

Fortress Monroe, Virginia  
May 15<sup>th</sup> 1861.

Dear Mary:

Wednesday 5 o'clk.

A steamer starts in the morning for New York and the capt. offers to take our letters altho', there is no regular mail agent, so I take the time to write as long a letter as I can get time. My last letter I wrote on board the Alabama just before landing. I then had charge of the guard and had to remain with the baggage till it was all landed and moved to our quarters - acting as rear guard. We did not get much to eat during the day, as no dinner was got for the soldiers on ship board.

Our camp, at present, is outside the main fort, but within our wall and ditch. Tomorrow we are to move within the walls of the fort itself, and shall without doubt remain here during the three months, altho' last night matters looked a little as tho' we might be sent off into the country.

When I came into camp with the guard the Colonel ordered us off upon a sand hill outside the fort to act as sentinels, without tents or any covering except our over coats & blankets. The night was clear and dry, and as warm as June, so that I took no cold, and, in fact, felt better the next morning than I had the