In Camp near Yorktown
Ap'l 22nd 1862

My dear wife

Col Hungerford came to see me this evening & is spending the night in my tent & as he leaves in the morning early I avail myself of the opportunity to write you a few lines — As his visit is to me & it is late I must write hurriedly. Every thing is quiet around us to day & to night — less firing than for 10 days past. A slight skirmish took place to day between one of the Reg'ts of our Brigade & the Yankees — Only a few wounded on each side. All are kept constantly on the lookout — when tho' the fight will come off none of us can tell — It may not at all, tho' this need be strange with 2 such armies so near each other.

My health continues good — only I am suffering with a severe cold — no unusual thing here now, so exposed as we have been. Pleas is complaining to day & I fear he is about having an attack — I shd so much miss him in case he is sick — & it is so bad a place for any one to be sick and especially servants — for whom there is so little accommodation.

If he is no better tomorrow I shall send him to Richmond where he can be better attended to. He has been very attentive & faithful & I think more of him than ever.
Alfred writes me that he is exceedingly anxious to come on & join my Reg't or join some Cavalry in Ala — I know you will hate to give him up but under all the circumstances I am not certain that he had not as well come. He is certainly doing little or nothing at College now & will not while the war lasts. He is of an age too to be liable to be called on at any time. I wrote him if he could to get a Lt's appointment or that of Adjutant of a Reg't in some of the Co's & Reg't now forming in Ala — If he could not I was then willing for him to come on & join my Reg't — but urged him not to be in too great a hurry — great changes may take place in a few days or weeks — Communications may be cut off with the South & this Army might be defeated — this I dont believe it will be — At all events for him to wait awhile & I will write him again my views. If he comes with me I will try to give him some little office & then I could take care of him in case of sickness. But I preferred him to get an appointment in some

other Regt, for the reason that if he joined mine I shd have to remove some one & make a vacancy for him & this I wd hate & do & it wd not be so flattering & himself as if he got a situation from others.

Rit I am well persuaded could not stand the hardships of a private soldier & wd be apt & have a return of his old dinner rheumatism. I wrote & Mr Phelan & urged him & try & get Rit the place of Cadet or Brevet 2nd Lt — but this is difficult & procure & I think it doubtful. He is yet so young & it is so necessary & get a little education & he is so necessary to you & his Bros & sisters while I am away that I think he had best remain awhile longer either at Greensboro or if he prefers it & you are willing there & Tuskaloosa — He could take Al's place there & the same uniform & other things required there Al could resign & him —

If he goes & Tuskaloosa how wd you like to take the children & go up there & board? Mrs Gould keeps a good house & you could live as cheaply there, or nearly so, as & keeps house. You wd have Mary Quitman at the best of schools & Syd also & be with or near Rit. You could keep yr carriage & horses there & visit & enjoy yr

self as well or nearly so at at home.
Yr house you could leave Adaline &
attend &c — Or if you preferred not & board
you could rent a house up there & keep house
as cheaply as in Greensboro — So far as safe-
ty is concerned I believe you are safe at G —
but it wd be a great satisfaction & have
the children with you & at such schools as
there are at Tuskaloosa — I throw this
out privately for yr judgement — of course
don't insist on it. Unless Tuskaloosa has
changed it affords a better & cheaper mar-
ket than G — & you might try it for a
few months while the children were at
school & then return at any time that
you got tired of it — I wd not give up G
for a permanent home for T — but while I was
away or a portion of the time it might af-
ford a change for you & a relaxation from
the cares of house-keeping & be with the
dear children while pursuing their education.
I suppose you find out what Mrs Gould wd board
you & the children for per month — & decide
then for yrself or if you prefer house keeping
then inquire if you could rent a desirable place.
I never thought there was danger from a cer-
tain population in Greene — but I know there
is none in T — for there the white popn is far
more numerous unlike G — As I before said
the main inducement is Mrs Stafford's school
for Mary Tuitman who is at an age now
when an education is then of so much im-
portance & this change wd break the mo-
notony & besides being beneficial to the children.