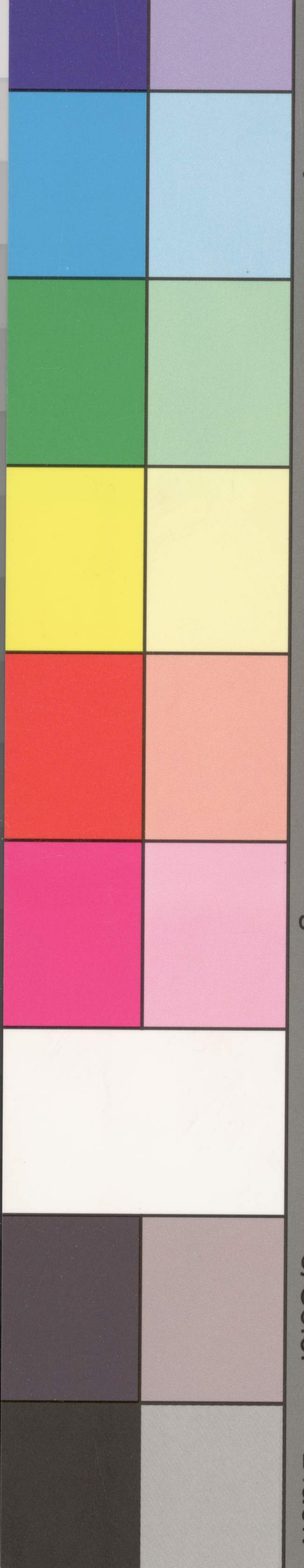


A-1

My Dear Wife
 perhaps you will expect to hear
 from me before this time & dated
 from St Louis but we did not
 arrive there untill Saturday after
 noon & had to hurry from the rail
 road to the Steamboat as quick as
 possible with scarce time to buy an
 Ace but this however I did do & I
 & others think a very good one but
 before I proceed any farther I would
 just observe that I do not feel any
 inclination at present to write any
 thing expressly for newspapers as I
 have so much to say to you I antic-
 ipated your feelings as you left me
 at the docks Gracious Goodness says
 you what a scene & what a bet he
 is with that time but that villain
 had no right to have sent me down

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^{AL}
There as my Ticket entitled me not
only to the First Class but the best like
was on board Steamboat or railroad
but however I got through the night
better than expectation as I met with
some Lady english persons who had ar-
rived the day before & were going on
to buffalo & they gave me a place to
sit upon their Benches & when I wanted
air they guarded my things while I went
to the port holes & viewed the hudson
river by moon light palisade & of
the many light on the banks where
cautious guarded our lonely way until
we arrived at Albany by 4 o'clock in
the morning but we did ^{not} land until
day light & then Adieu to steerage
company all the way through to the
present at Albany I found Mr Waller
the N-York Agent who was going back
again to N.Y. - but had entrusted
the necessary papers for the Agent at
Kansas to a Mr King one of the com-
pany Albany appears to be an Old esta-

blished & substantial built place ^{A-3} 13
very beautifully situated on the banks
of the Hudson, with hills on each
side beautifully dotted over with
groves & residencies of various descrip-
tion & as it was a very fine day
I had a very lovely journey from there
to Buffalo talk about scenery there
was the fields of broom corn waving
their high bushy tufts in the breeze
& here was the valley ^{of} Red Bush Wheat
a curious kind of plant about a foot
in height & a vast quantity of fields
thickly strewn over with what appeared
at a distance like very large oranges
but they were in reality pumpkins &
there was every variety of trees in the
woods which abounded along the road
but the tree which most attracted
my attention was the Sugar Maple
being not only of a most handsome shape
but the leaves was of a most beautiful
bright red & yellow & many other trees
garlanded with a fine red kind of ivy



4 A4
on arriving at buffalo our party had
a long way to go to the steam boat
may flowers to cross the Lake Erie but
we arrived there a little time before
the boat started to go across that
Very Big Pond & I sure enough there
was a very fine set of steering post
engines there mixed up with a very
dirty villainous looking set of unsteady
state soldiers composed of the most ^{part} ^{best}
& a few Dutch going to fort Leavenworth
Kansas but thank God I was out of their
company & had cabin accommodations
but it was very much like crossing the
herring brook again as the billow was
very rough up & down went my head
as in the olden time, but I cannot say
that I was sea sick only squeamish.
Although we was 20 hours crossing it
& then came the loud rough crier of
Look out for your baggage to be
removed to the railway depot at
Detroit, ^{which} is by the way a very fine
useful city but I had no time to look

