

Hart Island Dec 20th

1864

Dear mother

Having nothing ~~to~~ much to do I thought I would try and buisy myself by writing a few lines to you,, ____ I am enjoying very comfortable health at present and I hope these few words ~~my~~ may find you the same ____

We are having very warm and pleasant weather for the time of year ____ There is but very little snow here now

It seems very strange to me to see so little ~~to~~ snow and cold weather at this season of the year,, I presume you would like to know why I have remained on this Island so long therefore I will tell you ____ When I enlisted provost Marshall Capt Senie,, Goseton neglected to put the regiment that I chose upon my enlistment papers consequently I was sent here as an unassigned volunteer ____ This fact I found out after I had been on the Island about two weeks ____ As soon as I found it out I applied to Brig Gen N,,J,, Jackson commander of the Island for a choise of regiment,, and he informed me that I could not be assigned to ~~any~~ a regiment here ____ but would have to apply to the war department,, I immediately made application to Adg't,, Gen,, S,, Thomas,, for choise of regiment ____ Time has passed along untill now ____ and last night they called me out and gave me a choise of regiment ____ I choose the 11th Battery of Light Art,, and they enrolled me for it,, The reason why I chose that ~~regiment~~ battery was because the cavelry regiments are most all full,, ____ And since I have been on the Island I have got acquainted with several very smart and intelegent young men that are a going to that battery ____ I shall expect a letter from you tonight or tomorrow night ____ I shall not send this untill receive it with out I am like to start for my Battery ____ I presume I shall have to start for it in less than a week ____ You need not send me anything for fear it might not reach me ____ I am having very easy times here at present __ I fare first rate ____ I had got the good-will of one of the cooks consequently I fare better than most of the men do ____ I have not any more to write so I will close

Your Son

Geo,,D,,Barringer

N,,B,, 8 oclock P,,M,,

The orderly has Just received an order I am to go from here tomorrow ____

Geo,,D,,Barringer

Do not write till you here from me again