

Petroleum May 27th

Mr. Bernard - Indeed if you must
excuse my not having answered
your letter before this. I have had
so many calls in other directions
that I have not been able to write
any letters for the past week, so
you will have to forgive this offense
knowing you are not the only one
so slighted. It may astonish you,
as it does some of the ladies, that
I have any thing to do now the
soldiers have all gone away. We
manage to spend occasionally a
very pleasant hour notwithstanding
all of our friends have gone. We
don't claim as a friend, a man
who will not go to serve his country,

Master Bradford & I spent last evening with some of the Alabama soldiers quartered at the "Fair Grounds". Master I think lost his heart with one. They are certainly very pleasant gentlemen. The highest praise I can possibly ~~bestow~~ and it is ~~deerving~~, if they are almost equal to your company; our Riflemen. We hear news from all points this morning, whether good or bad, I cannot decide. We can expect, we can hope for nothing else, so we must not call it bad. But it is not pleasant to us to know that our friends (consider every man who fights for Virginia my friend;) are engaged in a contest against those low contemptible ruffians from the North. We expect Jeff. Davis to day. Unless



delayed in S.C. he will be
here certainly. The gentlemen
we saw last evening were to
have been his escort to Virginia
but he was called to Pensacola
and they sent on, & ~~Virginia~~
This is a great stir down town
can see it over here, and
a short while ago to Courthouse
full many. I guess he has already
come. Mine and I have not
enough patriots to go out this
warm weather at this time of
day even to see the President,
I suppose you must be doing
some execution as so many
soldiers have gone down in the
last two days to Norfolk. We
cannot trust the reports we hear
as do not know anything of
our movements in the last two days.



I was very glad to hear Gen. Grayson
has been superseded by Col. Thayer
I trust you will not now have
another such march as you had
to Swell's Point, and not be able to
"shoot a ^{live} Yankee" when you get there.
The ladies of Petersburg ^{have} made an at-
tempt to raise a company to learn
the drill and practice shooting,
but one the gentlemen who are left
here, or rather who would not go away,
considering it a reflection on their
abilities, have told so many tales
and talk about us so outrage-
ously that I am afraid we
will have to give it up. It
makes me mad to hear these young
men that have very little of any
thing to keep them here staying
doing nothing but lounging around
walking & talking with the ladies.
Your friend Dr. Boyd and myself
go well when we meet, because



he is so desirous of having an office. I believe he has at last determined to go & join your company. Bro Henry will go down as soon as he can. He is quite unwell, and being so restless & uneasy about being detained here keeps him from getting well. I believe Mother is willing for him to be sick to keep him with her. You said you wish to hear through me from your friends. I believe they are all well. Maria B. sends her best love. Says she very often thinks & speaks of you among her friends who have gone to the "war." She says present her compliments to any enquiring



friends. I was interrupted by a
call from the Alabama soldiers
Mother laughed at us about our
visitors being dress in roundabouts.
The uniform is home made,
And made in a summer hat
suited to work. We have been
Stationed for some time at Fort
Morgan. Mr Norby Page an old
acquaintance of yours was ~~am~~
among the number who called
this morning. We ask affectionately
ly of you. Mother says she insist
on getting the time for you,
trust^{ing} you will still need him
after you come from the war,
unless before then you determine
to take a wife instead.
Mother desires to be remembered to
you. Forward my kindest regards
to all friends. It would be

an almost endless task
to attempt to particularize.
My compliments to your Captain.
It is reported this evening that
your regiment will probably
be ordered to N. C. at some
moment there to prevent the landing
of Federal troops. I think I
had rather you all should
fight on Virginia soil, and if
necessary die on it.

It will give me pleasure to
hear from you soon again.
I will try in my reply to be
less stupid than in this. I
really feel terribly blue to day,
^{but} that is only a polite ~~expression~~
expressing a feeling of stupidity.

With kindest regards, I am

Your friend

Pattie B. Cowles.

My regards to our mutual friend.
Though it would be very pleasant
to hear directly from him, still I think
it best that he did not write in
your letter. P.B.C.