

to go to watch the embarkation of Gen. Franklin's Division. The "C. Vanderbilt" went down first, then the "Arrowsmith," the "Hess," "John Brooks," "Ham City," & a few smaller ones. They all passed close by us, the bands playing Nail Columbus, Yankee Doodle, Star Spangled Banner, Ever to Thee, & a dozen other tunes, the soldiers waving to their friends on shore, and cheering the other boats, the vessels not going all dipping their flags, the steamers all blowing their whistles, & bells ringing everywhere. Altogether it was the most beautiful sight that I have seen yet. The Cellan will be glad enough to get them before Yorktown. He has been waiting, & expecting, & hoping for them for a week. He needs more men, & can not get them. The rebel

On board steam Achilles
Thursday evening, Apr. 17th/62

I have just finished a business epistle to you my dear Father, so now to try something a little different. We have had no facilities for mailing letters lately, so of course you have not heard from me so often as at first. I am writing tonight, although it is late, in order to mail my letter the first thing in the morning for we shall probably be ordered away in the course of the day. I sent Mum a letter this morning, which was written on the 15th, I believe. You will know by that where I have been, & what I have been doing. We are lying in the river off Alexandria, alongside of a schooner, from

which a gang of contrabands are at present engaged in coaling us up. The night is perfectly lovely. The moon has just risen above the hills, the stars are out bright, the water looks like a sheet of glass, & the air is warm & pleasant.

The vessels about us are so thick that a boat can hardly get through.

There are some three hundred steamers & sailing vessels now here. The Constitution towers above all, - not twice our length away.

Her owners are making money fast & easily, - with her immense Charter she has been lying here for two weeks, doing nothing. Most of the other transports are here waiting for troops.

I was very glad to be ordered up here from Shipping Pt. for I wanted to hear from home, & to get newspapers, & several things I wanted. We arrived here at

seven o'clock last evening, thus making the run in twenty-six hours, which with six schooners in tow, was not at all bad going. It was too late to go to town last night, so I took the seven o'clock boat this morning & got to Aunt Katie's just in good time for breakfast. My friends both had been very kind to me, for I found eleven letters waiting my arrival. I went up to see Aunt Lottie for a few minutes, & found them all very well, & very glad to see me. I spent most of the day in the city. Did some little shopping, went over the Capitol & Patent Office, & called in to see Uncle Charles at his office. It was awfully hot and dusty, & it was really a relief when I got on the ferry boat to come down to Alexandria. After I got on board I had quite enough

like a stump, for he never even spoke until he came down stairs.

The engineer bound it up for him, & he was on deck all day as usual. This morning we got an order from the Dr. Master, & took him up to the hospital.

The doctor dressed the foot, & he came back to the boat, & is at his work again. It is not serious by any means, but only painful for the time. I do not think he will be at all lame, for it is not the big toe. Lieut. Col. Ingalls

is now at Shipping Pt. Pocasin river Va. I tried very hard to see him while I was there but could not succeed. I hear that there is some one here in A. who also signs the certificate.

I will find out in the morning if such is the case, & if so will forward it immediately. I will

batteries at Yorktown are of immense strength, - the guns almost as thick together as they can be placed, reinforcements pouring in from Richmond all the time, & the way open to retreat at any time they may wish to.

The place will have to be besieged & shelled from the river by our iron gun boats. It will very likely be a month yet before the affair will be terminated, but Yorktown once taken no human power can save Virginia. I am both surprised & pleased at the entire confidence all the officers & soldiers have in McClellan. I have talked with a great many since I have been here, - in Alexandria, Forts Monroe, Hampton, Shipping Point, & on the Potomac, & I hear but one opinion. If McClellan is superseded, or compelled to re-

sign, there will be more trouble with the army, than with the secessionists. Very many of the officers would leave, & the rest would care nothing about their duties, & only wait for "pay day." A great majority of the soldiers would go home to fight, if they could, & it is only a Gen. as much loved as Gen. Clellan is, who can keep them at all satisfied. I have been all through the camps, & talked with hundreds, & not one abolitionist have I yet met. They are not at all select in their choice of language as regards that same class either. "Many a man I have heard say, he would rather shoot an abolitionist than a secessionist." No matter from what state the regiment is, from Mass. or this, the feeling seems to be the same. Not that they are pro slavery. - I do not think

one quarter of the troops go quite as far as that, for nearly all will admit that they think slavery wrong. As one of the Mass. 13th told me this morning, "we didn't come all this way to fight for the blacks, - they are better off where they are, - let them work a little longer." The harbor at Shipping Pt. is all very nice at high water, but when the tide is down the boats all lie in the mud, unless they happen to be anchored just in the channel. We lay there two days, & I had a very nice chance to go on shore, & certainly improve my time, for I saw almost everything. We had a slight accident coming up. One of the men (King by the way) got one of his toes cut off by the crank pin. He was oiling the engine from the outside, & his foot slipped. He behaved

also get me from Col. Ingalls
when we are next sent down the
river, so as to be sure. Next month
I shall know what is needed, & shall
be able to get it early. What is the
matter about the Water? I have
heard no complaints down here,
so there can be no trouble on that
score. Arent they got any money
in the office, or is it all "red tape"?

I hope you will not have much
trouble about it, for we all worked
hard enough I know. I am very
glad you sent that note about
the Capt's. family. It relieved
A. of a good deal of anxiety, &
he thinks more of it, than of the
same accounts from his wife.

Give Aunt Esther my love please,
for I presume by this time she
is with you. I believe Lizzie is
coming to make us a visit - I hope
I shall find her when I come home.

I am quite well myself, & get all the exercise I can by rowing the boat ashore whenever she goes.

We are all quite comfortable & the boiler still holds out first rate. Our 3^d Eng. (Briggs) understands his business thoroughly, & has been employed making engines all his life. He & the Eng. together, do a good deal on the boat that less capable men would give up in despair. ~~was~~ I don't flatter myself that you will read all of this letter down at the office. I rather suppose Mottin will read it tonight, while you are playing cards. - 18 pages - Good Heavens! Please remember me to Mr Martin & Ned.

My best love to all at home.

Affec^t
Appleton.