

Letter to the Pacific

EDITOR'S NOTE

WRETCHED spelling and faulty syntax have never proved powerful enough to block expression of the purest sentiment—and the whaling era was no exception! Through the kindness of one of our Society members, Mr. Evert Wendell Andros, we have been permitted to reproduce the following letter, dispatched, one may be sure, with the most anxious care one hundred and twenty-three years ago in the very general direction of the ship *Navigator*, then sailing in the waters of the “Pac o.” We refuse to think that the letter did not eventually reach seaman Elijah P. Chase—granted even the most casual of postal arrangements. The *Navigator*, one discovers, was away for two and a half years on her voyage; whether Lucretia waited throughout or yielded to the attractions of that “very nice” Albert Easton is another story altogether. The letter itself outlasted more than a century and turned up unromantically some fifteen years ago on sale as a “stampless cover” in the offices of a Boston dealer in postage stamps.

Elijah P. Chase
ship
Navigator Pac o

thursday September the 2 1841
Nantucket

Dear Elijah

I take pen in hand to write you a few lines and hope you are well i am ass well ass is to be expected i'm very lonsom with ought you but i am in hopes when i get in town that i shall not be so lonsom i must try to shake off my poor feelings

or it will weare uppon my nerves to much by your Mother A request i shall call and see here and shall expect Sarah to call and see me how shall i introduce myself to your friends that is the hardest part to me i weash that you was here to tell me how i hope that when i get in town i shant now wone of them chaps that wee wer acquainted with i think that Albert Easton is very nice not meaning that I should like to kep company with him not by no means i love know won but you i love you beter than tounge can tell it is well for the men to go away sometimes to see how well we can love them not meaning that i want you to go for i am far fromit you cant tell how much i want to see you if it was only minits it would be a grate satisfaction to me i am in hopes that you will not want to gow again but if you doo i must put up with it i dont want to discourage you but i dont think their is much danger ther will be some day you will give it up i shall try to think so at all events Mary said that you must not forget the old shack and cellar and remind Peter the same if you should happen to mete with him at that island you know the wone i mean i cant explain it very well know will begin a new subject now and it will be about Nothing in peticlar their is nothing new going on now times a very hard nothing excepting the temperance question 8000 ladis have sined the pled and half as many men even to Daniel Russell has sined it for a year and wone day and that wone day he will be ass drunk ass sam hill if i could not keep sober without sining that pled than i would get drunk it seems to me perfect nonsense for the ladis to think they must sine the pledg because the men

doo in New York they say total abstinence or no Husbands think it is a good thing but they need not act so foolish a bought it wee has had a very distressing loss of the steamboat Eri 200 passengers lost but one ladi saved ten to twelve infants lost i must bid you good night and retire it is ten o clock now i am all a lone the family is retired to rest i muss mention wone thing that is the day you sailed a young man call to see me but i was up to the school house i did not see

him and glad a nuff i did not see him for i should have felt worse if i had he left now with never nothing for me to now hoo he was my eyes are perty near close now from your affectionate friend Luccretia M Donald

You cant tell how i love you and how many hours i think of you get a good voige and hurray home to me dont get into any scrape for my sake

EDITOR'S REQUEST

The Society continues, as it has in the past, to supply libraries and interested individuals with back issues of *OLD-TIME NEW ENGLAND*. Recently, we have had two orders from large Midwestern college libraries for a complete run of the magazine from 1910 to 1964. These we have been able to supply. There are two weak links in the chain, however, representing issues in which our reserve stock is so low that there are literally no more than two or three copies of each remaining.

We would be grateful indeed, and it would further the educational aims of the Society, if our members who are not interested in keeping the following two issues would return them to us:

Serial number 35 (January, 1924)
Serial number 148 (Spring, 1952)

As a matter of interest, the scarcity in supply can be laid in large measure to the unusual popularity of certain articles appearing in these particular issues. Serial number 35, for instance, contained John Robinson's highly informative article on Canton china, and number 148 featured Gordon Allen's article on The Vale, Theodore Lyman's country seat in Waltham. The Robinson article has been republished in the 1960 anniversary issue of *OLD-TIME NEW ENGLAND*, exactly as it originally appeared, and offprints of Gordon Allen's article are still available. To any person, therefore, who furnishes us with copies of serial numbers 35 and/or 148 we will be happy to send in return, upon request, copies of the Robinson and Lyman House articles in their later forms.
