

Given to Carrie L. [Lavender] Sawtell
by her mother (who wrote the Journal)
in ~~1903~~ 1854

Mother was in her 27th year when she wrote this.

[Transcriber's Note: The 1903 date is crossed out and the 1854 date written in in another hand. The 1903 date probably refers to the date the Journal was given to Carrie L. Sawtell, not the date the Journal was written, so the correction may be in error. The Journal was kept by Sally Mayo Dyer Lavender while sailing on the brig Panama with her husband Captain John Richardson Lavender. Carrie Louise Lavender Sawtell was their youngest daughter.]

Given to Beatrice Lavender Faust
on March 28, 1965
by Katherine S. Waite

[Transcriber's Note: This inscription is in a different handwriting than the inscription above, and may have been written by Beatrice Lavender Faust or Katherine S. Waite.]

A Journal of a Voyage
From Boston to Marseilles
Kept By
Mrs. S M. Lavender
AD 1854

[Transcriber's Note: Below this inscription is a drawing of a plant in a bowl, which may have been done by the Journalist.]

Journal of a voyage from Boston to Marseilles

March 12 Sunday morning Opened my eyes upon a fine Spring morning with a gentle breeze from the south west, and after partaking of a nice warm breakfast at our "brothers" prepared ourselves to come on board the vessel to sail for Marseilles France. The bells were just sending forth their pleasant notes inviting all to repair to the house of worship as I stepped on the deck of our vessel which was to be our home for the next four months or more. We were soon under weigh and leaving our native town far behind, for the vessel seemed to think by her going that it was not worth while to be long in leaving Provincetown and as if there were more pleasing scenes ahead. By three o'clock PM we had lost sight of land and was surrounded by a broad field of waters beneath and the blue sky above us for the wind had freshened and we were hurried on our passage which made me a little sea sick. And in this way ended our first day out.

Monday 13 This day finds us still hurr[y]ing on with a westerly wind which makes it very pleasant - if my stomach does rise up against it and make me throw up all the good things I eat but never mind it wont be long that I shall mind her rolling My head begins to get a little steady already and after we get into warmer weather

I can enjoy being on deck and watching the mery antics of our noble vessel as she plies her way through the waters of the broad Atlantic as if she were a thing of life, and alone was concerned in transacting business between the two mighty Continents. Not feeling inclined to work I close this day with reading until I throw myself into the arms of Morphus.

Mar 14 This day dawns not so pleasantly as the previous ones Though our vessel seems inclined to make the most from a head wind. The sky is overcast and we only now and then get a glimpse of the Dispenser of Light and heat which makes it seem rather dull and cheerless and we being still in a cold latitude I was pleased in watching our steward when he came below to clear away the breakfast table which by the way needed him sadly for the dishes did not possess attraction of gravitation sufficient to adhere to the places inclined for them; but would come clashing against each other threading destruction at each collision; he poor creature was shivering and shaking as if under the affects of fever and ague and with teeth chattering tried to make me understand he had no flannels to wear. But he being a Sicilian I of course could not understand, but to my husband it was more intelligible and gave him a jacket with which he was highly pleased and in return gave us some cakes made after the manner of "Virgin Mary" cakes the inside

filled with raisins which tasted nice being the first cakes we have had since leaving Port.

Mar 15 Another day has rolled away and night has thrown around us her sable curtains inviting us to repose if that can be found with our vessel rolling and pitching as if in mockery of our unsteady heads which is every now and then making us lose our balance and we are carried from one side of the cabin to the other regardless of the unpleasant sensation it occasions us This afternoon I have been entirely free from seasickness being the first time since I left home and enjoyed a hearty meal although it was eaten on the floor it being so rough that the dishes would not stay put. After sea went up in the gangway for the first time for two days A ship was seen going to the westward good luck to her if she can have it with a head wind or at least until we get to far from her to feel the affects for we are progressing finely with a westerly wind.

Mar 16 There has nothing of much note transpired during the day I have employed myself with working a little & reading considerable We are now in the Lats 42-59 N Lon 57-01 W and still find it very cold and have had quite a variety of weather some rain a little snow and a great deal of fog with now and then a ray of sunshine Saw a Bark going to the westward I am glad we are not bound in that direction now

for the wind would be against us but now we are having a fair one Since noon the Barometer has been falling; and since six the wind has increased with slight squalls of rain and it now has the appearance of a storm if not a gale, I have not as yet heard the orders for sail to be shortened although I have been expecting it this some time for it blows hard and we are going at a rapid rate and she heels not a little. There! all light sail has been taken in, topsail and mainsail reefed. It is now half past nine and I will retire though not to sleep much if the wind increases.

Mar 17 The storm did not increase much so my fears were all cast aside although it was a stormy night to those on deck for it rained heavy accompanied with sharp lightening During the first and middle part of the day continued the same and very rough. Felt as if I had taken a severe cold my throat sore and stiff, and a soreness all over me; felt a slight return of seasickness. Commenced to read the Lamplighter was very much interested in following "Gerty" though her early life About five PM the fog broke away, the wind went down and we could once more see the sun, and clear sky which we enjoy famously.

Mar 18 We are this morning blessed with fine weather on the Southwestern part of the Grand Banks that noted place for Codfish where so many of our friends

and acquaintances spend three and four months out of the year in the fog and cold in order to obtain what they term "a fare" of those finny inhabitants of the deep that they may provide for

the comfort of themselves and families. What a fit representation of human life has this day been for that which commenced so pleasantly has closed in clouds and storm. So it is with most of us in life our youthful days are bright with sunshine and joyous expectation and surrounded with all the comforts that wealth, health, and friends can pour upon us, and hopes bright and buoyant promise much happiness in future. But they are even as this day doomed to have their brightest hopes blasted their most sanguine expectations cut off and that to before the sun has past the meridian of their lives and they close their last hour amid the storms and howling winds of adversity. About ten AM the wind freshened and continued to increase untill we have been obliged to shorten our sail untill we are now under close reef topsail storm drysail and bonnet out of main Isbar [?] sail And the wind is now howling fiercely through our riggi[n]g and the angry waves are dashing against her sides as if they were punishing her for some misconduct Thus closes our first week out and I will put thee by hoping next week something more pleasant will transpire with which to fill the pages.

6

Mar 19 Sunday eve Time has in it rapid flight passed and borne with it into oblivion another Sabbath and we are brought at the close to take a retrospective view of this day and of the past week Have we past [sic] it as we should! Perhaps we might offer for an excuse if we have indulged in idle and unprofitable conversation, that we are not at home, and have not the privilege of attending worship, and therefore could not be serious and were obliged to let our thoughts rove unrestrained over the Earth. But will this excuse be one we would wish to offer, if we knew that before another Sabbath we should be sleeping beneath the waves upon which we now ride so easily. Alas I fear not and if to day I have trod for bidden paths it is the sincere wish of my heart that it may be my last unprofitable Sabbath. Every thing seems to be going on prosperously and pleasantly and we are to day enjoying good weather and fair wind only not quite enough of it for a speedy passage if it should continue. I have finished the Lamplighter found it very entertaining and have commenced the Camp Fires of the Revolution. Last Sunday we left Cape Cod; to day we are on the Grand Banks. Where shall we be next Sunday is a question that has often arisen in my mind to day But now for a good nights rest with pleasant dreams leaving this week to unfold its own events.

7

Mar 20th I retired last night with the pleasing prospect that we should have good weather for at least to day. I awoke once during the night and I heard the vessel slatting [?] herself like an angry child, while letting loose to those pent up passion that manifest themselves in kicking and striking at every body and thing it comes in contact. I drew a sigh as I turned myself in bed to ease the side upon which I had been lying (for it is no easy matter to lie in a berth and the vessel rolling and jerking as if it would tear our lives from us) and heard the noise and clatter she made as she rose and fell upon the sea for there was not wind enough to fill her sails, and keep her steady and wished there was more wind to carry us along more swiftly The next thing I knew or heard was Mr Hardy the mate speaking to my husband telling him that we were among floating ice and that we were then not far from an iceberg Not many moments elapsed before I was

dressed and started for the deck. But what was my surprise at to find the atmosphere filled with snow and that several inches had already fallen. But the iceberg! the iceberg! they were uppermost in my mind, and I stopped not to think of my expectations last night. I looked and upon our starboard quarter rising 25 or 30 feet from, and projecting under water, at the distance of 40 feet lay borne

8

upon the sea this visitant from the frigid zone in awful grandeur as if defying all else to pass this way. One passed before but owing to the thickness of the weather could only be heard like the roaring and dashing of the surf on shore. I have often heard of them, and of the dangers to which those are exposed that cross their track, and have pictured to myself the view, and never have I formed an idea of which I know not only as I have heard or read that was so near the reality. The surrounding atmosphere was thick with falling snow which a short distance gave a dark and gloomy appearance; the air was of an icy chillness and to my excited mind look fearful. It was with silent awe and admiration that I gazed upon it and thought of the distance it must have traversed and of the cold and sterile region that first saw it congeal. I came below without speaking and thought was the fire was not kindled and it being early I would repair to my berth. I did but not to stay, for my ears were then open to every sound. We were then on a wind, and I soon heard orders for the yards to be squared which would alter our course that we might avoid the floating ice, which grew thicker as we advanced, and I could hear it rub against her sides while now and then larger pieces would come

9

tumbling against us as if to try our strength. But we are not long in taking leave of our rough friend. During the day passed several large Islands. About 10 it broke away and stopped snowing. My husband called me to come on deck. I went and not more than a quarter of a mile from us lay a large Island and I could not but look on and admire for it was truly a grand and sublime. There it lay lifting its craggy head nearly 50 feet in the air the sea breaking nearly to its top as it washed against its rough and unshapely sides. The sun now had emerged from among the clouds which made the scene still more beautiful. About 12 AM passed between two, and since then, there has none been seen. This being in 43-34 North 48-32 West.

Mar 21 This day commenced with a gale from Southeast which commenced about 12, and by four this morning it blew so strong that they were obliged to heave our vessel too. At ten it moderated some; more sail was put upon our vessel, and we again proceeded on our way though but slowly. By four PM it was nearly calm, leaving us to be tossed upon the rough seas that could not, not be easily calmed down, And as the darkness of the night gathered around us we could look upon an unclouded sky, lit up with its

10

myriads of stars shedding their soft and mellow light upon us and all looks quiet and lovely. We are now in the northern edge of the Gulf Stream with a fair wind.

Wens 22 Though at dark or even at twelve last night our prospects were so flattering; yet at four this morning preparations were being made for an approaching storm. Already the clouds look threatening and warning us to prepare for their approach. While some more rapid than their companions were then pouring their contents upon us in showers of rain and hail accompanied with strong wind which kept increasing to a gale, and at ten we were again have too At eleven a heavy squall coming from the westward and going all around the Compass making a bad sea accompanied with vivid lightening and heavy thunder while the clouds pouring their contents of rain and hail upon us making it seem as if the whole artillery of Heaven were in force upon us. It being impossible to sit up I sought my berth, and having nothing to do but listen to all that was going on above me, the noise and confusion was really startling I began to fear the electric fluid might strike our vessel leaving us but a wreck of which we were then But such thoughts were not permitted to occupy

11

my mind long. For lo the vessel makes a spring I cling to the sides to prevent being thrown out and for a moment I am lost. I hardly know wheather I am in the berth or on the floor. When I collect my scattered senses I look out about the Cabin, and O sad work! every thing that was not grown to the planks of the vessel has started and lay scattered in strange confusion over the floor. Even the Stove lashed as secure as it could be has started from its foundation, and lay at the opposite side of the Cabin. I soon had some of things put in their proper places, but the stove I let remain untill abler hands than mine should come below and as there was no fire, it did no damage. At half past twelve the sun came out and look a little more pleasant but as the Barometer was very low and still continued to fall we had good reason to expect we was to see something worse At five a squall was seen approaching all hands were called, and prepared for action Every stitch of canvas was taken in, and we were none to soon, for a perfect tornado burst upon us, and for one hour and a half it blew a perfect hurricane from the northwest; and though we had no sail on yet we fairly flew over the water. It is what they call scudding under bare poles and truly we did scud. It continued to blow with unabating fury untill dark when it termanated in a common gale which lasted untill after twelve at night

12

Mar 23rd It has been quite pleasant to day with a strong breeze but as it is fair we were glad to avail ourselves of it and travel on as fast as possible. We are yet in the Gulf Stream there is no dependence to be placed upon it for before one hour has passed away the wind may be sweeping over us in all its fury Nothing has occurred to day to break the dull monotony of the scene.

Mar 24 During the first part of the day it was quite pleasant with now and then a passing squall I have employed myself in sewing most of the day and have resolved to be more industri[o]us for the future for I have now spent some weeks in idleness It is evening now and the weather strongly indicates a storm Nothing very uncommon I'll admit for it has been an every day

occurrence with us I might say But I should really enjoy two or three days of pleasant sunny weather I grow sick of hearing the wind roaring like distant thunder as it sweeps over us and of feeling that we were in danger of being engulfed by the piteless [pityless] waves as our vessel lashes her way onward and the seas as they dash against us in their maddening fury and grow rushing and hissing past us. But I live with the hope that we are soon to escape this bad weather and that in the future there is much that is pleasant for us For it is really pleasant to be sailing no [on] the water with good weather and I for one enjoy it.

13

Mar 25 The day has passed about the same as the previous ones of the week Strong winds and very unpleasant weather Every thing seems wet and dirty Such day days [sic] are disagreeable at home, but at sea they are much worse. At sea last night I indulged in eating rather freely and during the night I suffered the consequence Past an uncomfortable night Took some medicine that made me throw every freely that which I had eaten from my stomach and gave me much relief. O how I longed for a few moments rest from the motion of the vessel; but that I could not have. This morning I felt sick and unrefreshed, did not leave my berth until nearly noon This afternoon having a severe headache do not feel much like journalizing [sic].

