

Mr. J. Dillingham of war Housatonic  
of Charleston Dec 28th 1862

Dear Mother

I wish you  
a merry Christmas and a happy  
new year kiss Bertha for a  
Christmas present it is all I  
can send her I should have  
wrote before but it has been  
so cold that it has froze all  
my writing powers up and I  
have been busy all this week  
making a shirt I tell you what  
it is I wont turn my back  
to any one making a shirt.  
I have received two letters from  
home and should have answered  
them before had it not been  
for the cold weather

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but to day is quite like  
summer so there is no excuse  
you say you could not find  
my mittens I dont think you  
could for I brought two pair  
with me we have been up here  
three weeks and nothing has  
attempted to run the blockade  
this time every thing is quiet here  
as the papers say of the army  
of the Potomac an english  
frigate has paid us one or two  
visits bus has left now we have  
news here that the Vanderbilt  
has taken the Alabama I hope  
it is true but I fear it is  
to good news to be true,  
you write that you have  
plenty of snow I should like  
to be at home to have a sleigh  
ride tell Bill not to forget  
me when he is having one.

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we have a church here  
evry sunday but I dont  
go very often as church  
hours is the only time we  
get I use it either a writing  
or sleeping but it is nearly  
two o'clock and I have  
a most head lookout then so  
I must close ~~excuse the short~~ letter  
but I have not time to write  
longer write as often as you  
can and tell Bill to write  
from your affectionate  
son

J M Dillingham

P S I shall get clear of my  
good job by having a lookout  
all the sail is to be furled  
before four o'clock  
I have not time to JMD  
book over the mistakes

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