

U.S.S. Porpoise  
 Port Phillip Bay, Melbourne  
 March 1<sup>st</sup> 1875

My Dear friend,

"All hands up  
 Anchor for home" was the  
 pipe we heard and a  
 little while ago we  
 are now standing down  
 the bay and by 12 o'clock  
 will be on our long  
 journey. I draw you  
 a short note to be returned  
 by the pilot so as to have  
 my last farewell.  
 Yours to fatherland I  
 have seen also read  
 the photographs of John  
 W. Harris I am much  
 obliged

Naturally joyous as we  
are to be on our way  
home, it is tinged with  
sorrow at leaving the  
many friends we have made  
in New York in particular  
and the Australian Colonies  
generally, and I am sure  
that it is the united senti-  
ment of all that in no  
part of the world we have  
visited have we <sup>ever</sup> met so  
firm & stout backing friends.  
I can see to converse that  
my heart swelled with  
my heart as I saw the  
last of you all, never in  
leaving my place & our home  
have I had such feelings  
and now that we are  
finally under way for  
home I earnestly hope  
that I shall gain you,

at my dear home if possible,  
and until that happy time  
comes I hope our  
communications may be  
frequent. I shall hold  
you to your promise about  
letting me know of any  
thing I can do for you  
at home, from my  
kind regards to Mr Walker  
& tell him I must have  
his photo, but though I  
can never forget him, his face  
will bring back memorable  
associations. My kind  
regards also to your family  
& John, and to Mr Winton  
hoping to have a letter from  
you on my arrival in June  
I must say farewell and  
remember as I ever hope to be  
Yours sincerely  
H. N. Stevenson

H. N. Stevenson  
Cambridge  
Washington County  
New York

C.4/c.270 (encl)