Sun Mar 26 To day finds us farther from home and nearer the port of destination than we were last Sunday I was in hopes then to have something more pleasant to relate; something to make this more interesting But I find I have been disappointed. We have past through a variety of changes the past week and I find on looking back that while we have unpleasant weather and adverse wind part of the time we have much to be thankful for; for our lives have been spared and that we have enjoyed some pleasant hours when the sun would burst from among the threatening clouds, smiling

14

upon us and sending a warmth and sunshine into our very hearts encouraging us to endure on with patience and seeming to say I am not gone forever but am only hid and will shortly be enabled to shine upon you in an unclouded sky when all the dark clouds will be banished in oblivion. This forenoon was wet and lowing but not much wind. Spent my time very profitable [sic] in reading Light on the dark river or memorials of Mrs H Hamblin. Find that by a careful perusal of such works we are interested and instructed And that they ought to inspire us to a greater usefulness here and lead us to exert benign influence over those we associate. Though we are not all called to tread the same paths of self denial as she yet we all have our proper sphere allotted us among our fellow beings and shall leave an influence whether it be good or evil With what a watchful eye then should we walk through life avoiding the evil while we embrace the good It is rather more pleasant now than it has been since last Sunday I hope it will last. At least I don't think tomorrow will find us among Iceberg as last Sunday did We are now in Lat 40-98 North Long 33-47 West Thus ends another week.

Mar 28 We are now enjoying a quiet from rough tempestuous weather. Though the sky has been overcast and some of the time it is foggy. But of this I ought not to complain for we have been tempest-tossed upon the rough and boisterous waters so long that it is very congenial with my feeling to be gliding along swift and steadily Yesterday morning a vessel was descried in the distance As the day sped on, we gained rapidly upon her I was very anxious to get up with her before dark so that we could distinguish her name as she was an "American Bark" But did not. It was about eight in the evening when we past her and soon left her far behind to get up with us again if she could But think there is but little chance of it as this morning she is no where to be seen. How gratifying to the natural feelings when we see those that are in advance of us losing ground or rather that we are overtaking them and shall soon pass them. We seldom stop to think that their feelings are not in accordance with our own Though such feelings are wrong we are often found in indulging them. We are now up with the Western Island. Past Flores to day, but was to far North to discern the land Our passage thus far has been rough and unpleasant But there is now a prospect of better weather and if the wind continues fair shall soon have the pleasure of again beholding the habitation of man Have something upon which the eye can rest and drink in new pleasures.

Though we see much of the greatness and power of an Almighty God as he displays himself upon the deep and are often led to exclaim with the Poet

"God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform
He plants his footstep on the sea
And rides upon the storm."

Yet our eyes grow weary as they rest day after day upon the same outstretched sea and sky and we pine for something new. As I pass day after day with but very little to change the scene I find that to have a good supply of books is an inexhaustable [sic] source of enjoyment A source which if rightly chosen we drink and drink and yet thirst for more And if our minds are richly stored with useful information it will furnish us with food for years to come and we shall then have something upon which our thirsty spirits may fall back upon if desprived of all other sources of enjoyment.

Mar 29th It has been warm and pleasant to day. Weather that ome might well enjoy. The thermometer standing on 63° during the day. I can imagine those that are at home to day not feeling quite so comfortable as we They may be enjoying all the lux[u]ries of a snow storm I worked quite industriously this afternoon repairing the "Flag of the Union" Stars and Stripes though I worked principally on "Stripes" casting my eyes occasionally at the Stars. I felt rather

a tinge of homesickness to night or homesickness I could not call it for this is all the home I know at present; for here are my all; Husband and child; But felt isolated. Heard the sound of "sail ho" at mast head to day, and it sounded pleasant to think that human beings were in sight (or that which contained them) if not within verbal distance. But those those [sic] feelings have past away, though I would like to hear from my friends at home.

Fri 31st The day has passed and with it its cares its joys and sorrows. Evening has dropped its mantle of darkness over us. And we are, as it were alone upon the wide and trackless Ocean Not a human being save those on the deck of our own vessel, are within hundreds of miles of us; nor do they even know where we are; nor can we hear a sound, or see the least indication, that would proclaim to us, there are others, that live upon the face of our Earth. We are excluded from society But we form a society among ourselves. We are a little world of our own; have our own government; enact our own laws, and see that they are obeyed And we make quite a pleasant community. The day has been very pleasant, more so then any one since the first day out. We have scarcely noticed the least motion to our vessel for the last two days The sea has been calm and placid. It looks now as if it could never again be thrown into such mountains of

18

piling one upon another striving it seems to see which would gain the ascendancy and lashing against each other in the fury of their wrath as it has been even since we have been upon it now.

I am almost tired of being confined within such narrow limits as I was not destined for by Nature for a sedentary life. But I ought not to feel impatient for I would be no where else if I could. The most of my travels do not exceed a dozen or fifteen yard a day. This morning when I arose I opened my cabin window, and looked out into the depths below. The water was very clear so that I could see below the keel of the vessel I could discern small fish as they followed in our wake, or kept close to the side of the vessel. I watched their sprightly motion with much interest as they would seem to stop and then renew their speed to gain up with us. They at last disappeared under the sides of the vessel and were lost to my sight. It would be very pleasant if the wind would breeze and we could hurry on For we have now only a gentle breeze that only fans us along not mor [more] then one or tow mile an hour And we have many hundreds of miles yet to go.

19

Sunday April 2nd The Earth as it performs its annually revolution round the Sun, bring with it its changes of Seasons, and we are to day enjoying the love[li]ness of Spring in a fine April day. Not on land for we are hundred of miles from terra-firma But the rolling sea has been hushed and has yielded to the loveliness of the day; for this is a [sic] lovely day and would be termed not only by those that live on land but by all the "sons of Neptune" As I cast my eye around the horizon I beheld in the distance several sail on the way to their destined Ports or perhaps to the place that are to become their wattery [sic] graves; for while we are in life we are in death And

as we hasten on to various parts know not how fast we are approaching our final end As I cast my mind back on the mariners life I start back when I see how fraught with peril and danger on every side is the life they lead. But when such a day as this greets their eyes they forget all danger; forget that storms ever howl around them; that the waves rise mountains high, and that they are tossed too and fro at the mercy of them. But they derive every advantage that be derived from it Their chest[s] are ove[r]hauled every article is taken out and replaced anew (a sailors Sunday comfort) Their wet and damp clothes are brought up and exposed to the warm and drying influence of the Sun You can then see them grouping together on deck spinning

20

yarns as the sailor calls it refreshing themselves in the warm sun. And I can say with the rest I enjoy such days on deck they are reviving The last few days the wind has been light and baffeling [?] and our progress has been slow which is apt to call up unpleasant sensations But why should we complain when we are progressing as fast and faster then many we have left far behind But how many of those who cross the trackless Ocean that have opened their eyes upon as fine a day as this and before night are casting anxious eyes at distant heavy clouds as they rise and pile themselves in the sky. Soon the distant thunder rumbles along the sky accompanied with forked lightnings, the winds rise; the seas roar, and their little bark is tossed on mountain billows. She can stand it no longer, her sails are torn into shreds, her mast are shivered and that noble vessel which but a few hours before floated upon the bosom of the Ocean so majestically is now a wreck and the disconsolate crew know that there they must remain unless a kind Providence sends relief and that soon or they are lost forever But her doom is sealed with that her dauntless crew have found a watery grave with no eye to pity no hand of affection to smooth the pathway of death No one is near to carry to an anxious Wife Parents Brothers & Sisters the last farewell No marble tombstone

21

is erected to tell the passer by where he lies It was once my lot to be on board of a vessel when we fell in with a wreck She had been nearly a week then floating about whichever way wind and sea might carry. O how gloomy the sight how lonely the feelings it carried to my heart feelings I could not shake off for many days. Though they were in hopes with what assistance we rendered to rig a jury mast and reach some place of safety But a storm came on the night we left them and as nothing was ever heard from them afterward they no doubt sunk beneath the blue waters. And O how many meet the same fate. May we be spared to lay our remains on land. We are now in Lat 39-50 N Long 18-44 W.

Apr 7 Winds, O winds! why are ye so perverse; why not smile propitiously on us for we have now been struggling with contrary winds nearly ten days, and I feel as if my patience was "most ckear gone" I certainly know of nothing more discouraging in the mariners life then to have the wind dome from the very point their course lies and there hold as if it could never change. It may sometimes vary a little just so as to get expectation on the tiptoe and we feel as if we had almost our desire granted when lo! the cup that we held almost to our lips, is dashed from our

hands, and we are compelled to see the wind go back to its old point, and whistle and howl as if it took

21

comfort in our disappointment Even we are mocked in our dreams. Last night I dreamed (why not tell a dream to change the music of my story) that the wind went down and the sea was lulled to rest, and thus we lay still and quietly for a short time Soon clouds presented themselves from a favorable quarter, and hope with expectation were on the alert watching every indication of a change in wind Shortly we saw a slight ruffle on the water at a distance On, on, it comes! it reaches us, and now is heard the sound of "slacken your lee braces and haul in on yon weather ones" By the time this is done the gentle zephyrs that first floated past has now become a fine breeze our sails are now well filled and we are borne on rapidly This thought I was good enough and I almost fancied I could discern the land as it appears in the distance And so vividly was it impressed upon my mind that as soon as I awoke I sprung my berth to enjoy the sight of our vessel going before the wind with skudding sails on. When O dear; as I looked out of the window rubbing my eyes the while, there we were under reefed topsails "furl and by" It was then I begun to realize I had been dreaming Feeling disappointed I went back to my berth, and not one inch did I start untill I heard the sound of "seven bells" signall [sic]

22

that it was breakfast time, then I was obliged to arise. It has been a rough unpleasant day and she has nearly jumped my head of[f] my shoulders. But after all time goes of very swiftly and pleasantly and I cannot but enjoy myself even though the wind may blow fiercely about our defenseless heads; for if it were not for a fear of something worse, I could say I love to hear the wind blow I love to see the white crested seas as they rise in quick succession to almost mountains height. I love to see the gallant vessel, as she rears her head above them, as if shaking herself and th[r]owing the water over her body, now sinking as she slides from off a sea, now layering her sides nearly level with the water, as on she plunges O there is something grand something aspiring to our feelings as you gaze upon the broad expanse of waters in such wild accommodation There is some in this in this [sic] that send a thrill of pleasurable emotion through my heart and I love to gaze at such a scene though it is often with a trembling heart for it awakens fear I have felt for a day or two like complaining on account of head winds and that we were progressing so slowly but I know this wrong for if we are doing badly others are doing worse for we have passed every vessel we have seen yet To day we have passed two and they are out of sight astern, that this morning were ahead of us.

24

A day or two ago we passed two or three and they were soon with us among the things that were We have had some indication during the few days past that we were drawing towards the land Having been visited by numerous shore birds such as swallows, robins, yellow birds, Owls,

hawks, etc. The Owl was shot at while flying over the vessel and dropped upon deck so that we or at least I had a good opportunity of knowing by sight how an Owl looks.

Apr 8th Today has been very fair and pleasant but head winds O when will they change It has moderated down now nearly calm and I hope when it breezes again it will be from another quarter. A slight squall of rain passed over about dark in which I got quite damp for I was foolish enough to stop on deck and take the whole I had not been on deck to stop any for nearly a week and I had just got there I was not going to be drove down by a little rain We are now nearly three degrees to the westward of Cape St Vincent, Portugal.

Sun 9th During the day remained moderate so that we advanced but little. This morning we had a fair wind and have enjoyed a day of beauty and loveliness. This sun has poured his warm and cheering rays upon us, and though debared the pleasure of mingling with our friends, and acquaintances as they worship

25

together in the house of God, yet there are other sources from which we derive instruction and are thereby profited and the mind ever busy is constant by devising new means for enjoyment and pleasure while some sources are hedged up, other flow more freely It has been rather moderate during the day: wind enough to make it pleasant but not enough to shorten our distance much and make our passage a speedy one. With us now this is the most desirable for we have been out four weeks already and I see my husband countenance wears an anxious expression, and with him I cannot but sympathize and think I had rather have a little more jumping and pitching if we could get along more rapidly. How pleasantly the sun is pouring his rays in upon me as I write as if to invite me to look out upon him once more for it is about to sink in a heavy bank that skirts the horizon I must leave and step out upon the deck and enjoy the delightful scenery I have been for the last hour on deck bidding adieu to the departing sun that looked upon my distant home long after I bid adieu to it Now as I came below I left the moon sailing in the sky shedding a soft and hallow light upon though now and then partly obscured by light floating clouds. It is now nearly calm I will put thee aside my pen ink and paper friends and listen a short time before retiring

26

to Dr Judson as he relates his first efforts among the Burmans. Tonight leaves us in Lat 37-45 N Long 11-22 W.

Apr 10th Another day has passed while we have pursued our several different employments and enjoyed peace and tranquility, enjoyed a day of pleasantness both as far as outward and inward circumstances are concerned for all things in our world have seem to slide on harmoniously. We have had a fair wind all day and the sea has been as smooth as any one could wish although we have been going at quite a rapid pace yet you would hardly know by the motion that we were moving This afternoon Porpoise were around us in large numbers. Some were going at a very rapid rate and would jump there whole body two or three feet out of water. Three of them were struck but the iron, not being good would not hold them. So they made good their escape

making the water all around us look red with blood They dropped astern a little way, where I could plainly see their death struggle One of them jumped some distance from the water several times. Several vessels we[re] in sight at dark, some bound for the Straits others bound in different directions. Being an uncommon pleasant evening I took quite a long walk backwards and forwards on the quarter and untill I felt quite tired Had quite a fine time with my

27

little boy [William Reed Lavender, born October 30, 1847] playing "hide and go seek" for he must have someone to play with once in a while I hope by tomorrow to see the land.

Apr 11th My expectations were in a mnnner realized, and still to day we have been surrounded by a broad field of water, shining and glittering as the bright rays of the sun fell upon it making it almost to dazzling to be looked upon with the naked eye. We approached the land during the night Saw the light situated on Cape St Vincent between eleven and three: as we stood to the south more by morning we lost sight of it. It has been moderate all day but as we have felt the force of the tide that is constantly setting in through the Straits we have made considerable progress We are enjoying pleasant days and lovely evenings for the bright sun shines with almost dazzling brightness during the day and the moon with soft but bright effulgence by night Passed very near a French man of war this morning, we have also passed several others but have distinguished no American. As we passed two English brigs they hoisted their flags: a silent way of saying who are you; or of what nation. If the wind favors us we shall probably enter the Straits tomorrow.

