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General Land Office,
Washington, D.C.
April 8th 1865.

My dear friend "Ed."

I see by the papers that you are in the citadel of the rebellious states — that you led the advance into that abandoned stronghold. I am gratified that you were permitted this distinguished honor. How I would like to have been with you on that occasion, and how I would like to make you a visit now & take a look at that God forsaken town.

The news of its possession by our forces reached here about 11 o'clock A.M. & such an excitement as it created was never before witnessed in this or any other city. All the Depts were immediately closed, & the Clerks turned into the streets. It is almost a literal fact that in less than an hour & a half the whole town was jolly drunk. I never saw so much drunkenness in the whole four years I have been in this city as on that day.

All the church bells rang out their joyous peals in honor of the great Event. & two Batteries from "Camp Barry" (one of them Jimmy Dudley's) came into the city & gave a salute of 800 guns. On the whole, we had a very jolly & exciting time here, & many a poor devil felt a disagreeable sensation in the head on the following morning.

Let us thank God that this infernal rebellion is apparently so near its miserable end - that "the last ditch" is nearly reached.

Now I want you to write a long letter & tell me all about Richmond, & how the inhabitance seem to relish your presence.

The mail leaves in a few minutes, & I must close.

Very sincerely Yours,

John Wood.