

[May, 1863]

No. 5

My escape from the Black Horse Cavalry
last Sunday Sergt Barnett & myself
was taken a walk to geather in side of
our picket lines we met 3 young
wimen or one married woman & 2 girls
they were goin in to camp to see the Col
to have him send a safe gard to thear
quarters which was a bout 2 ¼ miles from
Camp we stoped & had a quite a talk
a bout the wore they owned up thar
eimpathy was for the south & well
they mite be they said thear friends
were all on that side but they wished
the wore was at a close one of the girls
the smartest of the lot & in fact the
smartest & best appearing woman Ive seen
since I left Vt said she had 2 Borthers
in the Southern army & one a prisiner
that our men had took a bout 3
weeks ago at home he had been wounded
& her folks would not let him go to

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the hospital so when our Forses
advanced here they took him a prisoner
& now he is in Washington she said
she had a Father & one Brother at home that
had never taken up arms against the
Government we then inquired if they had
any Eggs Butter or milk we could get
in case we could get a pass from our
Col to pass our pickets they said we
could get a plenty at thear house but
said I will not thear be any dainger in
coming to your house of being taken a
prisoner O no said the girl if you come
Ill see that your are back to your lines in
safety she laughed at the time & said
she thought there was no dainger in coming
so we bid them good afternoon & passed

by you have not forgotten Zang Gool
have you the next morning Barnett
went on Regimental gard so I said to
Zang let ous go & get some Eggs & milk
he was very redy to go I then went to
the Col & asked him to pass the

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which he said he was most afraid to
let me go out side the lines but he said
Sargt the Lient Col is goin in the after
noon out on a scout & I will remember
you & let you go with him so I said
no more but old Zang what he said
wall said Zang we can go without his
leave so we started & soon came to the
picket lines where orders was not to
let any one out of the lines wed said
to the Corpral you don't know me No
said he well I went to pass out wall
said he I shal not see you so go ahead
I was well acquainted with him so on I went
& soon found my self & Zang at Mr Rickers
a bout 1 ¼ miles out side our picket
lines we was met at the end of the
house by a young man a bout my age
said good morning Sargt walk in I
said thank you we will for it is very
warm so we folowed him to the front
of the house where to my surprise we
found 2 more young men & the 3 wimen

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we had seen the day before they sat in
the varanda in the shade all very
comfortable they invited ous to a seet
we were talking a bout the wore
& all hands expressed our feelings in
refrence to the wore they for the south &
we for the north I told them I was
some surprised in seeing 3 as good
men as they were out of the army they
said they never had been in it at tall
a bout one hour when I spoke a bout

returning back to camp they said no
you had better stop & get dinner you
shal be welcome but I thanked them
& told them I guessed it would not do
for the Col expected me out on a scout
in the afternoon & I would have to be back
so as to not let him no we run a way
the Old man Ricker we did not see but
all the rest we found as we expected but the
2 extry young men who was Brothers to the
married woman young Ricker wife as
I lernt while there that day we had our
canteens & had spoken a bout our milk
& Eggs which they said we could have
but still kept buisey in talking I had
asked if they considered it doingerous in my
coming thear they said no they had not
seen any of thear Cavelry for a week I than
said the young Lady said she would
see ous back safe if we come after the
milk & Eggs wall said she I will
be as good as my word as we spoke these
words I saw Zang start to his feet

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and Say what in the Hell goes there
at that moment I herd the sound
of Orders & horses at one end of the
house & saw the glimps of Cavelry
pass the house young Ricker & his mother
started as quick as a flash to see who
they were they had passed the house
behind a high fence & fruit trees
which prevented ous from seing them
on the varanda the young man & his
mother had gon to one corner of the
fence I followed after as soon as they
reached the fence I was there within 10
rods of the Cavelry I put my hand
Rickers sholder & said Friend is
that your Cavelry or ours I could not
see one bit of our uniforms on them
I could see them plain said he they
are the gray Backs the Balk horse Cavelry

2 of them had dismounted there
was some 12 to 15 of them some to

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a halt within 12 rods of me
he said run for god sake run
I would not have them take you for anything
a prisoner here if ever men
scaddled for life Zange Gool & I did
for one mile they saw ous but it
was to late we were to close to our
picket lines so we made our escape
& I can say thank god for it
we come in to Camp & no one but
Barnet Hiram & Haynes nows one
word a bout it no money would higher
me to let the Old Col no it if any of the
Non comition Officers disobey his orders
he reduces them to the ranks he has don
it to sargts & many Coprals & has orested
Comition Officers & would cort marshal
them & given them a disonherable discharge
& then they would resign & save them
selves being cortmartial he is very
strick with ous but he will not
ketch me this time I will not

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disobey a gain nor pass the lines it was
a narrow escape I tell you boath the
Rebels & the Col I sure was fraider of
the Col than the Rebs for they would
perold me on the spot the night
before they took 2 of the 16 Regt Boys at
Bristo station & perold them on the
spot the next day I saw young Ricker
for I was on picket in the direction of
his house & he come to our lines
I had a long talk with him he said
they made a short stop at thear
house but did not discover ouse until
to late to take ouse I told him not to say
one word of our being there at his house
for it was a gainst the rules to pass the

pickets he gave me his word he would
not say one word to may one so ends
my narrow escape from the rebs & I
will say I did not stop to get my
Eggs nor milk but left on a run
for life the swet droped almost
a stream of from me my shirts

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drawers & pants I could ring swet
out of for it was a very hot day a bout
11 oclock in the burning sun in the
afternoon the Lieut Col & 60 men
went out on a scout a bout 4 miles
we serched 3 houses for Government
property all we found was one pack
saddle on rifle which we took on
to Camp & confiscated one hog which
would weigh a bout 150 labs dressed
we killed & took in the Boys got
4 hogs yesterday so you see we have
good times killing hogs & hens I will
tell you the rest when I get home
we have good news from Hooker
Friday May 25 all quiet this morning
it is pleasant but cool & nice I feel
well I go on picket to morrow morning
Co E is goin after a pig today hogs are
very plenty in this Country Martha this is a
fine Country no mistak in my last letter I
said there was a thousand acres of land here in
sight I have found out since that there
is 7 thousand acres in this plantation owned
by one man whose name is Beal he is in
the Rebel armey we have some priseners in
our gard house now I will now close by
asking you to write oftain & all the news is not
a long letter do as well by me I got a letter
this week from you dated the 5 of May I got it Tuesday
don't let any one no a bout my crossing the lines
that will write back a bout it for a spell
the Boys are most redy to go for a pig so I
must close This from you your one true &
affectionate Husband Alonzo C. Farmer
do not borrow any trouble a bout my crossing

the lines a gain for I shal not without with a
squad of men be sure & not let any one
no that will write a bout my passing the
lines be sure now Alonzo