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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
My Dear Sister

In answer to your kind and Ever welcome letter which I received in due time this Evening Containing five dollars and your [underline] picture. [end underline] I write you these few lines and inform you that I am enjoying good health at this time hoping this may find you enjoying the Same Blessing. You Said in your letter that you would Be uneasey about me now Annie I do not want you to Be uneasey for if the least accident happens to me I will let you know without delay [underline] Annie [end underline] I am afraid you are put to a great deal of trouble in my account I am afraid that I Bother you to much although I have never asked you for a favour But you always granted it Cheerfully But I hope to Be able to Repay you for your kindness you know that I am loath to forget a kind favour such as you have often [Underline] Bestow [end underline]
Annie I think your picture looks like you in Every Respect. But I think you have Broke Since I last Saw Saw you pray don't think that I think you are looking old But what I mean is that your health has most assured Ben Bad and you have not told me of it yet your photograph was very acceptable indeed for I had often wante you to Send it to me But I never liked to Bother you well Annie I will give you a word or too on the times that we are Spending down in the lo lands of old virginia. we are now incamped one mile from the most magnifficent Stre[a][inserted text]a[m of water called the Rappidan River the prettiest places that I have Saw Since I came into virginia we have a magnifficent encampment in a Small woods it would astonish you if Could only hear the Srill notes of the Bugle as they arrouse us from our Slumber in the morning this is Called Reville latoo?? [end underlined]
as for meal hours I Cant tell you the precise hour for we do our own Cooking and Eat when Ever we fell disposed. I must tell you of a mess that we had the other Evening me and a Comrade of mine was out on picket we were Strolling arround and Came a cross Some green tomatoes I asked him if he was fond of prserves he Said that he was well Says I I think I Can make a mess I had often Saw mother Stew them and I thought that I Could do the Same as I had Saw her do. and now for the [underline] mess [end underline] I got the tomatoes Cut them up in Small pices and put them in a Small Cup Started the fire under them Cooked them half an hour took them off and oh god Such a holy mess you never Saw I gave one gage nad you know what followed there was Some thing wanted wahat was it from the taste I though maby Sugar was what was wanted But I hadent any nor neighr had he So I will give you my word them is the last tomatas Dave will Ever under take to Preserve while I am in the army, [underline] Annie [end underline] tell me in your next letter how Mrs Woods and her Daughers are Coming on likewise Mr Crips
Annie I dont think there will Be any fighting of much account this fall they do not Seem to Be making much preparation for the fall Campain if we move our Camp I will let you know without Delay give my love to my Brother Alfred and tell him that a letter from home would Be kindly By [inserted text] Received [end inserted text] me. give my love to Mrs wood tell her that I am [underline] well [end underline] likewise Mr Crips and all the rest of my acquaintances not forgetting the Younger Class. there is no use of me Being Backward for indeed I would like to See Some of the young girls fo my acquainlunce But time will Bring us all together what a happy day that will Be [underline] Annie I will not detain you any longer in Reading this for tis getting late Bed time and I think Perhaps I had Better Say finis and Bid you [underline] Adieu [end underline] in [underline] Silence [end underline] But in tears I enclose a Bit of our dear old flag [underline] keep it to remember the 2nd Delaware [end underline] I [underline] Remain [end underline] Your true and Affectionate [underline] Brother [end underline] [underline] David [end underline] N Lilley Ps answer as Soon as [underline] Convenient [end underline] From your Brother David N Lilley good [underline]