

U. S. Ship Jamestown
Norfolk 5th May 51

My dear Sir,

Enclosed I forward to you an allotment ticket of my pay, leaving to you order One Hundred Dollars per month twenty four months, payable by the Navy Agent at Philadelphia.

My request is that so soon as a sufficient sum become due, to pay the remainder of your Bond and interest that be paid and cancelled. After that you will please draw it I such amounts as may be convenient for you, and invested in such a manner as you may think proper for me. As I might possibly require money at times after my return if invested in such a manner that it could be conveniently be converted into cash, it would be, to me, most convenient. In this however, please exercise you own discretion and permit me here to thank you in advance for your kindness and the trouble I am giving you. The allotment you will observe will commence on the 1st of July and although it is for two years, I hope to be home and among you before that time has elapsed.

We are now all in readiness for sea but will not sail for 8 or 10 days, and the Cuba excitement may detain us longer, or even for a time change our destination, for which I would be most thankful.

I have now been long enough on board to learn the character of my shipmates, & in some respects the ship and her commander. My shipmates are all gentlemen, the ship has most comfortable accommodations for her officers and crew, the Captain is a hermit who no one knows, either on shore or afloat; but with the cruise and the duties to which I am assigned, I am more and more disgusted.

I am on regular Whig duty, I have nothing to do and get plenty of pay. I could prove before a court martial or before a committee of Congress the incapacity and the partiality of Dr Harris, a man who I assisted to his situation, and whose salary I had increased.

I am degraded by these duties to which I am assigned, and this is the universal opinion of all my Naval friends. I follow your advice, I will sail in the ship, and perform my duties, living in the hope and consideration of a day of retribution. "There must be a better day coming." Our branch of the government is indeed in a miserable way. Officers just returned from the Mediterranean inform me that Com: Morgan has passed eight months continuously in the Bay of Naples with the Independence, he living on shore with his wife & children.

Politically in this part of the country all is fair and promising with the exception of South Carolina. Your nomination by the convention and your election, are as certain in my mind as any event which time will be sure to develop. As sure as the sun will rise tomorrow.

Sawyer[']s article, which I sent you, has been extensively copied in the southern papers, and the extract from the letter from Georgia, from the N. Y Herald, is now going the rounds.

There was much disappointment here in consequence of your not coming south, and a visit to this part of the country would be highly gratifying to your friends; but it is not at all necessary.



I am sorely grieved to think that I will not be in the U. S. at the approaching election, but I live in hope that some change may occur in the Squadron, which will bring me home. For this I am praying most fervently. We will probably sail from this within a fortnight, going first to Maderia and from thence to Rio Janeiro, and then soon to Buenos Ayres. The newspapers still confirm the probabilities of a war between Brazil & Rosas, other confirm the resignation of Rosas & the death of Oribe. Should any important events occur while abroad, I will keep you informed of what may come under my notice. With my compliments to your household, my grateful acknowledgements for your friendship & kindness, and my prayers for your health & prosperity, I am faithfully yours
J. M. Foltz

Hon: James Buchanan

P.S. The South Carolina difficulties I fear are becoming more & more grave. I have recently conversed with many citizens of that state, and five of our officers come from there, all concur in opinion that they are resolved upon cession [sic]. We must hope for a change but at this time the "symptoms are unfavorable."

Yours, JMF

[Written in different handwriting:]

May 5. '51, Dr. J. M. Foltz with his pay ticket for \$1000 per month enclosed.

May 7. answ[']d

[Enclosure:]

Received Philadelphia, *1 October* 1851 of WM. SLOANMAKER, N. AGT. the sum of *One hundred* Dollars /100 being for one months allotment of pay of *Dr. J. M. Foltz* as *surgeon* on board the U. S. Vessel of War, the *Jamestown* pursuant to his letter of attorney.

Dollars *100.* -- /100

WITNESS

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LancasterHistory