

David's Island [NY]  
August 26<sup>th</sup>, 1862

To Mrs. Hurlbut formerly my sister Mary,

For several days when the chaplain called a list of W's I watched with open eyes and ears for Whipple, but all in vain. The Wiggineses and Williams'es and Well's and Wickses and Woods all got letters. Once he called out Sergeant John – "that's mine" thought I, Whitney, it wasn't Whipple and I returned to tent No. 79 to meditate on the uncertainty and disappointment of this beautiful world. But last Saturday he sung out Whipple and gave me a letter and also a copy of the Republican of August 19<sup>th</sup> where at my heart greatly rejoiced. I presume you have received my second letter from this place ere this and as I gave all necessary particulars in that I will not recapitulate. In regard to the state of my health, I will say that it is improving. Two weeks ago I was weighed at Harrison's Landing, and today I was weighed again and having gained four pounds in that time, (or rather in half that time for I did not gain an ounce till I came here). I think I can safely say I am improving.

Mother wishes to know about my cough and about my lungs. Now I tell you frankly my lungs are sound and the sea breeze does not injure me. When I was in hospital at the Landing they put a cotton shirt on me and I wore it till I got here, and then finding this change from Virginia to NY to rather cool fro cotton shirts (after I had worn woolen one all summer) I put on my woolen shirts and drawers, the consequence was, I escaped with a slight cold from which I have already recovered, while the others who stuck to their cotton shirts caught some sever colds effecting their lungs and other parts.

Tell my dear Mother that the only consumption that I am afraid of is the consumption of victuals. If you could only know how I enjoy a dish of bread and milk!!!! I have an order from the Dr. for milk twice a day and I get nearly enough, and for dinner I can get a bowl of bread and milk of the Sutter for 8 cents with a slice of cheese thrown in, and so I live. I don't go in for meat, or coffee very strong yet, as it is not good for diarrhea, and as I am getting over the latter disease I have no wish to start it again, I assure you.

I don't wish you to understand that I live on bread and milk alone, for we have eggs, toast, soup, & potatoes to eat, but still I say of milk as the men said of beans, " I'll take some more of them er' beans if you please."

You sent me a sheet of paper. I thank you for it, but am happy to inform you that it was unnecessary for we are among friends here, and as I informed you in my previous letter, our stationary is all supplied us gratuitously and in quantities to suit.

In addition to the furnishing us with all our writing materials and reading matter in abundance they have given each man that wanted, a bible or a testament, if he chose.

They have Bibles in large print for poor eyes, German and French bibles for those that wish them, also copies of the Psalms in course print. "With many other things to numerous to mention" as Saith the Advertiser.

Now my dear Mrs. Hurlbut after asking you to give my respects to the man you are named after, and hoping to hear from you soon I will close my epistle by subscribing myself.

Yours "Respectably"!!!

J.E.W.