A journey to California
I left Boston, Nov 24, 1867, for New York, where I was to meet my mother and aunt, with whom I was to sail on the 28th for California. It was Thanksgiving day, and the cars were filled with persons, going to celebrate this New England festival at the various points upon the road. My uncle, after having placed me a seat, bade me good-bye, and the train was soon rushing along on its way to New York. We arrived at Springfield about noon when we stopped half an hour for dinner. We then continued on our way down the winding Connecticut, passing through Watford and New Haven, and reaching New York at dark. The locomotive was then uncoupled and a team of horses attached to each car, which drew us through a long tunnel, running under a portion of the city, and into the depot, where we began the slow task of unloading our luggage. At the depot my aunt was awaiting me, and we were soon in our comfortable rooms at the St. Nicholas, where I again saw my mother after being absent for three weeks, which was a longer time than I had ever been separated from her before. The next morning, in company with my aunts I visited Wall St., to make some arrangements with regard to our steam tickets. I was passing along the street, one could but notice the immense quantity of gold and silver, in the form of bricks, bars, and coins displayed in the windows of the
banks and brokers office.

After our return to the hotel, while in the office, I accidentally found my cousin, a student at Yale, who had been spending Thanksgiving in New Jersey with some friends.

In the afternoon I visited Beaux Arts museum, which was much enlarged since I visited it last. The chief attraction here, at the time, was the gorilla recently brought from Africa and said to be very strong and ferocious; but to me he did not appear much more formidable than a large monkey.

The same evening, as my cousin wished to see the "Black Crook" performed at Stilled Garden, he invited me to accompany him, and I enjoyed the play very much.

The scene was exceedingly beautiful, especially the final one, which was brilliantly illuminated with a red light.

On the following morning, November 22nd, we were up in good season and went down to the wharf to take possession of our state rooms aboard the Arizona, considered the finest steamer on the line. It was a busy scene on the steamer and wharf: people were hurrying to and fro; friends were bidding each other good-bye; porters and hackmen were constantly bringing on piles of bags and baggage and all was bustle and confusion. At last the gong sounded, and the porter, with his loud "all ashore who are going," made the advice to be hastily repeated, and soon the
Steamer was cleared of all except the passengers, who crowded to the side, and all the guns were fired and the great wheel began slowly to move off. Hands waved their hats and handkerchiefs to the crowd upon the pier and continuing to do so as long as they were in sight.

We sailed down the beautiful bay, passing Fort Lafayette and through the Narrows, and seeing numerous vessels at anchor in the Lower Bay. At length we reached Sandy Hook and the pilot, who had been taking me out of the bay, went down the side into a little boat, which had been sent for him from a pilot schooner, lying by at a short distance.

Then the great wheel began again to revolve, and the more swiftly out into the ocean and turned southward down the coast of New Jersey, which we remained in sight of for the rest of the day. That night was very cold, the water in the fire buckets freezing quite hard.

We were obliged to retire early, as we found it very uncomfortable sitting up. The next day no comfort was to be found anywhere, except close to the steam heating in the cabin and state room, and most of the passengers were as miserable as it was possible for them to be, being generally attacked by the malady, so prevalent among landmen known as sea-sickness.
The steamer was now bearing us into warmer latitudes, and each day the temperature grew milder.

On the 21st and 22nd nothing occurred, except that we sighted a schooner, whose foremast had been carried away, and the captain, thinking that she might be in distress, put about and signaled her; but the answer was that she did not need assistance, that we continued on our course.

About this time, I do not remember precisely on what day, we saw several porpoises, which played about the bow for some time; they reminded me very much of the porpoises I had often seen of seals.

On the 23rd we sighted San Salvador; it was the first land we had seen since leaving the Florida coast, and we were all of course very glad to see it. The island is a small, barren, sandy, and unattractive-looking place, and one would hardly think that Columbus could have been very favorably impressed with the his first specimen of the New World.

