

C. S. Neuse

Kinston N. C.

May 23rd 1864

I received your letter day-before-yesterday, Sister dear, and was sorry to find that you were in such a low state of health and spirits. You must let the good news we are getting cheer you up – try to look forward to a happy future ~~for~~ not despond for if you give way to despondency everything will seem gloomy, when in reality everything is bright and promising –

When I wrote to Pa, about a week ago, we were still “In Statu quo” on the sand bank, but now we are afloat again and in our old “Cat hole” again. The day after I wrote Pa the river rose and we got off, and just in time too as the water fell that evening. The workmen are again on board, making music (?) with their sledgehammers driving bolts in the iron overhead. All the troops have left here for Virginia and the place is exceedingly dull – almost as dull as the Charleston Station was, when we lay off Fort Johnston. The weather is very warm – equally as warm as it was in Louisiana the August I was there (I wish I was there again to pay the Yankees up for the trouble they gave us on the Arkansas). Our quarters are very close and warm although better ventilated than some others. There has been an entire change in the different Bureaus of the Navy Department and a great many changes have been already made in the fleet at Richmond and I hope they will see fit to order me to Mobile in time to go on the expedition against N. O. or order me to the Trans-Miss. Department to some of the new vessels captured by Dick Taylor on the Red river. As I intend to live out West after the War I want to go out there now and get used to the climate and acquainted with the people and, if a chance shows

itself, “make a beginning” – At the same time I might find a “young lady just suited to my mind” – Marriages seem to be “all the go” now. I hear constantly of some friend or acquaintance being “Captured”, and “Taking the oath of Allegiance” to the fair creatures who have made the capture. George T. married not long ago and Miss Sallie Williams is to be married to Dr. Henderson before many days – I wish some one would marry C. B., She is “willing” I’ve no doubt – have you? – Tell sister Jacque that Mrs. Col Washington died a day or two ago, after a long sickness and was buried yesterday evening. Remember me to all. Write soon to your affectionate brother

R. H. Bacot