

Monday
Fortress Monroe Aug. 19th 1861

Dear Joe

Three great events have happened down here since Saturday morning, they are 1st the arrival of Gen. Wool; 2nd we have got my commission as 1st Lieut. of the 7th Company N. G. V. the 3^d great event is the arrival yesterday of the Paymaster. Gen. Wool came here on Saturday morning by the Baltimore boat, on his landing he was saluted by the firing of 13 guns from the Water Battery, and escorted by Gen. Butler, Col. Dimick the commandant of the Post, and several other officers, he entered the Fort. The Officers of the Regt. were presented by name, to Gen. Wool, by Col. Elder in Gen. Butler's quarters, Gen. Butler and Col. Dimick being present. The Gen. is a very fine looking old man, and very mild in his manner, but from what he said I think he will make both officers and men keep their eyes open. Gen. Butler gave him a very high opinion of us. He said that we were ^{one of} the best, if not the very best Regt. under his command, and that he had the least trouble with either officers or men, of any of the troops here. Gen. Wool said that we were a young and good looking body of men, (he meant me of course, when he said that,) he said also that that was what he wanted, young men to fight, old men to give counsel. I expect Gen. Butler will take command in the field, while Gen. Wool directs operations from the Fort. We will have to mind our P's and Q's while he is around. The high reputation Gen. Butler gave to Gen. Wool of our Regt. ought to put an end to the lies circulating around New York about our Regt.

I received my commission last Saturday morning; it came by special messenger from Gov. Morgan, it is dated from the 30th of April. I am glad that I have got it.

The long looked for Paymaster has at last arrived, he began paying of yesterday. This morning my company was paid off, I send you by Lieut. Farnsworth, 120 dollars. Please to give \$70 to Father and as I think that your pockets must be rather low just now, I wish you would accept the remaining \$50 as

a loan, to be paid one thousand years from now. I would
have sent up a little more, only I have to pay off my debts
down here. It costs me nearly \$7 a week for eating alone. Just
think 10 cents a glass for Lager, the only thing we can get to
drink down here, 10 cts for a paper of Tobacco, and other
things in proportion. We will be paid of again about the
4th or 5th of September when I will send you some more
or what is likely bring it myself. One Company alone sent
over \$1,000 home to their families.

Give my love to all the folks. I will write very soon
again. Write when you receive this

Yours &c

Bill