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April 13th 1861

My Dear Sue,

High water is still in the way & therefore I concluded to add another paragraph as Simon Roberts says, We have been getting along finely today and are nearly through with our Reports & amendments to the Constitution, But we have terrible excitement here, The South Carolinians have commenced cannonading Fort Sumpter to drive the United States troops out of it, so the war in that part of the South is actually begun & God knows when or where it will end, But we can suffer nothing from it if we can keep Virginia in the Union, But all day the Secessionists have been wild & devilish with excitement and being informed this evening by telegraph that the fort had surrendered to the Carolinians they fired one hundred cannon here on the Capital Square in honor of the event, while thousands of people were standing around cheering & bands of music playing, They marched to Governor Letchers & with music & banner flags & wild shouts called the Governor out & demanded a speech, He spoke but a few minutes & told ^{them} that that he would stand by Virginia at all hazard, This they did not like & marching back to the Capital called out secession speakers who



addressed them in a very excited & exciting manner
& they threatened to take Virginia out of the Union
by Revolution if the Convention did not
pass an ordinance of secession, They raised
a secession flag on the Capital & swore that
it should never be taken down, but after
night Governor Letcher ordered the public
Guard to take it down & they did so, you never
saw or dreamed of such excitement before,
you would have thought that there were no
Union men in the City, Late in the evening I
went over to Letcher's where I found many of the
Union men of the Convention & after tea we
(the Union members) had a meeting at the Capital
& the Governor went over with us & we had quite
a pleasant time of it, The secessionists having
gone off in a torch light procession & kept
the City in an uproar until 11 o'clock at night
I received your letter of the 5th inst. this evening &
I thank you for the sentiments of love & declar-
ations of attachment which it contains, I was
very, very glad to hear from you & to learn
that you are all well, I will try & attend to your
request if possible, But it is late so good night
again,

April 14th 1861.

I have received a letter from your father last night
in which he says that Mr Woods' youngest child
is dead & was buried on ^{the} 5th inst. this is a sad affair



to them as they think so much of their children,
He also informed me that Lee is there, when did he
go down, I know,

I rec'd a letter from Brother today, written at Carke-
bury in which he says he was at home a day or two
but had to return to the oil wells immediately,
I am glad that he is so energetic & is doing so
well, He did not say how you all were, how
he found you, or whether he saw you, he
only wrote on business,

I also received a letter from Judge Camden
in which he says that nothing was done at
our Circuit Court in consequence of my
absence,

I also rec'd a long letter from friend E. J. Colender
in which he says you are all well &c, &c,

This is a very pleasant day (Sunday) but
as usual I am spending it in my room
writing, which privilege is my only consolation
when I am away from my dear Sue, But
I must mail this letter so good by, I will certainly
leave here some time this week if no preventing
providence, but it may be so late in the week
that I cannot say as yet on what day I shall
reach home, But I will write again,

Affectionately yours
G. W. Berlin