

received our Orders only a few days ago, and they were, "to go to Norfolk to undergo the necessary repairs to fit the Ship for a new cruise." And we are at the present moment en route for that place, and expect that we will arrive there the latter part of this next D.?

We will doubtless remain there at least two months, during which time I hope to get a leave of absence for a short time to visit my family etc. After we are ready for Sea, the Captain expects to have the Ship attached to this Squadron, but I look on that as rather doubtful. I am not passionately fond of this Squadron, and would much rather