

C.S. Neuse  
Kinston N.C.  
April 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

Dear Sis,

I have had bad news to tell you this time. Even worse than I anticipated when I wrote last. The river has fallen and the "C.S. Neuse" is nearly "High and Dry" on a sand-bar just below Kinston. The river had fallen about six feet when we got orders to go down, and there was scarcely water enough for us to cross the obstructions; we nevertheless started down last Friday and had proceeded about a half mile when we grounded on a sand-bar. We tried very hard to get her off but her great weight and the strength of the current were too much for us, besides the river was falling at the rate of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in's per hour. The stern of the vessel is afloat, but the bow is 4 feet out of water. We will have to wait for a freshet again and that will probably take place on July or August. It has rained too much already this spring for us to expect enough to raise the river again, before the middle of the summer. That being the case, I hardly think we will be kept here as officers and men are needed badly to man the new boats at Richmond, Charleston and Mobile. I assure you our disappointment was great when we found that we could not get off; the troops were here ready to join us in the attack on Newbern and we were all expecting to take the city and sink the gunboats without much trouble and to have a fine time afterward; we were destined to be disappointed however and I suppose as "Everything happens for the best", we ought not to grumble too much, but it does seem hard to be sorely disappointed after expecting so much. Good news comes in from all quarters of the Confederacy and best of all our people and soldiers seem to have embibed a new life and are determined to make this the last year of the War. Gen Hoke captured

Plymouth at the mouth of the Roanoke, and Capt Cook C.N. with the C.S. Albemarle made short work of the gunboats in front of the town. There is a report current this morning that Roanoke island has been captured and that Washington, on the Tar, has surrendered to Gen Hoke; the Albemarle is said to've come up in the rear and fired three guns as a signal and out land forces than attacked in concert, compelling the surrender. The news from the Trans-Mississippi is also good if true. The Mobile Advertiser and register tells so many stories about Dick Taylor's doings in Louisiana that I don't like to believe the news from that source until it is confirmed. Last year, according to that papers reports, Dick Taylor captured, killed & wounded more Yankees than there were in Bank's army and was on the point of capturing New Orleans three or four times.... That Robber treated you in a very ungentlemanly style, you ought to have him put in jail for Petty Larceny or Conscripted and sent to the "Kitchen" to do duty in the "Frying pan Department". Tell Lani that Uncle Rich gives him the authority to conscript the "Old Molly" and he must do it at once. I am glad that Miss Jennie has taken him (L)<sup>not old Molly</sup>, in hand for he was "Running to Weed" at Roseville. It is very kind of Miss J. and I hope he will be a good boy and try to learn. Poor Ajax, I wish [he] was going to school instead of John's island among those illiterate men. It is a great pity he did not go to Hillsboro last year instead of going to Mr. Moor. I received a letter from him a day or two ago and I was sorry to see how little he knew of the elements of the English language. He wrote with a total disregard for Orthography, Etemology, Syntax, Prosody and every other dy. Don't tell him this for he wont write again if you do. I received a letter from sister Jacque yesterday. She didn't say anything about Pa's having the Mumps so I hope he has recovered. I didn't know that he had it before you wrote. The Examiner has had some

splendid Editorials in it lately, which I've enjoyed very much. I'd give anything to be able to write like that Editor; he can almost make a man run mad if he gets down on him. His Phillipics are splendid. He makes Mr. Memminger and Gen Bragg appear very ridiculous in a late issue which you've probably seen by this time. Give love to all and my regards to Miss Jennie. If I leave here I hope to go to Mobile then I can stop and see you all. Ever your Affectionabe brother

R. H. Bacot