I know you would willingly share the last morsel with me, still I do not wish you to send me boxes if it costs any inconvenience at all.

We always get enough to sustain life
at any rate & it would not be a relief
to me if I thought you were depriving your-
selves of any thing for me.

A soldier's life ~~shall~~ is rough but it
is by no means as hard as generally
represented to be.

We have a great many priveliges of
which some folk are deprived, for instance
you can not all get around one oven in
a sociable way & eat your meals, neither
are your ears ever next with the con-
tinual rattle of the pipe & drum. &c &c

A soldier is after all not so much
to be pitied as you would suppose.

Elihu is still with us, I do not know
when he will leave, hope he may be
induced to stay as I think it would
be of immense good to him.

I have read the Richmond papers of
to day & see that Gen Burnside has
abandoned his idea of advancing on
Richmond by the south side & has joined
Gen Grant on the Rapidan, if this be
true we will in all probability have
a fight here either this or next week as
Grant will endeavor to fall upon Lee
before he has time to consolidate his
troops. But I think we are prepared.

Our army is certainly in fine condition
& we have a leader in whom all have
confidence. But more than this our
cause we believe to be a just one & our
God is certainly a just God, then why
should we doubt. No I think you may
confidently expect of glorious issue in the
impending campaign. A campaign between
right & wrong, the one backed by an army
of good & true men, the other by a bunch
of lawless outcasts & mercenaries.

True the struggle will be a bloody
one but it is noble to die in so just
a cause. I would like to survive the
conflict, I would like to see our land
delivered from tyrants grasp & established
as one of the brightest stars in the galaxy
of nations, but if I am to fall God help
me to say "My will be done".

I must say that to me life is sweet
& death has some terrors, but the love
of Christ is able to remove all this, the
grace of God is sufficient to dispel all
fears & I believe I will be supported in
the hour of death by His almighty arm, whether
I fall upon the bloody field or am permitted
to die in peace at home.

There is something awful in stepping off
this world even with the hope of faith
in the gospel. God increase our beliefs.

I have just finished conducting our con-
fession prayer meeting, for which purpose I laid
aside my sheet. Oh that I could conduct
it in such a manner as to impress upon
some of our number to leave the vanities
of sin & flee to God. Some must cer-
tainly fall this summer. Oh that all were
prepared, then we would have no cause
to doubt the issue, their souls would
be safe & it matters little what would
become of this earthly tabernacle, for it
is only the case which continues the im-
mortal soul, that soul which is destined
to spend an eternity of bliss or one of
woe. May God impress it upon
their minds, if we can do nothing more
we can at least pray for them.

My own condition I believe is good.
I believe that I have come to a sound
knowledge of Christ Jesus.
I hate sin, though I commit it
daily.

But as it is best time I will close

A.B.