

Letter from a Confederate Soldier, 1862 Transcription (page 1 of 2)

John DeBell [written in pencil in a different hand]

Gordonsville, Orange County

August 20th ,1862,

My dear Wife,

I received your letter dated July 4th and the 14th July and have since recd one from you & M. dated May 29th. I have had several letters from you, and would have answered them but Since I recd the last I have had no opportunity to get an answer to you, besides I have been very busy, you can imagine how much I have had to do when I tell you that all of Old Stonewalls army passed through this place on their way to attack The Young Napoleon in his rear. and that I had to do all the work of the office, as Brown was absent sick, he is now well. Oh havent we Whipped Them? and is not all the good news I have heretofore promised you more than been fulfilled? the young Napoleon has now changed his Base to the Rappahannock I think it more than likely it will soon get too warm for him there & he will be compelled to change again, I Suppose the next time to Washington City!

You have heard all about the Battles at Richmond I know, but you have yet to hear of the almost impossible Acts of Bravery & daring Performed by our brave "Boys" the Sun never shone upon such an Army, I suppose too before this reaches you, you will hear all about that Battle of Cedar Run, at that Fight we had only 8000, Men engaged, Old Stonewall was too hard for them again, Notwithstanding they had two divisions numbering 20,000, Their loss was very heavy full 2,000 ours was 100 killed & 5 or 600 Wounded & we Took two splendid Napoleon Guns, 1500 small arms & 12 loads ammunition & drove them 3 miles. we took Genl. Prince, & thirty other officers & 300 men Prisoners. There is hardly a day now that a yankey or two, sometimes 12 or 15 dont come in and give themselves up, the Army has left Richmond at least the bulk of it and is now between you & myself-- I hear before you get this the big fight will be fought the largest of the War. I know it will If the yank will stand their ground, but of that I am not so sure I think they will fall back to the Potomac then I will have the pleasure of seeing all that is dear to me on this earth again.

I fully intended coming home, before this but about the time I intended starting Pope got in the way and as you know I was never very partial to the Pope I concluded not to encroach upon his living.

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Letter from a Confederate Soldier, 1862 Transcription (page 2 of 2)

Everything seems favorable now & I think you may expect to see me before long. The 8th Regt Passed through and the 17th too. I saw all the Boys. Alfred looks quite well, was in the Williamsburg fight, most of the Boys look first rate, the Fairfax Rifles has lost but two killed & three who have died from Sickness none of them your acquaintances, all that were taken Prisoners have returned, Billy Barnes, went to his regt the next day after he was exchanged although he was allowed a furlough --he saw there was a chance of a fight. and hurried up- what a contrast between him- & his Bro Jack! Let me tell you that the People and army, think no more that they will be whipped now than they do that the sky will fall, I think we can kill & take their persons about as fast as they can recruit, and that when they get the 600,000 we will have killed & Paroled just about as many. I saw Josh yesterday he is looking very well is at the same Business yet, J.P.M is with him and well I have been sick but am very well now was only abed 3 Days and Even If I had been home would not have gone to bed atal but it was several Weeks before I got entirely well, I am fatter now than I have been for some time how do you do, I hope you and all have been well you spoke of Anna's leg being well I had not heard There was anything the matter with it let me know in your next all about it, and do for good ness sake write- a long letter Tell me all about home what you have been doing & how you spend your time, if you are farming?! & how much you get for Butter? have the cattle been taken & my colts? has Charly left? and the negroes Generally? and tell me all about Yanky rule in short tell me every Thing write about 6 pages if you dont I won't like it. now I know you will do it. Tell M. I saw D.P. the other day but as I did not get his letter of 19th May until lately I said but little about the Hogs, he says he is very much obliged for the trouble She has been at to save some of his things and that there will be no difficulty about the Hogs, he hopes to be home soon & will then manage it.

I wish you would buy me some Clothes for this Winter if you can raise the funds, I will need them very much I also want a good lean Bootstrap. dont favl to get these things & have them made ready for me you had better lay in a good supply fr tot for your self & children dont be afraid of getting too many get Tea coffee & Sugar, Salt & all such things as far as your money goes, I will send you some money have been trying to get yanky money but the Skunks dont have much every Thing is enormous-ly high here; it costs me a great deal to live Cant save half my wages, but I would give every Thing & more if I had it to prove successful

I know when I used to write to you to keep in good Spirits you thought I was too Sanguine but I am no mons O so now Than The I noote as I felt that the result is certain though it may be for a head yet, we have a large and daily increas [pages missing]

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