All that day we were passing among the Bahamas, and the islands looked very beautiful with their strip of snowy beach, fringed with foaming breakers and beyond, the broad band of emerald-green water gradually blending into the deep dark blue.
of the ocean. Flying fish now began to be seen very frequently, and it was a great amusement with us to watch them flash suddenly from the water, swim for a few rods over the surface, and then disappear as suddenly as they had appeared.

On the morning of the 5th we were passing through the Windward Channel with the coast of Cuba in plain sight on our right, the mountains towering high above the ocean, thickly wooded to their summit and stretching down the coast as far as the eye could extend, the whole forming a most magnificent landscape. We lay at anchor and while far away to the left like a dim blue cloud, we could indistinctly make out the outline of Hayti. We did not lose sight of Cuba until late in the afternoon, when it gradually faded away in the dim distance and could not be distinguished from the blue sky of the horizon.

Towards evening we sighted the Island of Samana, lying out of the southern extremity of Hayti, whose coast lies just within sight. This is a very small island and is noted for the large quantities of guano shipped to various parts of the world; several vessels were lying at anchor and
loading with the article when we passed. The guano is dug from the top of the island—which is very considerably elevated above the sea—and is then conveyed through long sluices into lighter which take it out to the ships! We were now fairly into the Caribbean Sea and for the next two days we were bowling along (with the trade wind on our quarter, which made it quite rough; but this is always the condition of the remarkable sea) and by the second day we were pretty well accustomed to it. It was a favorite amusement with me to stand on the lower deck.

which was not very high above the water and watched by the bow the dark blue waves, capped with crust of glittering white foam. The steamer would give a great lurch to one side and the opposite paddle-wheel would be lifted high out of the water, and seem to hang motionless waiting for the next plunge, and then down it would go churning the water into snowy foam and causing the waves to mount higher and higher until they threatened to wash over the bulwarks and inundate the decks. The tops of the waves occasionally did wash over and once, while standing by the side with my aunt and
one or two others, a big
broadfooted I rolled more ambitious
than his fellow, came surging
along, dashed his cap in our
face, and gave me a saltwater
bath gratis. Unfortunality for
my aunt she had no other due
to put on, as our trunks
were packed and in the hold,
so my aunt was obliged to
return to her stateroom until
her clothes could be dried at
the galley fire. On the
morning following the incident
I have just mentioned (It was
Sunday the 8th of December) I
was up before it was light
to catch the first glimpse of
Sheepisland. For a long time
I strained my eyes in vain;
but at length I dimly
made out a low flat coast
ahead of us. As it grew light
and as we drew nearer the
coast, I could see that we were
approaching the mouth of a bay
with sandy banks on either side
covered with low trees and bushes.
Instead of going straight across
the bay to the town, we made
the circuit of it, on account of
the channel I suppose, and discov-
ing almost a whole gulf glided up
to the wharf after a passage of
over eight days from New York.
There was a crowd of natives
on the wharf, in very thin and
scanty clothing and with tre-
menious broad-brimmed hats.
The scene upon the shore was
my strange and foreign to me;
the rank vegetation, the tall
palm trees, the queer-looking huts
and the large scavenger birds.
passed upon their roofs and upon the neighboring trees, was
so unlike anything I had ever seen before that it hardly seemed possible that but a few days had sufficed to carry one away from all the familiar scenes of home.

It was with much regret that we bade adieu to our home of a week, which had become endeared to most of us even in that short time.

We landed on the wharf about 6 o'clock, and proceeded down the long covered way leading to the shore, under which the wave dashed and gurgled with a hollow sound.

Passing from the wharf through a large wooden gate, guarded by two soldiers in red uniforms, stationed there by the Company, we emerged into a short sandy stretch leading to the main thoroughfare through which ran the railroad track. On one side of the street was a large white frame building, used by the Company as an office, or for some similar purpose; it was surrounded by a yard and garden, in which we noticed large rosebushes in full bloom, and also a tall branching shrub covered with creamy bell-shaped blossoms, the name of which we learned was the "Shrub Mound." A group of palm trees, the first of which I had ever beheld, at near view, stood in front of the house. They were several in number and grew close together, apparently having a common root; their smooth slender trunks...
rue to the height of fifty
foot or upwards, crowned at the
top with large tufts of beauti-
ful fern-like leaves.

