The two upper petals are a fine very dark purple, while the other are much paler blue than ours. I sent you also a little white flowers, gathered at Greenbrier Ford, just after we crossed. The little yellow flowers I got on the battlefield of May 9th.

Try my dear to keep up your spirits and cheerfulness. I may get out without being hurt, after all.

It is said this morning that the enemy has increased from one foot to one and a half feet from the ground. I do not think it quite true.

Give my love to all friends and kiss some dear little ones for me.

Yours till the end.

[Signature] 1313

Camp between Forts Snazelle & Spotton Furnace 17, May 13 by

My Dear Wife:

I received camp Tuesday and await myself of the opportunity of telling you how I am. A letter I have been getting along.

In the first place, here, I have escaped untouched so far, at the right officer and g. 114th Illinois have been killed or wounded and one half of my men the killed, wounded or missing. The news has on eight days fight and will have more fighting before the enemy is dislodged from his present position. We are one and myself were together in the fight yesterday morning. He also has escaped to far.

The losses of the army have been very heavy—fully one third of the entire army being lost in combat. The fellows who got slight wounds may in the fight have been the lucky ones. I should be very happy to exchange places with some of them.
I sent you a note after one joint fight, which I hope has reached you and relieved you of your anxiety to some extent. This will relieve your mind still further, as I know you will be uneasy until the thing is over and you know how I have come out of these battles.

Fighting is a beastly business, and I am sick of it. Now I have been fighting the Yankees for eight days, and here to date I have a single one of them swept as prisoners. This bath has fallen around me, and here I am, but shells have exploded over and around me in perfect succession for hours at a time. My regiment has been more than decimated, but the enemy was so completely concealed by the thick pine woods that it was impossible to see them. The way we fight now is this: we find the enemy in occupying a wood and go into to attack him. The bullet will past us and inform us that he is in front, when now we begin to fire, and keep away for hours until we kill each other. The enemy's generally concealed in small plot while we have nothing to protect us. Besides one loss exceeds the very much they are reported to have suffered in theény since we crossed the Rapid Ann. I read no letters. I hope we shall get some soon. I wonder who he's been appointed to the Bureau of Military Justice? I can not the man I suppose. Ugly has escaped so far; Putnam (left) is away; Stayes with the wagons. They seem in no danger in the Wilderness. I saw some of the most beautiful woods. Inlets that I ever saw. I gathered some where we did the first fighting after he crossed the river.