

Copy

Camp Butler, Newport News, Va
Sunday P. M. July, 21st 1861.

Friend Harding:

Your last letters have undoubtedly been received, — all of them. Sometimes I have time to answer them immediately, but oftener I lay them into my trunk and when I come to write it is too much work to look them up to reply definitely to them.

Just now our camp is exercised by an order issued last night for us to prepare to be ready to move within three days not to return here again. The order is altogether unexplained, and the boys are exercising their faculties in endeavoring to guess where we are going. Some say we are going home, others that we are going to fight, others that we have got to dig ditches for the next ten days. We don't know any thing about it, but the probability is that we are to move to give room for Baker's Regt. to come in here. Baker was up here yesterday afternoon.

Today Gen. Butler has been up here with Frank Blair, Cochran of New York and various other gentlemen, and quite a number of ladies, and the boys were trotted out to display