

were much nearer. I could see the
rebel flag waving over some of the
camps, quite plainly. The battery
of "10, 32 lbs. Columbiads" which the
Herald places at Ship Pt. is nothing
more than an earthwork of 3 guns.

I have been all over & through it.

There seems to be some difference
of opinion as to where Ship Pt. is.

Also whether it is Ship. or Shipping
Point. I shall try & get the official
Map when I go down, for the Charts
differ as much as the reporters do.

I am still quite well, & have had
no use for the medicine. I am glad
to say, as yet. Give my love to

Grandmother, Aunt Esther & all
Remember me to Bridger & Mary
Your loving son
Appleton

Washington D. C.
April 23rd 1862.

My Dear Mother

My life of late has
not been quite so adventurous, &
I have but little to tell of my doings.
Most of my time has been passed
in the Sr. Masters Department, or in
running from one office to the other.
It is about as well that I stayed
up this trip, for I could never have
got through my business had I remained
on board the boat. I have just written
td. a letter, & I have several more I want
to write & send by today's mail. I wrote
to Father yesterday, & mailed him the
Certificate & Charter. - I hope he will
have no more trouble on that point.

I tried to get it off by the afternoon
mail, so that he could get it today, but it
was too late when I got it signed, & he will

therefore not receive the papers till Thursday (tomorrow). I telegraphed him to try to that effect, so he will not be uneasy about them. I stopped at Aunt Kate's Monday night, & last night, but I think I shall go over & stay with Aunt Lottie this evening. I am at present writing up in my room, in D. St.

I shall take advantage of this pleasant weather, & my being here, to go all over the Capitol, President's House, Patent Office, Smithsonian Institute, etc. so I don't think my time will be wasted. I hope nothing very interesting will take place until I get down below again. I think from what I have seen, & hear, that Richmond may be ours before Yorktown.

McClellan is marching right upon it, while the Divisions of Franklin & McCall, have landed at the mouth of the Rappahannock, & will march across to the York river & take Gloucester in the rear. If we can get the

batteries on the river above Yorktown, we can easily shell out the place. The river up there gets quite narrow. There will be some hard fighting there before we can get possession of those same batteries however. I do not think the retreat can be cut off, unless by Burnside & his forces. The James river can be passed at any time by the Southern forces, & McClellan cannot, & dares not, go too far down. I saw yesterday's Herald & its Map, last night.

There is one great mistake, & that is - the first line of batteries is too far advanced towards Ship Point. I have been out within a mile of where the Herald places the Confederate lines, & was then a mile & a half, or two miles, from the said batteries - although the rifle pits, & a few embankments for light guns