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FORTRESS MONROE, OLD POINT COMFORT AND HYGEIA HOTEL, VA

Camp Butler, Newport News,
July 31st, 1861.

Dear Laura:

I have been intending to write you for several days but have not found time. This set of papers I send you so that you can see a little how Ft. Monroe looks. The view is taken looking towards the east probably from a mast head. The fortress itself you can trace by its walls and the ditch or moat. The large building with the piazza around it is the Hygeia Hotel where we were for a while quartered - was a hospital for all the forces - The road and bridge at the head lead over to Hampton, where we were encamped just before we came here. Right over the top of the fortress you can see the sand beach which leads off towards the cemetery where Underwood lies buried. A little to the left of the you will see a building, outside the walls of the fort, near which I spent my first night on guard duty.