Camp near Orange Co., Va.  
August 8th, 1862.

My dear Miss C,

We are now encamped near the Rapidan, having arrived a few days since. The report is that "all is quiet." How long have we waited for the report and quiet which that sentence indicates! The weather is intolerably warm, but we are situated in a pleasant grove of cedars and growth. The country around us is well supplied with stone, vegetable, and green fruit, and our money at present is well supplied. Would you like to dine with us today? Vegetable soup, roast beef, Irish potatoes, green corn, with a dessert of apple and blackberry pie, constitute the 18th of June—the pleasure of your company is solicited. We dine at 4 P.M. We are compelled to submit to fashion through necessity, and eat only twice a day.

The evidences are that in a short time, will again be on the Rappahannock in the vicinity of Fredericksburg Meade, unless he has been heavily reinforced, is so badly crippled that he will not attempt an advance in this direction, but will prefer the alternative of changing his base. Aquia Creek will again probably be his base of supplies. It is asserted by the eversorry ones that the program is the withdrawal of Grant's army from Miss. to be transported by land and water to the Peninsula of Virginia. The 'Rebellion' is crushed.
with the fall of Richmond," is the cry of the Yankee, and Heaven and Earth will be moved to accomplish it. Such a movement would force Lee into the fortifications of the Capital, where the Yankee army would find itself, vain in vain attempts to "go to Richmond." Such a move may be looked for, and I earnestly hope that such will be the case. If the Southern Public and the Yankee army does not know it, the Army of Northern Virginia does, that Richmond cannot be taken, if there be a sufficient force to garrison the place. Lee's Army increased to 100,000 men, could hold the City and successfully repel every attempt to take it. There are many reasons why such a move of the enemy is eminently desirable. Johnson could soon "clean out" the little force left in Niles, and relieve the great West of the presence of the hated Yankee. To besiege Richmond with the combined forces of Grant and Meade would force the enemy to take the sickly swamps of the Chickahominy as a camping ground, and drinking water, and inhaling miasms laden with fever would prove as deadly as the Southern Rifle. But more than all, the enemy moved
then fight us in a position of our choice, where
we would be comparatively safe. We have always
attacked the enemy in his own fortifications.
Nor once have we ever fought behind breastwork.
Between the deadly bullet and the fever-weighted evaps
the destruction of both Yankee armies would be
a work to be done in a very short time.

I have understood from various sources that
temale patriotism in the South is fast "playing out." I
There long ago that a soldier had grown to be so common
that a citizen young man was favored, always, Con-
trolled the favor of the ladies. But I attributed this
generously to the profitability of citizens possessing
other attractions in the cases which established it as
a fact in my mind. Now I hear that everything
is forgotten except the glorious past of the war
and the consequences of our utter judgment by the women
of the South — in other words, the "ladies are
whipped." Is this so? Are you desirous to? I
know you are not. But are not many of your friends
"croaking?" Rumor say the "Old North State" contemplates
a drafting of eldest and will shortly renew under
the yoke of the "Red Flag." In this the women are
the prime moves, and I think it highly probable
that the infection had spread to Georgia. So great is the
influence of this croaking that many desertions
take place daily from A. C. Regiments. More than 7,000
have already gone, and every day I hear of more.

I believe the women of Georgia can establish
a better record than this, and I still have con-
female in their self-sacrificing patriotism. Let them emulate the women of the Revolution, all of whom were heroines, from the belle who graced the ball, to the poor ignorant Nancy Hart of the forest. This is a painful subject to me, but I have heard from good authority so much which substantiates the charge of a want of patriotism by the women of the South, that I was forced to advert to it.

Now is the hour of our trial. Let us all be alive to the emergency. The ladies at home have an important mission to perform. Let them from among all those who are shelving at home while their brethren are baring their breast to the storm, use persuasion with those who hesitate to rejoin their regiments, and cease to recognize those who refuse. Many good soldiers now at home, who know the hardship of camp and linger around the family portals at this delightful season to enjoy the pleasant society of the ladies.

Reminds the of the obligations they owe to their country and their comrades who remain at their post. Short them to remain by all that is clear on earth or sacred in heaven, for now is the crisis. A few short months will decide our fate, slaves or freemen. Do your part and the final soldier will do his. Oh! if we are conquered, know that it will be by treachery or cowardice. Surrender is a dark picture. It is a possibility, and let us every nerve to accomplish our independence. Independence will certainly follow, if our duty is done. Much blood must be shed, and many sacrifices made.

Now, ladies, these are not all poet's dreams, of fair young girl, of light, delicate limb, and airy breezes, but a bearded old man, glorious in beauty, whose brow is scarred with tokens of old wars.

My compliments to Miss Mary. With your regards,
Yours, Va.
Eugene J. Mitchell.