

I am pleased to know that those engaged in resisting the constituted authorities are composed of the lowest dregs of society, and that not a person of respectability has solicited a share in their iniquitous proceedings.

This speaks well for the community, and shows that the malcontents lack one essential element—respectability. It is humiliating to know that such a hostile feeling exists in the heart of our country against the prosecution of the war, and that our armies <sup>in the field</sup> should be weakened for the purpose of maintaining law & order at home. Yet such is the case and it is a vile stain upon our nation's emblems.

Governor's Island New York  
Harbor Aug. 24, 1863.

Dear Mother:—

It may surprise you to hear from me at this point, and if any one had told me two weeks ago that today would find me sitting under the shade trees of this really beautiful island I should of termed him a lunatic. Yet nevertheless here I am, and you will naturally inquire for what purpose. I will enlighten you by saying: that the changes incidental to a soldier's career, and the violent disposition of some unruly spirits residing in the

city of New York, who on  
more than one occasion have  
given strong exhibitions of  
their hostility to the  
government, and also law  
& order necessitates our pres-  
ence here during the present  
draft. We entertain no fears  
of any decided opposition to  
the draft, but expect to experience  
some difficulty in collecting  
them together after they are  
conscripted. We have here  
troops sufficient to nip in  
the bud any copperhead man-  
ifestation which may occur,  
and you may rest assured  
that they are of the right stamp  
— picked regiments from  
the Army of the Potomac  
have seen too much of war  
and bloodshed during the  
past two years to be

frightened by any tumult-  
uous assemblage of people either  
in the metropolis of N. Y. or  
any other city. And it  
would not require much to  
coaxing to provoke a quarrel  
between the soldiers and  
the rioters. Such a quarrel  
is to be deprecated, yet it  
seems to be inevitable, consid-  
ering the menacing attitude  
of those who were engaged  
in the riot. They threaten  
to resist the draft by every  
possible means, and as  
I last recollect threaten to  
fire the city. This bombast  
or talk will hardly drive  
us from the path of duty  
and if they attempt to put  
the threat into execution  
they will be the chief  
sufferers.

During the night we passed the old Coast of Montreal and the capes, and on the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup> we were far out on the broad bosom of the Atlantic steering in a northeastern direction.

This fact settled beyond a doubt our destination, and raised <sup>concerning</sup> my conjectures, its object. Some still affirming that we were going to N. Y. merely to fulfil an expedition for the theatre of war in the south. These surmises troubled me but little for I was deeply engaged in gazing upon the wildness of water which surrounded

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But thank God that there is an inherent element sufficiently powerful to quell all disloyal demonstrations.

And if need be exterminate root & branch every one who sympathizes with the traitors in arms.

But I have spent more time on this subject than intended, and will now revert briefly to our journey hither. I have not time to describe the feeling of regret which was everywhere manifested on our departure from the Army nor the ovation got up on the occasion to demonstrate their attachment to the old regiments by their brave

to them by associations of  
the most binding character.

The order demanding  
our presence here was totally  
unexpected and was received  
on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. The eve-  
ning of the same day found  
us on board of the coast of the  
Orange & Alexandria R.R.  
on the way to our destination  
which at that time was  
unknown, the general  
presumption being that  
we were bound for Charle-  
ston, S.C. At Alexandria  
we laid until the 20<sup>th</sup>  
awaiting transportation.

In the meantime many  
were the stories fabricated  
regarding our destination.

Some asserted that we  
were going to assist Gen.  
Silmars. Others that we

were going to Texas to whip  
Johnny Crepeau. While some  
were convinced that we were  
destined for N.Y. The  
latter supposition proved  
to be correct although the  
conclusion was prompted  
at. On the afternoon of  
30<sup>th</sup> we embarked on  
the steamship Atlantic  
and on the morning of  
the 21<sup>st</sup> weighed anchor  
and steamed down the  
Potomac. East Washington  
was soon passed, and soon  
afterwards we were abreast of  
a place of much interest -  
Mount Vernon, where reposes  
the remains of the illus-  
trious Washington.

At 4 o'clock P.M. we rounded  
Point Lookout and glided  
quietly into the Bay.

adversary in the path of  
 any foreign vessels of war  
 who may choose to pass it  
 with hostile intentions  
 as the channel runs very close  
 to the shore. The scenery  
 along the shore from Sandy  
 Hook to the entrance of  
 the harbor is very beautiful.  
 Staten Island is splendid  
 and as we sailed up the  
 harbor we met a number  
 of boats densely crowded, from  
 the cities, going to spend the  
 day (Sunday) on the island.  
 We disembarked as  
 soon as the ~~needed~~ necessary  
 preparations could be made  
 for our accommodation  
 on the island. But I must  
 close my off-handed letter.  
 Did you receive the \$75 I prepared  
 to send from Kelly's Ford? E. W. C.  
 P.S. Please send me 25 dollars without delay.

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written  
 in a  
 hurry

ed. This to me was a  
 great ~~&~~ novelty, and as  
 I gazed upon the vast  
 expanse of water which lay  
 stretched before my vision  
 rising & swelling in huge  
 waves as far as the eye could  
 penetrate, as if agitated by  
 some potent sub-marine  
 agency, I could not but  
 think how completely  
 we were at the mercy of the  
 waves unless guided by the  
 inscrutable hand of Providence.  
 The hurricane deck on  
 which I was presented soon  
 after day-light on the morn-  
 ing of the 22<sup>nd</sup> an <sup>announced</sup>  
 and highly ludicrous spec-  
 tacle. The motion of the  
 vessel as it pitched and rolled

an the "briny deep" seemed  
not to agree ~~not to~~ with the  
inner & man of many for  
they over soon engaged in  
the refreshing pastime of  
"throwing up Jonah."

Had looked  
for all the world as though  
they would give all the  
old boots in their posses-  
sion to be once more an-  
kered firmly. And many  
were the jokes indulged in  
at their expense, by those  
who soon after were lean-  
ing over the ruffrail  
making vain efforts to  
eject something that  
seemed to lay disagreeably  
upon the stomach.

This nausea which  
very few are free from upon  
a first voyage at sea did

not deem to pay me a  
visit much to my satis-  
faction as well as comfort.

The day passed off  
remarkably pleasant consid-  
ering where we were and I  
enjoyed a night's rest  
equal to any on land, in  
fact a soldier can rest any  
where either on the mighty  
deep, or the less wholesome  
swamps of Virginia.

When I awoke on the  
23<sup>rd</sup> we were off New Jersey  
in the vicinity of Sandy  
Hoop, we soon passed  
this point, upon which there  
is a large fort in process of  
construction calculated  
when finished to mount  
1000 guns of the largest  
calibre. This enormous fort  
will prove an formidable

By and Aldrich

Mrs Frances Goulding

West Waterville

Maine