Apr 12th We are agin within sight of land but are not in the Straits as we expected to be This morning it was foggy, wind fair. About half past nine the wind commenced heading us off and at last it was right

28

against us Stood over on the African side and at five we were in so near we could see a town or the remains of one, Although it looks green and fertile yet I should not like to be any nearer or so near if it had the appearance of being calm for the inhabitants of this fine looking country are a barbarous people and often it is said attacks vessels if becalmed murdering their crews and plundering the vessels then destroy it The breeze as it wafted past us from off shore bore with it quite a delightful perfume Have had a fresh breeze all day And they are now reefing mainsail and topsail and it is blowing fresh It is a fine evening notwithstanding the wind When the sun went down tonight sinking apparently into the water and the full moon arose in the opposite direction behind the distant hills of Africa it was truly a scene fit for the pencil As I watched the number of vessels in sight to day, some as far to the windward and ahead as you could see; others to the leeward as far; some ahead; while other about up with us; and thought they were all aiming at the same place, and must all pass th[r]ough the narrow passage of fifteen miles, I could not help contrasting it with Life. All are aiming at the same thing "happiness" yet not one and a hundred tread the same path to find it. Passed thirty two sail today Some of those that were the farthest to the windward and as far ahead, nearly as we could see, are now passing us on the

same tack and to the leeward. Only one out of the company has kept up with us. O how it blows.

Apr 13th We have been deterred to day from entering the Straits on account of the strength of the wind. We were beating about all of last night and the greater part of to day untill they found it was of no use, they could not gain any thing by it; so we stood in under the lee of the land, off Capt Spartel. Here we lay with forty or fifty others of all kinds, from a seventy four gun frigate down to a felucca. Ships, Barks, Brigs, Schooners and felucca About ten have anchored the rest of us are hove too. I as I write, can hear the sea roar as it breaks and dashes on shore. We lay in as near this afternoon that we could with the glass distinguish plainly several of the Moors on the shore they seem to be trying at one time to descend the bank upon which they were. While on the declivity of a hill at some distance back were a number of these mud huts they looked like O how perfectly wretched they looked I would not like to fall into their hands and be subject to their barbarous power While I sat gazing at the shore and saw the sea as it broke on shore throwing up smoky like spray high up in the air and then I looked upon distant landscape as it lay stretched out before me deversified with its

30

hills and mountains presenting to the eye a green and fertile country; a country that in its appearance derserved [sic] to be inhabited by a better race then now inhabited my thoughts involintarally [sic] flew back to the time when I was seated at my desk in school stud[y]ing about Africa and of the ideas that were associated in my mind with it It did seem to me that it could be on this Globe and look like other parts of it I knew certainly that it was: yet it was so foreign to every thing that I ever saw, that I could not bring it home to my mind as a reality. Little did I think that my eyes would look upon this benighted Land If it had been mentioned to me I should have answered that it was impossible But here I am not more than a mile or mile and half from the shore and my eyes have looked upon the inhabitants of Morrocco The prospect now looks rather more encouraging then it has since yesterday morning. Spoke with the American Bark Prompt, of Boston, from Wilmington NC bound to Barcelona been out forty days My head aches severe to night by looking across the water at the land; and it has been very rough indeed, untill we hove too under the lee of the Land, where it has been quite smooth. Since laying here we have received visitors from the shore, and they seem to possess some of the qualities of their countryman for they seem inclined to annoy us as much as possible by way of biting There are flies I never saw such fellows to bite almost equal to mosquitoes

31

Apr 14 Soon after laying aside my Journal last evening the wind came round fair, and commenced to moderate, and we proceeded, with the rest of our company, on our way, and expected ere morning to be past the Rock of Gibraltar. But we were thwarted in our expectations, and we had not advanced far by morning; about half way through We lay becalmed all the forenoon, and as there was a great sea, our position was not the most comfortable. There were eighty two vessels to be seen from our deck, and being so calm, and such a sea, it was almost impossible to keep out of each others way I could hardly see,

sometimes how we could avoid coming into contact with someone; and then again would be seen others drawing most to near together for comfort But as no such affair happened my were for naught The Straits are a passage, of fifteen miles in width, connecting the Atlantic with the Meditternaen [sic]. Europe on one side, Africa on the other. At the eastern edge, of the Straits on one side is the Rock of Gibraltar, the key of the Mediterranean lifting its high and lofty head, nearly to the clouds while on the other, is a high hill rising almost to the height of a mountain, called Apes hill It has a very lonely, benighted look. As you pass between these, you enter the Mediterranean. About eleven PM we took a breeze, and on we came. We are now off Malaga with a fine breeze and good prospect. Thick

32

heavy clouds hang over the land, so that it is hardly discernable on the European side, and the distant hills of Africa have entirely disappeared During the forenoon saw an American Bark ahead, she lay becalmed untill we came up with her, she then spoke us: it proved to be the Rosebud of Boston and left a day or two before us We thought she was some ways farther along then this; thinking we were making rather a long passage. But it seems as if we had done rather better then her They seemed to have plenty of company on board. There were three women, and three children. The Capts wife and child, and the wife and child of each mate I should think, they might enjoy themselves. The Bark we spoke yesterday is in sight to night In coming into the Straits of Gibraltar you will make Cape Spartel on your right hand, and Cape Trafalgar on your left. The latter showing itself in two peaks at a distance and as you near it may be seen a watch on the eastern peak which the Spanish Governer has placed there, and on every hill, bay and point along the coast to protect the coast from smugglers which are numerous here at the risk of their neck We advance now with a fair tide which is always setting to the east with the velocity at times of five or six miles an hour As it is continually setting the same, there must be an under counter current carrying some of the water backor where does it go to! it cannot be all absorbed, say for

33

instance, the passage is fifteen miles wide, and from three to seven hundred fathoms deep. And when we co[n]sider the large amount of water running into this sea from the numerous large rivers with the many smaller ones which empties themselves hee; and at the amount of rain that falls my mind roves to regions on high to one who governeth all things. Surely the vapory clouds that pass from north to south from east to west must take up much of these waters and convey them to parts far distant. Perhaps some of this same water that is absorbed from this sea is conveyed through the upper regions to the shores of our own New England. And we may suppose that much of this water may be conveyed by clouds to moisture the great thirsty Desert of Africa. In this and in all things we view the handy work of a Divine Being who doth not see as man seeth But how much of his wisdom may we trace in this single thing But as my limited means will not allow me to progress I'll return to the bay of Trafalgar which comes next to mention; being the noted place where Lord Nelson expired in his well gained battle, which gave the first check to the onward coarse [sic] of the brave Bonaparte This Bay is deep where vessels of all sizes may ride secure from all wind except south-west which makes a bad sea heaving in.

This bend is mostly sand, and with numerous sand hills, and the mountainous landscapes all along the shore calls us to hasten on. And as we glide along our eyes are caught by the beautiful

34

scenery stretched along the shore diversified [sic] with green and fertile hills with now and then a patch of white sand. But as the shoals are numerous here abouts I'll pass them as carefully as we would the shoals and quicksands of life which require a vigilant watch to shun. Garifa [?] next comes under our observation forming a low flat peninsular distinguished for its light and fortifications. Garifa was formerly a small isle, but is now connected with the main land by a sandy causeway [causeway?]. Here the tide whirls and we pass with great rapidity and soon brings us in sight of the Rock of Gibraltar which is an exceedingly high rock on one side and Apes Hill on the other: these rocks were called by the ancients the Pillars of Hercules [Hercules]. These hills or mountains rear themselves as if vying with each other in lofty grandeur and striving each to obtain the highest seat of honor for their peaks are often seen to rear themselves above the clouds; and as they become more light are hid as if screening themselves from the gaze of those that pass. On the west side of the Rock is a bend or bay which forms a large a capacious harbor where vessels of all numbers and size find good anchorage. Here wind bound vessel wait for a change of wind that are bound out through the Straits into the Atlantic. It being impossible for vessel with a head wind to stem the tide and beat out. The Rock is connected with the main

35

land by a narrow neck of land running four or five miles in length, and one fourth of a mile in width. This is called neutral ground. On the west side of the Rock it slants and here is built a walled city, with its fort above forts; the one overhanging the other, until you reach the summit, where the Rock itself is pierced for guns. On the south end is placed a light to guide the mariner through. On the east, the Rock is perpendicular until it reaches a few feet (13) from the sea where a few houses are built. It is delightful to see numerous fleet of vessel that pass and re-pass all set their collars as a compliment of respect or a silent way of saying "may I pass". Here at times may be seen the flags of all nation[s] at one time; as they drift up with the tide which is often the case. But this must do for today.

Apr 17 Monday morning and I would like to be at home today for after I have been out a few weeks I feel as if I had so many things that needed to be made clean that it put within me rather a new spirit especially when the first working day of the week dawns upon us so pleasantly as it has this morning. When the sun first came from the world beneath us this morning the sky was filled with clouds: but as it made its way upwards the clouds fled before its mild and pleasant rays, and now hang over the land, leaving only a few thin floating ones above us, and the air is cool and invigorating, while a light and gentle breeze

36

is wafting us onward. Though if it was rather more favorable it would be more to our liking. But we must not be so selfish for there are a plenty all around us that are welcoming this change in the wind; for we can now see nearly fifty sail bound west with every sail set that can feel the

force of the wind. So I must be content to stop here or rather get on the best we can and leave my washing for someone in France to do; for I hardly think I could get home this morning to do much to day and return again at night and to stop longer I would not care about I have not written for two days, not because there was not enough to write about but because my ability to describe was so poor that I could not possibly do justice to the scenes before me, and felt more like seeing and enjoying in silence then attempting to put on paper Saturday all day it was delightful and with as good a wind as we could wish, and we made good improvement of our opportunity I wish I could describe in this the pleasant places which we have past and how beautifully this high range of mountains as they extend along the shores of Spain with their base in the sea, their tops in the clouds At a distance they have a rough and sterile appearance but as you approach nearer your eye falls upon some lovely spot [spot?] reminding one of an

37

oasis in the desert We past the snow capped mountains Friday night and I had not the pleasure of seeing them this time which was something of a disappointment For my eyes delight to look upon them To see those lofty range of mountains extending for miles their tops covered with perpetual snow and presenting a fairy like picture as the bright and dazzling sun shines upon them, while lower down on the same lay stretched out pastures of living green making it a scene upon which you cannot but look with delight and admiration Saturday evening between the hours of seven and eight while we were going along very swiftly with wind as fair as it could blow: squalls were seen rising from ahead Our studding sails were instantly taken in; then it was brace up our yards At first it came on very gently with now and then a heavier puff, as if to give us a foretast[e] of what we might expect. Soon we had the force, and in one hour and half or less from the time the squall was first seen we were under reefed topsails, wind dead ahead, and blowing very fresh and very rough. What a contrast. It continued to blow the first part of the night but Sunday morning by eight oclock we were again under whole sail, and wind fair During the day moderate and in the afternoon squall of rain from off the land. At night wind ahead Past Cape Palos about two in the afternoon Saw some very pretty places along the shore with the glass

38

Every five or ten miles are to be seen on a high eminence watch towers or lookout houses where are stationed sentries to watch and guard the coast from smugglers They are built mostly round something like the lower part of our light houses or those that are built round Most of them are built at such a height that I should think those that were disposed to smuggle might land and have every thing secure from their scrutiny and be of long before they could descend from their lofty standing and give an alarm. While others are built where I should think it impossible for any thing to land or get anywhere without climbing a steep and rugged precipice if they succeeded in affecting a landing. Some of these steep and rugged highlands project out in points along the wash giving it the appearance of rocks rising abruptly out of the sea: while then may be seen the land level & green encircling a fine bay affording a fine shelter for vessels. To day the wind has been moderate the first part, but this afternoon and evening is quite a fine breeze and rather rough The land appears low in general and of not a very uniform appearance sometimes rising

quite high and then almost app[ar]ently level with the sea But not being very near the shore possibly cannot

39

form a correct idea of it Been busy sewing all day We are now in Lat 37-22 N Long 01-00 East

Apr 20 The weather since Monday has been rather cloudy and we have had to contend with contrary winds and calm Last evening it had every appearance of a blow and I felt rather lonely and anxious, for I knew that we were in close to the land with the wind on shore and if it should blow so that they could not carry sail, we were in not a very pleasant place Feeling so anxious I could not retire very early and as my husband was on deck I sat up below untill after ten Amusing myself sometimes with reading and sometimes knitting and then again listening to the roaring of the wind And long after I sought my berth could not sleep very quietly We were off Capt St Antonio Spain I used to hear the remark before I ever went to sea about vessels doing well enough with plenty of sea room I used to have an idea (I know not why for I never stop to think and very foolish I must have been) that if I was there I should rather be near the land But I know what a privilege it is now, in a blow not to be harrassed by the thought we are nearing the land. It blew very fresh about twelve then it came in squalls The last part of the night it was moderate About ten I went up and stood in the gangway I could not catch my breath when looking to the windward it blew so fresh During the night the wind started round fair, has continued

40

so through the day but cloudy and to night looks squally again We are now just past the Island of Majorca. It is high land its top appearing above the clouds and bears quite a resemblance to some of them If this wind holds and there is as much as we have now we shall in all probability reach the port of destination Marseilles by to morrow night. But if it comes ahead and is moderate O dear I don't know when we shall get there. We have been in company with the Prompt since entering the Straits but have not seen her to day as her course since last night is rather different from ours. She will probably go into Barcelona to night or to morrow. To day has been the first day since we were in 12 West longitude but what we have seen vessels. While sitting on deck a few minutes this afternoon I saw a small mahogany bar floating on the water It went close by our side but not seeing it untill we were nearly up with it could not get it. Who knows but what it contained something valuable If it had we however were not the fortunate ones in securing it if any one does.

