

Camp near Falmouth, Va.

May, 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

very dear aunt,

Your kind letter was received in due season. I thank you very much for it, it must be a great effort for you to write, since I wrote you last there have been very trying times amongst us. There has been a deal of hard fighting but as yet we do not seem to have accomplished much, the rebels are in great force here, but I guess we are good for them yet. This regiment was not in the fight, but was under a pretty hot fire of musketry while helping the engineers to lay the pontoon bridges, but there was no one seriously hurt.

and when we got there down  
the banks had to leave double  
quick, but we managed to catch  
two of them, & brought them  
to camp.

The weather is wet,

we were seeing showers for  
a long time past, & now it has  
got to be a settled rain, of all  
the rainy seasons which ever  
I recollect to mark away the  
entire continent. This will be the  
healer, if there was any "obstinate"  
inhabitant in these parts to  
enquire of, I would add his  
testimony to my own, if the  
army should "fall to Stockton"  
in a week's time it would  
not make much difference,  
but we being restricted to legs  
for locomotion, it seems clear  
able that the rainy season  
should end, I shall try to go

over and see the 3<sup>rd</sup> as soon  
as I can, now they have return-  
ed to their old camp, & I  
will try and see Wright & Bradley  
he had not feeling very well  
the last time I saw him, I  
hope I shall be able to get as  
far through this summer. If the  
man continues, which I think  
there is every prospect of it.  
Along and the fight the rebel  
on the other side of the river  
have stuck their camps out in  
very plain sight, as much as  
to say "you can't drive us  
out of here", besides, Halleck  
& some other dignitaries are  
here to hold a council of war,  
what it will amount to time  
will show, well, I close this  
short epistle to be on time for  
the daily mail, as I had expected  
more, from your affectionate