

Marlinsburg Berkeley Co
Va Apr 28/62

Friend Richards Sir

I received a letter from you some two months since but we have been moving round so much that I have not had time to write before we left Augusta the 14th of march and have been on the tramp since we stopped in Washington 10 days and marched from there to Harpers Ferry which took 3 days stopped there 4 days waiting to get across the river Harpers Ferry is the place that old John Brown took and held for 2 or 3 days which you very well remember I went into the Engine house that he used as a prison while he held the place all of the Government buildings are burnt and destroyed the d-m Rebels burnt the Bridge across the river ran 20 engines into the river and destroyed all the rest of the R R property they could at that place up here they burnt 12 engines and about two miles in length of coal cars took up all of the rails and hauled them off & rased h.c generally

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dinner I have written to Smith requesting him to let Miller go on to my lot and work it and work out the proceeds on the hour

the dinner shall have been blown and I will close please write and ask any questions you may see fit and I will do my best to answer them from you I remain

B. J. Young

Martinsburg Berkeley Co

to a 1st Me Cav

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B. J. Young
April 25, 1862

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we go out scouting every little while some times we find something some time we do not we have taken about a doz horses from the seacoast round here they think it rather hard to have their property taken from them it will learn them to take a yoke wont it the agriculture of this part of the state will be sadly neglected this spring for this reason the most of the young men are off to the war the soldiers have burnt their fences their mizers have run away Jeff Davis & Co have stole most of their horses & so & so

this is where the Faulkner lives the ex minister to France he has a very nice farm quite a number of slaves & so I was up to Winchester the other day that is the place where Mason of the firm of Mason & Tidell lives they have taken his house to quarter soldiers in served him right we went on to the Winchester battle field it was a hard looking place some of our boys have just come in from a foraging expedition they say that there is a fine horse out about 10 miles we are going after him after