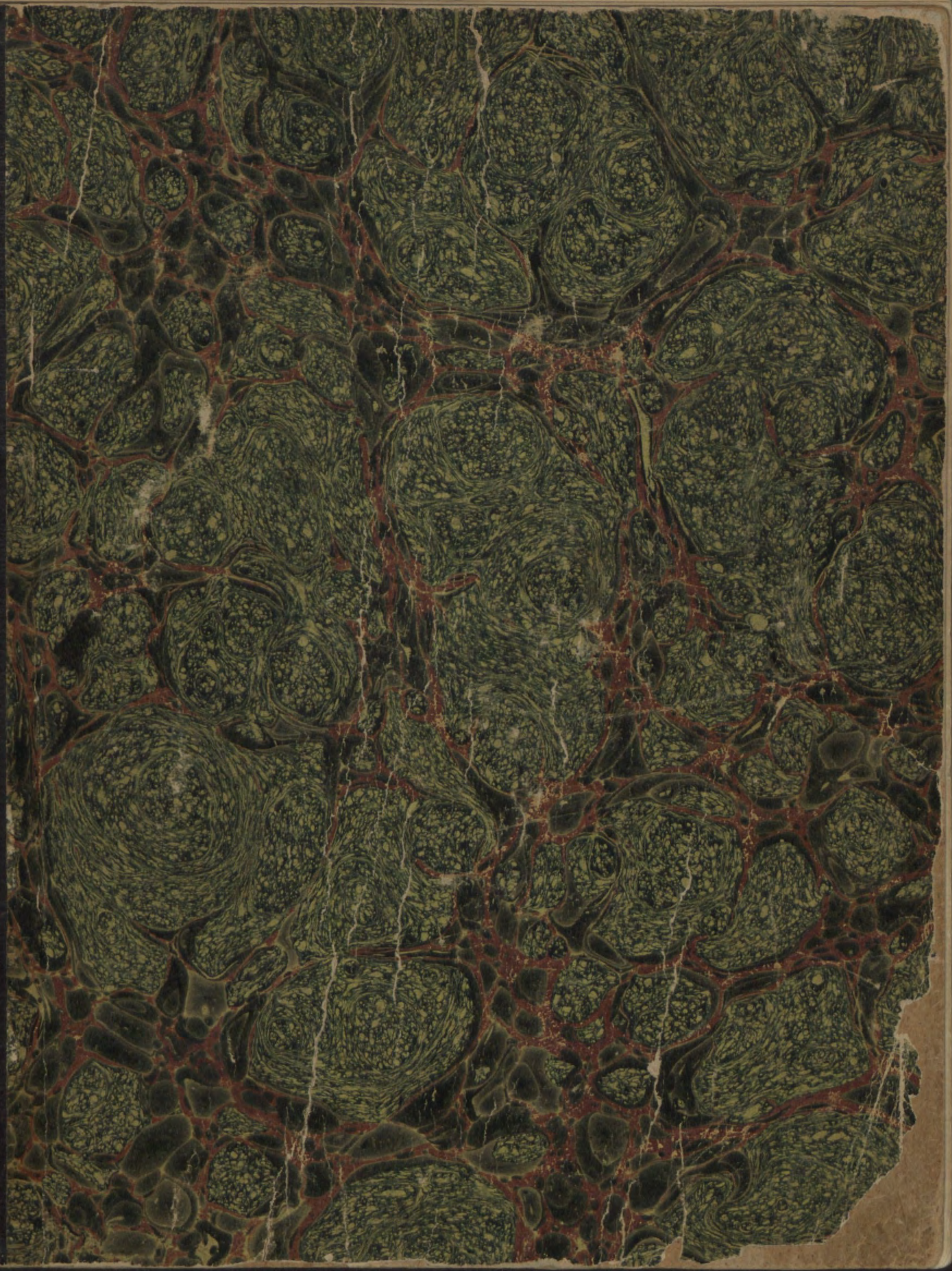


[cover]

Burnside has occupied the Town named below.

He has raised the flag on Roanoke, * (battle)
" " Winton,
" " Elizabeth City, Edenton,
" " Plymouth,
" " Columbia,
" " Newberne, * "
" " Washington,
" " Beaufort,
" " Kingston
" " Fort Macon * "

Copy of Letters from my son
Lieut. Wm. H. Douglas.

Annapolis Dec. 30. 1861.

Dear Parents

Now that I have arrived at our rendezvous I can sit down to write you a more circumstantial account of my journey. I started as you know from Providence Friday p.m. and arrived at N. York the next morning, without accident. We were landed at Jersey City, & after some delay in engaging a train, we started for Philadelphia about 12 m. The railroad runs throug a flat country, broken by several Rocky hills, and the scenery is very much like that on Seekonk Plains & vicinity. At 10½ we arrived at Philade. and were marched immediately to a Refreshment Saloon Kept by the Volunteers Relief Association exclusively for the entertainment of Soldiers passing through the City. Here we had a supper gratis of hot coffee, tongue, ham, bread & butter &c. after a tedious halt at the Baltimore Depot, we once more embarked and composed ourselves to sleep as well as we could upon the seats of the cars.

About daylight Sunday morning we arrived at Havre de Grace & crossed the Susquehanna in a novel way. The whole train of 21 cars was divided into 3 parts, arranged side by side & pushed aboard a large steam ferry boat, and in this way taken to the other side. After the boat had made another trip to get our baggage, which we did not take at first, we again set out for Baltimore. About noon we left the depot at B- and were unexpectedly invited to a repast similar to the one of which we had partaken at Philadelphia. After enjoying the hospitality of the former Secessionists or silent Unionists, we recommenced our tedious ride. As ours was a special, ~~train we~~ had to wait for every other, and did not reach Annapolis Junction till 3 o'clock. Here we saw the 1st Michigan Regt. encamped to guard the R.Rs. Their pickets extended all along the road, and were stationed in little mud huts or small tents. At last after waiting for two or three trains, we started for Annapolis, and at 8 o'clock disembarked and pitched our tents in the grounds of the Naval School.

It is much warmer here than at Providence

P. S. I would be much obliged to you if you would send a Journal perhaps once a week or once a fortnight It seems like a friend who can tell all about things at home. It would please you to know that the other day when the 2nd Lieuts. drew lots for the precedence in the line of promotion I drew No. 1. So when any promotion is to be made I shall go up. I am very well pleased however with my present position & shall strive to do my duty as you would wish. God bless you all

Yours.

Please send some 3 ct. postage stamps. I cannot procure them here

W.W.D.

though they say it is much colder now than it has been here before this winter.

There are here now about 16 regiments and one Battery 7th R. I. making about 12.000 men.

We are expecting to go on ship board in a day or two and to start very soon. I was introduced to Mrs Burnside this morning, she is quite plain looking but very pleasant.

Every thing has gone very well. * * * * *

You must not WORRY ———————

My love to Susan & all the children, Miss Henry and Eliza & all our friends. Send on one or two of those Photographs, if you please, & tell me to whom you have given the rest

Walter does first rate. One of the officers got a negro at one of the stations where we stopped and took him along to act as his servant & will thus free him unless his master finds him out which is not very likely.

There is nothing that I can think of that I want except a letter from you & so I remain

Your affectionate Son

Camp Harris Annapolis Jan 5 1861

Dear Father,

I have written two letters to you before and not having received any answers, I begin to distrust the mail and send this by express.

I write to day because it is likely that we shall go on board ship to morrow. The fourth R. I. Regt. are here and are going with us.

We were paid off yesterday and I received $59.75 of which I send you you $50.00 leaving me about $39. to last till next pay day, when I expect to send you $150 more to settle the account. I hope you are all well, as I am.

Please let me know that you have received the enclosed as soon as you get it. Ask Susan to write to me & Anne also. I dont feel home sick at all but I want to hear from you very much.

Mr. Hall's brother ~~brother~~ was here the other day. He has gone on to Washingto & expects to return before we sail. We may leave here immediately for fear of frost, & stop at Fortress Monroe, before starting for good.

I am getting along nicely, & sleep warm,

although the nights are pretty chilly. Give my love to all.

Your affectionate son

Wm. W. Douglas

Monday 6th

P.S. I have taken out $15 which I have lent to William Avery. I send you an order on his father. Think of me and pray that I may do my duty to God & to my country. We sail to morrow or day after. Write to Fortress Monroe Va.

Yours

W W D.

Jany 12. 1862
Aboard the Ship Kitty Simpson near
Fortress Monroe, Va.

Dear Father,

I have written three letters to you without receiving any answer, but remembering the injunction not to be weary in well doing I sit down to write again. We started from Annapolis on Thursday and sailed for a day down the Chesapeake. Friday was so foggy that we dropped anchor and lay to, till to day. Towards morning on Saturday, it cleared up, & with a good breeze and a steamtug to help, we set out again for Fortress Monroe. Before dark we came to anchor in the midst of the large fleet under the guns of the Fort.

There are in sight 3 Frigates & about a hundred smaller craft - Steamboats, propellers, Gunboats, ships, schooners & tugs. We know no more of our destination than at first but we are told that the mail will go a shore at Cape Henry, so that I suppose we shall go south & not any where in the Chesapeake as I at first thought. I think the original object of the

expedition was to sail up the James or Rappahannock River, but since one on McClellan's Staff divulged it to the Secessionists the destination of the expedition has been altered.

In my last I sent you by express $50.00. but it may not reach you immediately as the Express Co. have so much to do for the government that they told us they could not forward any private packages with haste. It is however perfectly safe, as I have their receipt for it, which makes them responsible for the amount.

I dont know where to tell you to direct your letters (for I suppose you write although I dont receive any thing from you,) If you say "5th R.I. Vols 3d Brigade Burnside's Coast Division", they will be forwarded from Annapolis or Fortress Monroe. When we arrive at any permanent place. I can give you a place to direct to. Give my love to mother and all, Remember me as I know you do, in your prayers.

We are all well, I never enjoyed better health.

There is nothing that I want so far as I know except to be relieved of that promise which I made you not to smoke. I believe Mr. Hall & I are the

only men on board who do not. Please write me a good long letter and let me hear for the first time since I started, how you are.

Your affectionate Son,

W. W. Douglas.

Capt. Wright wishes to be remembered to you all. He had a letter from his wife which said that she saw Mother in the Depot and was invited to call & intended to do so.

W. W. D.

Ship Kitty Simpson Pamlico Sd. Jan. 19th 4½ (a.m. o'clock

Dear Father & Mother,

As it is now my watch I take the opportunity to write to you what has transpired since my last.

Sunday morning we left Fortress Monroe & I sent my letter ashore by the Pilot who left us off Cape Henry. After giving him three cheers we squared away the fore yards and were soon under headway on a southerly course. The light S. W. wind obliged us to keep a little to the eastward but soon hauled sufficiently to the west to allow us to keep upon our direct course. Monday morning it freshened & blew from the N. W. & N. & with all sail set we bounded merrily before it. The exhilirating motion of the waves was too much for our Adjutant and he very soon was stationed at the taffrail, contemplating the boiling waters in our wake After throwing over a little of his ballast he went down and turned in, and was not seen for several days on deck. The motion began to be felt all over the vessel and about a quarter of the men furnished amusement for the rest whose stomachs were stronger.

To my own great astonishment & not less satisfaction, I enjoyed the sail unmolested by sea-sickness, and have done so, with the exception of about 10 minutes, during the whole time that I have been afloat. Capt. Wright has spent his time in short hurried journeys from his berth to the rail & back again from the rail to his berth. I cannot stop to tell you of the ridiculous old fellow whom we have for a captain, nor of the quarters we occupy in a place fenced off from the men, between decks, but must hasten to relate to you more hazardous events.

It was soon whispered among the officers that our destination at least as a rendezvous, was to be Hatteras Inlet where the first Naval expedition stopped, and accordingly on Monday evening we dropped anchor in 5 or 6 fathoms of water, under the lee of the island, to the southward of Cape Hatteras. In the morning we could see, across the low island, the fleet which had preceded us, anchored in the Sound.

For five days we lay off the shore, with the wind alternately blowing off and on, and

a heavy sea running almost incessantly.

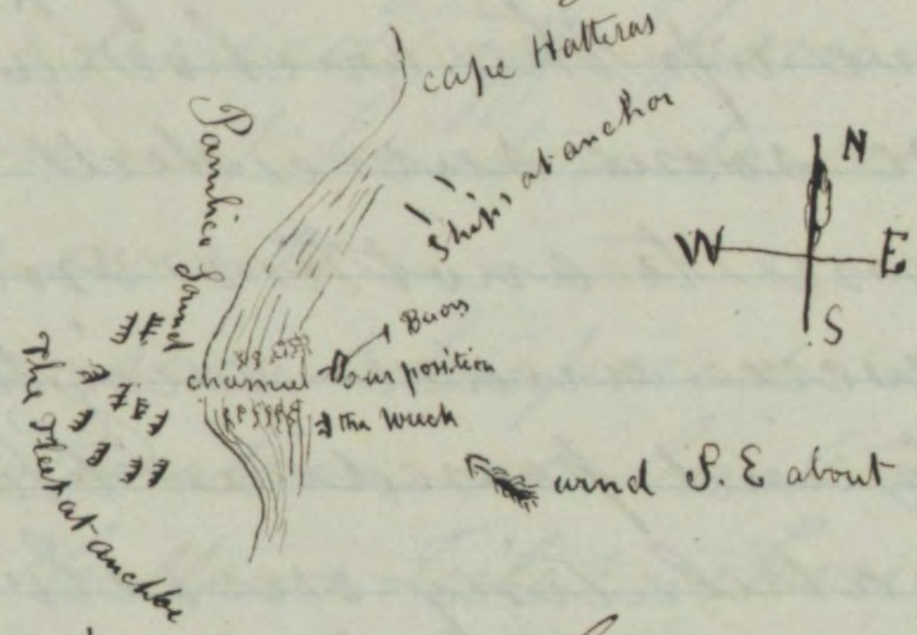
The fog only cleared up to allow it to rain, for four days, and we were disappointed each morning by a Steam tug which told us we should be towed into the Sound on the next. Meanwhile we were lightening the ship by throwing overboard the ballast.

