

"Swatara",
Pensacola Navy Yard
Florida,
March 12th /76

My dear Clark,

Your

very welcome letter
reached me last
week and puisqu'il
est ainsi, puisque
vous le prenez sur
de ton, I hasten to

to show my true colors.

After confessing that
I have treated you
shamefully, I must,
however, insist that
the depth of a man's
friendship is not to
be measured by the
volume of his correspondence.

Only yesterday I
received a letter from
my mother berating
me well for the same;
and Hunker, should

You ask him, would bear witness,
that letter writing has never been
my forte — (and he now speaks
with all the balanced thought
of a married man!!)

You would
scarcely recognize the Swatara
now, polished up to a "crack"
man of war — The Doctor &
myself are the only officers

of the last cruise left on board.
Stevenson is in the Coast Survey
Steamer "Gedney", and lying some
few hundred yards from us.
We have had many talks together
of the good times in Lomania,
and always wind up in agreeing
that those three months form
the bright spot in our cruising.
Now is the opportunity for

"Yankee" ingenuity
 to make its mark in
 this one Centennial
 year, and invent a
 method of traveling
 by Telegraph!!

How long do you
 think it would be
 before I should be
 shaking you by the
 hand, and entering
 into one of our
 arguments?

I have my duty

Whether this letter
will ever reach you,
as it is a *ome qua*
non to be a post office
in this region that
he be an idiot!

and this one is altogether
like those people Paul
speaks of: "And
behold, they knew
not anything!"

However, "nothing
venture, nothing gain"

is another saying that is also
said to be full of truth, and on
the strength of it, I venture,
and propose frequently to
venture.

Promising soon to return
to the charge and hoping
you will meet me with a
counter charge. Believe me
Ever sincerely,
Wm. Carty, Junr.