

Ed to remain the other day, but did not see him. Moby Pullman wrote me that he & Geo. had joined the gymnasium, but if you are having the same beautiful weather in N.Y. that we are here, the "boating season" will commence very soon, & then I suppose they will forsake the former, for the "Viking" & its pleasures. You & Morse, Demarest, Hudson, Bull & Hawes, got rather ahead of us this year, but when we do get the Viking off, look out for your laurels. I want to write a few lines to Bull, - what is his direction? I haven't seen anything about the Atlantic in the papers lately so I suppose Russ is still at Port Royal. Will he go down a third time? I believe part of Uncle William's family are going off to day. When does Lottie start for Lowell? They must have been very busy packing up this

434 D. No. —  
Washington D. C.  
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Dear Ed -

I have your two letters of April 6<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> to answer. I did not know it was so long since I had written you, but now I must try & make up all deficiencies. I expect to see the Achilles back here again on Friday or Saturday, but it may be that she will be detained at Ship Point for a day or two, & in that case, it will be Monday or Tuesday before she returns. It usually takes no more than a week to ten days to make a passage from Alexandria, to Ship Point, or Fortress Monroe. Of course we always have heavy tons, - from eight to twelve schooners, or barges. When the wind is fair the schooners all make sail, & it is a very pretty sight to see the boat ahead of a line of vessels, - sometimes half-a-mile from the stern one. On Saturday the boat was

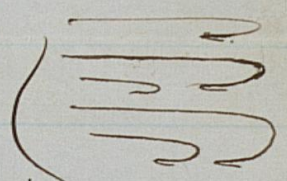
ordered away, & left me here. Since then I have been residing between this City and Alexandria, having to go up & down from one to three times per day. I know all the Pilots on the different boats, & of course go right up into the wheel house, as soon as I go on board. I have been studying the channel, & if occasion arose, should not be very much afraid to take a boat down to Alexandria, or up to Washington, by myself. I have made a good many acquaintances among the fishermen etc, & I don't know but that by & by I may join them for a week, & go off shad fishing. There is no humbug about it here, - it is really fishing! What do you think of catching from five to ten thousand shad, & from ten to fifteen thousand herring, beside rock fish, etc, & all at one haul. They have immense seines - some fifteen hundred fathoms long, & employ from seventy five to two hundred men, together with about twenty horses, & a dozen boats. They only

make one haul every ebb tide, but that one haul sometimes fills two sloops with fish. On the ground, the shad sell from one dollar per hundred up to five. Ask Mother what she thinks of that. Fresh shad, large sizes, only One Cent each! They sell in the markets here now, at  $37\frac{1}{2}^{\text{cts}}$  per pair, - somebody makes money. If I can manage it a week or two hence, I think I shall go down for a week & try "Life on the Line."

I am much obliged for Charley Knox's direction - I hope to see him when I get down there again. If I do, I will write Jim & let him know. But, by the way, what is Jim Mason's direction? I presume you do not remember Ed. Mitchell

He was a classmate of mine at the Scotts & was afterwards in the Academy. I heard this morning of his death. He was killed at Pittsburg Landing, in the fight of Sunday, I believe. Will, may perhaps remember him. I was not very far from

last week, for now, the 1<sup>st</sup> May is only a week off. I have been looking after a good rifle, revolver, etc. &c. ever since I came down. If we only carried troops on board, we should have no trouble in getting what we wanted, but having merely the schooners to tow, there is very little chance for us either to buy or steal anything of the sort. I shall keep my eyes open however. I want you to ~~keep~~ get me a few fish-hooks if you can do so without trouble. I brought some with me but have lost nearly all, & there are none small enough on the boat. I want them medium, & small, size. Something like this



You can send them in a letter. The fish are beginning to come in now, & I think we shall often be able to get enough for dinner, & so save fresh meat. Give my best love to Aunt Esther - If I can't have any Chess, still I hope to act as a Pawn, in a great

Checkmate, to come off at Yorktown  
next month. I have quite a number  
of letters to answer, & write, this morn-  
ing, & I am going off to walk this  
afternoon; perhaps to Georgetown,  
or wherever I may then fancy, so  
for the present, Adieu!

Affectionately  
A. D. S.