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Calh.

Genoa Octo. 13. 1834

I arrived here on Monday morning the 6th after a tedious passage of 14 days from St Helena - we had uncommonly light winds the whole passage, and beat nearly all the way from the Straits here. Just before reaching the Western Islands we discovered our foremast was sprung, but what caused it we have not been able to find out - it would have gone by the board the same night if we had not discovered it when we did. We immediately sent down the top gallant mast & lowered the topmast, and fished the Mast in such a manner that it was as strong as when it was first put in the ship, and we carried the same sail upon it (excepting a reef in the top sail) as we did before - We got very short of provisions, so much so, that we had to go upon an allowance, and when we got in, we had but bread enough for one week more, and had the last cup of weak coffee the morning we let go our anchor. The Brig Horner is here from New York with her cargo of pepper - it seems as though she was fated to do injury to the trade this year. She arrived about a month since, and expelling our arrival here every day they have forced her cargo on the market which before was very bad - I doubt if the shippers will more than clear themselves this season for an very small adventure which has no expense whatever I doubt if it will make more than \$50. which is ~~two~~ less than I anticipated - last year the first cargo sold for 8 pcts and this year we shall not get more than 5. (This is merely to let you know how my prospects flourish).

I was very much disappointed in not finding any letters here for me when I heard the Horner had arrived direct from New York, but I suppose you did not know she sailed for this port and have sent all your letters to Gibraltar - at any rate, acting upon this supposition I immediately wrote to Mr. Hogue requesting him to forward them.

My captain has received letters from the owners, and also the consignee from the shippers, ordering the ship out to America again; but they have sent out another captain (who we expect to arrive every day) to take charge of her owing to the present Captain saying, before he left New York, that he would not go a second voyage - but what surprises me is, that my name has not even been mentioned by either the owners or shippers - the vessel (Brig Rupee) in which the new Master comes, belongs to the same owners, and they wish my present Captain to take the Brig and go to Sicily for a cargo of fruit and return to Boston, but every thing is left to the orders the Brig may bring - if the shippers do not make any offer to me, and a fair one (for the Capt. that comes out I understand is a disaffected fellow, so that I do not make any calculations in that quarter) not being particularly partial to the trade, I shall try to make arrangements to return in the Brig, because I think that will be the least expensive and like the Captain very much, but I think that the shippers, or Capt. Follier, is obliged to furnish me with a passage, as per the ant^o of a passage, I should not go in the Brig. I shall go either to Marseille or Leghorn (most likely the former) as there are few vessels that go directly from here to the United States) and take passage from there to the nearest port to home.

I have been out of quarantine but two days therefore you may well suppose I am about half out of my mind, being where I so little expected a few months since. I was ~~affraid~~ I should have had some difficulty in landing here, they first asked for a passport and then for a muster roll, but when they found I had neither the one, nor my name on the other (as I came in the capacity of passenger from St. Helena and reported myself as such per advice of Capt. G.) they required a certificate from the Consul that I was a citizen of the U.S. a something of that nature, but I believe the Merchant here (who by the way is a very fine man, a real John Bull, has good dinners &c which have been rather scarce of late, my last dinner being made of mouldy bread powdered, soaked and baked into a sort of pudding resembling a sea dish called "dumpling ~~for~~ funk", with a sauce made of molasses and vinegar) has settled it by obtaining permission for my remaining two months. But as to the length of my stay here, it depends altogether upon your letters, which will be here in about a fortnight, supposing them to be at Gibraltar, but at present I suppose remaining here until we hear from Capt. Gillies who may alter the face of things materially. We have advice today that the vessels which sailed before us from Sumatra had arrived at home and I presume we shall hear from him soon.

I have been twice to the Opera, a magnificent building, new, has six tiers of boxes - it will hold double the number of our Park Theatre. The city is altogether different from what I expected, but I refer you to Eustace's Italy for a better description of the place than I can give. This is the first mail to the U.S. via Havre, a I should have written sooner - when I get better acquainted and nearer your letters, I will let you know how my affairs get on - one thing - they cannot appear more gloomy to me than they do at present - it is mail time
Your son. London, England.

