

Cherishing lights of a broad  
Demotion the next. We are  
wandering among the classic  
temples of the old world,  
travelling the golden carpets of  
princely palaces, gazing upon  
the broad world from the  
dizzy heights of the grandest  
reliefs of bygone ages,  
sailing from sea to sea, visiting  
islands and continents mingling  
with representatives of every  
race, wondering among bar-  
barians and savages - enjoying  
amid the pleasures, luxuries  
and refinements of an en-  
lightened age.

I would like to be a  
millionaire or a Naval Officer  
Not being the former I will  
cling fast to the latter.

The Court of Augustus has already  
on. I expect orders to the "Benue"  
and will probably a few months of service  
before coming home. (The Fleet to be  
of the great news from America. When  
you write to them again feel  
suggested to old Dick that it would  
be soon receive a letter from him  
as usual. I hope that Dr Brown

"N. S. R. L. Independence"  
Marine Island, Cal. July 19<sup>th</sup> 78.

My Dear Mother:

Your welcome letter  
of July 4<sup>th</sup> was received a few  
days since, and I presume that  
mine to you of about the same  
date has seen the world to its  
destination. I am quite sorry  
that I did not telegraph from  
Victoria the intelligence of my  
safety, although it can be of  
little consequence now. At that  
time however it would have  
relieved you of some anxiety.

The newspaper accounts as  
published out here are so con-  
flicting, and so similar reports  
were immediately telegraphed  
East, I relied upon that source  
of information as sufficient to  
allay all fears.

I would like, my dear mother,  
to please you by giving up the  
impulse, unnatural uncertain  
out of a life, and cutting down,  
as you desire, in a quiet home  
surrounded by the comforts and  
blessings which none would  
appreciate more than myself; but  
how to accomplish all this  
I am far to express is a little  
more than I understand.

It is no easy task for  
one trained and brought up to  
a particular profession to suddenly  
cast off all its requirements.

Disengage himself from its asso-  
ciations and embark in new  
enterprises to seek a future in  
precarious channels. It would  
be hard work for a doctor  
to turn lawyer or a lawyer

to become a pill-wiper.

Besides this there are certain  
attracting about our life,  
fascinating that I hardly  
care to relinquish. They are  
perhaps hard to explain, but  
they really exist. We are  
permitted to lead lives of  
refinement and temperance  
licence. We have no share in  
the bickering and backbiting  
and constant warfare over questions  
of dollars and cents which  
enter so unpleasantly into the  
daily life of civilians. We are  
a sort of clan bound together  
by many common interests and  
pleasant associations. If there  
is danger in our vocation it  
only forms another tie to strengthen  
our union.

There is a charming variety  
in our line which thus surely  
finds. We are tossed in the  
tempest one moment, gliding  
over the smooth waves in the

may seem entirely new.

Our fellow; he has had a hard struggle and appears better luck.

I think that Willard's and Raymond's main object in going East next year would be to see you and the District and not the Centennial of which they probably care no more than A. H. If A. H. should go to Philadelphia I will surely never fail to visit Susan Griffin. Although I have no inclination to call upon those others who were not your friends except in social visits.

I received a letter from the Mayor a few days since in which he describes everything as lovely, children flourishing and the little one which was to have been named Corwin, but wasn't getting on finely.

We have been nicely served

C. P. Rice

Since our return here we are  
welcomed back like people  
 risen from the dead.

The Admiral gave a fine  
ball for our benefit, and  
the young ladies all looked  
their prettiest.

By the way I am coming  
to the conclusion that some of  
the homely ones are just about  
as nice as the pretty ones of  
all. What would you say if  
I should find a homely  
wife? it would be a sort of  
irregularity in our family.

However I am looking forward  
to several years of bachelorhood  
yet; but "we eat sometimes  
most always till." One of my  
lady friends has promised me  
a little trinket - a something -  
I don't know what, for you.

Perhaps by the next time I  
write I will know what it is.

I don't deserve a bit of praise  
for writing - I don't do half what  
I ought to do. The other boys  
live in families and not half the  
time that I have. Good Night  
Yours truly C. P. Rice