

Newport News July 14

Dear Maria

To day is Sunday
and I will keep my habit good
in writing. I believe I have not
missed a Sunday since I commenced
but it is not likely I will be obliged
to write to you many times more and
happy I shall be when I can be
near you and dispense with pen, ink,
and paper in communicating my
thoughts to you, this time will not be
longer than to the 9th of Aug and perhaps
a few days sooner. I try to keep my
thoughts from home as much as possible
so that the time will seem shorter to
me but with all my trying I cant
help thinking of you and the little
ones a great share of the time and
as the time draws to a close when we
shall again meet - it seems very long