A5 5

At the Directory as we had as much
as we could possibly do to get the luggage
to ^{the} railroad station & on board the
luggage van & then they wanted to charge
me 2 Dollars more for extra luggage
but I got off for 12 shillings & then for
log on hundred of miles to Chicago start-
ed at 9 o'clock travelled all night &
gain & another shifting luggage to
a different railway depot & starting
at 10 o'clock travelling all night &
day through long woods & immense
large prairies but some of our com-
pany & many people about New York have
made great mistakes concerning these
prairies it had been represented that
they were covered with a rank coarse
kind of grass like sticks with strong
deep roots in the ground - but I am happy
to say it is not so it is true that the
grass is luxuriant & pretty coarse but
the roots are by no means deep in the
ground like couch grass but easily taken
off with a shovel or spade & there is

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some of ^{Ab} the most beautiful soil that
found the eye can rest upon (I am referring
to Illinois praries & many persons that all
I have met with since we have entered the
on the Steamboat in which I am now be
writing who have travelled there & in over
Kansas say that the Kansas Prairie are now
quite equal if not superior to the others of
but to proceed after breaking a Spring
of the Engine & getting it mended on the
road which hindered us some 2 hours
some of wandered into the Wood where
I Picked some wild grapes we arrived
in St Louis through the Great Mercy
of God safe & sound & soon surrounded
by runners & fellows to take our
then we had to agree for our passage
to Kansas which we could not possibly
get under 10 Dollars each. which we
did not like but had got to pay it
it is certain that the accomodation on
Board are most Excellant the cabin
happenings with which we are
are very respectable men we have like
were good beds & every thing comfortable

A7

that especially the food which is of the most
refining sumptuous nature & the waiters are
such that all free niggers - but as it regard
we entered the food when leave the Boat (it would
now be always so Ma'am) the river Mis
sissippi in our is a very difficult river to
navigate full of snags & by stumps
& others of trees driven together by the current
Spring making some very ugly customer
for the vessel to run foul of them
where there is a great quantity of Sand Bars
some of them running for miles up
the river & continually shifting so
around that there can be no true chart ma
de to navigate by consequently
they are obliged to be frequently sound
the Steam Boat drawing $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet
of water & the sounding men frequent
ly calls out 4 feet scant - so that
you who are somewhat acquainted
with the navigation of rivers can
perceive the caution necessary to
save us from running aground &c

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^{6. A. 26}
it is now Thursday night & we
have more than 150 miles yet to
up to the mouth of the Kansas river
yesterday one of the deck passengers
was found to be in the last stage
of the cholera as soon as I knew of
it I offered him some of the Mixture
although the cramp had gone out of
his stomach into his legs & arms
but the persons around him were
so bigotted that they would not give
it to him saying that he had not
got the cholera & poured Mupes of
their own concocting down the poor
fellows throat & in 5 hours after he
was a corpse & at Midnight they
buried him in a small town on the
bank of the river but there was one
of our cabin passengers that had symp-
toms of it who took some with gratitude
& was much benefitted thereby —
there is one of our company going to
Kansas a native of Sheffield in Yorkshire

A9 7

who emigrated to America 2 years
since & has a wife & 3 Children then
who have been sick for several days
but I think his case to be a violent
attack of the bilious but he is very
much frightened not being used to
it & thinks he shall die when the
dinner came over his eye which ^{is} usual
in Bilious attack he says Oh dear my
sight is going from me & addressing
himself to me says Oh do stand by
me in my dying hour - I assured him
I would & although I had no medicine
to suit his case myself it should be
obtained from the captain's Medicine chest
& I have great hopes of his recovery the
Missouri river is very winding in its
course & in some places very wide
with splendid scenery on its bank
we frequently stop to put out & take
in passengers & Freight at Landing
places & Towns as we pass along

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85
85
A-10
of frequently see what is called seal
ripper male to female in slavery or
who can describe my feelings on seeing
the first slave working on a plant
ation or farm in my life I thought
what a blot in the beautiful picture
of country all around yesterday we
struck upon one of the Snags I alluded here
to I knocked a Hole in the bottom
of the vessel which detained us 14 hours
of 2 days before that we struck on a
sand bar which detained us 24 hours
but notwithstanding all our ups & downs
& delay we have arrived safe at Frankfort
city at the mouth of the river Frankfort
through the providence of God on Saturday
day 1 o'clock being 10^o days from Albany
I could have stated many more things
but I am afraid I have almost trespass
ed on your patience already we
have met with persons from the territory
that have given us great encouragement