At last yesterday (Sat.) morning we were hailed by a steamer and on telling him that ~~him it~~ we drew now 12 ft. 2 in. of water, were ordered to heave up the anchor and give him a hawser. We soon succeeded in attaching our 10 in. hawser to another smaller one of his and were under weigh for the inlet.

We came to, and passed a black can buoy & were congratulating ourselves on getting in without accident when we were suddenly thrown almost off our feet by the striking of the ship upon the bar. The Steamer hawser parted at the same time and her Capt. after shouting to us as if in mockery to let go our anchor, steamed away and left us to our fates.

The fog lifted a moment and showed us breakers on each side, and the wreck of

a steamer not 300 yds from our bow, which had gone ashore like us in attempting to cross the bar, a few days before. We struck at a quarter to twelve with the wind on our beam & the tide running out. Every wave which rolled in before the freshening breeze raised the ship a little, and beat her against the hard sandy bottom, making her tremble and quiver in every timber and spar. I will try to give you a sketch of our situation.



We lay with our head to the breakers, stuck fast in the channell. The Capt had the forward sails set and the wind, which was fortunately ahead, if it made any impression upon us would drive our bow off into deeper water. We lay for 3 hours catching glimpses of the fleet as the fog rained a little, thumping upon the sand, & wou-

deing why nobody came near us. At last we perceived that the tide had stopped running out, & we began to hope that the flood would help us. A Steam ferry boat too approached us and said she had been sent for our men. She came along side, but the sea was running so high that she stove our boat at the davits and almost knocked away her wheel house and Major Wright did not consider it prudent to attempt to transfer the soldiers. The ferry boat took a small line of ours and attempted to tow our head around so as to bring us before the wind, but the only result was to break the line.

The propeller Virginia which had got us into the scrape hovered around ineffectually for a little while, and then both again abandoned us. The Capt. and Major were calm & collected during the whole time, and the men obeyed the orders cheerfully and well. I thought at one time that the continual thumping would break the ship's back, and that we should stand the chance of swimming or drowning, but by & by the big rollers of the flood tide began to strike us, and each time we started some, now an inch, now six, each time in the direction we wished

toward the deep water under our Starboard bow.

Now the sun had set, and it was beginning to grow dark, but the fog had cleared up and we could see the harbor in plain sight before us, & we could feel each huge wave strike us harder and harder upon the bottom, sure sign that the water was getting deeper. A few minutes before five, the ferry boat Eagle again appeared, and after endeavoring in vain to induce the Major to transfer the Soldiers, was prevailed upon to take the end of our largest hawser. This final effort was successful; and just as the shore and sea became blended in the dusk of the evening we dropped our anchor again among the other vessels, safe in the harbor. Give thanks to God with me for our Providential escape. I suppose that we actually ran more risk than we should have done in an ordinary battle.

We are still as ignorant as ever of the object of the Expedition. It may be to take Wilmington & thus possess ourselves of the R. R. to Norfolk & South to Charlestown or it may may be aimed to take Norfolk in the rear, or to turn the flank of the Rebel army on the Potomac, or this may be sim-

ply a rendezvous, and the destination of the fleet may be far south.— Any one of the plans is probable but time alone will tell which is the real one. This letter can not be sent until we have started from here. There is not much depth of water here in the inlet, & many of the vessels ground at low water, but there is no swell & the ~~harbor~~ is perfectly safe. We have to cross an inner bar before we get really into the sound.

Thursday morning 2 ½ o'clock

I am again on guard and again resume my pen. Sunday afternoon a Steamer arrived here from Fortress Monroe bringing the mail and in it a welcome letter for me. It was dated Jan. 8th. showing how circuitously it had come. It was written before you could have received the money which I sent you so that I did not expect to find any acknowledgement in it. The visites which it contained came safely. I am much obliged to you for them.

Day before yesterday I went on shore and made a short excursion into the island. The foundation of the island is shifting sand, but there is soil enough upon it to support quite a thick growth of stunted live oaks, & swamp vegetation. The in

terior is very moist and marshy. There are encamped in the woods & in the five or six sand forts on the island quite a number of regiments, some of which have been here ever since the first occupation of the place. I saw two houses belonging to fishermen which were very rough, rude structures. These and a delapidated Meeting house were the only permanent buildings visible.

The men on board the Ship have been wasting the fresh water and are now restricted in the use of it, but they now have two quarts per day, a sufficient quantity for drinking. We all have to use salt water for washing. The lower hold of the ship is full of provisions, so that we do not suffer at all but salt junk and hard bread are rather poor fare when I remember Eliza's hot muffins & light sweet biscuit. I tell you I would give a good deal to sit down to breakfast with you some of these mornings, but I am very well satisfied to wait till I have done my little for my country, and until this Rebellion is subdued.

I suppose you are having snow and ice and every thing that belongs to winter, but here the weather is not cold enough to

require an overcoat, even on the water & exposed to the sea-breeze, & on the shore in the woods it seems like July. You must excuse the unconnected way in which I write, but it is such a pleasure to communicate with you, even by pen & ink, that I write for the sake of it whether I have anything to say or not, whenever I have time to do so.

Monday Jan. 27.

We are informed that all letters to be sent home must be at the General's head quarters to night, & we conclude from this, that we are to start very soon. As neas as we can guess Roanoke Island is the place to which we are going, and the engagement is expected to be almost wholly Naval. When we have arrived at any certain destination I shall be sure to write immediately. I hope to write you of a grand success, but our Expedition if successful will disappoint many who have been delaying us by treachery and false information for the last 2 weeks.

The General was deceived in regard to the depth of water in the sound by some traitorous pilots, & has had almost insuperable obstacles to overcome. At last however I think that

everything (except the shattered condition of some of the vessels) is favorable, & I hope for the best.

My love to all of you, & to Miss Henry & Eliza and all our friends.

Thank you for the disposition you made of my photographs and for your love & kindness ever since I could feel it. Direct to Hatteras Inlet Burnsides Coast Division.

Your affectionate Son
Willie

Hatteras Inlet N. Carolina Jany. 31 1862
On board the transport Kitty Smith

Dear Parents,

I am as you see by the date of this letter, still on board the Ship which brought us from Annapolis, and not yet over the inner bar of the Inlet. I was very glad to receive your kind letter dated Jan 14th as well as one from Susan & Anne dated 15 and 16th, by the Steamer Eastern State which arrived here last night. A mail came the other day in the Sutler's schooner from N. York, and a letter in it from Dr Hall stated that you were all well. That was good news but a letter from yourselves is far more welcome. The mail last night also brought N. York papers dated the 27th from which we learned we had taken Roanoke Island, and were threatening Wilmington.

We may do both these things very soon, but have not yet started for any place inside the Sound

About half the Expedition is over the Swash or inner bar, and we may go to morrow. We are to be transfered from this ship, which draws to much water to proceed further, to the Steamer S. R. Spalding which was built to run between

Providence & Charleston, two or three years ago. She is the best vessel in the fleet & is occupied by Gen. Burnside himself, so we shall be on the same vessel with him. I write now as the steamer has not yet gone & I wish to let you know that your letters have come safe. I will write to Susan & Anne & also to Howard. Please give my regards to Mr – & Dr. & Mrs. Wayland. to Dr Caldwell & all our friends, never forgetting Miss Henry who has always been so kind to me, I have said almost every thing that I can think of, of interest in my long letter which is in the same mail, & so sending lots of love to you & all the children, I bid you good bye.

Your affectionate Son
Wm. W. Douglas.

P.S. Write the address of your letters
Lieut. William W. Douglas
5th Regt. R.I. Volunteers
Burnside's Coast Division
Hatteras Inlet
N. Carolina (or onward)

You may not receive letters regularly from me but ascribe it always to the carelessness of

Mail Agents, or to accidents, not to my not writing. Do not believe the reports in the Newspapers, especially if they say we are defeated. Gen. B. is cautious as well as brave and will not risk success by any rashness. I shall write regularly whenever I have an opportunity to send a letter.

Yours as ever,

W. W. D.

Extract of a letter to Susan Sawyer

Steamer S. R. Spalding Pamlico Sd. N.C. Feb. 4th 1862

Dear Susie,

——— The good fortune which has been so slow to appear to our Battalion has at length placed us in comfortable quarters. I have had removed from my coat the dust which had accumulated upon it since leaving Annapolis & once more feel like a gentleman. We have also reason to congratulate ourselves upon our change of diet, from salt junk, hard bread and water drawn from old whiskey casks, to a table where we use silver forks, see a white table cloth, and eat better food than is afforded by many hotels. The steward charges us 8¢ per day & gives us fresh meat, vegitables, pudding, apples, and the best biscuit I ever tasted. You must excuse this reference to such unsentimental things as bread and butter, but I can thoroughly appreciate the advantages of a full stomach & so would you if you ever made a voyage on the Kitty Simpson. ——— I sauntered into the social hall last evening after tea, & found some of our officers & also several of the staff & other gentlemen there. Chaplain Noyes a young fellow from N.Y. & Frank Vizetelly & I remained 4 hours to enjoy the conversation with Vizetelly. about Italy - the Alps - the battles of the Alma Inkerman Magenta - Solferino &c &c.

Roanoke Island N. Ca Feb. 11th 1862

Dear Parents

I write this on a camp chest in the open air. We have taken the Island notwithstanding it was very strongly fortified. All our men of the 5th are safe. We were engaged in marching & counter marching to outflank the enemy and so did not get into the fight at all. Friday last, the gunboats began by Cannonading a Rebel Fort on the Island. At night we landed 6 or 8000 men. Sat: Morning the fight commenced. The Rebels were all deployed throughout the woods & perfectly hidden by the thick underbush. The ground except along a narrow road was covered with mud & water knee deep. Through this swamp & along the road, our men forced the enemy for 2 or 3 miles. The firing which we (the 5th) could hear but not see was tremendous and incessant. As the Rebels steadily retreated & our men advanced, a turn in the road brought them to a Rebel masked battery of 4 — 32 pounder guns which played upon them with terrible effect. A little more and they would have turned in a panick but the 9th N.Y. Zouaves advanced at double quick through water up to their waists, & with fierce yells

climbed the redoubt and turned the enemy's guns upon them, without losing a man.

This decided the day. The rebels were in full retreat, and in attempting to embark for the mainland 3500 of them were taken prisoners. Perhaps 500 of them escaped.

We took 3 large camps with wooden barracks, hospitals &c. and 3 forts which in our hands would be almost impregnable. We are now waiting for our things to come ashore from the fleet.

The gunboats chased the rebel fleet of 7 vessels & sunk the commanders ship retook one which they had taken from Gen. Butler, & sunk, burned, or captured all the rest. They then took and occupied Elizabeth City. So that this Expedition has been more successful than any before it in this war. The U.S. loss is about 50 killed & 130 wounded. The rebel loss is probably much greater & we have now taken in all nearly 4000 prisoners.

A force of Rebels in two schooners were retreating from some place to this Island, not knowing that it had fallen into our hands, & one of our vessels went out under a secession flag and towed them in and took them prisoners.

We are all well, not any sick in the Battal

lion, except with slight colds &c. We shall probably be stationed at this Island as a garrison.

The army advances into the main land. Gen. Burnside's division is North Carolina, & the whole state will soon be in his power. He will cut off all supplies going to Richmond by R. R. from the South & as Gov. Wise says when we get Richmond the Rebels may as well give up. Gov. Wise son, a Capt. was taken here, and died in our hospital.

Write soon to

Your affectionate Son
Wm. W. Douglas.

Roanoke Is. N.C. February 23rd 1862.

Dear Sister,

I must beg your pardon for not answering your welcome letter long ago but other employments have taken up my time & I have written to others in the family whenever I have had any thing worth saying. Dont think though that I have forgotten my dear little Anne, for that I shall never do.

I received your letter when I was at Hatteras Inlet, and I will tell you how I obtained it. One pleasant afternoon I heard that a mail was expected, so we were all on the lookout for the vessel that was to bring it.

