

Copy. Original in pencil.

Fort Monroe, Va.

May 14th 1861.

Friend Harding:

We are at last at Fort Monroe, altho' not in it. We are quartered within the water battery, but outside the main wall and the main ditch. We grumble of course, and the Col. thinks it is not right - (our position). The boys begin to think that our quarters are only temporary and that we shall soon be ordered out where we shall see some fighting. The Capt. just told me that he had it from Col. Washburn that we are soon to be moved towards shore, on the only neck of land between us and secession. If so Vermont boys will keep their eyes open and be ready for what turns up. It was rumored last night that we were to be sent on shore to fell a forest between us and the secession camp, so that the guns of the fort can have a fair sweep at them. The men made up their minds that they were good for the duty and could level as many trees or men as any regiment in the fort.

This is a delightful place - clear air and a fresh breeze. We have all taken a salt water bath this morning and feel first rate. Capt. Andrews is