

Winchester March 3

Dear Sister

As Coupland Page is going to Lexington tomorrow as ~~representing~~ ^{recruiting} office for the S N V's I will send a few lines to let you know the sum of affairs down here -

Every thing has been upside down here for the last two weeks the Yankees are very near us in three columns of about 10,000 men each & no one knows whether Pack was fool enough to fight with his small force or not, but the thing was settled to day I think we've sent off the large cannon on the breast works to Strasburg, so I think we will fall back to that point at establish a line across to Culpeper Court-house for if we fall back the army at Manassas will also have to draw in its horns or be flanked which is by no means agreeable, Jeff Davis says in his message that we have been attempting to defend too much frontier so I think we intend to fall back, a thing by

The ~~the~~ way I don't like as I was getting
to feel myself at home.

I went to see two nice young ladies
night before last, went at eight & came
away at eleven so you see I am
getting to be quite a ladies man -

I did not reculise for this reason
as I am not old enough to be drafted
and as very few of the old company
like the Infantry ^{company} wish
to form a cavalry I will have time
to look around, but don't think
that your brother has proved recreant
to the call of his country, no never
do I intend to desert the flag of
my country as long as the abominable
flag of despotism waves over a foot
a Southern soil rather would I have
my bones rot unburied on the hill side
than live a slave for it would
be the most degraded slavery -

Excuse this scratch as I do not
endeavor to show off as a scholar
but am only a Soyer Boy

Good bye

Yours
Geo