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Albert H. Clark to William H. McDonald (27 April 1862)

Albert H. Clark

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April 27 / 02

William F. McDonald

Dear old friend

I sat myself to write you a short letter as I have a chance of sending it safely by parcel the times are so exciting at this time that I cant think of any thing but the army I understand that the yankees come verry near getting your company and John Stewart tells me that they got his horse well that was a pity I was truly sorry when I heard that Lieut Duff was killed I think that from all accounts that you escaped well Bill you must not think that it is my fault that I am staying at home now for we are and have been trying to get our company off ever since we got well

Bill I would be verry glad to see you you must know that I think of you every day that the king of day passes over my head and think of you & whenever he sinks behing the west I was down at Bill

Brothers last night we had a party down there
me and W Church played were with Miss Lucy
and Miss Jane Foster your sweet was my partner
and you must know we were there, sure I will
name some of the leading girls of this interesting
party Miss Mollie W and Miss Crosswell Nancy
& Miss Lucy Lucy yours Miss Jane Foster
and so on myself and John Brasier Church
Cotton and various others Bill you must
come home as soon as you can for I want to
see you but enough the Wilkins boys are
about to be off with us and Bill Cotton
William and Jennie Sherman I guess
will go with us and they are looking for
your Brother Tom to come home and
you must come home if you can get off
and you may stand a chance to get off
here at the same time but we get off in
two or three weeks and I would be very
glad indeed to see you before I have one
more I will have a good probe fixed up

and we will have a grand time bring some
of ~~the~~ the other boys with you Bill Magairk
if you can I am writing this because I think
you will be certain to come I know that
a soldier cannot do as he pleases every time
but I want you and Billy to come if you
can but God only knows the future it may
that before you get these lines that the tide
of war is changed considerably our army
may have to retreat or fall back to Great
Granola well Bill the time is come
when we will have to fight or die or be
conquered and I believe that it is the firm
resolution of every true Southerner to never
be whipped and as long as this is the
case we can never be conquered etc only by
the ruling power of God ~~only~~ but alas
if God is against us we are ruined forever
It is the duty of every one to encourage each
other and I tell you Bill I am for Southern
rights right everying let me go

tell the boys that I have not forgotten
them but think of them often & I some
sit and call back my happy days when we
were going to B. Sch. to Colfax, Inman
Oh then was our happiest days but silly
foolish boys did not know it and consequently
we did not enjoy life at all some times we ~~would~~
would be thinking of our future prospects
and now what has it proved to us at last
it certainly has learned us a great lesson
we can do only do our duty any how and we
must wield the sword of destruction against
our enemies we are all well at present your
fathers family are all well I must
close excuse my short & bad writing

Albert H. Clark