

# Lucy Wetmore Gray to her father, Chauncey Wetmore

Written aboard the Steamboat *Orus* at Chagres, Panama

March 25, 1849

Dear Father

I will just write a few words while our little steamer is waiting at Chagres. We did not leave the *CC* till this morning as Captain Stoddard did not think it advisable. It is a great task to unload a ship with so many passengers and so much baggage. After we came to anchor yesterday morning, the *Orus* came along side and took one load of passengers and their baggage and landed them at Chagres, and returned, loaded again, but it was too late to go over the bar at the mouth of the river then so this morning as soon as we could get breakfast, we all went on board of the *Orus* and after three cheers were off for California. Capt. Stoddard, whom we have found very polite and attentive all the way came over to Chagres with us. We are waiting here for the purpose of letting those who choose have the opportunity of going in canoes up the river. It will be sometime before we get over to Panama [City] but we feel in no hurry as the *California* has not yet arrived, and we shall be well accommodated, and well provided for by some friends here, gentlemen from home who are out here at Gorgona. We have the promise of a good shelter at the engineering house and Col. Norris has promised us the use of a bed so that we can lay down in the canoes and make ourselves as comfortable as possible. He is very kind to us, indeed. There are so many passengers that we cannot get along very fast. We anticipate no difficulty at all. Some of the gentleman who have no ladies with them may fare hardly but we know we shall have the best accommodations the country can afford. Chagres looks like a parcel of hay stacks. I can say no more.

Your affectionate daughter, Lucy Gray.

There are a great many persons going back. They have no ticket in the steamer, and there is no prospect of getting up at present, but we do not feel at all uneasy. As soon as the *California* arrives we should go up. We cannot rely on anything that is told here. There are a great many

stories told by them who wish to make speculations. Do not believe anything you hear and do not be anxious about us. We should be well provided for and find no trouble. I find Mrs. Fremont a very agreeable companion. Goodbye.