

8th Regiment N. Vols.
Head Quarters May 3^d 1862

My Dear Laura

I have a chance to send a letter to Brattleboro by private and think I had better improve the opportunity, though I don't know what I can write to interest you. I still continue to be in good health. but there a good many sick on the island - I think their sickness is mostly caused by their own carelessness, - in drinking too much water, and being out in the night-air. I have a mattress from the Hospital to sleep on now, and the nights are so cold that I use the shawl and another heavy blanket every night - the dews are so heavy that my clothing inside the tent gets very damp every night - so damp that I now put it into a box, and cover it up to have it dry in the morning. I have to get up (in common with the whole regiment) at 5-o'clock in the morning, when it is so cold that I put on an over coat - have breakfast at 7 - with the field and staff officers - and live pretty well, though it costs a good deal. Butter sells for 50¢ a pound - Flour 8¢ a pound & every thing in the same way - we can buy bread of the government at a cheaper rate - but it is not good - At 9-o'clock I have the guard mounted to go through with, and then comes Battalion drill for 2 hours, and again at 4 in the afternoon, for two hours, and then Dress parade, which is all the physical labor I have to perform - but there is a great deal of writing that I have to do, and have done, that keeps me very busy, most of the time. About 5 P.M. the dew begins to fall and the temperature ~~fast~~ changes so that by dark an over coat is necessary - but during the middle of the day it is very hot. I seeolla Kolabud very often, also Mrs. Wood's brother the one that is in the 7th Regiment - they are very well now - You remember Peter Miller's little brother Zep. - He is here and is as large as his father was. there is a Mr Garvin that used to live in Shelburne