

Copy.

Hampton, Virginia

May 26th 1861. Sunday.

Friend Harding:

Your letter, I forget of what date, came safely to hand today. I was glad to hear from you and Bradford, and have but one fault to find and that is that you did not write more particulars about the village and its inhabitants.

I have written a long letter to my wife, to which I refer you for particulars up to today. She will probably allow you to read most of it.

Since closing her letter we have had orders to be ready to march at 5 o'clock tomorrow morning without tents or baggage and with two days rations of pork and one of bread. Where we are to go we don't know. The Cumberland is to act in concert with us; and the 4th Mass. and a New York Regt. that has just come in and has not yet landed, are detailed to go with us as well as twelve pieces of artillery, manned probably by the regulars. The rumor or promise is that we go to Sewell's Point. You was correct in your idea that the firing at the battery a few days ago was within hearing. We could see every gun.