

Camp Stone wall May
April 6th

Dear Sister,

Yesterday we got to
camp again from another tour of picket
duty, the most disagreeable time we have had
this winter. It was snowing & raining
alternate of the whole time. On my arrival
in camp I met they just leaving & found
my hat & a letter in the tent.

The hat fits very well & seems to be of
very good material, so I suppose it will
see me through this war, if it lasts as well
as my old one.

I heard from Sally, though somebody I
don't know who, as I did not see him my-
self, he says that she is well, that was
about all I heard.

I suppose Rockbridge is having a slight
taste of the war now, as you have so many
gallant cavalrymen among you, but I
don't expect you will have the pleasure of
entertaining them, sharp as Mr. Grant
disposed to try his fortune on this side
of the Rappahannock as soon as the weather
will permit.

he will not be able to advance for
a week or two at any rate as the roads
are in a horrible condition at present.
As from the looks of the sky will be worse
before better - As mother wants me to
say something about my self, I will do the
best I can, but it is rather a dry subject
to write upon. I am very pleasantly situated
in a mess of ten, with one of the number (boy)
as cook, we eat twice a day, corn bread, sugar
coffee with a moderate allowance of an animal
family known as hog which constitutes
breakfast, which we have at 8 o'clock A.M.,
take a smoke or more as circumstances
may admit, lounge around, read whatever
I can get hold of, indulge in idling &
interesting conversations with my chums,
by this time day says "dinner" we assemble
in the kitchen a room 8 by 6 & you may know
that there is some crowding but by all turning
in at the same time & the same way each
manages to get to the oven, take a piece of
dough dip it in a little grease & water, mix
take a piece of the aforementioned gentle man
(I mean hog not one of the mess) about as big
as your two fingers, eat, take a drink of water
& retire from the kitchen at about 2 P.M.,
smoke along untill about four, when the
mail comes, read the papers, & letters if fortunate
enough to get any.

Make comments on the news & express
our opinions quite freely about the Hood &
Munroe editorials in the Richmond paper
smoke again & go to bed.

Prognosis next day "ditto" into spruce with the
amusement of carrying wood on our shoulders
As to clothing very well supplied, pants have
a little hole in seat, but I expect to draw
a pair in a short time, in the meantime I
have them patched, have had my boots half-soled
& so my wardrobe is all right.

My toe has gotten comparatively well, my health
generally was never better, appetite too good
to suit the limited supply.

But I suppose you have gotten tired of this
nonsense, & indeed is there not something
of more importance than the health of
the body, that which concerns the health
of the immortal soul?

Am I so sure of having neglected no
means of preserving that whilst all things
are so convenient around me for my
growth in grace! Nothing to distract my atten-
tion. There is nothing here to distract
the attention. No excitement, the monotony
of camp either serves to call our attention
to better things or as men having nothing else
to do go to the end table as they say to pass
off the time.

How I as one of God's soldiers upon earth
deprive my courage & arms efficient?
Will I be able to stand the great review
of souls at the last day?

I feel that I have not done my whole duty
towards myself & my fellow men -
May God enable me to live a more upright
& consistent life.

I have read the life of Capt White
& members of Randolph & Air Force. The last
week, & that we all would live such pure
& irrefragable lives.

I received the copy of the life of Capt
White sent by Aunt Phoebe, but had read
it before that copy reached me.

Please return my thanks to her for this.

We are all gladdened by the prospect of a
speedy exchange, if we can get those who are
now prisoners we will have quite a respect-
able company.

How does the Spring campaign work under
the leadership of Mr Wallace?

Raise us lots of bread & meat as that is
all we are afraid of now.

For if you send men out we will have to
cry, "Hold enough". And I expect to make a
recognition on your stove now occasionally
whenever opportunity presents.

Send me

A.B.