

Baltimore Dec 14 1862

Dear Jim,

Lizzie requested me to keep you informed if anything I saw tended to raise my spirits. I have been waiting for this joyful time to come in vain until I found that the probability was that I would return without writing.

I found about five thousand troops more here than required and almost thirty thousand more under General Dix including Corcoran at Newport News all anxious to go forward and able to make a powerful diversion in favor of Burnside. Major General Peck told me last night that had Banks joined his expedition to these troops he saw nothing to prevent their marching in to Richmond. Oh how disgusted the troops are, and this is beginning to assume a serious shape. I have heard military dictator talked of altogether too much to suit my views, although I can scarce help believing that there is a traitor somewhere in Washington, for there is certainly enough to occupy all spare troops now unless they have lost count of where they are.

McClellan is still an immense favorite in that part of the army I have visited.

I will write you as soon as I receive any accurate news from Burnside which I hope to do tomorrow when I reach Washington.

A week spent in visiting Fortress Monroe, where I was

the guest of General Dix, Norfolk with [], Suffolk with General Peck and Charley Dodge, especially the latter, Yorktown with General Reyes Staff, and Newport News with Michael Corcoran has passed very rapidly.

They have treated me royally putting steamboats and trains at my service as under Wool, the improvement being in the better acquaintance I had with the parties.

Our train by mistake did not stop for me, and they said it would be more rapid than to get up another to take a hand car with four negroes. We urged them to their utmost and when going a little inside of four minutes came to a switch turned wrong. The car ran off the track and threw us flying, but fortunately no one was seriously hurt.

Last night just out of our state room on a stretcher lay a poor soldier under the care of his father who was taking him home to get his mother's nursing.

I gave him my address here in case I could help him as he seemed poor, and today he called on me to say his son was dead. I had seen the same boy leaving Geneva well and in high spirits.

Good bye, drop me a line at Willards Hotel
Washington.

Yours with love to Lizzie and the children Theodore.

If Barry Fox comes into the [], lend him fifty dollars from me—There are great complaints of both the Enfield

and Austrian rifles especially the latter.