Edw. Irving Esq.
New York via Havre. My dear Father

Genoa Nov 30. 1834

Since my last (Oct 13th) the Brig Rubeen has arrived. She is to proceed to Palermo and take in a certain quantity of fruit on the owner's account and the remaining part of the cargo on freight and go to Boston; or, if the freight offered should be more advantageous for New York, she is to go thence. (She may possibly on account of freight go to some other port). Capt. Stanwood who came out in her to take charge of the Arnold Heller to Sumatra says that he did not know that I was in the ship. he asked the shipper if there was a passenger, or any thing of the kind on board - they said there was not. Capt. S. is altogether a different man than I anticipated. I did not do him justice in my last letter to you - he did not intend going to India again, but the house in whose employ he has been sailing for several years failed (by which he lost several thousand dollars) when the shipper of the A. W. engaged him for the present voyage - he says if he had had two hours for reflection he would not have gone - he is dissatisfied with the pay - they give him less than they did Capt. Gillies. I find that he, as all the I have seen that are acquainted with the shippers and owners, speak of their detestable meanness - even the house here that does their business cannot refrain from mentioning it - I cannot yet account for their not mentioning my name in any of their letters, for I am confident they must have known that I was in the ship. I have determined to return in the brig, by which means I shall get to the Windward of them, for if I should return in any other way, it is ten chances to one if I should ever be refunded my expenses, and if they should demand my passage of me, it is ten to one if they get it. I intend to play the Yankee in this business. I have talked this matter over with Mr. Parker (if the house of Webb, James & Co are concerned) he says that if the ship went home I of course would have had my passage in her, but as she is ordered to India again, the brig performs the voyage in her place, and I claim my passage in her - the Capt. runs no risk, nor has he any objections (in fact before the brig arrived, & had any conversation with Mr. Parker on the subject) he offered to settle it so that it would not cost me anything - when he took command of the ship at St. Helena he found me on board of her, and he might as well have left me there as here for he shall still be in a vessel belonging to the same owner. My captain is a fine fellow - a real salt water fish - I like him much - I make no promises to him as he takes it a matter of course that I am entitled to my passage, but if the owners should by any means make him liable, I must take care that he is not made a sufferer by me. We leave here for Palermo as soon as the brig can be got ready, which will be at least a fortnight as she wants several repairs, and will leave Palermo somewhere about the 1st of December. I calculate on sixty days passage to the U.S. the brig by Capt. Stanwood's account an uncommonly dull sailer - he was 66 days from Boston and 29 from Gibraltar here - at any rate you may look out for me in all the month of February but I hope to be domesticated by the time my next birth day comes round - I

don't like much the idea of being on our coast in that month, especially in a smaller craft than I have been accustomed to - however, we shall not experience much bad weather until we get on our coast, as we shall run down the coast -

The ship Dolphos arrived here from Sumatra on the 23^d touching at trah - she brought sundry epistles, letters, papers &c. which had been accumulated there for me which I received on the 25th - No one can imagine how acceptable they were unless they have been deprived of all news of their friends nearly fourteen months as I have - Among the batch there were eight from you from March 1 to Aug. 6. As there is no vessel sailing from here, and the postage by the way of Haue is so heavy, I shall not write to others of the family - I therefore acknowledge receipt of them to you - from Pierre three - March 1, Sept. 19, May 24 - Edger five, Feb. 28, Sept. 1, 27, March 28, Aug. 6 (when you write to Pierre or Edger, tell them I will answer their letters the first opportunity I have - if there is none before I arrive at Boston, I will write from there - from Theodore four - Feb. 28, March 30, May 12, June 26. - two & a quarter that ones from Catharine with an excuse she had not time - I am glad to see the young lady is busily employed - in fact she never has been - occasionally I passed for time as she did not date either of them - four long ones from Sarah - Julia and Mary, one each - one from the Pigeon and one from young Schumacher - if Theodore should come across him I wish he would inform him it had come safely to hand - I had partly written one to him at St. Helena, but being restless & gloom at that time owing to my not being my well I did not send it - however "Risken's himself again" and I must battle it out the best I can when I get home.

The Passport I should like to have had when I arrived here, but by not having it I have saved some expense as I got rid of all Consul's fees &c. I shall not make use of it in going to Palermo, for by putting my name on the Muster roll will answer the same purpose and thereby come Jonathan over the Consul - one Consul's fee will take me to the Opera here half a dozen times the entrance being but little over a franc.

Your accounts of William are much better than I anticipated. I think I have a pretty good idea of the manner of doing business at Canton having seen and conversed with a number of people that have been there - no doubt he is deprived of many things and has to work hard in the business season which does not last long, and the rest of the year they are employed in making out the list.

I should like him to have a taste of Sumatra, we should soon see which would be the most palatable, but I would rather be secured from making the experiment myself, knowing what one is, is quite sufficient for me.

