Camp. McRae, Near York Town
April 27th, 1862

Dear Father, Mother, Sisters, & Brothers,

I received your letter to me in due time and in return will write a few lines to you. We have again changed our location since I wrote you last; we are now encamped in the woods about 6 miles from York town within one mile of the rebel pickets. Our pickets are stationed so near them that they can talk with each other. Our brigade occupies the extreme left of the army of the Potomac. But as a reserve, the army that compose the advance on York town are busily at work building signal...
Towers and placing Seize guns along the whole lines. It is expected that York town will be taken if taken at all by the Artillery, there is I am told 200 heavy Seize guns on their way to this place from Fort Monroe, but it is a slow process on account of the roads which are very muddy people will why the army does not advance faster but if they were here and had to follow us on a forced march through the mud this wonder would stop. Our Colonel & Major were both taken prisoners three or four days ago they were out making a reconnaissance of the country around our camp. It was believed at first that they deserted and were taken on purpose but getting at the facts of the case they have concluded that it could not be so, and so we are left with one field officer.

The gallant Cecil Butler, it seems here the most of the time like a 4th of July as we hear the report of Cannon Continually night & day. it has been very unpleasant for three or four days here it has rained the most of the time but to day the weather looks as though it would clear up and the sun once more make its appearance to remind us that had not deserted us entirely. This soldiering has its fat & lean just like everything else but for the last two weeks we have had more than a fair majority of the lean. There is a field of wheat within a stone throw of our camp it is now about six inches high and it looks nice. I can tell you what makes me notice it more particularly is its being the only thing that looked...