Aug 24th, 1858

On board Ship Wild Hunter in the North Sea.

According to promise of Constance you say I feel better. I am in the first place I am not homesick a bit but believe it is the first time that ever I left a port in my life without suffering some homesick feelings. Therefore I do not feel in much humour for writing as it is only when I have those feelings that I feel much like putting my thoughts on paper. However, I will do all I can. We left Bremenhaven Monday Morning Aug 22nd after being there 12 days. I should have enjoyed myself very well there if I could have got into the Duck with the Ship but as it was I had to stay in the inn which was neither at sea or ashore. I lived on shore at one of the first Class Hotels and took living. Now let me give you a description of a German Hotel at Bremenhaven. And I believe they are about the same all over Germany. When you first enter the door you go in to a large room about 40 ft Square at one end is the Bar, and the rest of the room is filled with small Tables & Chairs. At the Tables sit the Comer's & Goers, and Smokers drinking Large Beer from Morning till Night, for the Germans are a very Temperate People, and drink but very little Strong liquors. Not like the Americans & English that cannot be Satisfied with any thing Short of Brandy and a large quantity of that. The living at the Hotels is Miserable; they only have one Meat a day, and that is a very poor dinner consisting of an enormous quantity of Potatoes, some raw Ham, a piece of
Monday Morning Aug 2nd. After leaving these 26 days, I should have enjoyed myself very well there if I could have got into the Dark with the Ship, but as it was I had to lay in the rice Patent, at sea or ashore. I lived on shore at one of the first Class Hotels and such living, now let me give a description of a German Hotel at Bremenham. And I believe they are about the same all over Germany. When you first enter the door, you go in to a large room about 40 ft square, at one end is the Bar, and the rest of the room is filled with small tables & chairs, at the tables sit the Pipers & guests and课题 drinking Sauer Beer from morning till Night, for the Germans are a very Temperate people, and drink but very little Strong liquor. Not like the Americans or English, that cannot be satisfied with anything short of Brandy, and a large quantity of that. The living at the Hotel is miserable, they only have one meal a day, and that is a very poor dinner, consisting of an enormous quantity of Potatoes, some raw Ham, a piece of roast beef, cut out of the hind quarter of a Bull, hard & dry, and cooked to death, for a change they have Real Cutlets & Salt beef. When you want Breakfast or Supper, you must call for it, and have it served up on one of the little tables before mentioned. Ask what they have got for Supper, the answer is, Beefsteak & Eggs, or Ham & Eggs, and Coffee, their Coffee is excellent and that is the only thing that I can speak in favour of, but for all that they are a happy & nice people and People that enjoy themselves more than any other Nation that ever I fell in with.
Their Sunday Commune About 4 o'clock Sat afternoon End about 12 next day. The remainder of the day is spent in writing and all other kinds of amusements. They have a ball every Sunday evening. The Women Knit all day Sundays. No Matter what their occupation is, Most Every House has a settee in front of the Pit at Kent with their children playing around them happy as month. They have their Annual Shooting feast, While it was there it is something like our Village Meetings, only Singing, Dancing, selecting A Shooting at Targets instead of Preaching & praying. They keep it up Sundays at dinner. I wish that you & Lulu could have been there with me; you would have enjoyed it very much I think Lulu would have remembered it as long as she lived. If I should come back to any part of England from this voyage I shall write for you to come & see the Country. With me if it should be Summer time. Then if the ship does not come home she can go home in the Steamer, and then we will forget the long months 4 years that we have been separated. Should I live so long and not have any pull back until I complete this voyage, it is my determination to stop at home altogether, or at least until I get tired of staying or you get tired of me. Which I hope will not take place the first 10 years. It seems to me now as if I should enjoy home more to its full extent if I was there. We would have a good time, and we would live some of the days over again that we did when we first had old Lenny, I look back & think of that Summer with a great deal of pleasure. If then to have you to see with me a while year after it. So that we can be together 33 months. Now I suppose we Shall be Separated nearly 3 years, but I am in hopes there will be a Change in India. When I
At breakfast, I wish that you & Lulu could have been there with me, you
would have enjoyed it, & I think, Lulu would have remembered
it as long as she lives. If I should come back to any part of England
from this voyage, I shall write for you to come & see the country with me,
if it should be summer time. Then if the ship does not come home
we can go home in the Steamer, and then we shall forget the long
months & years that we have been separated. Should I live to long
and not have any pull back rent till I complete this voyage, it is my
determination to stop at home altogether, or at least until I get tired
of staying, or you get tired of me. Which I hope will not take place
the first 10 years. It seems to me now as if I should enjoy the
view of its full extent if I was there. We would have a good time
and we should live some of the days over again that we did when we
had the family. I look back & think of that summer with a great deal of
pleasure. It then to think of you to go with me a whole year after it. So that
we were together 23 months. More I suppose we shall be separated nearly
8 years, but I am in hopes there will be a change in India when I
got there, so that I can get a good freight for home, at any rate I shall
not remain out in India long. I am sure that I had not written to
Mr. Bush on my arrival at Falmouth that I actually wanted to come
home and not go another voyage in the ship, perhaps then they might have let
David to take the ship, but I should not like to give her up to any
one else at present. After I had seen my charter I then wrote them
that I wished you much to come home, and that I must have much
that they would send David to take the ship & that I considered
him as able and competent Shipmaster as myself, but by what
I have heard and what I can make out by their writing they don't want
Any body in the Ship but your own Dear Husband and humble Servant.

