

UNIV. OF
VERMONT

Head Quarters 8th W. det. vols.

Wednesday La May 9th 1864

Dear Laura

(I again have the pleasure of writing you a few lines) When I wrote you last, it was just after receiving orders to be ready for march or action at a moment's notice. I thought I should be able to write you again before the steamer left. But it did not turn out so. — This was Friday — soon after writing you, I had orders to take the Rail Road for this place & report to Col. Day at Det. P. for further orders — we got along very well the first 20 miles. there we were to meet another train — it was not there & it was supposed, by the picket, that it had been captured by Guerrilla^s & the tracks torn up — so I went on cautiously, but found it had broken down — I got to La Friche at 11 o'clock & then marched up here 4 miles. I found 1 Section of Artillery, 4 Companies of Cavalry (2nd Maryland & Scott's Nine Hundred) & 1 Company of Infantry — The next day we were busy getting our camp ready to be comfortable and I did not pay much attention to the country, for I knew that pretty well before. That night (Saturday) I

and reputation, as well as my own, that I should not in the first instance, have refused to go into the Army — & being in it, that I should so conduct myself as not to disgrace him, or my self. — I shall neither Cohort nor shame danger. — A just God is my judge — I am your Affectionate Son
Lester