Apr 22 Time still rolls on and we are tumbling about in the Bay of Lyons sometimes calm, sometimes a breeze, and squally. In fact it is all kinds of weather to retard of progress. For the last few days our progress has been slow with a sharp topling sea, and of course I see not much to write that will be amusing. To

41

day there are several sail in sight whose progress is as slow as ours. The water here is changeable sometimes smoke color, sometimes blue, and then changing to green, making it amusing to witness the changing colors. As we gaze about in the distance our eye now and then rest upon a white winged fowl gliding along in the air and now perhaps our attention is called to a number of "mother's carry's chickens" [Mother Carey's chickens] playing in our wake, as it were so many sea flies dancing and playing on the water picking up the bits and crumbs that washes from our scuppers. As I watch these tiny birds that live on the water the thought arises in my mind who provides for them day by day. They neither sow nor reap yet our Heavenly Father provideth for their wants. His watchful eye is over them as well as over man his nobler work; his kindness and benevolence is extended to all of his creatures for it is recorded in Scriptures there is not a sparrow that falleth to the ground without his notice. They why should we perplex ourselves about the morrow are we not more value then many sparrows. The Barometer has been falling for two or three days. This morning it was as low as it was when we had our worst weather crossing the Atlantic. The weather is good, there is nothing in the sky to indicate bad weather but there is a heavy sea been setting from the east, and has been for several day. This is sometimes an indication of the wind blowing from that section of the heavens. We have had the wind from southwest but with such a sea we cannot advance.

42

though at sometimes we go through the water for five or six knots an hour yet at the end of the twenty four hours we do not get ahead a degree. Most likely there must be a strong current. This morning the Barometer commenced to fall though apparently with caution. Still the weather is good, with the exception the wind has started more or our quarter, and more of it, and a prospect of its continuing through the night but nothing more.

Sun Apr 23 Six weeks have passed since we left Provincetown and this morning the sound of "Land ahead" is heard from the deck, for we have been now two or three days with nothing upon which the eye can rest with satisfaction, All sky, and ocean, with nothing but a heavy rolling sea to break the otherwise calm surface, for there is not wind enough to disturb the tranquility of the water. We are now drawing near the Port where we may consider our voyage partly over and rest awhile from the notion of the ship at sea. The land descried, at first, was hardly distinguishable from the clouds. But as we advance and sailing directly for the land as if we would run it down the scene changes and we have now a full view of the Bay of Marseilles. At the head of this bay is situated the city by the same name. This bay is bounded on the west by Cape Cauronne which presents a very uniform appearance, more so, I think, of any land from Gibraltar up and it is low. And on the east it is bounded by Cape Croisette which is readily distinguished.

43

from the former being high and very imposing bears quite a resemblance in color to our sand hills but not in size. The Pilot has just come on board. He is French but speaks a very little English. is about the color of an Indian. We are now off the Island of Planier the outer most land in the bay of Marseilles. It is a very low small Island rising only a few feet from the water. On this is situated a revolving Light and telegraph building. Some four or five miles ahead are other Islands on which are fortifications and towers, these we past [passed] very nigh. There is one

great rock called the Chateau it is fortified on all sides having three towers in the center The port of Marseilles is distinguished by two citadels at the entrance. The harbor extends east and west into the Town. The entrance is very narrow only wide enough to admit one vessel abreast at a time and strongly fortified. The vessels lay on both sides of the harbor, two or three in a tier, and in through these we pass, the same as we would through a file of soldiers. We passed at one time 25 or 30 steamboats lying side by side. We are now lying nearly at the head of the harbor safely moored, and to look at it one would think we never could find an egress I never saw so many vessels There is supposed to be about two thousand in both harbors; their masts look like trees in a forest with the rigging for the foliage Although it is Sunday every where seems to be in a stir; every body is busy; vessels are loading; stores

44

are open and in the street the only place we can see from where we lay now is a large gambling house six stories high; it is now lighted up every apartment notwithstanding it is Sunday the day of sacred rest yet how many deluded beings will this night spend their precious time over a gaming table A short time ago I sat below in my room listening to the different sound that greeted my ear. There were some screaming; men halloing as they made our warps fast; others seemed to be disputing; dogs were barking; bells were ringing; a band was playing not very far distant and making in the whole a very unintelligible concert. While coming in our colors that were hoisted for a Pilot were taken down as they would inte[r]fere with the mainsails coming down. The Pilot said something but not being understood was taken no notice of. We had however gone but a short ways, when he looking up at the topmast as he walked the deck, said, Capitane no good no flag, to morrow put me in calobose because they, meaning government men on shore would look (putting his hands up as if looking through a spy glass) and see no flag no Mericano no English no nothing put me in Calabose. On being understood they were again hoisted. It is now about dark and we must have no light, no fire, I must put this by

45

Apr 24 This morning is fair but very cold. I rose this morning at quarter of five my husband having to go to the Pratique Office which is about the same as entering at our Custom House Not being allowed any fire on board, we were obliged to have for our breakfast what was left of last nights supper without any warm tea or coffee, not having time to time to [sic] procure a place to cook in the morning Every vessel has to have their food cook on shore and brought on board Some of the Capt stop on shore but then their crews have to have theirs brought on board As there are no American ladies here now I prefered staying on board A boker has just been on board taking a list of Provision, fire arms, rope, duck [canvas?] and every thing even to some yarn that I have to knit This manifest has to be given into the Custom House then we are to be searched and if any thing is found that is not there or more it is taken and kept and the vessel is liable to be seized my husband had a little Powder that must either be deposited in the Lazereto I think they called it and cost about as much as it is worth or thrown overboard We threw a part over saving the other to be secreted where their prying eyes cannot detect it Even our matches must go on shore A woman has just been on board presenting her card which told me her name was Clara Blang and solicited

washing from English and American vessels She could speak a little English, and as the best and neatest looking woman of the working class that I have seen in this part of the world She had on her head instead of a bonnet a muslin cap with a very full border embroidered very heavy

Apr 25 Suffered sever[e]ly yesterday afternoon and during the night with my head I never had so severe an attack before This morning felt some what better but have not recovered from the affects It was stormy during the night and this morning it is blowing a gale in here, and it must be a great deal worse outside. I feel very thankful that we are safely sheltered from its pitiless blast It is gratifying to ones feelings and it is something which a mariner enjoys when he knows he has arrived safe from all storms, and reach[ed] his destination port just as a storm comes on; he hears the wind howling and whistling about him though he may think of others that may be exposed yet he is reposing as securely as if no storm spirit was out His eye is not fixed upon the wild looking heavens anxiously watching to catch some sign of abatement and after watching and watching for long hours he has only to know that it is increasing instead of diminishing and all his efforts must be put forth for the

safety of his vessel It is the thought of repose that gives pleasure to the mariner in Port I expected I was coming into warmer weather but if any thing it is colder then it was in Boston when we left If I had only thought in what latitude Marseilles was I might have known better for it is in 49-18 North nearly a degree farther north then Boston But at least I did not expect to have snow storms but in this I see I have been mistaken This forenoon for about one hour it snowed about as thick as I ever saw it at home. And here I sit and have set all day with a shawl wrapped around me and still shivering. They say they have had no snow before for five years This afternoon the search Officers have been on board; there were five or six of them As the Capiton as they call him was on shore I had to entertain them in our part or at least they entertained me with rumaging over every thing that belong[s] to us; turning over beds opening closets looking into boxes and under transoms [transoms?] etc., etc. and of course I had to be very polite and civil submitting to it all. And when about to take their departure took my husband['s] cigars and tobacco and was going to take them on shore He had entered them but I suppose they thought he had to many or more then he needed and was afraid he might get some of it ashore But I told them through the

steward who can speak French that they must leave enough for him to use while here So they did, I was very much obliged to them when they took their farewell quizz [?] for I had some things stowed in my pockets and in other places I did not wish them to find I was not afraid of them disturbing my pockets but there were places about the cabin I did not wish them to be inquisitive about. I am about sick of this place it is so cold here I shall freeze This evening Capt Whittemore and Capt Bartlett was on board Two very sociable pleasant gentlemen and passed a very pleasant evening By the way when it comes on dark we close every aperture through which

light can be discernable and light our lamps; for who is going to set in darkness Received a very polite invitation to dine on board the Brig Elsinore Sunday if we are here. Thermometer 55°

Apr 26 To day the sun is shining brightly but it is still very chilly and a strong wind This forenoon the broker made us another visit accompanied by the harbor master He speaking no English but the broker speaks it fluently My husband gave him some of the tobacco which he wanted very much but would not take it unless we would consent for him to make a present to our little boy thus paying for it But at last the broker

49

took and was to take it on shore and then give it to him there when he would take it readily.

News has arrived here this morning of a steam boat disaster that happened last Monday night The steamer that run down the other left here Monday morning and that night came in contact with another coming from Sicily, the first of a line of Steam Packets direct from Sicily to New York She struck her in her wheel house passed over her causing her instantly to sink with all on board excepted two men at the wheel and one passenger The passenger had been smoking and making him sick went on deck; he seeing the light coming directly for them called out for the Capt and mates but it was to late, she struck and they alone were saved War! war! here is all the cry troops are being sent off from this place every day 60,000 are to be sent now from here. Poor creatures! they look pitiful when we think how many go to meet with death and how little will it benefit them weather [whether] the Turks or Russians gain the day But they are compelled to go Everyone has to be a soldier or a sailor except the oldest son.

Apr 27 This morning very fine weather, and begins to feel quite comfatable [comfortable] warm Thermometer has stood on 60° since yesterday morning. Passed my time very pleasantly on board during the forenoon

50

After dinner prepared myself to go on shore About two a boat from the shore came to take us; it was rather a nice looking affair being all cushioned and covered with plaid cloth with curtains caught up at the sides And in company with Capt Davidson my husband little boy and Ned our interpreter went on shore The pier where we landed was crowded with people from all parts of the world and interspersed with numerous soldiers We made our way through the crowd and proceeded along the streets which are very wide and clean The buildings are high and are built of a yellowish kind of stone We first entered store where were kept Cases of all kinds and sizes some with glass ships set to music and others with ships cars and clock all attached and in motion the clock keeping good time and the music still going on. Here we stop[p]ed some time surveying the variety of things and and [sic] after selecting some vases, boxes [?] we went from there into a French "café house" for it is fashionable for ladies to patronize these establishments here There was every thing nice, and beautiful there. The sides of the room were glass, so that you could not start without beholding your beautiful self and afforded an excellent oppo[r]tunity of seeing all that was going on in the room, without gazing at every thing The top of the wall

was fresco painting, while every post, ceiling, etc. was gilded. A large stand or altar [altar] where sat the treasurer, I expect it was (as

51

every waiter carried the money to her) was gilt, giving it the appearance of one mass of shining gold. Then each table was of white marble and when our coffee and cake was brought, the waiter that contained them with the aprons, and dish, which held the sugar was plated with gold making in the whole the most shining sight I ever saw. There were a great number there; some sipping their coffee; others their wine; while a great many were playing dominoes. From there we went to a Bazaar, where was every thing that one might wish or desire. From here we went into a store called the "City of Paris" this store was very high in the walls, say three or four times as high as our highest; about half way up was a kind of gallery that went all round the store where was displayed goods, and I thought that this also led to other apartments. In the centre was a large tree or imitation of one which gave a very pleasing appearance to the store. From here we went to a number of other stores, where all you wanted was money! money! and with this might obtain whatever you wished. Every where was filled with goods, displayed in the most attractive way and not of an ordinary kind, but both rich and fashionable. We went next to a store where were kept parasols, umbrellas, canes etc. Capt ____ wished to obtain one. He saw several he liked but one in particular but not agreeing about the price did

52

not purchase and we left the store. Soon we saw the man coming towards us trying to persuade us to return but telling him no we went on but had gone but a short way farther before back he came telling him he might have it at his own price, but it were then to far from the store to be worth while to go back. After walking around a short time longer and seeing considerable more of the City, we came on board, Capt ____ coming with us to take tea.

Apr 28 To day has been another very pleasant day. Employed myself with working on board this forenoon. Several gentlemen came at noon and took dinner with us. Enjoyed ourselves finely, for I have to learn to enjoy myself with gentlemen's society for it is very seldom I have the pleasure of falling in with ladies. Mr ____ a gentleman passenger on board one of the American vessel[s] offered very politely to escort me around this afternoon on shore if my husband had business which would prevent him. But having letters to write I declined. This afternoon saw a regiment of soldiers pass nearly if not quite a mile long. This afternoon wrote letters home. Two old women have been rowing around among the Fleet all alone crying out in French they could take old junk. This forenoon the search Officers were of [?] again. I don't know how many more times they intend to come. Well never mind, let them come.

53

Apr 29 What, or how, shall I write to day. I see enough every day to make the time pass away very pleasant. But how to get the fragments together to make this interesting or to give the right impression of my visit at Marseilles to those that read or even to tell me in future years what scenes I have myself witnessed when memory shall have lost its youthful energy and freshness is

rather more difficult The weather to day has been fine. Was busy this forenoon sewing, reading, and occasionally going on deck, and when there there is always enough to amuse you This forenoon a lighter from a Greek vessel went past the stern of the vessel with several of Greeks in it while one of them had the impudence to put his face directly up to the glass and take a quizz [?] He was was [sic] a savage looking creature, with his hair all over his eyes looking as if it never heard tell of a comb. and being of very dark complexion, and I should not think he had shaved for two months which made him look hideous But he seemed to enjoy the looks of our room and kept his face there until I went toward the window Their dress is very queer and gives them a singular appearance to one who never saw them before They have on a shirt and vest or those did to day but I have seen them with very shaggy coats on They have a shirt made like our shirts only a great deal fuller; these are fastened around their waist the bottom is drawn together at the bottom and fastened around each leg just below the knee the greater part of the fullness hanging between the

54

calves of the legs. They have upon their heads a long cap the top hanging on the side with a heavy tassel which bring the tassel hanging on the shoulders. The woman that took my clothes, came about six this evening and brought them all done in complete order, only they seem to be scented with something, which I do not fancy. I expect it must be the soap as I have noticed the same with washing done in foreign ports. The "Race Horse" has just arrived from Boston, with only a passage of 26 days. I think she could not have had much head winds, or calms. I thought we had done pretty well, as our passage was the shortest, by eight & fifteen days of any other vessel here; but O dear! this put us completely in the shade. We'll never mind our vessel was not built for a clipper. Have had company on board this evening.

