

Samuel Batclurn Esqr
 Engineer of Dry Dock
 Norfolk Virginia



J. A. Batclurn. Jan. 8. 1831

Dear Brother Boston Saturday Evg Jan 8 1831

I rec^d your letter some time since in which you mentioned
 Planners, Books & sent by Miss Forest & to day I have received them
 The Books I got from your house to day where I found your
 wife apparently quite well & we were talking at a quiet
 rate when some ladies came in & I left - I tried one of
 the razors this morning without stopping or honing & it shaved
 me very well indeed - The books have taken up Anne's attention
 so much that he seems to care for nothing else - he is showing
 them to his friend John Neal this afternoon - all these presents we
 shall duly appreciate & gratefully remember - The Book you sent
 Miss Catherine is worth all the annuals that have appeared this
 year in my view - it is a dictionary of terms, words &c -
 Cyrus left us yesterday - he spent 3 or 4 days with us & is quite
 well & happy he says in better - Lewis George left for Washington
 I have rec^d his warrant for 6 or 700 \$ being the amt^t of us
 the Navy Department - This warrant will be paid here when he is
 here to sign it - He wrote me that he saw at Phila.^a one of the
 Committee who had been trying experiments on the power of water to
 carry wheels &c This gentleman told him the Reports would shortly
 be published in the Journal of the Franklin Institute - & one thing
 they have found out that ^{the discharge of} water is not increased or diminished by
 its falling 10 feet or one inch from a Pond or Reservoir to a basin below
 - that quick motions in wheels increase their power more than
 the books or rule give - These reports I think will be interesting -
 I have rec^d for George 1000 \$ of the Peru debt - but Mr Woodworth
 told me to day that he had rather not receive it - as the Life
 Insurance Company had more money now than they could invest - that the
 last year interest was about 4.80 for a 100 - & that this year it would
 be less perhaps 4 to 4 1/2 per Cent - Mr Williams don't know how he can let
 it at present - so much for the state of the money market - If I can find
 a lot of hand I think I can work up some of your & Georges loose coin
 I have been at the Dock today all looks well & safe & secure there for winter

The cigars I think are equal to James' Books for he says - "Oh, Ma
 ain't they sleek" - with these cigars & a bottle of wine which
 I got at auction which young W. Pratt sent there for sale as
 some of Charles Williams, I think we could pass the greater
 part of one of these long evenings without counting the hours
 on the clock dial - I have rec^d 3 more pamphlets of yours
 one of them is the Mechanic Mag. in which I see an article copied
 from the Boston Mech. Mag. on the Pile Engine used at the
 Decatur & at the Navy Yard there last year - you probably
 saw the original article here - There are no comments on
 the article - I have paid all the college bills & shall pay
 Mr Phelps dancing bills in a few days when he calls -

The Nashua Concern looks better than it did - from a semi ann.
 Report made by Dudley L. Pickman Esq in December it appears

That The Cotton - Cloth & goods in Process of manufacturing is 27 239. 43
 notes due the Company secured by mortgages 51 34. 25
 Notes receivable for goods sold 51 054. 89
 Balances due from Agents for goods sold 36 195. 60
 Amount due at Nashua to the Company 51 20. 32
 5 shares in the Factory - Cash on hand &c 4 364. 33
 \$ 129 508. 82

The Company owe - of loan of 1829- 73. 200
 " " 1830 11 000 84. 200. 00
 due sundry persons 5 000. 05
 89. 300. 05

Leaving a balance in favor of the Company of \$ 40 198. 77

Besides all their fixed property, as water power. lands - mills machinery,
 boarding houses - machine shops stores &c. The result of the last six
 months work will appear by the Profit & Loss account, after deducting all
 losses, expenses - interest & insurance to be a gain of 20 057. 89 -

600 shares at 1000 ft each is 600 000 Dollars & the interest on this sum for one year
 is 36.000 - The selling agent supposes the profit on the sales for next 6 mo
 will equal the above gain of 20 000 Dollars, for he will get say one cent
 more per yard than the average of the last six months - Mr James Sawyer Esq
 one of the Directors tells me that they expect to make a dividend in June next of 4 per cent -

