

MSA SC 910 Box 9 Folder 1

Letters from William G.<sup>4</sup> to Ellie McElroy; <sup>one mentioning Capt. Ridgely another for NY before sailing; the others</sup> from ship "Santiago de Cuba" off Key West, FL. Some description of ship accommodations, naval action, etc.

Oct, Nov., 1861  
12 items



Miss M. C. Gray  
Lambertville  
New Jersey

10/20/61

Annapolis, Oct. 20/61.  
Sunday night.

I've been feeling more than usually lonely to-day, my precious Nelle, being without the solacement of my darling's weekly letter, and having parted unexpectedly with my two sisters, Jane & Lizzie. 'Twas hard work, dearie, to give up your letter last night, I had wanted it so badly - the last "Star" had to do double duty. I hope my letter, wh I sent via Baltz, did n't give our splenetic Uncle S. the chance to try m. patience in the same way - 'maybe he thinks we give him too much to carry for the three penny-stamp; I trust however the Dep't will not feel obliged to increase our postage rates - in such case I wd. appear of yr. appeal in person to the Post. Mollie rec'd a letter from her mother on Thursday urging her coming home at once as the doct. had stopped at B. on his way from the North to hurry her on to H. Md. in consequence of Mrs. St. J.'s sickness. 'Twas a great trial to the poor child, as well as to her friends here who were really rejoiced to see her & Lizzie back again. I put them on the boat Friday, Lizzie intending to return next Sat. y. You won't feel at all jealous, Nelle, to know that I feel their absence a great deal - the week with them was to me a very pleasant taste of old times; indeed I'm sure the trio were mutually satisfied to meet again. On Wednesday the girls came after me too with them to "fix-up" the Church, which certainly requires it. We cd not get hold of Bill Richardson, the sexton, and so they donned some old clothes, tied up their heads in regular fille de chambre style, & with myself in shirt sleeves, made a day's work of it, dining next door with Mrs. Brewer.



Tho' Mr. Friend the General was very callant, & well, he  
did n't favor the girls with the delicate attention bestowed  
upon you once. The Church carpet was taken up, from  
Pulpit & aisles, dusted & "turned" and replaced, the pews  
dusted & washed, & altogether such a sweeping & cleansing  
accomplished as had n't been seen for five years. Next day  
the poor things were pretty well broken down, as might have  
been expected. They spent the evening (Thursday) however, with  
M<sup>r</sup> Henrietta, where I joined them on my return from a day in  
Washington. Another taste of hope revived, dearie. Last Mon-  
day I recd a letter from Mr. Nourse informing me that he had  
heard that I had been nominated by Capt. B. to fill Ford's place  
(Librarian); & saying, in his peculiar style, that he had no business  
to recommend anyone but had nevertheless told the Superin-  
tendent that "he supposed Mr. Ridout, or Mr. Davenport, wd  
be able to assist him" the main chance with this good  
friend of mine. I did n't put much faith in this rumor  
thinking I sh'd have heard something from Blake had it been  
true, but two days afterwards recd another letter from  
my friend Capt. B. telling me his appointment  
would hold good after all, & he sh'd let me know when  
to come on to N. Y. There was a grand air - the place at  
the Academy was preferable, but not at all certain, or  
anything like it, and the Capt's offer to be considered. I  
saw Assist Sec'y Fox, but got little satisfaction - the  
appointment was to be soon made, & many applicants,  
& my recommendations sh'd be considered; nothing more.  
I had no expectation of getting it; yet thought best to write  
directly to the Capt & ask a day or two to consider, until I



could hear from Newport decidedly. This I know he will  
grant unless obliged to go to sea immediately. And, dearest  
Nelle, unless I have some assurance of this other ap-  
pointment, I shall feel it my duty to accept the Cap-  
tain's at once. May the Lord direct my lot, & help me  
in sincerity to commit my ways to his choosing - may  
He indeed, my own beloved, enable us to cast our care  
on Him. Darling, this day w<sup>th</sup> is our communion sea-  
son, after long interruption; do not forget my need of your  
earnest prayers, my own beloved - for reviving, reviving  
grace; for power to examine this wretched, false heart - to  
use this privilege with profit, & not to condemnation. Oh,  
my Ellie, I do need awakening - my slumber seems like  
death. - I trust, my love, you still keep as well, as at yr.  
last report, I have been able to enjoy all the privileges of  
this day - I want to embrace you, to commune with you  
so much, oh, so much. And now dearest, good night.  
God be with you thro' the silent watches! - Monday night.  
Don't you feel ashamed, you jealous old girl, for sending  
me such an outrageous Xantippean epistle? it did n't  
come 'till this morning either - probably had you imagined  
it too w<sup>d</sup> be delayed, and for two days, you would n't have  
sent it on so thick. How unjust to prejudice my case, old  
lady, & even make a wicked pun in charging Uncle Sam's  
fault upon the poor innocent Will, condemned unheard! How  
unkind too to laugh at the stupid ignorance in my weekly  
contributions! And then, to close the climax, after flaying me in  
this style, to inform me, with refreshing simplicity, that you  
are principled against crimination! Socrates himself w<sup>d</sup>



