

gross letter USD

Cuba, Porto

Princeton

144



5 JUN 1834

Mrs Dorothy Clark
Portland

Maine

description of the 1834

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Havana Sept 19th 1834

My Dear Family

When I wrote you last I believed I
promised you another with a description of Rosario
& the South of Cuba - When we left Havana for Rosario
we passed the Moro Castle at 7 AM. In thirty six hours
we had arrived to Cape St. Antonio which was nearly half
our distance sailing near the Shore we passed several deligh-
-tful plantations and passed three fine harbours Viz.
Manzani - Cabanas & Honda. The west of Cuba is very
mountainous we passed the Cholorado ^{Reef} in sight of the
mangrove bushes and green vegetation - which Reef lays 10 miles
from the Shore and extends from the harbor of Honda to near
Cape St. Antonio a distance of about one hundred miles
here at Cape St. Antonio we met the trade wind from the South of the
Island and a strong Current setting from the bay of Honduras into
the gulph of Mexico being the water forced down by the trade wind
and finding its passage this way causes the Gulph Stream that
sweeps along our Coast - When we beat several days
before we got Round the Cape we saw the place where Gibbs
the pirate was divided and when the poor girl was murdered
after passing this Cape we had 170 miles to beat up the South
side of Cuba 90 miles of which was over the very ridges
- covered with mangrove bushes forming Islands. on to one of
which I went Armed with Harpoon & grains - Crobar
& Gun - Gun & 2 pistols I found it thickly inhabited
with sea fowls the trees covered with nests and Eggs -
we loaded our boat with birds and eggs I returned on
board - the South side of Cuba is a low flat covered
with mangrove bushes 10 miles from the Shore to the
Up land - a perfect Swamp or wildyrons - we reached
Rosario 17 days from Havana we had no pilot either
way I found no difficulty in sailing among the
Shoals - Rosario is situated on the Sea Shore in the edge
of the mangrove - It consists of a small round fort with
one gun on the top built of Stone & kept by five Soldiers.
Six other buildings. one of which is in the form of a Stack
of hay - we anchored about 2 cable length from the end of
the wharf in 12 feet water brought our cargo of to the

Vessel in Couches. - the Atmosphere is filled with Muskets
which is very troublesome on St. Rained almost every day
while we were there - on our return we had the wind
prevailing at the South West. we encountered several heavy
blows - but sustained no damage.

Sept. 1. 1834 in the Gulf of Mexico. The Choleraeas bearing South
25 miles distant at 6 1/2 P.M. after a remarkable Pleasant day
& hot Sun a small Black Cloud appeared in the east. which
soon spread to the Southeast & Northeast the wind at the same
time was at N by E. & we were steering east. The horizon between
the S.E. & N.E. became exceedingly black and the clouds rushed to the
center from the two extremes. I immediately ordered the ~~ropes~~
Royal & topgallant Sails taken in. Staysails braced up. & put the
Vessel in stays with her head to the N.W. & took in the jib.
in about five minutes the center of the Black Column commenced
rising toward the wide heavens with astonishing rapidity
we immediately took all Sall from the Vessel except the foresail
& fore top Mast staysail, when instantly a tornado passed over
our Stern a few rods from us throwing the water 20 or 30 feet
high. the edge of which struck us and carried away one of the
claws of our foresail which was the only damage we sustained
and we was immediately buried in a tempest of fire &
water and wind. The lightning & thunder were literally
comparisons on board our Vessel. While the rain descended in
torrents and the wind blew a hurricane for about an hour
I stood upon the quarter deck beholding the grandeur &
awful Majesty of Jehovah as he passed us in the whirlwind
and the Storm. and the consideration that it was my
father filled me with inexhaustible pleasure and delight.
Surely they that go down to the sea in Ships that do busi-
ness in great waters then see the works of the Lord
& his wonders in the deep. - How appropriate the
language of the Psalmist at such a time. For I know
that the Lord is great & that our Lord is above all Gods.
whatsoever the Lord pleased that did he in heaven and
in earth in the sea and all deep places. he causeth the
vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. he maketh
lightnings for the rain. he bringeth the wind out of

of his Treasures - beautifully ~~described~~ paraphrased by Doct Watts

At his command the vapours rise,
the lightnings flash the thunders roar,
he pours the rain, he brings the wind
and tempest from his living Store.

The scene reminded me of the last great day that will end the
Chronicles of our world and race - by dissolving heavens, & melting
elements and a world on fire - and I thought should this
be the last tempest - and should the voice of the Arch Angel
trump of God now break upon our ears announcing the app-
-oach of the Judge in flaming fire, waking to life the long slumber-
-ing dead and calling the sinners to judgement - how our little
Company on board would meet the scene - and as I try my eyes
on those around me & behold the long faces and fearful apper-
-entions that prevailed at every flash it was but ~~to~~ to witness
that some would have met the dreaded scene wrought in
terrors and formed a part of that company that will call
on the rocks and mountains to fall on them & hide them from
the face of him that sitteth on the throne

I have this day engaged to take a freight of Sugar to New Orleans
I shall take 150 Boxes here go to Matanzas & fill up & proceed to
New Orleans, at least that is a verbal agreement entered into this
day & have another offer to go after wood & proceed with it to
to N. York but I like the N. Orleans offer the best
I shall write you again soon - when I am certain which
way I shall go for there is no dependence on new words here
In fact there is no dependence in any but the ever blessed God.
his ~~word~~ promise has never failed one that trusted in
him & ~~in~~ ^{his} will. Here we are safe but no where else.
I hope ^{that we} may all be found in the Livens prayer of your
ever Affectionate

Saml W. Clarke

P.S. I ~~did~~ forgot to tell you
that I was quite sick on the South
of Cuba the dysentery run in down
quite low. but I was never so beat
what I could be in the clearest
part of the day. I am now quite
well. It is rather sultry here now
the harbour master was found dead in his bed yesterday
morning he was taken unwell the afternoon previous
with Cholera