The weather here today is quite comfortable - no snow nor ice - The fields are brown
 & the hills are blue & no great indications of winter setting in yet -
 I have not yet got Allston picture yet - I called at Mr Harding the other day
 & saw it but not him - he has two fine likenesses of D Webster - one a
 full length which I think is the best - There is with us a husband
 about a week he is not well - he wants to spend some time at
 Stoughton but expects I believe to line you again -

Sarah says the school kept by Mrs M^{rs} Abbott that you visited
 & inquired made about - is a good school & proper for the Girls - Terms
 under 12 years of age 10 ft per quarter - over 12 years 15 ft - & 5.00
 extra for foreign languages - They had room, a few weeks
 since for the 2 Girls - whole school now say 60 scholars
 we can board them if you wish -

7th Oct - James has come home from a railroad where he had
 carried his new books & he says Mrs M^{rs} Abbott & Miss
 Catlin were busy looking at them - 2 heads to one book
 nothing but the Solar eclipse will draw off James
 attention from them - I sent some time since
 for Discretion Dwell the Evening land in which I
 suppose you will attend to - I have not yet rec^d your answer

We are all very well & Sarah sends her
 love to you & thanks you for remembering
 us & James so kindly - good bye
 your affectionate Mother

P.S. Inc^d today 90 ft for Leonard Pettin for interest on your note

Wm. A. Lester Jan. 18. 1831

Col. Leammie Baldwin.

W. S. Engineer.

Dry Dock.

Norfolk.

Vice.

1831

Edwin A. Lester

Col. L. Baldwin Engineer Baltimore 18th Jan'y 1831

Dear Sir Since I had the pleasure of addressing you I found it necessary to move North & East, and on Thursday the 6th Inst. drove up for this City - (the Saturday previous we viewed the locks &c of the canal at Georgetown all of which with the exception of the embankment appeared good) - on Saturday we went to Elliotts Mills on the rail road and examined it am pleased with the viaducts but with the work generally am not so well pleased, the slides from the deep cuts will allways trouble them, the earth has covered one set of rails, mud & water another - there are no ^{side} sluices of any consequence and trouble must ensue - as we were coming away on our return, your Brother George came up the road, we were together but a few minutes, he mentioned the rec^d of your letter to him &c. I regretted that we had not seen each other at Washington (he rec^d his demand of the Gov^t) he however remained some days out there, and on Monday I left this for Phila - leaving Mr. Hyde here waiting my return - I went by way of the canal and had a cold view of them works - your Brother arrived at Phila on Wednesday, and on Thursday we examined the works created for proving the water power but got but little knowledge - (there is to be a report published of the trials & results) - we visited the Franklin Institute, and from thence went to Kensington and examined a machine driven by steam for planing boards - it appeared to work well - on our return Ge^o was taken very unwell, was faint and exoriated with much pain, I got him on the porch of a dwelling house and rang the bell and procured water for him - we were politely ~~was~~ invited in, and every attention rendered - he having got better we returned them our thanks, and I procured him a dose of Tincture of Rhubarb and Aloes, which he took and was much better in the evening - the house where we were for

