

My Beloved Eliza,¹

In order to afford
you an insight into what you
may expect during your voyage
across the Atlantic, and to assist
in breaking the ~~motion~~ monotony
of a sea voyage{,} I take up
pencil [and] paper to give you a
daily account of what is doing{.}
It would be foreign to my purpose
to say aught prior to the period
of our parting. You are acquaint-
ted with it all. It was a severe
pang, but it was softened by
the thought that we separated
but to meet again. Yes Eliza
I leave my native land only to
provide for thee a home, and to
place myself in a situation
whereby the wants of that home
will be fully supplied so that it
will be rendered as happy and
as comfortable as possible. Well

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¹ Eliza Wallace (1829-1911) married Francis MacDonald in Brooklyn in 1850.

then Beloved, we left Glasgow at three o'clock on the afternoon of the 16th Sept[ember] 1848, on board of the Barque "Augusta" of Glasgow, J. N. Crowe master for New York.² We were headed down as far as Dumbarton³ where the ship stuck for want of water. On our way down I got farewell salutes from many of my old acquaintances. Capt[ain] Campbell of the Screw Steamer "Fine Queen".⁴ Mr [and] Mrs McLyonon [etc.] at Anchinborlie,⁵ Capt[ain] McAnlay{,} Capt[ain] McCall [and] some folks I did not notice soon enough to know them.⁶ I went to Greenock⁷ in the tug *Gulliver* [and] remained there till nine o'clock in company with Donald Campbell, Peter McCullum [and] my brother.⁸ We then went to Helensburgh⁹ [and] remained there till between three and

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four in the morning when we
rowed across to the Tail of the
Bank¹⁰ and got on board of
the “Augusta” wh[ic]h had arrived
there an hour previous. At
nine o’clock we went to
Greenock and visited the necrop-
olis at the back of the Town{.}
< I think the same that Mr. Brodie
has got a cairn in. >¹¹
And after having taken a walk
~~over~~ < to > the top of the hill re-
turned on board ship again{.}
Donald Campbell, P. McCallum
nor my brother came on board
so I bid them goodbye and
came up by myself. I found
Capt[ain] [and] Mrs. Crowe there. We shortly
afterwards dined [and] Mrs. Crowe
[and] the Capt[ain] went on shore. The
Capt[ain] returned at four bring[ing]
a Rev[eren]d Mr. McKay and
two others with him.¹² The
minister gave the folks an
address and then distributed

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Bibles [and] tracts. The cabin
passengers got none.¹³ Crowe
went on shore at six again
and came off with the tug
boat at twelve and in about
an hour ~~and a half~~ < we > weighed¹⁴
anchor and proceeded on our
voyage. Donald Campbell came
from Helensburgh¹⁵ in a small
boat, [and] brought with him
a p[ai]r of drawers [and] two semets¹⁶
wh[ic]h I had forgotten and
the sketch of Helensburgh
wh[ic]h I had not forgotten
as I told Mother¹⁷ I had
no place to put it, how-
ever she sent it off,
so I have got it hung
up in the cabin and
nailed on both sides
to keep it from rocking.
I will make a box for it

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¹⁴ Weighed is a nautical term which means under weigh, or to set sail.

¹⁵ Historically, Helensburgh was a town located in Dunbartonshire, a county in Scotland, but as of 1995 political reorganization made it part of the unitary council area of Argyll and Bute.

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on the passage out. The steamer < "Hercules" > towed us to Lam-lash and left us at ~~four~~ ~~o'clock~~ seven o'clock.¹⁸ The wind was very light, and what was of it was against us. So we had just to tack about between Arran¹⁹ [and] the Ayrshire²⁰ coast till about two o'clock a.m. About twelve o'clock the second mate fell overboard. He had been on the bowsprit²¹ and let go his hold. A rope was thrown him which he caught [and] was taken on board again. He was a little tipsy. During our tacks²² I got a fine view of the towns on the Ayrshire coast, viz: Ayr, Irvine, Saltcoats, Troon, Andropinate besides a number of castle ruins.²³ I also saw Kingarth [and] Milport, two places dear to me because they had

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¹⁹ The Isle of Arran is the largest island in the Firth of Clyde, which is a coastal body of water on the southwestern coast of Scotland.

²⁰ Ayrshire is a county in southwest Scotland. Its coast is located on the Firth of Clyde.

²¹ The bowsprit of a sailing vessel is a pole extending forward from the vessel's bow.

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been visited by you.²⁴ I went to bed at ten. The ship just about the same place as where the steamer left her.

Tuesday – 19th Got up at six o’c[lock] and found the ship off Ailsa Craig,²⁵ going along nicely, under a stiff breeze. Captain says our voyage only commences now because the Clyde extends to Ailsa Craig. We are sailing along the north of Ireland at the rate of eleven knots an hour, the tide being in our favor. I got very sick today [and] vomited a good deal. I was the first that was sick. Mr. Sharpley got sick today also.²⁶ I threw up a great deal of bile, in fact I vomited nothing else. The captain saw a very large whale, about four o’clock

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²⁵ Ailsa Craig is a small island at the mouth of the Firth of Clyde, leading into the North Channel.

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today, but I was very sick lying in the Cabin [and] did not go up to see it. We passed the Mull of Cantyre²⁷ about ten o'clock this morning and about twelve saw the Island of Islay wh[ic]h was the last sight of Scotland we saw.²⁸ {W}e had a beautiful run across the Irish Channel, saw the Giant's Causeway²⁹ [and] in the distance we passed the Brig *Fanny* for Jamaica, off Mistenhull at five o'clock.³⁰ This vessel sailed two days before us. {S}aw lots of Porpoises today. The Crew were busy trimming the ship as she was too much by the head, and they put a good deal of the iron between decks as she has too much on her bottom.³¹ The Steward [and] another were busy fastening with large screws, the seats, tables and every thing in

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²⁷ The Mull of Kintyre.

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the Cabin.³² This looks rather ominous. The Capt[ain] ordered the Steward to make fast my traps as I was sick [and] could not do It myself. By the bye I took one smoke yesterday, w[hic]h will be my last, and today I took about half a glass of raw whiskey which did me no good so I'll take no more.

Wednesday 20th Ireland was In view when I retired to rest last night but today nothing is seen save the sky and the water. So we are fairly "at sea." I vomited Bile again before Breakfast, and afterwards lay all day on one of the Cabin sofas. Sharpley is sick yet, but Mr. Cunningham has not been sick and I think will not the whole voyage. Cunningham was a regular attender in Dr. Robson's < church, >

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his folks sit there, down below.³³ The whole secret of his not being sick is his happy nature. {H}e is continually laughing and joking, and will not give way. The Englishman is very melancholy, and I am very anxious. 'Tis all about you, were you with me I do not believe I would be sick. If I even knew how you are [and] what your mother has been saying I do not think I would even then be sick. The Captain is always trying to cheer me by saying something about you, such as, "when your wife comes out I'll give her the same berth as you have now." "You'll not be so sick Frank when coming down to New York to meet your wife." "Were Miss Wallace here she would not be near so sick as what you are," and many other similar expressions.

