

Newport Barracks N.
Isby 25-1864

My dear Maria

Some four or five
days have passed since I last
wrote you and since that time
I have been very busy we
are slashing and working very
hard to get our place in a
better condition for defense and
every available man is employed
every day either with an axe or
spade - I was in hopes that
we would be so situated that I
could get our new recruits in a
proper state of discipline and drill
but our prospects are not good
and I presume a month will
pass before our hard labor will
be finished and drill instituted
Maj Bartlett arrived here to
day with 16 recruits which