F. Hamilton
July 7th, 1861

My dear Augusta:

It is now nearly a week since I left home and so far I have not heard a word from you. You may imagine how I would rejoice to hear from home. I can never think of you and the dear little ones without deep regretting the letter which has separated us. I think the experience which I appear lying to forget will prove beneficial and that I will return to you when the rebellion has been subdued a wiser, better & more useful man.

The army officers I have met have proved to be very agreeable gentlemen — gentlemen indeed in a very high sense. To my surprise they are not addicted to drinking and do not often use profane language. I am very well pleased, too, with the officers of my regiment who have reported themselves. They are all well behaved and wise, I think give a good account of themselves.

The old officers have all received me with great cordiality, none of the coolness I anticipated, having been manifested by them. They complain of the system they say, which puts civilians over their heads, but if they show them value to be gentlemen they treat them as such and
under them all the assistance within their power. This makes my position far more pleasant than it otherwise would have been. As Commanding officer of the Port, I have a good deal of responsibility and a good deal of business, which will increase daily as the number of our Regiment come in. Col. Franklin is now Commanding a Brigade at Washington. Next Col. Butterfield a Regiment at the same place, and Maj. Bully is at F. Pickens. - This leaves only May Smith of the 4th and myself the only field officers with the Regiment; he went above me to be established in head quarters. The after leaving me the Regiment office at the Port. I have about ten captains, 2 lieutenants under me and eight more, sent over on Saturday; there is also a part of a company of artillery here, - the one with Mr. Sloman at F. Pickens, but they will leave for Washington tomorrow or Monday. Maj. Sloman was here, in command, when I arrived. He is a small man, neat, clean, modest & unassuming, a very good soldier, but not very extraordinary in any respect. He has the advantage of me in knowledge of tactics & the branches of science, excluding military & of military science, but after all there is no such unreasonable distance between us, that mediocrity and study cannot bridge over in a very few months. Capt. Smith who was also at F. Pickens, with Maj. Sloman went to his wife's home, but will leave in a few days. She is a very little woman full of soul and life, & she well might, having followed the army with her husband, ever since she was married, be a splendid wife & chaperon excellently. In accompanying her on the road, she has been packing a pianino about with her from place to place, ever since she was married, but expect to part with it now that the last band has left the infantry & gone out the reason is. He chose the artillery when he graduated especially for the purpose of having his wife with him, but the recent promotion to the infantry, has defeated all his calculations.

Last night I slept in a casemate for the first time, having improvised a sleeping place by unrolling a blanket to sleep under. I slept very well, tucking my bed up to the one I occupied at the battery, where we eat much better than we sleep. As I shall probably be here several months, - from or five possibly, I wish to have you come on as soon as I can complete my arrangements. You had better begin to make your arrangements accordingly. You will have to give up the children & yourself & come bad clothing and whatever else of thing to make yourself comfortable with. The boys about here have gone one from, I look very cute in them. It would please Frank & Robby immensely to have them and if I were you I would make them some
I wish you would put a wrapper on the Army Register. I left behind and send it to me. You might put some single sheet and small pillow cases in the box with my uniform, if it has not been sent on when this reaches you, provided a small is sent in so that they will not press upon it. I telegraphed Mr. Eames on Wednesday last to make it; if he has not commenced when you get this, let me know at once and tell him not to make it. I suppose however that he has, if done by this time, if it is not already on its way to me, I hope it will reach me soon for I need it. They, in Smith, make all the Troops wear these, which they are not very loth to do; they are not allowed to leave their quarters without them. — I have been obliged to get the battle gait, No. 6, made for me. — the stripe not being regulation. — I am wearing my cap today for the first time. — Mr. Davis was to hand me Howard's check for which I had given him another. Ask John whether he has done so; if not, tell to ask D. for it and to destroy it, when received, or make it so that it cannot be used, and hand it to you. I wish you would also inquire of Brown & Strong whether Judge Woodruff has received the money overpaid him by me, and if not to write me why not. — I hope you will write me often. Letters do not reach here very promptly, although we are at New York. The letter leave here (the flat) at 5 o'clock P.M. and do not go over to the City until next morning; too late for the morning mail. This will make more than two days between N.Y. and Dayton. I hope you want me to have a letter to answer on Sunday, you should write about Monday. — Tell me all about every thing. — Suppose you cut out all the local paragraph, death, marriage, &c., from the journal and send them along with your letter. Mark the date of the paper on each clip. I will then get a great deal of the news without putting you to the trouble of writing it. I have not had time to call upon Mrs. Thoroughgood yet; I have not known when I shall be able to go. We shall have to be better organized than we are yet — before I shall have much time to go about. I shall call as soon as I can. Ever thine, Sather.