

S. S. Charleston

Cavite, P. I.

December 25, 1898

Dear Papa,

Two or three days ago received your welcome letters of November 8 and 10th. As you see we are still at Cavite and I don't suppose we take leave for some months yet the situation our here is unchanged. Aginaldo is managing to establish a pretty decent government and our generals don't appear to have nerve enough to do anything and are practically besieged in Manila and Cavite as the insurgent lines [enters?] to within a few hundred yards of our own though no actual hostilities have broken out but they are likely to occur nearly any day. I don't think we are big enough for our breeches yet everyone waits for some one [sic] else to do something. Things are the same out here. I go over to Manila alone once in two weeks where I have to buy some things for no one would go for any other reason. The temperature remains the same about 84 but of course this is the cold season. Haven't heard from any one [sic] for a month or more except Uncle Willie and Will who both appear to be well. The Philippines may be a great acquisition but I would not live out here if they would make me a present of the whole business. It is hard to realize that today is Christmas though of course a holiday aboard ship is the same as any other day except they don't have inspection out of the five minutes of the mess. Three are turned in one on duty and myself. That is the way we celebrate a holiday. They have managed to raise three pretty good gunboats sunk May 1st, the Isla de Cuba, Isla de Luzon and Don Juan de Anseria. They are each of about 1000 ton displacement. We have just drawn a new Captain, Whiting by name. I don't think any one [sic] is much taken with him. He greatly resembles a jumping jack. Am glad to hear that Joe has such a good position and I should think him well fitted for such a life, as he is [?] good comradship [sic], etc, which I suppose they get a good deal.



in the army, don't care for it much myself. Just received notice of [Bette?] Curtis' wedding. [text wanting] on her way out here a fine peace for a man just married. Five in my class are already married, war serves to make them matramonally [sic] inclined. Have no [sic] met a girl since we left Honolulu so you can see the society don't play a very important part in our daily existance [sic]. I suppose you got my last letter, it was the result of mature deliberation. I believe an expedition leaves for Iloilo tomorrow, they have delayed plenty long enough to give the insurgents all the chance they needed to destroy the peace. How is Sid this year. [sic] Give my love to him. Haven't seen Reg for over two years don't suppose I will know him. Hope you are having a very happy Christmas and with much love, am

Your affectionate Son,

Jamie

