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Camp Butler
Newport News, Virginia
June 3^d. 1861

Friend Harding:

Your letter enclosed with the Howlocks came duly to hand with them two or three days ago. You will hear before you receive this a full description of our present situation, or if you do not my wife will let you have a plan of our fortifications I sent her. We are better situated than we have been at any place since we left Vermont. The weather is warm, but the sea breeze is delightful, and altho' the heat of the sun is oppressive the air is always cool. From appearances we shall remain here for some time, but we really don't know any thing about it. The Vermont Regiment has shown itself so good a working Regt. that it is placed in the front of the advance guard, notwithstanding the Mass. Regts. have been here for some time; and should Ben. Butler think he could make a display by trying Richmond you may be sure we shall be there to see. We are the best of the three months Regts., and as they want only three years men they have concluded to make us do the