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Monte Video

July 7th. 1831

From Fotherstone Cole to his sister Elizabeth.

My dear Elizabeth

I was deeply pained to hear that you have had such a severe attack of illness, and tho both Father's and Emma's letters stated that you were getting better as yet I must be in anxious suspicion till the arrival of the next Packet (and she is not due for 20 days) to have those favourable accounts confirmed. As I have always said the unavoidable separation from friends especially in sickness, is by far the most painful part of a sailors life, this is a privation and a hardship, and it is the only way, I feel as such, other circumstances which we get the sympathy of the good people as how for a comparatively speaking nothing, a habit and a sort of careless thoughtlessness make sailors indifferent to them or feel and find in surmounting them easily, but there are few sailors and I have never met one in any situation high or low who did not centre all his hopes of happiness in "home," all future plans of enjoyment and pleasure is wouln up with "when we get home"; land men know the meaning of the word now but sailors feel it. Tho I am happy and comfortable as it is possible to be on board a ship yet when I get home with plain clothes on I shall feel like a bird let loose from a cage. We've now entered on our third year in commission so the remaining time will not appear long passing. In Henrietta's letter she spoke of its being rather expensive as one reason for not visiting Swansea. I well know how necessary a little money is, whilst you have it you feel independent tho you may not want to spend any, but visiting any place there are so many teifling expenses which are unavoidable--that part of the business let me manage--when you or either of my dear sisters visit a place and want a sovereign or two ask Father for it on my account. I think my credit is good in that quarter and I should hope that you know me well enough as not to consider it a mere compliment. I have long thought of it, and 'twas not want of inclination prevented my mentioning the thing before, but the means. My expenses for the first year were very great, and one time at home and out here I was £50 in debt. Now--when I don't owe a sixpence and I think I may say the same of home--I must save a few pounds that in case of shipwreck or any unforeseen accident I may not be a dead weight on my friends. And on the income that many support a wife with 'twould be strange if I could not spare a few pounds for my sisters, and tho sailors may be as Richard says rather " " as how I think my stock of that commodity is expended as I have not been so for a long time and I know a good number of very agreeable young ladies here and at Buenos Ayres. Time was when I would have gone without my dinner to see a lady home and was in fact their most obsequious slave, they will find me very different now. Tho I am still too fond of ladies society I have been looking over one of your letters at which I must suppose to be an attempt to cure my vanity, I allude to a part when speaking of a gentleman who visited Falmouth lately who you say "is not very handsome" and who by a gentleman's account is "very plain" you say "he is my exact counterpart," now tho I am but so so, I don't squint neither have I red hair so it won't do and I cannot thank you for the compliment, however well meant, besides, I don't think I have much vanity--pride I am generally allowed to have a good share of and better too much than too little. I have lately increased my circle of acquaintances here and manage to pass the time very agreeably principally amongst the English. I am quite the married ladies beau, indeed there is but one English young lady here, the Vice Consul's daughter, a very nice girl, she is engaged to a merchant and I suppose will be married soon tho only fifteen years of age, but early marriages all the fashion here. You ask if I ever think of you on Sunday mornings going to chapel. I assure you I often do and wish it were possible I could accompany you. I have been but twice inside an English place of



worship for nearly three years and a half a circumstance I must regret for I would willingly attend twice on Sunday and Wednesday evening in the bargain if I had the opportunity there are but two places I have been at on the station when Divine Service is performed, (Rio Janiro and Buenos Ayres) at this very time it is performed all the officers are obliged to be on hand. However I look forward to the time when we shall go to gether and hear Mr. Burchall you may remember me to him and say I recollects ~~more~~ ~~of~~ ~~his~~ sermons than most likely he gave me credit for attending. For whatever I may have thoughtlissly said I always thought highly of religion and think so still tho in a place where the word is never mentioned except with mockery and ridicule. My dear Elizabeth it is the greatest ornament of finere. Study it, you have the opportunity as I intend sending five or six letters by the next Packet I think I have written you a tolerably long one. Remember me very affectionately to all my friends and say I look anxiously forward to the time when I shall have the happiness of seeing them again. I have no favourite Spanish tune and long for Charlotte Fra tell her I expect to hear her play and sing it on my return, it is copied for me by a beautiful Spanish girl at Buenos Ayres who I sometimes visit who inclines for music. I sincerely trust my dear Elizabeth to hear of your complete restoration to health and believe me to be

Your very affectionate brother  
F. Osler