

S.S. "Peruvian"

Monday June 5 '76

Acc. 976

My dear George,

Here I am, on my way up  
the St. Lawrence, & expecting to arrive at  
Father Point at about 6 this evening.  
We have had rather a breezy passage  
coming across the wind being always  
ahead, and the weather cloudy & wet.

The only variety in the weather occurred  
one evening when it began to blow from  
the north. When I went up on deck  
after dinner, the wind had begun, &  
the spray was drifting across the water  
giving much the appearance of a snow  
storm. In half an hour the old swell

was effaced which had been rolling up from the S.W. and a new swell began to form. After a couple of hours the ship began to roll heavily, as of course the wind was right across its course. It certainly did roll. I measured the amount by means of an extemporized plumb-line, & found it approached very nearly to  $45^{\circ}$  to the lee-side, though not so much to the windward. It was certainly over  $40^{\circ}$ . The first officer said he had not seen such rolling for those years, but he has not sailed before on this ship. Still it must have been unusual. The wind had ceased in the morning. I find that it was the "Peruvian" on which I crossed in going to England last spring.

We got into a fog before seeing land, but they managed to feel their

way along by means of sound light.  
The first land we did see was the  
Bird Rocks at the end of the Magdalen  
Isds. We saw them yesterday, & in the  
evening it cleared up magnificently, to  
a fine moonlight night.

There are very few nice passengers  
on board, and as we met with roughish  
weather at the very commencement, the  
ladies, such as they are, have been laid  
up nearly all the way, so that there  
has hardly been any music to enliven  
the evenings. There is an old ship cap-  
tain from Cork on board, who will  
never admit the weather to be bad  
and always takes the most cheerful  
view of things, — of course the best  
thing to do, but still it does not pre-  
vent his being very amusing in his  
defence of its caprices

The only person I have found really agreeable is a gentleman from India, who is travelling for his health. He is not a Hindoo however, but a Scotch man, & I have obtained quite an amount of information from him. I succeeded in finding out that he is an Independent minister, & had charge of a congregation in Calcutta. He is so unassuming one would never have found it out from his manner or dress.

I hope to hear news of you when I arrive in Montreal. I write now in case I have not time to do so immediately when I arrive there. I am now counting on being in time for the wedding on Wednesday, although I was afraid of being late when we got into the fog.

Believe me

Your affectionate brother  
William.