have been in a high state of excitement, & d the notorious Mrs. S. have invented such a good. Spare me, Sweet Nelle, a scolding letter - I'd rather have the manual "shaking" any day; indeed, when I'm near enough to stop that chattering mouth in a peculiar way, I'll willingly suffer for any amount of the infliction. I have a't had my revenge yet, tho'; but I'm getting pacified, & so will call you "Angelica" (if you won't question my sincerity at this moment) I'm right-down mad with you for going into that volume a teen leaving concern - over-run with school duties & company already, you had no business to do any such thing, and you're just fixing yr. self for another attack of neuralgia or throwing away what little strength you had. Just listen to that - even you c'd hardly beat it, old lady. But seriously Nelle, I'm vexed at your overtasking yourself in this style - there's no necessity for it. - I read your message to Father; he sends love, & is sorry you did not carry out yr. intention. He has just returned from a long ride in the Country, being out all the evening, & tells me, darling, much to my disappointment, that 'tis impossible to find his recipe for cologne to night. I will not forget it, my love - will send it to morrow if possible. Nelle, when you first asked about our reading I expected soon to see you intended to bring the next vol. of Ryle that we might begin Louke together - after that disappointment I did "forget" to mention the subject. God grant, darling, I may never feel it - any the less a dear privilege to read his word with my dearest earthly friend. I have thought of beginning Job & Louke, will you tell me, dearie, where you are reading. - It must indeed have been an interesting reunion for your relatives, my love - Mrs. S. would have enjoyed it very much. What a misfortune it is, Nelle, that Officers like yr. Uncle are so scarce - very different w'd be our Country's condition now, were such men more common. My darling, I must stop at once altho' I know many things are undaid. God be with you ever, to bless & guide. Love to Mr. Ma - sister & members yours. W. W. W.



1861

Geo. Ridon  
Annapolis  
Maryland.



Mansion House

Brooklyn

Thursday Night

Dear Father,

I am tired & sleepy  
enough but must send you  
a line. Got to N. Y. at 5 1/2 this  
morning, after a tedious night  
journey. Went to the Gray by  
Capt - after breakfast took a  
Rance at the St. r. She is in  
deed a splendid ship - ac-  
commodations admirable.

So I succeeded in getting ch<sup>l</sup> cashed  
I went to a large establishment  
on B<sup>d</sup> way to get what the Capt  
thought I sh<sup>d</sup> want. He did not  
know much about a place, but  
this one Palmer told me of, & another  
in naval man here. My leg stood  
the trial pretty well, but is pain-  
ful to-night, & I shall apply the Juice

Tell Bro. J., with many real  
regrets, that I fear I shall be able  
to send him little, if any, now,  
before I sail. I c'd not go about  
to different places to price the  
various articles, & expect after  
all they are quite as cheap  
as I sh'd have found, without  
some one's assistance. What  
I have got is of excellent make &  
quality, but, as I sh'd, of far greater  
cost than expected, even by my-  
self. The Capt. pt. \$18 for shirts, &  
advised me to get the best. Brooks,  
where I purchased, has none for less  
than \$18 - 2 doz. of these I got. Haven't  
time to particularize, or to say half,  
dr. father, that I wish. The Capt.  
thinks the ship may sail Monday,  
& was afraid at first, & seemed to  
be, that I c'd not get ready in time.  
But the most of my preparation  
is accomplished now, & I expect to  
leave for Lamb<sup>o</sup> to morrow at  
No. 1, to return Sat. afternoon. Hope

to get my advance of 2 mos. pay  
to morrow morning, without wh  
I can't pay for purchases, I am  
disappointed indeed in not being  
able to return Bro. J. a good payt.  
on his loan, but of course will at  
earliest possibility, leave to him  
Cousin, & all the circle, particu-  
larly to F. whom I didn't see  
you know - also adieus to  
all friends, Write at once to the  
Mansion H. & I shall probably get  
it, for to my inexperienced eyes,  
it w. take 1 w. k. of constant toil  
to make the Santiago sea shape.  
Once more, good bye - I write  
in great haste, & can't expand.