Enormous bunches of cocoanuts
covered with their thick green
husks and looking very unlike
the one we see at home, were
clustered around the tops of the
trees, adding greatly to the beauty
of their appearance.

At length we reached the road
which stood in the center of
the principal street of the town
and around which swarmed
a crowd of natives of both
sexes with every imaginable
kinds of tropical fruit for sale,
and yelling their respective merits
at the top of their lungs.

The road was different from
those at home, being narrower and
shorter with low walls which, instead
of being enclosed, were constructed
like our ordinary sun-bathed
houses, while there were no glass windows
only blinds which could be lowered
when needed to exclude sun or rain.

When we were fairly seated in the
carriage we had an opportunity to view
everything around us: native men
and boys crowded and struggled
through the narrow aisle selling
fandango, fruits, necklaces, and
counterfeit pearls which they passed
off for genuine one— it rather
lucrative business, I should think.

As they brought from two to
three dollars each. The place in
which the car stood could hardly
be called a street, first because
it was so broad and also because
it was built up only on one
side. The houses on this side
were large brick or adobe buildings; several of them were hotels and saloons; on another the lower floor was occupied by stores, while still another, somewhat apart from the rest, evidently as private residence, though it appeared more like a jail with its unglazed windows, protected by heavy iron shutters and looking very strange and foreign indeed. At length the train moved off, and we were quickly out of the town and dashing along towards Panama between two masses of tropical vegetation, the like of which I had hardly even dreamed of before. Thus were the broad-leaved banana trees loaded with fruit and looking more like gigantic fans than anything else I could think of. Thus wide-spreading figs of palm trees with clusters of fruit, unknown to me, hanging from their tips; these too were the great mahogany and mahagany trees, lifting their dark green heads high above the surrounding vegetation and intermingled with serpentine vines, which climbing up their massive trunks and curling out to the extremities of their long limbs would drop down and take root in the other trees themselves. At intervals we passed native villages, which consisted of only a few huts, built of earth and thatched with grass and leaves; they swarmed with men, women, and children; particularly the latter, many of whom entirely lacked clothing of any kind. At one of these villages in which
The train stopped, we noticed a small shop where long strips of meat were sold by the yard—a custom which I had heard of but never seen before.

The train made several short stoppages at the homes of some employees of the road; these were generally pretty white frame buildings and were surrounded by a picket fence enclosing a yard full of orange, lemon and banana trees, laden with fruit and looking very beautiful. At one of these stoppages, while looking out of the window I noticed that the ground was covered with a small plant with delicate pink flowers, which I discovered to be the sensitive plant, so carefully nourished at home; the stalks were thick and in some instances almost woody.

while the old leaves would not close at the touch as the young ones would. We crossed the muddy Chaque several times on iron bridges. Forward in one would be eaten away and undermined by the ants and other insects of the country, which are so destructive that even the telegraph poles have to be sanded.

Near the middle of the steppes the country is much higher than in the vicinity of Leifinwall, and in fact on the whole northern side of the country is low and flat and abounds in swamps and jungle; while in the interior we saw many beautiful mountains, which were thickly wooded at their very summits, many of the trees being a perfect mass of white blossoms and standing out in beautiful contrast to the dark green foliage.
As we passed a small stream I caught a momentary glimpse of a very picturesque little waterfall, tumbling out a small precipice. But it was only a glimpse, and the train dashed on, hiding it from my sight. Behind the tangled mass of trees and vines along which the whistle at length announced our approach to Panama, and we soon arrived at a covered depot, built upon the wharf amid a babel of tongues that was perfectly indescribable. We passed from the car to the tender, which lay at the end of the wharf, between two lines of soldiers who were stationed there to keep back the crowd of natives which thronged the wharf on all sides and through which it would have been next to an impossibility to have made our way, had it not been for this protection. The tender was a very small steamer, built for the purpose of carrying passengers to the steamer which always lay at anchor several miles out in the bay, not being able to come nearer on account of the shallowness of the water. Our six hundred passengers were crowded into this little craft with some difficulty, and we now realized for the first time the fulness of chickens, packed in cases for market, or of cattle being shipped by rail from one point to another. From the wharf began to turn and the steamer moved away from the wharf and proceeded down the bay to where the steamers lay at anchor some seven miles.
distant. She went at a very
snail pace; but even this had
its advantages: it enabled us
to get a good view of the
old walled town of Panama,
with its red brick houses some
of them in ruins) and with
young trees growing in the sur-
rounds of its walls, and the tall round
towers of its mission church rising
high above all other buildings
and looking altogether so foreign
and so like the pictures I had
often seen of Spanish American
towns, that it seemed impossible
for one not to know, without
being told, in what part of the
world he was. This was a
down on more vessels lying in
the bay, several of them being
steamships; one of these I noticed
in particular, it was the U.S.