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Thursday 21st Sick yet but not vomit-
ing. Still lying on the sofa this is
my 23rd birthday, and I trust that
before the 24th will arrive you will be
on your way out to join me in the
enterprise of life. I will intersperse
this narrative with as many hints
as possible for your guidance when
preparing for the voyage. Well Love,
take a low berth, it is much easier
to get out [and] in to it. [And] if by the
rocking of the ship you happen
to fall out you will not hurt
yourself so much. And get a
couple of yards of narrow cloth
to make a screen so that you
will not be unnecessarily ~~disgust~~
disgusted at morning and evening
by seeing a pair of brawny legs
going out and in to the bed above you
but take care you leave room
for the foul air to escape otherwise
you may be smothered. I think

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if you were nicking out little holes
about half an inch square < along the top of the screen > the
danger of being smothered would
be obviated. I feel the want
of ventilation very much altho[ugh]
we have a port hole for the ad-
mission of fresh air, and altho[ugh]
our cabin door has never been
closed night or day since I came
on board. In your case it would
be shut every night which would
make matters worse. I would
also advise you to wear drawers.
Take with you as many as you
would require on your voyage, as
neither washing nor drying, far
less ironing can be well done
on board a ship. Take a
box and put into it all that
you think you will require on
the voyage. It will be very
cold so be sure you take plenty
of warm clothes. Put in the box

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what you think you w[oul]d require for
six weeks. And for your outer clothes
be sure you put the oldest things
in your box as at least for the
first week you will not care
a pin about your clothes. You will
be quite unable to do anything, [and]
rather than more will see your
very best clothes utterly spoiled.
I turned out my oldest things [and]
put them on the top [and] 'tis well
for me. The Englishman is spoiling
all his clothes, he has not put
them off since we left Greenock
and has nearly spoiled a nice
satin vest already. He says he
wishes he had a little Scotch fore-
thought, as he gave away before
he left Glasgow clothes that would have
done quite well for the voyage, but
he wished to have as little luggage
as possible. No experience like
bought experience.

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Friday 22nd I did not sleep last night - the ship was rocking most fearfully. I did not think she would have lived to have seen this morning, and it's all owing to the cargo of pig iron. Oh Eliza, rather than come with a vessel that has only pig iron for her cargo wait for a twelve month. There is not a breath of wind today but from the heavy sea the ship rolls fearfully. It is quite an impossibility to walk. She rocks like a cradle. You would laugh to see us taking our meals more especially the soup of wh[ic]h we have a little every day, but the most laugh-able of all is to see the Steward bringing in the dishes and the eat-ables. When bringing in the tureen of soup, or plate of beef, or of potatoes, his two hands are

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required and its rare sport to see
him reeling from side to side [and]
levelling his body to keep on
the perpendicular. Then comes
our sport to keep the soup
plates on the horizontal{.} {W)e
take the plate in the one hand [and]
the spoon in the other. The table
is covered with a frame which
has a number of partitions
about a foot square for our
plates [and] larger squares for the
tureen [and] the plates containing
the beef [and] potatoes. Were we
to leave our soup plates on the
table in two minutes they w[oul]d
be emptied of the contents by
the rocking of the ship. I took
a glass of toddy last night
but was nothing relieved by it
so I'll take no more. We
get a chance of plates for our
beef [and] potatoes, [and] another for our

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bread [and] cheese or pudding. We get
plum pudding³⁴ on Thursdays [and] Sundays[.]
We also get a little porridge and
molasses about seven o'clock each
morning. I got a little one morn[in]g
so Sharpley [and] Cunningham had
a little with me next morning.
We then breakfast at eight,
dine at two [and] have tea at six.
At all the meals we have beef,
but I only take it to dinner.
The ship creaks dreadfully each
lurch she takes {-} one would think that
every bone in her body w[oul]d be broken
to pieces. She did not creak going
our last time or coming home. It's
the bellyful of pig iron that she
has got wh[ic]h causes her to creak
so. A woman has been ill for
the last two days. Today the Captain
says it is small pox that is ~~wrong~~ < the matter >
with her. I trust the infection
will not spread.³⁵ The Captain

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has given her some cooling medicine [and] ordered the 'tween decks to be sprinkled with chloride of lime.³⁶

Saturday 23rd When stripping for bed last night I got very sick [and] vomited a good deal. Today I feel a little better, the ship still rolls but we have a nice breeze of wind and sailing at the rate of eight knots an hour. There is a very heavy sea running however, I still lye on the sofa. I was on deck for an hour today but lay all the while. Oh Eliza, I would give anything for a few raisons , or figs or if I had allowed you to bake a gingerbread cake for me. I have got lots of nice apples with me but as there is acid in them I dare not to take them.³⁷ Before you leave, think on any dainty you wo[ul]d like ~~and be~~ if you were sick [and] be sure to take it

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with you. Do not take anything
where there is acid, such as apples,
oranges [and] the like.³⁸ Mr Cunningham
has two or three one lb(?) cakes
of Strathoven gingerbread,³⁹ and he
gave me once or twice a little
bit for wh[ic]h I felt very grateful.
He is very warm hearted. The only
thing I take as a dainty is a
piece of the sailor's bread, wh[ic]h
is very sweet.⁴⁰ One fellow says
"you ought to take a lilne pill."⁴¹
I'll think about it, says I. An-
other says "they are dangerous at
sea - take a calomile."⁴² What's
the difference between the two,
says I. He can't tell, [and] another
suggests "a dose of salts."⁴³ Gawwon,
says I, pocketing all the advice
but acting on none. No Eliza, the
better way is to allow nature
take her course. I have not
been accustomed to sea travelling

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and by the rolling of the vessel the bile turns uppermost and then the stomach ~~digests~~ discharges or rather ejects it. I think it would be wrong to stop it from coming. I'll soon get better [and] when I will be so I'll be better than if I had emptied the medicine chest in to my stomach. I got a dozen of Seidlitz powders⁴⁴ from Donald Campbell but have not taken any. The Captain along with Messrs. Sharpley [and] Cunningham have finished them.

Sunday 24th This is the first Sabbath I ever spent at sea, [and] it is a pretty stormy one. I read a great many chapters of the *Proverbs* and other parts of the *Bible* and a good many of the *Psalms* in metre. I also read about two sermons. I spent the time very comfortably

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and profitably. About five o'clock
we saw a sail and in a
short time she passed us. [S]he
was homeward bound, a larger
ship, I think timber laden. We
signalized our name [and] told her
to report us.⁴⁵ I hope she had
done so, as it will let you
know that we were well a
week after we sailed . Oh my
dear Eliza, how I weary to
hear from you. I wonder if
sister has sent the flowers
to you yet. I told her to send
only two or three pots. Write
me if she has done so.