Yr. ever aff.  
W.







"about 10 o'clock" 8.1.11

W. J. ...

... he caught after all. - "off N. Carolina coast" Tuesday night. "I was well, during the night, that I introduced provisions for the night concerning "le pain de estomac". Before I had a chance to say so much as "good night", a mysterious ailment struck me & I had to make tracks for my berth, having hardly time to utter when a slight "cascade" relieved me much. There is a great deal of "bilge" in the cabin (the most nauseating odor in the world you know) & this produces sea sickness; for I had vomited & faintly all day. The Capt himself was driven on deck this morning at 3 o'clock, from the same cause. Late breakfast and dinner today, but could only drink hot tea to-night. I have not been anything like what I had expected to be; but my darling is ready to believe we sufficiently "punished". I know her remark is easily satisfied. The Capt's steward is a very clever, aristocratic darky; the Cabin boy a fine Irish lad; both very attentive & fond of me. My stateroom is directly opposite the Capt's, of the same size, & opening on a small veranda some cabin about 2 x 3 ft. The Capt is very good & doesn't seem to mind much about being "white under the yells". We expect to make "Ybatters" by early morning, & away from "Cape Cod" by evening. This point like "Barnegat" (the last sight of Jersey) will serve to recall my "Yellow". How I should like to run up & have a private in...



service with our friends from the Navy, love,  
I have news for you to help make the passage  
from your cheerful. Our carriage will be chiefly the  
tween Havard the best, perhaps other points  
in the Gulf, where I can reach a Post office every  
week, they say. Won't that be a grand thing for us  
self is much needed on this ground. I think we  
are destined to interfere materially in the  
arrangement of the Republic's five or six feet  
catch the winter in the course of the month  
we have every thing to be thankful for. The ship  
has performed a miracle. Not one disagreeable  
occurrence and thus far a further could  
not have been seen. My stepmother's  
officer has been a great deal of  
cause of complaint as a gathering of  
stomach. I think, besides, the  
your sight (even when you are  
be tired "good night" in your  
and. The signs are in his  
this night, then a small  
off Banderah, ready to  
fatigue would be tonight, say  
can get but a little rest. I  
feeling very comfortable  
perfect. We have had a  
by a boat, with a  
not prevent enjoyment  
ature, & glorious scene around us. We have







no appreciation of the blessings of health, having never been deprived of them even in a moderate degree. You, my darling Nellie, know the trials of sickness but too well trials to body & spirit. My impatience under trifles is a sad preparation for real trials. - We are now running, dear, between the Fla. Keys Cuba, bound direct for Havana, which we reach tomorrow morning, probably. I fear the day will not pass very profitably. - Yesterday we ran down the coast of "Abaco", one of the Bahama Idls., passing in the afternoon what is called "Hole in the Wall". The coast is low rocky, untenanted but by a few wreckers, and at its S.E. extremity rises out like a wall into the ocean. Just at the point of it, is this ~~small~~ irregular opening of 5 or 6 ft. broken by the waves. Doubling this point, we sailed up, what is called, "Providence Channel", between the multitudinous reefs of the Bahama Banks, and then turned off again on our present course along the southern coast of Fla. I can have some idea now of the comfort it brings an anxious mariner to see the friendly beacon pointing out the hidden dangers of such a coast as that we passed. We passed a beautiful light about 4 this morning; the land was not distinct, it looked like a fire on the sea. Sat. y night. I'm scarcely able to write dearest, but in the morning we hope to make Havana, & this most illegible, uninteresting epistle must be ready for the mail. I hope & trust it may reach you in ten days at farthest. I'm now convinced, love, that for 3 successive days I've had slight agues every eve., & shall ask the boat. to-morrow







