

Alfred's first letter home after going to sea with the Navy.
The small handwriting makes this difficult to read even in the original.



161
Bishop of Exeter and County
Exeter. Exeter. Devon. England
Alfred
Loughbo

F
AU 19
1833

19 1833

19 1833

Thunder. Between Plymouth & Madras
Monday 8th of July 1586

Dear Mamma

I commence writing my first letter from a foreign place. we hope
to reach Madras in 3 or 4 days. I have not been at all sick
I am happy to say though we have had a rough sea and all
the other youngsters have been as sick as dogs we set sail
from Plymouth on Thursday last. I came up to deck to take my
last sight of dear England, and was obliged to be at my station
in the mizen top for about half an hour before the sails were
next morning at 5 o'clock. I was on deck looking at the Lizard
which was fast to appearing on the distance we had laid in a
of fresh meat and bread which we hope with last for a week or so
also 8 dozen of beer which I like much better than that depending
gro. I must assure you I detect it and am obliged to turn
my head away in my hammock to escape the disagreeable fumes
No Sunday we had appear at divisions or muster afterwards the letters
of war were read and then we had Church at 10 o'clock the passage
of Mamma said Attention when one of the main a great bearing
men fell down flat and all the other shift backwards from the
step suddenly rolling after Church we went below and had dinner
after which fortunately the Doctor took a religious book and read it
over when one of my messmates came by and had a discussion
on some disputed subject which kept me some time then came
and walked on deck till the Captain sent for the youngsters
we read St Matthew and ~~some~~ of Plautus ~~at~~ ^{between} on Jacob.
This morning our Schoaling began from a tide 12 inches we
took the altitude of the ~~sun~~ at 11 after noon we returned
to ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~sun~~ till 4 at to we shall have a lesson from
the boatwain in splicing. Learning the ropes so I mount the
masts now with perfect ease. I flattered myself you might
not object like to have a little portrait of me so please
who is considered to cut out likenesses very well cut me
out and I enclose it to your place to take what I need
to be continued letter initially the ~~doctor~~ of London

Continued from page 1,
 a shark and grampus have been seen I should have liked to have seen
 them I received a lesson from the boatswain in plating you
 with three and S. Platt, Mr. Allan, helped me, one of my messengers
 was clobbered this afternoon, that is tried by contraband by the
 rest of them for using insolent language to an older company
 him the two we all as before determined assembled in the hold
 with cocked hats and caps I was scaly with a drawn sword
 and had to prevent the Prisoner from escaping he was tried
 and after some ridiculous ^{remarks} and much laughter
 the Lamp was put out and he was sentenced to receive
 12 lashes on his back with a rope yarn, which was
 done till he squeaked he was then released during the
 operation he laid on the table we quickly disposed
 and all went on the usual order. I think I am going
 to keep night watches in future that is to turn out for
 four hours in the night and walk about on deck
 I wonder how I shall like it, we hope to see Medina to
 morrow. Tell Dick that we have yet just such another
 below as H. Ashkenast, we take James Coates one
 like Morris. I don't mind the rough sea at all now
 I get to accustomed to it. The Dred which we had laid
 in a square stock ^{is beginning to set} 600 fathoms of black and by ones
 so I ~~hope~~ ^{hope} to continue this till to morrow

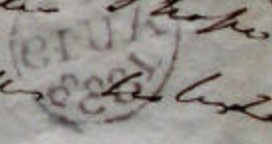
I proceed to continue my ~~letter~~ ^{letter} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~one~~ ^{one} of the news
 a nice Irish lad of the name of Martin died this morning he
 had a fever for ~~several~~ several days which began in sea sickness
 we knew he was in danger I had just come out from the Captains
 cabin having breakfast with the ~~captain~~ ^{captain} (we had breakfast with him by
 turn) when Hardman told ~~me~~ me he was dead, and asked me
 to come and look his hammocks was slung here over the main
 or second deck just by the place for ports, his breast was seen
 the bones nearly starting out of his ~~side~~ ^{side} ~~flank~~ ^{flank}, his head lying on
 one side bandaged round with some rag, one eye open one shut
 his hair cut short and all in all it was a body horrible
 sickness (he was remarkable for his good conduct).

he was afterwards taken up in his hammock put down on the deck
 covered with a union jacks when he will remain till tomorrow
 when he will be buried. My hope to see Madras tomorrow
 this morning I saw a grampus close to the ship he looked like
 a large pig of a greenish colour a great many porpoises
 have been seen at different times than he I have seen some
 continued from yesterday.

I have just witnessed the burial of poor Master he is now up in
 his hammock covered with a union jacks which is laid to
 the wooden grating upon which the corpse is placed the body
 of course sinks having two large shot in it. The grating and
 union jacks float and is hauled up again although it floats
 in the fore gangway the service is read all standing round
 hats off. When the service is finished the grating and all is
 pushed off and in a few minutes every thing its regular course
 and nothing more is thought about it. I breakfasted with the
 Captain again this morning all our bread is out now. ~~the~~

but as we get into Madras tomorrow it does not signify. The
 biscuit being baked over again is very nice this morning for
 a treat the broth had had roles we really look very comfortable
 stable with cold beef &c. as a bag of yellow peas off when
 we arrive at Madras I must finish my letter I hope
 it may not prove uninteresting

give my love to ~~some~~ Papa. Brother & Sister
 L.C. and. Believe me
 Yours affectly
 A.P. Ryder



P.S. I expect a letter to be waiting for me at Madras
 P.S. continued from last night

This morning I believe when I come on deck Porto Santo
 of the Isles near Madras. We just ahead of us so I saw
 the rest sketched it in a little while Madras was
 in sight as a distance it looks like an immense barren
 rock but with a telescope you distinguish villages pretty
 houses valleys so we hope to get in this afternoon
 I shall write another letter at Madras. ~~the~~ ~~post~~ ~~will~~
 it by next letter