Our servant at Helensburgh has a
brother in New York. {H}e left about
a twelve month since [and] is doing well
when I was there on Saturday night.
I saw the person to whom he was to
be married. {S}he belongs to Glasgow
[and] had come on a visit to our

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servant. {H}er intended husband has
written for her to come out, [and] wishes
his sister to come also. To be com-
pany for her. She can't go just
now but intends going as soon
as she saves what will pay
her passage money. I wrote you
a letter at the Tail of the Bank
[and] enclosed it on one I sent David.
Did you get it? I sent it on shore
by the minister on Sunday night.⁴⁶
I again wrote and enclosed it to
Mr. Rae. It went with D. Campbell.
I also wrote one [and] gave it to him
In his hand to ~~meet you at~~ give
You should he meet you at Greenock.
If not, he was to send his shop
boy over with it. Did you get
these? A small bird came
on board today. I think it was a land
bird [and] had lost its way at sea.
It was a young bird.

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Monday 25th - Shortly after getting up this morning I vomited a good deal of Bile. I felt greatly better after it [and] shaved for the first time since we left Greenock. Sharpley is better [and] shaved also today for the first time. It is a beautiful day [and] the ship is not rolling much. There is a fine steady breeze, and not much of a sea. I lay very little on the sofa today [and] was out walking most of the time. I feel almost quite well now. [A]bout ten o'clock we saw an immense shoal of porpoises. Some hundred if not thousands of them. They continued ~~sailing~~ swimming about the ship till one o'clock when they left us. Sometimes they w[oul]d spring right out of the water, but they always are just skimming the surface. They swim very fast. We also saw large flocks of

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birds today. Crowe says he is sure you will like New York. Every one who goes to it likes it. The woman that was ill with pox is getting better, the Capt[ain] thinks it was chicken pox.⁴⁷ None of the rest have taken them. We have some queer characters among th[e] steerage passengers.⁴⁸ We have one woman who was a keep miss to a Mr. Cunningham, a Bleacher at Arthurlee, near Glasgow.⁴⁹ She has a son [and] daughter with her [and] Cunningham paid her passage [and] gave her a sum of money to get clear of her. Well Dear Eliza many a time I wonders how you are getting on and what you are thinking about now that we are separated. I fear your phlegmatic temperament will be working mischief, and making you

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despond, but love hope for the
best and that hope will yet be
realized. I wish that there
were a ~~tube~~ post offices all
the way to New York so that
I could post a bulletin every
night stating what progress
we were making [and] informing
you of our safety. Or if there
was a vocal tube between
New York [and] Glasgow with little
openings ~~but~~ at the distance
of a mile, I w[oul]d tell you all
the news. You could call at
the vocal tube company's office
and as they do at Electric
Telegraph Company's place
in Exchange Square⁵⁰ and, pay the
cash and get the news. Oh
Eliza "Wouldn't it be prime" to
"hold sweet converse" thus at
the distance of many miles.
Cold, solitary writing can never

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convey the sweet inspiration conveyed
by familiar sounds. Writing, alas!
Eliza{,} is difficult, when compared
with speaking. It takes nine
hours writing to convey the same
as one hours of speaking would tell,
and besides writing is one-sided
and formal compared with free
[and] easy speaking. But do not
imagine my Love that I think
if a task to write you. {I}t is
the greatest pleasure I know,
and if a post left New York
each evening you would receive
a letter from me daily. {A}s it
is Eliza you will get one
each week, and I'll write
thee each evening and post
as often as opportunity occurs
which will be oftener then
once in each seven days,
because love I feel an
assurance of <epistolary> the deep interest

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I have awakened in your warm
heart and with woman for
constancy, it is less necessary
that the object of her regard
sh[ould] be near nor even that she
sh[ould] hold communion with him.
{H}er fond recollections and warm
imagination will suffice to
keep alive the flame wh[ic]h has
once been kindled in her breast,
[and] so Eliza I trust you will
not prove renegade to one
of the best features of your
sex - "blue eyed constancy."⁵¹

Tuesday 26th On retiring to
rest last night I vomited a
good deal and did not sleep
till near four o'clock. I was
up the whole day and walking
about. The day was fine and
I enjoyed myself. We have
had another grand day. I got
up about six and saw a sail

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just ahead of us. She is bound to the west also. She was about eight miles ahead of us but ere nightfall we lessened the distance till four [miles] and expect to pass her ere this morning. I hope it's the "Governor Hinckley" wh[ic]h sailed five days before us.⁵² The water presented tonight the most beautiful appearance ever I saw. An immense number of porpoises were swimming on both sides of the ship. The water is in a highly phosphorescent state [and] the effect was truly grand. When we were at tea about [half] past 6 two vessels passed one on each side of us. They were each a couple of miles from the ship. I think Love, it would be a nice marker for a Bible to have a dove nicely sewed in the center, and a border of olive leaves. I do not know whether it would be practical.

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I think it would. It struck me
it would be a nice emblem, so
I wrote it down here in case I
would not remember again to speak
to you about it.

Wednesday 27 - Was sick again
on going to bed last night. Fine
weather still, very fine weather.
If it continues we shall have
an extraordinary quick passage.
We passed the ship last night [and]
she is not to be seen today,
but another is ahead of us [and]
on her we are making a little.
About two o'clock we passed a
ship homeward bound, and an-
other is bearing down on us now.
She will be at us in half an
hour. We have been getting
soft bread for the last two
or three days. Last night we
had some nice gingerbread, the
Steward baked it. He is a baker

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by trade. {W}e got oatcake every morning
[and] rice pudding Tuesdays [and] Fridays.
We had an apple dumpling today.
The Captain was dividing it, when
the Steward said “stand clear of
the sauce.” The Captain asked
the reason, [and] was told that the
~~steward~~ < cook > had not a pan large
enough to boil it in [and] that it
had been boiled ~~on~~ in the
coppers among the salt water
[and] that having burst a little
water had got in amongst it.
{H}ad we tasted it we w[oul]d not
have been required to be in-
formed, as it was very salty.
However we took it mixed
up with plenty of sugar.
The vessel, *Homeward Bound*, has just
passed.⁵³ She proved to be a brig,⁵⁴ [and]
ours being a barque,⁵⁵ Crowe would
not condescend to speak to her. It
is a point of nautical dignity not

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⁵⁴ A brig is a vessel that has two masts, by which at least one has a square rig

⁵⁵ A barque is a vessel that has three or more masts with fore and aft sails on the aftermost mast and square sails on all other masts.

to speak an inferior rigged vessel.⁵⁶
We salute each other very courteously
each morning, that is, the Captain [and]
cabin passengers. Crowe is not pleased
when we talk to the steerage passengers.⁵⁷
Custom does a great deal. Ships when
passing each other if on friendly terms sal-
ute each other by hanging at the mizzen
gaff end, the national ensign.⁵⁸ Men,
again at least British men, salute
each other by nodding, bowing, shaking
hands [etc]. I recollect being laughed
at one time for defending an article
of McLean's in the *Review*, entitled
"A proposal to introduce nose-pulling
as one of the Civilities of Life."⁵⁹ Now
the only reason we have for calling the
proposal absurd, is, that we have a
conventional mode of thinking. To
an individual who was unac-
quainted with either custom, both
would seem equally absurd. In
some countries they rub noses, in

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⁵⁷ Steerage is a term that describes the lowest deck of a ship. During the 19th century poor immigrants usually travelled on this deck. In this context, Crowe is not pleased that McDonald and company are interacting with the "lower class" passengers.