bloom of war I learned a double-
derived with pilothouse at both ends
and a portable rudder which could
be changed at pleasure.
Many of the vessels were foreign
and near the Montanita lay a
large full-rigged English merchant-
man, her hull, but looking very
dumpy and ungraceful in spite
of her imposing size. A full
opportunity for seeing all this
was afforded us as we kept along
on our way to the Montanita, and
we were beginning to lose of our
progress when at last we brought up
close to the side of the great steamer
and soon the little tender was towing
out its stream of human life, which
flowed over the gangplank and
diffused itself throughout the
great floating hotel, which was to
be our home for the next two weeks.
All that afternoon we lay at anchor, occasionally changing our position slightly, as the current shifted, so that our view from any one point was not always the same; thus at one time we could see from our state-room door, far away, across the water of the broad bay, a lofty mountain-range stretching away to the southward; while at another we could catch a glimpse of the little settlement near the anchorage or of some little ridge rising high above the water and dotted with its summit in a roof of verdure. Towards the middle of the afternoon the baggage arrived in two lighters while two large boats very much resembling canal barges—towed by the tugs which brought the
passengers onboard. The baggage of the cabin-passengers was stored in the hold through a small port-hole close to the water-line, while that of the steamer-passengers had to be loaded over the sides and lowered down into their quarters through the hatch-way by means of a derrick and a small floating steam-engine kept up for such purpose. At nine o'clock that evening the anchor was weighed, the gun fired from her forecastle, their farewell had been said, and the Montana sailed down the bay on her way to San Francisco. In the next three days nothing of importance occurred as we ran along the coast of Costa Rica and Niagara for two days, while on the third we were not in sight of land at any time.
On the fourth day from Panama we were in sight of some very high mountains, though we could not see the coast, they were said to be forty miles inland, while we were about sixty miles from the coast, thus making them about a hundred miles distant. I also heard that they rose from right to ten thousand feet high, and I judged from the distance we had sailed that they were in San Salvador or Guatemala.

On the 13th (the fifth day from Panama) we saw along the coast of Mexico all day. The country was mountainous and of a dark brown color from the chocolate which covered the mountains in every direction. We saw many flying-fish after leaving Panama, though I had supposed that they were not common on the Pacific coast. Occasionally a school of porpoises would swim alongside the ship some time, coming very close to us, so that we had a good opportunity to observe them, and though the sturgeon generally made ten miles an hour yet they would keep up with us for a long distance without apparent ease, even leaping out of the water in the entrance of their strength and spirits.

One day as I was looking over the side from the lower deck I saw what appeared to be a small snake; I watched the water for a little while and soon saw another which was undoubtedly a small striped brown and white snake; at first I thought they were dead, but after watching a little while longer I saw another...
which lifted up its head from the water, so I concluded that they were little sea snakes or that they had drifted out to sea from some river into which they had fallen. We saw no house or other signs of human life on this coast, and in fact on all the coast from Panama to San Francisco all appeared a silent and deserted wilderness.

We arrived at Scapulas on the morning of the 19th when we came to shelter, freight and take on coal.

