

Camp Hamilton near Fortress Monroe  
Sunday Morning April 13th 1862

Dear Wife

It is with pleasure that I take my pen in hand this pleasant Sabbath morning for the purpose of writing a few lines to you.

This calm and still morning carries my thoughts back to times when we have been accustomed to worship our God together and go up to the house of God side by side leading our Ada. Times long to be remembered but passed never to return.

Everything seems quiet here in this vicinity and stillness reigns over our camp. We are to have prayer and thanksgiving at the head of the Regt today at 12 o'clock, N, in honor of our recent victories.

The Merrimac made her appearance on Friday last and captured a couple of schooners belonging to the United States lying at anchor in Hampton Rhodes and unarmed these she towed into rebel waters and then in the afternoon threw a few shells towards our camp which fell far short of their destination, the most of them exploding  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from us.

It is generally believed that she burst one of her best guns at 4 O'clock or a little after. She remained in sight until about 6 when she put back towards Norfolk. She again made her appearance at 8 O'clock Saturday morning and lay in sight all day. She kept cruising around but was careful to keep out of range of our guns. Our little cheese box the Monitor was laughing out of both eyes in the prospect of having a chance of giving her a good spanking. Our Monitor did not reply to her at all in hopes of drawing her out into our waters but she kept under cover of the rebel guns upon Crany Island some seven or 8 miles distant.

I have me a fine glass now that I can look right into rebeldom with and see something of their movements. I could see the Merrimac plain enough to see men upon her at the distance of 7 or 8 miles perhaps she was farther off.

I think if the Merrimac gives us a chance at her again we will either capture her or sink her. The Merrimac must I think make her appearance again as I hear just now heavy firing in the direction of Newport News.

Our Surgeon Dr. Wright has gone to Burktown(?) today. Our troops are gaining ground there every day.

Yesterday we sent Christ. Brown home. I think it somewhat doubtful if he lives to reach Bradford. He is very low and has consumption. He has been almost idiotic for a week. Our friends in Bradford are all well as usual. No news there nor nothing stirring as usual.

I cannot get a furlough yet nor do I hear anything from Washington. Judge Holmes wrote to Casey (?) to procure my discharge for me but as matters are working I believe that we will all get an honourable discharge by the 1st of June next.

Enclosed I send you \$5.00 which you will make good use of.

Except these few lines and a kiss from your absent husband.

N.F. Marsh

P.S. I shall send \$20.00 to A.H. from my pay this time.