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⁵⁹ Publication in the *Gentleman's Review* or the *Edinburgh Review* ?

others they pull one another's ears. The Franks⁶⁰ pulled out a hair and presented it. The Japanese take off their slipper when they meet. In some of the South Sea islands, they spit in their hands, and then rub your face for you. In others, it is the height of politeness to fling a jar of water over your friend, in fact each country has its respective mode of salutation. We think all absurd except our own, and each nation thinks the same but it betrays a narrowness of intellect. The more comprehensive our mind the less will one regard national peculiarities, and the greater will be our happiness thro[ugh]out life. Our great aim ought always to be, to enlarge our minds as much as possible, and there is no definite point we can attain. The more we enlarge

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⁶⁰ Franks is an ancient term to describe the people of Western Europe, or current day France.

the greater the capability of enlargement, and that enlargement can only take place from reading, and reflection, and a close habit of observation, and a profiting by that observation. Now Eliza, Beloved, am I writing in vain? The ranting of a mere notation of the occurrences of a sea voyage could be ended after the first week. T'would only be repetition after that, so love, I will intersperse it with a few thoughts wh[ic]h I hope will prove profitable.

Thursday 28th Saw an ugly fish called a Devil Fish⁶¹ swimming about. There are constantly a couple of Mother Carey's Chickens⁶² flying in the wake of the ship. They are seemingly very pretty birds, but the Captain says they are "ugly brutes when close to you, the very devil's in their

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⁶¹ Devil Fish are??? An X in the MS here indicates that Francis intended to add an explanatory note, but this was not added.

⁶²

eyes.” The wind is foul today. I vomited a good deal about four o’c[lock] this afternoon. Crowe told me Pianos are very high in New York, that I will not get a good one under £50, and added if Miss Wallace has one I’ll take it out free of freight and get it landed with out any Duty. The Duty on pianos is a third of their value.⁶³ Music is exceedingly cheap. Oh, Eliza dear, would to God that we were schooled in the virtues of patience, then we would with gratitude [and] faith bide God’s time for our union. But to a certain extent, the period when that time shall be, ~~is~~ rests with one, and Eliza believe, do believe, that I will not be remiss in fulfilling as soon as I can the duty that remains with one. My Beloved Eliza, without your presence

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sharing with one the joys [and] vicissitudes
of life I could never get on. This
is no utopian statement. I feel
the truth of it. No Eliza, God
forbid, that ever I [shoul]d <say> aught
but what is in accordance with
the principles of truth. I know
the value of intense love, and I
also know that none could love
me more devotedly than what you
do, and I trust that among
our higher aspirations we should
rank that of each endearing
love more than another.
Crowe showed me a book he
purchased in New York. It was
similar to those I gave you the
last time I saw you at Rothirn.
I read it, it contains a little
more information than those
you have got. Write me Dear
if you would wish a copy [and] I'll
send you one. Also write me what

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you think of the three you have got. Have you ever heard from Miss McIntyre? I sh[oul]d rather say the late Miss McIntyre. I am continually thinking about our future home, laying plans about it and picturing how happy it shall be, how we will spend our evenings, and a great many other odds and ends. Well Eliza, t'will be a sad blow if this cup wh[ic]h I feel almost touching my lips, were to be dashed from me. I think I would sink under it but "we'll pray to God for happier years ~~to come~~ for one another's sake."

Friday 29th About nine o'clock last night the wind very suddenly changed round to the east, which is a fair wind for us, could not have a better. Yesterday's wind was the only foul wind we have had. [W]e have been very

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fortunate, but we are shortsighted[.]
We do not know what is waiting
us. Today it is raining heavy. I may
say it is the first rain we have
had. Crowe says that putting all
the dry days together that he had
last voyage it would not amount
to four. {N}ow it was a summer
voyage, he having left Glasgow in
May. {H}e also says that he
found passages about this season
of the year better than earlier in the
year. One o'clock. The wind is again
foul, blowing strong and heavy
rain. Crowe is very anxious about
his wife. {S}he was just beginning to
feel the pains of labour when he
left her at Greenock, she could not go
to Glasgow. I trust she has been
safely delivered. Crowe always calls her
"the dear creature." This stormy day
brings to my remembrance the stormy
nights I used to spend at Carlton Court.⁶⁴

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I do not know how it was, but I felt
the blessings of the married life more at
these times than I did when the weather
was fine. You were always dressed
so ~~tidy~~ tidily, and so comfortably.
Oh how I loved thee in the tartan
dress! {Y}ou appeared so warm and
bien like, I could not but love
you. There was nothing pleased
me more than to see you neatly
dressed. Oh Beloved Eliza would to God
you will remain true to me [and] that
ere twelve months passes over our
heads you will be on your way
to live with me. Oh lassie Dear
how happy one will be then.
There is only one fear that rankles
[and] lacerates my soul, it is that
of your parents going to Australia
next year.⁶⁵ [B]ut Love if such is
the case, if they intend leaving
Glasgow before twelve months, why
then Love you must just come to me

[End of Page 36]

when they go away. We may not have such a fine house as we might have afterwards, but still Eliza it will not be so bad. Sh[oul]d your parents go they will not leave before the spring and by that time I will have I expect seventy or eighty pounds saved towards the furnishings of our house. Rae's furniture cost about seventy pounds, and his house is neatly furnished. [And] I would be always making more, so we could add now [and] again many things wh[ic]h at first we did not absolutely want, but I hope your parents will not go to Australia, and then by staying separate for a little longer we will be enabled to have a better house [and] a little over in case of "a rainy day." I would like to have at least fifty

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pounds over in case of sickness.
But write me Eliza what you
think, no doubt many thoughts
will be passing thro[ugh] your mind,
write me a few of them Love.
We had some excellent ginger
bread to tea tonight. Since
six o'clock last night the
wind has twice gone round
the compass, and at present
(9 p.m.) it is from the north-
west, [and] the ship steering her
course. Goodnight my Love a
thousands kisses goodnights.

