

Camp on the Battle Field near Williamsburg

May 7<sup>th</sup> 1862

My darling wife

We have won a great victory. The enemy are retreating & we are pressing after them. We occupied their works which defended Yorktown on Sunday and advanced to the works in front of Williamsburg. Our advanced guard of light Artillery & Cavalry attacked the enemy & quite a brilliant action took place. We soon after came up but it was just nightfall, therefore did not make an attack. That night a heavy rain set in - but an attack was made in the morning, Monday, which was very severe on our left. Hookers Division made the attack & were severely handled by the enemy. They took two batteries of ours & the result of the day looked doubtful. We had some very strong forts in front - among them was Fort Magruder which has been their boast ever since we have been on the Peninsula. They considered it impregnable. and I think it would have been to a front attack alone. But General Smith sent General Hancock, Commanding his <sup>1st</sup> brigade, round to