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Bowling Green Feby 16th 1861 (1862)

My dearest Mother

Here we are at last, in possession of BowlingGreen. Baltimore you know is called the City of Monuments--this ought to be called the City of Fortifications I had not the least conception of the immense preparations which have been made here for defence, & I would not have believed that the Southern Army could have completed such vast works--The labor has been immense--their troops cannot be well drilled--their time must have been chiefly spent in hard work, with the axe and spade-- College Hill is an almost unapproachable fortress--which would contain 10000 Men, and many a good fellow would have gone down before it could have been taken. Indeed it seemed to an inexperienced judge like myself, that it was a Gibraltar which could not be taken by an assault--Nothing short of starvation could have driven them out--Bakers Hill though not so large, is quite as strong and perfect--Yet all these places have been abandoned--Troops moving for a week before our approach--I just started to write a line-- But am in such surprise to find myself here, with such prodigious preparations for defence, all abandoned, that I can hardly believe it--and without a shot fired--No news of any other Kind--Dont know when we will move--nor where In short dont know anything-- Love to all--Courier starts for (from) BowlingGreen at once