

At 9 Pm orders came from Col. Ingalls that - all must be moved on board the "Knickerbocker" as the Elm City was wanted to go to Washington for troops. That upset us all. For some few hours all was in confusion, & finding that no one knew anything about what was to be done, I took charge of the word myself. I wanted to let Mrs Balchtein sleep as long as I could. All the sick were moved into the Knickerbocker under my direction, & put in charge of the nurses there. I had less trouble for being a new hand, all my arrangements changed I was the Doctor, & therefore obeyed like lambs.

It required but a very little common sense (a very scarce article on board that night) to know that the men all needed a stimulant

On board Str. Achilles  
White House, Va.  
May 27<sup>th</sup> / 62

My Dearest Mamma  
It is my watch off, & I have taken advantage of it to come over here & see how things are going. The boat is all right, as father will doubtless hear from Mr Weed today. She had been lying here waiting orders for several days now & of course nothing new is going on. I shall visit her as often as once a day <sup>as long as she lies here</sup> if possible, & in case she is ordered off on any long trip, shall return & join her. I have had some very hard & painful work since I wrote you - which was no more than I expected, - but strange to

say I really enjoy it. It is exciting  
to the last degree - but let me  
tell you what I have been about.

I went on board the Elm City  
on Sunday afternoon & reported  
to Mrs Balestier that I was  
ready for duty. Most of the  
sick on the boat had just  
been moved on board the "Span-  
ish" on their way to N. Y. so  
there was not too very much  
to do just then. Only the very  
sick were not moved. Mrs.  
B. had three in her ward left.

I stayed with her for an hour  
& then went with Miss Bondy  
& several ladies, & members of  
the "Sanitary Com.", on shore  
to a soldiers funeral. Five  
had died on the Elm City the  
day before & they were buried  
together. The service was  
very imposing, and just

at sunset, at the edge of the  
woods, with about fifty soldiers  
& civilians, & half a dozen ladies  
standing round the grave.

I returned to board (the Elm City)  
just in time to see one of our  
men die. He was quite sensi-  
ble, & Mrs. Balestier has his  
direction & will write to his  
wife. Having but two left in  
our ward, we had them moved  
into the next ward, so as to  
get them all together & thus  
have watchers. Nearly every  
one on board was about "played  
out" - & so being fresh I took  
first watch. I don't know  
where the rest went to but for  
some two hours I was entirely  
alone; with one Lou Lou to  
help me. There was not much  
to do except see that the men  
had their drinks & stimulents.

if one should be sick that  
would lay us up. There is  
one at Fortis Province I know  
of, & Capt. A. & our engineer  
both say he is a first rate  
man. Darrow is his name.

If I cannot get him I will  
find someone else. Will  
write again tomorrow &  
as you know how things  
go. I shall take great care  
of myself & have no doubt  
that I shall keep well.

If I do get sick Mrs. B. has  
promised to nurse me, & a  
better nurse it would be hard  
to find. Love to all -

Your most affectionately  
Appleton

P.S. I wish I had a few hundred  
lbs. of Grandmother's jelly here  
it would do lots of good.

App

5.  
before being moved, & had to be moved  
gently. I had them all safely  
removed by one Am. Monday morning.  
Then I went to work with Mrs. B.  
& packed stores etc. & moved our  
own traps. I cabbaged a state-

room on the Quicker locker as  
soon as I got on board, & put  
my name on the door, so now  
I am all night & comfortable.

Yesterday I had a good sleep  
& got a little further initiated  
into the mysteries of nursing.

Last night I was appointed  
"Nard Master" - a pretty quiet  
case for a green hand, - don't  
you think so? I had special  
charge of one man - a very  
interesting case. For two days  
he has been thought to be dying  
but yesterday afternoon got  
a little better, & we thought if  
we could keep him alive this.

the night, that he might live.

He was very low, & I had some trouble with him, for he had to take stimulents every five minutes. I varied Brandy punch, weak punch, beef tea, lemonade &c as I thought he needed them - a tea spoonful at a time. I stayed by his side all night, until 5 this morning, at which time he began to get quieter & I handed him over to Mr. Killym & turned in. I shall not walk tonight, for I feel tired & don't intend to overwork myself.

I am perfectly well - my throat is very much better, & for two nights I have not been troubled in any other way. Nursing agrees with me. Miss Gardner is with us, & she & Mrs. Balcester & a Mrs. Pilson do work like bees.

I shall endeavor to keep Mrs. B. from doing too much which is

the only trouble with her.

Miss Buller, - daughter of the Staten Island gentleman - who lived up by the Emersons near Mrs. Brittons, - is also on board & doing all she can. - which is a very great deal. What is her father's name? you used to know them all.

The Dan. Webster arrived from N. Y. this morning & I shall stop there on my way back & see Mrs. & Miss Hyde & Mrs. Balis, who are all on board.

Direct a letter to me to the "White House, Va." please for I may get that soon than those which I know are waiting me at Old Point.

The 2<sup>d</sup> lug. of the Achille went home with Weed, - sick. I'll fetch that I shall miss another one from here. We must have 2 on board for