Saturday morning 30th When undressing
last night I vomited a great deal
[and] on dressing this morning I vomited
again. T'was bile, or to give it by its
right name, the contents of the gall(?)
that I vomited today. I hope to be
better afterwards. My dear Love, I
wish you ~~had been~~ <were> with me. I dread
your coming out again, and being

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sick, but love, whatever ship you come on you must not come alone. Be on the lookout to hear of anyone you know that intends coming out next fall and arrangements can be made for you to come with them. It will be company to you, and prevent your wearying, [and] in case of sickness their services will be invaluable. Oh Eliza Dear, I hope you will get a nice companion to come with you. I think that in one of the letters I wrote you I told you that Reid, Mclean, Rae [and] Stark were down at the ship bidding me goodbye. They all said they would be coming out now. {I}f any of them will be coming next fall, it will be nice. {Y}ou can come in the same ship as they will come in. If you did not know

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any one coming in the fall it w[oul]d be
decidedly < better > rather to wait till the following spring.
The only reason that I w[oul]d wish you to
wait would be that by doing so you
might find some one who would come
with you. I urge this because I know
what it is to be sick, and I can
easily imagine you in such a state
[and] without any person with you, from
whom you could get assistance.
I have been lying on the sofa both
yesterday [and] today. Now if the Cabin
was full I could not get doing
so. Some ships provide bedding,
others do not. The *Augusta*
belongs to this latter class.⁶⁶ I brought
with me a bed for wh[ic]h I paid
in Watt's *Jamaican* £1 1/6 [and] a
pillow for wh[ic]h I p[ai]d 9 (shillings?).⁶⁷ In case
the ship you come out in does not
give bedding, you'll better buy it
from Watt. It was a straw mattress
[and] they are the best. I brought up with

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66

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me from Helensburgh on Saturday, a pair of blankets folded there ply [and] sewed to keep them in the fold, an old mat doubled, to cover the mattress, a white sheet wh[ic]h covers me, then the blankets, [and] then another mat doubled, a pillowslip four towels, a p[ie]c[e] soap, [and] a small mirror. These I brought from Helensburgh, they will assist in furnishing our house. Be sure to bring with you a few ~~books~~ books, to read on the passage, [and] plenty of knitting, netting [and] sewing things. Time will hang very heavily on your hands. You will weary very much unless you have something to do. Be sure to bring plenty of changes, as it will help you to get along better than if each day was a repetition of the previous one. I often times wonder how poor David is getting on, whither he is still recovering or not. I trust that he is recovering.

[End of Page 41]

Ere this reaches you, in all likelihood
his fate will have been determined.⁶⁸
I do hope that he will get better.
I fear that if he will be taken
hence you will fret too much and
thereby endanger your health. But oh
Eliza take care for this one twelve-
month [and] with the helping of God, I'll
Do what I can for your preserv-
ation after that time. I feel con-
fident of your love. I have every
things to hope for [and] nothing to fear
from. Oh Beloved ours will be a
happy happy home, because in each other's
affections we must live happily.
But Beloved goodbye for another night.

Sabbath 13 October. I took a Colo-
cynth pill last night [and] this morning a
a Seidlitz powder to work it off.⁶⁹ I
feel the better of it. This morning a
ship was seen at a distance on
the same course as we are steering
but are midday we had left her

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68

69

a good way astern [and] out of sight.
About three o'clock a large barge
helped us. She proved to be a French
one laden with fish from Labrador
for Lyons.⁷⁰ The sun set beautiful
tonight. I have been wondering
what you w[oul]d be engaged about
[and] thought that perhaps you would
be writing me. Is it so, Love?
Ah, tis hard to get the question answered.
However I know you will be thinking
about me, [and] oh I would give to
know these thoughts, but, Sweetest, its
day will soon come.

“When a maiden can hear all her lover can say,
When wrapped in each others arms we
can think aloud, and let each other
hear our thoughts.”⁷¹

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⁷⁰

⁷¹ Quotation from ???

Tuesday 10th No doubt my beloved but
you will wonder why a lapse of nine
days has taken place in my journal. It
is but natural for you to think
so, eh Lassie but they have been
terrible days to me. Sunday was
a beautiful day. In the evening
Capt[ain] Crowe read the 107 Psalm, I read
the 108th, Mr. Cunningham the 109th
[and] Mr. Sharpley the 110th.⁷² Then the
Capt[ain] read a sermon. We went
to bed and on Monday morning
found the sea running very high
[and] a storm likely to come on{.}
{D}uring the day almost all
the sails were taken down
the sea still rising higher. At
Midnight the ship was hove to
under close reefed ~~el~~ose topsails,⁷³
it blowing a tremendous gale
[and] the sea running “mountains
high.”⁷⁴ I did not go to bed, but
stayed up all night. On Tuesday

[end of page 44]

72

73

74

it was rather better. I was very
sick [and] vomited a great deal.
At seven I felt very unwell [and]
as I could not lye on the sofa
owing to the rolling of the vessel.
I tumbled into bed with my
clothes on. I lay for an hour
[and] then put them off. Cunning-
ham came to bed then, and
Crowe went to bed at nine.
We were all very tired as
none of us had slept the
night previous. Well at
ten o'clock a heavy sea struck
the ship ahead of the main
rigging washing in the whole
of the fore part of the Cabin
[and] stateroom bulkheads,⁷⁵ carrying
away the wheel-chains⁷⁶ < and blocks, and Dog House,⁷⁷ one of the Life buoys >
and slightly starting the stern post,⁷⁸ stove
the long boat and carried
away the poop rail < and ladder breaking one of the wheel spokes > as well
as doing sundry slight damages.⁷⁹

[End of Page 45B]

75

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You may have an idea of the strength of the sea when I tell you it broke one of the iron Davits. The Davits are two upright pi[ece]s of iron with a bend at the top where one of the boats hang upon{.}{T}here was no boat hanging on it at the time. ~~It was three inches diameter.~~ Just fancy a round pillar of iron three inches diameter broken right thro[ugh] the middle.

[End of Page 46a]

One of the harness casks⁸⁰ was broke
loose and washed over the mate
bruising him a good deal [and]
broke his left arm just
above the elbows. I could
scarcely get out of my berth for
the water [and] wreck which was
washed into it. The sea broke
tho[ugh] where part of the men
slept⁸¹ ere it reached me, [and]
it carried everything ~~with it~~
before it. My arms [and] legs are
all ~~blackened~~ < bruised [and] discolored > from the stuff
out of the mens' house⁸² coming
in contact with me when
attempting to get out, but they
are better now. You may ~~mi~~
imagine what a sea struck
us when it left three feet of
water in the hold. Now this
water could only get in at a
part of the main hatch under-
neath the long boat, as the other

[End of Page 46b]

