Fort Anderson Newbern NC May 19, 1863

Dear Brother,

You have doubtless heard of the great "Union Victory" on the Ragpahanneck, and I should be pleased to hear your opinion of it. In your quiet village home possessed of ample facilities for obtaining the "very latest news" and the criticisms and opinions of the leading men of the Nation or the recently occurring events you have probably arrived at some conclusion in your own mind, as to what the result of all this slaughter will be. I wish to inquire also what is the state of public sentiment in St. Lawrence Co, and whether they are discouraged or not. Etc.

We hardly know what to think down here.

I received a letter from Mary yesterday. Love to all Yours truly J.E. Whipple