Apr 30 Sunday morning in a foreign port; Sunday did I say yes but one would not think so by the appearance on shore. There is not that calm and repose that prevade our own happy home on a lovely sabbath morning like this Here every thing seems about the same as usual. The bells have been ringing for several hours; but it is not to call all to rest from labor and spend their hours quietly in the house of prayer Many that go to any place of worship, will go and bow before images of wood and stone; to a god that can neither see nor hear

55

The harbor to day presents to the eye a lively picture for the eye can rest floating, at the mast head of every vessel, the flag of their own nation and not a few are thus represented. They are to the mast like a rose blooming at the end of a leafless branch. Stopped on board this forenoon and a part of this afternoon thinking I would not except of the invitation to dinner which I received for to day, as there are to be about a dozen gentlemen and I the only female I thought I should enjoy myself best on board of my own vessel About three they all came on board for me to go on shore with them and would not receive an excuse. Finding I could not without almost seeming rudeness, escape their invitation; I went. We entered an omnibus which would seat sixteen persons. Our own company consisting of eleven, it was nearly filled, and as the remaining five soon found occupants, we started as they said to visit the Public Garden, which was about one mile and half from where we started Our way led a short way through the city

We then entered a wide carriage road which led the whole distance to the garden in one straight road shaded on each side by green and branching trees. These also form a nice hedge, for the street on each side of the road, where people on foot promanade. In this and under of the shade of the trees are fixed seats on which those that are fatigued with the walk can stop, and

56

refresh themselves On our way, just as you entered the suburbs of the city was a large fountain It was a high monument made like, and looking at a distance the same as Bunker Hill Monument Not of course as high. This was I should think 75 feet high and placed in a basin 40 or 45 feet in circumferrance; at the foot of this monument on each side was a figure representing the head of an animal with the water pouring out of his mouth this water fell into the basin in which the monument rested This being full the water was running over the sides making a minature waterfall. This water was carried off through the city by drains which runs along through the streets close to the side walk; this carrying off all the dirt and filth in the streets into the dock to be swept off by the tide.

When we arrived at the end of this road we alighted from the carruage and entered the garden. At the entrance was hung around in the form of a star, small tumblers filled with grease, all through the garden, which would take a long, long [time] to walk and examine every part was hung these glasses suspending by wire from trees, post, and every thing to which they could be attached, ready to be lit up as soon as it came on dark making one grand illumination of the garden Within the enclosures of the garden was a kind of house

57

with a stage, where plays were performed by music In this were chandeliers with flowers interwoven among the lamps I was not near enough to know for certainty, but the flowers looked like glass At any rate theywere something very nice Here were the proud and gay with but a few of any of the poorer class if one could judge by the outward appearance I thought I had seen fashionable attire before, but here I saw it displayed as I never saw it before. Through this garden ran a small rivulet, over which were bridges erected in different places, and you could look through the trees and see scores walking, while children were sailing in tiny boats just large enough to hold them; while others could be seen swinging etc which gave an almost fairy look to the place Here were flying horses on which children were placed and by one person turning a crank the whole was made to go round fast or slow just as they pleased A man stood at one corner placing rings on the end of a board, and as each came round, would with a small sword which they held in their hands for the purpose, take the rings off. These were some of the almost numberless invention that was there to attract the eye, and divert the mind, while nearly all the time could be heard quick lively music to please the ear After walking round untill we became fatigued we left this scene of wickedness, for I could called it nothing else on Sunday and entered an

58

omnibus which brought us into the city, and then we left it and went on board of our respective vessels. I cannot say for the rest, but as for myself but I could not enjoy it and if I had known where we were going I would greatly preferred staying on board and not seeing anything. The flowers and green was beautiful and this was about all which we amused ourselves with. They were to have fireworks in the evening and I know not what else. The Bark "Prompt" arrived here this morning after going to Barcelona, was ordered here.

May 1 To day has not been a very pleasant one for Maying if they keep this day in this part of the world, which I hardly think they do. It has been cold and rainy all day, with not much that was interesting. Should have gone ashore, had not the weather prevented.

We have finished taken in our ballast and are ready to leave tomorrow for Catania, Sicily if the weather will admit of leaving port.

May 2 This morning at five the Pilot came on board with Ned, the interpreter. And although the weather looked very threatening we left our moorings and dropped down the stream. We were going out and if the weather was no better we could anchor outside and then we should be ready to embrace the first opportunity. We went and some six or eight miles when finding it was of no use, wind dead ahead.

59

and blowing nearly a gale we tacked ship, and came back and now lie at anchor just outside of the harbor. I think it almost to bad for I have had no company, no woman to associate with. But this morning, just as were were leaving a vessel arrives from New York the Capt have his wife. Now this is what I call to bad. But what can't be cured must be endured. The weather begins to look a little a more mild then it did this morning, but it is still bad. I really hope it will become settled before we start again, for I do not like the idea of being out about here in stormy weather for the Gulf of Lyons is a stormy ugly place. The vessel that arrived this morning proves to be the Bark we passed off the Western Island on the 29 of Mar. The mate of her knew our vessel, while they were strangers to us. So we ought not to be discouraged if they are not.

May 3 We are still laying outside at anchor as the weather is worse then it was yesterday. This morning it looked very pleasant, but the wind was still blowing and contrary. Several vessel got under way in the harbor, and came out. Some of them were government vessels with troops bound to Constantinople. They went about as far as we went yesterday when we saw them coming back and all with the exception of one bound west came back and anchored. One small vessel that lay here all day yesterday and is still here seemed to be right in the way or those that

60

came back seemed to owe her a grudge for she was run into no less then four different times, doing considerable damage to her and to those that came in contact. One vessel, after getting clear from her the first time, made fast to a boat to be towed into the harbor, but the warp parted and she came down across her bow again. And if there wasn't some parleburing [?], then I'm mistaken. It kept me trembling all day, for fear some one would be into us, for vessels were continually coming in from out to sea, and would have to wait here for a steamer to tow them

into the harbor as the wind was blowing so fresh, and ahead they could not get in alone. The prospect is no better to night then it has been, only since the sun went down it has moderated. Here we lay rocking just like a cradle.

May 5 O what a life does a woman lead: how fraught with care and anxiety: how many long hours are spent in ceaseless watching; how subject to disappointment and perplexities; and how few of those who live upon the land, and enjoy the comforts, and luxuries that are furnished by those that traverse the rolling ocean, ever cast a thought upon those that are tossed about by every blast that blows. And how many say, if they think about them all, they are used to it: it is not hard to them. What is not hard to them: to have their lives in jeopardy

61

to stand and face the cold and piercing storm; to start from their bed upon which they have for a few moments thrown themselves, as the storm increases with sudden energy; to make more secure the frail structure which separates them from a watery grave! I say frail, for the strongest is but weakness when compared with the destroying elements with which they have to contend; to leave their friends & all they hold dear, and to live apart from all society for a greater part of their lives; are they not possessed of the same feelings that pervade every heart. O then stop ye idle thinkers and bestow one pitying thought upon those that tract the pathless ocean.

Such thoughts as these were suggested to my mind as I lay during last night tossed first upon one sea as it rose, and as it fell [fell?] sunk with it, and heard the wind as it roared sounding like distant thunder; and as I saw the anxious countenances as they watched the threatening heavens; for although we were at anchor we were not safe, if this wind changed to the south west or west as it would send in a heavy sea and blow on shore. But if it remained as it was or changed round to the north we should do very well perhaps as well as we had ever since laying here though it is very rough. And after retiring to rest; rest did I say! no, it could not be called by that quiet name for not one half hour at a

62

time during the greater part of the night did they remain in their beds Yesterday morning it was about the same as it had been the two morning previous. Two American vessel left port bound for New York and we almost envied them their wind for we had lain here already over forty eight hours wind bound, and still no prospect It soon began to look more stormy and the wind which had all the while blown heavy increased and it very wild. In the afternoon rained very heavy and we were in hopes the wind would start to the north About dark it really looked as if it would blow every thing up by the rocks and kept starting to the south west Well, all we could do was to prepare for it the best we could and take it as it came We all past a very uncomfortable night for about half past eight the wind had got round to the west and it blew right out land and sent in such a heavy sea it was almost impossible to lay in the berth without being wearied with riding from side to side But the longest and worst night must have an end, and so did this, and in the morning it was quite moderate and wind fair we got under way, and are now on our way to Catania.

It has been very pleasant all day but with heavy sea going that we have not gained much

and made it rather unpleasant. A large number of vessel came out in company with us among them, were forty transport vessel having been waiting for some time for an opportunity to proceed east. There is now only one in sight now. To night it looks squally and the wind has some appearance of coming ahead. A squall of rain has just past over and with it the wind has started so that they have braced [braced] up. Well we must take it as it comes, but why not come fair. Last night it looked so gloomy, and I felt so lonesome, I could not possible [possibly] write, so I have summed up the greater part of yesterday and to days occurrences in one story.

May 6 The wind freshed [?] last night about half past eight, and we started off on a rapid pace, and have kept it up all day; and are now going faster then ever, as we are now on the east side of Sardinia, where it is lee and we have not the sea to fight against we have had all day. When we took the wind we were off the Island of Porquerolles, on the coast of France, from which was exhibited a revolving light. This morning no land was discernable and we were again alone, for no vessel nor a sign of any living thing was seen. About 12 AM we made the land which was the Island of Azinara off the north west part of Sardinia. Soon we could see the Islands of Corsica and Sardinia. About

six PM we entered the Straits of Bonifasio, which are from eight to three miles wide. Corsica on our left. This Island is about 95 miles in length and 43 in width, and of an irregular figure, and in general possessing a salubrious climate, and in the vallies fruits are produced of various kinds. But to us, as we past, it presented a barren and rocky appearance. On this Island the great Bonaparte first opened his eyes upon the world. On our right was the Island of Sardinia which is about 140 miles in length and about 60 in width. This [Island] Geography tell[s] us possesses a very fertile soil, producing fruit in abundance but it did not look very fertile or if any thing hardly could grow. Having a fine breeze we were soon through, and before eight we were all clear directing our course straight for Sicily.

May 9 This is our fifth day from Marseilles, and it has closed with a night as serene, and beautiful, as ever excited admiration, and pleasure in human breast. It is a night so mild, that it leads us almost from earth to heaven. Our thoughts involuntarily soar on high as the sun sinking in the west sends its rays of an almost vermilion hue far up in the ethereal blue as if to point us there, and tell us of glories not revealed. And as the curtains of night were closed over us, the bright and glorious moon arose, and lit up the

delightful scene with a calm and almost holy light, while myriads of twinkling orbs shone above with undimmed lustre, while cool and gentle zephyrs are borne across the water, wafting us gently onward. As we approached the horizon, it changes imperceptibly, as if inviting us forward and shutting from our view the broad expanse of water upon which we float. Who can, when viewing so much splendor, so much awful grandeur, as is spread before them, on such a night as

this, deny the existence of an overruling God, a Supreme Being! Who can say these are but the combination of circumstances. It seems to me, none can believe, or even indulge such a thought, if they ever allow themselves to think deeply upon the subject, or give themselves up to meditation, and let their thoughts rove unrestrained over the vast creation on such a night as this, for they will, as if impelled by an irresist[ible] power, reflect upon the wisdom and beneficence of God, and do before they are themselves aware of it acknowledge in their minds a forming hand. The three days past have been days of almost breathless calm. Nothing has met our eye untill to day, but one vast, unbroken sheet of liquid glass, upon which the sun has shone with intense brightness, and which reflected back its rays with a painful glare. To day we can view the distant mountains of Italy. At first, we could only trace with faintness its

66

blue outlines, but as the smoky atmosphere gave place to a beautiful clearness we could see it distinctly although about 80 miles inte[r]vened. This afternoon a turtle was espied on the water and as we were becalmed the boat was lowered and they went to capture their unconscious victim, who, as the boat neared him came towards them. They secured their prize, which proved to be a small one, weighing from 25 to 30 lbs. To morrow we shall be treated with a turtle soup, as they have him dressed already. It is called by some a rare and delicate dish; but I do not think I shall fancy it much. I have heard it often mentioned about the sunny skies of Italy and of an Italian sunset, and think we have enjoyed them both to day. It has been very warm since we left Marseilles. Thermometer standing on 70°

May 10 We have as yet nothing but calms and our progress is slow, slow, very slow. O how tedious did I not feel an interest for the voyage to be advanced and have a speedy termination. I should not mind much if we enjoyed a few more such days as we have seen since last Saturday for they are indeed delightful. But I would for the good of others that we might progress more rapid. We are now in sight of AElian which are situated off the northern coast of Sicily. The sea about here are said to be said to be [sic] "agitated of sudden tempest" while the Islands

67

themselves "exhibit the corrosive effects of gases and sprays; but the western coast, arising abruptly in precipitous masses, and shelving down gradually to the eastward, is an interesting geological feature in which it agrees with the greater part of the West India Islands, and many others. It is remarkable, that, besides the western coast of all the Sipari Island being steep and craggy, they each, with scarce an exception, have a high and isolated rock off their northern coast, a singularity extending even to Aratica" which is included in this group, although laying some ways farther west, than any of the rest, and apparently alone. "The basis of the whole of this group is horn stone, with the various alterations and decompositions occasioned by volcanic influence – an influence easily traced there, in all its grandest and wildest varieties."

"The climate is highly salubrious, and the weather generally soft, and refreshing; but though there are a few trifling springs, there is a general scarcity of water, as the soil, consisting entirely of scariae, sufa, pumice, pozzolano, and ashes without any intervening stony stratum, except occasional masses of obdurate vitrification, rapidly absorbs the moisture; the natives

consequently are obliged to construct capacious cisterns, wherein water is kept in a cool temperature The lands are well cultivated, and yield grapes, currants, figs, prickly

68

pears, corn cotton olives and pulse [?]; the latter grown under the cane of the trellises that support the vine. Rains, if violent occasion great damage to the grounds from the situation and friability of the soil; and swarms of locust sometimes injure the produces severely. A very considerable quan[t]ity of wine and currants is exported and an active trade is carried on in bitumen, pumice, nitre, pozzolona, cinnabar, coral, and fish; but alum, once a great staple, scarcely exist as an article of commerce, - a failure supposed to be owing to the decreased heat of the subterranean fires. The native islanders are contented, hardy, and temperate, and are esteemed excellent sailors; but on the other hand are considered as inquisitive, mean, and immoral.”

