

In Camp May 19th

My darling wife.

I was very much ^{and} disappointed by not being able to write to you again, on the evening of the day that I wrote you last, but at dark we were sent out to the front on picket, where we staid till dark last night and then we came in to the trenches and laid there last night with our guns by our sides. We are in the same position yet, with the enemy in front, and the shells flying over our heads, so you see that I have not a very nice place to write, but my dear little wife shall not be disappointed of her letters as long as I can get any of her letters as long as I can get any kind of a chance to write. I received another letter from you yesterday, dated Nov 11th you did not write quite

Transcription:

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heads, so you see that I have not a
very nice place to write, but my dear
little wife shall not be disappointed
of her letters as long as I can get any
kind of a chance to write. I received
another letter from you yesterday,
dated May 11" you did not write quite
as hopefully the last time as I would

like you to feel. You must not doubt,
my darling, but God will do that which
is best for us. I feel that ~~He~~ has me in
his especial care, and after what I have
seen I should be blind to doubt that I
had been saved by a direct answer to
your prayers. I will explain how it was.
Last Monday we lay in line of battle,
and the shells were ploughing through
our ranks, when it came to my mind
as direct and distinct as though I had
received such an order, that I must
move from that place, and I said
to Henry, that I must move from there,
and got up and went to the left of the
Co. and laid down there (Henry moved
forward a little) and he told me afterward
that I did not move any to soon, for
that I did not move any to soon, for
I had but fairly got away from the spot
when a shell struck exactly where I had
been lying. I assure you my precious

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like you to feel. You must not doubt, my darling, but God will do that which is best for us. I feel that He has me in his especial care, and after what I have seen I should be blind to doubt that I had been saved by a direct answer to your prayers. I will explain how it was Last Monday we lay in line of battle, and the shells were ploughing through our ranks, when it came to my mind as direct and distinct as though I had received such an order, that I must move from that place, and I said to Henry, that I must move from there, and got up and went to the left of the Co. and laid down there (Henry moved forward a little) and he told me afterward that I did not move any to soon, for I had but fairly got away from the spot when a shell struck exactly where I had been lying. I assure you my precious wife that I feel how entirely we are

dependant we are on his love and mercy
for everything that we enjoy I shall never
fail from this time, to return gratefull
thanks for all of the blessings that He
has bestowed upon me, and to pray that
I may return to you and find you all
in health. and I hope you will not forget
when you are asking His protection for me
that He will help me to lead a better life,
I feel as though, you are in his care, and
that He will be your protection, let what will
happen to me, and I assure you that the
thought is a great comfort to me,

I do not wonder my poor girl feels
anxious and worried, on my account,
but I assure you that your fears
greatly magnify the dangers of my
position, and I do hope dear Emma,
that you will try and be as cheerfull
and hopefull as possible, for I assure
you my own darling, that your happiness

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dependant we are on his love and mercy for everything that we enjoy I shall never fail from this time, to return gratefull thanks for all of the blessings that He has bestowed upon me, and to pray that I may return to you and find you all in health. and I hope you will not forget when you are asking His protection for me that He will help me to lead a better life. I feel as though, you are in his care, and that He will be your protection, let what will happen to me. and I assure you that the thought is a great comfort to me. I do not wonder my poor girl feels anxious and worried, on my account, but I assure you that your fears greatly magnify the dangers of my position, and I do hope dear Emmy, that you will try and be as cheerfull and hopefull as possible, for I assure you my own darling, that your happiness is the greatest object of my life. You

do not know how much I love you, my
dear Emily, and you never could know
by my telling you, the only way for you
to learn is to ask your own heart, that
can tell you. I feel as thankful for your
love, that I feel as though I could not
do enough to make myself worthy of
such a love, and at the time I made
you the promise you speak of, it was
with that idea. If it will be a comfort
to you ~~to~~ to have me tell you that I
have kept it, I will do so every time
I write, if you wish, though I know
you do not need any such assurance
I have not tasted any kind of spirits
since I wrote you that letter, though you
would hardly believe how hard it was
at first, indeed, I was not aware my-
self, that I had been acquiring an appe-
tite, that I had been acquiring an appe-
tite for such stimulants until I
came to do without it entirely, There
nothing possible, that I would not

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do not know how much I love you, my dear Emmy, and you never could know by my telling you, the only way for you to learn is to ask your own heart, that can tell you. I feel so thankful for your love, that I feel as though I could not do enough to make myself worthy of such a love, and at the time I made you the promise you speak of, it was with that idea. If it will be a comfort to you to have me tell you that I have kept it, I will do as every time I write, if you wish, though I know you do not need any such assurance^{ce}. I have not tasted any kind of spirit since I wrote you that letter, though you would hardly believe how hard it was at first, indeed, I was not aware myself, that I had been acquiring an appetite for such a stimulant until I came to do without it entirely. There is nothing possible, that I would not do if your happiness was in any

was affected by it. I would leave off
the use of tobacco if it would make
your condition any better or pleasanter
and that I would not have done before
we were married. so you see that I
do love you better than I did then. In
fact I love you as much more now,
that it seems as though that was
silly and not worth thinking of
I am very thankful to learn that your
health is improving, I think it would
be well for you to be in the open
air as much as possible. You
must be careful for my sake,
of your health, and do not work too
hard. You may think you are not
doing much, but you must re-
member that you are a poor little
weak fellow, and are not capable of
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money, like some of the women about
there, just think if I would change
my little darling sick wife for any
of them, and all the money in the
world besides. When I get home again,
I will take such care of you, that
you shall feel your feeble health to
be a blessing to you. I am very sorry
that I could not keep that journal,
since you would like it, but I tell
you Emily, that when a poor fellow
has to carry every ounce that he is
able to such a small affair as that
is a burden. You may be sure that
I have got all the load that I can
carry, since I am obliged to burn
up your letters. I cannot carry them
with me, and do not like to leave
them in my little darling sick wife for any
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after I finish this, I must read
them once more and then burn
them all but one. You must write
often for they are a great comfort
to me. You had better direct to
Fortress Monroë, as they will come
sooner. Our defeat the other day,
did not amount to much after
all, we got back in good order, and
accomplished nearly all we went
for. The enemy do not gain any thing
by it, and their loss must have been
greater than our own, take all the
fights for the 8 days together.

Everything looks favorable for
our cause, and a speedy close
of this terrible war. It will be a
cause for rejoicing, when this
event shall take place, and I hope
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Everything looks favorable for our cause, and a speedy close of this terrible war. It will be a cause for rejoicing, when this event shall take place, and I hope that there is none that will rejoice more than you and I.

I received a letter from Elmer

yesterday. He is still at Fort
Cads. He says he saw George
a short time ago, but I suppose
you hear from him. I was in
hopes to hear from mother, but
did not. I received one from
William a few days ago, which
I intend to answer as soon as
possible. Tell my little darling
not to forget me. Tell my Annie
that her father loves her best of
anything in the world, except mother.
I am glad to learn that you have
one less cause for anxiety than you
feared when I left, though it is all
for your own sake, as I should like
it best of anything if it could be,
without placing you in an unpleas-
ant situation. But now darling,
I must say good bye again for a
little while. I shall write just after
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