March 18th

Camp at Mosley Church

Dear Brother

I received your letter of the 11th this morning, and having nothing else to do I will answer immediately though news is very sparce,
last friday we moved back to our old camp, after an absence of four weeks and a tiresome ~~m~~ I tsamp it was two for the road was very muddy though we all got here safe, we find our old quarters very home like too we ~~are~~ have dismissed our cook, and are cooking ourselves; I can ~~t~~ bake mag-num-bonum biscuit too; and bake beef Ok! hush.
The naval engagement of the 8th and 9 was a heat of fun for us, there was great excitement among both soldiers and civilians I was near enough to see part of the firing it is useless for me to give you any details, I seen the

Merrimac after her return, she is pretty badly used up she is now in the dry dock being repaired and will be ready in a few days for service again the firing was so heavy that it shook the houses and you belong to the ~~Malitia~~ Malitia I fear that the malitia is a bad egg you have by this time heard of the capture of Newborn N.C. had the malitia done their duty there we would have whiped, they run 50 miles, the N.C. malitia, and sand hill volunteers are as fraid of a gunboat as Ma is of snake, the ~~so~~ Norfolk malitia is the poorest shoat I've seen affairs look very gloomy at present but the darkest time of night is just before day they tell me it seems that our home communication will soon be cut off, the enemy is in 60 miles of one road and 25 the other this may be my last letter

I will lift you out of the
ambition when I get home for I have
a supreme contempt for it, ~~tell~~ I
Tell Lucy I am not at all surprised
at her being married, but did not
expect to hear of Beccas ~~sp~~
stock raising ~~so~~ so soon, tell all
the darkies howdy for me, I expect
to come home when my time is out here
if I can get there, but dont expect
to stay long dont you join no
company before I get there
I ~~not~~ want you to go with me
in light artillery give my love
to all & tell Pa not to die
with the blues, for I know he has
them write to me as often as you
can I dont expect you can read
this letter for it is badly written
the weather ~~is~~ getting very mild
here it is not as cold here as it is
some time at home

Yours