[Transcriber’s Note: There is no reference in the Journal where this quote comes from, but in an earlier entry [May 6] the Journalist refers to a “Geography” – probably a book she had with her on board ship.]

May, Sunday 11

We are to day laying at anchor off the Faro, just at the entrance of the Straits of Messina. Although it is blowing a perfect gale at times, yet, we are as secure as if no storm was about us For three days past, the weather has been bad enough, and I am almost sick of the sound of the Mediterranean for it has the name of pleasant weather, but I never saw much worse weather then I have seen the three voyages I have been here; and I can safely say I never had such weather at home this time of year as we have experienced these three days past Thursday it commenced with squalls, and it grew worse and

69

worse Friday it was still heavy squalls of wind accompanied with heavy thunder, sharp lightening, and drenching rains About ten AM it really looked terriffic; the atmosphere was oppressive while the distant thunder rolled in long and almost ceaseless peals Soon is approached nearer, and for a short time all things in Nature seemed at war. Hailstones of the size of a common bean, fell in quan[t]ities on our deck. After this was past, we lay for a few minutes, almost becalmed; and then came another, and another, all during the day, from every part of the heavens; the wind going all around the compass giving us a squall from almost every part as many as seven or eight times.

We were then off the Island of Lipari, which is the seat of government of all the islands, and by which the group is sometimes designated. The Bay of Lipari is said to be “formed on the north by Monte Rossa an immense mass of cleft volcanic matter or reddish color; and on the south by a rugged rock of lava” At the Southeast are two remarkable rocks, the most eastern one, “called Pritra [?] Longa, is 150 feet high with an aperture in its base through which boats may row.” At the distance we were from it, it had the appearance of a ship under sail, and for which we

mistook it for some time. And it is said to be often mistaken for one Yesterday morning it was still

70

the same, only we had a very little rain, and thunder while the wind increased We were then very near the famous Stromboli which is the most northeastern of the AElion [?] Island. Around the summit of this nearly all day hung thick heavy clouds which nearly hid it from our sight, now and then I could catch a glimpse of the smoke which is constantly emits during the day while at night are seen flames of fire After beating about all day we at last reached the entrance of the Straits of Messinna and as the wind was blowing a gale up through and the tide running ahead at the volocity of five or six miles an hour; they thought it not prudent to proceed; so we were compelled though reluctantly to anchor here, and wait for an abatement of wind, or at least a change before we can proceed to Catania which is distant about forty miles Last evening I tried to see the fire from Stromboli but could only catch now and then a faint glimmer owing to, I expect, the distance, and thick, heavy clouds filled the sky between It seemed to me I never heard the wind blow with as much violence as it did at times during the night. This morning the prospect is no better Several vessels have come up through the Straits to day, and giving good evidence of the wind blowing as fiercely on the other side of them, as it does here; for they were under short sails; but as it was fair they could

71

come We now lay not more then six miles from the toe, which is formed by the southern part of Italy, and which bounds the straits of Messinna on the east and Sicily on the west.

May 15 This morning at half past four, preparation were made for getting under way, for the wind had changed, and the prospect looked favorable, although the tide was ahead; yet they thought by improving the first of the wind, might reach Catania before night Little more then half an hour had elapsed, she was under way, much to the dissatisfaction of the pilots, who had been on board twice to secure a chance of piloting us through the straits; but as they were not needed no bargain was made; so they made another attempt, but as were were fairly under way they could not overtake us. As it was so early I thought with the sluggard a "little more sleep, a little more slumber" would do me good, so I closed my eyes, and tried to ramble among the land of dreams; but I tried in vain, and after laying a short time thought I would just take one peep out of my window, and then back again; but that peep was enough for it looked so pleasant, I dressed, and sallied out on deck. The sun was just showing itself above the Calabrian mountains in Italy, and lent its pleasant rays to beautify those in Sicily, making to pleasant a sight to be lost for a hundred naps.

72

We had past the point Faro which is only a long low sandy beach, with a few fishermen's huts built upon it and which looked as if whretchedness [sic] and want both found shelter there, and as I had quite a good view of it as we lay at anchor lost not much by the sight But I was pleased as my eyes rested on the green mountains and pleasant, fertile vallies, that lay spread before me,

and with here and there white houses scattered promiscuously [?] around with now and then quite a little village situated on some high eminence it was a delightful view

As the tide was ahead we kept close in by the shore to avoid the strength of it, thus affording a full view The city of Messina is situated at the foot of a mountain, and forms a beautiful appearance with its numerous churches, convents, and large edifices, as you pass. As our course still lay down the shore, our eyes were gratified with many a pleasant village built on some green and fertile plain, or valley, while in the distance rose an amphitheatre of majestic mountain scenery. And then would it remind me of some romantic tale told of ancient castle situated in some mountain pass surrounded by steep and craggy precipises as if it defied all, to find access there; while again would the rest upon some

73

city built on the summit of some mountain And thus our way led untill at half past nine we had gone over half the distance between Faro and Catania, and we had not the least thought but that we should reach there by the first of the afternoon certainly, for we were then having a good breeze from off the land; but in one half hour from that time, we were nearly becalmed, and what wind there was, was on the other side. Thus we lay untill after twelve when a fresh breeze sprung up and looked as if it would last till night, and if it only lasted two hours we would dispense with it; but this left us as suddenly as the other, and left us with a strong tide, and heavy sea, heaving us directly on shore. In this uncomfortable position we lay for tow hours or more; then a light wind sprung up, which carried us within six or eight miles of the place and there it again left us And certainly she rolled and slatted [?] so, I felt as if I could not remain on board, but must fly away from myself; the tide and sea carrying us back over the ground we gained the last puff

We lay off the Bay of Trezza [?] where are the remarkable cluster of rock called the Cyclops which presented a singular appearance indeed; one of them was round at the base

74

and from the centre of this rose a pillar some ___ feet high; the others were of similar form only not so high. We could see the town between making them look like a file of soldiers standing guard. Along here we beheld Mt AEtna rising its lofty head high in the heavens, while every now and then, its top would be hid in the clouds, which was covered with white and dazzling snow. Just before dark a pilot was seen coming towards us; they came along side inquired where we were from and if we were consigned to Mr ___ naming our consignee and if we wanted a Pilot; to which we answered in the affirmative and then gave them a tow line, and they have commenced towing us in. Poor creatures! I pity them if they intend to take us in to night, for there is no wind, to assist them One of them speaks very good English and says he is in the employ of our consignee. Since dusk we can distinguish the smoke from Mt AEtna but can see no flames or any other sign of fire I will leave this now it is getting late, and I expect before morning we shall be in Port

May 16 We arrive here about two this morning, and we are now moored along side of the mole [?], which has been built for the security of vessels lying

75

here. Catania is situated at the foot of Mt AEtna, and I can now look from my window on its snow capped top, and this is the only thing that looks as if it possessed any thing interesting. The town is said to be distinguished by earthquakes, and it bears strongly the marks of decay and devastation, and its inhabitants, or the majority, look wretched in the extreme; most of them are covered with rags and dirt, and seemed to have taken up beggary for an occupation; several men, as well as women with quite young children, have been down opposite our vessel begging already.

I received a visit from the guard, filling the place of Dr this morning, to see if I was well as I did not go on shore to the Pratique [?] Office with the rest. I cannot go on shore now untill they write, or go, to a kind of governer, or head police and get a passport.

There seem to be a plent of Priest, and friars, here for as many as a dozen, or fifteen have been down past where we lay.

They have commenced taking out our ballast this afternoon, and are to work all night; so I am in hopes we shall get away by Saturday. Two English vessels arrived here this afternoon; but we are the only American vessel here now; one is expected every day I believe.

76

May 20 Although Catania presented nothing very attractive at first sight, nor any time as viewed from the mole where vessels lie moored; yet there was considerable on visiting its different places which gave it interest and afforded food for thought when alone. For here can be seen a city which is built upon the ruins of one that was destroyed by one of Nature's convulsive throes. About 200 years ago, the fire burst forth from the side of Mt Etna, about 12 or 15 miles from the city, and the hot melted lava, running in one vast stream of liquid fire, carrying devastation and ruin in its track; this swept away the whole place, burying it far beneath a bed of fire; and the southern side of the bay is a low sandy point, and the lava reached even this point, and piled itself up at quite a height and still remains there, a black heap, making it look very gloomy as you view it from the anchorage.

Catania has since been rebuilt and is now a large place containing, it is said 59,000 inhabitants though most of them are poor, and kept so by the Priests which swarm the place, you cannot go a dozen steps, or I might say half dozen, without meeting two or three, setting aside the monks, and friars dressed with their coarse dark brown coat with a girdle round their waist having

77

very much the appearance of cotton line, with sandels on their feet, and with the whole top or round part of their heads shaved very close, and wear nothing on their heads excepting when it

rains, then they have a kind of hood attached to their garment which they always wear this they throw over their heads These devote themselves to begging for the church, and themselves. While on the other hand the Priests are well dressed in a nice black robe which sweeps the ground behind as they walk, unless they hold it over their arms, as they frequently do, and on their heads they wear a broad rimed [brimmed] silk beaver with three sides of the rim caught up. This is the dress wore by this class of worthies, except when they have on their confessional robe which is white and looks very much like a loose dress tied with a string round the waist with a small round cape; sometimes they have the back part of their black dress thrown over their shoulders and they live a life of idleness and sin.

A gentleman told me one that lived here that those or a greater part of them that style themselves the nobility, know nothing more then to read and write[,] the Priest not allowing them to know more[.] They feel that they are oppressed and have several times arisen and tried to throw off the yoke of bondage that is upon them aso close and have once or twice succeeded; but having no head

78

do not know how to manage and therefore lose it again.

The streets of the city are wide and instead of having a sidewalk at each side for people to walk have it in the middle of the street and on each side carriages pass These were paved, but one would hardly know it from the appearance, as no attention is paid to keeping them clean The pavements are of lava, and the buildings are also built of the same, and then painted.

There are some very nice looking buildings, and several fine churches two or three large nunneries and three public buildings for the poor; but many it seems had rather beg then avail themselves of its care, for one can hardly go a dozen steps with[out] having a hand thrust in your way and then a motion made with the other to there [their] mouth as if they were hungry. One woman, with her daughter I suppose, apparently about 15 or 16 years of age and a very small boy, were down opposite our vessel two whole days begging, and such dirty looking outcast I never saw and would sit a[nd] pick the vermin from themselves. One afternoon there was an old man I should certainly think, to say the least, he was 90 years he had making a great ado for a long while as if he was very hungry; at last my husband told the steward to give him something to eat; he had some soup which was none of the best tasting, but sweet; this he put into a

79

large basin, with a spoon, and put it into a boat along side, and no sooner was it reached over the side of the vessel then there were six or eight sprung for it; but by good luck the old man reached it first and obtained the spoon, when he commenced; the others crowding round as thick as they could stand, reminding me of flies, round a spot of molasses, and eating with their hands; while one or two that could not get within the ring stood behind the others and every chance they could get would thrust in their hands, bring out what they could and put it in their mouth; this they kept up untill not a speck was left. One evening a person on the mole set up a most doleful cry, and kept it up for a long while, but having company from on shore, and they assuring us it was a

greater part made, we took no notice of it, at last it ceased for about fifteen minutes, when it again commenced louder than ever; fearing they might be suffering, for it sounded like a child to me[,] I told my husband to give them a few cents at least and let them go away; he gave the mate a few cents and told him to give them to him he went out on the mole, and instead of a child it proved to be a woman he gave her the money and started her off. Such is the state of a great many here, although the soil here is very fertile, and a person, with two or three hundred may [be] said

80

to be rich, yet even this they cannot obtain.

Many years ago a Prince, so I was told[,] dug down to the old city that was buried at the eruption and this entrance is still there and is visited by strangers, and so is the place where the eruption burst forth which was on the side of Mt Etna and where at the time were formed two peaks called the red hills; near by these is situated a village, at which people stop and refresh themselves, and remain untill night if they intend to ascend to the summit, and then proceed on mules, so as to reach the top before sunrise, so as to obtain a good sight of Sicily, and surrounding Island, and it is said to be beautiful and can see as far as Malta which is 40 or 50 miles distance; but after sunrise clouds inte[r]vene and all is obscure.

One English gentleman, I was informed by one that ascended with him to the summit, was desirous of descending the crater at this height and as they could not prevail [prevail] on him to give up the idea; every thing was prepared for his descent; a staging was erected on each side of the opening at a safe distance from it, and a beam laid across with ropes, and tackles attached; they lowered him some hundred feet into the unseen depths where, if a rock is even thrown down is heard for a long while, rumbling as it speeds its way along and down into this dark place he went untill he at last gave the signal to be drawn up, and they were three hours bringing him up again to the light of day; and he gained nothing after attempting such a hazardous work for as far as he went it was still one great opening; only he could say he had been down there. In the crater at the red hills people sometimes descend these, as they are not considered so dangerous.

A year ago last August was the last eruption and it was in the night succeeding one of their days of Romish feast, and that evening they had displayed in painting the eruption which took place two hundred years ago. About 12 at night said our informant, "a great noise was heard arousing the inhabitants from their slumbers and seeing a great light and not knowing what it was gave the alarm of fire; finding this not the cause, he thought it was a revolution, so before entering the street seized his musket intending to fight with the rest; but when he reached the door plainly saw the cause; for on looking towards the Mt, saw the fire ascending in the air at the height of a mile, and then as suddenly descending to the ground; knowing the direction it was from the city it could not [have] injured them, returned to the house and his bed, telling his wife, who was very much alarmed

82

that it would take it two months to reach them as it was such a distance, and in another direction. The air was filled with a fine dust; and with which every thing was covered for miles, and it also formed into clouds, and was blown out over the surrounding country, and large quantities fell at Malta. Some of this was presented to me by the British Vice Consulate, as it was taken from the Piazza of his house. The inhabitants are pleased to see an eruption, as they think it prevents earthquakes to which the place is subject. A shock of one was felt about a fortnight before our arrival, but it was slight.

