

Afternoon Nov 21st [1861]

Dear Emmy, I have just seen a letter from Mrs Hall. James received it today, but the mail brought nothing for me, that is not right, must write me so that I can get something every mail you see that I am quite arbitrary here as I am at home, but perhaps you care as little for it here as you do when I am with you This is extra. I write this because the other was written so bad that I am afraid that you will not be able to read it, but I was in a hurry to go about something else. I have been trying my hand at darning me stockings, but did not make out as well as I did at washing them if you had been where you could have seen me at it perhaps you would have smiled. I dont know what I am writing this to you for it is not worth the paper that is spoils, but I like to be writing to you as it is next to talking to you, but I will wait perhaps I shall think of something to finish out with. It is something of the pleasantest says that you will ever saw in your life rather too warm to be out in the sunshine, but the beautiful bay, sparkling in the sunshine and covered with noble ships is a splendid sight There is something very grand in the appearance of a large ship of any kind but when it happens to be a steam frigate with her long rows of guns on each side, + if one knows by how the lightning can flash and the thunder roar form those guns, there is something terrible in the sight Darling I wish you could have stood with me and seen the fleet during the bombardment of the fort. By the way, where I stood was on main topsail year of the steamer Baltic rather a queer place to wish you in. But there I will not attempt to describe anything on paper. I will put it away not and try and think of something interesting to finish out with. None o'clock at night. I have not thought of anything interesting to finish with, but must finish tonight as the steamer leaves tomorrow. I suppose, to judge by my own case that anything coming form me will be of some interest to you, so I am encouraged to write to you when I should not think of writing to any one else. I believe that I did not mention in my last, that I had given up my place as 'ward master' but perhaps I did if so it will not do any harm to go into particulars a little. The Major, that, is the Doctor E. is as lazy as the devil, and as selfish as you know him to be. Well he put all the care and, work on me. BY the way I am writing under difficulties. I am on watch in the Hospital, with over twenty sick men to take care of, and about every two lines it is necessary to get up to empty a shit pot or to give some tea or some thing else. so you see that it is rather difficult to keep the run of any subject that I get started on. I have just got back from emptying shitpot No. 10. Well to go on with what I was writing. All of the responsibility of the concern came on me, and I got no help from the Dr not the assistant., Dr. Greeley (who is a pompous kind of dandy, and is hated by every man in the Regt) but they were ready to blame me for not doing the work that belonged to themselves (as well as my own) I found that I had my hands full all of the time without a minute to rest at any time. I began to think it was about time for me to "sell out" We had a first rate nurse who had a great deal of experience in the business and he thought he would like to try it, and I thought I should like to have him, so we aranged it for him to take my place, and I take my turn as nurse. the work is not half as hard and the pay is just the same, so I think I have "a good thing of it" The patients think that I am a good nurse but I dont know, do you? We have one little young fellow here who is very sick. his name is Leavey from Manchester, in Capt Sleepers Co. he will not be likely to live but a little while perhaps not till morning I should think he will not. There are several others that are very sick but not so sick as the one that I have mentioned. Andrew Johnson of the Handle is here pretty sick, but not very

pretty. He has had the measles, and has been here about a week, but does not get well very fast. (Shitbox No. 12) ditto No.13. We use "King Cotton" for the cripples "bum fodder" This is queer stuff that I am writing to you dont you think so? Well "Vot hov hit" I must kill time some way and there is not much to write about. It is rather pleasant to sit and hear the waves roll up on shore, but there is not half as much surf here as there is at Hampton or sailsburg beach on account of a sandbar about a mile from shore which keeps the waves from coming into the harbor. I tried to get some money of the Dr. to send you with this, but the condemned liar is always ready with some great lie for an excuse for not paying his debts I think he does not mean to pay me anything more but I am thinking "he will have a nice time of it He is going through a regular course of cheating the Government, and the Hospital out of everything that he can but he will find that somebody will "put a spoke in his wheel" before a great while. I should not be surprised if he lost his commission before a good while. if I can do anything towards that you can bet that it will be done. if we get back to H. together I shall not spare him I tell you. There. I believe that I have said enough for this time so I will drop it now but you will likely to get another dose in a few days. Dont forget that you are to write to me every week. I shall expect it. Good night darling. I have got to empty another ditto

Leander