

U.S. Gun Boat Paul Jones
Jacksonville March 20th, 1863

My Dear Sally,

I arrived here just one week ago & found this town in the quiet possession of the army. As the force was inadequate to hold the town without the protection of the Gun Boats, I have been obliged to remain here this long to take care of them. The duty has been by no means to my taste as the army force was composed entirely of Niggers [*sic*] & the practical set of Nigger worshippers.* You can have no idea how annoying it has been to me in being obliged to act with these people but as the old adage has it “duty before pleasure.” It is probable I will have to remain here until all the reinforcements arrive which are now on their way. So soon as I am satisfied that my presence is no longer necessary I will return to my station at St. Simons.

We have dates up to the 10th but I don't see anything about my being confirmed by the Senate. By the way I must ask you to write to Mr. Blair and find out positively from Mr. [Fox?] if I shall be released & when- I am anxious that you should know this so that you may be governed as to sending me the things I I [*sic*] wrote for. If I am to come home do not order anything but the [Keg?]- which send by Express- prepaid and directed to the Care of Capt. R. P. C. Rodgers [Captain Christopher Raymond Perry Rodgers] U.S. Ship Wabash- Let the direction be this. Capt. Charles Steedman- U.S. Navy Care of Capt. R. P. C. Rodgers U.S. Frigate Wabash. If the direction is followed to the letter, I will be certain to get the package.

I have nothing of interest to fill this [sheet?] with.

Remember me most affectionately to Mr. R., Mrs. R and all my friends with much care for you & the children.

Your Affectionate
Husband

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

*Note: Referring to the 1st and 2nd South Carolina Volunteers