No 7 (1

Steamer Laplace at Sea 8° South
(300) 1300 Miles N.N.E. from Rio. March 11, 67
(I use statute miles)

Dear Sister & brother Isaac

We left Rio de Janeiro at Noon on 21st Inst. I gave to Reuben W. Ropes of New York No 6 to seal and mail to you on his arrival there in the South America which was to sail 24th Feby. also 3 Newspapers Buenos Ayres Standard and another envelope containing two numbers of the Anglo Brazilian Times, given me by W. Scully the Editor, whom I found a most kind and generous man, an Irishman, I think. I dare say Thos R. Hunter and the Brickhead might be glad to look them over also. They cast considerable light on conditions of the countries, ~~Stately than~~ I also sent a package of papers to go in my drawer, and a paper shells memento of Botafogo Beach.

Our pleasant Consul James Allmore told me he had forwarded the other package I mentioned, with the Mulatto wood to N. W. Brown 70 Franklin St. York, by a ship Capt. The Mulatto wood is used to handles just as it is, and I think S. Pond would like to test it. I suspect it is better than our hickory.

Please tell Robert Hazard Jr. I had a letter from Margie - dated Huta Dec 23d after leaving Rio, the Capt. found the

the Portugese Consul had given him a true bill of health, then being Cholera in Rio, although the Belgian gave him a clean one for Antwerp, ~~but~~ what port he is bound after Southampton -

This circumstance has put to defeat my prospects for landing at Funchal or ~~and~~ Madeira at present at least, but I have been so fortunate in escaping quarantine so much to be apprehended in these latitudes, I must not complain - very fine tropical fruits please any body at first. I enclose a draft of the famous "Alligator Pear," by many commend the best of all fruits, I think I believe the Mangosteen bears the palm - I find as other novices do, insipid, but up so than I thought the first Bananas I ~~ate~~ ate, that are so delicious to me now -

The pear is wonderfully bland, and is said to be very wholesome & appears to be very nutricious. in the mouth feels like a very choice cream - consistency of butter, not juicy, nor dry, eaten with a spoon pepper & salt and some add vinegar, The ship agent very kindly sent to me a dozen very fine specimens but no one fancies them of our eight passengers - We have plenty of room, most of us single ~~state~~ in the staterooms - ~~Then~~ English Naval Lieutenant Harris of Kent took all Ropes berth, the only cabin passenger from Rio,

After the usual gauntlet of ~~unnecessary~~ unnecessary detentions by port regulations we got out of the beautiful harbour of Rio about 1 P.M., to encounter a crop ugly sea, that made our ship roll so the Capt said he thought she was going over, but we soon got away from this into smoother water which has held on ever since, but with head winds.

I counted 13 vessels, ~~[illegible]~~ most of these were ~~stop~~ coasting ships, ~~and~~ outside of Rio, and have seen only three vessels since, a ship & 2 others we could not make out. We must for the common of this vast country though there is such a shipping in their harbour. The ships houses are small in size, and the delay incident to discharging and reloading and repairing are next to interminable. The policy is utterly detestable. duties are levied on goods in transitu if a passport putright can be secured for the so, and if 2 steamers belonging to the same line owners wish to hand a barrel of beef for ships use over to the other houses along they may be together, in a Brazilian harbour, duty must be paid upon it. I must say however I have met with nothing but civility & despatch at the customs. My baggage hardly been

looked at in ~~all~~ So. America port.
People are very civil thoughout, but
social conditions are detestable for
all I can learn, and the potential
traps the consequences inevitable
thereto. Coal is often sold very cheap
at these ports, ~~and~~ brought out very
much for ballast, and difficulty of
lighterage is so great, nay, in the
area Laplata, ships loaded with it would be glad
to nearly give their cargoes almost
for nothing to get away from expenses
and other costs of "demurrage"

At Cardiff Welsh coal costs
delivered on board steamers 2.65 cts to
2.88 cts per 2240 lbs. This Company
pays in Rio by contract your round
1.50 cts per 2240 lbs delivered on board.
The men who ~~[illegible]~~ us had about
90 slaves, altogether in 3 lighters
must do a day giving us 200 Tons. This
will last us to St. Vincent ~~[illegible]~~ of the
Cape de Verde 16 or 18 days from Rio.
The crew of these slaves, a white man,
but one of them for our cabin,
a rope that ~~[illegible]~~ thrown to piece
(a very common accident) unless
he jumped overboard though he
could not swim. I did not see
it, but others on board did.
Things are generally dear at these
ports, even vegetable products
are often so. Some especially so

from swarms of insects - and semetimes (5
destroy a whole field of corn as it comes
up and even young peach and other
trees are in some districts almost
impossible to propagate on their account.
A boy renders for watermellons
50 cts each in Rio, while the water
melon is cheap, and at Pernambuco
a small squash or pumpkin costs the
same price.