We had been running close to the coast all the morning when the steamer suddenly turned into a little indentation in the shore where no town was visible and which appeared to extend inland for a short distance only, but still we kept on and soon discovered a narrow opening between the mountains which they had hit before appearing to get closely together and through which we now glided into a beautiful landlocked bay surrounded by mountains at whose foot lay the town of Scapulas. Now that we were in the bay it was almost impossible to tell where we had entered and it seemed as though we were lying in some peaceful inland lake.

We made fast to a large iron barge anchored near the centre of the harbor, and soon a boat containing the ‘Health Office of the port’ put off from the shore, and that officer came onboard to let the captain know the state of health in the town, as it would not be safe to allow the passengers to land if any epidemic prevailed there.
Office had hardly left the
steamer before a great crowd of
boats and canoes shot out from
the sandy beach in front of the
town and made with all speed
towards us. The first that
reached us were some twin little
row boats with striped awnings to
shelter their passengers from the
burning sun; these might be
swinging down into an upright
position in the center of the boat
while she was taking in her
load of shrimps (for they are
used only for taking visitors ashore
by which business they make a
very good profit at the charge half
a dollar a head. Two of
these boats were tarped and
cushioned very tastefully, and were
named from eminent American
generals as Grant and Grant,

while one took its name from the
presidents of the two republics. The
Lincoln and Jackson.

Being invited to go ashore by a
gentleman, whose acquaintance I
had made, I took my place in one
of these little craft together with
a dozen more others. Our united
weight brought the gunwals down
nearly to the level of the water
and I thought it was rather ticklish
business especially when I remarked the
great slacks I had seen swimming
around the steamer, and considered
how easy it would be for one of
them to crunch off a leg or
arm in case of an upset; but
I soon began to feel easier as we
shot out from the crowd of
boats and at the sorrowful pull
of long and steady oars, making the little craft fairly
fly through the smooth water, barely ruffled by a gentle breeze, which made us all feel as though we would like nothing better than to glide on in this way throughout the whole day. We passed dozens of boats and canoes, hurrying to the steamer to dispose of their cargoes, and in a short time reached the shore and grounded with a thump on the sandy beach. Now the current leaped out into the shallow water and pulled the boat high up on the sand, then a plank was passed from the boat to the dry land, on which precarious footing we all soon reached the shore. After having paid the boatman and engaged him to be in hand when we wished to return, we proceeded to do.

The first place that I visited was the stands, where fruit was sold; they were situated under a very large tree which spread its branches far out in every direction, and afforded shade for nearly all of them. All the fruits of this climate were to be found here, and of course every one invited in it. Fruity fruitly, though for my own part I ate very little as I had been advised before leaving the steamer not to do so; however, I put up a good supply for future use, and did not reflect it afterwards. I then bought a good-sized pair of coral and a pair of my full shells, for a dime, which I thought was very cheap, though I suppose that the native woman who sold them to me thought that she
had decidedly the best of the bargain. Having our purchase in the case of a fruit-stand, before we went farther up into the town to see all that was to be seen, which was not very much in the eye of a traveler, but to me everything was new and interesting. Near the center of the town stood an old Catholic church, evidently built a century or more ago, in its belly hung several old bells with cracked and discordant tones hanging out with a harsh and clangorous sound. My, unlike our own church-bells! Near this church there was also a small open place or square in the center of which was the basin of what was evidently once a large brick fountain. Long since overgrown with moss and weeds and perfectly dry.

All the houses in the town with the exception of a few were built of adobe and had thatched or tiled roofs, the cave of which came down so low that they could almost be reached with the hand from the ground thus giving the street a very queer appearance especially as there were no sidewalks except where the stores were situated. When we had gone through the town pretty thoroughly we returned to the fruit-stand where we stayed a short time before going aboard again. About noon we returned to the steamer with baskets half and handkerchiefs crammed with oranges, lemons, limes, bananas!
pineapple etc; we soon had them stowed away in our state-rooms, and (most of the boys, at least, were observed to be in a chronic state of sucking orange or eating bananas for the rest of the voyage)

