

Letter from home by this mail -  
 Hoping that I may soon 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  
 EXESBY was cited by Jones, later of  
 the CS Virginia. Uncle was Richard  
 Jones etc. 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 awaiting  
 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 Mamma 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 de-  
parture 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  
Connaught. 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. No 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 monsoon  
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  
German town - I have just  
heard through J<sup>r</sup> Sinclair's  
letter that Brother Catesby has  
been ordered to this station  
as first Lieutenant of the  
"Tacoma". Uncle Richard received