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Transcriptions by Center for Digital Collections staff.
Dear Brotherlaw Sir,

I received your letter after due course of mail. It finds me well, and I hope these few lines will you and the rest of the family the same. I have not any important news to send you at present. We are laying off Charleston in company with several other ships blockading the harbor. The war was at a settlement for I am getting sick and tired of it. It is neither onething or the outher. It is come day and go day and God send Sunday it aint like it was last Summer now and then there was some excitement but now there is not any.
it has been very Cold here during this last few
days past but now it is getting more pleasant
we have dates up to the 20th and we learn that
our army is on the North Side of the
Rappannock [Rappahannock] River again and
the Rebels has full Sway of Frederickburg
[Fredericksburg] the papers States that our loss
is very heavy which we are Sorrie to hear we
are most affraid that they will get the best of
them yet we dont think much of Burnsides
[Ambrose E. Burnside] here but i hope they
may come out victorios yet
i recived a letter from Sussan a few days ago
in which She Stated that Martha has not been
to See her yet She thinks rather hard of it and
wonders why She dont come i which She would
go for my Sake i would like to See ant Hannah
going to bed Singing the Star Spangeld Banner
Hail Cloumbia and the
Bull Donge over the Battrie and outher Paritott airs

i am affraid that the Country is lost Since Mr Forrest has left port Royal i think if we had a few more men like him the Country would be safe he is So Smart and So Gay Wid de Laides i hear the Counterbands Laides is so worried Since he left they dont know what to do i expect he has fired a good many Charges in the Seat of his pants while he was here

i hope Mr ODonnel [O'Donnel] will not be so follish as to go to war for he is such a Blood thristy man he might throw his self away all together

when you write let me know about Johnny and if he is well for i would like to hear from him
i will now bring my letter to a Close hoping
Soon to hear from you give my love to Ant
Hannah and Ant Sallie also to all acquireing
friends I which you all a Happy New Years Frank
Dockerty is well and Sends his best Repecks
to you and all the Boys
    I Remain yours Truly
    John Rudolph
Direct your letters as follows
John W. Whright
on board U S Steamer
Keystone State
Port Royal
S. C.