

Fort Jefferson. Tortugas, Fla.  
March 4<sup>th</sup> 1862

J.A. Roosevelt Esq  
My Dear Sir—

I have delayed writing to you sooner having expected to have been in the City long before this, but as it is, I can hardly be there before four weeks at the least. We have recd our orders to get ready to go to Fort Pickens as soon as the vessel arrives, which has the remainder of the of the 7<sup>th</sup> New Hampshire Regt aboard, two of which have already arrived leaving two more to follow about whom we are very much alarmed as regards their safety but still have some hopes that all is well. I cannot see or imagine what the Government is thinking of by sending a garrison of 1,000 men, but more about this when I have an opportunity of seeing, as I don't care to risk anything in the way of information, as the Rebels stand some chance of getting our mails. It is exceedingly warm here, the fact is I have worn summer clothes all the winter. Our men are all acclimated.

The revolver you presented me with, you may rest assured, was thoroughly appreciated by me as I stood in great need of one of that description, I promise you that it shall never "speak" unless to some purpose, nor in any cause but to support the Constitution of these United States and its ever glorious flag. I shall not be surprised if I have an occasion to use it at Fort Pickens, I can fire in pretty good style. Know one but those who have been here knows the need of a pistol especially do we need them when going the rounds at night as there are secessionists right among us.

I suppose I must do as those before me have, that is write something of myself, which I shall do free from all intentions of a Bragadocia merely wishing to show you that I am not idle, nor unwilling to serve my country in any shape or form. On the 26<sup>th</sup> Dec. I was detached from my own Company to take command of a detachment of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> Reg'ts N.Y. Vols, in which capacity I have been ever since they started for the respective Regts in the steamer Philadelphia. I am now awaiting very patiently orders to proceed to New York, but I suppose I shall go to Pickens first.

I sent the am't still due you to Dr. Taylor via the Philadelphia when I see you I can best tell the am't of good done by the use of it, as well as other things which do not seem to read well, when sent in letters.

You will please remember me to the Doctor when you see him.

Hoping I may hear from you at your earliest convenience  
I remain as ever  
Yours  
Respectful & Ob'd Srv't

Oliver Matthews  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. 6<sup>th</sup> N.Y. Vols

P.S. I shall receive my letters much safer is sent to this place, as I am more likely to get them than if sent to Fort Pickens for the present.

O.M.