

U. S. Training Ship *Amimota*  
Newport, R. I.,  
April 16, 1881.

Dear Quatter:

It is needless to  
tell you that your letter of  
March 4, was very welcome, but  
you see I have done so, as I  
have many other unnecessary  
things. The news of Mrs. Cummins's  
death was wholly unexpected, as  
I had seen no mention of it,  
and I most truly sympathize  
with her in her bereavement.

I shall drop her a note today  
expressing my sympathy. It may  
seem late, but I have been very  
very busy for the past month.

On the day you wrote, I was

in Washington. I left New York  
on the night of the 1st; spent  
the 20 in Baltimore, and went  
to Annapolis that night, and  
to Washington the following day,  
accompanying a lady friend.

The day was miserable, and so  
was the morning of the 4th, but  
it cleared very nicely. I attended  
the parade, which was very good,  
but did not go to the ball.  
Had some charming times with  
some lady friends. You know  
they stand highest in my esti-  
mation, and I generally seek  
their society. On the 10th,  
tried to catch the 4.20 Express  
for Baltimore, but, missing it,  
took the 4.40. Some miles  
from Baltimore, stopped, and  
found a good portion of the  
4.20 train down the bank, and  
a general wreck. Arrived

in New York the next morning.  
The last two or three weeks  
of my stay there were much oc-  
cupied in taking some friends from  
Annapolis around the city. On  
the 8th, I returned with them  
as far as Baltimore, where I  
stopped to see friends, returning  
on the 10th. On the 11th,  
last Tuesday, we left for Newport,  
arriving there at 1.00 that  
night. Since our arrival, we  
have been having miserable wet,  
disagreeable, weather, and last  
night it blew a gale, with a  
heavy fall of sleet. This P.M.,  
it cleared off, and is now a  
pleasant moonlight night.

It has been decided to have  
the training system's headquarters  
here, and Mr. M. is to be  
the chief. The Portsmouth, Saratoga  
and Constitution will rendezvous here

next month. There may be a  
change, on account of a row  
~~on account~~ <sup>[excuse this]</sup> with regard to  
the head of the training system.

For three or four months, I have  
been trying to build a machine  
which is claimed to be an impossi-  
bility by most electricians, and have  
repeatedly failed, but intend to con-  
tinue to work here. Do you intend  
going to Wattpoint, or coming here  
this summer? I should much like to  
see you, but do not know when I  
shall be in Boston. I must con-

gratulate you on your engagement,  
for such I suppose you mean to  
announce. I think you might tell

me some of the particulars, and  
who the most fortunate mortal may  
be, all of which I shall expect  
in your next. My address will  
be as per heading. With kindest  
regards,

Truly your friend,  
R.S. Regards to  
all of Louis Stearns. Frank P. Sprague