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New York

Copy

Ship Anna Kellers July 17. 1834.
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My dear Father

Here I am one more west of the Cape of Good Hope, and within a few days sail of St Helena; We left the coast of Sumatra on the 16th May and were very fortunate in being able to get away so soon, for our ship carries a very large cargo - we were the first vessel loaded, but were detained in wooding and watering, in consequence of which two vessels got two days the start of us, bound to America, by which I would have written to you if I had known they were loaded - I wrote you from the coast, the 10th January last by the brig Homer which sailed about the 20th March for New York, in which I mentioned we were going to the northern part of the Island - we arrived at Arceon on the 24th and went on shore the next morning to visit the King of the Island - his brother sent his compliments that it was not convenient to see us, it being Rapa (or as they call it in Calcutta Rarnadun) which lasts a month, during which they do not eat or drink any thing in the day time - The City lies about two miles up a river, on a very extensive plain, nearly ten miles square and not more than two feet above the level of the sea, surrounded by very high mountains - it resembles all the other places on the coast, except it has a custom house, where the king collects a duty on every thing that is taken into the city - I saw some beautiful Guns, English make, different from any I have ever seen or heard of - they are made of composition and the metal very thin - one of them had the date and maker, and was perfect and smooth as when it was made lying half buried in the mud; it was about twelve feet long and two in diameter - there were two large granite balls, one lying each side of it, about sixteen inches in diameter, similar to the description of those at the Sandanckes. We also saw a number of field pieces, some mounted and some lying on the ground - The City from its present ruinous state, I should suppose was a place of some consequence in former times - We were not able to sell any of our cargo there as we expected, owing to our not having an interpreter (who was taken sick on the passage up and we had to put him on shore) and the goods being obliged to go to the custom house to sell, which was not very safe, for we were bound to carry the proceeds too great a distance down the river, and would be liable to be attacked by the natives - I went on shore but once while we there (which was only four days) and in consequence did not see as much of the place as I wished - We did not continue on to the Pedie coast as we first intended, for we would not be able to do any thing without an interpreter, but returned down the coast again to the port where we had contracted for pepper, where we commenced surveying, which gave us occupation till the crop began to come in, which was about the middle of March; from that time we were very busy in securing our cargo, for there is not the least confidence to be put in a contract made with the natives - We did not

load where we had first contracted, for a French ship came in where we were when they raised the price at once. One of the greatest difficulties a Sumatran meets with, is to have a vessel heave in sight when he is loading, for they (the natives) will not give any pepper while he is there in hopes of raising a competition between the vessels and by that means raising the price. They are the worst set of human beings I ever heard of; they have not the least principle or honesty about them: even the head men, when they are on board the ship will steal whatever they can lay their hands on. We had a watch and several other things stolen from us. They always go armed with a Kris (a knife little larger than a clasp-knife) and a large knife resembling something between a sword and a butcher's cleaver; that is, they are broader at the ~~point~~ ^{butt} end than at the handle, and without any guard for the hand. I collected reading of a general ~~and~~ description of the attack the English Potomac made upon Dualah Butros. They are such great cowards that if they had known they were to be attacked, they would

have been one found in the place. They are continually at war among themselves, but as soon as one man is killed they call it a bloody engagement, when they begin to talk of peace, which is generally settled by the victorious party paying for the man they killed. During this passage we have passed within sight of the Isles of France and Bourbon, and made the land several times near the Cape of Good Hope. We had uncommonly fine weather there for the season. We experienced ^{but} one gale which caused us to lie too about twenty four hours. Since passing the Cape we have had fresh fair winds.

I am glad to be once more approaching a civilized place, for this voyage has not been a very pleasant one to me. I have not spoken a dozen words to the Captain since we left Sumatra, and have none else but the mates to converse with. Capt. Gillies leaves the ship at St. Helena and returns home, and the chief mate takes charge of her from there to Guoa. It was so intended when we left the United States, but I did not know it till after we had been some time at Sumatra. I think I shall like him very much for a captain, for we have been very good friends the whole voyage. His name is Jacob Caldwell. I thought it singular we should leave a Captain's berth and go mate in this ship. But if the ship should go out to Sumatra again, he is to have charge of her, but I do not know whether she will or not, any more than when I left home. But if they want me to go in her, they must pay me fair. For, as a Captain observed to me, "a man does not want to go to Sumatra more than three or four times and then he goes for money." All the officers of the ship have been to most of the ports in the East Indies, and they say that the Sumatra trade is the worst. We are unfortunate in not having any Steward; the fellow that goes by that name, did not know

any thing about his business, and was lame with an ulcer on his leg when he shipped which became so offensive that we turned him out of the cabin the second week after we left New York, and he has not had his foot in it since. - from lying about the deck, and not doing any thing he has got the scurvy. - we shall get rid of him at St. Helena.

