

self until Monday noon to get
the same, - taking into consideration
"Red tape," &c. - but if I get through
sooner so much the better. Leave
Bash: on Monday afternoon, &
join the Achilles again on Tuesday
morning. If the boat has gone
when I get there, I shall take
the Balt. boat & join the Achilles
at Fortress Monroe. Even if I
leave a day behind her I shall
get to Old Point about the same
time, for we shall have a heavy
tow down, & shall come slowly.

I shall see Mr. Dumas of course
while in B. & hope to find them
well. As soon as I get back
to Fortress Monroe I will try and
send you a direction ^{your letters to} that
place. Probably I shall have
them sent to Mc Jimneys Cove,
who has a store here. Until
I send such direction you can

On board Ste. Achilles
Chesapeake Bay
May 15th 1862.

My Dearest Mother

Don't expect
a very elegant epistle this
time, for the boat is shaking
a good deal, & there is some sea
on, which makes her roll. If
I can write so as to be read it is
all I ask. We are on our way
to Baltimore at last with the
"Nelly Baker" in tow, & are now
(about seven P.M.) somewhere
about the mouth of the Potomac.

Capt. Scunessy got back
this morning, & glad enough am
I to have him on board again.
A boat without a Captain
is something like a man with-
out a head. His coming returns

me from a good deal of anxiety & care, for although I have nothing to do with running the boat, I can't feel the same confidence in her safety as when Capt. A. is on board. The pilot has been as careful as possible & everything has gone on well with the boat, but he has not the same influence over the crew, & sometimes they take it into their heads to act contrary. For once I am glad of the storm, we should have left Old Point yesterday afternoon had the weather been good, & thus just missed the Captain.

I wrote to Father last night asking whether I had not better go on to Wash: from Balt. for our 2^d certificate. I forgot that the time was so short that I could not reasonably expect an answer to my letter, & told him

that I should do as he said.

I find however that it will be Monday or Tuesday before I should receive his answer, & I therefore shall go on & get said certificate without waiting to hear from him. We shall reach Balt. tomorrow - Friday. I shall first report to the Dr. M. - Major James Belger, & shall ask for, & expect to get, two days to repair clean, etc. I shall then see Mr Brandt (to whom Capt. A. has a letter from Father), & get him to put me in the shortest way of having my work done. As soon as that is all under way I will take first train to Wash. Shall get there some time on Saturday, pass that night with Aunt Kate, & start the next morning to Alexandria for certificate. I shall allow my-

hulk, is anchored on the right-hand going up, so as to swing across the only channel, ~~which~~ & thus catch any of our vessels who should prove fools enough to follow their gunboats up.

The San Jacinto got ashore on Sunday on the left hand side, but got off next morning.

It was fortunate that she did not knock a hole in her bottom. We backed up to the spile rivers, & I took the small boat & went on board.

They had been left in a hurry for I found an axe, small screw wrench, sledges, etc. on board.

We cut the fastenings & brought them down to the Fort.

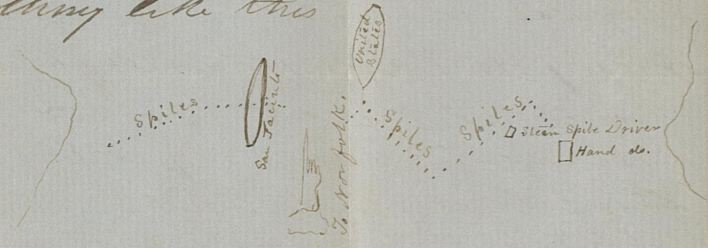
I went on board the "Wm Kent" Tuesday morning. She had between six & seven hundred released prisoners on board, some from

5.
have the pleasure of writing to both Wash. & Ft. Monroe

On Monday morning we were lying at the dock waiting for orders when the steamer "John Brooks" came in from Williamsburg, with about three hundred wounded on board. I went over to see if I could be of any help, but it was sad work. Scurvy & Union troops all mixed up together, some wounded by shells, some by rifle shots, & some by the bayonet. I don't know anything about poor in New York! I was talking with one man who had seven Mini balls through him, & who expected to get well & go back to the army. Several died while I was there & before they could be moved to the hospitals. While waiting for ambulances & I got talking to some men

bers of the 19th Miss. Their regiment, the 2^d Georgia & 1st Va. suffered very severely. They told me about the fight, & one of them read me his Diary, which was quite interesting. They were anxious for the news, so I told them that "Norfolk was taken & the Merrimac blown up." They were sorry of course but seemed to think that she paid for herself. We have been to Norfolk several times since I wrote, but have not been able to stay there at all. I therefore have not had any chance to go into the city since Sunday. I saw some of the crew of the Merrimac, & they told me that a council of war was held on board on Saturday night, & it was decided that she should be run up James river & fought to

the last. After they broke up the pilot told them she drew too much water, & could not go over Harrison's bar, upon which another council was held, - all hands got gloriously drunk, & it was determined to blow her up. Which was done at 5 AM the next day. We had to tow the two pile drivers down from Lambert's Point on Tuesday. I told you that there was a regular stockade across the river - it ~~was~~ ^{was} some thing like this



You see the trap. The spiles are driven in very strongly, & the old "United States," now a mere

Richmond, some Charleston S.C.,
& some from Mobile. As you
may suppose they seemed glad
enough to get back. The greatest
luxury I can get down here is
a fresh lemon. I eat them just
as I used to eat apples, - only
not quite so often. They seem
to act as a corrective to the
salt meat. On hot days I would
rather have them than anything
else I know of. How are tin
spoons selling in New York?
They are only one dollar & a half
per dozen at Old Point. Is
business any better down town
yet? I hope you will let
me know when it revives for
you know my feelings on the
subject. Perhaps you may
see me home next month.
I want to go to Richmond, but
after that, I don't see that the

boats can go anywhere else.

Is it not strange that - while I am entirely well, I should still be very weak? I seem to have lost what little strength I ever had, & yet, with the exception of an occasional headache, I never was better. I suppose it is the loss of exercise. I hear that - Russ is off again - how many times does this make; three? or four? I hope Lizzie is still with you, - give her my love please, I trust - I shall find her still at home when I get back. I sent Jenny Tickman some Confederate notes - did she receive any letter of you know?

Give best love to Grandmother & all.

Your loving son
Appleton.