Bell Plains Va May 20th

Dear Dil

As you will see by the date of letter we are fairly into the land of rebs! & might-ups with the regt. between Harrisburg and Baltimore where a train was off the track. They gave us no opportunity to write until we arrived here nor can I now till if this will reach you, but hope it will for when we leave here there will be no probable chance for sixty days. We are now ten miles from Fredricksburg and 23 from the main

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army. Guarding supplies.
how long we will be kept
here I can not say but
expect not long. There is
no danger of your having
much fighting to do
as we are not mounted
and though they can
use us for Scouts
they will not probably
attempt to make us fight
as infantry. So far as
I am concerned I would
as soon fight as infantry
as cavalry. You must
not feel uneasy if you
do not hear from me
till the fighting is over
for I will certainly
turn up all right.
I dare not write any
thing in the way of news
though I can write certain

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I know nothing but what the reb's do for their scouts are all around our camp. Have you heard from Annie since I left how is she suited with country life. If I do not return before July or your vacation you must go and see them. And go prepared to stay if it suits you. It is but a little over a week since I saw you and yet it seems a month. If I get out this time I will stay at home the rest of my days I think I will get to come home by fall any how if not sooner. Give my love to all at home I send you my sweet little feet-fuls of love and plenty of kisses

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Direct 1st Bell Plains care U.S. Sanitary commission and there prob[ably] it will get through. A member of the U.S.C. will take this to Washington

Your loving husband
Henry

This was written on the ground but a very good desk