for some quinine. As to this health report, dear,  
 I have been so precious that you may have no fore-  
 bodings, but (as ever before) may know exactly how  
 I am. 'Tis one week yesterday since your last letter  
 came. I've not been seasoned yet, for the usual  
 Saturday taken, unrec'd, leaves a sensible void. We  
 are still ~~remains~~ between Fla. Reefs and Cuba,  
 everything continuing well, shall make G. to mor-  
 row. Then I know two divided hearts will meet.  
 I shall fill a larger place than ever before in  
 my darling's heart - *nostre pas, nosa mignonne?*  
 Pray much for me, dearest. Before dispatching  
 my letter, I will have a few last words. Now I  
 must try to do something on Father's letter. God  
 bless you, my own beloved, & lift you <sup>up</sup> upon the left  
 of His Countenance! - *Yanawa, Monday, 16, 1858*  
 Yesterday morning about 7 my darling, we took  
 in a pilot off the celebrated "Morro Castle", & soon after  
 were at anchor in this sweet lovely harbor. The har-  
 bor is very narrow, but at every point a ~~we passed~~  
 up there was some thing to remark to see you  
 travelled a greenhorn as myself. Old Moorish  
 towers, & ancient castles start many a strange  
 imagination. I was unable to write yesterday  
 being still under the weather. From what I  
 can see from the ship there is great, to make me  
 impatient to go ashore, & I hope to go this afternoon  
 noon, or to morrow certainly. The verdure is so  
 most beautiful green more than in Jamaica,  
 for then 'tis parched. The graceful palm tree



is particularly attractive. The mercury went to  
 "Reynolds heat," and the sun was as good as gone  
 days, but a fair game of pleasure to be had.  
 Last night I slept for rather better boots, and  
 was restless) under a blanket, and in a rack  
 after. Lion and a black cat is comfortable.  
 I had a bag of selected clothes in a chest of drawers  
 prepared for a cold climate. Every night you  
 have a dinner in white linen, and I want to try  
 to get some thing light as before. You do not have  
 been long, men a ~~to be~~ men have much to  
 need you may help me, in every thing. When I  
 get a horse to make a trip to the sea "adante", there  
 will be a ~~to be~~ for each interesting episode  
 as this Sunday you know, is a great day here,  
 yesterday, there were a pair of ~~to be~~ ~~to be~~  
 work in the evening, which some of our officers  
 to their ~~to be~~ attend. Bull fight too, always  
 come off on Sunday, I believe. I am sorry to say  
 pointed to learn that the mail for New York  
 may not leave here for a week, I know not  
 when you will hear from me. I too probably,  
 will have to wait twice as long as I had hoped.

The Capt called upon our board, yesterday and  
 brought him off the ship. He is very much  
 pleased to have us here. In the cities, to be seen  
 idents, everybody is "deceit", strong, and there is  
 constant communication with Charleston by means  
 of small vessels which break the blockade. I hope  
 that we shall be able to come there before long.



1. P.M. Monday afternoon, Nov. 18/61. - We got on  
very soon darling Nello, unexpectedly, and I  
have but time to kiss you good bye. Oh darling  
I've longed for an embrace before but with  
such desire as now. God take you in his blessed  
keeping my precious one watch between you  
& your own beloved - Will

Love to your dear Ma & Aunt & all friends.

Write true darling at Havana, U.S.S. "S. de B."  
care of American Consul.

Bless you my love  
W.M.



U.S.S. "Hartford de Cuba"  
& sailed off "Algoz" light  
Nov. 20th, Monday night

As I told you, my darling, in my hurried good bye  
Monday afternoon, we left Havana unexpectedly  
just before sundown that afternoon. It is one of those  
tyrannical regulations that no vessel shall anchor  
or enter the port between sundown & sunrise, and  
we just had time to get outside the Algoz when the  
sunset-gun was fired. The Capt had information  
that several small vessels had recently cleared out,  
with cargoes showing pretty plainly that they were  
intended for "Secessia", and we have been cruising  
around waiting for them, within ten or twenty miles  
of the Island, ever since. Not one have we had the  
luck to get hold of yet however, tho' yesterday's piping  
body had begun to reckon up his share of Garza's money.  
We made a sail in the morning, which answered  
in some respects the description of the craft we were  
lying in wait for, & gave chase. She was a very  
fast little Schooner, & it was some time before the  
steamer was within gun-shot. After firing twice at her,  
she showed American colors, but we supposed only  
to deceive us. Three shots were fired, but she held on  
her way & was overtaken after a very hot & trying  
chase, proving, to our great regret, the U.S. mail  
boat from Key West to Havana. We have started  
no game since, & probably will return to the Havana  
in a day or two. I wonder, & believe if you're flying  
as lonely to night as I & Bob & Mat. It seems worlds



...to-night as I...  
...from the West...  
...knowing, from...  
...way & was over the...  
...came in. Three...  
...shows American...  
...was over <sup>with</sup>...  
...little & cover, it...  
...in wait for, you...  
...are respects the...  
...make a sail in the...  
...y had begun to...  
...to get hold of...  
...the brand, ever...  
...and waiting for...  
...ever for "decease",...  
...the cargo showing...  
...I never small vessel...  
...next four was fine...  
...that had true...  
...enter that betw...  
...at before...  
...Monday afternoon, we...  
...I told you, my...















