

Washington, D.C.
April 5th 1865

Dear Mother

I take my pen in hand to let you know that I am well as usual, and I hope these few lines will find you all enjoying the same great blessing I suppose long before this letter reaches you that the fall of Richmond will be an old story to you Richmond was captured on Monday Morning at 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ o'clock by Gen Witzels colored troops, as soon as the news reached Washington, there was the biggest excitement in the city I ever seen all the buildings closed and all was excited over the good news brass bands were out and the crowd went from one place to another being cheering and to get a speech by some of the big men Secretary of war made a speech and the Vice President and Gen Butler and a great many more. Old Abe is in Richmond Mrs. Lincoln came home Sunday and was going back again, this forenoon last night all the public buildings were illuminated and a great many private ones also it was a splendid sight the Capitol and war department took the lead being the nicest illuminated was there any excitement in Meadville or are they all scared to death over the draft I seen a Meadville paper and there was quite a number of boys that I knew drafted well I must commence to draw in how is Grand Mother by this time give my love to all the folks has your family moved out of your house give my love to Eliza's family and write soon. From your son,

W. A. Cutter,