

Do don't be afraid but what I  
shall do very well. I will  
take the best possible care  
of myself & write to you very  
often. Don't feel the least  
anxiety about me now dear  
Mum for I never was in better  
health, & I mean to keep in  
my present condition until  
I get back to N. S. I am  
very glad to find that Mrs B.  
agrees with me fully in think-  
ing that no young lady has any  
business down here. She is  
rather better posted now as  
to what the work really is.

It may be very good fun seeing  
to the wounded soldiers, & talking  
to them etc, but when it comes  
to tending on the sick that  
is a scrape young ladies had  
best keep out of. I know it  
is rather criminal to make Sat-

On board Str. Achilles  
White House, Pamunkey River, Va.  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Dear Mother  
Didn't I tell  
you that something new was  
sure to turn up every day?  
What do you think is on  
the tapis now? I have  
volunteered as A.S.C. to  
Mrs Balestier on board  
the "Elm City"! I knew from  
your letters that several of  
my friends were here some-  
where, but I supposed most  
of them were on board the  
Ocean Queen. I ascertained  
yesterday however that Mrs.  
B. & Miss Bradley were here, so  
of course I went over im-  
mediately to see them. Mrs



Balestier is looking very well but almost tired out. She has a very heavy cold but is getting better. She is just as busy as she can be, & is doing about as much good down here as one woman can. We had a long talk, & I had a chance to hear of New York friends from one who saw you all but a few weeks since. She told me that all of her present corps of assistants were going to leave on Sunday - tomorrow, & I found that she wanted more help very badly so I offered her my services. I am not needed on board the Achilles now, for she is towing here in the river, & I shall be able to come on board very often & see that all things go right. I would put myself to some inconvenience

at any rate, for I can be of real use on the Elm City, & hope to assist Mrs. B. in many ways. I shall not lose sight of the Achilles but will visit her very often, & let father know how things are going. I don't expect to be away more than a week if I am that, for I think more help will be sent down. I can't tell what my work will be but I suppose I shall make myself generally useful under the direction of Mrs. Balestier. I don't expect to like it, but there does not seem to be any one else now here, & I feel that I ought to do all I can. I find I can always get a boat to take a row when I want to, so I can always get plenty of exercise, & the place here is very healthy



my washing day, but this morn-  
ing I went to work & washed  
but & ironed two dozen pieces.

They really look very nice,  
& I'm not at all ashamed of  
the result. I had some done  
in Wash. some time ago, & a  
few pieces in Balt. last week,  
but I don't think they looked  
a bit better than what I did  
myself this morning. Some  
of the minor details bothered  
me a little, - for instance I  
didn't know whether to iron  
both sides of my handkerchiefs  
or only one - if one, the ques-  
tion was which should be the  
favored side. We have had  
a cold North East storm all  
day, & over-coats buttoned up to  
the chin have been the order.

It seems so funny for yes-  
terday the boys were all run-



ning cannot with bare feet, &  
grumbling at the heat. It  
will be a great thing to have  
a little cool pleasant weather  
now. The water here seems  
to make us all sick - I've been  
talking to the crew & telling them  
not to drink more than they  
really need but some of them  
have been very unwell. It has  
not hurt me for I have taken  
very little of it; - drinking "Switchel"  
when I wanted anything. I had  
rather buy a little more Prozac  
than pay the Doctors bill!

I want this to go by the morn-  
ing's mail if possible so shall  
close it tonight. I hope to  
hear from you soon by the  
way of Fortiers Monro.

Your loving son  
K. Appleton.