...the only consolation, but for patient waiting  
the "waiting" itself; but the patient. There is the  
...well, again, I would stop with waiting, but  
that's poor consolation; for I can't see what you  
in the same way, total of the matter over. This is  
of the proofs of my having a very thick skull,  
doubtless, but of necessary capacity, can see  
their success in business. It is hard to imagine  
Helle, that you are having a mind of your own  
a bright idea has never left us for nearly three  
weeks now. I don't have the anxiety about you that  
every rainy day used to bring at home. I don't  
doubt you're weathered through the storm  
of my last day with you. Tell me, darling, about  
about your pet project now. You might get a  
good idea for a fund. I'd brighten up this  
morning, dear, if I could have a word with you  
before sitting down to breakfast. I have a very  
pleasant time, the best of it, at the head of the  
the fork, the great divided winter. I can tell you  
Helle, not many I don't know for as long as I do  
it is enough to be a good. I don't suppose my  
mess bill will be much over \$10 for month, but I  
get messing in the bar. I have superior accom-  
modation to many whose expenses are much less.  
You know, too, I wish I were going to lunch with  
you this morning. Helle. It is not likely I shall have  
the opportunity to go here this is what I am  
what moment we may sail. I hope I shall get  
it done in my mind, you know it, but I don't







care about our transport and requisites. Tomorrow  
we go off on another cruise, in what direction ex-  
actly I don't know exactly, but hope it may bring  
us our first success. We found two prizes here,  
but in fact before we arrived, one of them was  
an armed privateer, she made six successful voyages  
even when captured. The prisoners, about 20, are  
confined here, together with others; some in jail,  
some in the Fort. Among them is one of the well  
known Middleburg men, ~~Smith~~, who was known in  
America, he was on board the privateer at one time,  
he was captured in taking me of New Britain  
Charleston. I need not say more, & will say, to say  
subject, much too often mentioned, I still continue  
in total better, am getting stronger, than when  
nothing like intermittent for three days now. I think  
I shall have no more sickly letters to write  
you uneasy. Let me finish up, dear, with one  
item more, belonging to the "health report" proper.  
My bunch of traps, in his position in the early part of  
the last week, was probably owing to an accident  
I did not mention in my last, because you failed  
enough to make you believe. As we lay at Havana last  
Sunday we had a case on deck after tea to get a little  
cool air, I was sitting with the Capt. & others near the  
flag staff at the stern of the ship. There were three of the  
men were trying to take it down, when it fell in  
from them being too heavy to manage. It had but little  
time to fall, or would have killed me, for it struck  
full on the top of my head, but, there is ever a special  
Providence, I was not severely hurt, only stunned for



for a moment. I washed down to  
the sofa in the cabin, where some  
of the officers speak strong words  
but tender tone as a woman, but  
ice to my head. For some time  
nurses me so well that I was  
quite relieved in a short time &  
felt no serious results at all, ex-  
cept bad headache for two days.  
It was a most providential es-  
cape. I could see the Capt was  
much relieved at the blood pour-  
ing & stripping. He always been  
called a hard headed fellow, but it  
must no longer be a term of re-  
proach. Now, darling love, I'm  
not clear that I've done right  
in telling you this; will only  
serve to make you customarily  
suspicious of what I say. But  
dearling, remember my resolutions -  
gracious hands I am in that  
shall hold me without fail



to be sure, but I am not  
at time. Oh, that we could  
have such abundant faith as  
with our deep, this ~~is~~  
blessed, comforting truth before  
our minds. - Let me charge  
you once more, my beloved  
about your darling child. There  
your strength, don't miss  
after the worthless fellows  
lead with a double confusion  
of your health, mind & the in-  
tensity. Always give my love  
to your dear Ma, Aunt, and  
remember me to all your  
friends. God bless, dearest in  
Heaven, Father, Comfort, strength  
- and direct you ever, united  
between you Father, and  
dedication and with God



St. Santiago de Cuba

Off Coast of Cuba, Nov. 26/61.

Tuesday night.