We were the nearest ship to the Inlet & so about 4 or 5 o'clock discovered the steamer making towards the land. As she passed us I asked permission to take a boat, and with a crew of our men go after the mail. So Mr. Heall, The Chaplain & myself started for the steamer, Our crew (composed of men from Co. B.) rowed us to the place where she had anchored just as the Picket, Capt. Ives Yacht, arrived there on the opposite side and we were told that She was to take the mail away up a mile or two over the inner bar to the Steamer Spaulding where Gen. Burnside's head quarters were. So we tied our painter to the Picket & were towed through the big waves & along the crooked channel, in the dark to the Spaulding. When we got on deck, we were told that the mail was not sorted, and we must wait till then to get our letters; but we saw Lieut. Pell & he gave us the R. I. mail bag & allowed us to pick out the letters for our own Battalion. About 10 o'clock we had looked them all over and I was fortunate enough to get 2, one from you & Susan & one from Father & mother. Congratulating ourselves on getting so many letters as we had, we embarked in our little boat and prepared for a long pull in the Sound, guided by the lights of the vessels. We had gone very well about half a mile, when suddenly the water became shoal & we were stuck fast in the sand. A little hard pushing with the

ours brought us off into deep water again & we went a few rods further & again struck. So we kept on pushing & tugging, &, when there was water enough, rowing, till, at last, we arrived at the Kitty Simpson & delivered our precious freight. * * * * {Providence Journal}

We have two or three days of pleasant, warm weather and then two or 3 days of rain just enough to keep the ground damp and the swamps full of water. We have a board floor to our tent and keep a fire in the stove. The Chaplain messes with Capt. W— Lieut. H.— & me, and his boy Ned & Walter cook very amicably together in a tent in the rear which we took from the rebels. They also use a pretty good cookstove obtained from the same parties. Walter is Chief cook, and Ned is authority upon hair cutting shaving & brushing clothes. We bought a keg of butter on board the Spaulding at 35 cts per. pound which is cheap for these parts. My expenses for the last month have been near a dollar a day but part of the time I have boarded at a first class table on board the Steamer S— * * *

An expedition starts to morrow probably for Wilmington. It includes most of the 1st & 3d Brigades. We have heard through the Re-Enquirer of a great victory over the enemy in Kentucky or Tennessee & of the capture of 15 000 troops. This has been corroborated and is probably true. If so the war will not be very protracted. I should be very glad to see you all by next Christmas and especially to know that the government was once more respected all over our happy country. God grant that this may soon be, & may He bless you all, & return to you in his good time, Your affectionate brother,

Willie

Fort Foster Roanoke I. March 2nd 1862

Dear Mother,

I have received your letters of Feb. 3rd & 8th & Mayland's Susan's & Father's of the same dates. Your little slip of paper answering me that my letters had been received also came safely to hand. My description of the "Rescue of the 5th Battalion" differing so much from F——'s, has before this assured you that we escaped all safely; and as we did not get off the ship, (although we did pack up, ready to go on board a steamer if necessary) that our baggage was likewise all preserved. My letter to Anne accompanying this one, tells everything that has occurred since the battle. Our life here is rather monotonous — Our chief employment is drilling. Gen. Burnside came into our tent day before yesterday and sat and talked a long time. He complimented our Battalion upon their proficiency in the manual of the Rifle, and spoke of the neatness of our camp &c. To day he has gone off with the other Generals, and has taken a body guard from our Regt. He says that this Campaign is the most fatiguing and in all respects the hardest he ever saw, but I have not suffered half so much since I started from home as I have done

when camping out for sport in R. I. *

I have had some washing done by a colored woman living near the camp, and it was done very well and very reasonably. Walter has done some also very well.

We are living now on the fat of the land. We have fresh shad at 25 cts apiece sweet potatoes and good bread which Walter bakes in a cook stove left by the rebels. He makes fritters & dropcakes & quite a variety of dishes from flour & hominy. We have a board floor to our tent which keeps us from the damp sandy ground.

I cannot give you any exact ide of our situation but can only tell you that we are very comfortable. The weather is very warm and pleasant usually but when it does rain, it is very cold & dreary. We have had two or three days of very heavy wind, but while the wind blows it is always clear & pleasant.

I dont know that I can describe my feelings on the day of the battle. As we stood in the woods listening to the heavy firing not a thousand yards from us, and heard the shouts of the combatants, as they rushed upon each other, & listened to the bullets as they cut off the twigs over our heads, & felt, & I think all our men did, that it was serious business in which we were engaged. And

* Two years previous to this time he took a very tedious pedestrian excursion during one of his school vacations, in which he suffered exceedingly from rains, sunburning, night exposure, want of proper food &c.

I felt that I could give up my life if necessary in the cause which I believe to be right — I felt that God was with me, and would do with me what was good in His sight, & what would be the best for me. I trust in any event, to the merits of Jesus who died to save me. I feel my own sinfulness and my unworthiness of His grace, but I cast my burden upon Him who has promised to hear those who come to Him for help.

Pray that I may be preserved from temptation and sin, and be prepared to meet any fate which may await me. I

I send you two pieces of shell which I picked up at Hatteras, in the Fort there; and a specimen of the paper money which takes the place of specie in the Southern States. I gave a dime, the other day to a bright little negro boy who said that he had never seen any silver money before.

I suppose we shall start this week for Newberne or some other place on the main land. If as is reported here the enemy have fallen back from Manasses, we may meet them as we advance, and may have some hard fighting; but it is useless to conjecture our future course. I hope I shall do my duty. It cannot be more difficult to stand under fire

in the open field, than it was to be lost in the woods, not knowing which way to go, and seeing wounded men brought by, and expecting every moment to be led into untried & unknown dangers.

I am still in Co. B & shall not be transferred to any other Co. unless promoted. What you saw was a Newspaper mistake, & you cannot be too careful to disbelieve Newspaper reports Reports. The N. York Herald & World give very good accounts of the battle & its results, but their first reports were very incorrect.

I thank you for the Papers which you sent me. Please send more, particularly the journal unless you are keeping them on file. Please thank Johny Collins for the paper he sent me, & give him my love & tell him I will answer his letter. I shall answer Wayland's & Susan's also, but I find great difficulty in getting postage stamps. If you have not sent some which are on the way, please send me about a dollars worth.

I have a secession bayonate & scabbard which I will send Wayland when I get an opportunity.

We expect to have an express soon between you and us, & if you have a chance by this or any other conveyance please send me two or three towels. I find

I have only two, one white & one brown. When we get so dirty as we do here, we need a good supply of towels. I may have had more when I left home but if I did I have lost them in moving. I have not lost any other pieces of property or clothing, so you must not say I am careless. I wish I could put my arms around your neck & kiss you as I used to do when I was your baby. I cannot express the love I feel for you & Father & all — Wayland & Anne & Charlie & Sammy & Aunty Henry & Susan and ~~dear~~ Ellen dear Ellen — for I think I love her now more than ever — now that she has gone before and pointed out the bright heavenly road for us to follow.

God grant that we may all have grace, so to live that we may meet her on high & behold in the face of her Savior & our Savior, that radiant glory which we saw reflected in her dying eyes.

It is Sunday evening, and I think of the many precious Sunday evenings which we have spent together when it was too stormy for us to go to meeting, in singing & conversation. I hear too from one of the tents a hymn which She & we have often sung together, and I feel sad to think that we shall sing together on earth no more.

But I believe that He who has separated us for a season, will, after a little while, reunite us around His throne, where there will be no more parting or sorrow or death, and I think of the meeting with Ellen as one of the joys of Heaven, if I am ever accounted worthy through infinite Grace to enter its happy gates.

Write again soon a good long letter and I will always write to you whenever any thing occurs. Remember me to Dr Caldwell & Wife Dr. Sears & the professors & to all enquiring friends.

I received Mr. Mason's letter & will answer it. Tell Susan to write again in answer to the long letter which I sent her. I should be glad to hear from any of our friends

Your loving son,

Willie.

If Sammy's letter pleases him half as much as his did me I shall be delighted.

W. W. D.

Camp near Fort Foster. Roanoke I.
N.
March 3rd 1862.

Dear Father,

I have written to Mother already, but I have just received your letter dated Feb. 18th & must write again in answer to it. My consumption of postage-stamps is prodigious, as writing and receiving letters are almost our only links to Civilization and home.

The Newspapers which we occasionally receive, though very acceptable, are not so precious as the warm expressions of family affection which we so eagerly watch for.

I have received, just now, a journal & and a Press for which I thank you as also for your Stamps. Send a few if you please from time to time as you write.

I have not hitherto written with a view to publicity, and Mr. Hall says he had no idea that his letter, which Mother saw in the Press, would ever be printed.

If I have given any one a better idea of our movements than he could otherwise have obtained, I am very glad. You know of course what parts of my letters (if any) to show.

Give my love to Mrs Brattell. The Nightingales, Dr. Snow & all my friends. I have written to H. Wagle an account of the battle & also to George Mason.

X

Extract of a letter written to his cousin S. Sawyer dated

Camp Pierce near Newberne N. Ca.

Wednesday March 19th 1862.

Dear Cousin,

..... With the exception of fatigue we of the 5th are perfectly well. It was indeed an exceedingly painful march. I never saw such roads as the thick deep clay & water made those over which we marched from Slocum's Creek to Newberne. Every step of those twenty miles was ancle deep in heavy clayey mud. My trousers were so completely enveloped in dried brick-clay, that I think they would have been impenetrable to bullets and certainly buck shot would have dropped harmlessly from them. Our bivouac the night before the battle was as uncomfortable as you can imagine. Yet I slept quite well in my blanket & rubber coat, undisturbed by the heavy rain drops falling from the thick evergreens above me, and not much caring for the wet bed of pine needles upon which I lay

You want to know of course how I felt during the fight. I experienced first a strong contempt for those whom I saw straggling behind their regiments and crouching behind the trees where our line stood before we went into the thickest fire in the open ground

As we sat in the woods directly in front of the great batteries of the enemy and listened to the various sounds of the bullets & round shot & grape and bomb shells I amused myself by distinguishing the different sounds produced by each different kind of projectile as it chipped or whizzed or screamed through the air. Then when we followed the 4th & passed through the thickest of the fire, when men dropped groaning all around, and winged bullets kept up a continual hum like heavy rain upon a metallic roof, or upon the water, I was not conscious of any feeling except of pity for those who fell from our ranks, and desire that the men under my charge should keep their line & do their duty. And throughout the whole fight I did not mind the bullets half so much as I had expected, & my chief of discomfort arose from cold and chill when sitting and lying with the rest upon the damp ground. The being under fire was realy nothing when we were once there. Once a bullet came singing by 2 or 3 ft over my head and instinctively I dodged to avoid it, of course after it had gone by. I caught the eye of one of my men & we both burst out laughing. The next minute another came 6 or 8 inches from me & I kept my neck perfectly stiff. Another time

as we were going at double quick, I stepped into a hole 2 or 3 ft deep and stumbled forward. A man asked me if I was hit and, as I answered "not this time" said, "just as you stumbled a bullet came where your head was a moment before"!

During the thickest of the fight, as I turned for a moment, I saw an officer carried to the rear from the right of our line. Fearing to discourage the men by directing their attention to it, I did not inquire his name, but after the battle was over I learned that it was Lieut. Pierce of Co. D. He was struck in the left breast. the bullet severed some large blood vessel. He died without pain for he said first. "I am not struck", then immediately, "I am dying. Carry me and lay me down." Almost the minute before he was killed he spoke to his men encouraging them to be ready to die for their country. It must be a satisfaction to his young wife, in her deep affliction to know how high his genial temper & real goodness of heart had placed him in the estimation of his brother officers, as well as to hear of the heroic manner in which he met his death. No one in the Battalion commanded more universal affection and respect, no one could have died more nobly.

..... Newbern, now occupied by our First Brigade, is a very pretty town. The streets are lined on both sides with beautiful elms and are adorned with many fine houses and gardens. Gen. Burnside's Head Quarters are in a fine old mansion whose bright green lawn & tall trees & numerous out buildings attest the taste & opulence of their owner.....

The union sentiment here, or more truly, the aversion to fighting is very strong. One man, who acknowledged that he had fought against us, said that he did so on compulsion, and as soon as he got a chance he ran away. I think this is the true state of the People here as probably it is throughout the Con. S. A. They long for peace whether under the old government or the new they dont much care which. Besides this they are completely terrified, so that I think our work in N. C. is nearly done. We are going next to Beaufort by the R. R. which we have taken possession of.....

Hurrah! As I am writing Lieut. Hall comes in with a report that Fort Macon has surrendered!

..... Give my love to mother & Father & all the children, Miss Henry & Eliza. & my friends to numerous to particularize.

Your affectionate cousin,
Willie.

Carolina City North Carolina April 5th 1862.

Dear Charlie,

You dont know how glad I was to hear from you, and to read a nice letter written by yourself. You could not tell me more welcome news than that you are all well & I can send back the same. There has been much sickness in our Battalion occasioned by long marches & privations but all whom you know are well. We have been camping for the last ten days in some log houses which the Confederates had built for their soldiers to live in. The camp was near the Rail Road but was entirely surrounded with thick pine woods. The people here cut a long strip of bark from the trees and make a kind of trough at the bottom of the place left bare and in the box, as they call it, the sap collects. When this gummy sap is distilled it produces spirits of Turpentine & the money which they receive for it helps to support the poor people who own these barren tracts of land. In this part of the State the land is so poor that it will not bear grain or fruit enough to sustain the inhabitants. Some of the white people here are possessed of some property & they own slaves but they all live in a much worse condition than that of the average of the Irish at the North. Their chief food is corn bread & bacon.

