

be after ten years of N. Y. life.  
She will call on you as soon as  
she gets to N. Y. & give you the latest  
news about me, - so return her  
call please, & soon, for she  
is a friend you cannot help  
valuing. Yesterday I went  
on board the Achilles, & up to  
the Dr. M. with Capt. Andrew  
to report. I found out they  
didn't want us, so in the  
afternoon I ran her up along-  
side the "Knickerbocker", took  
on board Mrs Balestin, Miss  
Gardner & two or three gentlemen  
(doctors) & started for a sail  
down the river. I know the  
change would do them all good,  
& after working night & day  
as they have done down here,  
the very least we can do  
is to keep them well. We  
went down nearly to Cumberland

The Board Str. Achilles  
White Horse Sta-  
Jan 1<sup>st</sup> / 62.

My very Dear Mother  
Such a very jolly  
time as I have been having! I  
haven't enjoyed a week as much  
as last, for a long time. I have  
been hard at work all the time,  
& know that I have done some  
little good, so of course that makes  
it very pleasant. It's impossible  
to tell you every thing that has  
happened - it would take an  
entire day, but I must give  
you an outline of what I have  
been doing so that you will know  
I am not lost. I sent you  
a long letter on Tuesday last  
& wrote again on Thursday, but  
I gave that letter to Mrs Balestin



expecting that she would have  
gone home before this, - which  
she has not done, & you therefore  
will not receive it, for I shall  
destroy it tomorrow - after having  
told you all the news tonight.

I have been busy nursing & watch-  
ing all the while, & you know what  
sort of work that is, but I have  
had some very pleasant visits  
in the evenings, between watches.

Monday afternoon I got a small  
boat from the Elm City & rowed  
Mrs Balestun & Miss Bradley  
up beyond the bridge & around  
the island - about six miles.

Thursday night I got the big  
boat & a crew of four men  
(Danzers) & took Mrs. B. &  
Miss Gordon up the river some  
seven miles. We were hailed  
by the different gunboats as  
we passed, & King Captain,

of course answered the hail.

My London's pulled very well  
for a green crew, & we all had  
a very jolly time. The fresh  
air improved our health won-  
derfully, after being shut up  
all day in the "Knickerbocker".

Friday, Mrs Balestun was very  
unwell - had headache, & I nursed  
her all day & took special charge  
of her. I really love her more  
& more every day - she is so kind,  
& does so much good. I wish I

could tell you half she has done  
for me, she has almost been  
a second mother. I feel as if  
I had known her all my life,  
& go to her when I want anything  
always sure of finding aid.

Living in the same family as it  
was, ~~we~~ have been with her  
all the time, & am better ac-  
quainted with her than I could



on board. I got a list of the articles the ladies wanted, such as pillows, quilts, sheets, tin ware, etc. & as fast as I came across a case which was on my list, I had it opened & the contents carried where ever the ladies wished. Then I had all the beds laid down that the boat would carry, & had the rest piled in the forward gangway out of the way. Then I got the doctor's store together, & ready for him to open when he came on board. Then there were the cases which were not wanted at present, to get out of the way, & those I had piled up shiver hips, &c. - It was hard work but we got all through by four this afternoon, & had an hour to rest before ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~trip~~ <sup>the</sup>

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& then came back to Indian Town, where we stopped, & part of the party went on shore, to look round & get some fresh milk. Going down the river we bought some shed from an Indian fisherman & so I was able to give them all a very nice supper. I had the table spread in our little room for the two ladies, & all the rest of us went down stairs.

We had fresh fish, (shed) cod-fish cakes, potatoes, homemade bread, toast, cheese, good tea, & nice fresh milk, & white sugar. Wasn't that splendid? We don't always do as well as that but yesterday was a picnic.

The meals on board the Knickerbocker have not been cooked or served well, so it was really a treat to them all. They could



talk of nothing else all the evening. We got back to the "K." about 8 P.M. & all hands were sorry enough to leave the Achilles. I never saw anything enjoyed more thoroughly, every thing went off nicely, & it did us all a world of good.

Right as the affair was the trip will be remembered by all for a long time. It broke the monotony of hospital life so completely, & was something so new.

This morning Mrs. Balestier, Miss Butler, Mrs. Howland, Miss Womley & myself were detailed from the Knickerbocker to go on board the steamboat - Daniel Webster, & get her in order ~~to~~ to take on sick & wounded.

(The steamship is the Dan<sup>l</sup> Webster No. 1; - the boat, the D. W. No. 2.)

Mr. Consted as you know is the head of the Commission, & Dr. Knapp comes in number two.

Then each boat has its corps of surgeons, doctors, nurses & ward-masters, &c, who are changed round from pillow to post as they are needed.

Dr. Knapp came to me before we started, & asked me if I would take charge of fitting the boat up, & see that every thing was put in order & make out a list of all articles that I required &c - in fact act as Quaster Master.

It was quite a responsible task, but I was more pleased at being asked on that account, & of course I told him I would do the best I could. He gave me about a dozen men to help, & some very few disquisitions, & then put us



& in hot water. There are again  
two other classes - ladies & gentle  
men, (in the true sense of the  
word) & those who cannot pre-  
tend to be anything of the sort.

There has been a good deal  
of quarreling & jealousy in  
the latter class, which seems  
perfectly absurd to me - but  
more next time - I will write  
further very soon. Tomorrow  
is my birthday - do you know  
it? - Twenty! I am just as  
well as I can be - in first rate  
condition, & trip. I could not  
possibly be better. Nothing  
whatever the matter with me.

I have not been so well for years.  
Hard work this last week has  
done me lots of good. I have  
not yet heard from you but hope  
to every day - direct to "White House Va"  
Take good care of yourself &  
remember your loving son  
Appie

9.  
Came on board. Here is a copy  
as near as I can remember, of  
the list I handed him -

"Articles wanted on board  
Dan - Webster. No 2.

Quilts	Commissary stores.
Shirts	Bread
Pillows	Butter
Handkfs.	Sugar
Slippers	Tea
Spittoons.	Coffee
Water buckets	Salt
Scrubbing brush	Mint
Shut Pans	Hominy
Brooms	Whiskey
Shut Brush	Brandy
Netting	Port
Feeding Cups	Sherry
Lanterns	Claret
Fans	Lemons
Books	Oranges
Oil & Anchol.	Jelly
Candles	Crackers
4c 4c - I'm tired remembering.	



I went all over with Dr. Knapp & he expressed himself very well satisfied, & very much obliged, so I feel quite proud of my day's work. I left her about six & went over to the Webster No 1 - where Mrs Balesten & Miss Butler had gone before me, & then I had tea & a nice long talk in the evening - coming over here on the Achilles to sleep about 10 o'clock. Tomorrow I am going up to see Mr Clouston in the morning, & I don't know what he will want me to do next. As long as the Achilles lies here merely idle, or towing in the river, I shall do all I can to help in the Sanitary, but if my boat is ordered off, of course I go with her - that is clearly understood by all hands.

I have met some very pleasant people here, & it is very easy to get acquainted with all. I have seen Mrs Balesten, Miss Gardner, Mrs Balis, Miss Butler, Haven Emerson, Edward Mitchell, & Mr Throckmorton, all of whom I knew in N.Y. before I came here. I have also met, Mrs Howland, Miss Wormley, Miss Gilson, Mrs Trotter, Miss Schuyler & several other very pleasant ladies, & gentlemen without number. There are two classes of people here - those who came to work, & those who came to enjoy themselves, - there are some of each class who are always pleasant & who seem to be trying their best to make everything go nicely, & some who are always cross