We are now old cruising ground, Belle, just in sight of land, having left Key West yesterday afternoon, and a most delightful position it is. I can not convey any idea of the delicious temperature, fainter than to say that I felt when leaving the deck just now with the fresh breeze blowing upon me as if I sat staid with my mouth open all night, to stand it on - there is something so genial & refreshing in it. Yesterday afternoon we had a great disappointment indeed. While hoping at anchor, waiting for steam to be up, the "De Soto", bound days later from N.Y. than we, passed Key West in sight on her way to the Gulf of Mexico. We weighed anchor immediately, & started after her under sail, but she did not notice our signals, & we could not pretend to catch her, & so had the mortification to see late news (or rather in first news), of home, fade from our grasp. "I may very properly, I tell you, everybody had a long face. On Saturday, sailing, the "Columbia" is due at Havana from N.Y., then we shall certainly get a mail. I'm very much afraid I shall be disappointed, that is if you truly forward direct to Key West, as was unfortunately, my order, my letters will go over there while I am in Havana, & may not be read for a long time. Before the end of the week, dearest, you will have my letter, & you're waiting for it, Belle, as I am for yours? I expect our feelings are pretty much the same, & so, this I don't think you can want a letter quite so badly as I - ain't I vain glorious? The Capt. (a regular old sea dog) said this morning, he felt as if 'twere one year since we left home - what do you think a greenhorn's sensation in that point must be, darling? In the last 4 or 5 days, Belle, I have been feeling quite well, coming to myself fast - having only that I am troubled somewhat with indigestion still. Now I should like to be assured of your health, my love. I don't know that this climate, tho' so delicious, would be the thing for you - our Lieutenant has been suffering terribly with neuralgia & tell me he always has it in this latitude. I got a prescription for



him at Key West on Sunday, a dose or two of which he says never  
failed to relieve. For a long time: iodide of potassium & aconite were  
the chief ingredients. That day the mercury ashore was a little  
below 50; they called it quite a cold day - it sounded very ridic-  
ulous to me, perspiring very freely. I have scratched along  
dearest, scarcely knowing what I said, till 'tis high time to say  
"good night" - I'm afraid you'll consider your Traveller the pros-  
est in the world if he don't brighten up shortly. - Wednesday night -  
We have been slowly moving along all day, darling, under  
easy steam, watching anxiously for prizes, but without suc-  
cess, have scarcely made a sail of any kind. I've got to em-  
joy very much the pitching of the vessel (so terribly dis-  
tressing to a landman at first), tho' I can't exactly preserve  
equilibrium when walking the deck. 'Tis quite amusing  
to see the staggering gait of my fellow greenhorns. Some  
of them are still quite overcome with sea-sickness, but  
we've felt nothing like it at all since my first very slight expe-  
rience the first two or three nights out. I am still improv-  
ing, dearie - am beginning to play quite an astonishing  
game at Knive & fork. Our table is a very good one - plenty of  
fresh potted meats (which I'm beginning to like) and vege-  
tables. Salt beef & pork, too, are proving attractive. Our Steward  
is an admirable servant, you'd be astonished to see what  
a nice establishment we have without the supervising  
care of a single petty coat. I've been able too, darling, for  
the last week to stuff a little "liver", having a better op-  
portunity, perhaps than Mr. Weiss, seasoning it with a  
sprinkling of "great expectations", which, by the way, Nellie  
I like tolerably well. Some of the characters are drawn with a  
Dickens' usually masterly hand, tho' there is a good deal  
of nonsense in it, & some things I do not like. I bro't down  
books enough for a year's reading & found some belonging







Havana - Friday - Nov. 29. We so took a direct, sailing  
at 11, having been here since yesterday  
noon. I have just time to kiss you good  
bye & send this scrap

God bless you  
dearest G. W.



















of what I supposed to be, little white birds about the size  
 of *Sp. Tr. the Trumpeter*. They did not make a single leap,  
 (as I had always understood) but kept up a continuous  
 flight for some distance. These, however, were very  
 small; frequently they are a foot or two long. The sun  
 has left me, dearest, & I can't see the lines again. I  
 wonder if my Nelly is resting after one of her hard  
 day's labors. Perhaps the same sun has helped her to  
 fill a page for her absent Will? Tuesday, night. It's  
 quite late, dearest, & I can only find my self too little  
 with you. We've been toying with her ever since we left  
 my darling - taken at last after a four hours chase,  
 some time after dark. There are some doubts however  
 about her being exactly a lampful slender, & we have  
 all been having exciting discussions about the rights of  
 neutrals, laws of blockade &c. &c. Unfortunately, I am not  
 very thorough, & I don't know questions of modern internati-  
 onal law, & nobody seems able to unravel all the intricate  
 points of this case. The vessel is English, with a clearance  
 from the British Consul at Havana. Her own imper-  
 fect examination at night shows no contraband aboard,  
 and we picked her up at sea 100 miles from land.  
 But she is just from Pinaros, Sagas (near Point Isabel,  
 where we are going now) with a Rebel clearance from  
 that port, for lists of 24 passengers whom there is strong  
 reason to suppose Rebels, ten out likely agents of some  
 sort in the Trade. I spoke by between Havana & this  
 Bayan ports, and the Schooner in all probability is one re-  
 sulting from this contraband traffic under British  
 guise. A more complete search to-morrow, I hope, will  
 produce some satisfactory evidence. No doubt she has  
 just landed a cargo for his way back for mine. She



