

C. Thayer, 189

Mandarin
December 5
1876

Dear George,

I sent you a card
to let you know we were alive
& well after our voyage, & the
particulars I have written out
for the C Union. You may
judge what it was, from the
fact that the Captain & first
steward were sick - Eliza lay
from Sunday night till Tuesday
morning sick in her berth -
Hattie & I managed to sit up
on Monday but Eliza never came
out till Tuesday morning when
the gale lulled & the sea grew
smooth - Your father who
is an old sailor, I heard saying
well I never had any thing
like this - In the night
he craned his neck out
of his berth a little way to
see what was going on
when every stool & valise
and lever & every moveable
thing was flying about

like bewitched things, & the
consequence of his thrust for
information was that the
ship gave a lurch & pitched
him out onto the floor
& I peeped from the upper
berth & saw him rolling
like a ball first one
side & then to the other
vainly kicking & pawing to
steady himself - My den
said 'I can't you get back
No!' he said sitting up
& bracing his back ^{indignantly} against
the wall & I am just as well
off here as I should be in there
I mean to stay here
On second thoughts after
the sea had tumbled him
over once or twice more
he thought he would climb
back into his berth -
Well - it was frightful -
the motion I mean for

It did seem as if the ship must
roll over - when your head went
down down down & then ^{the ship} stopped
a minute as if deliberating what
to do next it did seem as if
she never would come up again
but in a minute up went
fly your head & you would
find yourself almost standing
on your feet - Intolerably
I was not afraid - for I did not
suppose me men in danger
but in fact I was frightened
because the noise, the motion
the groans of the sick people
& the flying about of every
thing & the sense of perfect
helplessness was fearful
- But after we got to Charleston
took the Florida boat the voyage
was just ideal - Not a
ripple! - The sea like glass
the boat large airy pleasant
it was just as beautiful
as the other had been terrible
But I know all I want
to about a storm at sea

The first officer spoke a cheery
word in at the girls' windows
from time to time Eliza was
so frightened that he promised
to do this now & then He told
them that the waves were
breaking above the top of
the masts - in fact they
broke through the skylight
& showered the people in
the lower cabin -

I want you to write Charles
a letter to get to him on
Christmas. Auntie has been
making something to send
him & I am smiling & I
want you to do it for Christmas
seems lonely away from
home

We have been having a long
cold snap here which has
almost frozen us - especially
as the girls have fireless stoves.
Altho a hedge of rose geraniums
& bushes of roses still are
standing untouched in
the garden still we

feel the cold. When the thermometer
goes down to 28 - which is the lowest
it has yet been it is to all intents
& purposes like the thermometer at
zero at the north - that is in point
of sensation - We never had so
many cold days together - As Mite
is. Send this letter to Aunt Mary
& ask her to write. We watch
the mail hoping & longing to hear
I long to hear from friends at
the north. Tell Fannie & Grand
ma loves him & longs to see him
he must not forget her & tell
Henry to be sure & send his - Compare
to me & your Christmas Programme
& all - Keep us in mind. Tell
me just how you are now
a days - Love to your Sister
& Mrs Allen. Your Father is
on the whole quite nicely
preaches Sunday & our little
Church & Sunday School is
doing well. Now dear George
write me with a lead pencil
& tell me every thing -

Your loving Mamma

C. Thayer. 189 - p 5

H. B. S. W.