

U.S. Coast Survey Str. "Jedney"  
 Navy Yard New York Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 1875

My dear friend

Just five months ago today I received your letter sent by you while on our homeward journey, as our quick monthly steamer has left San Francisco I have reproached myself that it has gone without a letter from me to you. Though I have not written yet assured you & my other friends have not been forgotten, I have often thought of you all & formed the best intentions of writing before another mail went out, but I have been on the jump all summer, as I will proceed to tell you. After a long & prosperous passage from Melbourne we arrived at New York Sunday night June 1<sup>st</sup> evening at 10 P.M. at the quarantine station; the next morning Monday June 2<sup>nd</sup> we came up to the City and anchored in the harbor & spent the night before having made the circuit of the world & some 38000 miles of sailing. The same day I went to my home at Cambridge 180 miles north of the City & found your letter just arrived that day, quite a welcome reminder of your friendship. I remained home 36 hours & returned to the City & duty on the ship. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month I was ordered to proceed to Philadelphia Penna. for the 1<sup>st</sup> July & report for ~~promotion~~ promotion. Of course then I was full of "boning" up for the double ordeal. I went over to Philadelphia and at once got a quiet room & set to work in earnest. On the 14<sup>th</sup> July I was called up & had 4 days of

found me & I went from paper (Linnæus) from & from  
houses each & examination and was greatly pleased to  
find I had passed; on the 18<sup>th</sup> July I came back to the  
ship & the next day was detached & placed on waiting  
orders. All the others save Little & Kercheval had been  
detached before, & scattered all over his country.  
I went home after taking a few days in New York for  
sight seeing & then found our house full of company  
all young people & families at that, and as gentlemen  
were scarce I had to be very agreeable, & what with  
picnics, rides, Croquet etc. I had scarcely a moment  
to myself. The last week in August I was suddenly  
ordered to this vessel & had to go to Washington D.C.  
where I remained a week & then joined the ship  
at Hyannis Massachusetts on the sea coast, at the  
mouth of Cape Cod. The ship being at work on some  
shoals between Cape Cod & Nantucket. When  
had just got nicely settled when orders come to go  
to Philadelphia as a witness in the case of Chief Ensign  
Jones who left the Swallow at Cape Town, where I  
met all the other officers except Hamper & Stockton  
the Court martial lasted for near two weeks  
when I returned to the ship at Hyannis, & the next  
week the ship come to New York to get out for  
the winter work in the Gulf of Mexico. I have  
been home for 10 days & only returned on the 20<sup>th</sup>  
ult. and now fear have my history since coming  
home let me tell you of some of the others, when I  
will tell you what we are and what we do with this

Miss. (note Chief Jones was dismissed the service for drunkenness & disobedience)  
of orders.

on our way home we on the 7<sup>th</sup> day from Melbourne stopped  
 at Barbadoes W. I. remain'd 4 days & then steamed all the  
 way to New York arriving on June 1<sup>st</sup> as I have told you.  
 soon after our arrival a Medical board sat on Payson  
 Long, & return'd him <sup>some advice</sup> on 7/4 pay, gave him a year's leave  
 & he went to Europe, is now in Paris, & is not at all  
 well, has had several of his attacks again but at last  
 accounts Mayu Phillips is much better & is sanguine of  
 recovery, I hope he may overcome it. About the same  
 time Stockton was married in New York, granted  
 3 mos. leave, & order'd to duty at end of it, in the  
 Hydrographic office Washington, Schroeder was also  
 detached & order'd to the same place in Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.  
 Chiveller was detached & on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> took command of  
 the receiving ship, "Ohio" at Boston Harb. Wright  
 was given 6 months leave & then to go as Executive  
 of our "one man of war" on the lakes ~~with~~ head quarters  
 at Erie Penna; his home. Pillsbury was detached  
 and order'd as Executive of the Coast Survey in  
 "Blake" engaged in deep sea soundings along our  
 coast. Gardner was detached before me, placed on  
 waiting orders & is there now. Phillips left when  
 Payson die, & was all summer with his mother  
 at the White Mountains & is now in N. Y. as a broker  
 on Wall street, he with his uncle. Koehl the Mechanic  
 was discharged & is now at home in Maryland.  
 Simper is on waiting orders yet. Little & Kerschen  
 remain'g in Oratorica and are to sail in a few days to  
 go to Brazil & bring back some debilitate American Colonists  
 who went there in 1866, <sup>all</sup> of them ex. rebels of the Southern States

As soon as I received my Commission of promotion to Passed  
Assistant Engineer I was ordered as crew of this steamer.  
She is about 350 tons has 8 officers and a crew of 27  
men. The Coast Survey has its own fleet of some 15 vessels  
employed on Hydrographic work ~~along~~ <sup>in</sup> the harbors & rivers of our  
Coasts, Atlantic & Pacific, working north during the summer  
& south during the winter. The work we do is taking soundings  
for the construction of Charts, while the Shore parties do the  
triangulation & work to determine the shape of the shore  
line, ~~at the~~ the Coast Survey is distinct from the Navy  
and forms a bureau under the Treasury Department,  
although all the vessels are supplied by Navy officers.  
While all the Shore parties are civilians of whom Mr.  
Smith & Scott of the Chatham Co. party were members  
both of them are now triangulating in North Carolina  
& expect to leave here in a few days to go to  
Pensacola in Western Florida on the Gulf of Mexico  
we are to work in Pensacola bay all winter & until  
about May 1<sup>st</sup> when as the season gets warm  
we come north again, for work on the northern  
Coast. I like the work very much & mean to stay in  
it until next summer when I hope to be 20 furlongs  
that I can get over to see our Centennial at  
Philadelphia. I <sup>have</sup> visited the buildings & they are  
simply immense & not until I saw them did  
my enthusiasm arise to the patriotic pitch ~~to~~  
which our junkies are supposed to have over our  
4<sup>th</sup> of July. I hope I may meet some of our  
peeps of Abertown, Melbourne & New Zealand

the in case, which, Chester will be your want a letter or a note in Colorado, 11/12/70  
I will in my next letter from home of Morrison's picture. I am in the picture  
I have delighted to see I be sure you be one of them. The  
it may be. Tell Walker his letter about the people light  
had strange misstatements but at last rec'd me in that  
I took him for his photo. I subscribed for the "Nation"  
in his name & had it sent to him, from me, for one  
year. I hope he will enjoy it as it is one of our best  
utterance papers; though sent to him it was meant for  
you all to see. I shall write him by wet mail of Dec.  
The steamer "Colima" that takes this out from San Francisco is one  
I watched from the time her keel was laid until she left  
for the Pacific as I was at that time inspector in the same  
work on some government work. I am so glad you  
liked the reprinting of the Cabinet of Lincoln I was fortunate  
to get one of the early prints before the plate was worn  
out, and enclose a sketch showing who is who.  
I sent you a "Tribune" a few days ago with a notice of Walt Whitman  
& E. C. Steadman. I forgot to tell you that all Wilkins goes  
to China soon as Executive of the "Alert"  
I hope you will pardon me for my long neglect and believe  
me it was not intentional for as long as I live I  
shall hope to once more see the lovely shores of  
Horn Bay. I have not once this summer met even all  
ship mate but what some pleasant thing has been said of our  
visit there, and I truly believe that all of us will ever  
remember our visit there as the best cruise we ever made.  
With my kindest regards to your family & bid adieu to me and  
to all my friends I am as always hope to be

Your sincere friend  
H. N. Stevenson  
Cambridge Washington County New York

admission  
(permanent)