I believe I said in my last the
Extract of beef was as 16 to 1 in
nutriment, but I hear one pound
of the Extract is equal to 32 lbs of
beef, it retails for 3.00 per lb, and
is used for invalids & soups -

Rio was glorious with its bay in
front and back ground of mountains
as we left it - The like is not often
seen - We ran near the coast
60 miles before we took our departure
from "Cape Frio" - a panorama of
Mountain slopes & valleys a grove
therein, with Rocky Islets covered with
palms & ~~folia~~ other foliage, greens
and golds contrasting with ~~the~~ every
shade of brown and gray of the
bare pinnacles of granite rock -
A country out of the world where
plantation houses are in a mile
like specks on the sides of the
semi mountains, or valleys or the
flat near their base & the long

banks of silvery white sand, command view of the sea, and catch the refreshing breeze that also accompanies the scene with coming, thus luck very limpidly from ship board but I presume would soon be found very dull on trial. a little promontory of Rock base and emerald green above, almost a hemisphere rising out of the water crowned by a second church is a fine object. 50 miles as the crow flies from Land, seven leagues of a deep rich brown came on board of us borne by the only favourable wind, we have had - We have seen hitherto very little life. Flying fish two or three times, and to day Petrels, and on the 26th ult a school of albacores leaping like salmon, sunrise fast out of water and lays as the largest bass do at its apparently -

The sun is nearly equally in the Zenith again, and we shall soon be from crossing the Equator - The Southern Cross is in the Milky way - the Great Bear 15° above the Northern horizon, and Orion the finest Constellation (here I think) is in the Zenith at Midnight and Sets in the N. West about 1 A.M. The Pleiades always in sight

I have not seen a fine sunset since I left home.

Our Capt Lee says a lark has been played upon the Barometer in the Liverpool Exchange, a fall in cotton having been effected by some cotton speculator who turned the screw to such a fall of the mercury that unstrung the top of all at sea probably.

He says in Liverpool alone 200 Blockade runners are on hand 50 of them have not been out of port even. They cost on an average fully 100,000 dolls each. have very fine engines, but are built so as to be pitching but rivers. 7 were launched in Liverpool during one day. The Chief firm at the building failed in consequence of vessels left on their hands by those who had agreed for but would not take them at the end of our war. One of our passengers, the Hartlip a Naval Lieutenant says men servants at table are rapidly going out of use in England.

Another passenger is the layer of submarine telegraph cables for a large manufacturing co. of them in London. Has also been in the employment of Glass & Elliot. operated at laying the first cable from Ireland to America.

He says the last cable is far better the first though not entirely half so much – The splice at sea is made in 1½ hours – The bumpers are all brazed together again – and the splice laps a fathom or two (according to size of cable) and when finished looks as well, and like the rest of the cable – He thinks Indian Rubber will supersede "Percha".
He laid a cable in Persian Gulf & has just put one down in the Bay of Bay

Our three gray Ostriches are loved upon deck and it was dull to see their pertinacious efforts to pick up the heads of iron bolts from the machinery on deck, also the brass round letters on the castings about the decks – They are smothered in a canvas covered coop the other day, to closely protected from a heavy rain & wind – Storms no even Hurricanes are known in these trade wind latitudes, monsoons have prevail just beyond the trades being South & North of us –

Speaking of the old (first) cable to America, I asked the manufacturer in England in 1857 how it was possible the fine wire net that covered it could resist the salt water even one year – They said it would be tarred first, and would endure – Mr Falsted says the covering was very expensive & proved worthless.

Another of our passengers is Bryce McKinnon of Belfast, now a sheep farmer in the "Campo" back of Montevideo – a young man who was on board the Brig S.C. Waring bound to Buenos Ayres from St. Jago, when she was captured by the Jeff Davis, and recaptured by the Negro Dorsey – Mr Kinnon sued and recovered 600 £ salvage on his claim for

bringing the vessel & cargo into New York. The suit cost him 800 £ he says. He was only a passenger, and I think the bloody scene he witnessed has shaken his mind a little. He is very amiable, but being a Sunnean belief greatly disturbs his nights at night with imaginary terrors and wild ~~thoughts~~ raving arguments & harangues of a very boisterous character.

Our Surgeon is a young man living 21 miles west of Edinburgh, 16 miles east of the famed Stirling, and although close by the railway that runs to both he has only seen Edinburgh twice & never was at Stirling. Such is the cramped condition of European life. He happens to be of the 19 twentieths who are too poor to see any thing 10 miles from their fireides. I have long noticed how few of the middling classes in Europe that is not near their old homes. Cornelius Lockman a passenger, is the wittiest a man of sense, without guile, and of the sweetest ever enduring good nature. I believe I have told you of a county blacksmith near Edinburgh & a joiner & wagon maker by trade. He has become an engineer and agent for Steamboat builders & travels around entreating for them, carrying with him a blessing for every one whom he meets. He talks broadest Scotch and tells his numerous anecdotes at night with his room mate Mr Kinnear during his wittily "tantrums" is a revelation of human gentleness not often witnessed

P. He has been mate in the Mediterranean Black Seas, and in Boston Harbor. Lieut. also in employment of Cunard Co. Lieut. Harris is a very fine fellow, very good natured (as are all my cabin mates in fact) and like the ship Captain a liberal in politics –

We left Buenos Ayres ~~10 days~~ 19 days ago – Calls at Montevideo & Rio de Janeiro consumed over 13 days and have sailed the rest, but a fair fresh breeze has set in last night & continues to day and I hope will last to the Equator at least. The cabin is a little warm some nights but the days and ~~evenings~~ time in deck and the ~~evenings~~ are absolute paradise to deck'ers. is the air of the Ship lies at night. We are drinking distilled water, it is considered better than other – The apparatus on board furnishes about 130 galls daily –

I was quite grieved to hear of the partial destruction of the Crystal Palace a great loss to the entire civilized world. The project of a telegraph to the Icelanders must be very cheering – I have long wished that these remote Islands might be brought into communication with the rest of mankind – Shetland Faroe & Iceland on to Greenland seems to me the far the most feasible route until Polar ice bergs prove "terra firma" & a resting place of the weary

embarrassments. In case of loss of insulation the North Atlantic route possesses great advantages.

