

Camp Butler, Newport News, Va.

Friday Evening July 5th 1861.

My Dear Wife:

I will commence a letter to you this I may not be able to finish it to night. Today has been after the ordinary course, except that we have had a visit from Mr. Cameron Sec. of War, and he had to be received with all the honors of war. A salute of fifteen guns was fired from our big guns as he landed. After he came on shore he reviewed all the troops - Gen. Butler was with him and his staff. There were also about a dozen ladies whose presence occasioned considerable feeling among the troops who have hardly seen a piece of calico for two months -

Last night some of the Louises were out and encountered more than double their number of Rebels and put them to flight. The rebels lost two men, killed, and left their cannon, but the Louises could not take it as they were so harassed by men firing from the woods that they could not draw it away. Today Maj. Worthen went out with three companies from our regiment, and Lieut. Col. Betts and five companies of Hawkins' Louises to see what they could discover of the enemy. They met with nothing of interest, but learned with certainty that two of the rebels were killed - The steamer Mt. Vernon kept up the river along with the troops and at