80

81 i.e crew quarters

82

hatches were all battened down.
I have got washed away, three
shirts, three pair Drawers, one flannel
semet, two pairs of stockings < two razors,
Dressing comb, Bl[ac]k satin napkin, > a
pair braces, two towels, the key of my
writing desk, key of my dressing case,
[and] the little toothpick you gave me,
the three latter were in my waistcoat
pocket. I got the waistcoat at
the other end of the ship. The
small dressing case is ~~all~~ all
broken [and] the inside of the
large one is broken, two of
my hats are broken, not fit
to be used [and] the new one I
got the week I came away
is slightly damaged. {E}very thing I
had in the berth has got very wet,
about a dozen shirts all my
Richards [and] collars, Books testa-
monial [etc.] all got quite soaked.⁸³
My watch is spoiled [and] will require
new works, the contents of my

[End of Page 47b]

writing desk in wh[ic]h were my
letters of introduction, are all
wet, the letters [and] papers I dried in
the Cabin. The book marks I
got from you were in my desk [and]
owing to the quantity of paper I
had round them, have not been
spoiled, the outside one, wh[ic]h was
one you gave to William is rusted.
The purse I got from cousin Mc-
Callum is completely spoiled, and
the clasp one you knitted me is
rusted also, tho[ugh]! not so much.
Still Love I have a long one
you knitted me some years since
and it will do me. I'll not
require one much now as I
intend keeping all my money
not spending a single cent.
I have slept on top of the
Biscuit bags in the storeroom
ever since the sea struck us, if
I get my bed [and] bedding dried

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today I'll perhaps sleep in my berth.
This has been an excellent day,
weather very warm, and not a
breath of wind < I fear tho[ugh] 'tis but a pet
day [and] that we will have a
storm at the back of it,
May God grant otherwise. > All the beds [and]
bedding that are on board are
out drying or airing, besides
every corner of the ship hang
round with wearing apparel
getting dried. I have suffered
by the sea striking us more than
any other one excepting the
Mate who got his arm broken.
Still Eliza, if God spares me to
get to New York [and] health after-
wards to work I'll soon make
up my loss again. It will cost
about ten pounds to set me to
rights and that Eliza at the
present time to me is a trifle.
It is not only the mere cash
but the good that I might
do with ten pounds till I w[oul]d
require it to assist in furnishing

[End of Page 49]

our house, why ere then I might
double it, and now it is gone
forever, but I have been
thinking on getting the loan of
eighty or a hundred pounds [and]
try to make a little money by
purchasing goods in Glasgow [and]
sending back provisions, how
ever I'll require to see what
w[oul]d pay best ere I try it.
I wish to use every exertion
to get married by the middle of
summer, so that you may have
a better passage than I have had
[and] am likely to have yet. Still
Love, Providence can take care
of me in winter as well as in
summer. However the summer
passage w[oul]d ~~likely~~ be more
pleasant as ~~the~~ better weather
w[oul]d be expected then. I sh[oul]d like
you to leave not later than
the month of July, and if I

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succeed as well as I anticipate
I do not see anything to prevent
our union then. The months of
August [and] September are the
warmest in New York, and
less business is done during
those months, so I w[ould] have
more time to spend with you
in get our house set in order.
My beloved truly it may be said
I have left "home < country >, kindred [and] friends"
out all for thee. Yes Eliza, all,
all for thee. Sweetest Eliza, would
to God that we may both have
length of happy years to spend
with each other. I know if we
are spared they will be happy.
But why sh[oul]d I thus write, God
knows Eliza, but that when I
get to New York I may receive
a letter from you wh[ic]h will dash
this cup of imaginative
happiness from my lips, a letter

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perhaps telling me of your parents'
peremptory orders that you sh[oul]d
never leave your native country,
not even to join your husband,
but God grant Eliza that it may
be otherwise. May God grant that
not only will your parents be the
opposite of averse, but rejoice
at our union. I feel Eliza that
I love you even deeper than I thought
I did. You are constantly in my
thoughts, first thought in the
morning is about you [and] the last
thought at night is about you.
When I untyed my trunk to get
dry trousers [and] clothes after the
sea struck her I observed your
portrait wh[ic]h I put in between
my shirts [and] my flannel, just
over my heart [and] I wear it there
now. Oh Lassie but I w[oul]d give
almost all I have to know
what is doing in your house,

[End of Page 52]

What your parents are saying? I know you are only saying that you love me, aye [and] ~~dearly~~ that dearly [and] that you are willing to be my wife whenever I am able to support you comfortably. I wonder how David is, and if still alive (w[hic]h I trust he is) what he is saying about matters. But Eliza I must stop for a night. Goodnight, Love, sweetest goodnight.

Wednesday 11th As I predicted yesterday we have had a regular gale today, helm lashed down [and] running under close reefed top sails.⁸⁴ ~~at 8 p.m.~~ Raining most fearfully all day, the largest drops I saw. At 8 p.m. lightning commenced, the mast vivid [and] largest sheets ever I witnessed, it continued till midnight. The two compasses

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that were in the binnacle⁸⁵ were broken with the lightning.
< The ship trembled all over under many of the flashes. I was very much afraid that she might be struck with it. > The foresail jib and mainsail⁸⁶ were blown to atoms with the violence of the winds. {A}t midnight the wind having chopped round to the Nor'west, the ship was taken aback in a ~~sq~~ sudden squall [and] split the foretop mast staysail.⁸⁷ {W}hen the wind is from the west or south west, it very often suddenly changes to the north west and as that is our course we run great danger of foundering but Providence is good and gracious and will take care of us. {A}bout forty years since seventy two vessels ~~were~~ foundered < at one time > from the wind chopping round, just about the same place as we are now.⁸⁸ I assure you it was very consol-

[End of Page 54b-54a]

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itory news to one when the Captain told me. {A} tremendous sea running all day, the ship laboring very much, and straining a good deal, however making no water. I am certain that a tighter or stronger ship never left Glasgow. The *Ann Harley* or *Adam Carr* (two New York traders) would not have lived an hour in the gale we experienced last week.⁸⁹

Thursday 12th {A} superstition of yesterday's weather but no lightning, tremendously heavy rain. {W}e had some violent squalls today, during one of wh[ic]h the wind again chopped round to the Nor'west. God grant that we will not founder during one of the squalls. Oh Eliza, but providence has

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been kind to us. We ought to promise
the lord for his wondrous works,
truly” it is those “ that go down
to the sea in ships that see
His mighty works.”⁹⁰

Friday 13th Still very heavy
squalls, and rainy weather{.} I
cannot write much I feel
so anxious. **But** sh[ou]ld I live
to see finer weather I’ll make
up for the deficiency.

