

**T**HAT NIGHT, Grant told his officers, “I regret this assault more than any one I have ever ordered.” He compounded his mistake by leaving hundreds of wounded men howling in the hot June sun while he exchanged letters of terms with Lee. Both Lee and Grant behaved very badly. Neither would admit that he’d been defeated. Therefore, neither would send in a white flag that would enable them to get medical assistance to these wounded men, wailing out there in the hot June sun waiting for relief. Four days after the assault, Grant finally relented and called for a cease-fire. **Only two men were still alive amongst the piles of rotting corpses.**

Even as he witnessed the horror of his blunder, Grant took time to write his little daughter:

*Cold Harbor Virginia  
4 June 1864*

My Dear Little Nelly,

I received your pretty, well-written letter more than a week ago. I know that you have been representing “the Old Woman that lived in a Shoe” at the Fair. I know you must have enjoyed it very much.