They put the whole Ship on my Shoulders at Singapore and they have not taken it off yet, and they have not Said one Single Word but what was all right, and that I appreciate very much, and furthermore I think it is as well for me to go another voyage now while I am a young man, and have a good Ship & good Wages. But still I would gladly give her up to David which is something to be thought of in these hard times. Just think one year will soon pass of and my life is just as certain on the Ocean, and in India, as it is at home.

And I dont want you to think that I am going to Sea to make up money for other People to guard about when I die, for the sake of leaving People to say that I died a rich Man, No way Dear Wife I have no such foolish ambition as that. But I do want enough to carry us both Comfortable through life. And pay our Funeral Expenses when we die, and give Julia a good Education. That Minnie is the light of my ambition. And certainly you cant think that poor out of the way can go, I think that Moses Moses is going to Sea for the Glory & Honour of the thing, if so he must like it better than I do. Somebody will enjoy this Money when she dies more than she does now while living. What think you but knowing that is none of my business. Carsten you say take the quills & something else, to bad, but then we all have our passions, Some one Way, Some another, I am happy to say that your husband has been a good boy this voyage so that had you been with him you would not have complained.

Tell David he must be careful how he names up Seed Rent Abraham for I think they are getting to numerous, and he must remember the responsability.
And I don't want you to think that I am going to sea to make up money for other people to guard about when I die, for the sake of having people to say that I died a rich man. No, my dear wife, I have no such foolish ambition as that. But I do want enough to carry me both comfortably through life. And pay our Funeral Expenses when we die, and give Luke a good Education. That Minerva is the height of my ambition. And certainly you can't think that far out of the way can you. I think that more than is going to sea for the Glory & Honour of the thing, if so be he must like it better than I do. Someone will enjoy his money. When she dies more than she does now. While living, what think you but harken that is none of my business. Carton you say take the guilts & something else, to bad, but then we all have our failings. Some one way, some another, I am happy to say that your husband has been a very good boy this voyage. So that when you been with him you would not have complained. Tell David he must be careful how he raises up seed into Abraham for I think they are getting to murmures and he must remember the responsibility that rests on his shoulders. And on his wife's lap too, but I believe she is about as well able to bear it as any other one you can think up. Give her my compliments and tell her she had better buy David another pair of overpants. Enough of that.

