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**Special Collections Department, University of Delaware Library / Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 / Phone:
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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.

U S Steamer Keystone State
off Charleston S.C. Sunday Dec 28th

Dear Brotherlaw Sir

I recived your letter after
due Coarse of mail it finds me well
and i hope thes few lines will you and
the rest of the family the same
i have not any important news to
Send you at present we are laying
off Charleston in Company with
Sevarl outther Ships Blockadeing
the harbour i which the War was
at a Setelment for i am geting
Sick and tired of it it is merther
onething or the outther it is come
day and go day and God Send
Sunday it aint like it was last
Summer now and then there was
Some exetement but now there
is not any

U S Steamer Keystone State
off Charleston S.C. Sunday Dec 28th [1862]

[Dear Brotherlaw] Sir
I recived your letter after due Coarse of mail it
finds me well and i hope thes few lines will you
and the rest of the family the same i have not
any important news to Send you at present we
are laying off Charleston in Company with
Sevarl other Ships Blockadeing the harbour i
which the War was at a Setelment for i am
geting Sick and tired of it it is neither onething
or the outther it is come day and go day and
God Send Sunday it aint like was last Summer
now and then there was Some excitement but
now there is not any

it has been very Cold here during
this last few days past but now
it is getting more pleasant we have
dates up to the 20th and we learn
that our army is on the North side
of the Rappannock River again and
the Rebels has full Sway of
Frederickburg the papers States that
our loss is very heavy. which we
are sorry to hear we are most affraid
that they will get the best of them
yet we dont think much of Burnside's
here but i hope they may come out
victorious yet

i recived a letter from Susan a few
days ago in which she stated that
Martha has not been to see her yet
she thinks rather hard of it and
wonders why she dont come i which
she would go for my sake
i would like to see ant Hannah going
to bed singing the Star Spangled
Banner Hail Cloumbia and the

it has been very Cold here during this last few
days past but now it is getting more pleasant
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the Rebels has full Sway of Frederickburg
[Fredericksburg] the papers States that our loss
is very heavy which we are sorry to hear we
are most affraid that they will get the best of
them yet we dont think much of Burnside's
[Ambrose E. Burnside] here but i hope they
may come out victorrios yet

i recived a letter from Susan a few days ago
in which she stated that Martha has not been
to see her yet she thinks rather hard of it and
wonders why she dont come i which she would
go for my sake i would like to see ant Hannah
going to bed singing the Star Spangled Banner
Hail Cloumbia and the

Bull Donge over the Battrie
and outter Paritott airs

~~now~~ i am affraid that The Country
is lost Since Mr Forrest has left
port Royal i think if we had a
few more men like him the
Country would be safe ~~he~~ is
so smart and so Gay Wid de Laides
i hear The Counterbands Laides
is so worried Since he left they
dont know what to do
i expect he has fired a good many
Charges in the seat of his pants
while he was here

i hope Mr O donnel will not be
so follish as to go to war for
he is such a Blood thirsty man
he might Throw his Self away
all together

when you write let me know
about Johnny and if he is well
for i would like to hear from him

Bull Donge over the Battrie and outter Paritott
airs

i am affraid that the Country is lost Since Mr
Forrest has left port Royal i think if we had a few
more men like him the Country would be safe
he is So Smart and So Gay Wid de Laides i hear
the Counterbands Laides is so worried Since he
left they dont know what to do

i expect he has fired a good many Charges in
the Seat of his pants while he was here

i hope Mr O-donnel [O'Donnel] will not be so
follish as to go to war for he is such a Blood
thristy man he might throw his self away all
together

when you write let me know about Johnny and
if he is well for i would like to hear from him

i will now bring my letter to
a Close hoping Soon to hear
from you give my love to Ant
Hannah and Ant Sallie also
to all acquireing friends

I Which you all a Happy
New years
Frank Dockerty is well and
Sends his best Repecks to you
and all the Boys

I Remain yours Truly
John Rudolph

Direct your letters as follows

John W Wright
on board U S Steamer
Keystone State
Port Royal
S. C.

i will now bring my letter to a Close hoping
Soon to hear from you give my love to Ant
Hannah and Ant Sallie also to all acquireing
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