



Messina  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1856

My darling Boy

Poor Papa has been so very very long without having a letter about his little boy that he was becoming quite sad - Papa knew his letters had been sent wrong by mistake and he didnt suppose his dear little boy was ill but still he wanted very much to hear about him - One day he saw a man on shore at Malta, who came up to him and shook hands and said - "I saw your little boy a few days ago. and he was quite well" So Papa laughed and said that was very good news. you see as good as a long letter to



319

the Tom Palmer - Does Eddy remember Tom  
Palmer - Papa does say Eddy does not, Eddy  
sees so many people. how can such a little  
male boy be expected to remember them all.

Papa only saw Tom Palmer for two minutes  
and had no time, to ask how his little boy  
looked, or what he was doing - whether he  
was laughing, or playing, or saying his lessons  
or sleeping or riding on Donny. Of course  
Papa wont ask Tom Palmer whether his  
little boy was good, because Papa likes  
to suppose that his little boy, now that he is  
getting rather big. Has quite left off being  
naughty. and is always kind & loving to Papa  
& Gueka. & Purpan. & Patty - Papa would  
like to draw a picture for his little boy - but  
he cant think of anything to draw to amuse  
him - Papa was made very sorry two  
days ago. by one of his men tumbling down



from the top of the Mast, nearly 100 feet -  
 and broke his leg all to pieces. Papa  
 sent him on shore at Messina for the Doctor  
 to do what they could for him, and Papa  
 is going to stop the ship there tomorrow  
 morning, & will go in in his boat to see  
 the poor man. I hope to find him rather  
 better, but he is afraid his poor leg must  
 be cut off. - wont that he very sad to have  
 to lop on one leg for all the rest of his  
 life - Papa had such a walk at  
 Messina, he took a party of his big  
 little boys on shore and walked them  
 up to the top of a high hill & then  
 ran all the way down to the bottom -  
 the hill was all in high steps, so high  
 about as high as the dining room at fauce.  
 Papa found his legs quite stiff next morning  
 with pumping - Papa send some kisses & messages to my poor  
 Edy. own Papa.



