

till all the monitors left.
 ask Father if he is not most ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~home~~ ^{at home}
 tired of staying at home
 U.S. Sloop of war Housatonic
 off Charleston South Carolina
 [1863]
 Dear Mother
 I wrote a letter
 last Sunday but got so worked
 up to think we got repulsed
 in the attack on Charleston
 that I have the letter overboard
 but when you see that Charle-
 ston has been attacked you will
 want to know if I am well
 so I will try and write.
 the attack was made on the
 afternoon of the 7th our iron clads
 got underway about half past one
 they had got inside the bar

[cont. from page 4]
 till all the monitors left.
 ask Father if he is not most
 tired of staying at home
 a kiss to Bertie

US Sloop of war Housatonic
 off Charleston Apr 14th 1863
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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Freeport Historical Society
 Date: April 14, 1863
 Description: Letter from John M. Dillingham to his mother, Margaret Dillingham
 of Freeport, Maine.

the day bfore at half past two
forts opened on them they being
then about a mile from sumpter
our Iron clads did not fire a
gun untill within six or
eight hundred yards of sumpter
we lay outside the bar as a
reserve and so we had a fine
view of the fight about five
the fleet started out and at
quarter past all was still both
sides thinking they had made noise
enough for a spell the next
morning the Whitney battery sunk
she was struck 70 times 19 of the
shots going through her but
the Ironsides and Ericsson's batteries
proved themselves A 1.

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one steel pointed rifle shot
stuck in the Ironsides but
did not go through there was
not a man killed on our
side and only two wounded
there was a breach made in
fort Sumpter so we could see
through it and the fellows
in the Ironsides said they
could see some of the devils
lay down so they could not
get up without help. we dont
think so much of Dupont
as we did a week ago. the
Monitors have all gone to Port-
Royal and we are on the blockade
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ready everything in the shape
of iron was sent below hammock
lashed inside the bulwarks, to
keep the [?] from [e?] [?]
and all the cable we could
spare was put over the side
to protect the boilers we did
not take them in with
so good a will as we put
it out a steamer tried to
run the blockade night before
last but got [?] and was
set on fire by her crew.
tell Bill Charleston aint taken
that's what's the matter ask him
if he ever means to write again
write often your affectionate son
Jno M Dillingham

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[written in right margin of p.4]
PS we would not believe that the
attack was anything more than a reconasence