to write the Secretary & ask permission for you to take New York in your way. You will however know before you get this what your fate is to be & take your measures accordingly -

Jones & Capt Keyes both promised to write you immediately & give you an account of the doings at the point - I saw Smith & McClellan inspect the sappers & miners - The company is now raised to about 75 men - fine looking fellows - Every body was growling because old Jones had shaved the army - They have cut into the rocks about the place the names & dates of all the battles in gigantic letters - The volunteers had a funeral the other day in honor of the glorious dead - two of whom I understand died of a shot in the neck - I hope you will see George Author at New Orleans - You will hear of him at the St. Charles' -

Your mother has I suppose written from home & I will write you again soon & more at length - So good night

George

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