

New Sharpshooting

June 19th / 63

Dear Sister

As we have stopped to rest today I will seize the opportunity to write home.

I wrote a short note shortly after the battle of Winchester but as I did not give you any account of our meanderings I will start at the starting place (Fredericksburg) I deal with the subject in extent.

We left Camp on the 5th of June marched by Spotsylvania Ct, to within a few miles of Orange Ct turned off came to the Rapid Ann crossed the river to Culpeper Ct, thence to Sperryville thence towards Warrenton turned off the Warrenton road near Washington the County seat of Rappahannock crossed the Blue Ridge to Front Royal, then down the Shenandoah Valley to ^{near} Winchester, here we found the least Millroy in a fort near the town, strongly fortified.

Gen Ewell thinking the place too strong to storm without the loss of a great many lives sent our division (Gen Johnson's) to the rear of it, Gen Early's down the main turnpike & Gen Rodes to Martinsburg and I spent the day getting our positions, about dark we opened off them with our artillery

I think it was the most beautiful sight I ever witnessed, we soon drove him from his outer works to his main fort, when we stopped shelling, & awaited morning to develop his movements, about day break we found out that he would endeavor to cut through our lines in his rear towards Harper's Ferry.

Gen Johnson soon had his lines completed & ready for action now had we long to wait as Milroy knew that success depended on the vigor of the attack, the 4th Lu & 3rd ^{reg} ^{Br} brigades met the first assault the enemy gallantly cut numbering them drove them back a short distance when Gen Johnson galloping along the line told them the Stone wall was coming to their support they soon rallied & in turn drove the enemy, our brigade fired very well shots, the enemy seeing the hopelessness of getting through determined to surrender, our brigade captured more prisoners than the brigade numbered, each regiment has a standard of Yankee colors, Gen Milroy with the cavalry escaped owing to an opening in our lines, the fruits of the victory are immense not a small item being 20 pieces of artillery. Gen Small issued a congratulatory order to the army desiring them to return to

To God with mine for the victory -

I think we have a very good successor
to Gen Jackson. After the battle
we marched to Sheppardstown crossed
the Potomac & are now lying near Sharps-
burg, what will be the next move I do not
know, our camp is full of rumors to-
day from the outside world, Grants army
according to our accounts is captured, I
would give almost any thing for a Rich-
mond paper this morning.

As it is about to rain I will close,
as I have no steller to write under

Good bye
Yours

I send you a piece of My Maryland orbor vide