The steamer was completely surrounded with boats and canoes filled with natives in very primitive costume, the majority of them indeed being clad in a broad palm-leaf hat, and a very dirty shirt. The manner of selling fruit and other articles was curious; on a person signifying a desire to purchase, a colt of rope was thrown up to him, with a basket attached about midway from the extremities; in this the money was lowered and then the basket, filled with the desired article, was drawn up; the native, keeping hold of the end of the rope and steadying it as it ascended. One of the natives in a boat directed himself of his clothing—which situation did not occupy a very great amount of time, as he had no paper-collars or neckties to take off and, as he was not likely to become embarrassed with a knot in his shoestring— and jumped into the water, where he dived for silver, thrown overboard for him, notwithstanding that the sharks were swimming all around the vessel, and refused great duquet when some nickel cents were thrown to him and he had his dive for nothing.

At 4 P.M. the gun was fired
as a signal for all boats to leave the steamer and at 5 we cast off from the bay and sailed slowly down the bay. I never shall forget the beauty of that harbor, shut in on every side by mountains, covered with vegetation and without a glimpse of the ocean when we came, it only seemed as though we were lying in some peaceful inland lake. As we moved towards the mouth of the harbor it was impossible to tell where the entrance was, and not until we were almost in could a break in the mountains be observed. Gradually, as we rounded the point, the picturesque little town, with its low thatched roof, overlooked by the wide fort of earthwork, and bordered by its snowy beach, disappeared and the green wall receded behind it. We continued in sight of land for the rest of the day and nothing of any occurrence. On the following morning we were still in sight of land and the sea was like a mirror, not a huge ruffling its glassy surface, though the long regular swell of the ocean made the steamer roll slightly.

The day being Sunday, in the afternoon service was held in the cabin, an Episcopalian minister officiating; a small table draped as usual with the American flag, served as a pulpit, though it had the disadvantage of being in the center of the cabin so that the minister could not see all his hearers at once.
About five in the afternoon we reached Manzanillo, a place much smaller than Acapulco, the principal buildings being the residence of the consul and a few other houses, evidently used by foreigners or belonging to the government. All the rest of the town consisting of a mere collection of huts struggling irregularly over the stretch of ground between the mountains and the beach. Very few boats came off to the city, and those that did come contained rather poor fruit at very high prices, so that very little trade was carried on.

A boat containing some officials came off to the steamer. They were all dressed in the full Mexican costume: broad-brimmed hats, jackets adorned with a row of silver buttons down the front, pants very tight at the bottom and flashed while in the place where the ship comes on a pair of military pants was another row of silver buttons set very close together. They were accompanied by a couple of soldiers, dressed in a uniform of red pants and blue coat, with a cap like that worn in the U.S. Army, but instead of their brilliant color they were very dirty and unsightly appearing men, and did not look as though they would be worth much in a fight. There were many large sharks in the bay, and one was constantly riding them swimming about, their dark triangular fin visible above the
surface and cutting the water like a knife, all always on the alert for any stragglers or offal which might be thrown from the steamers, where they would turn over on their side, discharging great double rows of saw-like teeth, would gulp down the floating morsel at a mouthful.

A manjalelo seemed as inexhaustible from the intrins as fresh water had, being shut in by the mountains in every direction, whose steep sides were covered with spines and thistles, the latter reaching the height of small trees, with most of their branches growing at right angles with the trunk and the turning shot up again and rising into the air without a single twist, until the gun fired at our departure.
The following day no land was visible as we were crossing the Gulf of California, whose surface was studded with clumps of black rock and patches of some extent which gave the sea a very singular appearance. I was told that this was caused by the Colorado River discharging its waters into the head of the gulf after flowing for some distance through a red-clay bed. We passed Cape St. Lucas on the 17th; there were no signs of vegetation upon the worked coast, nothing but rocks and sand-hills, with a little scanty, patchy-looking grass here and there, stretching away as far as the eye could reach. This cape is at the southern extremity of Lower California and belongs to Mexico.

On the 18th and 19th no land was visible and nothing relieved the monotony of the scene. We ran very slowly now, as by the rules of the N.E. Company the steamer was not allowed to enter San Francisco before the 22nd.