All I have left of my old crew is Mr. Scott. Cook & Deane. I think Mr. Vandemur Miss'd it very much leaving the Ship. She was just getting broke in another voyage. He would have been a good 2nd Mate as it was he was as good as any that I have had. Since I have been in this ship. I suppose she will say his reasons were that he did not like Mr. Scott. Which is no reason at all. I want I guess under Joseph Crocker a man that I never liked.
but my aim was higher and it was only by perseverance that I have reached the top round of the ladder in my profession and that is the only way he has got to do it. Not when he gets past of the way up him any time down as he has done just because he does not like the Man that is one round ahead of him. Mr. Scott is just as good officer as ever he will get both of the he goes to sea all his lifetime, but I suppose he is rather to smart for him. I think she and all the Boys are at home by this time, and then you will hear all the News About the Wild Hunter, and her Captain.

Sunday, Aug. 8th 1847 5 days out from Plymouth and right off Solmouth. If the Wind holds fair we shall be in Cardiff tomorrow Eve.

This is a big fine day here. The Wind about 8 or 8.4. Water smooth and the good ship Wild Hunter running along, 11 Knots with all 3 Squads set. If you and Lou does here to day some shabby I should be. But I hope you are happy as circumstances will allow. What you are, and certainly there is nothing but the absence of your Husband to prevent you from takingConvict just think of the Contrast between now and the time when I was Mate of Ship I never expected to be Master, but supposed that I should have to go Mate as long as I was able to go to Sea and then drag out the rest of my days on the land jar as Joe's Turkey. But stop I am talking to fast because that may be the case yet as it often is. Now we have a good House and everything sufficient for enjoyment for the present time, and I hope that you will enjoy it to its fullest extent. And I am in hopes soon to be with you to share it one year you know is not long to look back at and it is really no longer to look ahead too. I blame myself very much for not writing for you to meet me in Solmouth to spend the time with me in Europe and then gone home. When I was ready for sea I know you would have been glad to come only think we should had nearly 5 months together. I think I had better stop for it will only make you feel bad to read much stuff more when I can't write.
The good ship Wild Winter running along 14 Knots with all 3 Tripods set.

If you and Lulu does come to day, how sloppy I should be, but I hope
you are happy as circumstances will allow. Where you are, and certainly
there is nothing, but the absence of your Husband to prevent you from taking
Comfort; just think of the contrast between Snow and the time when I
was Mate of Ship! I never expected to be Master, but supposed that I
should have to go Mate as long as I was able to go to Sea, and then
drag out the rest of my days on the land poor as Job's Turkey. But
Stop, I am nothing to jest because that may be the case yet as it often is.

Now we have a good house and every thing sufficient for enjoyment
for the present time, and I hope that you will enjoy it to its fullest
extent. And I am in hopes soon to be with you to share it one
year you know is not long to look back at and it is really no longer to look
Ahead, too, I blame myself very much for not writing for you to meet me
in Falmouth to Spend the time with me in Europe and then gone home
when I was ready for Sea. I know you would have been glad to come only
think how you should have nearly 18 months together. I think I had better
stop for it will only make you feel bad to read such stuff now when
it is too late, but as I have said before when up you have got Lulu &
your Mother for company, and little Fly Fly Fly. Oh Mary! how get to be a famous
one she weighs 245 lbs. And I have got a Newfoundland Dog 8 weeks old that I
am going to have for a home dog when I come home if she lives so long,
and have the other one with the Ship to give him to some friend for 4
people will be afraid of him at home. I have got the little German Dog
that I spoke of. But the Car fellow is homesick and wishes himself back
again, I expect you will have a letter soon from his cousin Henrietta she
that she should write you. If she does you must answer it fast
so & she is a very fine girl 17 years old well educated but by poor
no disgrace but very inconvenient. More on my arrival effectively yours.
Aug 5th 1858

