

I have met a good many ^{persons I} knew
in N.Y. & have been introduced to quite
a number since I came on. Major
Tiffany, A. I. M. - and Major ^{Ellis} Perry, of
the 15th Regiment N. Y. Vol. both wished
to be remembered to you when I wrote.

They are both going down with the
Expedition. We got yesterday's "Herald"
this morning, but there don't seem
to be very much news just at present.

There goes the bell so we are off
at last & I must go on deck. The
Capt. desires to be remembered to
you, as does also the Pilot & Engineer.

I haven't received the bill from Crocker
& Wood yet; indeed I haven't heard
from home at all. No news is good
news however. Remember me to Mr
Martin & Weed. I will write when
ever I get a chance & let you know
all that is going on. I am quite well
& anxious to be down at Norfolk.

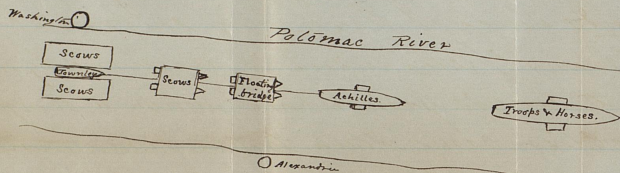
Affectionately
Appleton

On board Steamer "Achilles"
A. S. Feb 18th / 62

Dear Father

We have our work cut out
for us now; - we shall leave Washington
in about an hour for - no one on board
knows where. Capt. Cooper was down to see
us yesterday, and told Andrew that we had
been taken as the "most capable boat
to conduct the most responsible part
of the expedition." We left the Navy
Yard about eleven o'clock yesterday, and
came up here to Sixth Street dock, where
we have been lying ever since. What
we have to do now is to tow two floating
docks, having twenty-four flat bottomed
boats upon them; - and two barges, one con-
taining twenty-seven of the same flat
bottomed boats, and the other a ponton
or flying bridge. We shall have the
Steamer "Townley" to help us, and ~~one~~
other boat to carry the horses & soldiers

We shall form the advance guard and shall go down the river probably in this order.



The "Townley" will steer the two floating bridges: - one on each side of her, and thus keep them in the channel, which is quite narrow. I wish I knew where we were going to: - we shall receive sealed orders before we start, but Lieut. Col. Ingalls (I gave Mother the wrong name yesterday but I've got it right now.) has not come down yet. We shall lie still for two or three days most likely after we get down the river, waiting for the main army. I shall have a chance to see them build a "ponton"; and use it I hope.

Everybody on board is well, & wondering whether we shall be fired into again as we go by Aquia creek. No body seems to care

much whether they do or not - it is merely a matter of civility. Did I tell you that we had been fired at by our friends since I have been on board?

I was at Alexandria, & we were lying about 200 yds. from shore, when a company of soldiers came down to the river and commenced to fire at something, we could not see what. It must have been beyond us, for some of the rifle balls passed over our heads, & some went astern of us, but none hit the boat.

We hear that the "South America" was lost on Key Island while coming round. I should like to know whether it is true or not. We haven't heard a word from the "Mary Queen" further than she was seen in the Backwater by some boat. I hope she is here somewhere, but in this crowd it is almost impossible to tell who is here & who is missing. The "Crosswicks" is lying about three miles down the river towards Alexandria with the "Ransom", "State of Maine", "Canonicus" & a lot more.