hospitably and attentively en? I ascertained was occupied by
a relative of Mr. Youngs and Mr. Lyrice - of their names
I am ignorant - George thinks me a good physician.
and it was with regret, that I parted company with him
on Friday morning last - as I think we should have had
some engagement could I have said "That's the worst out"
However with anchor a speak left there Friday morning
took departure and arrived at York by way of Lanca-
ster and Columbia in a right down east snow storm
the Canal & I had no chance of examining but recom-
mend your viewing them should time and opportunity
offer - I was detained at York on Saturday by the storm.
"That's the worst out" which if you discredit - "Come see -
come see" on Sunday morning 6 of us with a Vermont
Green Mountain driver, on a wood sled drawn by
6 Horses were safely landed in this city - but not
unfrequently during the passage I could say with the
Parsons parrot "we bespeak thee cold" - for at times
we were up to our middles "That's the worst out" thought
I, and would in spite of my teeth (shaking) burst out in
a laugh - my companions would look enquiringly, as much
as to say, "what is it? what is it?" & I would readily answer,
"Come see come see" had I not have been so cold - but that
the worst out - here I contemplate carrying for a few days
and then push south by way of Charleston for New Orleans
for there is no such thing as crossing the mountains. "I know it."
I am this moment favoured with yours of the 4th & 6th
Inst and shall remit the ^{copy of} contract to L. P. Co this day by
which they will see that yours to Capt. Parry is consonant
to our understanding (as I had not sent them a copy of proposals)
and shall also impress on them the necessity of great attention
to a full and complete compliance in all and every part
thereof agreeable to our mutual ideas -

Accept my sincere thanks for your remarks on the sub-
ject of the bursting of steam boilers, it accords with mine
only I was ignorant how to express it "That's the worst
out" - I only was satisfied that however elastic a fluid
or substance might be yet that mechanically it may
be made to approximate nearly to a solid, and atoms
piled on atoms, will form a column whether of fluids
or solids, Your friendly remarks and compliments as
to my letter of the 30th Oct. I particularly notice - they
are gratefully received and I have again to remark that they
were wrote merely for the eye of friendship and I fear
will not bear the examination of others. I however leave
you to be the Judge not only of that, but this and all my
future "long shore" up the River and down the Peninsula
- this - and only regret that I cannot place name a place
for receiving your friendly answers thereto, "That's the
out & I know it" -

I can participate in your feelings, of the "flow
tobacco, mud & sunshine talk" being sensible you are as
isolated as you would be on the peak of Teneriffe with
respect to Conversation mechanical or Scientific - you
however have an advantage of me in having books, and
can therefore "blow the blues, out the window", while I can
only sit and think "like owl on a gate post" "That's the worst out"

Pray excuse the length style &c of this letter, accept the
best regards of myself for you, and also those of Mr. Lyrice
for you and our other acquaintance, with our best
wishes for your prosperity I remain your sincere

friend
Edward A. Lester

P.S. Your Mr. & Mr. Tunis may expect letters by Steam Boat on
Monday or by mail in case the boat gives up - from E. A. L.

Samuel Baltimore Esq.
Civil Engineer
Norfolk
Virginia
1831
Mail

J. B. Jan. 31. 1831

Dear Brother Boston Jan 31 1831

I recd your favor of 24 today, & have re^layment
for the check enclosed of 1000^{fr} out of which I have paid
your wife 300^{fr} The balance 700^{fr} I shall pay to
Mr Williams I think as I have no use for it now —
I had a few days since bot a piece of land in Woburn near
my Littleton house on Oakbury place so called, which
will improve that estate, as there was not much land
left before — I gave 242.50 for it & here I the money of
you by giving a Note in your favor to Mr Williams at
5 per cent interest payable on demand — Mr Williams is much
perplexed to find borrowers at this interest & has more of
your money to let — I had a letter ^{dated 19 Jan'y} some time since from
George in N York where he was living very comfortably
at Tontine Coffee House at 37¹/₂ Ct a night for Room
& 25 Ct for meals when he wanted — He spoke of going to
the water works in Phila. with W. Weston but said nothing
of illness — he talked of going to the Morris Canal to
see Mr Prentiss who is near the line of it at the Iron
works &c. & this is the last I have heard of him —
Your wife is now alone — Catherine is at Groton & no one
staying with your wife — she says she has got to be quite
contented to live alone now — more so than she was
before part of winter — today she has a sore throat & keeps
her chamber but looks pretty well — L^d Vernon
is in town says Netsy is pretty well now — We had
a Canal Directors meeting today & voted to pay off our debt
instead of a dividend — so no dividend on middles is this year