I rode out to a plantation, about 3 miles from Camp,

(omit the next 2 pages)
(by mistake 2 leaves were turned at once)

Carolina City
Saturday April 5th 1862.

Dear Anne,

I seize this occasion to write a few hasty words to you. I wrote a letter to Father a few days since & sent the letter in a box that Lieut. Hall in Fort Bartow & sent home filled with trophies. I sent also a few things which I had picked up.....

I have not heard from you since March 14th when I received Susan's letter and Charlie's and a few words from dear Mother. Nothing important has occurred since then. We have been moved a little farther down the R. R. & camped last night near Gen Parkes head quarters. To morrow we cross over to the sandy island upon which the Fort is situated. in about a month we expect to get inside of fort Macon. but it may not be until after a desperate conflict. We may not participate in it, or we may be detailed to work a mortar battery. In either case I do not think we shall be much exposed to the fire. They have pickets thrown out on the Island and ours are stationed in ~~the~~ sight of them & exchange shots occasionally without any damage to either party. I must stop a moment to listen to the band with Jo Green as they play so exquisitely that Charming "Departed Days". It seems as if I were listening to our piano at home & Susan were playing it as she so often has done at my

request. It may seem queer to you for a great rough boy like me to write so but you must go from home to know how deliciously some familiar tune thrills you through when absent from the dear ones with whom you heard it first. May I hope to hear you play some of those tunes which Ellen used to, when I get home once more?

You remember Dear, what we said to each other one day after Ellen was taken to her Heavenly home. I feel now that I am away from you that my affection for you my only earthly sister is more than words can express and you all seem doubly dear to me since I have been separated. I hope that mother has recovered entirely from the feebleness of which Father spoke in his last letter, I know that your care and loving obedience will contribute more than anything else can to keep her in good health. You and I are much alike in our dispositions as well as our features, & we sometimes get vexed at little things, and vex those whom all the time we love & would not, but for our naughtiness, injure for the world. I have bitterly regretted all my little unkindnesses to you at home, & can in a brotherly way warn you as I would like to be warned myself, against planting any seeds to annoy you afterwards with bitter fruit. Hold fast in all times of temptation and trial to the dear Savior who has shown his love to our little flock by translating one of the lambs into his own bosom. He can & will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are stayed upon Him. Pray that I too, may not be led away into Sin but may hold fast my profession like a good soldier of Jesus Christ, willing if need be to suffer death in a cause which He approves. Pray that I may think more constantly of Him - the Captain of my salvation and not be conquered the World the Flesh or the Devil Pray too, for the millions who are held in bondage by wicked men who have been the innocent causes of this deplorable strife & who must have justice before this country can have peace permanent & honorable.

God Bless you, Willie.

[43]

the other day & at the owner's request, dined with the family. I have roughed it considerably since I came from Providence and have often had pretty scanty meals, but I never sat down to a less inviting dinner than they spread there upon their dirty table cloth. You may wonder at my saying that I rode. Well, when we were at Newberne some of our company brought into the Camp a couple of Mules marked C.S.A. which the enemy had left in their flight, & I immediately appropriated one. You would laught to see me galloping over the country upon it, for I am now an expert horseman enought to gallop without much fear of falling off. The other night one of our picket fires caught the dry grass around it and before it could be stopped, lit the turpentine standing in the troughs of the trees around, and in a few minutes the whole forest of pines was in a blaze. It was a magnificent sight, finer than any fire in the city & impossible to be put out. It burned the grass & scorched the trees for 5 miles, until it finally extinguished itself in a swamp 3 or 4 hours after it started.

I have received the postage stamps which Father sent and also a dozen in Prof. Angell's letter, so that I am well supplied. I am pleased to hear that you are enjoying the coasting & the snow. That is the way to grow stout

and strong, & to fit you, by having a good body, to do the work which will be required of you when you are a man.

Your attention to your studies in school time, and exercise & healthy play in their season, & obedience & love to your parents, and above all to God, will prepare you for any lot to which He may call you; and will make you as much respected by all as you are loved by your bro.

Your brother,

Willie.

Extracts from a letter to his friend H-W- April 12. 1862

After sojourning for a fortnight at Camp Pierce near Newbern & for another fortnight at different places along the Atlantic & N.C. Rail Road, we have been transported across the Bogue Sound & are now encamped upon a range of sand-hills called the Bogue Banks. 5 miles from us on the same narrow neck of land is Fort Macon mounting ever so many guns & garrisoned by 403 men. Of these men one company are hearty secessionists: the others are Militia recruited in the neighborhood & anxious to desert. Their Pickets have a station about a mile outside the walls & yesterday Gen. Parke with 3 companies of the 5 & 2 of the 4th drove them entirely into the Fort & drew the fire of the big guns without receiving any damage. To day Lieut. Col. Jew of the 4th R.I.

went out with a detachment of the 8th Conn. to select a place for locating our mortars & siege guns for the attack upon the Fort. There has been firing on the Fort all the morning but at such a distance as not that their effect was not perceptible here. One or 2 shells burst in the air producing a little cloud of white smoke which floated slowly away over the water. The Albatros which used to carry merchandise between N.Y. & Providence is now officiating as a gunboat on this station & threw several shells & shots towards the Fort, in order to protect our party. Col. White who commands the enemy seems to be a very determined character; He answered to a summons from Gen. ~~Burnside~~ Parke to surrender, that he would fight until his last horse was eaten, then give his men 5 minutes to leave, & finally touch a match to the magazine & blow up the whole concern. It remains to be seen whether we shall be in the Fort in time to prevent the consumation of his plans

It appears to me, & it is the opinion of those who are more capable of judging correctly, that there will be hard fighting as well as a long bombardment before we haul down their flag, unless the disaffection of the men amounts to open mutiny & their officers

are betrayed by them. Deserters arrive at Beaufort almost every day by boats across the entrance to the Sound & these give definite information about affairs inside. They represent the Militia as only deterred deserting in a body by the fear of being sent North as prisoners.

The weather now here is very cold at night, & sleeping on the sand is not very comfortable, In the day it is warm & pleasant. There is a magnificent beach not 500 yds from our camp. I tried bathing in the surf yesterday but found it rather cold.

We were encamped at first on a broad low strip of sand on the land side of the banks but a severe storm of rain the second night after our arrival filled our tents with water and obliged us to move to the higher ground. We, that is, Lieut. Hall & all with whom you are acquainted are pretty well, although many of the men are suffering from fever & are feeling the results of their exposure & exertions.

April 15th

Yesterday we went on Picket guard and had the pleasure of dodging rifle shots & 11ins shells during the day & night. We approached to within 1300 yds of the Fort & lay behind a large sand bank at that distance. One man at the top of the bank cried, –

"Down", whenever he saw the flash of the enemy's guns & we all lay down at the word and watched the ball or shell as it struck our hill & then bounded along over our heads and struck the tops of the the hills far in the rear, at last exploding, or quietly roling away among the trees One shell struck within a foot of the head of one of my men & exploding covered him completely with sand & decayed wood of which the hill is formed. One piece whizzing over the heads of the next Company behind & then burying itself in the Marsh. The aim of the enemy is very accurate. They can hit the hill at which they aim at most every time they fire. Yet we approach so near (paradoxical as it may seem) that we are perfectly safe. The sand hills are a perfect protection against any projectile coming in a horizontal direction. If they had any mortars they could drop enough shells down into the hollows to make them very uncomfortable quarters for us, but with their guns which cannot be elevated above 45° they cannot throw the shells up into the air without projecting them too far over our heads. It was quite good fun to stand upon the

hill in sight of the Sentinal on their Flag Staff & then as they fired, to duck behind the brow & watch the ball whiz over entirely harmless. Their Pickets approached 2 or 3 times within gunshot, & discharged their rifles in our direction with no effect. There is plenty of time to get behind cover when you when you see the flash at 1100 yds distance or even nearer. We returned them fire, & in each instance drove them back. Active preparations are making for a speedy capture of the Fort. We have 12 Mortars to be mounted within 3/4 of a mile of the Fort & a battery of rifled 30 lb Parrot guns to be put still nearer. The former are expected to dismount the enemies guns all of which are barbette guns, & to cause an extensive scattering among the men who attempt to work them. Our mortars can be worked behind a sand hill entirely out of sight & reach of the guns of the Fort. The Parrot guns throw a long projectile designed to batter down the brick walls of the place & apparently well adapted to that object. . . . . — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —

. . . . . Extracts of a letter dated Bogue Banks Ap. 18.

. . . . . We have to pay incredible prices for every thing we get except from the Q.M. There is not a bit of Sole Leather between here & Newbern. Flour which costs the U.S. $6.00 a barrel the fishermen are glad to exchange for

at $10.00. Butter when we can get it at all, is from 40 to 45 cts per lb. Calico is so dear that the people have brought down their old looms and are making their own cloth. Coffee for which the US. pays 20 cts is worth here 75. and for a good many months the people here have been drinking herb tea made from a plant called Yopon or Yupon, not being able to get the original tea at all. I suppose there is not a hundred yds. of Crash in N.C., and if there were any to be obtained a half dozen towels would cost more than twice as much as the expressage would be Mr. Hall tried all over Newbern to get some towels but could not find any If you send any put in also a mosquito bar. . . . . .

You would laugh to see how we live, sometimes we have butter, never milk for tea or coffee no means of baking bread, which consequently we have to fry; No floor to our tent: water a foot below the surface of the sand: had potatoes 5 days since the battle: but plenty of fish: in fact corned beef & fish are our only meat yet I have been quite well except one day. There has been much sickness in the Battalion from over work & exposure. . . . . .

Your affectionate son W. W. Douglas

Bogue Banks April 27. 1862

Dear Father,

I received your welcome letter a few days since & have delayed in order to answer you "Fort Macon is ours" After 3 weeks of picket duty — the most tedious and the hardest duty we have done since leaving home, we the 5th had the honor of planting our new flag the first upon the walls of the fort, & of taking possession of it in the name of the U.S.

Yesterday, after a severe bombardment the day before, the Fort surrendered having lost 8 men killed & 20 wounded. One man on our side was killed, a member of the 3rd N.Y. Artillery, and during the whole siege our side had only 5 wounded, none of them seriously. One man in Com. D, which I am now commanding had his foot injured by a piece of shell so as to render the amputation of his great toe necessary.

That was the only harm their firing did our Battallion. We were on night before last & in the morning when it became probable that the Fort would give up, I asked the Major to be allowed to return to camp after our Flag. He gave me permission and I brought it just in

time to see Gen. Burnside & his staff who had landed on the other side of the fort approaching our out posts. Then we knew that the place was ours. The Major & I went out & shook hands with Gen. Burnside & Gen. Parke & the rest. I fully appreciated the honor of congratulating our noble Chief the second one after the victory and of returning the hearty pressure of his hand. We were then drawn up in line. He marched past us as we stood at present arms, then took our flag, never before unfurled, and unrolling gave it to the Major. Immediately we were ordered forward and following the Generals marched into the Fort & planting our banners took possession. The secession flag which had so long flared impudently in our faces was hauled down & given by the Gen. to our Major. It was indeed a glorious day for our Battallion.

I am quite well the Chaplain is sick at Beaufort we have not seen him for 4 weeks. The adjutant is sick & is coming home if possible Capt Wright has been sick but is recovering rapidly. Lieut Hall is well. Capt. Grant is sick.

Love to mother the children Miss Henry & all friends

In haste Your affectionate Son Willie.

Extract of a letter written in answer to one from

J. C.— Fort Macon May 13. 1862.

Dear Johnny

I have received two letters from & several papers which were very acceptable. Excuse me for not writing you sooner but I have been so much engaged that I hardly know how I have found time to write as much as I have.

I am glad to hear of your determination to serve God. It is truely a hard work to live according to his will in the midst of temptations and wickedness. I am shocked almost every day, by the profanity, & the wicked words that I am compelled to hear in camp; & sometimes evil thoughts come into my mind & almost leap from my tongue but I pray for God's help to resist the tempter and he enables me to overcome. It is only by continual watchfulness and by a hearty trust in our Savior and by constant prayer to Him that we can hope to fight the good fight of faith. You may do this dear Johnny as well as the dear one who has finished her course & is now wearing her immortal crown. Her example & her sweet memory have often recurred to me when lying in my lonely tent or when watching on the cold

ground and have given me more courage, and new determination to do my duty in the sight of God. I can often see her kind sisterly face in my dreams and her look seems to light up my path & become me to follow in her footsteps. Then I think if I love her so for the goodnes she showed during her short stay upon earth, how much more ought I to love that blessed Jesus who planted in her those heavenly virtues, and who invites us all to come likewise unto Him that we may have life. Let us think more of these things, of our duty to Him, of His love to us; of that beautiful place He has gone to prepare for those who serve Him; where there will be no sickness, nor death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor any sin; where we shall rejoice with Him the captain of our salvation and celebrate an eternal triumph * * * *

We can get milk now for the first time since we started, also oysters, quahogs, fish, crabs, terapins & sea-turtles. They have in Beaufort strawberries at 40 cts a quart, greenpeas &c. * * * *

Your friend

William W. Douglas.

