

Camp Butler  
New. Port-News.  
Head Quarters March 21<sup>st</sup> 1,62

Dear Sister

I take up my

Pen to write you a few lines  
to let you know that I am still  
alive and well. and hope these  
few lines will find you the same  
I have not had a letter from  
Bary for agood while and I want  
you to let me know what  
his long silence means, the  
paper states that the fourth  
Iowa Regiment was at the Pea Ridge  
Fight it also states that the 4<sup>th</sup>  
Iowa sufferd great loss he wrote  
me last while at Lebanon in  
Mesouri I have not got any  
letter since although I wrote to  
him as soon as I reed his  
now for osomething else we are  
Camped in a verry pleasant place  
on the the banks of Jordies  
River just at the mouth where  
it enters into the Ches peak Bay  
About 8 miles from Fortress Monroe

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Probaly you heard of the  
Naval Engagement between the  
Rebel steamer Kerrimac and the union Sailing  
Frigates[?] Cumberland and Congress  
at New Port News[stain] March 8 which  
terminated in the Merrimacs  
sinking the Cumberland and  
burning the Congress it was a hard  
struggle and many a brave man  
was laid low the Merrimac was  
Coated with thick Iron so it was im  
possible to harm her.. She went  
Back saturday night to Norpolk and  
Evry one expected that we were a going  
to get sheld out and I believe it was  
their intention to do so but as good luck would  
have it the Ericson Catterrie came to  
our rescue just in time to save our  
Bacon, time and space will not  
admit to write all the Particulars.  
the general Opinion in this sec-  
tion of the Country is that the  
Rebels must soon give up. no more  
hoping to hear from you soon I

Remain your Brother and friend

F M Davis

To M[stain] Catharine Davis