

But others must get the money for those vessels just gone out, & must get together another fleet of vessels for the next down trip.

Wages are high on the river. Deck hands average about \$25. Engineer \$200. Pilot the same, or perhaps \$250. I think you would often have to send coal out from N. Y. as it is so high here that it would be much the cheapest plan. One man told me that if a strong powerful boat were to arrive here & threaten to commence the towing business, that he thought that Stanton & Co. would offer to buy her in order to keep the business in their hands. Should he be right & a good

136 Julia St. N. Y.  
Apr 24<sup>th</sup> 1863

Dear Father

I should have written before this had I been able to find out any thing of importance concerning the boats etc. I have made several inquiries as to the towing business here, and find it in many respects different from the N. Y. manner of business.

There is one line of boats now employed in the business, belonging to Stanton & Co. (atonyville) and they have several very good strong boats. The Anglo American & St. Charles are the two most powerful. They get so much per ~~foot~~<sup>hour</sup> for each vessel they take out or bring in, & I believe the rate is about 50 cts per hour going out, & \$1.25 dd. coming

in. Govt. vessels pay a little less. I should think there might be a little less trouble in collecting the money after it was earned, here than in N. Y. for this reason. Very few of the vessels which arrive are not consigned to some agent, who has sole charge of both ship & cargo. His first business is to pay off the crew, & such debts as the vessel may have outstanding, & of course towing bills come in among the first.

If he refuses this the freight can be seized, but I am told that there is never the least difficulty, & such a thing as a law suit for a towing bill was never heard of here.

I have been able to hear of no house to whom I should be willing to trust the Achilles

should she come out, but I think (as I told you before) she could keep one man pretty busy in getting business for her, collecting her bills, and attending to her generally.

It would need a good smart man who would go after business & not wait for it to come to him. He would have to make up a tow in the first place for the boat to take down, & to do this would have to get as many vessels as he could, - sometimes 8 or 10, - in order to make the towage as large as possible & thus get a big price. The boat takes this tow outside the bar, & then waits, sometimes four or five days, for a tow to bring up again. In the mean time the agent in

from him. I am certain  
that as long as Sherman  
is in command the rebels  
can't make much head-  
way. Some of the people  
here were so certain how-  
ever that the Confederates  
were coming in one night  
last week, that they actually  
set their supper tables &  
had hot coffee ready for  
the rebels when they should  
arrive. They must have  
felt rather cold! I am  
going to write to Ed by  
this mail, as I shall  
close this & commence  
his letter by & by. Please  
give my love to Mattie &  
all at home.

Affectionately  
App.

5  
price be offered, - say \$2500  
or \$3000 I do not suppose you  
would be unwilling to sell  
her. In short although there  
would be great expense at-  
tending the boats being sent  
out there, I think if properly  
managed she could make  
money. That is provided  
she were sent out in good  
condition so as not to need  
repairs for some time.  
I am doubtful however  
whether you will be able  
to find a boiler suitable  
for the "A." in which case  
of course she cannot come  
down. I hope to hear from  
you about it soon, for  
I should like to know what  
you are doing, if anything,  
about fitting the boat up.  
Your letter 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. is

the only one I have yet rec<sup>d</sup>  
on the subject. I cannot tell  
whether I have told you all  
you wish to know, but I have  
told you all I have been able  
to find out myself as yet.

If there is anything else  
please tell me what it  
is. I am writing in my  
own room before I go out  
to the office, so that it is  
about nine A.M. I have  
not commenced work at  
the office, but generally  
go over there in the morning  
to find out what is going on  
talk to Lieut. Hill, & Coap.

As I told Mum, I do not  
mean to do anything this  
month, but wait until  
the first May before com-  
mencing work again. I am  
going to take it easy then

and take my own time  
to make up the back work  
in. There is more than a  
month's work waiting for  
me now, for there is no one  
here who understands or  
can do it save myself.

I am gaining strength every  
day & really beginning to feel  
bright & well. I expect in  
another week to be quite  
recovered & as strong as ever.

It would amuse you to  
see how very confident the  
Secesh all are that this  
city will be in the hands  
of the rebels within a very  
short time. As long as Banks  
is away I have but little  
fear for old Tim would  
blow the city from its  
foundations before he  
would let them get it