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CAMP HAMILTON - FORTRESS MONROE VA.

March 13th 1862

My Dear Wife

I find myself seated again this evening upon a box for the purpose of writing a few lines to one left amongst friends whilst I am far away in an enemies land amidst all the dangers & privations of camp life.

Yesterday our regiment was ordered under arms and messengers could be seen riding from regiment to regiment as fast as their horses could carry them to give the alarm that the enemy was approaching us. Our boys all turned out cheerfully and seemed to be anxious for a fight. but success. backed down and retired without firing a gun. We expected that we would be fighting by three o'clock. I was ordered by the Surgeon to take my pocket case and accompany them to render them such assistance as they might need. We did not however march out of camp. I think perhaps we may have an engagement before you get this. One knows but little here what is going on until