

Confederated States  
Commonwealth of Va  
Alexandria, April 28<sup>th</sup> 1861

My dear Mother,

Two letters from home arrived this week one on Thursday, the other on Friday. I have consulted with GrandMa, on the subject of leaving school, and she advises me not to go until Mr. McGuire breaks up. The boys are leaving rapidly. There were I believe only 29 boarders yesterday, when I came in, and I would not be surprised if some 7 or 8 of these got letters last night telling them to come immediately. All are anxious to go. Studying is almost impossible. I manage to get my lessons pretty well. After this week we stop writing exercises, and will in a few days commence reviewing for examination which generally keeps us very busy, as we have long lessons to get. I came into town yesterday evening. We first went to the Mount Vernon Barracks, which are on the same street as the Mansion House, but on the other side of King Street, to see one of our boys who had joined that company. We found him at the door, with a little child in his lap, with whom he was amusing himself, and looking cheerful, and much fatter than he did when he left school. He has gone home (near Richmond) today on a furlough until Wednesday. The Mount Vernon Guards compose two companies, called company A & B, together including upwards of 120 men. The 'old Dominion Rifles' compose 104; the Riflemen 70. Another company from Warren CO, called the Warren Rifles have about 80 or 90. Besides these there are 'Alexandria Artillery', 'Home Guard' (Cavalry), and others the names of which I don't know. There are sentinels posted at all the different roads leading to Washington and for some distance up the road running up Washington Street. One is always walking up and down the pavement in front of GrandMa's, and another at the other end of the square just in front of the factory. Just before commencing this letter the sergeant and the guard marched by. They change sentinels every two hours. A wagon was stopped a few minutes ago passing by, and the man had to leave it and go down to Mr. Fowle's to get permission from him to pass. In my numeration above I left out 2 Irish Brigades and another cavalry company making altogether an average of 711 men (about). I was elected to the command of the company after Ben left. There are in Washington, I have heard 15000 men. A blockade to all the ports of Va and N. Ca [North Carolina] is to be declared this morning. Col. [Colonel] Lee's appointment gives general satisfaction. He is to appoint all officers above that of Captain, which ~~by a~~ [sic, crossed out] have all been nullified. I hope he will appoint someone in Gen'l [General] Faliaferro's place. Three men who voted for Lincoln were asked to leave the other day, and have gone I think to Pennsylvania. Our company numbers now about 22. Yesterday I purchased a book of tactics with some money, which we had in our treasury, and intend studying it a good deal. It may be useful to me hereafter. I suppose the Hall broke up last night. They were talking of doing so. I expect the school will break up in about two weeks, and believe the reason the Rector has not done so before was that he didn't like the idea of paying back so much money. GrandMa advised me to wait. Wilson Turner dined with us today and is going to stay all night here. Kemper's as well as all the other schools in town have broken up. Wilson is to start off next Thursday for St. Louis, where he is going to try for an office of Lieutenant. His father is raising a regiment in St. Louis, has already 300 men, and will very probably have command of Mo forces. What will Brudge do? One of the University soldiers spent several days at the High School. J. Garnett. [writing continues on side of page, in the crease between pages 1 and 4] I won't agree to the plan of tending to the family while you remain in Charlestown. You must remember that you are nearly 50 while

I am in the very prime of my youth. [writing continues on side of page 1] With your permission I would like to join the Botts' Greys as soon as I get home. It will not be an expense to you I suppose the state would bare my expenses. Let Brother Henry and I do the fighting, let George and Pa tend to the family. We are the strongest. GrandMa and Cassius both send love. Cassius wants to know whether you have yet succeeded in getting the autographs.