The letters of introduction sent, although received after I had become acquainted with the parties, have a very beneficial effect - before, I appeared like a wanderer in a strange land without any friends, but now it has turned the tide as strongly the opposite way. The letters of credit correspond with all your former kindness to me, but the hint to be careful how I make use of them is totally unnecessary, for I assure you it will be an unlooked for result that can force me to make use of them. I had been flattering myself the whole voyage, I should make enough on my small adventure to meet my expenses and to have returned you the Amount I took with me, but I am disappointed. I shall not make much more than one quarter I calculated on, and be obliged to make use of the main stock - my principal expense will be in clothes - I had anticipated a pair

To Florence, Pisa and Leghorn, but I gave it up when I learnt the low state of the pepper market, for I was determined to take no jaunts of pleasure but at my own expense - if I had received your letter sooner I do not know but I should have broken through my resolutions.

I left one of my new shirts at home, I wish you would make some enquiry about it - it makes me truly happy to hear that Pierre has got under way again - I hope he will be more fortunate in his present undertaking than the last, he seems to be following your example of increase and multiply - I hope his youngest daughter will be christened by the name which was chosen for her. Edgar has at last got married and gone into business - I can hardly realise it - I thought that he and I were doomed to be unfortunate, but he has succeeded in breaking the spell at last.

You express greater confidence in my being able to procure profitable situations than I have myself - when I was about leaving St. Helena, Capt. Gillis asked me if the ship was ordered out to India again what I would go for? I replied I supposed that it would depend altogether on letters received at Genoa - he said it would - that is all that came between us on the subject - he told Capt. Gordon afterwards that he was willing his property should go in her (he is concerned on my part) he calculated that if the ship was ordered out again we should go in time, and he expressed it as his opinion that we would find orders to that effect on our arrival here - he promised to write Capt. G. by the way of Havre, immediately on his arrival at Lisbon - we are looking out for letters from him every day, which may put things in their right light - if I arrive at Boston, I think I shall pay him a visit before I return home - do not think that I want to go to Sumatra again, for my wishes are exactly contrary, but I would sooner go there, or any where else than become useless lumber on your hands again.

Genoa is very dull; all the great people are in the country yet - it has been an uncommonly warm summer here - the people all wear summer clothes yet - the only amusement is the Opera - it is rated the third in Italy - it is too early in the season for the great Prima Donna to make her appearance yet, but the one (Sig. ~~Prima~~) ^{Prima} who is performing now is far superior to any I have heard - she is very handsome (I find beauty a rare article among the Genoese ladies) I have formed no acquaintance here except with a few Englishmen and they are all bachelors in business. I have received a great deal of attention from Mr. Barker & Mr. Driver (of the firm of Messrs. James & Co) who keep Bachelor's hall, have a first rate cook, and give good dinners, of which I partake frequently. I have visited the Grand Ducal Palace where the Doge resides - the Governor at present occupies part of it - in one of the apartments, used as a Council room, I saw the urn which contains the documents of Columbus, surrounded by a bust of him, placed behind the Governor's chair. I was not able to see the documents as the person that had charge of the key could not be found - The Halls of the Doge are magnificent; they are never used, but are shown to strangers by a porter - the last time they were used was when Napoleon was here who gave a grand ball in them. On Sunday I took a ride on a Jachasser to the top of the hills in the rear of the city in company with Mr. Driver and an Italian gentleman named Costa, which I enjoyed very much - the view from there is the finest I ever saw - we left the Jachasser at

the top of the hill and returned on foot by a different road - Every one here speaks so highly of Palermo that I am anxious to get off - it has about double the number of inhabitants of Genoa and is a great place for gaiety - in fact it is just the place to please a stranger - If there is no vessel sailing from here for the U.S before I leave, I shall not write again until I get to Palermo, when I will write by way of Neve or Gibraltar to let you know when I shall be afloat again.

The letters from home have an air of so much happiness that I wish I were there, but my unlucky ~~ship~~ corrupts every thing it comes in contact with, so it is rather a cruel wish. I shall remember me to Aunt Paris - I hope she may get through the coming winter as well as the last - I have just heard that Don Miguel is in Genoa - he arrived yesterday - I hope I shall get a view of his most faithful Majesty - I have not learnt how long he will stop, when he puts up, or when he is bound. With love to all I remain my dear father your affectionate son, J. S.

P.S. There is nothing here that I can purchase in the way of Speculation, but if I should come across a bbl of good wine at Palermo reasonable and freight low, I shall be induced to purchase one for you, knowing that article to be in requisition sometimes at the "hotel" - it may be the means of getting him - ~~and~~ will be fit to offer to a ten person party - but I do not think I shall do it unless the brig goes to New York