

Steamer Arago (23)

Wednesday Mond - 10th Oct
1886

My Dearest Mother

We are about eighty
miles from New York and expect to
get in at six or seven this evening
which will make our passage
from Lalmouth about 13½ days -
We may consider ourselves fortunate
in doing even so well as this as we
had very rough weather for six or
seven days, so rough as to cause
much excitement and some confu-
sion owing to the breaking of furniture.
The Persia (as we learn from the Pilot
who has just come on board) the second
best Cunard Boat whose passage
is generally 9 or 10 days was out 13 -
The Saxonia, the Crack Boat of the
Hamburg Line generally out 10½ to 11 days
was out 14 - and the Ville de Paris
the famous French Boat came
very near foundering - So by
comparison we did very well indeed.

For a short period of six or seven
hours the gale was the strongest the
Captain had ever seen during 25 years
on the Atlantic ocean - We lost
one poor fellow overboard (a sailor)
and got about 1500 fr for his widow
and orphan - Some of the big boys
also subscribed among themselves
\$650 for a testimonial to the Captain
but I did not feel called upon to
contribute ~~to~~ although I consider him
a good sailor and a gentleman -
~~to~~ We had great fun during
the three or four roughest days
though the poor women and some
few of the men suffered a good deal -
This turned out to be an American
ship and the passengers are almost
all American and a pleasant set
enough - I have spent most of
my time in the smoking room and
have only spoken to one lady (age 52)
who sits near me at table with her
family since I came on board so
although there are several nice looking
girls on board I can not be accused
of flirting much - I expect to
land this evening and, if early enough,

to go up to the Reg's - Tomorrow I
expect to get my letters and unless there
is something in them relieving me from
hurry to leave by the California steamer
at noon, if there is room in her -
If I send this you will know I have
gone - In the event of my staying
I shall go overboard, starting about
Monday - My pipe has been
universally admired and envied
and as during the turmoil I smoked
and smoked and smoked I think
nothing but a special providence
could have kept it from being
broken - We have now calm weather
and the only likely contingency about
our getting on shore tonight is that
we may be detained at quarantine
until morning though that is improbable
and would make it almost impossible
for me to catch the other steamer -
A fortnight has already, and when
you get this a month will have
passed out of the heat three years
I suppose you feel already as if
you had been dreaming, as I shall

also feel when I get settled down
again but it will be a very happy
dream to look back to and think over
and I feel triumphant over fate
to the extent of three happy weeks
of which I made sure and of which
I can not be robbed - I feel well
and in good spirits and much
more disposed to look forward a
few years than I expected to be
willing to do - Whatever may have
led to it or whatever may be the
result of my prolonged absence
I am very, very glad I went and
think it will not only have given
me a short happiness but give
a better tone to my life until
we meet again - Good bye dearest
brother with all possible love to
Pa and Charlotte - Your affectionate
boy

Wm Sturpoom

Tell Charlotte I will write her next
and to give my love to Charles -