

Marine Hospital, May 2<sup>d</sup> 1861.

My dear Fanny;

I have a few minutes to spare from my duties here, which I am going to divide between Mary & yourself & try to get a second or two left for Aunt Mary Wilcox. As you no doubt know I left home last Saturday week for Norfolk along with the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of Volunteers. Since that time we have been stationed first about 2 miles beyond Norfolk to defend a Powder Magazine & now at this place within sight of Wk. with no particular business except to be ready in case we are wanted. I do not myself believe there will be much if any fighting, in spite of the warlike news every day. I feel sure that in any event we shall come out all right.

Thompson I see is in Camp near

Richmond - Tell Peromean from  
me that he must by no means  
think of joining any company. It is  
enough that two of us should be in  
the field. It is the duty of the other one  
to stay at home & he is the only pro-  
per one of us three to do so. I am  
unmarried & of course ought to go.  
Thompson was before me in becoming  
a soldier & the oldest is the one who  
should stay & take care of those who  
are left behind - Besides he is a Father  
& I have no idea of my nephew's  
losing his precept & example.

I trust quiet may be restored soon  
enough to enable me to pay you a  
visit before the Spring or at any  
rate the Summer is gone

Give my best love to Peromean & my  
love too to Aunt Lockie & all her  
family - Good-bye, my dear  
Fanny. Your attached brother

J. Willard Brown  
wrote to me, ~~of the~~ Battalion, near Norfolk