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Fayssoux Collection
Catalog number 62
1859

Box 2
Folder 62

1 item

Bureau Ayers Aug¹²th 57

Dear Captain

You will be surprised to hear that I have joined the Bureau Ayers. If I had not been obliged to I would not have done it; although I hold a very good position, I am first Lieut of one of the finest little Brigs you ever saw. My Cousin that you saw in Appinwall is her Captain. (I wish you instead of him had command of her). If you had been here you could have had command. Our crew are all English & Americans. The Brig is armed with two Thirlwell 16 pounders, and six side Gunner nines & twelves. My pay is \$120.00 per month. Dear Capt if you had this vessel in Uncle Billyes service I would be more contented than at present; and if there is any prospect I hope you will write to me all the particulars direct your letters to the care of the American Consul. I do not know whether we shall have any fighting or no but if we do I feel indebted to my duty, but I have not that confidence that I would have if you had the command. The Government of their

State is the most liberal of any of the Spanish
American Governments. The Minister of War
Mr Calmentry is a great admirer of Gen
Walker, as soon as he heard that I was in
town he sent for me (he heard who I was
through Spanish that came out from N.Y. in
the same vessel with me) and at once offered
me a Commission in the service.

Please write me in full
Very truly your friend
James T Van Dyke

P.S. Give my respect to all friends

August 12th I now have charge of the
Bureau.

J. T. Van Dyke
Bureau of War
Aug 12 1859