According to promis I Commence you my Sea letter. In the first place I am not homesick a bit. I believe it is the first time that Ever I left a port in my life without having some homesick feelings, therefore I do not feel in much humour for writing, as it is only when I have those feelings that I feel much like putting my thoughts on paper, however I will do all I can. We left Bremerhaven Monday Morning Aug 2nd after laying there 42 days. I should have Enjoyed myself very well there if I could have got into the Dock with the Ship but as it was I had to lay in the river which was neither at sea or ashore. I lived on Shore at one of the first Class Hotels and such living. Now let me give you a description of a German Hotel at Bremerhaven And I believe they are about the same all over Germany. When you first Enter the door you go into a large tap room about 40 ft square at one End is the Bar, and the rest of the room is filled with small Tables & Chairs. At the Tables sit the Comers & Goers and loafers drinking Larger Beer from Morning till night, for the Germans are a very Temperate people, and drink but very little Strong liquor, not like the Americans & English that cannot be Satisfied with any thing short of Brandy, and a large quantity of that. The living at the Hotels is Miserable they only have one meal a day, and that is a very poor dinner consisting of an Enormous quantity of Potatoes, some raw ham, a piece of roast beef, Cut out of the hind quarter of a Bullock, hard & dry & Cook’d to death. for a Change they have Veal Cutlets & salt beef. When you want Breakfast or Supper, you must Call for it, and have it Served up on one of the little Tables before Mentioned. Ask what they have got for Supper, the answer is, Beefsteak & Eggs, or ham & Eggs, and Coffee. Their Coffee is Exelent, and that is the only thing that I can speak in favour of. but for all that they are a happy & nice people and People that Enjoy themselves more than any other nation that Ever I fell in with. Their Sundays commence about 4 oclock Sat afternoon and End about 12 next day the remainder of the day is spent in dancing, and all other kinds of amusements the[y] have a ball Every Sunday evening the Women Knit all day Sundays no matter what their occupation is. Most Every House has a settee in front there they sit & Knit with their Children playing around them happy & innocent. They had their Annal Shooting feast, while I was there it is something like our Camp Meetings, only singing, dancing, frolicking, & Shooting at Targets instead of Preaching & praying. they Keep it up 2 Sundays & Mondays. I wish that you & Lulu could have been there with me, you would have Enjoyed it very much I think. Lulu would have remembered it as long as she live’d. If I should Come back to any part of England from this Voyage I shall write for you to Come & see the Country with me if it should be Summer time. then if the Ship does not Come home we can go home in the Steamer, and then we will...
forget the long months & years that we have been seperated. Should I live so long and not have any pull pack untill I complete this Voyage, it is my determination to sop at home altogether, or at least untill I get tired of Staying, or you get tired of me, which I hope will not take place the first 10 years. It seems to me now as if I should Enjoy home now to its full Extent if I was there. We would have a good Horse and we would live some of the days over again that we did when we had old Jenny. I look back & think of that Summer with a great deal of pleasure, & then to have you to Sea with me a whole year after it. So that we were together 23 months. Now I suppose we shall be seperated nearly 3 years. but I am in hopes there will be a Change in India when I get there, So that I Can get a good freight for home. At any rate I shall not remain out in India long. I am sorry that I had not written to Mr. Bush on my arrival at Falmouth that I actually wanted to come home and not go another Voyage in the Ship, perhaps then they might have sent David to take the Ship. but I should not like to give her up to any one Else at present. After I had fixed my Charter I then wrote them that I wish’d very much t come home, and that I wish’d very much that they would send David to take the Ship and that I consider’d him as able and Competent Shipmaster as Myself. but by what I have heard and what I can make out by their writing they dont want [next page] any body in the ship but your own Dear Husband and humble servant they put the whole Ship on my shoulders at Singapore and they have not taken it off yet. And they have not Said one Single Word but what was all right, and that I appreciate very much. and furthermore I think it is as well for me to go another Voyage now While I am a young man, and have a good Ship, & good Wages. (but still I would gladly give her up to David) Which is something to be thought of in these hard times. just think one year will soon pass of and my life is just as Certain on the Ocean, and in India, as it is at home. And I dont want you to think that I am going to Sea to horde up money for other People to quarrel about when I die, for the sake of having People to say that I died a Rich Man. No My Dear Wife I have no such foolish ambition as that. but, I do want Enough to Carry us both Comfortable through life. And pay our Funeral Expenses when we die, and give Lulu a good Education. That Minerva is the hight of my ambition. And certainly you Can’t think that far out of the Way can you. I think that Moses Howes is going to Sea for the Glory & Honour of the thing, if so he must like it better than I do. Somebody will Enjoy his money when he dies more than he does now while living, what think you but however that is none of my business. Carlton you say take the quills & something else, to bad, but then we all have our failings, some one way, some another. I am happy to say your husband has been a good boy this Voyage so that had you been with him you would not have Complain’d. Tell David he must be careful how he raises up seed unto Abraham for I think they are getting to numerous and he must remember the responsibility that rest on his shoulders, and on his Wife’s Lap too. but I
believe she is about as well able to bear it as any other one you can scare up
give her my Compliments and tell her she had better buy David another pair
of Overhauls. Enough of that

