

P.S. Please direct York Town Via*

York Town Jan 7/63

Dear Cousin

Your letter came duly to hand, I thank you for sending your photograph. and promise to take good care of it. -- I find it impossible to get a photograph. so send you my Ambrotype which I hope will reach you safely. We did not go to Fortress Monroe as we expected, but are in the very ground where Lord Cornwallise surrendered to Washington. I have seen and been in the house where the papers were made out. Since I received your letter I have received one from Aunt Mary (Smith). She wrote that Theodore was with Banks Expedition, and that the boat he was in. grounded on the Florida Reefs, but he escaped unhurt. Rogers was in the Battle at Fredricksburgh and he was unhurt. so you see we have great cause to be thankfull. we have all three of us been exposed to immediate danger and have escaped. ought we not to be thankful to our heavenly Father. who alone hath preserved our lives? The Fort of this place is very strongly fortified and I think the Rebels will have to fight some before they can take it. Our camp is outside of the fort but in case of an attack we at to sckedaddle [sic] to the fort -- and take our position by the side of the different guns where we will undoubtedly have a chance to dodge the shells from the enemy. until they make a charge on some battery. and then we are to repulse them if possible. It is doubtful whether we stay here all winter. but I hope we will. We can get all the Oisters we want for fifty cents per gallon so you see we can live "high" while we stay here. that is if we happen to have the money. but the trouble seems to be in not getting the Oisters, but in getting the fifty Cents Uncle Sam hasn't paid us yet. The rascal. but never mind, there will be more of it when it does come. My love to all That God will spare our lives and that we may be permitted to meet again if not on earth, in heaven as it happens of your Affectionate Cousin Milton

*Ink is darker on this letter than on some of the others. On close inspection, it appears that ink has been used to trace over pencil. It's possible that this was done by Milton.