

Head Quarters Camp near
Woodstock, Va.

April 10th 1862.

My very dear wife I arrived here and reported to Col. Pond two days ago. all well but pretty tired, I wrote you at Strasburg and sent letter from there. the next morning Capt Hirst & I started on for the camp 16 miles - I got up refreshed - weather still pleasant and roads good - the roads were lined still with wagons, cavalry companies & whole regiments of infantry. I stop - am ordered to go to Woodstock on a court martial.

Back again. I buckled on my best regimentals, borrowed the Chaplain's horse, and put off for Woodstock. got about a mile when I met Col. Pond & Col. Patrick of the 5th Ohio, R. arriving back saying the court had adjourned till tomorrow morning when I shall put out again - to be (what do you think) a member of Child's general court-martial! This was a surprise to me. I may be there for several days - perhaps only one day - Well. I don't know when to begin writing particulars - suffice it to say I found quarters with Col. Pond very comfortable indeed. I intended going to a private house for quarters, but it set in raining very hard just after I got into camp and the Col. told me I would fare better here than in a house, as the most of them are deserted and it would not be over safe to venture far, at all events I felt that I was now in the safest place I had been in since I left Winchester, right in the heart of a camp stretching for miles all around. I was very fearful I would take cold, but to my astonishment I have slept here now three nights

and have not taken a sign of a cold - am entirely free from cough
or hoarseness, in a word feel better in health than I have for a
long time, fare is good, so far, and plenty of it. I am still staying in
Pond's tent. he spoke very flatteringly of you he recollectes nearly every
thing you said to him at the depot. The Reg. has had a hard
time of it - but they are getting things straightened up a little now. -
Our company had not had their tents for about 30 days - it is
surprising to see what men can endure - they marched 17 miles the
morning of the battle, without rest - or cations since the day before
and got nothing that night they lay on the battle field - without
any covering of any kind and waiting to eat. But their tents came on
the day I got here - and they are comfortable. Phillip signon
slept night before last on the ground by a log fire in the wood
shoe deep - and nearly burnt his overcoat off him. I asked him
if he wanted a discharge? "No Sir. &c." he replied, said he had not
been sick a day since he left Goddard. Jimmy Allison is well
nearly all well but 4 or 5 who^m I am getting discharged from service
There is a large body of troops encamped here - no enemy near us except
Asby's cavalry skirmishing, coming down the road from Strasburg
we heard that a bridge right in front of the camp that had been
burnt by Jackson's men and which was rebuilt, was just
completed and a battle was on the tapis for three day or the next
certain - come on a few miles further and we heard the loud
booming of cannon for several minutes. I thought they were at it
sure but - soon learned they were only shelling our pickets
and with that exception all was quiet on de Shanandoah.
The impression now is that we will be here for a week or two
yes in fact the valley is pretty near cleared out of rebels

troops, and may not have much to do but take things comfortably.
My company is badly out of gear. Adair has been lying back 2
5 miles beyond Winchester for a month nearly, with Rheumatism
at the house of a grader - but I did not know of it till I got
here - I just sent after my trunk today which I left at Winchester
we are 34 miles from Winchester and 16 from Strasburg - we
walked till we would get tired - then mounted an army wagon
and ride till we got tired - the road is a turnpike as good a
road nearly as our old turnpike - The Manassas R. R. which
runs along here is deserted - bridges all burnt and rolling stock
all off - in fact from Martinsburg all the way through, it is a
faithful picture of "war's desolation" I took dinner with a
lady in Woodstock back here 4 miles - as I came through
she claimed to be Union - but they use all that now - as
a big darkey told me. I asked him how the people use
felt now - "Oh all Union now" - how were they before our
army came along - Union or secesh, "Oh golly must be
secesh a fore sure" but my notion is they would be anything at all
to get rid of the war - My dear wife you can form no idea of the
desolation that an army leaves in its wake - I met an old
darkey along with one of Banks's teams - he looked more like an
over grown Alamy outang than anything else - said he lived on
on de S han' doo, had a wife and children - you left them, said
I - "yes leff em in de hands o' God - he can take care em better
I can" "Off all massa too, nothing but hard work der - mink
I see seed more fun since I been wid de army than ever I see
at no in all my born days," ha! ha! ha!" and he hurried on - This
valley is full of darkeys -

Yesterday we got the official news of the capture of Island 10 and
the battle and victory on the upper Tennessee - Col. Rome went
around notifying the different companies - and such yelling!
Some of thought this was us are now sure - but I reckon not.
I begin to want to get a letter from home, dear! is there one on
the way or not - or it maybe you did not get mine? how is it
do you get get your Wheeling paper? I hope you do - we dont
get much news here and it is old when it comes - I just
now got a bundle of Jeffersonians and looked over one till I
got mad I had the greatest notions in the world to send
them back - disunion shuts meet but a cold reception here, I
do assure you - our paymaster has not got into an Reg-
yet - we are looking for him with a wistful eye -

Dont give yourself any unnecessary concern about me, dear,
I am getting along fine - the boys seemed to be glad enough to
see me - poor little Gud. Murphy is nearly used up - from the effects
of some of his adventures in Tennessee - I dont pity him much.
Ad. Moore is looking fat and hearty - Sicut Johnson is
well and getting along fine - but is most too easy with the men
the fact is our company are nearly spoiled by doing just about as
they please - When you write I want to know how your mother
and Lizzy are - but of course you will tell me about all about them
and yourself - how I would like to know whether she has any more
teeth yet - and whether she has got over that pesky cough?

You must pardon me my dear from referring to these things any
more than by bare allusion - because I know the best thing towards
keeping my health up is to keep my spirits up - and I could not
do this if I should dwell much upon home and the dear ones who
are nearest my heart. I will send you some money in my next
letter which I will write in two or three days - hoping in the mean time
we will get on home. Now adieu - good bye, till I write again -
give my love to mother and kiss the little dear one.
as before me with all my heart yours ever faithful M. Burnes