

I think landings will be made in several places at once; - perhaps at Lynnhaven bay, behind Sewells Pt. and across the river from Newport News. I want very much to land with some regiment and take a land cruise, up to Richmond perhaps.

Have I had made their appearance in New York yet? We had one for dinner the other day, and it was not at all bad, after salt junk, &c. One of the fishermen threw it on board, in gratitude to us for not running into his nets. They are selling in Washington for \$1.50 per pair. If we only had a good shot gun we might be able to get some ducks now & then. We fire at them very often with pistols, but that is all humbug of course. I fancy if one did get hit, no one

On board Steamer "Achilles"  
March. 31<sup>st</sup> 1862.

My Dear Mum

Would any one really believe that such horrible weather could exist down in "sunny Virginia" at this season. I wrote to you from Alexandria on Saturday, & had hardly closed my letter before orders came for us to start with another tow for Old Point. We left at noon, and at 1.30 P.M. came to anchor off Pt. Vernon in the midst of a heavy snow storm.

The weather was so thick that we could not see the boats length, and it was perfect folly to try & run. Snow fell that afternoon to the depth of an inch & a half, then it blew, & rained, & made itself as disagreeable as possible all that night, & the next day. We lay still all that night, but started the next morn-

ing at 6 Am. & ran slowly all day yesterday, reaching Point Point at sundown, (for the time sundown would have been if there had been any sun.) At 7.30 we anchored our tow for the night, and got under way this morning at 4 A.M. intending to leave at daylight. It was 7 o'clock before we got off however, for we had to collect our schooners, and then when we had got them all in line, one of the hawsers parted, & we had to commence all over again.

We are just entering the Chesapeake now, with one bark - the "Denny," three schooners, the "Jas. Johnson," "West Wind," & "R.S. Deah," and two barges, the "Wallkill" & "Cedar Hill." They are all astern of us, & we expect to reach Fort Mifflin by dark. It was the hawser of the "West Wind" that parted & when we ran alongside we found the Capt. sick - two men crippled, &

no one to do the work but the mate & boy. We gave him a hand with his anchor, and now that we have him in tow will take him safely to his destination. Almost all the troops have been moved down. These are stores, etc to follow, but we were told that one more trip would be all that we should make. - one more after this I mean. I suppose we shall be used soon at the Fort, & perhaps up at Norfolk. We passed the Steamship "Constitution" coming out from Alexandria. She has gone up for Gen. McClellan & his staff I believe. I wish I knew some one of his staff, so that I could find out where the different regiments are stationed. I have a good many friends down here but I don't know where they are.

as at home, but I don't wish to lose any chance of advancing, by being away for pleasure. I received a note from Mr Weed, with the enclosed bill of C. & W. - I will try and answer it this afternoon.

I can not write to Russ of course, not knowing his direction. How long will he be away? He was very lucky to get the chance he did, for it is a big steamer & the pay ought to be good.

Give my best love to Father, Grandmother & Ed. I hope to hear from you again when I get back to Washington, which will be about Thursday.

Most affectionately  
Appie.

P.S. If any letters come to the house for me, please forward them to Aunt Kates, with your own.  
A.

would be more surprised than he who fired. Yesterday we saw a flock of swans & came within easy gun shot of them, but alas! we had no gun. I don't think much of our cook, but I dare say it will do me good to live on salt pork, beans, hard bread &c. for a while.

I have not been so well lately as at first. My head has troubled me more or less for the past few days. Although perfectly conscious I have felt light-headed & dizzy. I am troubled somewhat, but not so badly as I have been in N. Y. with an attack of my old trouble, & that as you know upsets me altogether. I hope I shall be all right again when warm weather comes, - for come I presume

it must - and until then I shall  
try & get along as best I may.

I need more exercise than I  
now get, for you can easily see  
that there isn't much to do  
while we are running up & down  
the river. I promised to let  
you know just how I am  
from time to time - I hope  
it won't be long before I can  
say again; entirely well. You  
have no idea of the cost of things  
down here. There has been more  
money spent in Washington  
this last year, than there ever  
will be again. The storekeepers  
seem to know it, & certainly they  
make hay while the sun shines.  
I should think the tax bill had  
gone into operation already, & ferries,  
express-men, stationery, & newspapers  
were taxed about 500%. What  
do you think of paying from

twenty-five to thirty cents  
per quire for note paper?

Twenty-five cents for fare  
from Washington to Alexandria -  
only seven miles, & a ferry over  
which we have to pass at least  
twice every day we go up to the  
city. N. Y. Herald is only  
ten cents; (Tribune five!)

Everything else is in the same  
proportion, only some things  
a little more so. How is  
business looking now? I want  
you to let me know if there  
is anything doing, or if any-  
thing turns up for me. If  
there is any work to do in N. Y. I will come  
home, for although it is very pleasant  
down here, I do not want to miss any  
opportunity of working my way  
up. As long as there is nothing  
doing, & no chance of business, I  
might just as well be here