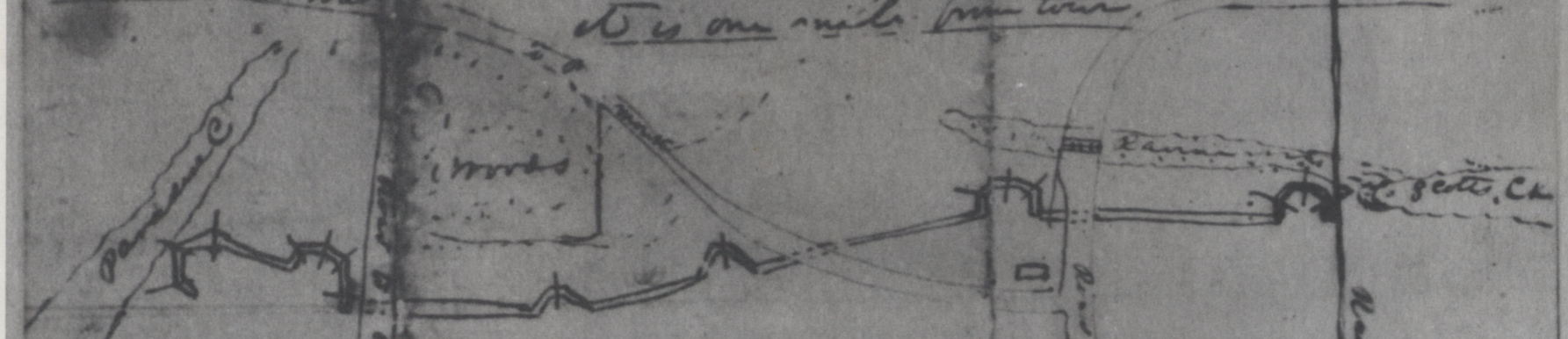
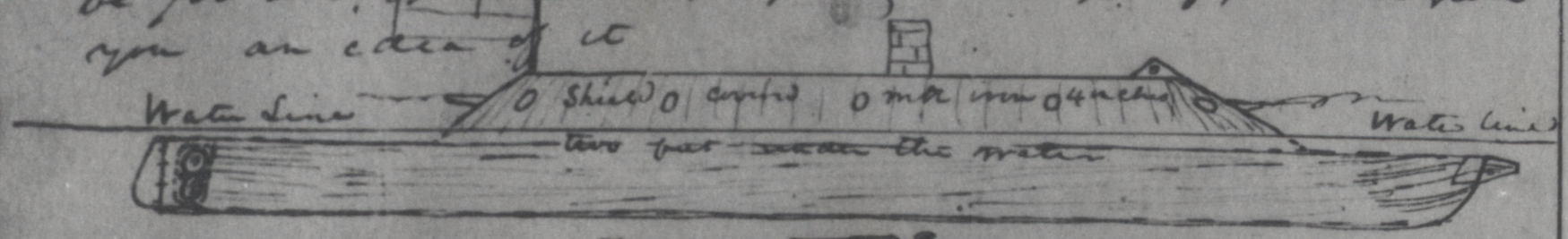
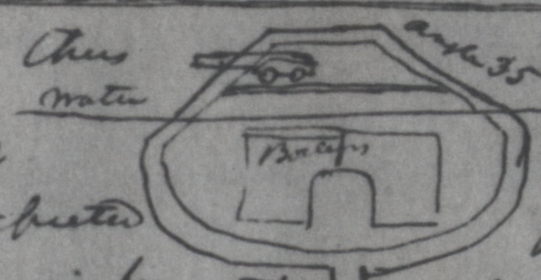
I will give you some idea of it yet here, the strong work represents yours on parts, 32 Pds
It is one mile from town.



I have converted the Merrimac into a floating battery and she is said to be the 8th wonder of the world no nation has ever attempted any thing of the kind on so large a scale, she is all done to putting on the iron which we are now at work on, it will be four inches thick on the sides, the top is covered with iron gratings made of bars 2 inches square & crossed and riveted together the whole weight of iron will be 700 tons, it will be perfectly bomb proof, I will give you an idea of it



the cross section is thus



the sides are two feet thick, it will carry ten Rifled guns, much is expected from it, we have a prize in the bows for striking vessels below water.

John graduated in Moral and Natural Philosophy at the University last session, he is now in camp and well, he comes up four or five times a week for a short time as his camp is but two miles from home, he gets one day liberty in each week, I dont know when the war will end, but Lincoln will carry it on so long as he can get the means, I think much it was over for many reasons. Love to all

Yours Porter