I see the Academy of A & Sciences have petitioned the legislature for some act relative to the Stamford Donation but what it is I am not informed I cannot say whether the County is interested in the result or not -

I sent you some days since W W Haywood's Report on the Railroad route to Agdenburg &c he has said as much about that line as he could with the information he had about the country - but suppose the report at present will not do much good - I have sent to England for "Booth's Report on the L & Manchester Railroad" - I have not in any books for you lately - The weather has been pretty cold since the great storm & very little snow has melted except on the sunny sides of the roofs of houses - it looks to night more like rain & to day has been pretty comfortable - Loammi was in from Cambridge on Saturday but I did not see him - We have not inquired about the price of board for the 2 girls but suppose about $3\frac{1}{4}$ Dollars a week for board & washing - Sarah is perfectly willing to take them to board & will give them as much attention as she can - They will be some care & she & indeed to any body - if we can board them for 3 Dols each we will - If you conclude to have them come into Town to school we will fix a price in season for your guidance

We have few rooms enough for us & for them at Old South at present & we cannot well provide any other place of worship for them -

^{Here} We are all well & I hope there is more sunshine in your quarter - than there seems to have been by some of your late letters - Good night

Your affectionate Mother
P. F. Ware

Charleston 16 February 1831

My D.

Dear Sir,

As you are in Norfolk, where I understand there is a good deal of piling done for information of the Army I think it will not be inconvenient for you, it would be of some service to have a little information on that point - Perhaps you may be so well acquainted with the Engineer, or some person in charge of the Work as to get answers to me for the following Enquiries -

1. What is the size and weight of the Ram, used, and the fall -

2. How is the Ram block disengaged when it arrives at top of Ram.

3. What is the construction of the Shear and the mode of elevating the Ram Block

4. What length of pile, are driven and what do they square

5. What is the resistance at the last blow, and do they point their pile, sharp or square blunt

6. How is the Machine moved from place to place

7. Have they ever tried Horse power in elevating the Block and the mode of application.

8. How many Pile do they drive of different lengths per day

John J. Robertson to Capt. F. Jackson
Feb. 16. 1831

Capl Wm L. Gordon
M. M. Mary
Norfolk Va

PAID

I have left the space blank at the interrogatories that you may put down the answers and send them to me. I have become interested in a large Contract on our Rail Road and am anxious to get more information than I possess, and a Mr. Lester who was here tells me that Col. Balth-
 ewin, in charge of the Dry Dock is of opinion that a heavy block is better than a lighter one.

9/ Do they think the driving by a heavy Block preferable to a small one, & in their experience which is most liable to split the pile - 3.

10- What is the kind of Ram they use and species of Iron made of - 3.

11- Is there any mode made use of by which the pile is kept in a perpendicular position and there retained without the use of a Crowbar while driving - 3.

Any other Information I'll be glad to have -

In consequence of which I have taken the liberty to trouble you with these Enquiries -

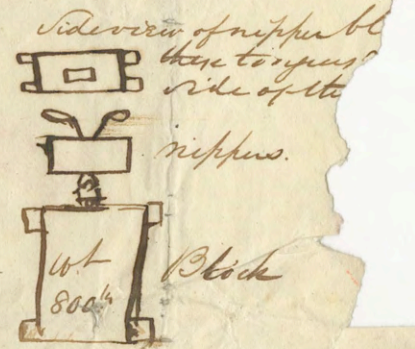
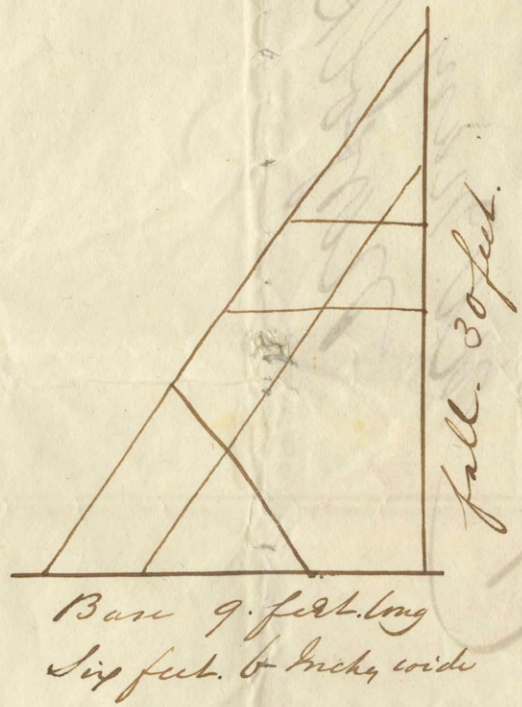
We are here except Hayne added to the Vaicenny as you left us - Jimmy in a devil of a box as usual.

