

U S Steamer Down
 Osibaw Sound Dec 17th 22

Dear Brother
 And Sister

Your kind letter was duly
 recd. on the 21st last month:

Excuse my delay in writing. The mail
 runs so irregular here: it is impossible
 to answer your letters with the same
 promptness that you can mine:

I know that I have a kind and loving
 sister one who will not censure or
 attribute this delay of mine to any
 neglect. I often wish it was so I
 could hear from you every day. I
 should be much better satisfied.

You may think I am perfectly
 contented think nothing about home.
 I wish it was more the case with
 me than it is: For my mind of late
 has been constantly at home.

I can hardly keep my mind while
at work, or what I am doing

I can hardly reconcile my mind to
believe that mother is dead. It all
seems like a dream. I can fancy I still
see her walking around the house as she
used to do. That dear old mother our
Dearest friend; there is none knoweth
the value of a mother more than me;
a child that is always away from home;
among strangers knows well how to appreciate
it when he comes home. Now sister
to tell you the truth I am a getting tired
of this life if I was getting the Captains
Salary I should not be satisfied with
it; I have at present one of the easiest
billets in the ship getting three times
the pay I could on shore. Any person
would naturally think what reason
has he to be dissatisfied; It is
Confinement deprived of all the
comforts of life. It is all very fine
to think about. But let those who

Think so try it; Actual experience
is the only true method of finding out

The only thing we have to amuse our
selves is when we can get in a jolly good
fight along with Deserch; You might
think that would be the means of ^{making us} feeling
Dover hurted I can assure you that it
has a very different effect we have
had a considerable of it lately The Dover
with our New Captain and 100 lb. rifle has
Distinguished her self lately we have
got a new Battery of very heavy guns
we have completely silenced one ~~Battery~~
above burnt a rebel Schooner and retired
without losing a man; Since then
we have been engaged in something
that did not turn out so favorable
It was the attack on fort M^r Alister
we had to withdraw after a bombardment
of 8 hours; without any loss on our
ship; we had some pretty hot
work for some time; we expect
to renew the attack as soon as

Reside in reinforcements I
 was in hopes we should hear
 something about coming home;
 I do not think now unless something
 of great importance takes place;
 we shall; come home before
 Spring. I am in hopes that this
 sitting of Congress will accomplish
 something; I recd a letter by
 Mr. P. that a few days ago I
 arranged the money you spoke
 of. Father has went up with
 him he will make it all satisfactory
 Give Miss Hedges my love and
 Mamma thinks for her compliments
 and that they can feel assured that
 I have not forgotten them my love
 to father and Aunt and I am in
 hopes the time is not far distant
 when we shall meet. We should
 wish one of us to see a life that
 would enable us to meet where
 parting would be no more;
 Necessity of room compels me to close
 my love and best respects to Sister Ann
 and family; Tell them they need not
 expect to hear from me until
 they write my love to George and
 tell him to take good care of him
 self if he intends to have that beautiful
 direct the same as before. A.D. Friend



H. H. Poffine
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