

On Board Steamer Egypt  
June 14<sup>th</sup> 1873

My Dear Wife

I wrote you yesterday saying that we were to sail this morning so by eight o'clock we were fairly under weigh and were soon steaming out to sea our Boat is an immensely large one I believe next to the Great Eastern an iron vessel well found and perhaps as comfortable as most of her class we have about one hundred and twenty cabins and sixty or seventy steerage passengers on Board. The different English speaking Nationalities pretty well represented quite a number of Commodores though none that I know except the Commodore ~~the manager~~ of the London Bank. Sinclair he has been most wretchedly sick ever since he came on board we had a beautiful morning for a start and were cheered lustily by a crowd on the dock as we departed for our voyage across this wild waste of

waters where the eye tires with  
the monotony presented to its gaze  
The white handkerchiefs of buffeted  
in the breeze and I could see near  
my a face watered with tears indi-  
cating that friends were taking  
a long parting adieu and in whose  
minds there was an uncertainty  
whether the meeting again would be  
on this side the bar of spirits my  
mind reverted back to the dear ones  
I had left at home separated by  
a greater distance than ever before  
and I will not say a tear did not  
intrude itself into my own eye  
in sympathy with those around  
however as time and tide wait for  
no one and as our vessel from her  
immense size required to leave punctually  
at the hour with which the tide  
was up we were soon out of sight  
and hearing both of voices and hand  
kerchiefs and ejected beautifully  
along out of the river into the wide  
ocean and our attention being  
diverted from shore was naturally  
directed to a closer inspection of

of our new position and its sur-  
rounding circumstances we have  
a very comfortable room though on  
the small for four we have also  
nice comfortable seats at the table  
and are tolerably well provided  
though I hear some complaining for  
myself with simple habits there is  
abundance we breakfast at eight  
lunch at twelve dine at five tea  
at eight and supper from nine  
to eleven for those who choose to  
look after it. There was four other  
steamers left New York to cross the  
ocean the same hour we did and  
we have had them in sight the most  
of the day I suppose we shall soon  
part company we have had the usual  
amount of sea sickness on board  
the first day I myself did fair to  
make a good sailor feeling so far  
very well we have an ordinary lot  
of passengers on board I mean not  
much style or money are put in  
a number of ladies but no very  
attractive ones I have not yet ac-  
quainted with any of them as yet

I fear I shall not make much pro-  
gress in this way my friend Muller  
is preaching himself enough for both  
of us we have got to the close of the  
first day on board without any ex-  
citing incident I intended to turn  
in early and in doing so will nes-  
cessarily have to close my obser-  
vations on this our first days experi-  
ence on board the Steam Ship Egypt

Sunday June 15<sup>th</sup> we have had ano-  
ther very agreeable day and have made  
good progress but how little like  
Sunday at home our passengers are  
quiet and orderly a good many so  
from necessity the table has been  
very scantily filled and notwithstanding  
starveling it has been very fine  
with but little motion of the ship  
yet it surprises me to see so many  
sea sick we have the Episcopal  
service read to day by a New York  
clergyman the pastor of one of the  
city's aristocratic congregations  
a Doct. Montfornery and I assure  
you it did me good to hear him pray  
for our beloved sovereign you

Know my democratic tendencies yet  
with all that there still lurk  
within my bosom a tender regard  
for the father land and I like  
to hear when a petitioner is made to  
a throne of grace a supplication in  
behalf of one who has so nobly filled  
her high and exalted position that  
she may be endowed with that  
grace which gives to the possessor  
wisdom from on high to enable <sup>her</sup> to  
to administer the important du-  
ties devolving upon her as to win  
the regard and esteem not only of  
her own subjects but also that of  
foreigners as well our Rev Doctor  
seems a very nice gentlemanly man  
he sits opposite to us at the table  
and he is intelligent and agreeable  
I am so far keeping remarkably  
well and feel in good spirits I  
trust this trip will prove most be-  
neficial my only regret is that  
I have not you along with me to  
share with me the varied phases  
and scenes that are continually  
turning up the scenery at present

