

Washington Dec 10th / [18]63

Dear Brother

I received your letter of the 26th nov and I was glad to hear from you I suppose you folks think that I dont care much about you as I would write offener but you dont know as much about Soldiers as I do there is some little thing that you have to do and when you are not on duty you dont care much about doing anything more than set out on the side of the street and sun ourselves day Before Yesterday there was two fires one in the forenoon the other in the afternoon & yesterday there was another I must say a few words concerning the

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Russian Fleet witch is anchored this side of Alexandria there is six vessels in the fleet but four was all that could get up the River as far as Alexandria the smallest one drawing over nineteen feet of water Capt Stackpole The Head Watchman at the White House runs a steam boat from the landing to Alexandria he set two days to take our

boys down but both days I was  
on guard. There is a certain days  
the steam boats run that you can  
go with out a Pass from the Prov  
Marshall they go down around  
the fleet with out touching land  
so no one needs a Pass the  
fare is fifty cents but any  
of Com K can go on Stackpoles  
boat free of Charge half of the  
boys have been down they say

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They are very nice vessels  
Philip Yokum was down and  
went on board he said they  
were nice in side one has  
thirty guns and the gol darn  
things are holler the Admirals  
ship run up the stars and strips  
and fired a salute the Russian  
officers had a streak of bad luck  
day before Yesterday the fire in  
the afternoon Burnt all the  
Officers Clothes they were in the  
large Laundry and before they  
could be got at were destroyed  
I seen two Steam Engines go down  
the Avenue flying with four Horses  
on each one and Steam up while  
going the fire in the forenoon  
burned a Dwelling house up you  
guessed it about us having a good  
time Thanksgiving we had the same

to eat and drink we get every day

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James A. Dunn & co will get  
rich now if they dont  
have bad luck and stop Eunig  
give my love to mother and  
Eliza and her family hoping  
to hear from you soon I remain

Your Brother

Willard A. Cutter