# THE DAILY PITTSBURGH GAZETTE
## AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL.

ESTABLISHED IN 1786. PITTSBURGH, SATURDAY MORNING, JANUARY 25, 1862. VOLUME LXXV---NO. 59.



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SATURDAY MORNING, JAN. 25, 1862.


## LETTER FROM SOUTH AMERICA.

[Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.]

RIO DE JANEIRO, S. A., December 9th, 1861.

DEAR R.—According to promise I proceed to give you a short account of our voyage and arrival at this land of cocoas and palms. We sailed from Baltimore on the 8th of July, having but a day to spend in that beautiful city. We found that among the aristocracy the secession feeling was very strong and bitter. The family that entertained us so kindly were exceeding bitter in their feelings towards the Yankees, as they called the northmen. And it was a most bitter pill for them to swallow to be compelled to see American soldiers and cannon planted in their squares and streets for the promotion of good order and upholding of federal authority. But when you passed to the middle and working class the change was most gratifying. They stood by the flag to a man, because it was the American flag and the emblem of equality and freedom, as well as safety.

As we passed Fort McHenry, we could not but observe how completely it commanded both the entrance and the city. Baltimore is at the mercy of the same power created for her safety; in one hour Fort McHenry could put it in ruins. And while we looked at the fort and the city, and thought how all this could be done, we shuddered as we thought, and we prayed that such an event might never occur.

We were nearly a week getting to the Capes. We had one or two thunder storms in the Chesapeake that gave us something of an idea of what was in store for us. How beautiful is the bay. Too wide, however, for one to observe much as to the country. As we made the Cape, we were hailed by the Quaker City and allowed to pass. Just as we had got by, *boom* went a cannon, making us all wonder what was to come next. It appeared that a prize had just been taken, and that the gun had been fired for her to lay to and be boarded. Soon the Quaker City was but a speck on the horizon, and we were tossing on the billows of the deep blue sea. This was in the morning, and at noon we took the last view of our native land—not knowing if we should ever look at it again—or, if so permitted, whether it would be in war or peace, united or dismembered. But, every emotion of this kind (on my part) was soon lost in that most dreadful of all feelings, *sea sickness*. Mrs. C. escaped to a great degree, but poor me was done up for four or five weeks, the longest, I believe, in all my life. I never knew what *tide* was before, although I had heard it in lectures and read of it in medicine, and had talked about it, but now I took full, saw and tasted it to my complete horror. But it is an ill wind that blows not good to some one, the sailors say, and so, after a long and fierce struggle as if the fountains of the great deep were being broken up, there came a calm, and after it, O! what an appetite. The pantry and cooks' galley were charming spots to one's eyes; and even a barrel of pilot bread has charms that one would not have dreamed of. From that time on I knew I was gaining flesh, till I weigh more now than ever before. "Charlie" grew fat on it, crept and clambered everywhere, and his great delight was to haul at the ropes with the sailors; but since he left the sea he has lost much of his plump form and cheerfulness.

His ma stood it finely at first; was sea-sick but little; though after being at sea a week she began to fail, and grew weaker and thinner all the time, until I became somewhat alarmed as to what would be the result. Had our voyage been four weeks longer, I am confident she could not have rallied. But once on shore, she began to mend, and now enjoys a tolerable state of health; though I fear that, like all other American women who have tried Brazil, she will not stand up under the enervating influence of the climate. From two to four years, at most, seems to be about the length of time they can remain without positive danger.

In passing through that strange phenomenon, "The Gulf Stream," we were surrounded, continually by water spouts, the Captain declaring he never saw so many in one voyage before. They are a great terror to seamen, for if a large one should strike a vessel, ships, fairly, it would go down without a doubt. So we watched the nearest ones with some anxiety, though startingly. Just as we were leaving the Gulf Stream, and we thought the water spouts also, we were struck by one, which carried away our foremast. It was Sabbath evening, about dark, and for a few moments a period of great peril. Our ship staggered like a drunken man, but righted herself soon, with a flood of water on deck, in some places three or four feet deep.

Our Captain had his wife with him. It was her first voyage. She was like himself—a bigoted Papist, and very ignorant and superstitious, though very kind and benevolent. Just before sailing, an old Irish woman had given her a medal of the Blessed Virgin. She lost it in a week or two, and as it could not be found, she was in great distress, the old lady having assured her that if she kept that around her neck she would have a safe and prosperous voyage, &c., &c. Poor creature! she suffered terribly with fright all the passage, and when we got to Rio was quite sick, and was still sick when they sailed to return home. It seems to me that ladies should seldom come to sea; it is a hard life, and attended with many discomforts and dangers.

After leaving the Gulf Stream we had fine breezes till past the Bermudas. After we entered the tropics we made slow progress, though we got through the doldrums in a few days, and crossed the line in fine weather. But in a day or two a storm came on, and we began to encounter the Cape St. Roque current, and we were carried as far to the leeward as to be unable to clear the Cape. The sea ran mountain high, with much rain and a fierce wind, which lasted three days. We were nearly a week trying to double the Cape, and had to retrace our path nearly to the Equator before we could get past this bugbear to all South Atlantic seamen. Lieut. Maury seems to hoot at it, but it only displays his ignorance as a navigator, for it is the universal testimony of mariners (not in theory but in practice) that if the Cape is to be doubled we must not cross the line west of 20° or 23°, westlongitude. Perhaps if the learned Lieutenant finds it necessary to secede to Brazil he may have an opportunity of trying his theory of doubling the Cape.

