

[On letterhead illustrated with bust portraits of Maj. Gen. Wool and Gen. Mansfield, surmounted by a vignette featuring an eagle.]

Fairfax Court House
Virginia Oct 17, 1862

My Dear Wife

I now sit down to write a few lines to let you know how I am I have had the diarrhoea for two days but I have got well now We left Arlington Heights last Sunday about 11 oclock and got about half way to Fairfax that day and Encamped for the night and started the next morning we got to Camp about noon the day we started from Camp we met nine Rebels Prisoners that the Cavalry had taken and they were on their way to Washington The Country from Arlington Heights to Fairfax Court house is a very desolate and uninhabited region the land is not worth 25 Cents an acre Fairfax Court house is the place where Old John Brown had his sentence to be hung half of the buildings where we passed had been torn down they belonged to Rebels that had gone and joined the Rebel army they are mostly negroes in and around Fairfax they are the blackest set that I ever saw There was a man shot himself in the foot he was out hunting and he saw a red squirrel he started to shoot him and his gun went off and the ball took him in the foot it was an accident I dream of home and my Sarah and little Boy most every night I dreamed last night that we were on our little Farm and you and Romain were with me and taking Comfort There is some prospect of the South trying to settle and Lincoln has given them thirty days to come to terms if they settle the thing we shall not see any Fighting and if they dont they are sure to be whiped out there is Regiments coming in every day I do not know how many men there is here but there is the most that I ever saw we are in General Seigles division and as soon as he gets one hundred thousand men he is agoing to march on to them if they dont settle I have seen General Seigle and General Casey and William H. Seward the Secretary of the united States Seigle is a young man about 35 years old but he is a smart man he is all around through the Camps The Rebels are afraid of the Flying Dutchman as they call him Give yourself no uneasiness about me for I shall come out all right and if they settle the thing I shall be at home as soon as spring Kiss little Romain for me and tell him that his Father would like to see him I would like to see all of you and tell your mother that I have not Forgot her tell Ann to be a good girl and I will send her a Picture when I find a good one

I do not think of any more this time so I will Bid you Good Bye for this time but I will write to you often and you write a few lines to me to let me know if you are well now Sarah try and write a little to your Marion as nothing else would make me so happy as to hear from you except seeing you myself your likeness is dear to me and I will keep it as long as I live I look at it often this from your Marion

Sarah my dearest I remember you My little Boy I think of you Marion

I sent that sachel home by Williams and if you have not got it you can get it of Williams that lives to Cadiz it was to be left at Post Office