and for some time to come will be  
no doubt minor tonous but to the  
thoughtful observer of nature there  
is a vast field for contemplation  
even though our vision is bounded  
by water on every side when we  
realize that this vast expanse is  
created and upheld by him<sup>self</sup> will  
not let a sparrow fall to the ground  
and who even numbers the very hairs  
of our head we may well be lost  
in wonder and amazement at his  
power and skill so diversified  
and so complete in its adminis-  
tration we have had one of the stea-  
mers which left with us yesterday  
in our weather bow all day and  
it is amusing to hear the different  
hopes and fears expressed as to how  
much she will heat us to Liverpool  
The day has been spent very quietly  
and as it draws to a close I con-  
fess to myself what the good  
folk at home are claiming just now  
and a word in confirmation of  
my surmises would be a great  
gratification this however I must

wait some time for so far we have  
had no rougher sea than we have  
frequently had on our lake trips  
I slept pretty well last night  
but if the slats upon which I slept  
were as tired as I was when I awoke  
they will surely give out before we  
get across but I suppose we will  
familiarise us one to another I can  
not as yet say that I like a hard  
bed the steward tells us it is time  
to put out the lights eleven o'clock  
so we have to retire and this ends  
of the second day on board the steam  
ship Egypt

Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> I was awakened  
this morning by the steward telling  
us it was time for Breakfast so  
responding to his call I made  
a hasty toilette and put in an  
appearance at the table our num-  
bers are gradually increasing though  
many are still very sick so far  
I am very comfortable one of our  
room mates a Captain in the British  
Army and quite the gentleman has

make arrangements with one of the  
officers of the Boat to have his room  
which is a relief to us as the rooms  
are really too small for four we  
have had quite a heavy rain during  
the night of it I was not aware of  
it till being told so this morning  
it is now however bright and fine  
with a little sunshine though we  
have not seen much of the sun since  
we came on board we are getting  
a little acquainted with our pas-  
sengers at least I may say a little  
for myself and a great deal for  
Miller I think he has become quite  
familiar with all on board I like  
our Rev Doctor very much as our  
acquaintance increases I do not  
think we have many interesting  
characters on board however in this  
I may be mistaken as time pro-  
gresses I may form a more favor-  
able opinion of them the day has  
been very fine and the water very  
smooth but there is a considerable  
roll to the ship which makes writing  
rather difficult I fear it will



permitted you to make out a good deal of this chirography as I sit at the table now the rolling is very considerable and our pen is apt to make very uncertain marks however as I have started with the intention of giving you a short study resume of our progressings you must accept what you get as having been done with the best intentions although performed at times under difficulties

The passengers have been amusing themselves in various ways during the day night has again closed in upon us and so ends our third day on board

The Steam Ship Egypt

Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup> We have had a rather charming day bright and sunshiny which has infused life and animation among our companions and various have been the means resorted to for amusement we are now this evening about one thousand miles on our way across just about passing Cape Race and will be on banks of Newfoundland tomorrow we have seen quite a number of

whales or porpoises sporting about  
to day such huge numbers of the  
deep are to us land people objects  
of great curiosity and the rush to  
see them as their great proportions  
were rolled out of the water was  
as amusing as a new toy to a child  
there have been several sail in sight  
to day with one of which we exchanged  
signals the sight of a ship in this  
boundless water is quite cheering  
in this utter loneliness still I enjoy  
the scene very much and have  
mused in silent contemplation  
upon its grandeur hour after <sup>hour</sup> since  
I came on board the sight of this  
monstrous ship ploughing its way  
through this troubled waste with a  
precision and certainty of course  
beyond doubt is the result of one  
of those problems of science that  
perfectly astonishes me we know  
the exact course we are pursuing  
we have the exact distance we  
have never posted up in the  
Rang room every day we know our  
latitude and longitude and in

been among the worst but in true  
Yankee style the moment they felt  
at all better claim went the sugar  
plums lolly pops lemonade together  
with a lot of other trash till nature  
refused such torments any longer and  
claim they came again which process  
has had to be repeated several times  
they are better to stay and the prospect  
is a more cheerful time for them in  
the future one of them is discovering  
sweet music on the piano while I write  
and warbling a song or two most  
beautifully with an admiring crowd  
around her it is now nearly time to  
retire I wish I could see you all if  
only for a moment I think I will  
bring this to a close as my first instal-  
ment of course I cannot post till the  
week end and I propose to commence  
a daily log of my movements you may  
recur several at once we expect to be  
in Liverpool on next Tuesday in the mean-  
while my dear wife

I am your affectionately  
Wm. B. B. B. B. B.