We crossed the line about noon on the 18th of August, and on the 26th passed the Cape, having the day before passed within twenty miles of Fernando de Noronha, an island belonging to Brazil, and used by her as a residence for convicts. When first seen it has the appearance of a church and spire. The pyramid is 600 feet high, and can be seen at ten a distance of 40 miles. The island is some 7 miles long.

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The next day, the 27th, was Mrs. C.'s birthday. To aid in its celebration, she baked some cake, the first we had had, which was partaken of by all dining in the cabin, with a plate full being sent forward to be distributed among the sailors.

Just previous to our coming to Cape Frio, we hooked a shark and some dolphins. The dolphin is certainly the most beautiful fish I ever saw. I do not wonder that poets have sung of its beautiful colors, especially when dying in the water, their color is a brilliant blue; when hooked on deck, they change to a bright yellow, or gold, spotted with deep blue; then the whole becomes blue again; then into pure, spotless silver, over which prismatic colors pass tremulously for a few moments, and then all becomes brown and gray, like any other dead fish. So passed the battery of War storms, calms and breezes; sometimes we had six or eight vessels in sight, again we would sail for days without anything in sight, so that a porpoise along side or a whale would cause a rush to the sides of the ship of all hands. At last Cape Frio came in view, and then we knew we were not far from Rio. It was now the 5th of September, and at 6 p. m., we sighted the far famed Sugar Loaf, which stands like a giant sentinel at the entrance of Rio bay. The Organ mountains have appeared on our right all day to great advantage, their tops partly hid by the clouds, more, indeed, nearing the end of our voyage everything is different. The Southern Cross and Magellan Clouds have kept us company for more than two weeks, though not so brilliant as we had been led to think from the description of other travelers. Venus certainly shines more brilliantly than in our clime, leaving a luminous track upon the water equal to that of the new moon. But we are preparing to enter the harbor, and it is now dark. We are sailing slowly out, though the reflection from the thousands of gas lights from the vast city, lights up the horizon. Alas for human hopes. As we got opposite the Sugar Loaf the "wind" died away, and we were forced to let go our anchor to prevent our being carried out to sea, and here we rest for the night, with the lamps of the city full in view, and the surf breaking with the sound of thunder on our ears. We smell the fresh earth and the flowers for the first time for sixty-two days, and retire to rest thanking God, who has brought us to our port in circumstances of so much mercy. The next morning was stormy, and we were obliged to be towed in, breaking three hawsers in the attempt. Finally, about noon we dropped anchor in the beautiful bay of Rio de Janeiro. I suppose it has no equal. Indeed, this place and its surroundings seems like fairy land, and if occupied by a civilized and Christian people, would be the most desirable place as a residence in all the world.

It was so late after the Gandimoer visited us, that it was impossible to go on shore with our family, and I went alone, delivered one or two letters of introduction, and made the acquaintance of a few of the large wholesale houses here. Letters of introduction are a great thing in Brazil, and aid one very much in travel. But what a city, and what strange sights! One soon learns that he is no longer in his own country and among his people, a new language, and a new race, almost composed of all colors and no color, greets him. The vegetation, the birds, and fruits and flowers, all are new, varied and profuse. Hundreds of granite blocks, many of them hewn and dressed, rush among the crowds, the most enormous wonders on their head. One is almost bewildered by the scene, and the sailors say, and so I fear, a long and fierce struggle as if the fountains of the great deep were being broken up, there came a calm, and after it, O! what an appetite. The pantry and cooks' galley were charming spots to one's eyes; and even a barrel of pilot bread has charms that one would not have dreamed of. From that time on I knew I was gaining flesh, till I weigh more now than ever before. "Charlie" grew fat on it, crept and clambered everywhere, and his great delight was to haul at the ropes with the sailors; but since he left the sea he has lost much of his plump form and cheerfulness.

His ma stood it finely at first; was sea-sick but little; though after being at sea a week she began to fail, and grew weaker and thinner all the time, until I became somewhat alarmed as to what would be the result. Had our voyage been four weeks longer, I am confident she could not have rallied. But once on shore, she began to mend, and now enjoys a tolerable state of health; though I fear that, like all other American women who have tried Brazil, she will not stand up under the enervating influence of the climate. From two to four years, at most, seems to be about the length of time they can remain without positive danger.

In passing through that strange phenomenon, "The Gulf Stream," we were surrounded, continually by water spouts, the Captain declaring he never saw so many in one voyage before. They are a great terror to seamen, for if a large one should strike a vessel, ships, fairly, it would go down without a doubt. So we watched the nearest ones with some anxiety, though startingly. Just as we were leaving the Gulf Stream, and we thought the water spouts also, we were struck by one, which carried away our foremast. It was Sabbath evening, about dark, and for a few moments a period of great peril. Our ship staggered like a drunken man, but righted herself soon, with a flood of water on deck, in some places three or four feet deep.

Our Captain had his wife with him. It was her first voyage. She was like himself—a bigoted Papist, and very ignorant and superstitious, though very kind and benevolent. Just before sailing, an old Irish woman had given her a medal of the Blessed Virgin. She lost it in a week or two, and as it could not be found, she was in great distress, the old lady having assured her that if she kept that around her neck she would have a safe and prosperous voyage, &c., &c. Poor creature! she suffered terribly with fright all the passage, and when we got to Rio was quite sick, and was still sick when they sailed to return home. It seems to me that ladies should seldom come to sea; it is a hard life, and attended with many discomforts and dangers.

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## LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22, 1862.

SECRETARY STANTON'S PLAN FOR THE WAR.

Secretary Stanton had an interview of two hours in one of the Senate committee-rooms this morning with the Military Committees of both Houses. All the sixteen members were present. The Secretary gave his views freely on