On the 20th we were in plain sight of the California coast, which was very bold and rugged and appeared to be covered with pine or cedar trees that stood out sharply defined against the sky. December 21st was still and uneventful, though of course there was some work of preparation for the landing. On the following days we ran very slowly, as we were only a hundred and eighty miles from our destination at noon. About three or four o'clock on
On the morning of the 22nd we awoke to find the steamer pitching and rolling at a tremendous rate. The wind was howling through the rigging overhead like a giant. The waves slapped and swayed, sliding up and down the staterooms with each successive roll of the ship. We lay quiet, however, until daylight, when I got up and dressed myself. I stepped out onto the deck; the wind immediately tore the door out of my grasp and it required all my strength to shut it again. I then walked down the deck to the cabin stairs, which were situated just opposite the paddle box and to reach which one was obliged to pass through a narrow creviced passage between the paddle box and the upperworks of the vessel. The waves were now high; for they really did seem like mountains, especially when we stood in the stage where the great mast could be seen to join itself on the summit of a wave, and then...

The force of the wind was perfectly tremendous, as it was compressed in so narrow a space, and it was with the greatest difficulty that I could keep from being blown off my feet before reaching the stairway doors. The storm had lasted about 12 o'clock that night and increased in violence until the captain, finding that it would be impossible to enter port with such a wind and sea, had about and faced the wind to avoid being blown ashore. For the first time I realized the infrequency of waves mountains high, for they really did seem like mountains, especially when we stood in the stage where the great mast could be seen to join itself on the summit of a wave, and then...
plunge down into the abyss below, until one would catch one's breath in expectation of the shock, while right return of our ship and towering high above our heads as we sank down into the trough, roiled and foamed the angry wave, as though in impotent fury at our rescue. The rough and the storm was manned by two men, as the violence of the wave was such that the one in the bow was not sufficient to control the rudder.

The steamer had just enough steam on to keep her head to the wind so that we made very little progress during the day, I thought, that after all I heard of the severity of this ocean, that this was anything but "Pacific," though up to this no one had had any reason to complain of bad weather, as the sea for the most part had been as smooth as glass.

On the forward deck it was met to an impossibility for a man to keep his feet, and a line was extended from the pilothouse to the cabin-stairway, by which the officers and sailors might pass along the deck without falling.

At the table very few were present, as most of the passengers were confined to their staterooms by seasickness, for my own part I was not at all affected by the violent motion of the ship which so effect other, and in fact I rather enjoyed it than otherwise, as I had never seen any very rough weather before.

The storm continued to rage...
will unabated fury until evening when the wind began to go
down, and by nine o'clock it had so far moderated as to
allow of the steamer's being put about and headed once more
perhaps towards San Francisco.

The captain said that he had
not experienced so severe a storm
on that coast for sixteen years.

Although it was Sunday
no service was held except at the minister's
who were all too sick to officiate,
and most of their congregation
were in no better condition.

Every one went to bed that
night feeling somewhat easier,
though some were alarmed in
the night by the frequent stop
pages and soundings which were
made as the captain did not
know where we were, and as
it would have been dangerous
to proceed without these precautions.

The next morning on rising, I
found that the storm was over
though there was a heavy roll
on as we usual after a blow.

A heavy fog hid everything from
our sight and no one had any
idea where San Francisco was, or
whether we were there; the general
opinion seemed to be that we had
drifted during the night far north
of that port, perhaps even to the
coast of Oregon. But at length
our doubts and fears were all
dispelled by the lifting of the
difficulties which revealed to us the
land some two or three miles
distant, and which land proved
to be the California coast a
short distance south of San
Francisco.
When we became known the was of course a great change in our feelings: before all had felt gloom and sad, now every one was overjoyed at the prospect of reaching land safely again especially as no one liked the idea of spending the Christmas holidays tossing about on the ocean shut out from all the enjoyments and recreations which make that season so dear to us all.

Many of our passengers were Californians returning from a visit to friends and relatives at "home," as they style the Eastern State, and as we drew near the mouth of the bay familiar landmarks began to be pointed out with joyful exclamations.

