

U. S. S. Jamestown. off
Pernambuco
Brazil 25th March/54

My dear Sir,

The steamer has just touched & I in haste drop a note. Our ship has narrowly escaped destruction. On the 19th. in the afternoon, with a fair wind, we ran on the rocks off Olinda – 5 miles north of this place!!! We were in 15 feet of water, drawing 18 – we thumped there for two days; then got her into deep water, between the rocks, sounded out an unknown and intricate channel, among the reefs, amidst a tremendous surf, and succeeded [sic] in getting the ship out of danger yesterday.

For four days we were in constant peril; but are now, thank God, out safely! The ship tho' badly bruised does not make water & we sail for Philadelphia about the 28th.

So much for giving the command of such a ship to such a Captain –

With my best respects – your old fd [friend]

and obedient servant

J. M. Foltz

Hon: James Buchanan
American Minister
London

