

. . . . In reference to the new saw mill at Roanoke Island, Mr. James writes:

“It is a solid satisfaction to me to see this mill, sawing up lumber so beautifully, and grinding corn so rapidly. I sat and *enjoyed* it for some hours! It saws 3,000 feet of boards daily now, and will easily saw 5,000 per day, when I have completed the hoisting-in machinery which I am arranging.”

“It will at the same time grind 50 bushels of corn per day. Every thousand feet of lumber which we saw is worth \$25., and the best of it is worth \$40. per thousand. The slabs and sawdust feed the fires, and the only out-go will be the help employed to run it, casting [sic] about \$350. per month. The grist mill alone will cover this.”

“Everybody is congratulating me that the mill is such a grand success, and the croakers who have been belying this enterprise had better not show their heads hereabouts! I am already beginning to build schoolhouses and storehouses, and churches and private dwellings, and mean to make this island shine in a few weeks!” We will have a dozen teachers, with good accommodations, going ahead forthwith! I knew that I would have my day of rejoicing after all my hard work. I wish that somebody would give me a steam-whistle, so that we can blow out our jubilant notes, and make them ring from shore to shore!”

[Horace James, “Letter from New Berne,” 6 October 1864, *The Congregationalist* 16 (21 October 1864): 170.]