

There is no news. The draft so far has gone on in perfect quiet. I think there will be no trouble before they begin to gather in the Emigrants. Then there may possibly be but I don't apprehend it. I don't see but that I can sleep on the ground as well as anybody. The first night a horse came near getting into the fort hind side fence & woke me up. But so far that is the only incident which has occurred. The fountain plays all night & keeps one to sleep like the pattering of a gentle rain so far it has not been uncomfortable warm at night, tho' hot enough in the day time. We are not far from East River which accounts, I suppose for our pleasant nights. Our camp tho' several blocks upon the river is I understand, all made ground.

You must excuse the hasty letter

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Tompkins' Square  
New York

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My dear Wife:

Tho' I am writing this letter at Fort Staniston, the above is the place where I have out at present. I went up night before last, arriving at Camp about 10 o'clock. But as I had heard before starting that my regiment had been ordered down here & would undoubtedly come down in a day or two, I took nothing with me & left my room in charge of Cal Edwards & Emma. I have come down to-day to get some clean clothes & shall go back this afternoon. We are encamped in a large square in the eastern part of the city, with three other regiments

but I wanted to quit you earlier than I have



We have a fine large fountain before our camp, but the neighbourhood is not a very good one. The Germans are on one flank and the Irish on the other & Mackerville is in the neighbourhood but when I don't know. My regiment is in a very bad condition - pretty much used up & have lost much of their discipline. I shall have some work to bring them up again. I went yesterday to see Maj. Giddings who commands one brigade. He is encamped in Washington Square just opposite the Fifth Avenue Hotel. It looks very strange to see the square filled with tents and soldiers. It will cost a good sum to put them back again. But New York would dance & now must pay the piper.

had I wanted to write from camp, it might have been two or three days before I could have written to you. I was by Frank Fuller

I don't think you need worry yourself about me. The probability is now, that my regiment will remain either at Fort Hamilton or some other post in the vicinity, during the winter. If such should be the case I think I will have but little difficulty in getting a leave two or three weeks with you before spring.

My long absence has come again but it is not so severe as it was last year. It will probably be worse before long.

Coates is looking very well & has gained about twenty pounds since he went into the field the last time. Most of the other officers appear to have been benefited by the hardships they have passed thro!