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James W. Drake to S. G. Miller (3 June 1862)

James W. Drake

Susan G. Miller

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Richmond, June 3rd 1862

Mrs. Susan G. Miller,

Dear Madam

A great battle was fought on Saturday, in which our boys were engaged, and thank God, escaped unhurt but the whole Company did not escape - Jo^s Read was killed, - Mannahan was wounded in the left leg, which had to be amputated below the knee - The elder Parksdale is wounded in the left hand - McAnnally in the left foot - one of the Combs' (not the Lieut.) on the head - The younger Parksdale & Charlie Wheeler missing - the latter believed to be a prisoner, the other believed to be killed - George Miller, Tom Herron, Jno. Gray and another or two of the boys became detached from the Company, and when I left the Hospital, near the battlefield at 2 O'Clock P.M. on Sunday, Eddie was preparing to go in search of them - but I am happy to say that they have made their appearance in safety, thanks be to God. Oh, Madam, language utterly fails me in

I have written hurriedly with a very bad pen.

attempting to describe the scene at the Hospital to which the wounded were brought from the battle-field. The ghastly appearance of the dead, the groans & cries of the wounded, the legs and arms that were amputated and thrown out on the ground - all, all conspired to excite in my bosom mingled emotions of gratitude to God, that our boys were safe; that it was no worse (though bad enough) with our other friends; and with eternal hostility to Yankeeedom.

The fight in which our boys were engaged commenced about 12 O'clk M. on Saturday, and continued terrifically awful till dark - Sunday morning the fight was resumed about 6 O'clk, near the ground on which it closed the previous evening, (our boys not being engaged, I mean Whiting's Brigade) and continued till 12 O'clk M. with awful fierceness - I listened with the most intense anxiety to the Cannonading and Musket-firing, both Saturday & Sunday - We drove them from the ground, and captured 16 pieces of Artillery many of them, a friend of mine tells me, are of the very best guns made in the world - Made of steel, and will ring like a bell, a great many small arms

and several hundred prisoners, whom I saw leave here this morning for Charlotte, N.C.

Everything was comparatively quiet yesterday, but may have been merely the calm which precedes the storm - The fight may be resumed today, we are ready, and anxious for the fight. And my, is that the Yankees will only get to Richmond as they are brought here - The obstructions in the river and battines on the river, 8 miles below, it is believed will effectually preclude the approach to the City, by the Yankee Gunboats; and our men are determined that they shall not come by land - I send you the papers of the morning, and will send you everything of interest.

Let Sarah know that her brother is safe - I would write to her myself, but don't know whether she is at Pentoto or Abudeen - Mrs Moore is safe also.

Let me hear how the Judge is succeeding, and when he will be here with his Legion. Remember me kindly to my friends, and May God bless you.

Very Respectfully
Your friend

J. W. Drake



Mrs. Susan G. Miller
Ponchartraine
Mississippi