

U. S. Paul Jones Sep. 17th 1862

My Dear Sally

I have but a moment to let you know I am well. Yesterday I was engaged some five hours shelling a fort in this River with the assistance of the Gun Boats placed under my command. We silenced the fort & drove them from their guns, but having no soldiers to land & take possession we could not occupy it & consequently had to quit. One of the enemy's long rifle shots passed through our smoke stack just eight feet above the heads of the 1st Lieut. [Lieutenant], the Pilot, & myself. With the exception of this shot although several passed over & near us none took effect. I have just finished my report to the Admiral. Woodhull [Commander Maxwell Woodhull] thinks we had done a clean piece of work but I am not altogether satisfied with the result.

We will lay here until I get further instructions from the Admiral.

Sat. [Saturday] morning Morgan Budd requested permission to resign & and go home which I have granted it appears that he is dissatisfied with his Mess Mates & this I have no surprise as they are not very genteel. I do think however that Mr. Morgan might have given me a letter & more timely notice as I have been under so many obligations to my friends Stewart & Carson. I will give them the nomination of a clerk if they should have no proper person to nominate. I will then give the appointment to Young Chambers our Yeoman who is a very worthy young man.

By the mail I will write Stewart. You can also mention this to him and say that I should like the s[e]lection should be made of one whom I can take in my Mess.

I have nothing to write so excuse my short note.
God bless You all my Dearest Wife

Your Affectionate Husband

[In different handwriting on back]

Letter to Mrs. Steedman
"Paul Jones" St. John's River
Sept. 1862

Transcribed by Nicole J. Milano, University of Florida, 2009