The proximity to the magnetic pole may perhaps be an evil. The cable that has lately been laid across the La Plata just below Buenos Ayres is only miles long & cost 80.000 £. It is the heaviest in the world. 26 miles long and weighs 38000 lbs per mile. The shore ends of the transatlantic cable from Valentia are heavier but the main is only about 7850 lbs per mile. The first one (that failed entirely) weighed only about 2120 lbs per mile.

Connected with the La Plata cable is a land line of 132 miles, every post of which has a wire from the mains to the ground - a precaution used against lightning in some countries. The magnetic disturbance on this short line is so great that sometimes 4 hours interruption of communication occur at a time. The cause is not known, but perhaps it is for the longest chain of mountains in the world running nearly parallel with the line of attraction to the magnetic pole may have something to do

with it. Though perhaps near the extreme end of the range the effect might not be experienced.

It has occurred to me that in cases as magnetism & Electricity are produced by action between metals and acids, although it may not be that these elements may not be merely forms of metals and such bases of them as are bases of acids.

March 30 Yesterday morning a flying fish was taken forward on deck that had flown on board during the night. Mr Lyell, Harris kindly devoting one half of him to my dinner and a very nice & delicate fish. The fish is very thick and square in form, not flat. Our ship is too high for the general flight of these fish, but the captain says multitudes kill themselves by flying against sides of ships at night, and their force is such as to crush the head entirely if they strike a mast or other hard substance. In long voyages he has often taken up 50 fish from deck in a morning, that flown against the sails &c. enough for dinner for all on board.

Crossed the Equator to day attended by a huge school of porpoises

We crossed the line about 27° West L.
about the Equator (which we
crossed to day a little after noon)
the Captn. says it is nearly always
cloudy, with very little wind and
rain when it is calm and the
the water is entirely smooth, yet
the swell is always running
enough to toss large ships.
The South East trades which we have
been enjoying the past 3 days, fade
as we approach the line, and cause
a little North of it, when will soon
meet the N. E. trades, & head wind
to the Cape de Verds about 1000
miles on our track hereafter.
It seems there are 16 ships in this
line and nine are contemplated,
the Rathbones of Liverpool are
large owners in it. Capt. Lee says
this family is famed for its benevolence
and general good character.
In common with many of Liverpool
most respectable merchants, they
are non Unitarian. I suppose
they are grandchildren of Richard
Richard Reynolds

13.

I forgot to mention that the Pampas are frequently ravaged by fires. One of the modes of extinction, is by throwing 1/4 or 1/2 of a horse or ox killed for the purpose, along at great speed near the fire on the windward side of it. This destroys the dead grass. The Geese & turkies are very small as far as I saw, in S. America.

Island of St. Vincent Cape de Verds
March 10. 67 Lat 16°.54'- Long 25°.4' W

We left Buenos Ayres 4 weeks ago to day and arrived at this coaling Station last evening - nearly 5000 Statute Miles. We called at Montevideo 2 days and Rio 10 days. At Rio a French steam Steamer was lying upon my left and remained 4 days thereafter - We entered this very pretty little harbor almost together. We had a clean bill of health from the Brazilian Portuguese consul who gave us a foul one. Nevertheless we were considerably alarmed to hear by the authorities here -

We have seen but 6 sails and only English Steam men of war since leaving Rio.

The paper [illegible] at the Equator, I saw not,
plenty of Porpoise and flying fish, (a
couple of these flew aboard) some petrels
and other birds occasionally, but very little
life of any kind. The weather has been
delightfully cool most of the time, and
the 2 last evenings taken exact uniformity
on deck. Generally a breeze and
expect about 3 days always ahead
all the way from B. Ayres. We are hence
only a couple of days behind the usual
time for this line which is slow.
The Atmospheric conditions constitute
of thunder an absolute luxury.
I have land on Saint Paul's and
well and a little fund been all the
way. No appetite at sea tho' they
even any tea or coffee or any
kind of fat provisions! but I expect
to die if coffee & muffins so soon
as I get to Southampton, for I see
no chance for Limeuse or Madeira.
passed a number of this group
of Islands in sight as we sailed along
the Western verge of them. They are
hideously picturesque in pristine
Bizarre clouds of volcanic peaks
and deep gorges. Many of them
apparently without water. Rain is
rare on this Island. They have for
the past 6 weeks until yesterday

