

Washington City June 2^d 1841

My Dear Uncle & Aunt

I arrived here from New York on Saturday having obtained a weeks leave from Capt. Bolton, that I might see Grand Pa; it has since been prolonged by the Secretary of the Navy. The Brandywine will probably leave by the 15th & will resume her Mediterranean Station. You are no doubt aware that the rumors of war caused our return, a proceeding ridiculed by most every body. However Mr. Stephenson's despatches justified Commodore Hall in it. The ships were got in excellent fighting order. We went so far as to hoist French & English Colours occasionally to the amusement of some hundred rebels. On one occasion we had the Tricolour ensign flying at our peak, it became necessary for the Officer of the deck to hail the Fore Top sail yard, his voice must be elevated as you know above a whisper, unfortunately a French brig was passing under our stern, so you see Di donc did not recognise his native tongue & we were detected in our ruse de guerre. The whole affair was a perfect farce. We arrived at New York after a tedious passage of fifty days, having Theatrical Entertainments on board when the weather would permit.