In my letter by the Homer I mentioned something about having an affection of the neck. It was the first symptoms of an eruption of the skin which I have had ever since then, and has given me a good deal of trouble; more so perhaps than it would have done if I had not endeavored to conceal it from the officers of the ship. It arose from the fit of sickness I had just before I left home, for I had some slight indications of it then. - a few warm baths at Guoa I expect will remove it. - otherwise my health has been very good. All the news I have of home since I left was your

old advertisement of Guns, cutlery &c which I saw in our October paper about two months since. I am very anxious to get to Europe, for besides being tired of these confounded long voyages, I want to hear how you are all getting on.

I did intend writing home, and how Aunt Paris got through the winter. I did intend writing to Pierre & Edgar, but my time has been spent, pretty much the same as though I had been at sea all the time, and have nothing to say that would interest them. I hope they will not be equally neglectful of me, for I wish very much to hear how their affairs have flourished.

I suppose you have heard often from William as vessels are continually sailing from Canton for the U.S. I have not had any opportunity of writing to him, excepting a few lines by a Dutch vessel bound to Batavia, which we spoke on our passage out. The brig Homer has been the principal cause of all the vessels on the coast of Sumatra this year paying nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of more than it might have been got at. When we saw him we had made our contract for \$5 per picul, but he was anxious to get away and there was about enough of the old crop to load him and he offered that much more fair. - the consequence was a general rise the whole length of the coast.

I expect our cargo is nearly $\frac{1}{4}$ less than any other vessel and I have no doubt but we shall make a very handsome voyage of it. My principle advantage in the thick cost of 142 and I calculate to make from ninety to a hundred percent on it.

St. Helena July 23^d. We arrived here yesterday afternoon about 3 1/2 o'clock and went immediately on shore, but it was so late I could not for much; I however had a great treat which consisted of tea with cream and a piece of fresh bread and butter. - this morning I breakfasted at the American Consul's Mr. Carroll, who is a very nice man. I saw a beautiful daughter of his, who is married to a Mr. Brookhouse of Salem. He returned from America about four months since. Although she does not know much about N.Y. I find great pleasure in talking with one so lately from the U.S. - besides you must recollect I have not seen one of the fair sex a long while.

After breakfast I took a ride to the

tomb of Napoleon and to Longwood, during which I met with something of an adventure. I went on horse back which made me feel very awkward as I have been something of a late lately. I met an elderly soldier looking man and after passing a short distance a head of him, I thought I must have passed the road that led to the tomb when I waited for him to come up to enquire - he pointed out the road and said I had better continue on to Longwood as I had got past the tomb, and take it on my return, which I did - when we got to Longwood he asked me to walk to the new house that was built for Napoleon (which is now the residence of the Governor) when I thought it time to introduce myself, which I did, and found that it was the Governor himself - he showed me all over the house and sent a sentinel with me to show me the house that Napoleon died in.

I did not return to the House again, as I thought I might have intruded myself but started off for the tomb when he overtook me again and passed a few civil words when he proceeded on to town and to the tomb. I had a long yarn with an old veteran Surgeon and obtained some things of the fellow that hangs over the tomb.

I had not been back long when I received an invitation to dinner at 6 o'clock from the Governor, to which I sent a civil refusal as I had engaged to dine with Mr. Carroll, for there were greater inducements than there would be at the Governor's - At dinner I saw another of his daughters, who after all the rest of the guests had departed favored me with a song and some music on the guitar among which were some of my favorites that Catherine used to sing, which reminded me very much of home -

I am sorry our stay here is so short (for we are now sitting under weigh) for this day has been spent so agreeably that I am not in a hurry to get on board ship again - besides I have not had time to see as much of the place as I wished -

My time has been so agreeable that I forgot to end this letter till the last minute that I am obliged to cut short - the latter part of this voyage I expect to pay me for all that I have undergone -

I expect a host of letters to greet me on my arrival at Genoa -

Expenses here are exceedingly dear - for a horse to go to Longwood (about 6 miles) they charged me \$4 - a pair of common brogues \$2.50 and several other little things in preparation -

With love to Mrs. Davis and all the family - I remain

Your affectionate son
Samuel Smiley

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may say that the Sun
having my Steward; the fellow