

Dear Mother & Family

Camp near Culpeper Va Oct 1st 1863

My dear Wife -

I have this hour
received your very welcome letter of
the 27th ult. Perhaps I think
more of the past than you do, as I
am here far far from those I love
and have more to recall the past.
There are many things to regret in the
past but after all I think we can
say that our past life has been
as pleasant as usually falls to the
lot of human beings - Were it not
for the trials and sorrows of life we
would not know how to appreciate
their pleasures. We have every reason
to be thankful for the blessings that
are bestowed upon us - and I think
we are. Today I am - only think!
45 years old - Can it be possible! I
can hardly realize it, I do not