

El Paso, Woodford Co. Va.  
April 22<sup>nd</sup> /61.

Dear Father,

Your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> is received. The money you sent comes in place buying fence posts to enclose my Lot. We have had a great deal of rain & cool weather for 4 weeks past, but few have made any garden yet. Farmers have not been able to get more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  their wheat down.

I think I have <sup>got</sup> well located for making a living, & laying up something besides. There is a good deal of Building going on & I am likely to have pretty steady work at Lathing & Plastering houses, building Chimneys, cellar walls, Cisterns &c. In quiet work I can make

from a dollar & a  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 7 or 8  
dollars a day. I Lath for 3<sup>rd</sup>  
per yard & I have the same  
per 3<sup>rd</sup> for each coat of plastering.  
Last week I finished up a  
building for a hardware store  
20 by 40 feet. There were a  
hundred & 60 3<sup>rd</sup>s of Plastering  
The first coat I put on in 5  $\frac{1}{2}$   
hours, the second in 6 hours  
amounting to 960<sup>c</sup>. About  
50 3<sup>rd</sup> in a days work for me  
at Lathing. I think I shall  
not need any more assistance  
but am much obliged for  
what has been sent me, &  
expect to be able to refund  
it some time. If I have my  
health I expect to make  
enough to pay for my lot,  
fix up a good drug house,  
&c before winter. One  
object I had in procuring

from Worthington was to get  
to doing business on my own  
hook, so as to pocket the  
profits myself. This kind of  
work was principally under  
the control of 2 or 3 men  
at that place who had been  
hired by the day. I think I  
shall succeed first rate  
here; & am very much encouraged.  
I have about 200 dollars  
worth of work spoken for ahead.

The great exciting topic  
here, as elsewhere, at present, is  
War. The Town is almost entirely  
unanimous for the Union.  
We had a gathering Saturday  
Evening. D. Specker, from  
the Representative, - the Baptist  
Minister, - & several other  
prominent men of the place.  
One of the speakers in endeavor-  
ing to remove the objections,

of some Christians in regard to  
fighting said "a Religion that  
would not save a Man,  
Country when in such peril  
as this; would not save  
a man's soul; & the less he  
had of such a kind of  
Religion the better."

There <sup>are</sup> 5 volunteers from here, & 80  
from Washington. Others are  
ready to go if they are  
likely to be needed. Truly a  
great calamity is resting upon  
the Nation. But it may  
result in good to some at  
least - perhaps the loosening  
the chains of the Bondman  
& the Liberty of our Sable Brethren.  
Who have long enough groaned  
under the lash of Oppression &  
Tyranny. That the blood of  
Thousands will flow before

Peace & quiet prevail is, certainly  
not very improbable.