Extract of a letter to S. C. S. dated May 18. 1862.

——— Then Anne has entered the High School just as another dear one did four years ago, with just such bright hopes and strong determinations to succeed. God grant she may be spared to us for many years. I hope Wayland is not studying too impetuously. Has his nose-bleeding ceased? That is often brought on I believe by hard study. I saw a list of the graduating class of the High School. How many familiar names: but one never forgotten, one most familiar, was wanting. I do not murmur, It is better for her to be with her Savior, but I cannot but imagine her as she would have stood, near the head of her class I know, flushed with pleasure and bright hope, receiving the congratulations of her friends, & the praises of her brother, proud of her as ever. Well perhaps we may be permitted to see dear Anne in a similar position. Dont let her expose herself nor study too hard. * * * * * * May 24th

* * * * * * * * I went to a Horse Penning last monday. We started at about 9 o'clock, just as the morning breze began to blow, in a canoe (pronounced here Kennoo) made of two pieces dug from a cedar tre

and then joined together in the middle - each piece forming half the boat. The Skipper set his spirt sail and we proceeded along in an easterly direction through the Cove Straits into Cove Sound for about 18 miles. The banks of the straits were green, and countless china trees in blossom perfumed the whole air, There were numerous houses too, snugly hid among the trees, all on one side of a little creek Secesh, on the other all Union, at least so said the Skipper. He was a tall gaunt looking man, yet young & not exactly homely; his eye was pleasant & his black hair fine & smooth; altogether he was a much better specimen of the "poor whites" than I had seen before. He had steadily avowed a belief in the ultimate triumph of the government since the commencement of hostilities and had repeatedly told his neighbors who endeavored to get him into the Rebel army that they were on the losing side and that when we came for Fort Macon, we should take it. For such expressions he was seized at night carried to Beaufort & thrown into jail but was finally released through the influence of a Union Lawyer for whom he had voted at the last election. This is one story

of thousands which might be told of the sufferings of loyal people at the South, many of them ending more tragically. But I had almost forgotten the Penning. After a pleasant sail of about 18 miles we landed on a low island in the Sound about 2 miles wide and extending eastward as far as we could see.

A pen had been made open on one side & the drivers were out trying to steer the horses into the enclosure. Soon a herd of 20 or 30 little shaggy ponies came galloping over a distant ridge and by and by the white shirts of the mounted drivers were visible behind them. As they approached, men were sent out on each side to form a line and prevent their going in a wrong direction and so in a few minutes the herd was in the pen. Then each darky armed with a noose on a long stick advanced and endeavored to throw the rope over the head of his master's pony. When that was accomplished 5 or 6 stalwart negroes took the end of the rope and dragged out the kicking animal and after a little exercise tied him to some convenient post. Thus the pen was soon cleared ready for another troop. Several Officers were there from the Batteries & some from the the Infantry regiments & the presence of so many pur-

chasers raised the prices to a very high figure, else I might have bought one for Sammy or Charlie

Some of the ponies are really pretty; but most of them were just shedding their winter plumage and looked exactly like big sheep. The little colts with legs as long as their mothers' but with no perceptible body were the most awkward looking objects you ever saw. They ran about with recent brands upon their shoulders, bleating for their mamaes, and added their share to the general confusion. About 4 o'clock we started for home i.e. for camp & arrived safely before dark.

* * * * * * * *

Your obliged cousin

W. W. Douglas

Extracts from a letter to Anne.

Camp near Fort Macon N. C. June 23. 1862.

Dear Sister

I returned yesterday morning from a visit of 2 or 3 days to Newbern & was welcomed back by a box from home, and a letter from you, and one from Mother, which came by mail. The contents were very acceptable. The fish lines are just what I want; and the filter, for which please thank Miss Henry, will no doubt be very useful when we get among the swamps again. The tea is really a great treat as well as a decided contrast to that which the Dr. Mr. furnishes. It does not to be sure taste so well when made in our coffee pot, as it would if prepared in a separate vessel; but the slight taste of coffee, which is thus mingled with its fragrance, is not at all discouraging to hungry & thirsty souls. . . ——

The mail has at last brought me my commission & I am permanently assigned to Co. D. I still mess with Capt. Wright & Lieut Hall & shall probably continue to do so. The ice which has arrived is already contributing to our comfort. . . . . ——— ———

You perceive from this letter that I am very tired and dull, and I can only justify myself by describing our journey to Newbern to witness the presentation of Gen. Burnside's sword, and our return, & our doings meanwhile.

Last Tuesday afternoon we received orders from Head-quarters (together with the 4th) to get ready to start for Newbern in the morning and to be in line before Gen. Burnside's Head-Quarters at 4 1/2 o'clock p.m. on Thursday

Wednesday dawned in rain and storm & we could have no time for drill preparatory to exhibiting ourselves before the veterans of the 1st & 2nd Divisions. At about 2 o'clock the clouds dispersed and left a clear sky & a pleasant breeze from S.W. So, trusting that the rain was over, we embarked aboard the old Union or Wheelbarrow, and steamed down the narrows towards Croove Sound. The 4th were just ahead of us, on the steam-boat Highland Light. We had gone about 20 miles, and had got well into the Sound and in among the countless low green islands which cover its surface, when the rudder began to show signs of mutiny, and soon became so contrary as to render the boat totally unmanageable. We tried in vain, turning & twisting and beating and drifting and going (as a wheelbarrow should) stern first. It was all in vain, & desisting from the useless struggle, we achored & quietly gazed upon the Highland Light, as she sped on towards what, we feared, would never be our journey's end. However, making the best of it, we turned in upon the seats & floor of the ladies saloon; & slept soundly till daylight, when the

steady persistence of our boat in one direction convinced us that the rudder had been repaired. With a pleasant sky & a stiff southerly breeze we ploughed the yellow waters of the Neuse, &, as we gazed upon its fortified banks, recalled the incidents of our former landing, & our weary march through mud & shot to Newbern. Now we were securely steaming along the river which we then won. At 2 we reached the wharf, but not before we had received the first shock of a thunder squall which had blackened the sky to windward for the last hour. The most vivid lightning & the loudest peals of thunder saluted us we drew near the town, and a drenching shower of big heavy rain drops fittingly foreshadowed the weather during our visit. The rain came down in torrents all the afternoon & destroyed our hopes that the presentation would take place before the next day. The lower deck of the "Union" was so filled with hay that it was impossible to get more than half of the men under cover & so two companies (B & D) ie Capt. Wright's & Capt. Grant's were obliged to seek lodgings elsewhere. After considerable negotiation a small steamer was put under our orders & we were carried half a mile down the harbor to a large transport steamer whose splendid accommodations and polite Captain made us forget the trouble which it had cost us

to get there. Each man had a State Room to himself, although, to be sure, they did not all have doors to them. The officers were entertained in a magnificent Saloon and afterwards for the first time in 6 mos. we enjoyed a night's sleep between sheets.

At 8 the next morning a tug ~~a tug~~ came off for Capt. Wright, and with him, I went ashore for orders. Seizing the opportunity to get an excellent breakfast at Mary Anns. (an old colored woman whose sweet breakfast cakes & clean table cloth & neat prettily figured china attracted many officers from the less inviting Hotel.) I met the Capt. at the wharf again, & embarked in a steamboat which he had secured to bring the men ashore.

At 9 o'clock the Battalion had landed & formed line. & a few minutes after we joined the 4th in a Dress Parade, in front of Gen. Burnside's Head-Quarters.

When this ceremony was over and we had received his compliments upon our appearance & evolutions, we wheeled into column & marched in review before the Gen. & then to a camp outside the city, where we stacked our arms & were dismissed till 4 p.m.

The line was formed again pretty punctually, and we were soon before the Gen's, waiting his appearance. We solited him as he came out with his numer.

ous Staff, & took his place in the interval between the 4th & 5th
then started for the place of Review. We crossed the Trent on
a new bridge built where the Rebels destroyed the old one
and marched to the same plain where we had camped the
night after the battle of Newbern. As we advanced from
the path through the woods Belger's 7th R.I. Battery fired
a Major Generals Salute and the Gen. & Staff wheeled
out of line and took their position on a Knoll
near the centre of the field. I dont dare to say how
many fine looking regiments were drawn up in per-
fect order around on every side, or how accurately
each foot in the 2 Divisions came down at the beat
of the Drum, when they marched in Review. But first
Gen Burnside, Com. Mauran, and Capt. Bedloe of
Mauran's Staff ascended a platform (made by placing
planks across a caisson) & Gen. Mauran after reading
a few words (not understood) presented the sword
to Gen. Burnside, who receiving it, added a few more
audible sentences, & bowed to the cheers of the
two Division. The Review followed and from our
position in the very centre of the field we had a fine
view of the whole scene It was indeed the grandest I
ever witnessed; Each band playing most beautifully
each regiment for the time eclipsing all the rest

as it passed the noble Commander of them all. The Mass. Regts. especially were above all praise. Every movement was done as if by clockwork, and not a single mistake was visible. It was nearly dark, when, last of all the Infantry & just behind the two batteries & the Cavalry, we took our place in the pageant and passing the Gen. marched away from the field. As soon as the men were safely and comfortably stowed on board, the boat which had been relieved of its load of hay, I hastened, tired & hungry, to the Union House, and after supper prepared for the General's levee at 9. I was so tired that I only entered, examined the sword, which far surpassed my expectations, and shook hands with the General and went back to the boat to bed. Early the next morning we started down the river & about 6 o'clock a.m. Sunday we arrived at camp. I have felt so dull and tired ever since that it is a great exertion to think, much more to write but your letter imperatively demanded an answer though you must be satisfied with this poor one. ....

Your affectionate brother, Wm. W. Douglas.

next comes letters (not copied) (17) to me from Beaufort July 1st

Extract of a letter to Susan dated July 28/62.

Beaufort Head Quarters Provost Marshal

* * * * * * Last Thursday I started in a sail boat to carry under a flag of truce a Mr. King and a Rev. Mr. Nevill & Wife to Swansboro. A Pilot and a detail of 6 men completed our Ship's company. After innumerable delays we left the wharf at Beaufort at about 12 o'clock m. and by pushing & rowing against wind & tide, and over shoals, by 3 o'clock we had accomplished about 3 miles in a straight line, and not wishing to expose the lady to a thunder shower which was gathering over head, we put in at Morehead City, just across the harbor & spent the night there. I lodged quite comfortably with Capt. Grant. & my passengers stayed at the Hotel - the first guests that had been there in a month. Early on Friday we left Morehead City with a light wind, which however was fair, and pleasant weather. We spent our time tediously enough that day with King who kept his tongue continually going about Mr. Guthrie who was worth $100,000 and was as stingy as he was rich, about Mr. Longest who married a 'Picket' about

Mr. Norcom who married a 'Dusenbury' & all such items of local history. The Rev. who is a baptist minister does not believe in Jonah's adventure with the fish nor in any other miracle. I suppose he belongs to that class of the denomination called "Soft Shell". His wife was a little softer shelled than he & knew a little less, so you may imagine what a pleasant time I should have had if the weather and wind had held fair. But at about 6 o'clock we were obliged to take to rowing against a very strong tide & at sunset we had to give up the struggle & we landed at a cornfield on the shore. It was quite dark when we found the house which was a large mansion hid among the trees about a mile from the landing. We were welcomed by Mr. Market, the proprietor, and supped on the best he had – pork, ham, corn bread, all poorly cooked, and an imitation of coffee made of ground & burnt corn. This is a fair specimen of the style of living to which Secession has reduced many of the wealthy planters. They have now nothing to eat except such as they formerly gave their negroes. the clothes of the

family were all homespun worse than negro cloth. We soon secured enough corn bread to satisfy the men who remained to guard the boat and the baggage, and after trying alternately one piazza where the mosquitoes abounded, and another where a "smudge" had been made to drive them off, we up stairs doubting in our minds whether were the worse, the insects or the smoke.

We were shown into a large chamber where an old loom ready for use indicated the retrogression of the South to the customs of the last century and yet proved one good result of the war - that the Southern girls were imitating the industry of their grandmothers. Choosing, (from motives which you cannot travel far in these latitudes without appreciating,) the floor rather than a bed which was offered me, I threw myself down, & undisturbed by mosketo or bug, slept till morn.

