

A3_002_012_001_001_1862-07-27

Marseilles 27th July 1862

My dear Father

I arrived here on the afternoon of the 25th and as I hear that there is a mail closing at 10 this morning I will let you know how I am getting along [to]. I got Libs letter of 13th June & Dicks of 20th at [unclear] [H's] yesterday, but they do not post me up to a very late date. I suppose that you all imagined I would get here before & have written on to Paris. The passage was rather longer than the Captain expected 49 days, but we had so much light winds & calms that some days we hardly made any progress at all. I sent a letter to you by the Pilot when he left us off Sandy Hook. Neither Lib nor Dick say anything about its being received though the former [days] that she was sorry that I was on board the vessel not yet started the day she was married & could not attend. The Captain wrote to his wife at the same time but she did not receive his letter, so I suppose that you must have inquired of Mr. Tyson in West St. But about the voyage the Pilot left the ship about noon of the 6th June I felt first rate & ate a hearty dinner but along in the afternoon a peculiar sensation [sic] apprised me that I was going to experience a delightful course of sea sickness and I was not mistaken. It was 5 or 6 days before I got over it entirely, and eating hardly anything you can well imagine that my system must have been [well] cleaned out at the end of that time. I started with the idea that I would let it take its course as I thought it would perhaps benefit me, but I think that it was a mistaken notion. I did so this time & the effect it had on me was a wakening [sic] one. We had good winds

[Page 2]

up to the 18th June, made such good progress that the Captain thought we would make a very short passage perhaps 30 days but after that date the wind headed us off & we had to steer very far north of our course and in addition to that very light winds & calms until the 2nd of July took away all our hopes. The calm must have lasted some time & been quite [extended] as for several days from 20 to 30 vessels were visible laying [unclear]. We [unclear] a Western bound ship on 25th June & I suppose probable [sic] you may have noticed it among the ship news in the papers. In the 3rd of July a heavy gale set in & made me a little sea sick, but it was of short duration. I had had enough of it the first part of the voyage & once or twice afterwards when I felt a little nausea I warded it off by a little [spirits]. [unclear] [or peppermints] is it. The gales lasted 3 days & was followed by fresh winds, which brought us to Straits of Gibraltar on 11th. The first land was visible on 9th /Portugal/. We went through the straits in the day time & at 6 PM were abreast of the Rock distant about one mile. Though [the] day was fine. There was considerable haze & smoke about the land still I had a very good view after leaving the Straits, light winds & calms [unclear] & we were 14 days reaching [this city] I expected to send a letter ashore at Gibraltar by a fisherman but could get no chance. I don't think on the whole that the voyage has done me as much good as I expected [till] per-

[Page 3]

-haps the change back again to land may have a beneficial influence. I have no great fault to find with the accommodations on board the ship; they were perhaps as good as I could have found in most vessels. Towards the latter part my appetite failed me and I yearned for a nice beef steak & glass of ale. The Captain is a Yankee of about 38 years of age quite smart in his way. He has seen a good deal of the world & is considerable of a talker, so that he made a very good companion. This (Marseilles) is a very [hot] city & I am anxious to get out of it. I think some thing of going to Toulon (about 40 miles) tomorrow to see the French navy yards, Arsenals Prisons to & then I shall leave for Paris the next day. I don't know whether I shall come back by steamer or sailing vessel but probably by the former; one costs about the same as the other. There is not a great deal to be seen here in Marseilles & so I want to get along on my travels. The Captain is acquainted with several here businesses men, who speak English & so I can talk my native tongue to my hearts content. Still I find I can speak French much better than I expected & have no difficulty in getting all I want to. But I must close as it is verging on to 10 O'C & I don't want to miss the mail. Tell Lib & Dick that I will answer their letters when I reach Paris & Mother that I will write to her also. My love to all the family & friends. The [unclear] bill of Exchange came to hand safely.

Your affectionate son,

Charley