

Head Quarters 2nd Div.
9th Corps Newport News Va
March 5th 1863

Dear Nellie:-

I know how
distrustful you are of my
excuses and of my other
earnest avowals generally
so I shall by no means
open a Correspondence with
you by making its Commence-
ment an elaborate apology
which the fair object of for
whom it should be intended
would laugh at incredulously.
Not a bit of it. I couldn't
write to you nor anybody else
from Washington - nor from
any place this side of Portland -
nor did I - and all because

a vast and varied concatenation
of adventures adverse circum-
stances compared in an entirely
unlooked for - and - as the
newspaper Guff says - "in a
hitherto unprecedented manner."

— Nor did I have my picture
taken - as according to promise -
because I couldn't sit down
in any place but a railway
car long enough to have it
done - and they don't take
good photographs of a fellow
"riding on a rail." But I much
regret my inability to have
undergone the daguerotyping
process - but shall take the
earliest and most favorable
opportunity of doing that same.
But Nellie, you must send me
your picture - for unsatisfactory
as your counterfeit presentment

would be to me as a
substitute for its original,
I am afraid it will be the
nearest approach to your own
sweet face and form which
I shall be able to enjoy for
many a long and weary day.
Indeed Nellie I want it very
very much - and I know
you don't want me to annoy
you with coaxing - and then
you know how dearly I shall
cherish it. I want it for
a Talisman - for the other went
with me as a good angel of
safety through those hot
and bloody battles.

We are delightfully
situated in our camp. It
is situated upon the bank
of the James River and
overlooks the scene of the

battle of the Monitor & Mer-
= rima. Indeed this place
has been the field of many
of the most interesting operations
of this war. Plainly to be seen
from the door of my tent
are two iron sentinels of the
Sees - the iron Clads "Tanganmon"
and "Galena", and a half mile
or more below them, rising
from the surface of the broad
Stream are the dismantled
remnants of the old Frigate
Cumberland's masts. They stand
there to mark the watery
grave to which the iron
sheathed monster of Richmond
so ruthlessly and suddenly
sent her. I wish you were
here to enjoy a sight as these
scenes, and if we remain
at Fortess Monroe - as we

may do - during the coming
Spring and Summer, - I
hope to be able to induce
you to realize that wish.

But pleasant as this
Camp is, I feel a sad
longing - a lonely, weary
sneeze - under which my
thoughts are constantly
recurring to other scenes
and other faces than those
around me. I find
myself, morning noon
and night making
dream pictures of a little
brown Cottage where some-
body holds the warmest
and softest ~~for~~ portion
of my heart. I see a
fair of kindly - and, as I
hope, not unloving ~~eyes~~ eyes

bent on me;— and then
I hear the honest truthfull
guileless words of the sweetest
of her sex speaking to me,
quietly, ~~and~~ calmly and
charmingly through a pair
of lips a goddess might
envy! This is a lasting day
dream and night vision
with me. Can you guess
its import? Can you
devine who it is that has
wreathed a web of softening
sadness around my thoughts?
I know you can— and
Nellie— whatever might
be the result.

"I'd offer thee this hand of mine
If I could love thee less;

But hearts as warm and pure as thine
Should never know distress.

My fortune is too hard for thee—

This is my honest homely
avowal Nellie. I am not
jesting with you now. I
am glad to tell you frankly
that I love you with all
my worthless heart— But
let us both make light
of that fact— fact as it
is, for it is worse than
nothing to make the matter
a serious one— So, Nellie
you may laugh at the
confessions of a poor old
bachelor— and when, one
of these days— you may
gladden the board and
fireside of some most
fortunate lord of creation
you have my consent
to point your finger at
me— or my picture and
say— "That old Chap was

dead in love with me
once." And then, if I
am present, I will say
"yes, - that's a fact, - and
I am not cured of the
malady yet; - even a half
Century hence I would
say that - if present to
tell you so, I say.

Now Nellie, darling,
write to me at your
earliest convenience. A letter
from you will keep me in a
state of happiness ~~for~~ until its
successor comes - at least. Present
my regards to your brother and
kiss your little sisters for me
and in my name; And accept
from me unbounded love and
believe me to be ever
Yours truly

To Miss Nellie Kimball }
Portland Me }

address } Capt. Henry R. Nichols
} Hd Qrs 2nd Div 9th Corps
} Newport News Va.

Mar 5
1863



Miss Nellie Verrill
In Care of Byron Verrill Esq
Portland Maine

Head Quarters 2nd Div.
9th Corps Newport News Va

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Yours truly
Capt Henry R. Mighels
address Hd Qrs 2nd Div 9th Corps
Newport New Va.

[envelope]

Miss Nellie Verrill
No 69 1/2 Cumberland St
Portland --