The fog has been so dense that we
were left "San Antonio" that lies
at the mouth of this harbour has
not been visible only 8 times off
about a dozen Sperm & American
Whalemen are about here; 6 lying
in harbour unable to leave
not being able to see the whale spouting
They are not over 1000 miles off
Sperm whales are frequently taken
in it, and they are trying out one that
we caught only 3 days ago. 4 whilst we
of our pilots gets 80 barrels of Sperm
oil worth 7000 dollars. The Captain of
an English bark lying here says he saw
the whale carried his captors out to
sea a long distance before yielding.
He says the most exciting scene he ever
witnessed. A dozen of them have
been seen here at a time in the harbour.
As we approached the harbour last
evening we had the only fine sea set
I have seen since I left home. and
the effect of the lights & shadows
and colouring of the hundred bare
and circular peaks & cairns upon
Sacha steps was beautiful beyond
description. Then following dark rain

mist of the evening (a rare incident) accompanied beautiful lightning illuminating the atts, on every hand.

About 10 A.M. to day we went ashore to the little village of about 10 or 12 hundred people chiefly blacks, who are generally free, and very many of them speak English. English coin is current. The entire business I hear at least all that is available for shipping has been bought up by Mr Miller the British Consul here who married a Portuguese woman & lives here. He supplies steamers with coal, about one per day on an average, and has arrangements in view for receiving it from vessels that buy it from traders are very complete as well as his own lighters for delivering it from the yard to steamers. He has also two little steam tugs to carry them lighters off. When the steamers come to buy, he has prepared for them not 1/2 a mile from the wharves. Dust is the

English enterprise that a steamer is furnished with her cargo here in half the time she can get them at any port I saw in Latin America and with vastly up tobacco 10 or 12 cents a lb
Some of mine are 12 cents a lb
and fine Havanas same price.
They are brought from the islands
San Antonio nearly for one, one
portion of which is cultivation.
This of St. Vincent is very like the
desert near the Dead Sea.
almost entirely bare surface of
earth & broken stones occasionally
patches of bare ground I saw in
Ireland. With water I think it
would be very productive. Goats
subsist on scanty patches of weeds
&c. I saw some small black
cows & an ass, also a little horse
or two. A barque and 5 or 6 little
whaling schooners (American) are
lying in the harbour. The French
mail steamer was off for Martinique
all could before 2 P.M. She got in

first & most large rivers, most
despatch. Some of the mountains
must be 2500 feet high only the peaks
and shoulders exhibit the rock
in situ – the rest is all debris
and appears entirely rotten, as
most of it is until you walk on it.
I think a bath among the rock,
in the cool (cheerful temperature
of water) and sun on the beach
near by, ten enormous Vultures
(also flying) one of which was
entirely white on his back as he
flew except a stripe of black
at the bottom edge of his wings – a
very handsome bird, probably a
younger or older one than the other
I saw dive on Osprey fishing, looks
just like one – Grasshoppers are
on the red or other surface
but I saw no other life – No
houses except in the town, or
only 2 or 3, that belong to the Canal

I believe for himself and his
honorable staff of clerks
here — I do not know how it is
in other places, but it is very common
in Louisiana to find more
fortune out there by orders who
will not remove them to employment
with their husbands, or because
the husband does not attempt
to persuade her if he wants to go —
I am sure the amount of this
sort of bondage is very great
Young and inexperienced when they
come out to get wealthy to live
at home with, they form connexions
that doom despair the innocent
happiness of their early existence.
I saw 2 miles back of the town
dry matty in rock of large
bore, and 40 feet deep —
Not strong, but 10 or 15 feet
diameter at top — Urania was
washing clothes there — At the

I can't what I think to be a
Coral reef, in one part of the shore.
a few cocoanut trees are planted
by the custom house, that grow
very well – and in some low
places among the hills plenty
of the shrub (common on the shores
of Mediterranean and ornamental
in our gardens) grows about 4 feet
high & leaf most like cedar –
I know the name perfectly, but forget –
Off by itself on a dreary hubbly
level plain, is the cemetery
enclosed in rubble stone wall –
Outside of it are a few tombs, one
of an officer of the U. S. Naval
vessel Preble – in 1844? Think
all the numerous coloured
women & children beg – Hat
you at a distance as in Egypt –
But not the men – Among them?
Dare soldiers, sentinels – yes
Captain Hawks, there is not a slave
on this Island – all slavery in

(21)

The Cape de Verd Islands
cruise in 1872.

What is the difference between
a Spaniel and a spaniard?
Julie suggested this question to me.
One smells of his food before
eating it, the other after.
A few nights ago, a boat was
sent after a sperm whale just
at the mouth of this harbour.
The creature attacked the boat &
bit it in two – a 2d was sent
he bitten that in the same
manner – a third shared the
same fate – The Captain then
determined to pursue him with
his schooner – The whale attacked
that twice and the last time
left some of his teeth & flesh
behind the bow & carried
small boats were again sent out
to – It was finally captured
and yielded 120 bbls Sperm oil worth
10,000 dollars

