

outside of the fort it is some four feet through at the largest place it has a bore that a man can crawl in the shot weighs 450 pounds and gunn over 49000 lb it is a monstrous gun & can demolish any wooden vessel at one shot it is calculated that it can do execution at the distance of 7 miles.

The troops of Camp Hamilton were all called out in review yesterday afternoon there are some fine regiments here. This forenoon they have all been out in a brigade drill all of the Infantry Artillery and Cavalry. I wish you could be here just to see them once it would do me good for I think you would call it the most splendid sight you ever beheld. all dressed alike bright guns & glistening bayonets all the old regiments wear white gloves when upon dress parade. I have heard 3 or 4 heavy guns this afternoon I understand that they over rebel guns at Snells point. I think from appearances that they are making preparations at the fort to shed them if so we will have some musick here before tomorrow sun shall set we in this camp can look on but I do not think that we will be ordered out as our regiment is not drilled and the officers are not prepared to command upon the field of battle.

I have been returned by our Surgeon as Hospital Surgeon. he evidently intends to keep me

as an assistant when needed. I have all of my papers made up by Sgt. Cal, Curtis & Capt. Beecher and Adjutant Holmes has sent them to S. S. Cozy at Washington to have him procure my discharge they were sent off this morning we will await results. Cal Jones is laid down as an old fool by all and the talk in camp is that he is to get a polite invitation to resign on account of incompetency to perform.

We have some 13 or 14 in Hospital to die and there are some 80 that are marked off of duty for sickness. I want to see you very much and long for the time to come when I can have the exquisite pleasure, but can not fix any definite time that I can rely upon. No furlough are to be granted here at present. everything is uncertain and changing in the Army in time of war. I put my trust in God and trust all in him believing that he is able & willing to deliver me from the hands of the enemy and in due time grant me to return to the bosom of my family. Give my love to all enquiring friends & accept a kiss for you our dear self and believe me

Yours in Love
N. P. Maerck