



To arms! to arms! ye Southern braves!
The avenging sword unsheath,
And 'round your heads or o'er your graves
Entwine the laurel wreath.



Fairfax Station June 26th 61

My Dear Father

I received a short
letter from Home a day or two since
and assure you I was glad in-
deed to hear once more from home.
Time paper and money are very
precious here so I know Home
will not think hard of me
for not writing immediately as
too he can consider this as in-
directly to himself -

I suppose you received the
letter which I forwarded from
Manassas junction several days
ago - We have since advanced
7 or 8 miles toward Alexandria - and
now I understand 15 miles from
that place.

It is very true that I am far
from being ~~to~~ informed as

To our condition in a military
point of view but I do confess
I do not appreciate these erecting
movements - Suppose though there
is a design which we cannot
see - Col Emell of Louisiana
has been appointed Genl of the
Ala & Carolina and the Louisiana
Regiment - thinks he was in the
skirmish at Bethel Church
Bolling Haver Jim Oliver and my
self volunteered for picket guard
night before last - were accept-
ed and served to the very best
of our ability - we were carried
about one mile from our camp
and stationed 150 yards from each
other - were relieved every 2 hours
we were all new hands at this
kind of duty and of course ~~did~~
not pass the night without some
rare scenes - I challenged a
dog Bolling a rabbit and Jim Oli-

over reports that he heard
crawling through the bushes
says that every bush he heard
crack he tumbled into some-
yankin cocking his musket to
shoot him - Jim's attention was
so concentrated on this point that
he came near shooting a Trooper
who had the counter sign

Frank Rives & Len Abercrombie
were on picket duty last night
the guard with which they went
out brought in 8 men and a
half dog woman - the men re-
ported they were just from
Alexandria had ~~located~~ and
were going home to Manassas
said that there were 130,000
troops in Alexandria and 40 pieces
cannon directed in this direc-
tion - don't know how much of
this our officers believe -

I suppose you have heard a great
many

reports about the number
of men and spies we have
lost and lost - now I learn
that we have lost but 3 scouts
and have captured but few
in return. - The report too that
Jackson the brother of Jackson
who ~~was~~ killed Col Ellsworth
has killed 15 or 20 Yankees is -
false and without the slightest
foundation - Jackson is private
in a wa company here -

I conversed with 3 men of
his own company since I came
here and inquired about this
great destruction Jackson was
working among the enemies ranks
Every one said that he had not
killed a man nor had he ever
shot at one - I think it would
be very difficult for any one to
capture or kill so many Yankees
It is said that they seldom leave
Alexandria more than $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile
certain it is they do not come
down this way often

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The truth is I am losing confidence
in these yankees every day - I believe
they are waiting for us to attack
them notwithstanding they are -
vastly superior in numbers and
arms and besides are the ag-
gressive party.

Some few days ago Cor 7 of a ra
company captured a capt Kellogg
of Kentucky - I saw one of them
present and who aided in capti-
ving him - he says the whole
scene was rich The capt was
very near his own lines and just
going in a house with 2 beauti-
ful young ladies - in the most
unberant spirits of course -
and as he reports but little dread-
ing of the shadow so soon to fall
on his life - The captain entered the
house and instantly 5 or 6 guns

was leveled at his breast.

He very readily yielded - gave up
his sword and arms -

The victors were not satisfied
with this - they discovered the
Capt had aboard an excellent
flask of brandy - these victors
were generous enough to urge
it on the prisoner to take a
big one which he was kind enough
not to refuse - the flask was
soon emptied and it was then
urged on Capt that it was best
for all to make quick time
for our camp - this the Capt. also
complied with and he has now
been forwarded to Richmond.

A great many of our Regiment
are sick - we have dropping
them at different places along
the route till the diminution of
snow begins to appear plain -
2 of our Regt died here to day
one of the Soachapoka Rifles.

it is a very serious matter in-
deed for me to be sick in camp
especially as we have but two
physicians for the whole Regiment
and few have confidence in them
I pity them who are wounded
in battle as broken limbs will
be lopped off ~~like~~ without
ceremony.

I feel worse to day than ^{have} since
I left home. - Frank Rice and
Abercrombie have the same com-
plaint which is a very sore
throat from sleeping in the
woods on picket-duty on wet
ground - Think though we will
be all right in a day or two

I have ^{not} seen Bolling since we
left Manassas - ~~the~~ Antan
ga Ribb and 3 other companies
are under command of Major Gos-
don about a mile from here
3 or 4 of our side men have

just come from Lynchburg
we have still 6 of our Com
pany there - most of the sick
now is measles.

2 Regiments from Louisiana came
here day before yesterday - this
seems that we are at least
slowly increasing our force here
whenever you see anything interest-
ing in any paper or book that you
would send it on - we very
seldom hear the truth in this
place - but I have to close now
as this is my last sheet of paper
and it borrowed - can buy none
here - we are 4 or 5 miles from the
Court house and cannot go there
without special permit from head
quarters - I should have written
you 4 days ago but was waiting ^{for} Mr
Nelson a Preacher from Camden
Wilson - He leaves here tomorrow
and promises to drop this in the
P.O. at Mont. Give my love to
all at home and tell them
we hope to meet them at home
again in no time all covered with
glory - I shall expect a long letter
from you soon - Truly yr son, Comstock Hall

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[page 2]

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[page 3]

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