The view from beneath the ship's quarter, is very interesting. The weather is bright, but a high hazy atmosphere about the sides of San Antonio Island (the hills then must be 200 feet high at least) giving it the effect of a painting on glass, but in the wonderfully beautiful style in which I now see the North West highlands from the east of Scotland near Cape Wrath. Only occasionally a sperm whale is taken in this region. I am told American whalers are also catching many whales about 200 miles South West of Cape Clear on the South of Ireland. They are boiling out oil on the deck of one of the vessels lying near us. The flame gleams at night a fair hundred yards and we have also frequently benefit of fumes of the heavy flesh of whale, part of which is used for fuel and the negro

of the place find the scraps
which are given them in large
quantities, very acceptable to food.
Many of these Negroes are very bright
& very strong & faithful laborers.
The Miller ("King of the Island")
employs many of them and pays
higher wages than others do
He gives the men 24 cts and 1½ lbs of
Indian corn per day - and to the
women 10 cts per day, and the cover
the dispose of about 30,000 tons of coal
annually - on which the government of
Portugal charges 2.40 cts (10/) per ton
which charges 24 cts per ton on all stones
taken from the Island for ballast for vessels.
I find I am here in this far off
world in the midst of our near neighbours
The whalers here are very pretty but small
in size - The "Alcyon of Providence
town," "The Lerick ship, do, Montezuma
of New Bedford, I can read from our
ship - ~~another is also~~ another is from Boston
The English Barque after discharging Cardiff coal
here sails for Sacramento.

There is a nice little steam semi-
nary here in the Island, but the
Magnesia water is pulled under
from the wells costs 1½ cts per
gallon on shore for the shipping.
The mountains in St Antonio are by
being 4000 feet high while the highest
on St Vincent is only 2800 feet, that
island monopolizes most of the rain
and sends to Bermuda here in great
quantities and the very finest oranges
I ever ate. They are thin skinned too,
(I have found thick skinned oranges
but generally) and so juicy that
there is very little else in them. In
size they are quite large average-
ing from cippe is also produced on
San Antonio and I dare say the
green cocoa ~~fr~~ rich cocoanuts in
the fruit boats along side are
from the same locality.
I am told little schooners from
United States with apples &c &c.
are constantly here sell their
notions and take oil from the
whole fleet here. This fleet fishes

with different crews cruising on the hunt and taking, and each vessel has its turn at results, taking a whale in turn be it large or small for its share of the catch.

Mr Miller is said to make 30,000 £ per year here. He manages to produce enough stuff to supply his station and finds the African, negro labor, hard to shoot.

About 2 miles back of the town 800 feet above the sea, we see the house of the Governor of the Island – a Polyzen General – Okay enough but he manages a garden with irrigation on a rock just above us is a little fort with flag to defend – Now to the fishing smack that should happen to go off without settling first charges – on suspicion therefore.

In the middle of the harbor stands a very striking figured of rock that looks like a bronze monument, it is so symmetrical

Near by is a mountain top that presents a profile called "General Washington's face" - The chin and collar can take him as well as the calm dignified expression of the face - It appears remarkably like the Lenox

On a ~~hard~~ flat Prickly Pear cactus is growing - and I saw a variety of ice plant ~~the~~ leaves very full of moisture, and a variety of our garden Evergreen, and some other plants full of water, but most of the plants have a very dry, wiry, look - dried sage in flavor & off in colour

The little bay here is full of fine fish and we see abundance of them in schools around our ship (said to be very fine) and pilot fish several - One I saw 10 or 12 ft in length & they are also very fine - It looks like one of our largest "Fantail" of the kind that is very light coloured with deep brown stripes running around his body (not tabical)

The spluttering & pumping of fish around the ship at night is perpetual — We had another fine sunset this evening. I find that our anthracite coal is preferred in England to all others for blacksmithing, and they pay 2 £ per ton for it. Here —

At Sea March 11. 67

We left the harbour of St. Vincent at 11 A.M. — Previously there were saw 5 whale boats chasing two whales very near us for about 2 hours and left them at it, just at the mouth of the little harbour — The two fish kept close by each other side by side, and came up generally & spouted together. The boats were frequently very near them but not sufficiently so to cast the harpoon — The huge creatures frequently exhibited themselves with much of their extraordinary proportions above the water — Finally themselves constantly annoyed by pursuers whenever they broke water, they at length made a long dive & come up in the

channel between us and San Antonio (about 2 miles wide) fully a mile from them passing and then for a considerable time kept up an almost constant succession of fire & cheering. They discovered them sometime before the boats (or rather I did) and it was several minutes before the boats changed their course toward them, having obviously taken for granted they had gone quite in the opposite direction.

The Southern Cross is about 70° above Southern horizon of course. This is very little lower than it was at Valparaiso.

