



Stafford Co, Hous, Va,
April 22^d 1863-

My dear Wife -

Our mail failed last night Monday night we had one but nothing for me - Yours of the 16th is all that I have rec^d thus far - The sad intelligence of Dear Trichell's death came Monday night - I had felt a deep solicitude in his case since the news of his severe illness - Now that the dreaded result has fallen all hearts are penetrated with sorrow - That a great weight of grief must press upon this community at home we know to be true - It is one of the few occasions when there is genuine public mourning - The church has been bereaved & society at large feels that Death has dealt a heavy blow - We are all stricken - The dealings of Providence seem strange at times - We stand amazed at the overturnings & apparent calamities which are permitted - Can it be that our welfare - our highest good - requires that we should give up

the very comfort & support upon which most
reliance is placed! If we had been called
upon to select the victim for sacrifice could
we have thought of him! - Alas, alas, we
are broken & despoiled - Whatever we do
or where ever we go everything links itself
with the deep felt consciousness of the loss
that has been sustained - What otherwise
would be joy now fails to please & into all
our experience there is infused a strain
of suffering - How often I thought of
him on my return; & since being back
until informed of the fatal termination hardly
10 minutes have passed without interest & anxiety
in his condition - From the pt I think
there was foreboding in the minds of all -
Yet we felt it could not be that God
was going to strike so hard - He stood
so related to every wise purpose & in himself
represented the best thoughts of the community
that we regarded him as the gift of Heaven
to us - How then should we expect to be
deprived of his living example! - How could

think that he would suddenly disappear
from our midst!

I had written here when the sound of
drum arrested my attention - Garry's
Division in part have just come
up from Dumfries & gone on to
Brookes Station - We have no
further orders than when I wrote last
The impression prevails that we shall
not move for several days - It is
reported that Lincoln, Hooker & Slocum
had an interview on Sunday that the
two former have gone down to Fort
Monroe - When Hooker returns prob-
ably we shall move - But there is
no certainty - A red star has been
given to every officer & soldier with
orders to fasten it upon the top &
center of the cap - I send one to
Frank & Willie & you can fix them
off in the same way -

Drill - Drill - Hurlydy

Yours A. Upson

