

Camp Near Culpeper Va.
May 3. 1864

My dear, dear wife:

Your sweet letter of the 26th ult. reached me here this afternoon, and you may be well assured that it was a great comfort to me. I wrote you the day before yesterday, but am not certain that the letter was sent away from the army. This I shall send by a private hand and you may get it before the other reaches you.

The long-expected movement has commenced. We shall probably march about midnight & cross the Rapid River at Saromania Ford, the one we crossed on our return from the Mine Run campaign. Our corps leads the advance, our division leads the corps, and our brigade leads the division. My regiment will be preceded by two small regular regiments. You see my position will be a most dangerous one, if therebs. have a force at the Ford and attempt to resist our crossing, and it is likely to be a dangerous one all this. This campaign as we shall always be in the advance

It may, therefore, happen, my darling,
that this will prove to be my last
letter to you. You have been a
dear good wife to me and have
made my last ten years the hap-
piest of my life. I am very sorry
that you will not be left in
easier circumstances if I fall, but
that can not be helped now. Knowing
that you will conscientiously perform
the duties that my death will
devolve on you, I am perfectly
content to leave our little ones
in your hands without making any
suggestions as to the way they should
be brought up. You will do what
you think right and that will be
best for them I have no doubt.

I shall try to do my duty in
the Campaign, let what may
happen, and come ^{home} alive or
dead with our unsullied
names, of which you and
our children will never be
ashamed.

I enclose a little flower which grows all over the field -
which I am enclosing which it is I do not know.

May God bless you my dear
ling wife and give you
strength to bear any afflic-
tions which may fall upon
you. If the worst should
happen to me, try for our
dear children's sake, to over-
come your grief, so that it
shall not prevent you from
performing your duty to them.

Now I must say good
bye my dear one and to
you and our little ones. May
God shield and protect you thro
all the storms of life.

Give my love to Mother and
Mary and Elizabeth & thank your
father for his many kindnesses to
me and my family.

Now Good bye Darling for the last time
Thy loving husband L. B. B.