

China Sea May 20, 1858.

Dear Sister Lydia.

As we have now got a nice fair wind and am within a day or two of sail of Hongkong I think there is a prospect of our being there some time this year and I feel somewhat encouraged to commence a letter, but before it reaches you I presume you will think we have been quite long enough in performing the ~~Journey~~^{XXXXXX} voyage and indeed we have, but those who sit at home at their ease know little of the trials of sailor life, not that we have had had bad weather in the China Sea, altho we had one week of severe squalls. but calms light very light airs, and those almost continually a head with strong head current, such has been our fate since we first came in sight of the Island of ~~Java~~^{Java} on the 24 of March, but we ought not to murmur for a higher power than man controls the element, rather we should offer to the Giver of all good the tribute of thankful hearts that we have been permitted to proceed this far safely.

While at anchor in the Straits of Sunda near the little Village of Anjer I wrote a letter to Nathan and requested him to send it to you to read, I hope it was received, in it I gave a little history of the past, but fearing it was not received I will repeat that we have had a pleasant passage with the exception of the first ten days, during that time we had constant gales but on the third and fifth day out it was severe, on the third we lay too under close reefed Main Topsail, and on the fifth was proceeding on the voyage, but under close reefed Topsails, the ship was pitching heavily and her decks were completely filled with water even in a seven or eight not breeze her Decks are pretty well filled with water, for she is as deeply loaded as she can be and float. I some times wonder that we have got along as well as we have. Anthony says he never had a better opportunity for making a quick passage for we had almost constantly fair winds and strong untill we reached the Island of ~~Java~~^{JAVA} but still the old ship would

jog along at a moderate rate seldom exceed eight knots an hour .

I think we sailed but once 237 miles in a day, and very few times 200 miles a day, The only and true cause was she was deeply loaded.

We crossed the Equator in thirty days, passed the Cape of Good Hope in sixty and made the Island of ~~Java~~^{Java} in ninety seven days~~h~~ from the time the Pilot left us at Cape Henlopen, then commenced our troubles and which continued untill a day or two since, we were eleven days in the Straits off Sunda , during seven of them we lay at anchor near the little village of Anjer on Java~~x~~, there not being wind enough to stem the current which was running at the rate of four or five miles an hour. There were six vessels at anchor near us, Anthony has had many anxious days and sleepless nights, for there are many islands, rocks and shoals which it is not very pleasant to be near with an unfavorable wind and current, Indeed the whole China Sea is ditted with islands, rocks and shoals, and whenever it has been our fortune to see them it has also been our bad fortune to remain in sight of them three or four days, even after they have disappeared for a day or so we have been blessed with a calm and the current has set us back to behold again that lonely rock or island of forest trees. On the ~~12~~ 12 of April we crossed to the north of the Equator and on the 17 we found our selves 17 miles south of it, do you not think that five days work a wonderful work.

that is a fair sample of the way we have sailed since we first saw the Island of Java, Now are you surprised that we are having a long passage.

In the Straits we spoke an American Barque 90 days from New York , she had previous to our entrance been drifting about there for five days, on the third of May we saw her again, passed her and left her far away, Others~~h~~ as well as our selves have long passages.

As regards seasickness Evelyn and my self have had but a little, but still when ever the ship pitches or there is a confused sea I feel some what uncomfortable and dizzy but I have behaved much better than I did

last voyage altho then I thot I was quite a sailor, Evelyn is as strong and stout as possible and fleshy to, She has plenty of exorsise up on deck, which keeps her in good health and good color to, She recites her lessons sews some, and plays more, We have had some warm weather the Thermomiter ranging from 90 to 100 degrees in the shade, now it is from 88 to 96 degrees in the shade quite comfortable weather, but I suppose on the land it is ~~much~~ much warmer ,

Anthony's health is not very good altho for the last month he has been better for he has lived principlaly on boiled Rice he has had some very severe turnswith his back, could get no relief, but by applying flannels wrung in almost boiling water the pain was very severe but there has been no appearance of blood since he left Philadelphia, I think it is affected in a great measure by his food for every thing he eats sours on his stomach and at times causes distress, when that is relieved his back is better.

While we lay at Anjer we took in fresh water, lots of Fowl, vegetables &c but it is gone now, and we have got back to salt grub and preserved meats, The little village of Anjer is a source of God send place for such unfortunates as we, for we should I think pine for a change of living before we got to an end of our passage. While I am now writing a Chinese ~~J~~ Junk has come down to us and brot us a Pilot and I think if the breeze continues we may see land by sun set, I do long to get to Hong Kong and get some letters, I suppose there are lots wating for us , I only fear that you will all quit writing to soon George is well and has been with the exceptin of about a week~~s~~ since. he was some what feverish and sore throat, presume he took cold sleeping on deck or perhaps after getting wet in the abundant rain squalls we have had and not taken proper care of him self, we took him aft and packed him a few times and kept his throat continually wet, kept ~~hm~~ on gruel and light food for about a week and he was the same George as before, to day he is in the Mates rooms scrubing and cleaning to enter port.

For the last two or three days it has looked quite like house cleaning, altho instead of Bridget Page we have employed the boys, I suppose you are all thru with such work and can keep in good order this year now you have none but your family, I cannot think of more to say so I will leave this to be finished when we arrive.

Saturday P. M. 8.30 9clock.

Just arrived and the mail closes in a half hour so good by, all well, Give our love to all, Evelyn will write next Steamer.

From sister SallyL

Pierre So Dakota Nov 5* 1929.

Copy of a letter written in 1858 by Mrs, Sally Howes to her sister in law Lydia Howes who is sister to of Capt, Allison Howes found among his papers. the ink so badly faded was hard to make out in some places but think it is correct.

Allison Howes Jr]

[1858-05-20; typed copy of a letter from Sally L. Howes, wife of Anthony Howes, to "Sister Lydia," wife of Allison Howes; original letter not found in the collection:]

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¹⁰ The village is now called "Anyer Lor", about 60 miles to the west of Jakarta, Indonesia.

¹¹ On the Delaware side at the entrance to Delaware Bay, opposite Cape May, N.J.. The nearest town is Lewes, Delaware.

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