

E. S. Sarmatian

Sunday May 14. 82

My dear Mother

As I suppose you will

expect some account of the present

travels I shall begin to write you

tomorrow, though we do not expect to reach

London very late some time tomorrow

afternoon. The vibrations of the machinery

must account for the peculiar appearance

of the writing. We left Halifax punctually

on time, with beautiful weather & over

seventy cabin passengers, besides a few

intermediate & steerage. The weather

continued very fine indeed & no special

incident occurred till Monday or Tuesday

night, I forget which. We sighted a few

icebergs or. About one o'clock on Monday

night I think, during the machinery stop

I dressed & went on deck to see what

was going on, & was surprised to

find that we were not far from
 another large steamer, which had
 signalled us to stop. Presently about
 came alongside & before long we heard
 that the steamer was a Commodore, the
Catalonia, with a broken shaft & quite
 helpless. Our Captain agreed to stay by
 her till the morning & see what could be
 done. About daylight they began transferring
 the mails, & in a few hours both the
 the passengers, with the exception of about eleven,
 who chose to stay on board, they too
 sea-side to move or otherwise in disorder,
 were transferred to our ship. This added
 over ninety cabin passengers to our list,
 which as you may suppose crowded us
 up a good deal. As the Catalonia was
 near the ice, we next took her in tow
 & towed her for twenty-four hours, by
 which time they had picked up the

machinery so that they could at least
 keep her head to the wind. It was
 fortunate that my cabin so that the transfer
 was effected without much difficulty,
 though the climbing down on steamer's
 side by rope ladder & up that of the
 other complicated by the lurching of the small
 boat by the swell seemed sufficiently
 alarming to some of the people, so that
 some of the ladies had an opportunity
 of displaying ^{their} fainting &
 otherwise demonstrating. The real
 inconvenience which they suffer is that
 they have been able to bring with them only
 the small luggage which they had in
 their state rooms, & have no certainty
 when their trunks may arrive at
 Liverpool. Many of the gentlemen had
 also to put up with cabins in the
 intermediate, hospital or. Hence the

Event we have had a scattering breakfast
 from eight to ten. Lunches at 12 & 1
 & dinners at 4 & 6, one hour being
 for the same always & the other for the
 Catalonians. Rough weather too however
 soon after and almost everybody was
 prostrated with sickness. The students
 we have had a pretty busy time, & you
 can imagine now that next people
 are well gain what a busy looking
 school we have in the evenings. Among the
 Catalonian passengers, curious enough,
 was a Mrs O'Reilly who I had known
 in Barbadoe Columbia, with two children.
 We had the pleasure of carrying them into
 a cabin to accommodate her with a
 state room, but as she is very thankful
 & always in the best stages of
 sea sickness & despair several
 one does not mind. I can't begin

to describe all the people on board here now. I think if they were all ground together & divided by 200 they would make a very fair average weight. I have not been at all sea-sick & it has been pleasant to have my sea on board. Mrs Selwyn has been quite well all the time with the exception of a slight cold contracted by prolonged sediments on deck.

Aug 16.

We arrived at Liverpool this morning, getting finally clear of Custom's & other matters at about one o'clock. Fine weather, but every thing very dull & slowly here after the sea breeze. Am now at the Adolphus Hotel. Mrs Selwyn leaves for her friends

tomorrow noon at 9 o'clock.
 As far as I can learn none
 of the Crow family are here at
 present. I saw Mr Rudolf
 today & promised to go with
 tomorrow spend a night with
 them. Intend leaving for Edinburgh
 in a day or two. Then probably
 to London. As there is nothing
 further to report. I suppose I
 may now conclude by sending
 but wishes to all.

Yours affectionate Son
 George

