

we are to accompany him as far as is necessary. I don't much think he will let us go until we anchor him in Albemarle Sound. We are to stop at Fortiers Innowe going down, to receive last orders from Gen Wool, & to get the whole regiment together, & I shall mail this letter from there. For fun, good singing etc, I'll back the 3rd S. I. against any regiment in the service. I saw more of C. A. than any of the rest, & they are the best looking set I have yet seen. They own their horses & of course keep them in first rate order. Some of the private are worth from three to four ^{hundred} thousand dollars. Having no drills on board,

The brass steamed Achilles
Chesapeake Bay.
Friday eve. May 3rd / 62.

My Dear Mother

I find I shall have a chance to mail a letter at Fortiers Innowe to-morrow, so before I go to bed I will try & give you the "news to date." I wrote to you on Sunday last, so I shall give you a sort of journal of my doings this week. On Monday I went to Washington in the morning to try for a cook. I didn't stay very long however, for I was afraid the boat might be ordered off, so I came down by three o'clock P.M. Our orders hadn't come, so I took the sail boat & one of the crew, & went down the river a mile

or Miss & landed on the Maryland side. I took a walk round a little way, & stayed there looking about for an hour, & then returned to Alexandria. Tuesday, I wrote a few letters & then went fishing. The hook & line sent came in to play, for we caught enough Eels in a couple of hours to let all hands make their supper off fresh fish. At four P.M. our orders came. We left the dock & went alongside the schooner "Maryland," & it being nearly dark by that time, we lay in the stream by her all night.

Mr Snow (Gr. M.'s Agent) told us that we should have to take six vessels down, which were bound for Hatteras. He did not know how far we should have to go with them, but told us that Colonel Mix would give us our orders.

The next morning - Wednesday, we got all on tow together - two brig, the "Conor" & "Susan Duncan," & four Schooners, the "J.C. Morris," "Dan. G. Higgins," "Maryland," and "John Farnum," & about 9 A.M. we left Alexandria & proceeded down the river. The troops on board the vessels are, ^{part of} Van Allen's Cavalry, the 3^d N. Y. Col. (right under whose orders we now are) is a first rate fellow, & most of his officers seem to be the same. The Col. & his staff are on board of the "John Farnum," & we took her alongside on the starboard hand, & the "Maryland," with "C.A." on board, on the larboard side. The Officers & soldiers have been on the boat a good deal, & we of course have been over to see them. The Col. tells me that they are going down to

the afternoon with Capt. Hanway, Major Lewis, Dr. Palmer, & several of the officers & men of the regiment. Piney Pt. used to be quite a watering place, although it is pretty much deserted now.

We went up to the hotel, & then up to the bowling alley, & along the beach. I had my first swim in Seesh water, & have felt better for it ever since. The water was awfully cold & we only stayed in a few moments, but the plunge did me good.

When we got back to the boat we found a contraband alongside with a puny load of Oysters.

We got quite a lot from him & emptied them on our after deck & then went to work with our Pocket Knives. Opening Oysters is a science. He are rapidly learning it however, & by

the time we get home shall almost equal the men down at Fulton Market.

In the evening I listened to the singing until high call, & "taps", (eight o'clock) & then went on board the "John Farnum" to see the Col. I found all the officers playing "Loo" in the cabin, & sat there talking with them until nearly midnight.

This morning it was stormy again, & we lay still at Piney Point until noon.

By dinner time it had cleared away a little & we got our tops in order & started. We shall run all night, unless something new turns up, & get in to Fortiers Monroe by daylight tomorrow. I don't of course know how long we shall lay there, it will depend on Col. Huy altogether. If we

go all the way to Scatteras with
these vessels it will probably
be a week or ten days before
we get back. If we only take
them thirty or forty miles
outside of Cape Henry how-
ever, we shall be gone but a
day or two. I don't suppose
we shall know till the last
moment. We are ordered to
report at Ship Pt. on our
return, & from there Col. In-
galls may send us up the
York river; or Heaven knows
where. I shall write to Patten
before going to bed, & I may
get another chance to send
you a letter before long. I
am still quite well. Give
my love Grandmother, Aunt Lathin
Lizzie & all

Your loving son

Send some C.A. notes - let Ed. fix the \$5.00 one, - I have
no gum. etc.

57
of course they have lots of
licure, & spar, Jenu, etc, all
the time. There is a regular
Pleu Club in the Company, &
every evening after supper
they ~~would~~ go forward, & sing
about everything, from "Dixie"
to "Hail Columbia." "Hallelujah,"
seems to be the prime favorite
& they sing it splendidly.

Wednesday night it came on
very thick & stormy, & we anchored
under Pine Point near the
mouth of the river. The next
morning it was nearly as bad
so we lay there all day. About
noon the rain stopped, & it
would have been very pleasant
if it had not been for a dense
fog. We could not see half a
mile ahead, while it was quite
clear astern & on our starboard
quarter. I went on shore in