

On Board Steam "Achille"
Alexandria S. C.
March 29th 1862.

My Dear Mum

I wish I had brought about ten extra quires of paper, & half a dozen or so packs of envelopes.

My supply of stationery is falling rather short before the increased demands upon my chirography.

I hope I shall be in Washington when it gives out entirely, else I must fall back on the sutler of the nearest regiment. We reached this place at 6 P.M. last night, and immediately received orders to go alongside of a schooner out in the river and get "coaled up."

As I knew it would be morning before the operation was finished, I took the dispatch boat & went to Washington for letters. There

was nothing at the office for any of us, but I went from there to Aunt Kate's & was more fortunate. At the latter place I found four, - but none from home. I got a note from Mr Burnap, & a very kind invitation to stop with them if I should be in Baltimore again. The rest were from class mates & college friends. I heard through Uncle Charles that Russ had started for Port Royal again, - this time in the Atlantic. If so, we were very near each other on Wednesday night last. We passed close by the Atlantic, & anchored but a short distance off. I'm afraid I have several of his fixings, which he will want. - shirts &c.

Uncle C. intends visiting R. I. before long I believe, & will of course bring you the last news from this quarter.

I don't know on second thoughts whether he wanted me to mention the

fact of his intended journey - he may have meant it as a surprise. I left the house this morning before any one was up, & came down in the first dispatch boat. - 6 A.M. We are now lying at the dock waiting orders. Capt. Hennessey gave me your letter of the 19th inst. It was the first I had received from home, & you may judge was doubly welcome. It came to Lt. Col. Ingalls as directed, & from his office was sent to Major Tiffany, who brought it on board last night - after I had left for the city. It is too long a road for comfort, & letters sent to Aunt Kate will reach me much quicker. I think Tom Eliot's note had better been addressed to you. I don't take much credit for the action myself, although I suppose I shall have to answer it as if I were prime mover. It will

save you the trouble of writing however.
Adelia Foster promised me her Photograph
before I left. - did she leave one for
me, or must I write? If the first,
please send the same when you
next write. Remember me to Mrs
Ireland & friends if you see them. I like
to hear from all quarters. Social
news is better than public, for
we do see the papers down here
every few days. Capt. Francis of
the May Queen, was on board this morn-
ing, & he & Andrew have gone down to
his boat. She is lying just astern
of us, - all well I believe. The packet
the Arrowmith going down the
river yesterday afternoon. She
was loaded with troops & bound
for Fortress Monroe. I shall mail
this at the Lt. Masters if possible, & will
write again soon, - perhaps tomor-
row. Remember me to Mary
Ann & Bridget -
Your loving son
Appin