

you & fancy that I have never
had quite the same grounds for
complaint as in the instance
under consideration.

I will say nothing about the
errors in the "Sketches," such as the
substitution of "easton" for "easton"
&c &c, because such mistakes are
generally self-evident, but it is
rather mortifying to her styph-
met, sense and every thing else
sacrificed by the emission of
"awed" into "dared"; - "fasting" into
"fusting"; - "shrink" into "shirking" and
"climb" into "clauk"!

Think of it! "Clauk"! Who
ever heard of children or anyone
else ever "clauking"? They don't
do it to save lives. I have
never respect for the father
fathers of coming generations than
to suppose that they would
indulge in such senseless frolics!
I never "clauked" myself or
"dared" or "fusted" or "shirked";
and do hate to be credited
with the invention of such ideas.

Forwarded by my Mother and
Recd July 1874. MHR

U. S. Guard

Lisbon, Jan 25th 1877.

Dear Mother.

Yours of Dec 30th
was received nearly a week ago
and was read as usual with
the greatest pleasure. I am always
glad to get letters from home,
and, in the long run, they are
far more acceptable than from
anywhere else. I suppose when
I have that home of my own
& which you often refer to shall
be able to appreciate in the
highest degree the gratification
consequent upon the perusal of
loving offerings from the darling
who forwards them, to & tell the
truth I am not quite satisfied
any such unprofitable policy in
a dozen years to come. I am

fifty years of age appears to me
to be a very suitable time for
"assuming the responsibility," so
I shall probably remain "grim,
ungainly, ghostly, gaunt" and
possibly even "ominous" for quite
a while yet.

Now, I have never seen a
fleshy person yet, who did not
lament their adipose condition,
quivering that it was unpleasant,
warm, conducive to perspiration,
obstruction, apoplexy and all this
sort of thing; consequently I am
daily growing more timid with
regard to embarking upon any
venture which may interfere so
seriously with my physical comfort.

I go well enough off as it
is. Why should I run any
unnecessary risks that may
make me forever disaffected in this
world? I don't want to grow fleshy.
I go stout and comfortable enough.
I go ugly as a usual price, but

as long as that fact does not
interfere with my happiness, what
is the difference?

Besides all that, I don't
believe any such ridiculous thing.
I go pretty well convinced that
my rash investment such as you
and I would surely operate to
other way, and that I, the
unfortunate victim would "pay out"
a poor, meagre, bony skeleton
instead of the sleek, fleshy
priestly looking character you would
like to see.

I am almost sorry that
you did not mail the Register
to me instead of sending it
to Kansas, although I suppose it
would make no difference in
the end since it would
undoubtedly reach Kansas in any
event. You know I have always
complained about the numerous
apparently typographical errors in
the paper, and with good reason;

and including some quite for
other scenes. Fifty thousand
Dollars would last quite a while
if properly managed.

Recently I have been
spending a great part of my
leisure evenings with the British
Minister, Mr. Morier, who is a
splendid sample of the "fine
old English gentleman," hospitable
and hearty and handsome.

I have dined there two
nights in succession, last
night and the night before,
and have become acquainted
with quite a large circle of
acquaintances. Nearly all the
diplomatic corps of Lisbon are
present tonight before last including
the German, French, Brazilian
and other ministers and their
wives. The servants are out
in all the glory of knee breeches

buckles, brass buttons and the
various insignia of a sherry
liver. And the dinner was
prepared in the most sumptuous
style.

Last night my special
mission was to play chess with
the old gentleman, the contest
being attended by his charming
wife and lady niece and daughter
et cetera. The two latter are very

attractive and pleasant, having
all the brilliancy of the average
American girl with very little
of the noticeable boldness so
prevalent with our country.

However I am not intending
to buy anything against American
girls. Quite the contrary, I love
them. They are all right in their way.

We expect to get away from
here in about a week, bound
for the Cape de Verde Islands, via
Madeira.

I received a most welcome

Letter from Mrs Brown a few days
since which I shall answer
shortly.

Give my love to Ellen and
Mrs C. if she has returned and
remember me kindly to all
inquiring friends.

Yours Affectionately
C. P. Ross

1877

Direct with further notice to

Master C. P. Ross
U.S. "Guard."
Porto Grande,
Island of St. Vincent.
Cape Verde Islands,
East American General.

J. W. W.

Seriously, though, I was
decidedly put out against the matter,
and I am slightly disconcerted
about your good natured advice
in sending any of my public
productions to such papers as the
Herald. No harm will come
of it, however, as they will surely
politely return the unfortunate
offerings with the cheerful
indifference "Respectfully declined"
"Not suitable to our columns" or
something equally pleasant.

For some time to come I
can't indulge in any such
frivolous go gadding out crippled
verses, since time is precious and
I have much on my hands.

Just at present, the execution
officer, Captain and paymaster are
all gone, so that I am left
with all their duties upon my
own shoulders, and I assure
you it keeps me busy.

I have a mind to pay
myself all that is in the safe