

of varnish the other day - pd.
50¢ pr. gall. I believe. The
sun is so very hot that the
decks began to open & we
gave them all a double coat
of paint. - Now they are all
tight again. The boiler I think
is about the same - it has
stood wonderfully. I hope to
hear soon that all is going
on as well at home, as here.

I presume business remains
quiet as yet, waiting for
the army. We have had des-
perate fighting for some days
& all expect the grand battle
tomorrow. Wounded come in
every hour - death & misery.

There is nothing but excitement
here all the time -

With much love

Affectionately
Appleton.

On board *St. Achilles*
White House Va.
June 1st 1862

Dear Father

It is very late &
the mosquitoes are very troublesome
some, but I must write you
a line to let you know that
all is going on well. For
this last week I have been
so busy I have had no time
to write, read, or do anything
else of the sort. You will
see by my letter to Mum
that I have been having a
very pleasant time, & have
made some very pleasant
friends. The *St. Ship Dan.*
Webster will leave here for
N. Y. in a few days & I shall
send ³ ~~them~~ of my men north

by him if I can get passes for
them. I have given them orders
upon you for their money. One
of them intends returning but
I doubt whether he will. I have
to day engaged another Fireman
& Coal passer in place of those
who leave me. The deckhand
we can get along without for
the present. I have ^{not} yet got
a second engineer - as long as
we lie here idle, or are only run-
ning in the river by day, we do not
need one & can thus save the ex-
pense. If we are sent off on
a long trip however I shall have
to get one. I believe now that
^{all} are well on board, & well
satisfied with everything.

That is more than can be said
of any other boat now here
as far as I know. The stores
we got in Balt. are first

rate, & we have all got used
to the water. I think we
save at least \$20 pr month
by having good cooks who
use up everything & waste
nothing. They are clean &
that is more than half the
battle. I think I see shall
lie here until Richmond
is taken, & then be ordered
up James river, - I sincerely
hope so. - I have not rec^d
any letters from you since
I left Balt. & know nothing
of what is going on in N.Y. -
have had no time to read the
papers either! I shall
not be in a hurry about -
3^d Certificates for fear
that they might send us
home, - more than that - I
have not the Charter Party.
Capt. A. bought a barrel