

Copy. The original was written in pencil -

In the Cars at  
Putland Nt. May 9<sup>th</sup> 1861

Dear Mary:

We are just ready to start for New York. Every man in our company is well - a most remarkable fact.

We got up at 3 o'clock this morning and in two hours every company was ready to start.

We were yesterday mustered into the service of the United States, and took the oath of allegiance - Judge Smolly administering the oath. Col. Rains of the U. S. Army mustered us in and inspected the men. He found none to throw out among our boys and all took the oath without flinching.

As I am now writing we are at Postroy and the Seminary building in sight.

The authorities of the state have done every thing they can to make us comfortable. We all have a good overcoat & blanket and are as hearty a lot as ever started on such a trip. When we reach New York we go into barracks in the Park in front of the Astor House. We shall probably remain there two or three days, and then go to Ft. Monroe by water. It is the finest position in the United States and we consider ourselves very fortunate indeed. It is healthy