How are you all getting on in Norfolk I presume you have enough to do -

We are all well and desire remembrance to you -

Yrs very truly
 Ingraham's wife had a fainting occasioned by Vanoloid & a man dying is better however - Rutledge's family well when I last heard -

J. I. Robertson



detaches when it gets to the top & the nippers below and catch it - The Ram is raised by Crank which & Coys -

Wm John T Robertson
 Charleston
 S.C -

Ship

Philadelphia 19th Decr 1871

My dear Sir

As I am anxious to carry
 away something good from America and to
 prove how far superior you are in the art
 of shipbuilding. I wish to procure the particulars
 of one of your fast sailing Sloopes - as to the
 tonnage - dimensions - draft of water ^{guns &c} there is
 one I understand in the Pacific which I believe
 was built at Norfolk or Washington which
 they tell me is a perfect Witch for sailing
 perhaps you could assist me in obtaining the
 information I want - I make this request
 because

John Brewster, Novr 19. 1871
 And. Nov. 24

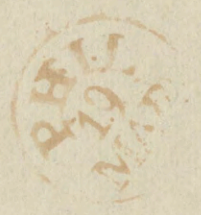
1871

Colonel Belknap

at Mr. Taylors

Norfolk Virginia

1871



we have no hesitation in furnishing such
particulars of any of our Ships, and therefore
I hope I am not wrong in asking them - but
if I am - tell me so at once -

I have not had a good laugh since I saw
you. I called on Commodore Bainbridge, but
he was engaged - it was with great sorrow I
heard of his being superseded. Pray give
my kindest regards to the Strays. I shall write
him when I get to Portsmouth. I write to the

same from my mother

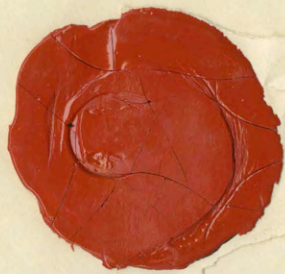
With love to
Mr. Brewster
and Lucy -

Yours ever truly

Wm Brewster

Joami Baldwin Esq
Navy Yard
Charlestown
Massachusetts

1831



Edward Storehouse March 23 1831

Boston March 23^d 1831
Joami Baldwin Esq ✓

Sir, Although I am sensible that your time is devoted to concerns of much more greater importance than attending to the applications of persons desirous of obtaining employ from you - I notwithstanding take the liberty to address this letter to you, respectfully to solicit employment as a clerk - overseer or foreman of labourers or any other appointment which you may think I am capable of sustaining under your department at the Navy Yard at Charlestown.

I wish to call to your recollection that I did myself the pleasure to wait on you some time since with a letter from my friend General Theodore Lyman recommending me as a clerk in your department and you then had the goodness to inform me that you would be glad to give me employment should you find it necessary to require my services.

And I now beg leave to inform

you that as an adjournment of the General Court has
taken place by whom I have been employed the whole
of its session, and that I am at this time entirely
out of employ, that I would be glad and grateful for
any employment which you may think proper to
give me - induces me to make this application, -
and to assure you that no exertion in my power would
be wanting on my part faithfully to discharge the
duties of an appointment which you might think
proper to confer on me.