All I have left of my Old Crew is Mr Scott, Cook & Doane I think Mr Handren miss’d it very much leaving the Ship. he was just getting broke in
Another Voyage he would have been a good 2nd Mate. As it was he was as
good as any that I have had since I have been in the ship I suppose he will
say his reasons were that he did not like Mr Scott which is no reason at all.
I went 3 years under Joseph Crocker a man that I never liked [next page] but
my aim was higher and it was only by perseverance that I have reach’d the
top round of the ladder in my profession and that is the only way he has got
to do it. Not when he gets part of the way up turn an come down as he has
done just because he does not like the man that is one round ahead of him
Mr Scott is just as good Officer as ever he will get with if he goes to Sea all
his life time. but I suppose he is rather to smart for him I think that he
and all the Boys are at home by this time, and then you will hear all the
news about the Wild Hunter, and her Captain

Sunday Aug. 8th 6 days out from Bremerhaven and right off Falmouth
if the wind holds fair we shall be in Cardiff tomorrow Eve this is a very fine
day here the Wind about E S E Water smooth and the good ship Wild
Hunter running along 11 Knots with all 3 Skysails set If you and Lulu was
here to day how happy I should be but I hope you are happy as
circumstances will allow where you are, and certainly there is nothing but
the absence of your Husband to prevent you from taking Comfort just
think of the Contrast between now and the time when I was Mate of Ship &
ever Expected to be Master, but Supposed that I should have to go Mate as
long as I was able to go to Sea, and then drag out the rem of my days on the
land poor a[s] Job’s Turkey. But Stop I am talking to fast because that
may be the Case yet as it often is

Now we have a good house and Every thing sufficient for Enjoyment for
the present time, And I hope you will Enjoy it to its fullest Extent And I am
in hopes soon to be with you share [to] it one year you Know is not long to
look back at and it is really no longer to look ahead too. I blame myself
very much for not writing for you to meet me in Falmouth to spend the time
With me in Europe, and then gone home when I was ready for sea I Know
you would been glad to Come only think we should had nearly 3 months
together I think I had better Stop for it will only Make you feel bad to read
Such Stuff now when it is to late but as I have said before Cheer up you
have got Lulu & your Mother for Company and little Fly Fly too My Dog
has got to be a famous one he weighs 45 lbs. And I have got a
Newfoundland Pup 6 weeks old that I am going to have for a home dog when
I come home if he lives so long and leave the other one with the Ship or give
him to Some Friend for People will be afraid of him at home. I have got the
little German Boy[46] that I Spoke off. But the Poor fellow is homesick and

[46] This is Fred Bergmann of Bremen, who will reappear numerous times in later letters.
wishes himself back again I Expect you will have a letter soon from his Sister Henrietta She [said] that she should write you If she does you must answer it She is a very fine Girl 17 years old Well Educated but very Poor No disgrace but very inconvenient More on my arrival

Affectionately yours

Joshua