

we had but 10 hours notice to leave
Baltimore, and it rained hard all day when
we left -> my love to all

Your most aff^r son

Wm H. Christ

211 Regt - Ind vols

it will follow me
of Pleau

I just recd a letter from Sila woud
Capt. Mitchell is married to his Irish
girl. the mother of two children, by chance

Yr. M. 27th Dec. has got all well
Rebecca had again her cough
It don't hurt much down here

Newport News Va

Feb 20th 1862

Dear Father?

You will observe I have
again moved my washing. we are now
occupying the one strong hold of Secesh
We left Baltimore last Wed night
and came down to Fortress Monroe on
a slow boat and arrived there the next
night about sundown, and laid there
all night and came down here the next
day Saturday. and commenced moving our
goods to ^{our} camp ground, about 1/2 a mile from
the river. that night we had no tents but
the men slept in some new cavalry Stables
I slept on the ground under a big tarpaulin
between some tom barrels, and an hour
after I got up in the morning the water was
4 or 5 inches deep where I laid. it rained all
day Sat and we had to move a large part
of our goods and put up our tents. the ground
is sandy and soon become very soft & muddy

it become very muddy and we had to cross as
though that was awful. Saturday night I slept
on two boxes in a tent. Saturday night it rained
hard, and the boys had not their tents properly
ditched around and in the night the boys
was treated to a free bath. The water run into their
tents, several inches deep. They got out in the
morning with long faces. They thought of the flesh
pot of Egypt: they thought they were not holding
in Fort Marshall, no fire to dry by, and
Sunday was cool. Sunday afternoon I had
to go to Fort Monroe after some beef
and reached there just too late to get back that
night. The next morning it blowed so we could
not get back so I laid over another night.
I staid with the 6th Mass Regt: and the
next night with the 10th N.G. and reached
here yesterday. Every body congratulating me on
my safe return. They gave me up for drowned.
The Regt miss me sooner than any other man.
The 4th Wisconsin to the Mich & 21st Ind
is now here from Baltimore. A New York
Battery came here yesterday from Ft. Monroe

there were some 6 or 8 Regt: here when
we come here. The 20th Ind is to be here to
day. We only know we are here. What for
we know not. Some say to guard this
place from seces some say we are to go with
Butler to Ship Island some say we are to
go to Norfolk. Time must tell. & something
must be done. we can see Craney Island
across here. There are several Rebel camps
in sight across the river. Several points
we saw coming down. we are just up the
mouth of James River this is a very promi-
ng point. no town here except - camps.
I wrote to St: Sunday morning &
have had no time to ~~write~~ write much.
The camps are all excitement - better here and
at Ft. Monroe about going somewhere
I have no news to write nor time to write
there is a great many laughable incidents
to be had. The health of the Regt is good
this is a very healthy place - if we go to Ship
Island I will try to let you know before we go



Mr. P. M. Crist
Durant
Cedar Co Iowa

