

Chapel Hill N.C. Sept 22nd 1862

My Dear Mother

We have gained another great victory, this time on the sacred soil of Maryland, but the rumor that general Branch has been slain throws a gloom over the southern community; God grant that the rumor is unfounded. No details have come to hand, but I do not doubt, but that the Yankees have met with another crushing defeat. My mind still ^{wanders} with our armies in the field and I cannot oh I cannot think it is my duty to remain here, while such important events are occurring. It is true I am not of military age, but there are twenty thousand in the army, who are not eighteen, and they fight none the less hard for it. Ever since this war broke out, it has been my desire (as you my parents know) to buckle ^{on my armor} and go