

Camp near Richmond May 21/1862

Dear wife and children I & C.

A letter the 17 of this month which gives me great pleasure of hearing from you being in good health which leaves me in good health at present thanks be to God for His blessing to me Dear wife I feel good this morning for I am on march this last four days from Williamsburgh on for Richmond here I mean to let you know that we are within 10 mile of Richmond this morning and a part of our army is within 5 mile of the city on one side we expected a battle here this morning but the Enemy fell back our Troops followed them up and took 40 wagons and 160 mules with all loaded with provision but in 4 day or two the will have to fight

and I hope to god that we will
Have the good look as gaining this
Battle and with the help of god I will
get safe out of it I want to let
you know how goods rate here
tea is 5 dollars per lb Sugar 40 cts lb
Coffy can not be got here Butter
is 80 ^{cts} _{per lb} Eggs 75 ^{cts} _{per doz} There
is plenty of vegetables here now
and the wheat is in blossom and
all kinds of fruit is very forward
This place & round Richmond is
the finest place I ever seen for
you could see nothing all round
but fields of wheat and all others
crops for 20-30 miles along to northfolk
on the James River and the bank of
the river some 20 feet above the
level of the water is one of the
finest rivers I ever seen for there
is all kind of fish taken in it
but we have not time to present
to you fish but we have by plenty
from the negroes

Dear wife I have not much
to say at present I am in very
good health considering the rough
times we have to undergo but
with the help of God we will get
over it in a short time and I wish
it was this day I send Mary one
dollar in this letter to buy her pair
of light shoes for the 4 of July to
go to the commons give my Love
to Mary and Marthure and I hope you
dont cut Marthure hair for I want
to see it long when I get home not
for getting Marguy or Johny you
will remember me to them which
I hope I will see them once more
Remember me to all Enquiring
Friends and Relations -

No more at present but
Remain your truly Husband

Michael Kelly

I hope you got that 15 dollars
which I sent you and writ as
soon as you can and let me know

There is one thing more I mean to
let you know the 15 Dollars which
I have allotted for you you can not
get it until the paymaster come
to settle with us first and after
that in 4 day or two you will
get it to home - which
we ought to get that money
before this —