

And also, Men who go down to the sea in ships,- as:-----

U.S.R.S. 'Independence', Mare Island, Cal. July 19, 1875 ----

My Dear Mother: (Welcomes her letter of July 14th -- sorry he did not  
Telegraph from Victoria to relieve her anxiety about his safety --"but  
newspaper accounts out here had been so complete, and similar reports were  
telegraphed east, I relied upon that source of information as sufficient  
to allay all fears. (Evidently Mother had urged her son to quit the sea.)(He  
writes on) I would like, dear Mother, to please you by giving up this irregular,  
unnatural uncertain sort of life, and settle down, as you advise, in a quiet  
home surrounded by the comforts and blessings which none would appreciate more  
than my self, but how to accomplish all this I am free to confess is a little  
more than I understand. \*\*\*\* (Then explains his feelings towards his job in  
the Navy). Besides this there are certain attractions about our life, fascinations  
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 comparative  
leisure.\*\* We have no bickerings over the question of money as enters so un-  
pleasantly into the life of civilians. \*\* We are a sort of clan bound together  
by many common interests and pleasant associates. If there is danger in our  
vocation it only forms another tie to strengthen our union. \*\*\* (Then he mentions  
storm and pleasant days of sailing at sea, strange ports and countries the ship's  
company visits, the sights and people) then says: I would like to be a  
millionaire or a Naval Officer; not being the former, I will cling fast to the  
latter. \*\*\*\* Regarding the wreck, or whatever it was, he says: "The Court of  
Inquiry goes slowly on. I expect orders to the 'Beaverly' and will prefer a  
few months of service before coming home. \*\*\*\* We have been nicely received  
since our return here and welcomed back like people risen from the dead. The  
Admiral gave a fine dance 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 after all. \*\*\* However I am looking  
forward to several years of bachelorhood. \*\* Good night, Yours truly, A.D. Rees.