The North Star is many degrees above the horizon at St. Vincent. We had lightning & thunder last night, and quite a rain early this morning. It is now nearly calm (2 P. M.) sea smooth and we hope to be in South America by the 23th at farthest. As we passed Sean Antonio (rapid a huge ogive of porphyry) some of the Lemuts (nearly 4000 feet high) to be quite verdant in their gorges, though it is a desert below on that side. Not a house visible, but there is quite a town of 7 or 8 thousand people on the island

I saw quite a high but light waterfall on the side of a mountain on St Antonio.
St Vincent is about midway between Rio and Liverpool and the line of navigation is nearly direct
I find a winter in the tropics has made me sensitive to cold. It is a little cloudy with a moderate breeze ahead and the 75° yet I have with a winter dress which I have worn, excepting a thin coat, ever since I left Buenos Ayres. I have been obliged to put on a thicker coat to day and uncomfortably cool even then. Captain Lee has ~~[illegible]~~ [illegible] in tropics. Earlier that, but has only once seen thermometer 90°. He says in the East Indies they feel the heat & sink under (European) because the nights are nearly as hot as the days.
In the harbour of St Vincent the negros dive from deck of the ship and bring up to pennies thrown overboard before they touch the water. The sum is dived by small boys at Malta, and I am told the coin is often caught before it gets to the bottom. At St Vincent the water is 24 feet water. The fort is

Havana also,
common in many parts of the world.
We have all heard of the Negroes
on coast of Africa wading off from
shore with a knife in his head to
hold him down while killed sharks
under water with his knife.
The mate of this ship says he
has seen them dive with a knife
in their mouth where sharks were
abundant swim under them
and kill them - This was in
the Eastern Indies when he says
the water was clear as crystal
with ~~coral~~ trees of coral forests
on the bottom reaching from
about 12 feet high. These abound
in fish, and the sharks thus
killed by the Negro were awaiting
their equal from the grown
what they our superior bulks
would not allow them to enter.
The Indian Ocean at the same time
the coral forests are just be
exceedingly beautiful and rich
in variety of colours. I saw

a reef of coral at St. Vincent
I thought, like that at Pernambuco
but there are are compact and
regular in form like mineral refs.
There is more a lip beauty of phos
phorescent sea every night, but
nothing to compare with what
I once saw, about 1852, at
Sea Side, when the whole ocean
lashed into furious waves by
a terrific gale, resembled a
vast area of blazing empyra
gration. The soil of the Island
appears to be volcanic debris, and
if artesian wells could be successfully
bored I believe these present deserts
might become exceedingly fertile
When we left Rio a few cases of cholera
were there and the Portuguese Consul
gave us a "foul bill of health" though
the Belgian Consul at the same time
gave the French steamer a clean one
& the Portuguese Consul gave

The first steamer a "clean bill of health" thought she was in Rio before we got there and left them four days after us, but the English appear to have no friends.

We passed a whale near the Equator, but I did not see him.

The Japanese inform us that hydrophobia is very common among the dogs of the Camp as they term the country, the Pampas, of the River La Plata. This is aggravated by the multitudes of the stray dogs that infest the country, that also go mad and as the "Gauchos" have no doors to their houses (only Bullock hides suspended at entrances) these creatures are liable to be bitten by them also, for it is remarked that when the domestic dog is ill he seeks solitude and abstains from water which the wild dog seeks under similar circumstances human habitations. These wild dogs are

from getting domestic dogs, and go in droves destroying not only sheep but cattle and sometimes men. He mentions a case of a man having been destroyed by a drove of dogs, four of which he killed with his knife before he was conquered.

The multitudes of furious bulls on the coast constitute another source of danger. These bulls are separated from the fact of their being neither fences nor lines for refuge.

James Eppingstall was captain of the ship "Centurion" of Scarborough England 45 years. He was first a boy apprentice in her then cook, then second mate, then first, then captain of her 45 years until he lost her in ~~can~~ ice field in the Gulf of St Lawrence, he was in the lumber trade 20 years, and was asked by his owners to take another of their ships but like the pressman on the Bastile

The Captain had been so long his home he always said he would never take another ship. He was the best man on board the wreck, was inconsolable and would not take another. He is still living. He always gave his sailors a bounty for rats killed in his ship, yet always had them well provided with food about the ship. He could always obtain the best crews. Some of his men had been many years with him, and he always had his sails well reefed on Saturday night, in view of a possibility of requiring it on Sunday, and he never was known to make sail on that day.

This good man could not endure to part with his ship but he incurred a large cost to be divorced from his wife.

The Waltan tells me he worked on a farm when a boy, and at 14 years of age drove a pair of horses, but had only 2£ 10s. for your bounds his board, which consisted of oat meal porridge and milk.

Such a boy would now have about £ a year. He is a good man

on a farm in Ireland under the quality
impound condition of things was (2 years ago)
9 £ a year with potatoes & milk for board.

March 15. We have a fair wind to day
This will be the 4th day of fair wind we
have had in ~~about~~ 5000 miles (upward)
and 5 weeks voyage to day including nearly 5
days in Port. Our Latitude is nearly
28° North - about 350 miles S by west of
Madeira - Have seen 10 ships & brigs to day
are getting among them at last.
Saw a great many Nautilus yesterday
beautiful exhibitions of Blue & Purple
as they glide along - First I have seen
(excepting one the day before) in all
the voyage since I left home - Thus
we are just on the Northern edge of
their habitat at this early season.
A large whale was seen the day after
we left St Vincent, early in morning -
Strange I could not see an object of
that size, by daylight lie -
Potatoes have been plenty but I suppose
we will soon be where it is too cold
for them - I could not see the Cross last
night - In Latitude Sat. 27° it is on the horizon
probably low set - I am told it is at
times nearly a circle erect, Perpendicularly -

March 16. 67

Our favourable breeze continues, and I was called this morning before sunrise to see the Peak of Teneriffe which was in view for a few minutes. I had given instructions to be called in case land appeared, but I had given up all hope of seeing on this voyage this lofty & famous Peak of the canaries. The apex was in cloud. It was so nearly behind the rising sun as to be well revealed though 130 miles off. The Island Palmas (also one of the canaries) with its beautiful profile of an hundred mountain peaks lay ~~plain~~ ~~in sight~~ in front of it. I have ever desired to see this mountain & though the view was so far off it is a great satisfaction.