Saturday 14th For two nights
preceeding last night I was
not in bed. {A}bout four o’c[lock]
this morning Crowe got me
prevailed on to go in with him.
I did not sleep. {A}bout five
another heavy sea struck the
ship but did little damage,
however a good deal came into the
cabin [and] again wet my bed [and]
bedding. {I}t also shifted part of
the iron [and] three casks of

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⁹⁰ Paraphrase of *Ps.* 107:23-24:
“Some went down to the sea in ships,
and plied their trade in deep waters;
They beheld the works of the Lord,
and His wonders in the deep.”

whiskey that were stored in the after hold, one of wh[ic]h lost a considerable quantity from getting bung down. {A}t six a heavy squall broke the main yard in the starboard yard area [and] split the foretop mast stay-sail, ship rolling and labouring very much.⁹¹ The top gallant masts [and] yards taken down to ease her.⁹² {T}he mainyard and also taken down to get fished, that is tying p[ie]ce[s] of sticks all round the broken part.⁹³

Sunday 15th Still dreadful weather. This gale is even worse than the gale last week. Capt[ain] Crowe says that he has crossed the Atlantic twenty seven times [and] never met such a continuance of heavy gales before. The men have been busy getting the sails repaired [and] the main yard fished.

[End of Page 57]

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The Barometer is very low today, lower than it has been since we left Glasgow. {A} very heavy high cross sea running, ship labouring heavy, [and] ~~ma~~ shipping much water thro[ugh] the bends and topsides.⁹⁴

Monday 16th Gale still continuing heavy rain [and] ship rolling very much. One of the sailors gave the captain very insolent language today night, refusing to work.

Tuesday 17th Gale unabated, heavy showers of rain, ship rolling [and] straining very much, four of the seamen refusing work this afternoon without any cause.

Wednesday 18th Thank God we again have a fine day. {E}arly this morning the weather cleared up [and] we set what sails we have left{.} {W}e are very crippled looking, we have a

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lower studding sail for a temporary square mainsail.⁹⁵ I am still very sick. {A}s I was not able to leave the cabin I told the Steward to take my bed, bedclothes, [and] some other things that lay in my room, [and] hang them up to dry. He did so. {A}bout an hour afterwards < my plaid> was blown away, the stupid fellow not having tyed it properly. I was very vexed when I learned it was gone. My plaidie, oh my plaidie, never more will mine eyes see thee again, never more will thy warm folds encompass me.⁹⁶ {O}h now t'is since I've lost thee, that I feel how truly I loved thee. I may get thee replaced, but I can never have the same affection for another as I had for thee. I'll get one to resemble thee as

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95

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nearly as possible. I w[oul]d rather
that any thing else had gone
over there my plaid but I
must be contented that I am
still above the water myself.
< The steward showed me a key
today [and] asked if it was
mine. I at once recognized
it as the key of my writing
desk. On asking him where
he got it, he said he found
it in his pocket. I suppose
some one has handed it to
him when he was in a
hurry [and] that he put it
in his pocket. >⁹⁷

Today is the twenty sixth anniver-
sary of Captain Crowe's birth.⁹⁸

{H}e was married when he was
twenty four [and] so please God
will I. Now *Augusta* go along
good ship so that I may get
beginning life as soon as possible
and get wedded to Eliza. ~~onee
got wedded.~~

Thursday 19th Another fine
day, rather too fine, a dead
calm. {W}e are like the farmers,
never contented. Weather will be
either too stormy or too calmy
but we ought not to repine.⁹⁹
God sends it all for our good, both
the bad weather [and] the good weather.
One of the men refused to work

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⁹⁷ Excursus on the lower half of facing page 59a: There is no insertion symbol in the MS on page 59b for placing this addition. The flow of the narrative logically precludes its insertion any sooner than this point, after which the subject changes to Captain Crowe's birthday.

⁹⁸ Hence he was born in ???

⁹⁹ Complain

today. {T}he Capt[ain] called him aft and told him [*illegible*] he w[oul]d put him in irons if he w[oul]d not work. {I}t had the desired effect [and] the fellow resumed work. The captain has a pair of pistols wh[ic]h he always keeps loaded ~~beside~~ at his bed head. Well sailors are a most refractory gang. {T}hey are so accustomed to bad treatment, that when they meet in ~~w~~ with any one who wishes them well they think they have some design for doing so, and construe acts of kindness into acts of designing bribery. ~~but by this I do not~~ I think sailors are ~~the~~ worse remunerated for their labor than any other class of men{.}

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Friday Oct 20th About midnight ~~the~~ < a >
breeze freshened up and we are going
along nicely now at seven knots.
Weather rather hazy and in the after-
noon foggy. I saw two bottle nosed
whales today. Well my own Beloved, now
I wonder how you are? Oh Lassie, that
we were at New York till I would re-
ceive your sweet letters and get my
soul satisfied. I wonder how poor
David is? If he is any better ? [And]
if he has resumed work yet? Or if
he has gone to those happy realms
“from where no traveller returns”?¹⁰⁰
If the latter supposition is correct
I trust you have had firmness not
to repine at the decrees of provi-
dence, but rather patiently to have
submitted in His divine will. Have
you seen Miss Barland since?¹⁰¹ Poor
creature I wonder how she is?
Give her my address and ask her
to write me. When Crowe comes

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100

101

out again send me a package of letters, it will save postage. Tell Miss Barland to write [and] give you the letter. Tell David also to write, and tell any other one who may be enquiring for me to write [and] give you the letters [and] that you will forward and them to me. {M}ake them up in a parcel and send them with Crowe. Be sure you seal them well at all events your own letter. Gum it all round before you wax it [and] only put the wax on the top. I'll write to Donald Campbell¹⁰² to send you a note when he can have an opportunity of forwarding a parcel. {H}e will have many opportunities because he supplies most of the New York vessels with medicines. Be sure Love that you number the pages [and] keep a note of how to remind you by what conveyance the different numbers went, in case I may not get all.

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Saturday Oct. 21st < Lightning > Today I am twenty three years [and] the month old. Well I thought that ere this I w[oul]d have been in New York engaged in the lottery of life, but providence has directed it otherwise. Still Eliza, I dare not re-pine it's all for the best. I promised to give you as many hints as possible for your guidance when preparing for your voyage. Well then, Love, be sure you bring with you a quart bottle of Raspberry vinegar to mix in the water.¹⁰³ {T}he water we are getting now has a very bad taste. I put in a little common vinegar ~~when mixing with the water~~ but it does not destroy the bad taste the same as Raspberry vinegar w[oul]d do. {T}ake also a little vial of sweet oil, to rub any steel things that may ~~be~~ get rusted with the salt water. Be sure to pack away well any steel articles that you will not be using.

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If you can rub them with sweet
oil do so before packing. Even the
lock [and] hinges of your trunk will
get rusted if not painted. Be
sure they are well covered with
paper or they will spoil whatever
is next them. I have oiled my
boots [and] shoes three times since I
came on board.

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Sabbath 22nd Oct. 1848 < rain > Two or three times
when I felt sad I read part of Miss
Barland's poems.¹⁰⁴ {S}ometimes I would
read them all ere I ~~stø~~ laid down
the book. {A}t other times they would
waken up recollections, pleasing recol-
lections of the past, and ever call to
mind something about you. There
is among her poems one entitled
"Epistle to ~~the~~ < a > young friend."¹⁰⁵ It is
a very nice one, read it. ~~almost~~
Every night I see "the theonson's phos-
phorescent brightness play'd \\ Upon the
sparkling waters,"¹⁰⁶ but on Friday
night it beat all conception. {T}o
look at the water one would im-
agine the ocean to a vast sheet
of fiery flame. It was grand,
yesterday morning, swiftly flew
over the waves the flying-fish, and made
a leap into the billowy surge.¹⁰⁷
I saw about a dozen, but cannot
say they "flew over the decks," altho[ugh]

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¹⁰⁴ ??? Barland, ??? title?

