fleet carrying 18,000 men with stores horses 
& c. It was a grand scene, the sun shining 
down on the broad & beautiful bay over whose 
surface was bravely streaming the flower of 
the Army & the Potowmac the pride of the 
country. Porter's division is said to be equal to 
the regular troops & I know there is no 
better regiment in the United States. We reached 
Hampton Roads & anchored in the fleet in front of 
Fortress Monroe at 3 P.M. There lay the 
title mysterious wonderful thing which 
has saved us untold calamities in the 
victory over the Merimac & all eyes 
sought out in vain voices cried "There's the 
Monitor"! We gave her a hearty cheer. 
She lies flat about 18 inches (eighteen) out 
of the water & her smoke stack nothing that 
can be injured. About the centre is a sort of 
circular house perhaps 20 feet in diameter 
& 10 feet high of iron & the whole was 
well enough described by the rebel as "like 
a large cheese box on a raft." We disembarked 
just at slack tides. I dined with the Captain