

Fort Hamilton July 4<sup>th</sup> 1861

My Dear Wife:

I am getting my first taste of Military life to-day. I reached here yesterday at four o'clock. Maj. Elamman was here in command; he is a very pleasant gentleman and as we all know an excellent officer. He left this morning and I took command of the fort. Capt. Gilman of the Infanteries is here with her wife and child, a little thing about as old as Hobus, but living in the case water has made it sick. He took very kindly to me this morning and I held him on my knee a while for the sake of dear little Robert.

We fired a salute to-day at noon, in honor of the day. The thirty two pounders made a good deal of noise but not as much as I anticipated. The Fort has been full of visitors all day, an incessant stream of people coming and going all the time. They all appear to think they own us & the fort too & do not hesitate to intrude into all the accessible holes and corners.

While I think of it I wish you would see Mr. McCann & tell him the stripe on my pantaloons must be dark blue. He made it light blue in the one I have & I shall consequently be obliged to have them altered. You will have to do this immediately upon the receipt hereof, or it will do us good to see Linn.

I am decidedly homesick this afternoon & could almost wish that the Senate might make somebody else Mayor of the 12<sup>th</sup> in my place. But while every body is congratulating me upon my good luck, ~~and~~ <sup>until</sup> I almost think I don't appreciate my position, I cannot help thinking of dear one I have left behind. And then I cannot turn the question over in my mind again and settle down again upon the conclusion that I had better hold on to it until this war is over. After that, if we find that a continuance in the army will involve the necessity of a separation, I can give it up. In the meantime I trust you will bear the separation cheerfully, if you can; don't fret over it, but devote yourself to the children & occupy yourself as much as possible. Try to convince yourself that I am only performing a duty which I owe my country and you will the more easily ~~and~~ become reconciled to our separation, which I hope will prove but a temporary one.

I shall call upon Mr Burrows in a few days. I have met several Gen<sup>l</sup>s acquaintances here, - among them Mr Hand who inquired about some Borden's he has made the acquaintance of since he came. One of them is quite interesting.

If I find that I am to remain here some time, I will try to come home or have you come here for a week or two. My experience for the past day or two is a fair sample of what it is to be hereafter, I will not have much time to run about to see the city.

Love to every body & an infinite quantity for thine own particular self  
Thine  
Luther.