

we will soon be disbanded, and our places supplied by the companies now raising for the regular service; but if Fort Pickens is defended, and the *Macedonian* or *Brooklyn* attempt to reinforce her, you will hear from us and Fort Sumter.

The cadets have been staying over here and drilling some of the companies. They drill finely, much better than many of the officers.

An amusing, but rather dangerous, circumstance happened here a few nights since: A sentinel fired at the relief guard as they approached to put a man in his place. He missed his man, however, and when asked why he fired, answered, because he was frightened.

A friend of mine was severely wounded by a repeater, accidentally last Wednesday. His name is Strawinski, of the Columbia Artillery. He is a Pole. There is a goodly number of foreigners in camp, willing and anxious to fight the battles of our country.

Our men amuse themselves between drill hours and at night, with music, singing, bathing and the like. They are not forced to undergo the rigid discipline of a regular army. They came here as volunteers, and the officers are disposed to allow them all the privileges of freemen, that our security will admit of.

I am now on the bitterest portion of camp life—standing guard—and my relief takes my place while I try to pen you a communication. It is very amusing to guard our prisoners. One fellow under my charge this evening insisted that I was placed there to wait on him.

The Sergeants and Corporals have a harder time than privates. When on guard, they are compelled to be on severe duty all the time. Commissioned officers are much better off than either, so far as their duties come within my knowledge.

Yours truly,

B.