

*(Letter with no envelope is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)*

Annapolis, Md.  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1863 –

My Dear Wife,

This is my birthday – I did not think of it until this moment, 10 A.M. when writing the date above – Yesterday we enjoyed a very quiet day, the first Sunday of the kind since I returned from furlough – How strange it contrasted with the day two weeks since & also with that one in Richmond – In company with several officers I went to church in the A.M. to a Sabbath school in the P.M. & again to church in the evening – Heard good sermons, good singing & I think we were devoutly thankful to the Great God for his wonderful mercies to us – At times it seemed impossible to believe we were really out of rebel hands & enjoying not merely the blessings of our own govt. but also signal Christian privileges - Only 7 days since shut in Libby prison – Yesterday beneath the stars & stripes, enjoying abundance (**Pg. 2**) of every think & more than all delighted by the sounds of Sabbath bells – Often too I wondered whether you had recd. my dispatch to E. P. Hotchkiss – I am inclined to think it went through for Capt. Pardee who sent one to his father in N.H. got a reply that P.M. Saturday – Mine was sent about 8 from here – If you did receive it doubtless you had a lighter heart than for some days before – But once in a while the thought comes into my mind, perhaps she is dead, killed by anxiety & long watching – Perhaps the children are sick, maybe some of them are dead - All is unknown to me since two or three days before we marched from Stafford Co. House – I shall fear to hear & yet hardly know how to wait – Probably nothing will come till the middle or last of the week – If you are alive (that is like the rebs pulling me about & asking, are you dead Mr.?) I wish you to write me all about things & especially the accounts that have been given of me & my fate – Since arriving here I have noticed my name down among the missing officers from the 20<sup>th</sup> Ct. This was in the (**Pg. 3**) Baltimore American – Probably Capt. Woodruff sent you the same fact – But I am interested in the character which the men gave me so long as we were together – What it must be I have no manner of doubt – But you understand – For the rest there are witnesses enough & the testimony they bear is all that one can desire – What to do about continuing communications with the Association is all in the fog – There was nothing after the 1<sup>st</sup> of March until we left Stafford Co. Ho. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April – Moreover the rebs. have my note book & your photograph too – Don't get wrathful about it – They had me once, but not until I had given them many a bullet – Probably I could make out something of a report from the beginning of the movement down to the hour when our regt. retired from the entrenchment at Chancellorsville - But I guess Capt. W. had better take the matter in hand, that is if he is alive & continued with his command – But of my capture journey to Richmond, experience there & thence to this point I shall write out a minute account – There were many ludicrous scenes & could (**Pg. 4**) you have seen me & Lieut. Beardsley

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(for we were by far the roughest looking of the officers) I doubt not you would have laughed quite as much as some ladies did – Despite all hardship & vexations we kept jolly & judging from appearances our hearts were much more at ease than the reb's, if they have got any – Our greatest trouble was to get anything to eat – We did not have so much as one good meal a day – I never lived on so little – We were exposed to the weather, which was bad from Tuesday P.M. till Thursday P.M. when we were put in a box care, very dirty & kept there 17 hours or until arriving in Richmond – After reaching the old Libby, while waiting to be examined a darky prisoner gave some two or three of us a bit of bread & bacon – I eat some of the bacon which was fat & somehow my stomach being empty it made one sick – The water too was very bad to drink & I got so weak that it was hard work to walk about the room – I eat very little while there - & when it was announced that we were to walk to City Point 32 miles it seemed an impossibility – But I was determined to try, & once out in the air I felt refreshed & found my legs as good as any other officers – We left Richmond at 3 ½ P.M. Wednesday last. The purpose was not to halt at all until we had got to the end – But about 9 o'clock there came up a terrible thunder shower – It was so dark we could not see the road except by the flashes of lightning – We kept along in the rain & dark as well as possible – Most of us got wet though – Finally *(Letter ends, no further copy)*