

Letter from home by this mail -  
 Hoping that I may some have  
 the pleasure of being home again  
 I remain, with much love to  
 all -

Your affectionate Brother  
 J. M. Johnston Jones.

To  
 Miss Letitia C. Jones -  
 Washington D. C.

Mentions The Hartford  
 EXASBY was Cited by Jones, late of  
 the CS Virginia. Uncle was Richard  
 Jones etc.

No 34

U. S. S. Germantown  
 Hong-Kong Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 59

My dear sister,

We are still  
 you see at Hong-Kong waiting  
 anxiously for the mail, which  
 is expected at every moment,  
 for if it brings us no orders  
 to remain longer on the station,  
 Commodore Stirling has given  
 his consent to our going home  
 without a relief. So we have  
 every chance in our favor for  
 getting off very soon, the latter  
 part of this week perhaps -  
 So this I hope will be the  
 last letter that I will be  
 able to write from China -

Tell Mama, I have  
 succeeded in getting four regi-  
 table dishes like the set, as

well as I remember it, but could not get the tops without the dishes. Uncle Richard is very well, and looking forward with much pleasure, to his departure for home. He took a trip up to Cayton last week, to make a few purchases. The Powhatan and Hartford are still here, the latter goes over to Manila soon, and Comma. Stribling is anxious to try ~~the~~ sailing qualities with this ship, so it is said we are to have a race with her, when we go outside. I heard from Cousin Catharine a few days since. She was not as well as usual. She has sent a few presents to you all, which Uncle Richard brought down.

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> The Mail arrived last night, and I am happy to announce that our departure is fixed for Saturday next, day after tomorrow. So this I suppose will be the last you will hear from me, until our arrival. We have every thing in our favor for a quick passage home. Fair winds down the China Seas, and favorable trade winds in the Indian Ocean and Atlantic. About the middle of April you may look out for the General's town. I have just heard through J. Sinclair's letter that Brother Caterby has been ordered to this station as first Lieutenant of the "Falcon". Uncle Richard received