Received an invitation to take dinner at the English consul's who is also one consignee; enjoyed myself much; they seem to be very pleasant agreeable people. After dinner[,] which was about four PM[,] two carriages were brought to the door into which eight of us were seated; two of them being a gentleman and his wife from Messina. We then started to take a fine ride[,] but we had proceeded through only a few streets when the clouds which looked very threatening before we left began to drop their contents upon us; but as the carriages were partly covered, and the two gentlemen were provided with umbrellas, and large shawls, we kept on hoping it might cease, but at last we thought it prudent to go back, for it looked

83

as if it would close up the day with rain; but we had been back only a short time when it ceased[,] the sun came forth, and it was as fine as one could wish; they had some idea of starting again, but as it was then seven and after, we had to come on board so they gave it up.

Fruit is very scarce[.] I have been a voyage before but that I had as much as I could eat, but now I have not seen a single orange or any other kind save two or three lemons. Sat 5 PM We are now ready to sail, having all of our cargo on board, consisting of brimstone, sumac, canary seeds, bales of rags, and six hundred boxes of lemons; and they are now making preparation for leaving our mooring, and drop in the stream; my husband is ashore clearing his vessel. I have just received from the E. Consul and family a large and beautiful bouquet [bouquet], some sulphur ore, a box of almonds, besides a box of oranges and 1 of lemons [-] which is always customary [customary] when a vessel takes fruit, but I thought I should not get them, as they said there were no oranges and we could not buy them anywhere. 6 PM We are now taking leave of Catania although the prospect is not flattering as there is no wind, and no prospect of one, and must be towed out, the same as we came in[.] There are 30 or 40 on the mole to watch us come out, and of this company 8 or 10 are Priest. I wish there was a good breeze

84

May, Sun 28. We have had but very little wind during the whole night and the next forenoon, and we proceeded but a very little. About three o'clock that afternoon (Sun) we experienced a heavy thunder storm, and after that passed we enjoyed a fine cool breeze, and very pleasant, and wind fair; but about dark it started ahead, but still pleasant; Monday was cloudy with a strong breeze. We stood to the Southward, as far as Malta and had a fine view of Vallette, the chief sea port of the Island.

While off there, seven large steamers came out of the harbor, bound east.

During the rest of the week, for the greater part of the time[,] had a fair wind but very light[.] Several vessels in company. Thursday night the Island of Sicily was lost to our sight and Saturday saw the Island of Sardinia.

During the night had another squall accompanied with very sharp lightening, and heavy thunder and rain, and hail.

This forenoon wind variable and squally while most of the time could be heard the low muttering of the distant thunder. After twelve the sun burst forth from among the clouds while the wind freshened from the northwest, and the heavy bank [of clouds?] that had been lying in that part of the horizon, rose, and was swept along the heavens with great rapidity. This lasted for about two or

85

three hours, and it really looked as if the sun would not be obscured again this day, only as some light flying mist passed over shading its brightness for a few seconds to make its brilliancy more perfect when they were past. But in a very short time clouds arose from another direction, and spread themselves over the sky; while the wind shifted as suddenly, and it rained for the rest of the afternoon, until a short time before the sun went down, as it were[,] into its bed of waters[,] presenting as the clouds broke away a scene of beauty and splendor; while in the opposite direction was the most beautiful rainbow I ever saw, reminding us of God's promise to Noah, and his descendents[.] Several vessel have been in sight to day. This afternoon a large English ship passed us bound East

Sun June 4 Oh! I am tired of having the wind from the westward; for we are now where we can do but little as the distance is so short from one side to the other, that we cannot stand on one tack but a few hours if the wind does start so that we might gain some if we could keep on and whereas if we tack it will head us off a great deal more; but this is nothing we must stand back; although the wind may have just started when if it had only been the same when we first started on this task, as only remained as it had been all the while, we might do something

86

yet we must take it as it comes and do the best we can. We enjoyed light but fair winds from Sunday untill Tuesday night when it came ahead; since then it has been nothing but blow! blow! beat! beat! Wednesday night we stood close in to Cape Pelos Spain; having then between five and six degrees to go and be out through the Straits, into the blue Atlantic; a distance we could go with ease in two days with a fair wind. Here we fell in [with?] the Bark Prompt bound to Boston and exchanged [exchanged?] signals with her. Since Wednesday it has been been [sic] very windy, and cold for June, and with no appearance of a change for the better but rather for the worse, to night. We are now under reefed topsail, and blowing fresh and a heavy sea making it very rough. To night stood in just to the weather of Cape deSat; the Prompt falling to the leeward very fast, and dropping astern.

When shall we have a fair wind[,] for I feel very anxious to proceed for there seems to be something about the air arising from the cargo making all on board sick with the bowel complaint and my little boy has it so bad, I am anxious about him and long to get him home; but when I look at the heavens and see no prospect of a change in the wind and with that and a head tide I feel almost discouraged. But patience, patience I must practice. But it is a hard lesson to learn

87

Sun June 11 To day finds us commencing another week, and still we are not out of the Mediterrenaen [sic]. We have now been out three weeks, and our progress has been so slow the last week, that it is discouraging to look ahead and think of the distance between us and Boston. The hopes we had when we left Catania of reaching there by the 4th of July and to which we have along untill now, must be entirely given up, for we have only twenty three days now, and when shall we get out of the Mediterrenaen; if we go no faster then we have this last week we shall not be out by another Sunday The first ten day we came about sixteen degrees; since then we have gained on the remaining five, about three.

We had fresh breezes from last Sunday, so that we were under reefed topsails, untill Wednesday; that night we stood over close to the African coast, leaving the fleet of vessels that were in company with us out of sight We tacked about twelve the next day and stood back and by so doing gained considerable, and here fell in with another large fleet of vessels, our old companions out of sight to the leeward. Since then we have been becalmed for most of the time; sometime a a [sic] light wind will spring up[,] gladden our hearts for a few moments, get us to the height of expectation carry us along perhaps a dozen miles, or so, then leave us with not a breath of wind, and the

88

strong current which is setting strong to the East carrying us back, so that when the next breeze comes we must start from our old place. We have not seen the Prompt since last Sunday. There are now fifty two vessels in sight all bound west

Sun June 18 We are to day somewhat farther along then we were last Sunday; although we have had head winds most of the time Monday morning the wind breezed us freash [fresh?], which we were glad to see, notwithstanding it was it was ahead; we were then about up with Malaga, the wind was so that they stood over very near the African shore when they tacked and in standing over to the other side on the tack brought us within 15 or 20 miles from the Rock; thus leaving our companions of the morning (which were numerous) out of sight to the leeward before, and by noon but found plenty ahead as we advanced; at dark we were within 8 or 10 miles of the Rock and as we could not go round that night, the vessel was put under short sail, so that she could hold her own and remained so during the night In the morning we were very nigh the Rock and remained untill the tide turned which was about 9 oclock when we went round into the Bay of Gibraltar, and anchored off the City. We came in with the hope of getting steam to

take us through the Straits; but in this we were disappointed as one of the two boats were chartered to the government

89

and the other got ashore, and sunk; so that we knew then we must remain untill the wind changed, and we endeavored to do it with a good grace. Vessels were here that had been over a fortnight waiting; while some had lain untill they were tired and attempted to get out and were carried back by the force of the tide as far as Malaga, and had the pleasure of beating down again and coming to anchor in the harbor the second time.

We laid here the next day, and the next morning we were pleased with a prospect of getting out; it had been calm all night and then only had the first light air reached us from the east [coast?] It was night quite four in the morning, but we were soon under way, amid the clinking of chains, for by this time, all was on the move and on their way out. The morning was a fine one and the wind which at first was light, now increased filling us with pleasure and making every thing seem joyous and delightful and it was a fine sight, here were about one hundred sail of square rigged vessels, all very near together crowding all the sail on that they could, to avail themselves of the wind. One vessel made use of a sail I never saw before which was a sail on to the main boom under the mainsail which was quite a space as the main sail was out as far as the rigging would let it go but after all his efforts many went past him

90

Some few were ahead of us, those that were just down to the Rock and could keep on without the trouble of getting under way; but these we were up with just after passing Gariffa.

We kept this wind untill a short way past Trafalgar when it left us entirely for a short time, letting the tide carry us back some ways. About dark a breeze sprung up from the west, but as we were no strangers to head winds, and calms, we commenced beating without a murmur, or at least if they arose in our hearts they were not expressed in words

The next day (Friday) it blew fresh from the same way; quite a number of vessels in sight; some that we past and left a long way behind were the next morning (Saturday) up with us again; this we did not relish at all, and tried to solve the mystery; this we did the next night (Sat) for on standing in very close to the coast of Portugal we had a fair tide and the wind more off shore, and the other vessel standing in nearer then we did the night before thus got the advantage of us, but never mind[,] they are not in sight now. This morning we are just past Cape St Vincent and calm. About 10 AM the American Bark Turk [?] came past and spoke us, requesting us to report her as 27 days from Boston bound to Gibraltar. To night we are having a good breeze, though not exactly fair, but as she almost goes her course we will be quite content for we are now in the broad Atlantic and not pinched for room

91

can do rather better with a head wind. Lat 86=00 N Lon 10-40 W

Sun June 25. Time still rolls on, and in its rapid flight has brought us to the commencement of another week; and where are we! what has been our progress the past week! The first two or three days we had a fair wind but very light excepting [excepting] one day we had quite a good breeze, and we came rather over four degrees, which was a great help to us; but this must be met with a little more head wind, and to day it is still ahead, and looks as if it might continue sometime longer and if it were possible for the perfume from our own New England to be wafted across the ocean at such a distance we should long ago have inhaled its odor [odor] for after one westly wind is past another comes, and I might almost say we have nothing else, for when we have a fair wind it is so light we scarcely move in the water. I sometimes think it is well the hills mountains etc from the Western Continent are immoveable or we might almost fear being buried by an avalanche sweeping over us caused by a succession of westly wind.

If it were not for hope which inspires us[,] we should have been discouraged before now, for we have now been out five weeks and have not gone half our distance[,] yet but I hope the most tedious half is past at least, and upon this hope takes hold and with anticipation almost unsupportable await the

92

morrow for a better prospect; but how often it bring nothing cheering with it; but still we hope on; still look ahead, and thus passes days weeks, and as they pass we are still upon the broad blue Atlantic This is a true picture of a mariner's life for it is tiresome, irksome, tedious, and perplexing and one fraught with dangers and hardships of every kind and yet how many thousand are employed every year carrying on the trade between all Nations and for the benefit of the world at large. How many, and even those that derive the most benefit [benefit] from this class, speak slightly of a seaman as if nothing good could come from them, and as if they ought to be the best of men, and think they ought not to have a footing with those that spend their lives on shore, though they be ever so worthy. But to such as these I would say I pray thee stop, and consider the thing a brief moment before such thoughts as these escape thy lips.

How often we hear persons tell how glad thankful and happy they are, after a short passage across the Atlantic and they even speak of hardships they have endured. Yes I agree with them it is sometimes disagreeable to be on the water, but they are complaining at what a sailor calls the height of comfort, no watch to stand; no sail to make or take in; no cold and pitilous storm to face for hours on deck; plenty of time to sleep read or whatever else may amuse and no care; this is all done for them by some one while they enjoy their ease, and yet they speak of hardship; then I say pity those whose whole lives are spent upon the water, who would gladly stay on shore in the bosom of their families if they could But I must return to our passage and not wander again. This is a fine pleasant day with a brisk westly [westerly] wind and our little ship flies or skips as it were over the water with now and [then] stop[p]ing long enoug[h] to dash the foaming sea from her brow in anger, then gliding along to meet her foe again, to contend for a clear passage through But after all with a head wind & tide our progress west is slow, but we content ourselves the best we can There has been several vessels in sight to day bound east; luck go with them, and us to [too] I trust

8 PM A fair wind has again reached us, for we are now gliding along before a northeast wind which came rather sudden about 6 PM for at 5 it was dead ahead as it could blow. I hope it will last for some time, but I hardly dare think so. We are now in Lat 36=53 N Lon 23=25 W

94

Sunday July 2 Another week has passed and with its many changes, and to day we commence another week and also another month, or at least only one day has passed of it, previous to day. Alas! July has been ushered upon us, and where are our hope or those we indulged when leaving Catania of reaching Boston to spend the fourth; they are gone, all gone; only one day remains to pass before that will dawn upon us, and are we near that place, no! we have now about 40 degrees to travel yet, and what a prospect is now before us for it is calm and the surface as far as the eye can scan lies like a large mirror. Last Thursday we were in 32=16 and we are to day only in 32=39 when shall we reach Roston at this rate; it would take a better mathematician then I am to tell or at least I don't want to think of it long enoug[h] it gives me the "lows" is it not enough

Last Monday morning found us about 10 miles to the south of the Island of St Mary, one of the Western Island; we were out of sight of it a little past noon, from that time untill Thursday noon we had light winds from the northeast; since then it has been almost breathless calm, and the weather extremely warm. Thermometer standing on 88°

But for all the discouragements of a calm

95

day and being shut out from all society save those on board; yet there is much to delight and interest one. For lo! you[r] eye is caught at something far out upon the smooth glassy surface; these are what are termed Killers, rearing their long black fins high in the air, then disappearing for a short time; then again making their appearance, as if to claim both air and water, and as much as to say, who dare dispute my right of king for both, for even the monsters of the deep it is said, flee at his approach

Then next may may [sic] be seen a large school of Porpoises, playing around the vessel regardless of a sharp iron that is being prepared for the capture of some of their company, and as if to laugh at our slow progress. But soon one of them loses his life by coming to[o] near; for the harpoon which has been poising over the bow ready to be darted as soon as one is in the right position; now down it goes, holding fast to one, although every effort is used by him to extricate himself; but to no purpose, for he is taken in on board, and replenishing our oil can, which had cried empty, and furnishing a rich repast for all on board, excepting myself, for I was so foolish I dare not taste of it, although it sent forth a most delightful oder [odor] and certainly

97

looked very nice; the rest of his companion leaving him to his fate instantly disappeared The next was seen a Dolphin; this we was equally successful in capturing, which was a beautiful treat, and of which I could partake; and with both have enjoyed quite a treat on fresh food most

of the week. During the whole of the calm, has been hundreds of nautilus with their sail spread sailing past us, and scattered over the water as far as the eye could discern them; and now the eye is attracted to a tiny bit called a sea cricket, I believe, skipping over the calm surface like magic [magic], beside the numerous maritime animals, or animacules, darting backward and forwards which are always to be seen in these latitudes in calm weather, which make the time pass away pleasantly to one who delights to watch, and find sources for amusement in the deep; and when we think of the benefit we derive from these, and of the wisdom of a Divine Being, in assigning each i[t]s proper sphere, it spread out before us a large field for thought and improvement a field for years of search and study, and yet not know all or even half. It is again evening, or about the time that our friends are all assembled in the house of God, and our thoughts are

97

busy with home pictures, most to busy to write more on this. Is there one in the wide circle we call friends there, that has bestowed one thought on us to day, and thought that we were lonely, or would like to join with them in visiting the house of God; perhaps some might say, you need not be there; you are not obliged to be there any more then we; but let me ask which would be the worse to be seperated from the best friend, I have on earth, all of the time for the sake of enjoying the comfort and enjoyments of the land, or share with him once in a while his privation, and lonely hours, and endeavor to make them pleasanter, and more cheerful. I think the latter far more preferable, though on such an evening as this our thoughts may wander home.

