

all will depend upon what I hear from you in Balt. I hope to have a letter by the time we get there. Our crew are all getting homesick, & I do not think any of them will stay after the three months are up. I hope Capt. A. can persuade the engineer to hold on, the rest I do not care so much about. I think perhaps that Andrew may be here in the morning, by the Balt. boat, & I shall try to stay here until she gets in. If I am not able to wait so long, I shall keep a good look out for him when we pass the boat.

Affectionately
Asplettin

U.S. Str. Achilles
Hampton Roads.
May 14th 1802.

Dear Father

I wrote a hurried note to you this morning but since then I have rec^d. written orders to proceed to Balt. with the Sally Baker in tow. We were to have left this afternoon at four o'clock, but it was blowing very heavily from the N.E. so our departure was delayed. We shall probably leave tomorrow morning. To night is very thick & stormy & I would much rather be at anchor than trying to run Chesapeake Bay. We have about thirty-five tons coal on, but shall be able to get more in Balt. when we arrive. We are ordered to report to

Major James Belger, & to receive from him barges &c laden with cass to bring back to this post. I told Capt. Thomas - A. L. M. that I wanted a day to clean boiler, sweep floors, &c, and he told me I must apply to Major Belger when I got to B.

I don't see how he can well object, & I shall endeavour to get the repairs finished up as quickly as possible. I spoke to Capt. Thomas also about the Certificate, & as we were employed in towing from Alexandria, for the month commencing Apr. 4th & ending May 4th I shall have to go there for my second Certificate. I think it will be as well there - for me to go on to Washington from Balt. - get the certificate & forward it to you as soon as may be. I can then return to Balt. & take the Old Point Boat down

& join the Achilles here. Let me know if you think the plan best. I shall see Mr Brandt in Balt. & I presume can get your letters directed to me there. If I get the Certificate - do you want the Charter Party in N. Y., or shall I keep it for the next month?

The next certificate - due on 4th June, I presume I can get down here, as we have been in the employ of this department around Hampton Roads, since May 3rd.

I expect we shall reach Balt. some time Friday night & report to Dr. M. Saturday morning.

If I get what time I require, & leave then Monday or Tuesday we shall be all right. As Capt. A. is not here, I presume I shall have to wait, ^{until} the repairs are finished, & see that everything is right, before going to Wash^g. Whether I go at