

Near Richmond Va
July 9th 1862.

My dear Wife,

I wrote to you on the 26th day of June informing you that I would probably leave that night with a portion of the army on an important enterprise. You have seen in the public print the events that have followed the enterprise attended to. I have read and been shocked on the account of the bloody battle fields of [E?], but I have seen with my eyes scenes that equal them in horror.

On each of the days, Thursday, Friday Saturday Monday, Tuesday some divisions of the army were engaged in deadly conflict. On two of three days my brigade was in [battle?] of the two severest battles. My portion or acting brigade gave me no security against the dangers of the field. I was compelled, in one instance especially to mingle freely with the men. Appealing to them & officers and [?] in the [front?] to inspire confidence. Besides the battles, we went under fire of artillery and sharp-shooter every day the result of the whole [?] is that we have [?] the enemy from his entrenched positions before Richmond taken and caused him to destroy millions of dollars of property [?] an over-confident army and for some time the [?] of invasions to accomplish this our sacrifice of lives has been [great?] I have lost many friends. You have seen that Henry Bunn [?] the number killed, [?] the battle of [G? Mill] on Coral Harbor he was wounded by a shot through the hand and he was directed to go to the rear. I supposed he was safe until next morning he was found dead upon the field. It is supposed that he may have been shot by our own men as he came off there being a brigade in rear of ours to support it, which brigade was in considerable excitement and fired at and [?] our men. This is conjecture however ...no death in the army has given me more distress.

While we have been in editorials there is a prevailing tone of sadness in our camps so many good fellows have been killed.

Lt. Fred Wimberley has been my acting aid de camp and I am proud to say that he has won honor for himself by his fearlessness and [gual?] coolness on the battlefield. With unshrinking, unhesitating courage he bore my order with perfect curtness to the [?] of the strife, and remained frequently to all them executed His conduct commands my approbation with him and Lt. R.P. Gordon ... my labors were directed. The latter is one

of the best officers in the service of any grade, & no brigadier had two better men quite up, some of the scenes of that fight I shall not put on record they are too [?] & cowardly, not of my command particularly but of divisions

There has been no fighting since The day after I had a chill followed by chill & fever every other day, sick, exhausted, nauseated with the filth of camp, tired of noise, I asked and had granted to me a period for repose & recovery.

I have pitched my tent in a cool picturesque spot two miles from Richmond surrounded by the finest & cleanest spring, you ever saw. I am within a hundred yards of the country [?] of a Richmond merchant, Mr. L.W. Randolph book [?] you may have seen his name in Richmond papers, his good lady sends us fresh butter & sweet milk every day – I have been too sick to enjoy eating, not having yet escaped or broken my fever. Today is my sick day and I feel as if I shall pass through safe. If I do not write as [?] & [?] as I do some times it is because I do not write with ease, my back is quite weak. I expect however resume my command in two or three days. Tucker and Jake are always concerned when anything is the matter with me. They are quite pleased to see me set up & write to day. I have had no letter from you since I left Richmond on 26th June [?] am [?] for one by mail [E?] [?] for me a few days ago [Kin?] my children, my kind [?] to the servants . Yours devotedly, AH Colquitt.