

that he had best advertise
the Pochatontas for New York
in the afternoon papers. The
steamer Potomac came in
this morning, & the Washington
leaves tomorrow, so that Bond
wishes to get ahead of the
Potomac & thus secure more
freight & passengers. I do
not think that he can charter
his vessel, for I know that
none have been taken here
 lately, & several have been
dismissed & sent north. I
cannot understand why this
is so unless we are to lie
entirely quiet this summer,
for there are not enough
vessels in the river in hands
of the Govt. to move any
large body of troops against
any point at one time. I
do not think that under these

136 Julia St. New Orleans
April 13th 1863

Dear Father

I have been very much dis-
appointed in not being able to
answer your letter of 15th March
before, & I'm afraid I can tell
you but very little even now.

Your letter came to hand when
I was first taken sick, & I was
not able to read it for nearly
two days on account of my head
& eyes. I got out for the first
time last Tuesday, but of course
was very weak, & I have hardly
been able as yet to do more than
get over to the office in the
morning & back to the house
by two o'clock. Of course I have
not been able to go down to the
levee, or to make many inquiries
about the shipping houses here.

Col. Brandt called on me on Saturday. He had already seen Col. Shipley the Sr. Quarter here several times, & at first thought there was some hope of chartering the vessel. He tells me however that afterwards Shipley telegraphed down to Banks concerning the vessel, & received an answer in the negative, - which of course settled the matter. I know Shipley slightly, & promised Col. B. to see him the next day, & find out whether there was any chance that the vessel would be wanted by Government within a reasonable time. Yesterday (Sunday) I went over to see Shipley at his office but he was not in & was not expected back until this morning. I met Col. B. in the street on my way back

to the office, & told him I would try again this morning at 9 A.M. where upon he (Col. Brandt) said he would call at the office about 10 o'clock to see what the result was. Yesterday afternoon however, owing I suppose to my having walked too much in the morning, I had a slight chill followed by fever, and had to go to bed at five o'clock. This morning I am much better, but feel very weak, & shall not be able to get out today, especially as it threatens to rain heavily every hour. Col. Brandt came in to see me about 10 A.M. & we both agreed that as it was impossible for me to get out to see Shipley that he had better go up there & get a final answer & if the same should be pro

Of course she would be used
towing vessels from the
mouth of the river up to
the city, & would often have
to run out 100 miles or so
to get ahead of other boats.

There are 3 boats now in
the business, all in the hands
of rebel owners & Mr. Meade
tells me they are all making
money. This you understand
is what he (Mr. M.) says
but I think that perhaps
he is a little enthusiastic.

I know the expenses of the
Achilles would be very heavy
for coal ranges from 8 to
10 dollars per Ton, & some-
times cannot be got for that.

Provisions also are very high
Still prices are high, & although
there is but little business do-
ing the boat might make money

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circumstances I could do
any more with the *L. M.*
than Col. Brant & himself, but
I regret very much not being
able to make the attempt.

I think that there are about
six chances of chartering away
vessel in New York, to one of
chartering her here. The policy
in this Dept. seems to be to save
every dollar possible, no mat-
ter if the real interests of the
Govt. suffer thereby or not.

Butler's plan was to have
what he wanted, & make the
rebels pay for it. I am
quite well acquainted with St.
Starrett, Ordnance Officer of
the Navy, stationed here, & he
has promised to let me know
as soon as the *Thames* arrives.

I presume she must have
stopped at Pensacola as she

is not here yet. I have more hopes of keeping her employed by the Navy, than of getting her into the Dr. Masters Dept. But will do all in my power to keep her here in Govt. employ as long as possible. Should she be discharged here you will I presume wish that she should be advertised for N.Y. for she may pick up a few thousand dollars in freight & passengers.

It is far from impossible however that by the time the Navy have done with her, the Dr. M. Dept. may need such a vessel, for things constantly change here & there is no telling what will be done from week to week. As I told you in

first part of my letter I have been able to make but very few inquiries concerning a house to whom the articles could be consigned. I have spoken to Mr. Meeks, who is a strong Union man and who is employed in the Customs House here, & without of course giving him any names, or any very clear ideas on the subject, found out about all that he knew. He thinks that the Collector of the Port would take charge of any good boat sent out to him, or that if the boat had a good smart Captain, she might make enough to employ one man as special agent, to collect her bills, supply her with coal & provisions & take charge of all business which might arise.

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I will try to ascertain more
on the subject when I get
letter & will let you know
immediately. I think it
very doubtful however if
you succeed in getting a boiler
for the st. of the right size,
& sufficient strength, to make
it an object to fit her up.

Iron must be very high when
such an enormous price
is asked for a new boiler!

I have not yet heard of the
arrival of the Geo. Peabody but
when she comes along will
try to get down to her, & at
any rate will send for what
letters may be on her for me.

If the Pochahontas sails the
latter part of the week I will
endeavour to send letters &c by
her. as Col. B. kindly offered
to take charge of same.

If the Articles should be
sent down, how would it
do to employ some good smart
Whim man as her agent, pay-
ing him a percentage on what
the boat made, or on what
he collected? if so what
percentage should be paid,
& should it be paid before
or after the expenses of the
boat are deducted. I shall
doubtless get letters from you
by the Thames, & by mail, ere
long, which may answer some
of the questions I have asked
~~which~~ today's rest will do me
great good & I expect to get
out tomorrow, but shall take
it easy all this week &
until I get strong again.

Best love to Mum Grandmother
& the boys - Your affectionate son
Apples