¹⁰⁵ ??? Barland, ??? pages ??? text?

¹⁰⁶ Quotation from ???

¹⁰⁷ Quotation from ???

they do so sometimes tho[ugh] rare seldom.
They are a very pretty fish about
the size of a herring. Well at
night again [*vacat*] “the blue
electric light play’d round the (not the
shrouds, but the) Horizon.”¹⁰⁸ It was
sheet lightning and not so vivid as
~~the~~ it was the other night. In the
West Indies it is a very common thing
for the lightning to “play round the
shrouds.” It is commonly called ribbon
lightning, from the long ribbony
appearance it has. Sheet lightning
is not near so dangerous as dart
lightning{,} it is the latter that con-
tains the thunderbolts so destruc-
tive both to ships{,} lives [and] homes.
Lightning is more common in
New York than in Glasgow, but it
is sheet lightning. Dart lightning
is very common in the West Indies
and also very destructive. It
has blown almost a gale today.

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¹⁰⁸ Quotation from ???

Monday 23rd At [half] past 7 this morning a child died. I suppose it w[oul]d be about a year old. The mother [and] child were ~~the~~ ~~only~~ sent out by the Parochial Board of Glasgow, ~~the~~ to get quit of maintenance money.¹⁰⁹ The father ~~died~~ was killed in a coal mine < near Glasgow > about 12 months since. {P}oor lady, she has barely the common necessaries of life, and no bed. I have just come in from the burial it was at ten o'clock. The Captain who is an Episcopalian read the Church of England service.¹¹⁰ The ceremony was very imposing, as the ~~weather~~ < night > was very cold, part of the service was read down in the 'tween decks,¹¹¹ and part at the ship's side. The Carpen[-]ter made a coffin for the body, a pig of Iron broken in three pi[ece]s was put in at the foot of the body, and when the service was nearly finished the coffin was slid down ~~the~~ a plank over the

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vessel's side. It blew a perfect gale last night. {T}ruly we have had our quantum of bad weather and were it not that we are in as strong ship as wood and Iron can make one, I would not have been sitting here tonight writing my log. {B}ut thank God our good ship has weathered all as yet still "we know not what a day nor an hour may bring forth."¹¹² My Dear Eliza, I trust that when you come over, no gales shall interrupt your passage, nor foul weather mar the vessel's speed. I trust you shall have a pleasant passage, a swift passage, [and] a safe passage.

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¹¹² Quotation from ??? the Holy Bible?

Tuesday 24th

[*Page blank*]

[End of Page 71]

Wednesday 25th I saw two large flocks of Wild Ducks today. I have seen gulls [and] Mother Carey chickens¹¹³ flying about almost every day since we left. We are now in the track of vessels coming from New York and see two or three every day. The other night we were nearly run into by a large ship. {I}t is very dark at night [and] altho[ugh] we keep a good lookout, still a vessel is just almost at us ere we see her. {I}n this instance we observed her [and] immediately lit a torch, wh[ic]h gave a fine light [and] is of great benefit to the other vessel as, it shows her the position of our sails [and] knowing that, she can tell how we are steering [and] so keep clear of us. {W}hen we

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¹¹³ Contemporary slang for ???

saw her still bearing down upon
us. The Capt[ain] ordered the man
at the helm to ~~put~~ cuff round¹¹⁴
wh[ic]h means to bring the vessel's head
to the wind so that we would
not sail. {B}y doing so we were
saved. The vessel past within a
few feet of us. The Capt[ain] hailed
them but they did not reply.
The Capt[ain] said to me that had
the cannon been full he w[oul]d have
fired it into her for her obstinacy.¹¹⁵
I have not seen another vessel
displaying a torch but ourselves
[and] we have passed a good
many at night.

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Thursday 26th Well Lassie, after sailing about since Sunday last we have arrived at the very spot we were at then, about three hundred miles from New York. The *Augusta* sails very well but we have had ~~pas~~ a succession of calms [and] gales for nigh a month. We were half way across a fortnight after we left [and] now we have been nigh a week making sailing [and] have not gone a mile nearer New York .

[End of Page 73b]

Friday 27th Again we have a beautiful morning, but then it is calm and the *Augusta* not ~~being~~ a stea¹¹⁶ having any other propelling power than her sails of course we cannot expect to move. Every day we see little land birds flying about. When they come on deck we catch them but they do not live with us. They have all been blown off the land with storms. We are getting soft bread every day now to breakfast [and] tea. {T}he steward bakes flour soda scones.¹¹⁷ I do not think that for the last 3 weeks half a dozen biscuits¹¹⁸ have been eaten in the cabin. {W}e killed two pigs since we left the half of each of wh[ic]h the <steerage> passengers got{.} I took a little fresh pork one day [and] was the worse of it, so I took no

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¹¹⁶ Clearly Francis originally intended to write “not being a steamer” or “a steamship” here.

¹¹⁷

¹¹⁸

More. The Captain [and] the rest of
the passengers continued taking
it [and] now they suffer from it. They
have all got dysentery or ~~flux~~, [and]
some are very bad with it.¹¹⁹ {S}o
Eliza love, take you a warning
by it. {I}t is the sudden change.
I must take care when arriving
at New York.

[End of Page 75]

Saturday 28th Yesterday afternoon
Another gale came on from the
northeast. It blew most terrific-
cally. You may ~~know~~ have an
idea of the gale when I tell you
that it drove us along, at the rate
of nine knots an hour, under close
reefed topsails, wh[ic]h is the
smallest sail that can be
put on the ship. {I}t is next to
running under bare poles.¹²⁰

[End of Page 76]

15 th	Fare up	1- 3
	Freight of 2 Boxes	- . 6
	Porterage of Do: to ship	1 . -
	Do. of Portmanteaus	
	[and]c to Miss Grimmonds	- . 9
	Do. of Do. to Miss Wallacts	1 . -
	Do. of Trunk to ship	- .1 .
16	Fare to Greenock train SW	- .3 . -
	to Miss W. steamboat fare	- .2 - 6
	Book	- . 1 . -
	Chart	- . 7 . -
	Artisan club	1
	Lemonade	3
	Seablitz Powder	1
	Fare to Helensburgh	4
	Lock _____	4
17	Baywatching Boat at	
	Greenock	6
	the Loberseo for D[.] Wallace	2 . -
	Do. P[.] McLeod	2 . -
	Do. D[.] Campbell	2 . -

[end of page 77]