



ton
US Sloop of War Housa
of Charleston
Jan 25th
[1863]

Dear Mother.
You must
excuse me for not writing
before but the last fortnight
has been cold and rainy which
has kept most of us on the
berth deck and when even
one watch is below it is so crowded
that it is almost impossible to
write I have received three letters
from home this month you say
that Jim and [Tady?] are married
bully for them (as the saying is)
I wish them much joy.
I got a letter from Bill
day before yesterday he writes as

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Freeport Historical Society

Date: Jan. 25, 1863

Description: Letter from J. M. Dillingham to his mother in Freeport, Maine

though there were good times
in spite of the war. The
steamer Huntress ran the blockade
last week but caught fire
after getting out we saw her
lights and the gunboat
Quaker City went to her
assistance and took of the
officers and crew 28 in number
they say they had \$30,000 in
specie on board she burnt right
in sight of the fleet last
wednesday night we almost took
a prize we fired a gun and
hove her to and then waited
like fools to see if she attempted
to move again we then sent a
boat to her when we got there
the gunboat Ottawa had her
boat alongside and had taken
five and far between

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[written upside down on bottom of page carried over from pg. 3]
few and far between

kiss Bertha and tell her
to be good little girl
your affectionate son
charge of her she is a simple
schooner and had on board 96
bales of cotton she was bound
for Nassua we shore in the
prize money but we dont hev
the name of taking her let
me say here there has been
two steamers and five schooners
taken since we came down here
and we are to have a share
in all of them so lookout if
you see anything about prize money
there is great excitement in
the fleet and in Port Royal
in prospect of a speedy attack
on Charleston three of the iron
clads arrived at Port Royal
when we do make the attack
there will be some fun I bet
we shall go to Port Royal in
PS it is as much as I can do to get any ink I have a bottle
but the ink in it is

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[written along top, right and bottom margins of p. 3]

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J M Dillingham

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It will often do the same
for me or I must close till I take
a short note quite a long letter
a few days or as soon as
the Frigate Powhatan comes
back we shall have to wait
for her as we have the only
Post Captain in the fleet Besides
Mrs 1504 writes that the
dancing school has commenced
wouldnt I like to go you bet
I would Angier is well and fat
at that in spite of man of war
regulations we shall get rid
of our contrabands when we
go to Port Royal this time
the Devils are as lousey as they
can be the Officers would not
believe it but we made them
to day, I gess you will think
I want to go to writing school
by the looks of this I can
write better give me a few chances

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[written upside down on the top of p. 4]

I have wrote quite a long letter
for me so I must close tell Bill
to write often and do the same
yourself when you get a Chance