I am very respectfully

Your most obt Servt

Edward Stow

Apr. 4. 1831

Dear Brother
I have recd yours of 20th all last week you Brother James & George were employed by the Lowell & Amherst between Woburn & Boston; they began again this morning. -

I hope they will find permanent employment. Hayward is offered with Booth so that, I think he will have nothing to do with it. - They talked of an engineer from West Point. - There have been already speculations in the Lowell Rail Way stock: the sales have been 10, 12th premium, & to-day much higher!

Under the new manufactory Law, a stockholder is only liable for his subscription provided the Company comply with the form of said Law; i.e., the President, Treasurer, majority of Directors must every year estimate & value of their buildings, machinery, and their debts & credits, - publish the same in some of the newspapers, record also in the Registry of the County. -

Your Brother J. says he wrote you by a Doctor Bates, going to Norfolk by water.

Your Quarter Cash of wine has arrived, but no one has called for payment.

It cannot be true, or it is not probable, that Calhoun will after what has passed will be the advocate of Genl J. - We do not understand it here.

Business is still brisk - ships in great demand owing to the high rates of freight, &c., &c. When shall we have the pleasure of seeing you?

Yrs affly
J. Williams

Does it not look more like
War every day in Europe?

J. Williams Apr. 4. 1831
And. Mr. 13.



1831

James
Civil Engineer,
Savoy - Ward,
Norfolk.
Williams.

Post Paid
PAID 28
L. Baldwin Esq
ROSTON

Norfolk.
Virginia
Mail

Thomas Blake, Nov 7 1831
22.10.1831 Nov. 13

My Dear Sir,
I shall leave here on Monday next for New-York,
I expect to be in Philadelphia about the 20th. - I have been
informed, that an Steamer from Norfolk to Charleston, there
is only one stage, & that the price which runs night & day,
and that for an extra, or private Carrier, they charge an
unreasonable price. - In my present state of health, it is impossible
for me to make the journey in the Star, if it runs as I am
informed it does, and have determined in that case, that
it will be necessary for me to purchase a Carrier &
Horses in Philad^a. or Baltimore - Now my Dear Sir, I must
 trouble you to ascertain the manner in which the Star runs,
and if any part of the distance is by night, to enquire of the
Star-proprietor, if an extra can be had for these horses,
viz^t, at what rate; also, what would be the expense
of a light Carrier & an pair of Horses to go the whole
distance. - In addition to the above information, I wish to
know the distance from Norfolk to Charleston, the quality of the
Roads, and kind of accommodations on the way, & the distances from
and the kind of horses for Horses. -
between the best Houses, - All this will be necessary for me

know in Philadelphia that they determine as to the propriety
of purchasing - Carriage - Houses there, you will
confer - particular favor on me by giving it to me
by the fast mail, to Care of Mrs. Grant Stone -
I must also beg the ~~favor~~ favor of you to find
lodgings for myself, Mr. B. & our servant for the short
time we shall remain in Norfolk, at Mr. Taylor, or wherever
you may be located. - The particulars of state of my
health, I am sure will be sufficient apology for the
trouble I am giving you, since thanks to your ~~very~~
The gratitude I shall feel for your kind attention,
when shown the pleasure of seeing you -

In the mean time,

Am Dr Sir

Yrs most truly

Joshua Blake

Remember our family & give our love to all
when we are back in the office
we shall be remembered of the good things we
have sent of the house
I am affectionately yours
J.D. B. B. B.

