

We asked him what he raised and
he said he raised a right smart
number of sweet potatoes. We found
out by this man where we could
hire someone to take us aboard
the ship. We paid the man five
dollars to take us aboard, and I
think the money was earned, for
there was quite a sea on at the
time we left our boat down there
and sent after it the next mor-
ning. We went Sunday for the
purpose of getting shells which
we heard were plenty on this
Island. I can't think of any
more news to write about and I
will close it being about eleven
o'clock my retiring hour

I am

As soon as I receive my box I will
let you know

Two or three cases small fish in the harbor
confined to Merchant vessels which have arrived
from the north

Feb. 14, 1864

Shells collecting
& boat swapped

U.S. Ship Release

Beaufort N.C.

Feb. 14th 1864

Dear Parents

I write you these few lines
to inform you that I am well &c
There has nothing taken place of any
consequence since I wrote last. I have
not received a letter from you for
little over a week. My box I have not
received yet. I have been after it three
or four times but did not get it. I
went up this forenoon but it was not
there. The steamer Carolina arrived
Sunday. I think it must have
come in her and I think I shall
get it some time this week. The
Paymaster applied for leave of absence
and the Admiral granted him twenty
eight days and he will be going north
in a few days when the "Mermaid"