

Norfolk Va. S. C.
April May 4th / 61

My Callie Dear

Your letter of April 29th is lying before
me & well may it say, you are sad. There's cause to
make us all sad, not only on the aspect of affairs
in general, but on the thought of our absence from
ourselves, exposed to danger we know ourselves of
danger all for our sakes, the "furnaces" the company
to which Fort Fisher & Beaufort being one at least
a few miles below Norfolk, & the entrance
of the harbor; there they are on guard
night & day attending to the throwing up of batteries
mounting of cannon they have six mounted there
from Grand Island, ten I believe at the Hospital
& ten at old fort Norfolk, you see we are
being put in a tolerable state of defense, it is really
surprising how one can become used to all the
paraphernalia & sounds of war, it is nothing to see nearly
armed troops passing thro' the street, the number in
of cavalry & footmen

& around Norfolk is estimated to be about ~~seven~~
thousand & more are constantly arriving. I wish
me to tell you all the news. There's nothing new - it's
the same old story of wrong & oppression, but the
latest in that line, is the blockade of our harbor.
"Old Abe" has sent his minions & humored us we completely
says he means to starve us out in thirty days. The Old Fol
does not perceive he has conferred the greatest blessing
he could confer upon us in keeping the yankees away
from taking all or the best of our produce, that has
hitherto been sent to a northern market. I
think it might bear for three dollars a bushel
when they are always been eight. instead of starving
we are enjoying our own & that in abundance
plenty of fish & oysters & the most delicious soft crabs
enough to make "Old Abe's" mouth water, to think
about them, let him continue the blockade
he & his minions are the only sufferers. the
an convenience we are put to is seeing & hearing from
our friends across water, which is not his intention,
but to starve us. he'll see whether he'll do it the
same. You are mistaken in supposing the Navy

yard is destroyed, on the contrary there is comparatively but little damage done to it, it was there intention to completely destroy it, but "God" who ever guides the assault, turned the wind around & suppressed it not to burn even after it had been so carefully kindled. the powder actually went out, after it had been set fire to, the fire was powerful for us, in placing it in our hands so easily without any loss of life, the Southern Confederacy fly our waves in triumph over it Old J. will say he means to haul it down & have the yard again in their hands, but he's afraid to try it, it will never be in their hands again, I forgive them for wishing for it for it is certainly a great prize to us, & loss to them, but they deserted first it first & then deserted it to its fate, so it's much the best as it is. Gen. Pickett is not there yet, & it is thought when it is attempted, there'll be great loss of life the enemy having the advantage. Tell your Maria to read the 2^d chapter of Joel & hear it ever so much, tell her not to think of such a thing as her body's being shown. I do not think one of our men will be killed

if there's such a thing as a serious breach which I
do not anticipate. I think after "Old Abe" has tried
perseverance long enough & even it has no effect &
France & England have fully recognized us he'll have
to give in. however galling it may be to his feelings
& recognize our independence Oh! if I had my way
I'd build ^{some} a wall between us that would reach
to heaven itself if possible & shut them out from
us forever & "he" who searches all hearts knoweth
I wish there no horses to ^{be} shut out from all
communications with them, is all I desire but if
they won't recognize us peaceably, they must do it
forcibly I don't I should when ^{out} you should
have heard us why we've been for secession ever
since South Carolina went out & it used to make
me right mad to see Va so blind, but she's all
right now & will enjoy the Northerners howl when
the thought rushes into their minds "the garden spot of the
world" has eluded their grasp The neighbors tell me
there was a fine scene enacted in front of our door
on Friday last while we were all at the Hospital
one of the companies from Petersburg ^{about 100} came along
stopped calling loudly for the White School happened that
in his room reacting hearing the noise he looked out the
windows & they besieged him telling him they wanted
that flog. they must have that flog! the poor little
bellow didn't know what ~~to do~~ he was afraid of
them, & beto ~~was~~ aboard Jersey wouldn't like it, so
he gave it away but he finally gave it to them & the
shouts were deafening, they went on cheering & hallooing
& the pitch of their voices it now waves over Crany Island