Loamie B. B. B.
Engineer of Dry Dock
Norfolk
Virginia

James D. B. B. B. Nov. 26
1831

Dear Brother
Boston Nov 26 1831
I rec'd to day 2 B & O Rail road reports
for which I thank you - Mr Harris was in
this evening & says he had a letter from you
of 13th - he reports nothing new here - As to
the few things you left for me to do I fear
I have omitted them for they have escaped
my memory - I have paid Miss Mear's bill
& I believe that is all - Catherine was
here a day or two since & is coming home
a visit shortly - Lucette is coming here
next Thanksgiving (Dec 1) - Catherine says the
house is all safe - I have not seen them
since you left - I have had no letter from
you yet, but we have heard that you
wife has been unwell & troubled a good
deal with her throat - hope she will soon
get over this complaint - We are very
busy making contracts & have proposals for
most of the road - it will cost us about
20 cent a cubic yard for the excavation - that
is, all cutting in the road & what we shall
want to borrow from neighbouring grounds -
at this price for excavation we pay nothing for
the embankments - for all the earth excavated is to fill

the hollows - We have not yet settled which
side of the Asylum we shall go - The Worcester
Road to talk of coming by Leamington point
& crossing our bridge if we go to the point
This causes some delay - Mr Nathan Hale is
now at Ballinacorney where to enquire about
Rail Roads - He is Pres^d of the Worcester Com^y
Mr. Villard says has sent another of
your Rep. of Acts & also a pamphlet (the only
copy an) containing a entitled "A professional
survey of the old & new London bridges" &
with a portrait (coarse) of John Nessie Senior
It seems by this the abut. & pier of the new bridge
are built on piles similar to your Dock here
I contain some structures on the course pursued
in choosing a new site & instead taking the one
where the old bridge is - it is an interesting book
but anonymous & may not be relied upon -

We are all well - Mr Jackson has written two
letters to George & if he attends to the business
therein given him he will find considerable
to do in Liverpool before he can go over the
country much - he has the means of access to
many whose acquaintance will be valuable
to him & the character of his agency he need not be
wondered of -

Remember me kindly to your wife & tell her
when we are feasting in the approaching holiday
we shall be reminded of the good things we
have met at her hands.

I am affectionately yours
J. F. Baldwin

P.S. Thomas has got a boarding place at
Mr Bell's in Roxbury I think - he likes it
well - Mr Lyman pays 4 Dollars ^{weekly} for it
as I understood (from a Broker) the market
price of N & P Providence Rail Road stock
it is that you can have 9 Dollars a share
for your shares on which you have only
paid one Dollar - That is 8 paid advance
on what the shares are to cost over 100¢
that is good - your gain therefore is 160¢

Northborough, Decr 21st, 1831.

✓
Edmund & Edwin Esq^s
Dear Sir,

Your agent F. Williams Esqst will undoubtedly have informed you of the profitable result of your adventure by me in the *Sames* steamer, which is to me likewise a subject for rejoicing, in so far as my friends have benefited by their friendliness. - I only regret that you did not comply with my request at that time, to increase the amount, that your profits might have been greater. -

I am about undertaking another voyage, very shortly, of which I have a favourable opinion & shall myself take a considerable interest. Should you be so disposed, I can place you for the old amount, say \$5000 & shall feel obliged if you will write immediately to care of Mess^{rs} Joseph Baker & Co, Boston, as I shall probably be there at work at the time your reply is received. -

Bearing in mind that you have been interested in my voyages more from friendly motives than any desire to be engaged in commercial speculations, I would recommend nothing in which I had not an equal stake, & altho' it will always afford me pleasure to see your name among my shipping friends, I do not urge it as subject you to inconvenience. -

With regards to the portion of your family now with you
I am respectfully
Yrs. obliged & faithful serv^t Edw^d Ames

Edmund Ames Esq^r Decr 21. 1831
Am. Jan. 6. 1832

Norfolk.
Virginia.

1831

Paid 25



Edmund & Edwin Esq^s

Dear Sir,
 I have been thinking much about your letter of the 11th inst. and am glad to hear that you are well. I am sure you will find it very interesting. I have been thinking much about your letter of the 11th inst. and am glad to hear that you are well. I am sure you will find it very interesting. I have been thinking much about your letter of the 11th inst. and am glad to hear that you are well. I am sure you will find it very interesting.

Jan 2. 1831
 Sunday June 2nd 1831

W. A. P. 1831

Received of the
 W. A. P. 1831