

down here, but in our own busi-
ness at home it would be going
out every day. There is a great
difference in fresh & salt
water, in the rivers & out at sea.

It is late - So Good Night.

Affectionately
A.P.P.

On board Steer. Achilles
White House Camanche Riv. Va.
May 25th / 62

Dear Father

I wrote to Mother
yesterday, & from my letter
to her you will learn that
I have left the Achilles for
a few days, to help on board
the Elm City. I found that
they needed assistance so much
that I volunteered for a short
time, & am going on board this
morning as special aid to
Mrs Balesier, - a friend of Mo-
thers. The Achilles will be stop-
ping up & down the river for
some time I think, so I shall
be able to come on board every
day, & will let you know very
often how things go. There is

not much for me to do here just at present, & I can see that I am really needed on the Elm City, & can be of great use there. I shall stay only until the relief comes aboard which I expect will be in about a week. Mr. Freed will take you this & give you a full account of our doings & how we all are. He is going up to Ferrysville in the Allamie, & will go on to R. I. from there.

We have both been very sorry that he was detained here so long, but this is the first chance he has had of getting back. He has been very uneasy lest you should have needed him in the office, but I hope that the boy was able to do all that you required. As our orders from Major Belfer were to return

to Balt. immediately, he supposed the boat would be right back.

They changed the orders here however & I think now they probably keep her here. The Seacoast & Hantasket have both gone home, & I believe the Pioneer, Columbin, & Catskill are about to follow. I hope now that they will keep us here, for some boats they must have.

I think it might be a good idea if they speak about our going, to tell Col. Ingalls we would stay for nothing until Richmond was taken. I know he wouldn't refuse the boat, & we should almost certainly get paid for our time. It is my opinion though that we shall have no trouble, but shall be kept at least a month longer. Our boiler lasts very well.