

The two upper petals are a fine very dark  
purple, while the others are <sup>a</sup> much ~~so~~  
pale blue than ours. I send you also  
a little white flower, gathered at Germann  
Ford, just after we crossed. The little pl  
low flower I got on the battle-field of May  
9th.

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

It is said this morning that the en-  
emy has disappeared from our front  
- but I do not think it quite true.

Give my love to all friends &  
Kiss our dear little ones for me.

Thine till the end

I B I B

Camp between Dodd's Tavern &  
Spotts, Virginia etc. May 13. 64

My Dear Wife:

A mail leaves camp to-day  
& I avail myself of the opportunity of telling  
you how I am & how I have been getting  
along. In the first place, then, I have es-  
caped untouched so far, altho eight officers  
out of seventeen have been killed or wounded  
and one half of my men are killed, wounded  
or missing. We have had an eight days' fight  
and will have more fighting before the enemy  
is dislodged from his present position. Will  
Lowe and myself were together in the fight  
yesterday morning. He also has escaped so far.  
The losses of the army have been very heavy -  
fully one third of the entire army being  
horsed on combat. The fellows who got  
slight wounds early 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 our first fight, which I hope has reached you and relieved you of your anxiety to some extent. This will relieve your mind still further, still 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 beautiful business, and I am sick of it. Here I have been fighting the rebels for eight days and have not seen a single one of them except as prisoners. Their balls fall around me like hail and their shells have exploded over and around me in perpetual succession for hours at a time. My equipment has been worse than decimated, but still the enemy was so completely concealed by the thick pine woods that it was impossible to see them. The way we fight here is this; we find the enemy occupying a wood and

go out to attack him. The bullets whiz past us and inform us that he is in front, where upon we begin to fire, and blaze away for hours without seeing each other. The enemy is generally concealed in rifle pits while we have nothing to protect us. Accordingly our loss exceeds their very much tho' they are reported to have suffered heavily. We have seen no newspapers since we crossed the Rapid Ann and read no letters. I hope we shall get some soon. I wonder who has been appointed onto the Board of Military Justice? I am not the man I supposed Carter has escaped so far; Putnam (left) is away; Stacey is with the waggon & has been in no danger.

In the Wilderness I saw some of the most beautiful wood-violets that I ever saw. I gathered some where we did the first fighting after we crossed the river