

our soldiers were loafing around.
I struck right out into the country,
stopping every now & then to speak
to some one, & generally getting
a civil answer. At last I
came to a nice looking house
about a mile beyond the city.

I went in for a glass of water
& got talking to the family, who
seem to be pretty strong Union.

Tea is selling here at \$10 per
pound. Sugar (common brown)
at \$1.50 lb. Apples \$3.75 each.

The little girl told me that
her shoes (nothing but common
gaiter) cost just \$4.00, & her
parasol, - a green one, small
size, - \$5.25. I stayed in the
house for some time, & then went
round the place with Sam Jones -
the owner. The grass is ^{ab. 2 feet} ~~2~~ high
& ruins, let alone, &c quite as far
advanced, as they ever are with us

U. S. Steamer Achilles
Fortress Monroe Va.

May 11th 1862.

Dear Mother

I would not have
lost what I have seen to-day for
fifty dollars. I have just returned
from Norfolk, & such fun I have
not seen for a long time. I wrote
you from Hatteras on the 7th inst.,
& you have had later news from
Capt. Kennersey. When he left
we were loading with Commissary
stores, & were sent over to Ocean
View (where the troops first landed)
that same afternoon, yesterday.

We lay there all night, & at
10 A.M. this morning heard the
news, - Norfolk taken & the
Merrimac sunk! We were ordered
right up to Norfolk, merely stop-

ping at the fort one moment to
load a Lt. Master. We won the
second boat which landed, & so
got the whole thing in its glory.

As we went up by Sewell's Point,
President Lincoln passed us
in the steamer "King Philip." We
gave him three ~~the~~ cheers as
he went by, & he waved his
hand to us, took off his hat, &
towed. I was watching the shore
all the way up, - first came
Sewell's Point, then Craney Island,
then Ft. Norfolk, & then the city.

The American Flag is waving
everywhere! I could see the
guns on Craney Island very plainly
& the forts, etc. Just above the
Island we passed the Monitor coming
down under a full head of
steam. We learned from her
that the Merrimac was sunk
just below Craney Island, but

there is not the least sign to
mark the place. At one place
in the river, just below Fort
Norfolk, the rebels have driven
spiles nearly across the river,
leaving just a small channel
for their own boats. One of
our frigates, - the San Jacinto - got
ashore just there, & acted as a
very good bouy. They left their work
in such a hurry that they did not
even remove the pile drivers,
& they are both now in the
channel, ready for use. The
ran into the dock at 12. &
immediately commenced landing
our stores. I knew it would
take some hours, so I jumped
on shore, & started for a walk
through the city. Being Sunday
afternoon the stores were all
closed, but the streets were filled
with negroes & a good many of

could tell you everything I saw
up there, but it would take all
night long, & I am very tired.

I will try & write more about
my visit tomorrow. To night
we are at Fortins Monroe again,
& have a gang of some sixty
men at work loading us up
with ordnance stores. We
are going up to West Point, York
river, tomorrow morning. They
have got some sixty five barrels
of powder on board, shot &
shell, &c. I should like to go
to Norfolk again, - but that will
be next trip. - this is something
new. My pen is very bad & I
am in a hurry. so Good Night.
My best love to Grandmother
Lizzy & all.

Your sleepy son
Appleton.

by the 1st July. ^{5.} Cherries & straw-
berries will be ripe this month.

We came back to the house, and
I got some "Norfolk Day Books"
from him, & stayed to dinner. The
dinner was very good, meat, po-
tatoes, bread, & butter, (at \$1.00 per
pound!) & a pie. Then I came
back into the city, - met with a
good many, & talked with quite
a number. As I passed along
through a by-street - I heard one
give ray to another, in answer
to a question which I did not
hear. - "No indeed! they behave
like perfect Gentlemen, - they
speak to me as polite as a
basket of chips." I presume
the question referred to the be-
havior of the Tankees. I came
to one house where some ladies
were sitting out on the porch
& stopped a moment to ask my

way. Of course I raised my cap when I spoke, & one of them said "You needn't bow to us, - we are all Confederates!" She was very pretty, & evidently a lady, so I told her I was sorry to hear it, but that I respected ~~those~~ who openly avowed their opinions, much more than the majority who said one thing & meant another. Then she wanted to know where I was from, & when I told her N. Y., she inquired after several of her friends there. Unfortunately I knew none of them.

They asked me to sit down, & I stayed there I should think an hour, talking, arguing, etc. When I left they asked me to come again, & I certainly shall do so the first chance I get. I could not find out their names, but the house is a very handsome one, in a fashionable street, beautifully

shaded by trees, & altogether I think I'm in luck. They are Secesh right up to the hounds, & once they rather took me down.

I was speaking of the good behaviour of our troops, when one of the 20th Ind. came by, drunk as he could be. My fair friend pointed him out, - "There Sir, is a sample of the Northern soldiers." I did little good to deny it, - of course she would not believe that he was an exception to the rule, when the example helped her argument so much.

They didn't believe at first that the Merrimack was blown up, but said she had gone up James river.

I won my way in the first place by acknowledging our defeat at Bull Run. "For Sir are the first Northern soldier I have heard speak the truth!" I wish I