The wind and tide were in our favor and we reached Swansboro at two o'clock a.m. & were stopped by a boat from town just in front of the place. When we had trans-

ferred our passengers to the shore boat, & learned that there was a boy about 6 miles up in the country whose father was in Beaufort and wanted him to come home. so I obtained permission for the Pilot to go in search for him expecting that he would return in about two hours. But he was gone almost all day & we were compelled to sit under a broiling sun until 12 o'clock, and from that time till 4, in a tremendous rain, with no protection from either, and without amusement or occupation, but the contemplation of as desolate a country town as 12 dwelling houses 6 barns & 2 turpentine distilleries can make it. We scowled & laughed at the group of lazy natives who watched us all day from the door of the red variety store which was the only public building in the collection. At last the pilot returned with the long expected boy and we set out on our road home. We had pushed for 100 yds against the strong current, when the sergeant awkwardly dropped the oar into the water and, in reaching

over to regain it. I lost my ballance & went in after it. fortunately I had a good hold upon the gunwale & so escaped a very extensive ducking. but I got in deep enough to find out that the water was rather uncomfortable to sit in all day and night. Soon recovering our oar which lodged in the sedge we at length got clear of the marsh & into the broad Sound. The wind blew heavily from the N.E. directly ahead. but after getting on our course the tide was with us and swept us swiftly along. We were making very good progress and kept on our way until darkness & frequent lightning warned us that a severe storm was at hand. We landed at a windmill whose tall arms we could just see through the gathering mist & finding the cabin of the old darky who had charge of the property, we entered, kindled a good fire & after drying ourselves a little lay down on the floor & went to sleep. It rained very heavily in the night, all unnoticed by us, and cleared away time enough to give us an early start in the

morning. My boots & trowsers soon dried in the hot sun and the wind had become a little more fair & carried us along bravely. About 12 we passed Morehead & then after a last hard tug against the tremendous tide, we reached the wharf at 2 p. m. Sunday. The rest of the day I filled my famished stomach, for we had only taken rations for 2 days with us, & made up my loss of sleep. This morning the skin is coming off my nose, but my face has turned brown and the sunburned-soreness is gone +++ Gen. Foster sent down an order for Major Wright & all his officers to be examined and he was taken suddenly sick on the receipt of it, & has been so ever since. We passed our examination which was conducted very politely & showed conclusively that we had never had any instruction from the commanding Officer. He I think will resign rather than be examined. If we can have a good manoeuvres, we may make something of this Battalion yet. — —

Your affectionate cousin, W. W. Douglas

(Next letter No 18 to Mr. Douglas, not copied)
also 19 & 20 to Mr. D. & 21 to F. W. D. not copied.

Extract of a letter to his cousin Susan, dated

Camp Anthony, Newbern, Sept. 5th 1862.

Dear Cousin,

I was interrupted in my preparations for retiring last night, by a hand thrust into the door of my tent with a letter from you. So placing the candle on the nice board floor which I have made for myself, and rearing myself upon my elbow, I renewed my old bad practice of reading in bed. I think though as the bed was on the floor, and there were no sheets to catch fire, & the letter was too good to keep, I may be excused for not putting on my dress coat & sash before commencing, at least I know you will pardon me if I did not show sufficient respect to your production.

I was very glad to hear that you were all well & that the children have had a pleasant visit to Massachusetts. How I would like to go to the old place where Grand-father Grandmother used to make us children so happy in Summer days. How dear Ellen & I used to race around the field away down to the boggy meadow! How carefully Mother used to follow

our heedless steps lest we should disappear in the bottomless spring. Then what quantities of huckleberries we used to pick, and how kindly Grandmother used to excuse us for eating them all on the way home. What rides we used to take on the soft sweet hay; & what plagues, no doubt, uncle Moses thought us, as we tossed and tumbled it about. What lots of mischief we did all in our innocent way, and how astonished uncle Moses would be, if we brought an egg safe from the barn to the house, or did any thing else useful. Yet we were sorry if we did any wrong, and did not mean to plague the good folks so.

I feel as if that were very long ago, when I think of the shadows that have come into both houses since. The heads of the family have gone, and another has followed, whose summons came before a near acquaintance with the world had made her tremble at its hollowness. How sadly sweet are our memories of that dear girl — dark, as we think of corruptmortality; yet bright with the glorious light of faith and hope, as we remember Christ ~~in the~~ who will clothe her in the

likeness of His own glorious body & whose praises she now sings above the Stars. God grant us grace to persevere unto the end.

* * * * I wanted to come home at commencement but I suppose it is not best to sit down till the work is done. I hope I shall live to see the end of it, and then we will have a thanksgiving together. I still think that the fighting will be over by Christmas. We shall conquer if the people at home give us proper support & the politicians can be restrained from putting their isms before their country's good.

Give McClellan enough men and a fair chance. Dont supplant him by Burnside or any other man however good. There is not a man in the country that can take his place. I love Burnside as all his men do, but I would not see him at the head of the whole army. His personal presence is every thing. He must have an army of such a size that all his men can glance at him before they go into a fight. He loses his power when the army is so large that they cannot see his magnetic

Smile.

Camp Anthony Sept. 16th 1862.

Dear Mother

I received your good motherly letter this morning, and now, having just come in from drill I sit down to have a few minutes talk with you. How much I would give to hear one word from your dear lips, and to kiss your dear cheek, but I must wait for so great a reward till my work here is done. I don't feel homesick, I would not go if I could while my duty lies here; but I can think of home and those who make it so dear: & of the time when I hope to meet them again, without neglecting any duty or unfitting myself for toil. Indeed, I think I am strengthened & nerved by thinking of those whose approval I prize; always associating with them Him whom they show forth in their lives, & whose approbation & favor are above all. I was fully satisfied of my duty to come to this war, before I engaged in it, and every experience since has strengthened this conviction. Of the justice of our cause — the cause of universal liberty against despotism — of law, just and good, against license. cowardly,

tyrannical and bad. and of its final and complete success, I have no more doubt than I have of the existence of a just and powerful Providence in the affairs of the world. I think too that the final triumph is not far off *** The great uprising and spontaneous rush to arms in Ohio, Pennsylvania and throughout the North, assure me that the country is at last alive to the fact that they are carrying on a war, and that if they do not conquer they will be subjugated - that God is trying them to see whether they are willing to pay the price which all nations have had to pay for freedom and truth - to see whether they are worthy of this blessing. I am therefore encouraged to hope that the mighty power of the free States will be quickly used to crush the old serpent of division and rebellion, If it be wisely exerted it will be successful.

I have gradually, not without much thought and examination come to the conclusion that this war will not end until slavery is either abolished utterly or in a fair way to cease. I have always of course seen the wickedness of this institution, but this struggle has opened my eyes as well as the eyes of thousands of others

to the miserable political effects of its existence in this country, which have culminated, in this outbreaking of evil passions, into desperate deeds. I think that after our nation had been allowed by the Supreme King of Kings, a sufficient space in which to rid herself peaceably of this stain, she is now receiving an unmistakable warning that if she does not do her duty in the matter, God will accomplish his own plans by his own right arm, and will strike for freedom with a double edged sword. Indeed I believe He is now permitting this war for this purpose, and will permit it to last until this result is secured. When He unsheathes the sword of justice, both his enemies & His unfaithful friends feel the bitterness of the stroke Yet I say this is a reason for gratitude, and for expecting a speedy end; for I believe the people are beginning to read this Divine plan, and to feel their weakness in the hands of Gods providence and to be sensible of the utter folly of working against His omnipotent power. The pressure which is exerted upon the President in favor of Emancipation (ourselves no less than the slaves) is a sure indication which way the great tide of public opinion is turning & soon I think the voice of the people

like the rush of mighty waters, will sweep to destruction the stain upon our civilization, the barrier to our progress, the great sin of our nation against humanity and against God. Then we shall go forward with the Divine approval, with our hands & feet unfettered. We shall at the same time also throw an insuperable obstacle in the way of the Rebels and take a stumbling block from our own path****—

Last Sunday I had the pleasure of attending church half a day, and heard a real good gospel discourse from a Presbyterian clergyman and old & good man. He spoke from the words "Behold the Man" in a plain manner which seemed to interest and profit the large number of soldiers who filled the house. My own heart warmed as he dwelt upon the excellences of the character of Jesus & the word truly did me good. We had a prayer meeting in camp the same evening which was very well attended and conducted.* * * *

Lieut. Hopkins has had a slight attack of chills and fever. He is a fine fellow & an excellent companion. I have an acting Lieut. named Luther who is an excellent fellow — a member of the Baptist church — hope I shall retain him. — — — — — [77] Your affectionate son W. W. D.

Extracts of a letter to his father from Newbern N.C. when he returned after being detailed for about 4 month for recruiting in Providence. ********

We have been on the jump for the last week. Every day new rumors of attacks upon Washington N.C. have terrified the people at headquarters, and orders have almost dayly sent us with 40 rounds of ball cartiges in all directions in this vicinity. I have not had 4 hours sleep any night since Saturday. (now wednesday) Night before last I was on picket with my company - The previous night I was officer of the Day & last night we were all called into line about 10 o'c by the long roll & received orders to fall in with 3 days rations. We had just formed when the order was countermanded. This morning all the troops in Newbern except the 5th R.I. & the 45 Mass. start for Washington overland. We have orders to fight as long as we can - to hold out till reinforcements arrive if possible. The belief here is that the troops sent to relieve Gen Foster in Washington (who is closely shut up there) will be cut off to a man. We consider it a high compliment to be left in the most responsible position, and shall endeavor to do honor to our State and our duty to our Country.

Yet if we are attacked we have not men enough to station within call of each other, in single line behind the fortifications. The gun boats will help us some, but with 5000 men I would engage to take Newbern as it is. We have fortifications enough but nobody to man them.

——— I hope and really believe that we are more frightened than hurt, and I have a very strong presentiment that every thing will turn out right. Whatever may occur, I trust that God will do all things well in regard to me. I feel that I love him and can confide my life and my eternal destiny to his hands. He has watched over me hitherto, and that good which I feel that he has begun in me he will bring to perfection. As I think of the possibility of laying down my life for my country, I can contemplate such a fate with calmness and composure and my only regret would be at being separated from those whom I love but with whom, whatever takes place I shall soon be joined. Perhaps I am frightening you by too gloomy a description of our position and on the whole I think I will not send this until the affair is settled one way or the other.

April 14th Tuesday 1863. The expedition returned last Friday

without accomplishing any thing. We were ordered to Washington by water; Started with Gen. Palmer on a large steamboat – the Escort. Saturday arrived Pamlico River – 5 gunboats waiting before the enemy's batteries, fearing to run by. Sunday they bombarded the enemy's; battering in the lower point – Monday I went ashore with 42 men covered by a gunboat, and got some information. Monday evening we loaded hay on deck. & around the Machinery, put all the men below water line, and started for Washington at 8½ p.m. We had 10 tons of powder and ammunition aboard and a large quantity of provisions & 900 men. We had to run within 400 yds of a 3 gun battery and within 200 yds of a 6 or 8 gun do. & strange to say, though they fired about 100 ~~shot~~ & shell at us, none hit us, & we arrived here safe. Gen. Foster has breastworks all around the city & think's he can hold it. The enemy have 5 or 6 large batteries all around, and are shelling the City almost all the time. Yet no one has been injured since the first day. We have three gunboats here & a small fort on almost every street. The citizens have holes covered with timbers

and earth into which they go when the firing is the hottest. About ½ the houses have holes shot through. If the Commanders of the gun boats will muster courage enough to run the batteries, as we did in an unarmed Transport, we shall be all right, for when Gen. Foster gets them under his eye he will make them fight. I hope it will turn out right & with gratitude to God for our miraculous preservation lies night & praying & believing that he will still preserve & bless us,

I remain

Your loving son

Willie

P.S. Dont give up hoping but pray.

Sarah E. Douglas.

Lectures in Chemistry.

Prof. G. A. Chase.

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Lecture

Ammonia

Account of a compound of Nitrogen and Hydrogen. 1 of N. 3 of H. NH_3. It is called ammonia and is the only known compound of N. and H. It is a gas. invisible and colorless, and possesses so strong an affinity for water that it cannot be collected over the Pneumatic trough. as it would be absorbed. A mercurial trough is requisite.

Water will absorb it many hundred times its volume Experiment of the absorption of Ammonia in water. If we take a bell filled with this gas and transfer it to the Pneumatic trough. it will be absorbed almost instantly If we introduce ice. it would melt more rapidly than if thrown into the fire.

Charcoal will absorb many times its volume of hy- In order to obtain the full effect of charcoal, it should be heated that every gas. the most abundant is ammonia This expands, passes off, and the mercury rises and takes its place.

Ammonia is an alkali: There are three tests of the Alkalies. 1. A caustic, burning taste. 2. Turns vegitable blues, green. 3. Combine with and neutralize the acids. These three characteristics are found in Ammonia. therefore it is an alkali. It will blister the skin very quickly. but

Ammonia

Salts of the Alkalies.

does not leave a permanent ulcerated appearance. It combines with all the metals and absorbs them.

All vegitable mold has the property of pumping in ammonia from the atmosphere. This process is always going on in very rich soils. It is obtained from animal and vegitable substances. It was called Ammonia as it was found near the temple of Jupiter Ammon in Africas. It is a rich nutritive principle for plants. and the only compound of N. and H. There is another which has been supposed to exist named Ammonium. N H$_4$ not certain however.

Charcoal. It exists in its purest form in the Diamond which is pure crystalized carbon. It owes its value to two properties. 1. hardness. 2. Its great refractive power. It is so hard that nothing but the Diamond itself will have any effect upon it. Therefore it will retain its polish and form for a great while without becoming marred or blurred. 2 It refracts the light nearly 3 times as fast as an ordinary piece of glass. It will burn if raised to a sufficient temperature and becomes perfectly useless.

