Camp on the Nansemon River

May the 8 1863

Dear wife and little blesed chrildren. I take my pen in hand to answer your kind and welcome letter which I received last night dated May the 3d. Was glad to here you ware all well except Mary. Sorry she has got a cough but hope she will git over it. My health is not very good now though it is better today. I got a bad cold. Last week on picket duty and then last Saturday night our reg with too [two] cannon and seven cavelry crossed the river. We marched some 12 miles in the night, went across, lay down one hour in the morning, then started into the Enemys country. It was very hot. We got some too miles, found some rebs, fired cannon on them. They fell back. We kept on, came to a village called Chucketuck, very pretty place. Went on a little farther and the rebs in the woods fired on us, kiled one cavelry man, wounded another. We kiled four of them and took one horse of them. We then turned to our left, kept round towards the river again, got clear to the river again, not in the place whare we crosed in the night, but some 5 or 6 miles toward Suffolk and the rebels opened fire on us again with their rifles. We let them [have] more. They soon gave up and we took them. Thare was 16 in all hid under the river bank. One of them was a lieutenant. I with 6 others was put on guard over them. We marched them one ½ mile to whare there was one of our gun boats and then we took them on thare that night. The next day took them down to Suffolk and went to our old camp. That night our reg come in in the night. By the way we had one man in Co k that was kiled and 4 wounded, none in our Co. We wounded one rebel. We left our old camp Tuesday night, came some 8 miles to whare we are now. We have picked [pitched] our tents here with the prospect of staying some time but dont know. The rebels have all left Suffolk and have gone back badley whiped. Our forces have took a great many prisnors from them. So dear wife don’t wory about me for I feel a good deal better now. What ailed me was I had a bad cold and that hard march was to much but my apetite is good again so I shall git along. You may let Wm see this. I will send my ten dollar check in this. You can give it to him. Tell him I shall rite him in a few days but tell him if they draft him to pay the 3 hundred dollars. He had better pay twice that than to come out here. I think I will git a furlough some time this summer if we don’t beat the rebels out which God grant that we may so that they will be glad to have peace again and we return to our families and friends. George and Eber are well, so are the rest of the boys. That is all the news now. You rote the Barrows ware a fighting. They had better send them down here. They would git anuff of it I think. Tell the chrildren that they need not send aney tea at present for I have got quite a mess on hand now. So you can se that I am just as savin as I can be for we shall want all of the money we can git when I come home for every thing is so high. I want you should anwer this as soon as you git it so that I shall know that you have got the check. Give my respects to all of the friends. Kiss the little bleseds for me. Tell them to be good chrildren. Love to all, good share to yourself.

Ever yours

Geo H Harris