A Glasgow company desiring a crew of Portuguese sailors for an especial purpose sent to Portugal for them. Of the fourteen men obtained only one could sign his name to the papers. Miserable as the system of education in England, where both church & state, the governing class are determined to maintain their sway as long as possible and know the only way to do it is to oppose all education of masses that is not conducted under direction of priests yet it is said most of the sailors can sign their names.

A young man lately in Glasgow

by devoting a day in each week to the purpose, from a short period, collected 560 Children between 6 & 17 years of age into a musical class, not one of whom could read or write. Nevertheless he taught them all to sing in one map & very creditably –

The last element I reported in a former letter of an attempt of the Pampas having killed a man, is probably untrue, though he has a formidable power to kick. I have seen several vipers to day.

17th The passage between the I lands of "Madeira" and "Desertas" and las others to day – & sum 3 more addressing Portuguese for wood – The I Madeira appears to about 3500 feet high, with red soil covered with verdure not rich, to the summit, with a good deal of wood and forest and in the gorges I counted eight cascades of torrents among the gorges, lies of them falling over the cliffs into the sea – The island is very much seamed with gorges, and is pretty well represented by the markings in Bartholomew's maps, though its purple against the sky is not much shaded – There are bands & scattering lies on some very high points that

I could not discern on the highest with distinctness enough to judge of they were their alu-

The cultivation on the slopes has a beautiful effect, and a large portion of the Island side is dotted with houses, most of them white, and some neat looking villas, evidently a thriving about the level of 2000 feet about as nearly as I can judge. For a no houses appear. Little villages are along the shore, and on an open bay on a gentle slope lies the town of Funchal of about 6 or 8000 people (apparently) just under the highest portion of the Island. I could see not a sail in the harbor which is rather an open roadstead. There appears to be a large number of good houses in the town, on the foreground on the water edge, and straggling houses up the hill in all directions behind it. The cliffs are in some places very high, &

the walks along them and inland must be very pleasant. The Island is varying in appearance with the Eastern sunny slopes, airy lakes and shelved valleys & abounds in fruits. At the south end is a natural arch in the rock admirably adapted for the lake that of Abich "The hole in the wall" but much finer, large high & symetrical arch. Thousands and quite common in coasts. Madeira is said to swarm with beggars. I saw only a few gulls. no other birds

after passing the south end of the Island we saw its highest peak 6300 feet, & soon came to other islands of the Madeira group - the "Salvages" inhabited by a few fishermen. Lieut Travis R.N. says that a Baker Fernando, who has had sea business, was seen from a ship by a party of sailors, one night,

being carried by Satan ~~and~~ the (41
point of Shumbili, and pitched into
the crater – The vision of these
sailors as it afterward proved occurred
on the same night with the death
of the detested baker, at some
distant point. Mr Harris
cannot remember all the particulars,
but states these points as having
been well authenticated

Lat. 45° 05' off Bay of Biscay
Longitude over 8° Latitude 22. 67
Just after passing Madeira
we had very heavy weather for
48 hours and though the was only 64
it felt quite cold on deck, or
even in the deck cabin, in full
winter dress – we saw 12 vessels
in one day, but on an non
outside the track ~~being~~ a fine day
as also yesterday but the heavy
of the Bay of Biscay makes it
difficult to write – occasionally a
sea bird was seen yesterday
I think it is well known here

though I think not with us, that if one coat gets painted it is only necessary to rub the part with a piece not painted, and it disappears entirely — I tested it —

I find the poor rate in London is collected in each parish, as special tax in each, instead of throughout the city for a general purpose. This is operative that in the west end where all the richest live and scarcely any poor, the tax for this purpose is 18 cts on each 4.88 cts of income from real estate therein, while in the parishes where the poor chiefly live the tax is 1.00 cts on 4.88 cts. The wealthy judge legislate in every way they can — On top lay income the the income tax is 15 per cent then on small ones — and the quantity about paying the tax has not ceased can get, I am told. I will remember the content outcry about it years ago. We expect to be in Southampton on the 24th at evening.

I have had a cold for a few days the first since I left home. The change to colder has been very sudden.

The Indians say on the Pampas they raise the "Alfalfa" (Lucerne) three times between Oct 1st & Feby 20th and it yields 2 Tons per acre of good hay for all stock at each cutting. 6 Tons per acre per season, beside a 4th crop which is fed green but only 1 Horse can pasture on it. Both Cattle & Sheep are fond of it as pasture, but a half hours grazing on this variety of grass will kill an entire flock of sheep and is equally fatal to cattle. The stomach is so distended by its bulk as to disappear and death ensues very soon after the insidious repast. This is one of the county towns of both Buenos Ayres & Montevideo. The latter town, most of it, looks as though it was built last week. Its bright & fresh, but there is scarce a tree in the street to relieve the intolerable glare it produces.

