authority I know not that Seward proclamation
was to warn us against the movements of the
Merrimac and some of our best informed and
most quiet Merchants fully expect her to
escape unharmed and pay us a visit ere long
If iron plating is ineffective why not?

Our disgraces do not end at Neuchlaus — In the
action at Sta Rosa the troops of Mr Wilson behaved
in the most cowardly manner & that chieftain
was himself discovered when found closer to the
walls of the fort than any other person — But
for a company or two of regulars the whole force
would have been cut off — no discipline, no fight —
the next day Pensacola was to be bombarded when all
the officers of the Zouaves asked for resign and
proposed coming home in the news boat under
the Capt. Gray from whom I have these particulars
(thro our people at the Bank). My plans are still uncertain but
I hope to be in Washington before next week is up —
First 54 Millions paid up — & 32 Walls sold which is fair
Very faithfully yours Austin —