Washington Feb 21st 1844

Dear Sir,

I owe you an apology for neglecting so long to write you in answer to your last letter, but as Mr. Brown wrote you from New York and at that time gave you all the news I concluded not to tax you with postage on a repetition of the same. We had a long and disagreeable job in making the survey upon the East River in relation to the Boston Dock; this was in my opinion a perfect humbug got up by some of those gentlemen who wished to make a speculation in lands &c.; I think my report will be likely to settle the question of removing the Yard from its present location at Brooklyn and I shall probably have the New Yorkers down on me pretty hard, but I shall not mind that as long as they keep hands off; some of the reasonable among them have acknowledged to me that they think my views of the matter quite correct and wonder how they could have been deluded with such an idea.

The gentlemen concerned in the Floating Dectival Dock are all here and are making the most strenuous efforts to carry their bill through Congress and I am much inclined to the belief that they will succeed; the fact is their Dock is a most excellent and ingenious contrivance and will answer the purpose admirably; I had no
idea of its powers and qualities until recently, and
truth and candour compel me to say it has a great
deal of merit. Mr Henshaw (excuse me for using his
name) has recommended it very strongly and the pro-
prieters have the President's influence and that of many
members of Congress in their favour so that I have no
doubt they will succeed; well a floating dock is good enough
for New Yorkers and I say let them have it.

My dear Sir how do you like the idea of having your
friend Mr Henshaw decapitated in this manner by the
Senate, he has now an opportunity of judging of the feeling
of those whom he placed so unceremoniously under the
ban of proscription, and it is to be hoped that he and
others will profit by it. Mr Gilmer has taken charge of
the Department and is said to be a fine gentlemanly man
and disposed to do justice; he is however one of the champions
of retrenchment and I suppose will not be inclined to do
much in the way of improvements; the Committees in the
House are apparently determined to reduce the appropriation
to the smallest possible amount, and make a great fuss as
usual about abuses, extravagance &c. Very little has
been done as yet by Congress; the Senate are still engaged upon
the Tariff question and the House having disposed of the
Election question are now upon the celebrated 21st rule
or the rule excluding abolition petitions; this discussion will probably give rise to many angry disputes and quarrels & will most likely end just where it commenced.

The greatest item we have here at present is the new Steamer the Princeton with her big guns. Capt. Stockton is creating quite an excitement among the queer folks, indeed the Princeton is a splendid ship and a very formidable one; she has no appearance of being a steam vessel, having neither paddle wheels or smoke chimney in sight. Yesterday all the Members went on board of her and I suppose had a good blow ou'. All persons attached to the Navy Base are to be invited on board in a few days when I expect to a look at the wonder, and take a glass of wine with her gallant commander.

I expect to leave this shortly on a visit to Norfolk as I have not been there since the first of November. I shall be much pleased to hear from you, what you are doing and what the prospect is for the coming season. I was in hopes to see you here this winter, but suppose you are frozen up. My wife desires her respects to you and your lady; please accept the same from myself, write to me soon and believe me yours truly,

Wm. L. Sanger.