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Camp Butler, Newport News, Virginia
Saturday, June 27th 1861.

Sister Laura:

Your letter commenced June 21st and finished the 25th was rec'd right before last, that is June 27th. I rec'd at the same time a letter from Judge Underwood. I believe I have answered Mary's last letter, so I thought I would answer yours -

We have had some little excitement here this morning and I thought I would commence while the matter is still new. I was up in the Mass. Camp making some inquiries in regard to some "Contraband", that comes under my charge when I heard a report that two Louisiana Louians had just been taken and brought in by Col. Hawkins' Louian Picket. I did not go up to see them as it rained some and I thought quite likely I should hear from them again. I had been in the tent but a little while when Col. Phelps came to the entrance and called for me, and said there were two prisoners at our guard tent that must be attended to at once. I snatched my rubber blanket, for it was raining briskly, and started. I found at least a hundred of our soldiers around one of the tents and it was as much as I could do to get in; ^{I found there, that two Louian prisoners.} the guard who had brought the two men in were gone, so I had to be satisfied with what the prisoners might tell me. They were dressed some what in the same style as Drury's Louians. They same red fez cap, with