Sun July 9. The days and hours of this week have seemed very long and tedious; at the close of a day when I thought of the morning, it seemed as if a week had passed What has been the cause of this! why has it seemed longer, and more tedious then other weeks, is it because it has been stormy weather, or is it becauase we have been entirely alone, and have seen [no?] companion on the water; No it is not either of these; but it is because it has been calm, and hope had nearly died within us; and how could it be otherways; for at night when I

98

retired the last things I would do was to run my eyes all over the sky to see if there was no indication of a breeze; if I could not discern a clooud as big as a man's hand that might before morning bring us something favorable; but no! what clouds there were lay as still and motionless as if they were immovably fixed; sometime they might be seen all around us dropping their contents of rain, but not one drop would come to refresh us after a hot, sultry day; then again I might look far out on the water, and perhaps I would catch a glimpse of something dark which told there was a slight ruffle on the face of the glassy surface that lay spread around, but what would it be a slight puff (cats paw as they are sometimes called), last perhaps two minutes, and it is gone, you know not where, while sometimes they would all vanish before reaching us. I would look at the Barometer to see if that would not tell a change, but that was the same as it had been for a week not started [?] a hair; and then feeling almost as if there was to be no more wind, I would go to my bed hoping against hope that tomorrow must see a change And thus past a week; and this is the progress we made {2 dzs, 10^m} {1 dz 25^m} {1 dz 20 } {2 dz 12^m} {1 dz 01^m} { 1 dz 41^m} wasn't this enough to discourage any one; here has passed a week, and about 2 degrees gone, and not one vessel could we see bound west but a

great many bound east. Where are the vessels that came out of Gibraltar with us bound to Boston! are they proceeding while we are laying here becalmed; I fear they may be, and if so it certainly seems to bad when every effort is used with us to get along; not only would it benefit us, but those that we are consigned too, and for their sakes as well as our own I wish we had a breeze; but it will do no good to worry.

We passed the fourth in this calm, and the sun was so extremely powerful that I dared not venture on deck untill after six PM Thermometer standing on 110° in the sun and 90° in the cabin and it was so much as I could do to sit still.

Thursday there was rather more breeze then there had been since the Thursday before There had been an English ship in sight all day bound east when about three miles to the leeward of us lowered their boat and came on board of us. We thought they were coming after water or provision one; but their principal object seemed to get late English papers telling of the war, and to get a recruit of ale, and one or two other small things of not much account[,] but as we had nothing in the drinking line of course could not supply them, but gave them what papers we had, and some candles, as their lights had gone out, and after stop[p]ing about a hour & half bid us good day a[nd] departed for their ship. They were from Cape of Good Hope, been 2 ½ years from

England; they told us they had, had light winds but had not had it so calm as it was that day; this gave us new courage to hope we were about emerging from the calms while they were just entering them; but as they seemed very unconcerned about it just about as willing for it to be calm as any thing else we did not worry of course much for them It was the ship "Anna" Capt Downward

The next day Friday we had a wind all day, but quite light; that evening there was more prospect of a good breeze, then there had been for a week; the clouds could be seen to move a little, and the Barometer fell about 10, and these signs did not fail, for we had a refreshing wind all night, and at four yesterday afternoon we had passed over the distance of 3 degrees and 5 miles by the wind; much better then we expected, and for which I am very thankful, although our passage will have to be long I fear. We have kept the breeze, and have been going along finely all day, although it is to day rough, and squally, and makes me feel very seasick; but have improved some since dinner, but of this I will not complain as long as we can proceed on our passage; for we have been necessarally laying on our oars long enough, waiting for the wind to come up and show herself, and now it behooves us to be up and doing, and reach Boston before it goes down again. We are to night in Lat 36=28 N Long 43=09 W.

Sun July 16 This week has proved to be the best week in our progress since leaving Gibraltar; we have enjoyed fair winds and a tolerable good quantity [sic], and to day finds us enjoying pleasant weather, and a light wind Yesterday afternoon passed a large bark bound south east; she hoisted her "colors" and signal and we could distinguish the letter "M" This forenoon a large stick was seen ahead, and which we tried to obtain as it would replenish our stock of wood which is rather low; but after getting along side of it, it proved to be part of a large tree, too large and bulky for us to take in. It looked as if it had been in the water a year or more; the outside was good for nothing, and covered with clams, while around it were playing a large number of fish.

A large bark in sight astern, and gains on us some as the wind dies away but as it freshens we can say to her "keep your distance".

We are to have now, about 11° western and 4° northern to pass over, and I hope before another Sunday to have finished this Journal (if such it may be called) and be safely moored in Boston. I wish I was to night where I was a year ago to night, for we went into Boston from a voyage to Palermo. To night finds us in Lat 38-32 N Lon 59-26, just entering the Gulf Stream

102

July Sat 22 This morning finds us within 35 or 40 miles of Boston, where, when we arrive may rest from our labors, or not we exactly but those upon whom the care, anxiety and work of the voyage has rested Last Sunday left us entering the Gulf Stream, that river of warm water in the Atlantic, for such it may be called bounded on both sides by water, much colder by many degrees; and thus keeping itself to itself, not associating with its companion, water, and thus flowing on to the NE from the time it leaves the Gulf of Mexico until it loses its force, near the Western Island. I used to have an idea, I know not wheather it originated with me or not, or wheather I learned it from someone as ignorant as myself, that the Gulf Stream was a fathomless depth, where no bottom was ever known to exist, this idea I always fostered not taking the trouble to inquire, although this is the 14th time I have crossed it. Last Sunday I accidentally took up "Maury's Sailing Directions", and was soon very deeply and interestingly engaged. I found it about as interesting as any book I have perused this voyage (which is not a few) for it was something both interesting and instructive. I there found that the Gulf Stream was not as deep as the surrounding waters, and was

103

caused by the trade winds blowing from the SE into the Gulf of Mexico forcing out from thence a warm current of water.

From Sunday night untill Monday night it was calm. During that forenoon, saw a large school of sperm whales, only a short distance from the vessel, so that I had a good opportunity to watch their movements. Monday evening a breeze sprung up and squally during the night; the next day very squally, especially in the afternoon and first part of the night, thunder, lightening, and heavy rain. Wednesday a good breeze, and very fine. That night was in the northern edge of the Stream and upon the whole had good weather crossing it, to what I have seen, sometimes the

thunder & lightening is almost fearful. Thursday morning found us on Georges's [Bank], and since then it has been hard work to get along. We could have been in Boston yesterday morning with ease, with a decent breeze, but as it moderated that day down to a calm, and set in thick with fog, we gained but little. The calm and fog continued untill last night, when it broke away. Yesterday morning Black Fish were all around the vessel as they had been all night; one of the men commenced blowing the fog horn, at that they all swarmed around the vessel, the horn appearing to set them crazy; at that one of the men took the harpoon

104

went on the bow and darted into one of them which took a good hold and they took him in on deck, it being rather small one making they judge on third of a barrel of oil. I never saw them so plenty before. About four yesterday it broke away and about six PM saw the Highlands of Cape Cod after an absence of 4 months and 9 days and if there had been a good breeze should have been in Boston this morning, as snug as a bug, but it was calm all night and this morning are up with the Race [Point], and is shut in thick with fog and still calm and I fear we may not get in to day. O dear! But I ought not to complain as I think we have been favored with fair winds since emerging from the calms off the Western Islands although they have been light most of the time, but yet this is better then to have them ahead

Transcriber's Notes on Journal of Mrs. S, M, (Sally Mayo) Lavender

History of Sally Mayo Dyer Lavender

Sally Mayo Dyer was born November 25, 1826 in North Truro to Henry Dyer and Sally Mayo of Provincetown. She was one of ten children. She married Captain John Richardson Lavender on October 25, 1846.

Captain John Richardson Lavender was born May 9, 1823 in Nova Scotia to Robert Lavender and Ann Allin. He and his brother Joseph Atkins Lavender moved to Provincetown and became citizens of the United States of America based on the fact that their father was born in Charleston, South Carolina. Joseph Atkins Lavender married Clarissa Atwood.

Sally Mayo Dyer Lavender and Captain John Richardson Lavender had five children: William Reed Lavender, born October 30, 1847; Joseph Lavender, born January 14, 1849; John Adams Lavender, born January 28, 1855; Sarah Estelle Lavender, born August 22, 1858; and Carrie Louise Lavender, born November 17, 1867 (the recipient of the Journal).

Captain John Richardson Lavender died June 9, 1878, while at sea near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. (His brother had been lost at sea in 1870.) Sally Mayo Dyer Lavender died April 29, 1915, in Melrose, Middlesex, Massachusetts. She is buried in the Old Cemetery, Section 171, in Provincetown. The tombstone is also marked with her husband's name and dates despite the fact that he was buried where he died. Next to their tombstone is the smaller, older tombstone of their son Joseph. His death before the voyage may have been the impetus for Sally and her older son William to join the voyage.

This is her third voyage to the Mediterranean (reference May 11).

Also on the Ship

Her husband, Captain John Richardson Lavender

Dr. Judson, who had spent time in Burma

Her son [William, 7 yo]

Various crew

Progression of the Voyage [per notes in the Journal]

<u>Date</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Notes</u>
3/12/1854	42-05 North	70-19 West	Depart from Provincetown
3/16	42-59 North	57-01 West	
3/20	43-34 North	48-32 West	
3/27	40-98 North	33-47 West	
4/6	39-50 North	18-44 West	
4/9	37-45 North	11-22 West	
4/14			Passing through the Straits of Gibraltar
4/17	37-22 North	01-00 East	
4/23	49-18 North		Arrive at Marseilles
5/15			Leave Marseilles and enter the Straits of Messina
5/16			Arrived at Catania
5/26			Left Catania
5/28			Passing Vallette, Malta
6/4			Passing Cape Pelos, Spain
6/18			Passing Malaga
6/22			Back through the Strait of Gibraltar
6/23			Passing Cape St Vincent, Portugal
6/24	36-00 North	10-40 West	Back in the Atlantic
6/25	36-53 North	23-25 West	
6/27			10 miles to the south of the Island of St Mary of the Western Islands
6/30	32-16 North		
7/2	32-39 North		
7/9	36-28 North	43-09 West	
7/16	38-32 North	59-26 West	Just entering the Gulf Stream
7/21			Passing the Highlands
7/22			Race Point

References in Her Journal

Passing the Grand Banks where so many friends fish for cod	March 18
Ice bergs off the Grand Banks	March 20
Passing Western Island	March 29
Saw an Owl	April 7
Saw the light at Cape St Vincent, Portugal	April 8
Porpoises around the ship	April 10
Passed a French Man of War	April 11
Waiting off Capt Spartel with other ships (one 74 gun frigate, "Ships, Barks, Brigs, Schooners" and one felucca) until the wind allowed them to enter the Straits of Gibraltar	April 13

Spoke with the American Bark Prompt, of Boston, from Wilmington NC bound to Barcelona been out forty days	April 13
Passing through the Straits of Gibraltar	April 17
Arrived at Marseilles	April 23
Rode on an omnibus carrying 16 people to the Public Garden of Marseilles	April 30
Passed the lighthouse on the Island of Porquerolles on the coast of France	May 6
Entered the Straits of Bonifasio between Corsica and Sardinia	May 6
Passing the Stromboli volcano	May 11
Entering the Straits of Messina	May 15
Saw Mt Aetna; arrived Catania	May 15
Had dinner with the English Consul	May 2
Preparing to leave with a cargo of brimstone, sumac, canary seeds, bales of rags, and six hundred boxes of lemons	May 28
Passing Vallette on the Island of Malta – as they were passing seven large steamers came out of the harbor heading east	May 28
Back through the Strait of Gibraltar – after having been becalmed – with 100 other vessels	June 22
Encountered the English ship Anna w Capt Downward bound east which had sailed from the Cape of Good Hope. The ship had not been back to England in 2 ½ years.	July 6
Passed a large tree floating in the water, covered with clams, with fish playing around it.	July 16
Saw a large school of sperm whale	July 17
Ship surrounded by Black Fish	July 21
Saw the Highlands of Cape Cod after an absence of 4 months, 9 days	July 21
Reached Race Point	July 22

Usage Variations

<u>Her Usage</u>	<u>Current Style</u>
considerable	considerably
discernable	discernible
lay	lie
Messinna	Messina
otherways	otherwise
past	passed
then	than
to	too
to day	today
untill	until
vallies	valleys
wheather	whether

Books She Reads on the Voyage

“Lamplighter”

“Camp Fires of the Revolution”

“Light on the dark river” or memorials of Mrs H Hamblin

She quotes William Cowper (March 28) – “God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform. He plants his foorstep in the sea And rides upon the storm.”