Plumbago or graphite. Another form of carbon is Black-lead. Graphite or Plumbago. almost pure carbon. In minerals found only in rock ~~salt~~. Subjected to heat. It will burn if sufficiently heated. 2 Is very hard the cohesive force is very great.

Bituminous Coal. This is another form and is very widely spread beneath the surface of the earth. of vegitable origin

Preparation of Charcoal.

Charcoal is artificials in preparation. Take bits of wood place them in a crucible heat them, and all the gases will fly off. A great many cords of wood are gathered in a cone. the interior is left to place fire in. also an opening top and bottom. The gas that passes from the pores of the wood leaving it perfectly charred. If the openings be closed the burning ceases. It is very inert at an ordinary temperature very few things act upon it. It will remain in the air and earth ages, unaltered. It has no active office at ordinary temperatures & to the red heat it combines with oy. and undergoes combustion. At the white heat, it surpasses all other substances in its affinity for oy. These are its most important characteristics.

Mechanical Properties. It absorbs odors and most gases, being full of cells, tubes and pores. If vinegar be passed through charcoal it loses all of its color. wines. the same. Sugar is purified in this manner. Animal cells are smaller than vegitable cells. Meats if placed in charcoal will be sweet although decayed before. Charcoal in cellars absorbs all the offensive odors. and for this reason it sometimes gives off bad odors when burning.

CO^2 is carbonic. CO is carbonic oxyd. CO^2 passing through charcoal becomes CO. Carbonic oy. is a gas. combustible by adding another equivalent of oy. burns with a beautiful blue ~~light~~ flame but very little light. If mixed with 2 vol to 1 of oy. it will burn explosively. It is never given off. only when there is combustion with

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imperfect. It has no importance in the arts.

CO_2 Carbonic Acid. It is a transparent, colorless gas. 1½ times heavier than there air. fatal to combustion. A candle goes out in it immediately. It extinguishes lights as perfectly as water. It is so much heavier, that it can be poured through the air. It has a tendency to gather upon the flor rather than near the ceiling. It is equally fatal to respiration. If there is only a small percentage in the air. it soon destroys life. It stops the action of oxy upon the dead cells. It collects at the bottom of wells. Reeadily ascertain whether it is safe or not by lowering a candle. Charcoal burning renders the air unhealthy first produces heaviness, and then destroys life.

It is produced when wood burns. and when vegitable matter decays. and by respiration. There is a large amount thrown off from the lungs. There is in the air only about ½ a thousandth part of it. Plants will not grow in an atmosphere deprived of it. There is enough to form a vigorous vegitation. It may be rendered visible by lime water. If we pour lime water into a vessel of air it will wash all the carbonic acid out of it. This may be rendered more visible by breathing through a tube as there is more in the breath than the air.

Crowded rooms become unhealthy. on account of this. It is very important that apartments should be thoroughly ventilated. especially sleeping rooms.

Poisonous effects of Carbonic Acid.

Carbonic acid in the Atmosphere.

Carbonic acid gas is thrown off in great quantities by volcanic action. The air would soon become poisonous were it not for the leaves of trees which take the ~~oy~~ acid and give off the oy. Equally balanced, always the same amount. Also another source. Fermentation. When cider has ferment they throw off carbonic acid. The carbonic acid being set free makes the lightness of bread. So that it will act upon every part alike it should be thoroughly kneaded.

Used in beverages.

It is used to impart to various beverages their flavors. Soda of shops is formed by driving carbonic acid through a portion of water by a force pump. The syrup merely keeps the bubbles together. Some suppose these beverages to be poisonous but it is not so when taken into the stomach they are healthy. When taken into the lungs it stops respiration. but when taken into the stomach has no such effect unless taken in a sufficient quantity to passt through the diaphragm and enter the lungs.

Lecture

Compound of Hy- and Carbon.

Compound. These enter into compounds in a great variety of propor-
Hydrogen tions. and form an extensive class of compounds far greater
Carbon. than with oxygen. There are only three which are gases.

1. Marsh gas. It receives this name because liberated in
Marsh gas. marshes. The sticks decay at the bottom of the water in the mud and give off large quantities of it. It is called light carburetted hydrogen and is known as $C_2 H_4$.

It is oxygenized carbon unites with ox. to form Carbonic acid. Carbon prefers to unite with ox. but will unite with
Carburetted the hydrogen.
gas.

2. This is called Heavy Carburetted Hydrogen or Olefiant gas. It means oil-producer and was discovered by the Dutch in 1796. It is represented by $C_4 H_4$ containing twice as much carbon as the light.

Heavy 3. Coal oil gas. This is much denser than the heavy
Carburetted carburetted. $C_8 H_8$. It has very great illuminating pow-
gas. ers, and is very dense. These three confer upon ordinary gas its illuminating power. as ordinary gas is a mixture of the three.

The heavy gas burns with a very dense white flame fill a bell with it and burn. It burns more smoke than ordinary gas as it is rich in carbon. Very bright light. Small stream will not smoke.

It is not so luminous as the coal gas but more abundant. It contains 2 volumes of Hy. condensed into 1. also 2 gas each condensed into 1. Hence its weight and illuminating power. Take 3 vol. of oy. to 1 of olefiant gas.

Eq. 3 bells of oy. 1 of car. combine 1 of the hy. produce vapor of water. & form Carbonic acid. If a bubble be inflated with this. and fired, it will explode, with a loud report.

It resembles the atmosphere to the eye. but the gases are totally unlike one another when tested.

Coal gas.

The Coal gas burns with a denser light than the olefiant and is yellower than the other. If mix. olefiant and Marsh gas and hydrogen less light. not so smoky. as there is less carbon.

Preparation of coal gas.

It is prepared from bituminous coal when heated it softens then melts and gives off a great volume of gaseous matters. Anthracite coal gives no gas.

A retort is a long iron cylinder, made to bear heat, filled several hundred lbs. of coal. the fire plays around this 'till it becomes heated and throws off. tar, oil, and gases. A ton of good coal would yield 10,000 cubic ft. of gas. when properly heated. In the coal we have. H. C. N. O. S. when subjected to a red heat. they combine in every possible way. The chemistry of the interior of a retort is very curious. 1. carbon combines 6 p. producing Carbonic acid. and Carbonic Oxyd. Greater part of carbon unites with H. and gives

rise to the gases mentioned. It give rise to coal oil and other liquid compounds. It is of no value so far as illuminating gas is concerned.

Carbon and Sulphur. Carbon combines with Sulphur forming C Sulphate of carbon. also with H. producing ammonia. more then hydro-carbon. which is a compound of Hy- and Carbon. India rubber is an example. Besides these 3. we have Ammonia. Sulphite of Hy- Sul. combines with Car. producing Sulphite of copper. These are produced in the retort during heating. Should not be heated too much as the gases would be destroyed. The best illuminating gas if passes over

Quality of the Gas. white heat becomes useless. The quality depends upon the heating of the retort. Hence varies in quality some days. If not hot enough turns to tar. producing very little gas. Some of these are very valuable. The 3 mentioned are the best. H- Carbonic Acid harmless. But the third class impure the illuminating power and becomes noxious. this must be removed. These are Carbonic Acid Sulphuric Acid Ammonia and Sulphite of H. It is removed by passing gas through lime water and . stone. Lime takes the Sulphuric acid and C- Acid. Sul. Hy- absorbed them. Copper. takes the ammonia. The process varies. Lime alone will not remove all the impurities.

Value. The value varies, when there is an excess. it is very luminous. when small quantity not so luminous. The higher the.

gas. the faster it passes through the burner the less light costs more.

Delivery. Delivery. It is distributed by pipes placed underground. It has a pressure of 2 inches of water. under this pressure issues in the best manner.

Illuminating Power. The illuminating power of gas depends upon the separation of carbon from Hydrogen. before combustion. If burned together no light is given out. The hy. burns first. the carbon afterwards. The black part of the flame is Hy. the bright part the carbon. the dark part is the hottest. but gives no light. If burned in a sufficient supply of oy. there will be no light.

The draft should not be too great. we are by no means certain that we have the same amount of gas all the time.

Cyanogy. It unites 2 bar 1 N. Cyanogy. colr of the flame with which it burns. It a compound found only rarely. Ca-N will not unite directly. only by indirect action will they combine. It is generated by the decomposition of animal matter. It cannot be collected over water the affinity is so great. It burns with a double flame. inside one colr outside another. No other gas resembles it. It is un-important when alone. It however forms many important compounds. It has a great affinity for the metals. and is a salt.

It behaves in all respects like an element. It combines with them. and is a compound radical. Combines with all the metals. Cyanide of tin. lead. copper. mercury.
Some are of more importance than the others. Cyanide of Potassium is used in Electro-gilding plating. Gold and Silver are disolved in it. In very extensive use.

Compound hyc. Acm. Ferrocyanide of combines with the metals. It is yellow color. Used in the manufacture of prussian blue.
It not only unites with the metals but with Hy-forms an acid called. Hydro-cyanic-acid. or Prussian acid.
Which is the most deadly poison known. Composed of C. H. N.
A drop placed upon the beak of a bird destroys life instantly. It does not act upon the tissues to corrode them. but upon the nervous system. producing death at the centre of life. If a person takes much he will die before remedy can be brought. It is used in medicines as are all the poisons. To stop to violent-action. If taken in minute portions allays action. when system is too active.
Cyanogen unites Cy.- produces cyanic acid. very remarkable. powerful. is the basis of the fulminating compounds.
It has great energy in small quantity. It does not throw out great volumes of gas. It is a white powder. flashes like gun powder. brighter light. used for percussion caps.
It cannot be used in guns. it is to powerful. It bursts the gun. Fulminating silver. inert- as a metal.

From the following we learn that the report just stated proves to be incorrect.

Correspondence of the Journal.

Gen. Burnside's Division.

NEWBERN, N. C., April 2, 1862.

Since the battle of the 14th, there has been no movement of especial importance in this department, but stirring events are in store, and ere long the country will again hear from Gen. Burnside and his command. The principal point of interest at present is Fort Macon, which still holds out and flaunts the rebel flag defiantly in the breeze. All the places between Newbern and Beaufort, and including that town, are occupied by the Union troops. No resistance was made at any place, the confederate forces, after the battle of the 14th, having retreated to Kingston and Goldsboro', where they are reported to be in considerable force. Gen. Parke's brigade is employed in that occupation, and in the preparations for the bombardment of Fort Macon. The 4th Rhode Island are, a portion of them at Beaufort and a portion of them at Gen. Parke's headquarters at Carolina City. They are in very good condition and anxious to commence the attack on Fort Macon. A combined attack by land and water will be made, four vessels of the blockading fleet being outside. It will take a few days yet to complete the arrangements for the bombardment. The fort although a small is a very strong one, and if persistently defended may cause some trouble to capture it, but it is poorly garrisoned, and the men are not in good condition to stand a siege. A mail from the fort was captured by Major Allen, who, with two companies of the 4th Rhode Island, occupies Beaufert, from which much valuable information, in regard to the condition of the fort, was obtained. The garrison consists of some five or six hundred men, but not more than three or four hundred are effective forces. The Colonel in command, Col. White, who is a West Pointer, is determined to hold out as long as it is possible to do so. He has threatened to shell both Beaufort and Moorhead City, which are each about a mile and a quarter distant from the fort, but as yet has not done so, and as there are many in the fort who have friends in those places it is probable that he does not think it policy to carry out his threat.

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The 5th Rhode Island battalion, Major Wright commanding, is in camp at Newport City, (every place of a half dozen houses is a city here), and have been engaged in rebuilding an important railroad bridge at that place, burned by a detachment from Fort Macon, sent for that purpose four days after the battle at Newbern, and one day before our troops reached it. The bridge was 180 feet long, and was completely destroyed. The Major, with his accustomed energy, set to work upon it, as it was essential to the investment of Fort Macon that ordnance and supplies should be transported over the road, and assisted by M. D. Field, Esq., in five days had the bridge finished and cars running over it. The Major and his men worked night and day to accomplish this, and their labors are appreciated by their superior officers.

As I am a Rhode Islander myself, of course I feel considerable interest in the Rhode Island boys. During the last week it has been my good fortune to spend two nights with them at Camp Graham, and it was almost like getting home to find myself surrounded by old friends, and greeted with a Rhode Island welcome. The Battalion is in very good condition, and they are well located in log huts, a large number of which were kindly left by the rebels, who erected and previously occupied the camp.

Major Wright, Captains Eddy, Wheeler, Dr. Potter, the able surgeon of the brigade, and other officers whom I have not time to mention particularly, have laid me under lasting obligations by their kindness. They found me a stranger in a strange land and they took me in and made me at home amongst them.

Night before last I spent the night at Camp Graham, and during the evening there was an alarm from the pickets, the long roll was beaten and in five minutes time every soldier was in his place and ready for an attack. There was no attack, and after an hour or two they were dismissed to their quarters, but slept upon their arms, there having been reports brought in of the presence of secession cavalry within a few miles of the camp. The promptitude with which they turned out reflects credit upon their officers for the thoroughness of their drill and preparation.

This city is full of soldiers and heavy reinforcements are arriving which will soon enable Gen. Burnside to wipe out the rest of the secessionists in his Department.

The trees are fast becoming clothed with foliage and the roses are blossoming out, and soon the season will be as advanced as in June in New England.

