

No 1

A. N. P. R. May ^{the} 2nd 1864

Miss Bettie

My most devoted friend I again sent my
self to write you a few lines in reply to yours of the 20th
which came to hand this morning it found me enjoying a
fine health which I more than hope these lines will reach you
in due time and find you enjoying the same grate blessings of
life Bettie I haven't any thing interesting to relate to you now
times is hard as usual every thing very high here and I can't
see any hopes of its getting any better no time soon but I
have hopes if it never is so Bettie I am now unwell at
the present time and have no chance to write what ever
so I must ask you to look over my bad writing for this time
before I go any farther your letter of the 20th you may rest satisfied
that it was read with much pleasure and oh how many thoughts
beheld & crast my mind while I was reading of it to think
how familiar the face of the writer has once been to me and
to think that we are so far from each other now and the
prospects looks so dark of ever seeing each other again it
makes me feel very serious in deed but I hope the time is not
far hence before we can behold the faces of our most
devoted friends again Bettie you spoke about the
neighbors letter and hope all coming off at the same
time which it is had but it had better be that way than
not at all which I am fearful if this war continues
many more months they won't get letters nor I hope either
also you said something concerning wool I hope that the
confederat money has not become so scarce that the people

have to rob the sheep of the fold of thine comfortable
jacket before due time to get it. Bettie i did not under-
stand what you was speaking on at first but after meditating
for a short time i new what you was talking about Bettie
you say that the ladies is making the straying soldiers about
thane wich i am sorry to think that we have such simple
girls in old North Carolina as to marry the strange soldiers
of her own state much more the soldiers of Virginia
and other states i would think it would be as much as any
lady could consent to do to marry a man who she was very
well acquainted with such times as is now Bettie you ask
me did not i think they were fools i must say i do think they
or fools and dont know what they or doing for thare is not
a doubt in my mind but the men they or making or all
married men and when this war ends i expect thare will
be a rather a munge the winning about thare husbands Bettie
write soon and give me the names of some of those girls
so i must stop writing about that now and tell about
the beautiful wether we have here at the present it reminds me
of home very much when the birds with thine rattles notes
fills the forest with thine sweet songs of spring my mind
wanders back to days that or just when i used to have
the pleasure of heir in the company of so many young
lady's whose red cheeks banished all trouble from my mind
but now i am here and nothing to disperse trouble Bettie
i am a shame for you to read such bad writing but i hope
you will excuse it heir i have a very bad pen and no chance
of writing and this is the third letter i have written to day
and my fingers is cramped very badly so Bettie i must
close by having no more Room write soon if you please J. H. Ellamir