

Hunchat July 7th 1853

My Dear Dr

We came in sight of Madeira this morning early and by 12 M were near enough to have a pretty good view of its rugged cliffs.

We have had a remarkably smooth and pleasant voyage without a gale or even a strong blow or a rainy day - hardly a drizzling rain has fallen on us. Not so with calms. In the Horse Latitudes we lay two or three days rolling about, and a repetition of the same just south of the Azores the first day of this month. Genl. Com. Ringgold came I suppose to the same conclusion that our delay would not be his haste and sent us on ahead purposing to follow when wind would permit. We shall make a very short stay here and proceed on to Simon's Bay near Capetown perhaps before the arrival of the remainder of the squadron.

I can't say much of the sailing qualities of our ship not having tried them. We have made as high as ten knots but our average now with light wind and is not very fair is five or six. Her movements however are quite easy and pleasant so far as this term can be applied to the motions of a ship.

Old Neptune got hold of me and squeezed me
"awful" - but it was like squeezing an empty
bottle - he got very little tribute 'cause why -
there was next to nothing in me I had trusted
the old fellow in which I was materially aided by
a lack of appetite - probably one of his tricks - so
it was tit for tat - I am pretty well again
but do not feel so energetic as when on land
and find it good to be quite abstemious in
eating - glad that I do not have that rascally
our appetite to contend with commonly spoken
of as consequent upon seasickness

I don't suppose I shall have an opportunity
to botanize here which is of but little con-
sequence and I hope we will hurry off to
the cape so as to give me a good chance
there before the arrival of the remainder of
the squadron

I can see from the ship any patches of land
covered with weeds and bushes or kindly
enough to entice me on shore even if I
could get at them Every accessible piece of
ground appears to be cultivated The whole
Island is a mass of terraces and if there is a spot
not in cultivation I don't believe I can get at
it unless I could climb like a monkey or a goat
I thought I could see a few patches ^{of vegetation} on the face of appa-
rently perpendicular rocks unmarred by the hoe for
the plough could not get there or if it did would not stay

8th. Peace coaling this morning by sunrise which
seems to promise a speedy departure It seems we
are just too late for the mail the steamer having
left yesterday I have not learned when another oppor-
tunity will occur for sending letters We shall trust
them to the next mail

I see I have made awkward work above in
beginning my lines but I sat in my own sunshine
and wrote in my shadow and couldn't see well Indeed
my room is not well glazed for light - so you must
excuse omission and mistake

Yours sincerely

Charles Wright

P.S. I have not written to Dr. Bory not having any
thing of importance to communicate

(6.11)



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