

him, & that four boats had
tied him in the morning.

The steamer "Atlantic" was
there (not the steamship!)
and she took hold first & parted
her halter. Then we took hold
and parted ours, - one belonging
to the Government, not to the
boat, - then the Atlantic came
alongside of ~~her~~, & we each
ran out a halter & pulled
on her for an hour, without
doing the least good. By that
time the tide had fallen, and
so we cast her off & came on.

We turned Maryland Pt.
& then came alongside of the
brig "Handy" for the night.

This morning we got under
way at daylight, took the
ships "Handy" & "Malony", and
three schooners, in tow, and
are now, as I said at first,

On board steamer Achilles.
April 5th 1862.

Dear Mother

We are in the Potomac
just off Indian Head, on our
way up to Alexandria again.

We shall get there some time
early this afternoon & I expect
to be able to take dinner with
Aunt Kate even if I have not
time to stay all night. I shall
mail this as I go up, & I hope
I shall find several letters
waiting for me in D. St.

We have had a very adventurous
trip this time. Left Hampton
Roads at nine o'clock on Thurs-
day evening, & ran across to the
Eastern Shore to avoid the "Wolf
trap" & save our tide. Then
a little to the North of Cherrystone

Light we had some nine or ten heavy guns fired at us from the shore. We had five schooners in tow at the time & so were a fine safe mark, but their gunners must have been very poor ones, for they never hit us. All the shots either passed over or fell short. I didn't know that there was a battery on that side of the bay, & I don't believe now that it was a rebel battery. All the people down here are so scared about the "Merimac" that half the time they don't know what they are about.

It is my opinion that it was a United States battery, & that the commander, - whoever he was, took us for a rebel gun boat going to land troops. He must have thought that we were anxious to let him know that we were coming, for we had four lights up on the

boat, & two on each schooner.

We didn't suppose that the first shots were for us, & it was some fifteen minutes before we hauled off out of range. Perhaps they took us for the Merimac herself. - We ran all that night & got into the Potomac yesterday morning, - passing Smiths Pt.

at 7.30 A.M. We reached Upper Cedar Pt. at 4.30 P.M. & found the steamer "Canonius" on shore.

Cast off our schooners and let them proceed to Alexandria, & went to the assistance of the "Canonius." She was running about fifteen knots when she went ashore, & her bow was almost three feet out of water. The Capt. of the C. told us that the "State of Maine" had pulled his cleats all off, & parted a 7 1/2 in. hawser, without moving

on our way to Alexandria.

I was very glad of the letter father gave me to Major Jones. He is Provost Marshal at Fortress Monroe, & I got a pass from him to go over the fort, & anywhere "within the lines." He introduced me to several of his staff, & I went over to his quarters with one of them, & passed a very pleasant morning. That was on Wednesday, - the next day, finding that we could not get coal before the evening, I went on shore again & walked over to Hampton. I found the 20th Mass. & Sali Hayward, about three miles beyond, on the road to Big Bethel. He is looking very well & is as jolly as possible.

I am very glad I saw him for now I can send the latest news to Roxbury

when I write - tomorrow. I took
dinner with him in his tent, -
lying on the ground in real
soldier style. He was going in to the
fort, so I took his spare horse & we rode
in together in the afternoon. I went
through a good many of the camps
out there, - they are so thick that
you hardly know when you
set out of one, into another.

I left Kate at the hotel, &
on my way back to the Achilles
stopped some twenty minutes
at the "Monitor." I shall
be able to tell you more about
her when I next write, for
Alexandria is in sight now, and
dinner is ready. I am quite
well, as are all on board. The
Capt. is feeling very anxious about
his wife - he has heard from her but
once, & then she was very sick, - if father
has seen or heard anything of her I wish
he would send me word. I hope however
that the Capt. will find a letter when we
set to Washington.

Love to all at home

Most affectionately - Appleton