is in our way just now, it is likely the Capt will  
run up to Galveston & deliver her to one of the Block-  
ading fleet there while we return to Brazos on  
the look out for our other friend. We had to give  
nothing of course at our having a prize at last,  
but I fear it will not prove very valuable, darling.  
However we can wait & see what keeping a bright  
look out will do for us. The Chase was very quick  
thing, as <sup>the</sup> Schooner was very fast & being way off the  
night was approaching when she would have an  
opportunity to escape. The Doct. gave me last night  
a pretty heavy dose of Colomel & Quinine, Kelle, and  
I hope it may be to some purpose. I feel quite straight  
(you know I mean "straight") to night, darling, and  
must turn in now. Good night, sweet love.

Thursday morning I was not able, dearie, to write last  
night, having another ague. It was much less severe than  
the former one but quite enough to make me feel very  
uncomfortable. We made land this morning, and are  
now standing off the coast of Texas. Probably we shall  
be at anchor near Brazos for three or four days on  
the watch for the expected Schooner. Hope she will  
make his appearance soon. I am writing, dearest, in  
presence of two of our "prisoners" taken from the "Victoria".  
They are rather favored passengers than prisoners,  
however. These prizes in the cabin have every com-  
fort, & their throats are distributed thro' the different  
messes. These we have are very pleasant company  
they, gentlemen, & profess to be grateful for their good  
treatment, as well they may be, for they were crissed &  
tossed in most uncomfortable style aboard the  
Schooner. One of them is a German named Metter, who



Maria was the richest woman in Havana, she  
lived there many years. One of our officers knows her  
very well. Her story is that he went from there to  
Boay to get passage for Europe. He is very plau-  
sible & exceedingly clever, but in conversation with  
me contradicted himself several times; his statement  
is very improbable indeed. I don't believe we can get  
in any opinion he is an agent for his Rebel govt, as  
several others of the party, probably are, and engaged  
in this contraband trade from Havana which I've  
spoken of. They had unfortunately, all night before  
crossing aboard to destroy evidence of guilt & prepare  
for examination; but a partial search notwithstanding  
nothing has been discovered. All have pretty sharp  
tongues of course - most claiming to be foreigners, but  
all I believe are secessionists except one man who is from  
Havana originally & protests he is a good Union man.  
There is no fact in them at all except that they  
are pretty bright & put in "stinky". What will be  
course of them remain to be seen. Centre Monroe & Wells,  
the dear old Captain is so adorable that she can't deal  
with us and she also as they do ever. She & Blount  
is gone out up yesterday morning to Galveston in charge  
of a prize crew, and it is expected they will be  
there before long & will take her back to Key West where  
she will be well looked after. It may be we will  
part night, depending before we get our mails & you  
& Clark & Atty tell, Wells has been preparing for you  
& Atty & Wells had the same "interesting" for one before  
it seems in order & I've written since I've seen what  
everything is. I hope to find you at Key West  
waiting for me either at Key West or Havana. I will be



No negligence of yours, my precious Belle, if I should  
be disappointed - 'tis only I who have been guilty of  
that wrong. - Near Galveston, Sunday P. M. Do  
you know, dearest Belle, that 'tis one month long  
since I have heard a word from my darling? What  
a weary wilderness of time it has been, darling.  
I can scarcely restrain my impatience to get to  
Key West where I am almost sure of finding  
letters. We shall be there, I hope in 4 or 5 days.  
We expect to get to Galveston in a few hours, and  
probably before dark, and only to remain there  
long enough for the Capt. to consult with the of-  
ficer of the Blockade, and take in tow the Schooner  
sent up under a prize crew Wednesday morning.  
I have not been able, dearest, to keep you posted in  
our movements the last two days. Friday night I added  
a little to a letter for Sister, and yesterday & last  
night, my darling, was laid up again with fever  
& ague. I'm disgusted with Doct. & Physic, Belle,  
I have taken more of the latter in the last three  
weeks than in so many years. This week I  
have made up my mind to let Nature take  
her own way. Quinine has not a particle of  
effect, & I don't care to injure my constitution  
with any more of it. Last night I tried a sim-  
ple snowflake recipe proposed by one of the Texa  
Missionaries - two spoonfuls of corn meal in a  
glass of water, taken at the beginning of the parox-  
ysm, 'tis said to produce a violent perspiration  
preventing the attack; probably I took it too late  
as the fever was on me, at any rate no good result