March 24. Castle Hotel Southampton

Now I am in front of a blazing coal fire in what seems to be a comfortable inn; close by the water. We had a thick night, but calm and the channel like a river. We got into a Pilot Boat off Cowes after breakfast and a pleasant sail of 10 miles brought us to the Custom House at 10 A.M. My trunk was not even unlocked. We have been 42 days from Buenos Ayres, and slept on board 43 nights. Enough to have eaten Scurvy any thing but that meal hamper & mutton & boiled rice suit a little warm for dinner. Sat a cup of tea or coffee. ~~[illegible]~~ weight 185 lbs, lost 14 lbs on the voyage & 22 lbs since left home. Fanny little patches of snow are on Southern slopes in the Isle of Wight, and I never saw the verdure so pale here before. The winter has been very severe, and heavy fall of snow within a few days. Terrible storms until yesterday for a month. Many fatal shipwrecks & the Pilots wondered to hear we had escaped them. The silent beauties with new feels sense I saw it 6 ½ years ago, and the Netley Military Hospital now completed, near Netley Abby,

now completed 3 miles below Southampton
here, is a fine object - apparently
about 12 or 1300 feet long of brick
many new houses are also built on field of Waterloo
I went in Brown the Steam Battle
here bound for New York - a new
line they told me - The Adriatic pushed
of calling line by British Government, is also here -
I expect to remain in England
until about 10th of June and
then go to Norway for a short time
and so back to Switzerland & be
in Paris about Sept 1 - but my plans
are not very definite - I have written
to B. Bates & Co London for letters to be
forwarded to the place & shall move
in and Penzance & Land End &
places intermediate in a day or two -
The first things I noticed on landing
were my old friends the English Sparrows
and their loud talk - The last Sparrow
I saw before, was one that that spent the
day on our deck while we lay at Monte-
video - The steady walk of the mill to do
(that is those who get enough to eat) of English
men and women most attracted my
attention, and I believe it is not mere
fancy that makes me see them a
defiant air a determination that reform
shall come and that quickly -
Fenianism is on all lips, and I
suspect in land to worry & bolster the

the Government into to conspiracy, without risking much life, at any one time, and I shall not be surprised if they succeed sooner than we think.
The multitudes of Spirit shops, ale & Bar saloons & eating houses, where every body drinks and wallows in this country against strikes me as foolish as ever, and to their prevalence I am confident more than any other cause, save a want of education on the part of the 7/8th of the people, is the delay of great reform ~~adjudutable~~ debatable.
I see the Post office department of this country has become a great bank of savings. ~~Off~~ Post offices in every part of the country are designated at which deposits can be made on credit of the Government. Seems to me a good plan. I have long believed that our rural townships, where every man knows his neighbors and their wants would be likely burn their property from carelessness or design, might become insurers in their own district at half the present rates of insurance charged in ~~[illegible]~~ centres of capital & corruption & with equal profit. But a systematic would baffle the union both intent of arson, almost effectually.

I hope you have got out of Winter by this time and in good health, and that Grace will give a gume diet a good trial, I cannot doubt it will benefit him –

The 600 dolls gold he gave me has just paid all my expenses from St. York to this place – so that I have the 10 £ per month (50 £ on the first of April pay, in all) for capital to begin Europe with, a very good start, and my own income will begin to come in May 15th –

25th – despite the same winter and warm heavy snows (Papaya trees have been stripped and abound on the bank) I find Elders in small leaf – Hawk in flower – Herbaceous Annuals sporting and the Weeping Elm almost in flower.

Lanthampita has 52,000 people and has grown rapidly since I saw it before – a long straggling sort of place lies all about the town handy to all, of more than an hundred acres, in which is a statue of Isaac Watts, native here, and a man Andrews lately dead who achieved an honorable reputation "Never he wore an apron" – various tributes to him on the monument are

meant to sharply rebuke the conservative and exclusive spirit of Tarpeim. This is no doubt coming out always daily.
Portions of the old walls of the city are left, and a fine ancient gate way studded with heraldic emblems crosses the street above this little Hotel, and odd enough portions of the walls of this and adjoining and other houses are the original city walls 4 and 5 feet thick.

I understand the Roman line to St. Luke takes letters for 12 instead of 24 cts. If I find this to be correct I shall so direct ~~stops~~ and future letters.
I am 14 lbs lighter than when I left Buenos Ayres (in 42 days) 22 lbs lighter than in Montevideo, and 40 lbs lighter than I was about 2 years ago.

I find the dampness of my paper at sea, it was, that rendered writing almost impracticable, and the same in the humid climate of S. America.

Love to all at Hamburg, cousin Sophy &c &c in affectionate haste

Jno. P. H

Central section of Alisma Plantago

Natural size

Dotted line — a spherical pit — courtesy of very hard soap — lay a linen handkerchief upon it, the half, may be stuck with knife or scissors and the pit sound in halves, yet the half be not cut at all!

looks like one of our own stems round here

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