

Lt. Colonel William Henry Chapman Society

Greensboro, N.C.

Spotswood Hotel Richmond

Jan 11th 1865

Dear Mother

As Mr. Borst is going up in the morning I take the opportunity writing & sending by him. I came to Richmond Saturday, I will leave tomorrow morning for Westmoreland, I went to see Gen Lee & returned to the city yesterday. He was very cordial and kind to us (Lt Mosby & myself) Is very sanguine of success, talk's like a good old father, say's " he has but one want in this world & that is to whip the Yankees". No man can listen to him without feeling a kind of awe and wonder at being in the presences of such a great & good man. May(?) one who feels subdued, if he will listen to Gen Lee for five minutes he will feel satisfied that all will be right. Not that he would have you believe the power layed in himself & the army & the justice of the cause alone but in God. Who would not fight for such a cause when they have such a leader. (Also I did not have time to go to the old battery would like to have seen the boys) The people in Richmond have been some what gloomy but are now reperpenting (?) fought (?) The army is in fine spirits There have been a great deal of gayity here notwithstanding the feeling of a good many that Richmond will be taken. There is more uneasiness felt about Sherman than Grants Army. I saw Mr. Cosby this evening. His family is ?????? ??? wanted me to go & stay with them but I had not the time. I spent one evening at Gov Smith's found a good many of my acquaintances then I spent a pleasant evening Have you heard from Josie since I left home. Wrote to Papa that she wants to come over if she had a good way. If find it safe in Northern Neck I will send for her down here. Give my love to Papa all the girls & boys.

From your devoted son
WH Chapman