Among the prominent points was the "Cliff House" on the seaward just outside the Golden Gate and built as its name implies on a low cliff, at whose base the sea continually breaks just in front of the "Cliff House" and only a little way from the land are the "the Seal Rocks" so-called from the great number of seals which come out of the water and bask in the sunshine on their steep and slippery sides; sometimes even climbing to the summit of the highest one. So, we passed, these rocks we could see the great rollers sweep over the highest of them which must have been sixty or seventy feet high completely hiding them for a moment while perfect cataracts of water...
found down this side making a magnificent spectacle. Gradually the ocean narrowed into the bay as we passed through the far-famed Golden Gate though which so many thousands had gone before us and out of which so many sailed such countries of shining wealth due from the bosom of the golden state. In my opinion the bay will merit the praises that have been bestowed upon it; it stretched out before us as far as the eye could reach, while on either side rose high hills with no tree growing on them, but in spite of their barrenness looking more beautiful than any I had seen before.

On one side of the Golden Gate is Fort Point, a large substantial brick building which we saluted as we passed, while on an island on the left-hand side of the bay stands Fort Alecktry, very similar in appearance to the one just mentioned. Just opposite San Francisco is a third fort, whose name I do not know, situated like Fort Alecktry on a small island.

We had now come about opposite the city and a queer looking city it was; built over shallow hills and at that distance appearing to have no regularity or order in its arrangement, it looked as though the houses piled upon the hills would come...
of twenty-three days from New York and fifteen from Panama, though I do not like wind up my narrative. The steamer was immediately inundated by a swarm of porters, lockmen, omnibus drivers, and the like, all shouting the names of the different hotels for which they were running.

We had intended stopping at the Cosmopolitan, but a note from the Captain came to us on board, with a card from a friend who had stopped there but a short time before advising us to go to that hotel, as it was considered the best in the city and commending us to the care of the proprietor. Our plan therefore was changed, and with much regret we bade adieu to...
the Montana, and were soon installed in an elegant coach belonging to the above-mentioned Hotel, which takes its name from its owner, Mr. Lieb. After all our luggage had been filed on, we started slowly down the wharf and arrived at the great wooden gate which separated it from the streets outside, and through which the crowd are not allowed to come, and passing between two rows of men, drawn up very much after the manner of soldiers on each side of the way, gained the open street at last. We afterwards learned that it was customary for a crowd to collect as we had seen them on "steamer day" to have a look at all who came from "home." The streets of the city were broad and in most instances will paved while on either side in the yards of the dwelling-houses the grass was as fresh and green as though it had been May instead of December, and in the flower-beds were beautiful white lilies in full bloom, looking still more beautiful after the recent rain. We proceeded for a long distance up hill and down before we reached the more business portion of the city and drew up before the door of the Lieb Hotel occupying the front of nearly one block. We were shown upstairs into a large, finely-carpeted hall with a parlor adjoining, while directly at the head of the stairs was a small room.
with a curtin across its
front, used as an office.
We were next conducted
to our rooms, which were just
across the hall, from the
dining room; they consisted
of the elegantly furnished
apartments and a bath-room,
all approached by a short
hall, branching off from the
main one and closed by a
door. Soon after being es-
established in our new quarter,
we went into breakfast, though
it was after ten o'clock, and
were astonished at the beauty
and taste displayed in the
dining-hall. It is entered
on three sides by massive
doors of mahogany and laurel
so heavy that it is an effort
to open or shut them.

Instruction.
cion, corn, curt. int.
cions, coins, cut, intact
ce, cornus, cutis, intact

cortis, I, is

ciet, cost, icon, ioc

cie, cot, icons, ion
ciet, cot, ietes, ion

citrion, cotti in, irls
citron, cotti, ins, iron
citur, cour, incier, iron

coin, course, interest, ironist
coin, court, inicus, ic

cour, courts, incursion, etic

coit, cousin, incur, it

coit, crins, incurs, it, its
con, crou, inius, nis

construct, cour, incious nisan
construct, curt, ins, nis

cor, cur, ins, nitras
coin, cums, insitus, us

construct, cur, instinct, nocturn


cur, instruct, nocturn

cor,