have  
no evidence of value added to them in favor of them  
nothing at all to show their <sup>own</sup> value and if they sub-  
scribe the oath of allegiance to the President as the  
Majority will be said to do, they must be liberal  
enough to see some further testimony be found that  
the vessel too, there is, a small hope of the good  
charter. and in fact, a large number of the people  
"to be understood," and ~~generally~~ be provided, some  
time or other, it better be said, as it is stated for the  
"Santiago" and all the rest, it is to be expected, that  
overboard, and then too, if looking to be done again  
to the world, will be able to overcome the splendid  
case they have had. Mrs. Gachard, & others, who state  
you are going to be the old & fair friends of  
you, are more than ever, the friends of a good  
of affairs at the South, and then to be so, and  
some of them, and they often differ in their  
views, especially by change, is to be done for the  
the people, the people, the people, the people, the people,  
and then the Capt. always comes in with them  
with, however, the fact that the people, the people,  
plainly in the eyes of the people, and which makes  
them large white discontenting their glowing  
reputation of the proficiency. But the vile-headed  
the people, the people, the people, the people, the people,  
the people, which we have often, in beginning  
to think, that every Southern man is hope-  
less, and we are of the people, and it is being some  
thing, every day, at home, to be the people, the people,  
and we are, the people, the people, the people, the people,  
and we are, the people, the people, the people, the people,  
and we are, the people, the people, the people, the people,











lessness. it is remarkable indeed that men so eff  
posed to have...  
had proved...  
had advised...  
and the...  
I feel...  
think...  
because...  
might...  
can't...  
on the...  
I had...  
they...  
letters...  
day...  
there...  
and I...  
rest...  
we are...  
Key West...  
time...  
I hope...  
about...  
two...  
it is...  
I don't...  
with...  
reparation...  
arrived...  
invalid...







gin tonight to know the difference between a "passenger"  
and a "prisoner" - tho' of course they will receive  
just as good treatment as they deserve, & better.  
I, standing by, saw how I wish you could both  
the deck with me that night, right - just for  
five minutes even - what other foolish wish  
might I press itself, my dear, I could not  
venture to say, but a best shut-up. If you  
letter greets me to-morrow, please, I must not  
myself off in some way, probably by shaving  
my hair & whiskers, which last, in the  
influence of habit, are beginning to be seen.  
My love, I want to hear from you so much,  
so very much. Havana, Monday morning, Dec 6  
To recapitulate a little, darling, we got to Key West  
last Thursday night, disposed of two prisoners  
Friday, & the same afternoon started for Havana. We found  
the "Richmond" at the Key repairing damage rec'd in  
the bombardment of Pensacola, & she started out  
a few hours before we did, but breaking her shaft  
when a mile or two out, had to be towed back to her  
wharf by the "Santiago" & will probably proceed to  
N.Y. for repairs. How I'd like to go on, too, & see  
Grigg & you at Kansas! We got off again at last night,  
reached Havana early Saturday morning, and I could  
hardly control my impatience from the time the  
Capt left for the consulate, providing I could back  
an mail at once. The two hours following stretch  
ed themselves to a most astounding length, but  
at the <sup>last</sup> I got a quick with a small bundle in the  
purser who always takes charge of the mails. I  
marched away to the first ladies office, & felt rather



more used-up than any of the 23 patients...  
when told "there is nothing for you" The nurse's...  
fortunate man however... letters to his wife...  
of papers, both of old dates...  
by the "Columbian" (at my old paper...)  
after we left... before for the...  
in the world... that over...  
let this opportunity slip...  
two regular mail... "Columbian" & "Assault"; and  
their departure... help...  
add to the... that it is no part of...  
was to... find me without...  
from the... and...  
athome... of the "Harvard"... after  
to... (85), comes as... I shall try  
to find some... available here, & shall  
let... a little drop...  
safe, threaten, for... my letters...  
last... Friday, Sunday, and my... but by a  
... use of... my own... I kept  
off the attack, & have been...  
... since my departure... is the time.  
... but I feel...  
... I am...  
with the... a...  
... bath, just...  
... rather... for you...  
... in... had...  
... barber... was...  
... ice & cake at a...  
the Capt... was in...  
... spent...  
... have...  
... pleasure...