RHODE ISLANDER.

Correspondence of the Journal.

The Fifth Battalion.

CAMP NEAR NEWPORT, N. C.,
March 29, 1862.

Since the battle we have been engaged in guarding part of the railroad from Newbern to Beaufort and in repairing the damage done to it by the retreating enemy. After resting for a few days in a camp of the rebels, where we had marched immediately after the victory, we were ordered to Hancock Station, and reached there, part of us by a march along the railroad and part by retracing our steps along the muddy road which extends from our landing place at the mouth of Slocum's Creek to the city, at dark Thursday, the 20th. One company was quartered in an old mill, and guarded the bridge by which the county road crosses the creek. The other four took possession of an unoccupied store and post office, a few rods from the railroad, and sent out pickets to guard the line and railroad bridge near by.

On Sunday morning we received marching orders again, and started about 9 o'clock for Newport. After a march of a dozen miles along the railroad, pushing our baggage before us upon hand cars, which were brought with the expedition for that purpose, we came to the Newport river, which empties into the sound between Morehead City, the terminus of the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad, and the city of Beaufort. Crossing the river by the county road bridge, and winding through the woods for a half a mile, we came to a large camp of log huts, built with great labor by the 6th regiment of North Carolinians, occupied by them for the last six months, and now assigned to us for a season. These barracks, although built of rough unhewn logs, with the chinks between filled with clay, are very comfortable, and the glow of the flames shooting up from the big logs in the wide fire-places at either end almost charms us into the imagination that we are once more around the fire-side at home. The chimneys were curiosities to us, built as they are of pieces of wood laid across each other like the logs in the huts. The interstices between the pieces of wood are filled with wet clay, and the whole inside of the chimney and fire-place is plastered thickly with the same material, which, after being well dried, hardens and makes the chimney perfectly fire-proof and serviceable. Some of the fire-places are built of brick, and are as good as any in New England.

The next morning after taking possession and repairing the damage to the floors and building which the southerners had committed in their anger at having to leave them, we commenced the work for which we had been ordered here.

A few days after the battle the commander of Fort Macon, fearing an advance in that direction, sent some of his men to this place and burned the railroad bridge. We have been clearing away the wrecks, and have nearly completed a new one. Major Wright, who has been untiring in his exertions since the commencement of the work, was gratified last night at seeing the first train pass over in safety. Before it will be complete enough to allow a locomotive to cross it will require to be firmly braced, which will take two or three days longer. Then the road will be in condition to transport to the sound the mortars and siege guns and other material for the reductien of Fort Macon, which are now waiting at Newbern. Gen. Burnside gladdened us all by his presence for a few moments the other day, and expressed his pleasure at the progress we had made.

W. W. D.

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The following are extracts from a letter written to F. Wayland Douglas - dated

Camp Pierce near Newberne N. Carolina

Saturday March 15. 1862

He says,

This paper on which I write & the envelope in which I send it are both trophies captured in the city of Newberne

"We were delighted Thursday the 6th by orders to go on board the ferry boat Curlew, which had been worn out with travel at Philadelphia and was bought by the United States for this expedition. We struck our tents at 12 and stood in line till about 8 or 9, and then embarked on the Alice Price, which, after some delay in loading the baggage, finally carried us to our destination. Half the battalion found quarters on the Curlew and half on the Eagle, another steam ferry boat of the same size. We remained on board, alternately shivering in the cold wind and basking in the warm sunshine till on Tuesday, March 11th, we started down the Sound. After endeavoring till 4 p. m. to get off a large steamboat which was aground, we got under weigh, and when we turned in on our board shelves we were still in motion.

At dawn the next morning we found ourselves at anchor nearly opposite Hatteras Inlet, and saw the Louisiana quietly reposing beside us. The bright noon sun glanced upon the calm waters and lit up one of the most imposing scenes which I have ever witnessed, as our fleet of saucy little gunboats and big white steamboats, and heavy transport propellers, and ugly but industrious ferryboats and busy, swift little tugs, started westward towards the mouth of the Neuse. We spent the afternoon in identifying, by the aid of a chart, the points of land which we passed, and when at 6 we fairly entered the Neuse river we bade adieu to the belief which we had formerly held, that our destination was Washington, on the Pamlico river. Our progress was heralded along the shore by watch fires, which shot up dense black columns of smoke as we approached, and called the people far and near to repel and exterminate their northern invaders. As the fires faded into darkness, and their smoke blended with the evening mists, we dropped our anchor under the protecting guns of our navy vessels, and sought a good night's sleep to prepare us for the duties of the morrow. In the morning the disembarkation commenced, and at 3 or 4 p. m. the last of us were ashore. We landed on a creek, from which the rebels had been driven by shells from our gunboats. As we reached the shore in small boats we pressed forward in pursuit of the mounted pickets of the enemy, and drove them without opposition five or six miles past their barracks and past a splendid battery, from which they had removed the guns in their flight. This battery extended from the railroad to the river, and was protected by a ditch eight or nine feet deep. There were platforms all prepared for four guns, but the guns were not there. We could have held the work with 5000 men against all the soldiers in North Carolina. It looked absolutely impregnable, except to siege guns, which we did not have. Yet they abandoned it without firing a gun. We pressed on through the clayey mud which covered the whole road from our landing-place to Newbern from three to six inches deep, and which stuck to our feet and held fast our boat howitzers which the brave crews of the gunboats were dragging, and made our weary march doubly fatiguing. At last, completely exhausted by our journey, the men dropped around some fires that the regiments preceding us had built in a farm yard close by the road, and were soon asleep. I had the good fortune to get into one of the outbuildings formerly occupied as a negro hut, where some stragglers from the 4th Rhode Island were cooking a savory mess in the broad fire place. I accepted their cordial invitation to sit around their table, and was soon absorbing moderate doses of very good chicken soup made from the recent inhabitant of some deserted poultry yard. I had the satisfaction of calling in Capt. Wright and Lieut. Hall and inducing them to partake of a similar quantity of the same nourishing dish. This was about 9 o'clock p. m,, and I had not eaten anything since 9 a. m. At 1½ in the morning we resumed our march, and through rain and more clayey mud, and water over the clay, we came, about 3½, to the place where the other companies of our battalion were who had landed before us. We again wrapped our blankets around us and lay down upon the grouud to sleep."

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At 6 o'clock our line was formed, and as the rolls were called many a poor fellow answered to his name for the last time on earth. At about 8 o'clock we were told that we were to be the third in the fight, and soon after the heavy firing on the advance announced that the work had begun.—Soon the order "Forward!" was passed along our eager lines, and the 5th was in motion for the field.

As we filed past Gen. Burnside, we glanced at his noble countenance, and caught from his look a new inspiration for the conflict before us. Silently we deployed into the thick woods, all intent upon the new sounds of musketry and artillery in full play upon our position. One shell came screaming through the trees, cutting the branches in its course, passed near the General, and exploded far off behind. Then, as if at the signal, the woods on our right resounded with the reports of heavy guns and musketry, like rain upon a seething sea. We advanced, halting now and then, and obeying the order to lie down while showers of lead whizzed by our ears and brought down twigs and branches from every tree. Not a few, too, clipped almost musically by in close proximity to our heads and limbs; but here fortunately no one was struck. I was most agreeably surprised to see our men steadily advance at the word, nor make the least motion backwards. At last we came to a deep ravine, or rather a series of hills and gullies thrown together in inextricable confusion, and were told that the great battery of the enemy had been taken by part of the Massachusetts 21st, but could not be held by the small number who entered, and was consequently retaken by the enemy. We were ordered to fall in behind the 4th Rhode Island and the 8th Connecticut; but the 8th halted and allowed us to take our position next the 4th. Then "Charge, Rhode Island!" was the cry, and on we ran over stumps and fences, up a steep bank, across an open space, the bullets all the time keeping time to our steps and whistling close to our ears, and halted only inside the breastworks, with the 4th in advance inside the main battery—the enemy in retreat. The fire from the left of our position still continued, and after forming line under it to repel an expected charge, we were ordered to turn to the left, take up a position under the brow of a small sand ridge, covered, as the whole battle field was, with tall trees and thick underbrush. Here, after having crossed the hot fire from the rebel rifle pits and battery beyond the railroad twice, we fired our first volley—advancing to the brow of the hill, taking aim, firing, and then retiring a few steps to load. That volley, the prisoners told us afterwards, killed fifteen men. We slackened the fire of the enemy at that point three times; but were interrupted by a rumor that we were firing into our own men. The fog and smoke and dense wood prevented us from seeing anything for a while, but as a puff of wind for a moment cleared the view in front, we saw with joy that we were firing at the grey coats and caps of real enemies. Now the 4th, who had been doing good service somewhere near the centre of the enemy, beyond the large battery, were ordered to support us, and to advance with their flag, as we had none. They filed past on our left, and scattering through the woods in our front, rushed down over the railroad, across rifle pits and gullies, and with one shout carried the concealed battery beyond, and decided the victory. Our advance was now undisputed and triumphant. The railroad and the turnpike led us straight into Newbern. We took two camps in which the fires were still burning, and the bread left in the mixing troughs. The 4th was stationed in one and the 5th in another. Just as our tired limbs were warning us that they could not carry us much farther, the news was brought us, "our gunboats are at the wharf in Newbern." We arrived at our camp in time to eat the warm bread baked by the enemy.

Correspondence of the Journal.

The Capture of Fort Macon.

FORT MACON, Friday, April 25.

Fort Macon is at length ours. The infinite labor of many weeks is finally rewarded.

Between two and three weeks ago four batteries were erected on the sand hills in front of the fort. The nature of the ground is very undulating. Our engineers took advantage of this, and behind these sand hills, which average from three to six feet in height, erected strong walls of sand bags, having first cut down evenly the sides of the banks nearest them.

The battery the greatest distance from the fort mounted four ten-inch mortars. The next one four heavy Parrott siege guns. The one in front of that four eight-inch mortars, while the battery *nearest* the fort consisted of one field piece in embrasure; this was not used at all. The siege guns did terrible execution, making immense holes in the brick walls of the fort, in fact, going right through them. The fighting commenced at a quarter past six this morning. We began it by firing six shots. After some time they replied with a thirty-two pounder and a ten-inch columbiad.—Eight companies of the 4th Rhode Island Volunteers were on the banks. Company A being stationed at Beaufort, and company G at Carolina City. All the 5th Rhode Island Volunteers were on the banks, together with one Connecticut regiment and a part of another. The Connecticut regiments were the first, I think, to land. They refused to do picket duty. "Well," said General Parke, "I will have men who will." The eight companies of the 4th and all the 5th were sent for, and went upon duty immediately.

Out of fourteen hundred shells fired by us four hundred and fourteen were thrown into the fort. Seven rebels were killed and fourteen wounded. Does it not seem wonderful that where so much ammunition was expended, so few were injured? We had one man killed, who carelessly mounted one of the batteries and exposed his whole person to the enemy, and another wounded. The day before the battle—yesterday—James Ballou of company D, 5th Rhode Island Volunteers, lost his big toe by being hit by a piece of shell. The firing was hottest between eleven and half-past eleven o'clock. The gunboats then steamed up in regular order and banged away at the fort.—The two floating batteries in the sound followed their example, and the sand batteries kept up an incessant ca[illegible] the fort fired away

The Ellis, captured at Elizabeth City, fired two or three guns, but finally withdrew, as she was justly afraid of the large pieces of the fort. The gunboats did not work at any other time, except at this brief period, on account of the continual rolling of the waves.

We dismounted fifteen of their guns. At twelve o'clock one shot from our batteries dismounted two or three of their thirty-two pounders. The concussion killed every man in the vicinity.

Just as the enemy were bringing their guns to bear, at half-past four o'clock, a flag of truce was seen. Capt. Pell of Gen. Burnside's staff and Lieut. Hill of Gen. Parke's, tied a handkerchief to a stick as a substitute, and sallied forth to meet it. When they got out into the open field in full range of the enemy's guns, the flag had disappeared. They certainly were in an interesting position. Who knew but what it might be a ruse? No. It soon reäppeared. It had been concealed by its descent through the entrance of the fort.—They asked to be conducted to Gen. Parke. Being introduced into his presence, they assured him of their present willingness to accept the terms offered them in the beginning, namely, to unconditionally surrender the fort and its stores, and to solemnly promise or affirm that they would not take up arms against the United States, until regularly exchanged. How many of them will keep it, who knows? Already some of these very officers have begun to talk treason in the streets.

Gen. Burnside has commanded that in all such cases the offender shall be stripped of his uniform, and put in the common lock-up until he comes to his senses, as that permission is not included in parole. All such orders will be energetically carried out by the patriotic Major Allen of the 4th Rhode Island Volunteers, who is now military commander of Beaufort and vicinity. The Major is exceedingly popular with the inhabitants of Beaufort. His affable, gentlemanly manners, and his uniform conduct have won him the respect of all. Should he be called away to other duties the citizens would raise a regular outcry and demand his return. It is to be earnestly hoped that he may be continued in the position which he fills so well.

[illegible] schooner leaving [illegible] ceeded to the Southwest Pass, and thence head of the Passes with all the ships and st[illegible]

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