

Copy of original letters of Dr. Henry Van Cernum  
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Pavilion, New York #11

U. S. Ford, Va.  
May 4, 1863

My dearest Lis,

We are just out of a terrible battle which is yet undecided and our Regiment has suffered considerably--tho I am not advised just who have suffered--this I know--Col. Jones is wounded and Sgt. Noyes probably killed--or perhaps a prisoner. Many of our wounded fell into the hands of the enemy as they drove us at first entirely from our positions. I was detailed as one of the operating surgeons from the Division, consequently have not been with the Regiment since the first day of battle. We have been shelled out of three field Hospitals already and I have had over 400 wounded pass through my hands. The appearances now are that the Battle has only commenced although in severity it exceeds Antietam, Bull Run and Fredericksburg. The fight is awful and I have had ample opportunity to see the sad side of the picture. Thank God I have escaped so far unhurt--I write this in the midst of the wounded--and I write hastily to let you know of my safety.

Will write you at length as soon as possible.

*Prop of Pav. Ctr.  
Antique Shop*

God grant that this may be the last battle I may ever be called upon to witness. I think we shall succeed but after an awful struggle. Adieu! Kisses for yourself and children and with undying affection for you all. I am as ever,

Your

Henry