

that I could help it and
that "Boys will be boys?". I recall
to recall the excitement I
experienced in Ellen's mind during one
of her visits to Riley by coolly
lounging back in a chair when
the announcement was made that
the cows were in the campfield,
and virtuously exclaiming after
a pause - "There the boys are
just as unconcerned!" This
little speech ran in Ellen's mind
for many a day after that and
she made one long cry heard
many a time by repeating it
with all the pardonable exag-
gerations and adornments
that a fertile mind could
invent.

Hours I amment to
remark that San Blas is a
little, one-time, ugly, miserable

"U. S. S. Sackawani"
Magellan Mexico, Feb 16th '76.

My dear Mother:

I have not
written sooner because there has
been no opportunity of sending
mail since our arrival on
the Mexican Coast; but as the
Pacific Mail Steamer is expected
here in a day or two on its
way from Panama to San Francisco,
I will endeavor to have a line
ready to apprise you of my good
health and general comfort.

We reached San Blas on the
10th inst. after a pleasant passage
of two weeks' sailing from San
Francisco. As San Blas is a place
of little interest containing only

a population of a few hundred,
and possessing no remarkable
attractions, we remained but a
short time, and continued our
course to the point which we
reached yesterday morning.

I have been to all these
places along the coast during
a previous cruise on the "Saratoga"
and have no doubt said something
of each in previous letters; so that
if I should be guilty of repeating
the same stories over, you will
understand the cause and not
attribute it to a choicive disposition
to inflict stale yarns upon a
helpless reader, but rather
refer it to any natural forgetfulness.

I do not think that I ever
recalled exactly for quite the amount
of absent-mindedness which used
to be ascribed to Decatur although

I am sure you quite deserved
it. You remember he used to
be sent to the store for sugar
or coffee and was always sure to
bring back gunpowder or vinegar
or anything in the world but
the right article. Well I think
I did the same thing occasionally
but somehow I signally failed
to achieve a reputation in that
line such as I gained in
another equally notorious direction.

You will no doubt at once
guess that I refer to my great
notoriety as the laziest of the
family. I know that I deserve
that name, and I often wonder
how in the world you ever had
the patience to endure my
outrageous indolence. I am quite
ashamed of it now, and can only
proudly say on the ground

the city of Mexico "Suspend
work at once and return the
appropriation to the General Government
which will require all its resources
to suppress the Revolution!" One
has to visit any foreign Government,
especially Mexico, to fully appreciate
the noble advantages which our
own republican institutions,
supported by a brave intelligent
patriotic people, possess over
every other. Several of the states
of this God forsaken, so-called
Republic are in open revolution and
tossing our way to the dawn of
another Administration which will
only draw the first gasps of
corrupt existence, fall into inevitable
entanglements and die the public
death of its predecessors. "History
repeats itself." And repeats itself with
astounding rapidity down here.

village - the houses of which
consist generally of a mere
structure of sticks brush stones
and palmeth thatched roof arranged
in the most primitive style, covering
about fifteen feet square of earth
and only possessing a simple room
which serves for kitchen bed room
and parlor. This is the general
style of architecture although
there are a few moderately fair
exceptions. The strangest part is
that the old town of San Blas
situated on the Bluff a mile
or two further back, although now
in a state of ruins, was at one
time a thrifty handsomely built
city having every impress of the
bravery and refinement of a high
order of civilization. The Ruins

descended upon it from time to time however gradually stripping it of its wealth and attractions until at last the better class of inhabitants fled to the interior adding their industry to the growing city of Tepic, while the wretched ones having nothing to fear from the depredations of robbers, and only caring toeke out the simple existence which a tropical climate would afford without labor, lazily settled down by the beach near the clams and fish and birds, and founded the present unenviable village of San Blas. Many of the walls of the houses in the old town are still standing, and the old Catholic Church remains with its strong walls and wide doorway and ponderous bell, a monument

of the piety and prosperity of a race at that time strong and unimpaired by revolution and degeneration. Revolution! Mexico seems to be new for from that cause of enterprise and advancement. Mazatlan an old and ancient thriving city has nothing worthy of the name of dock or place for landing or shipping goods; the crippled landing is full of holes and dangers for the unwary stranger, and the waters of the harbor are rendered unsafe by the presence of sunken rocks which might easily be blown to atoms by a slight expenditure of money converted into labor and sold with nitro-glycerine or gun powder. A handsome stone pier was commenced and of this we all heard when yesterday the telegram came from

hours which Clayton and I
used to spend in that way and
to live over the delightful
moments of a part that our
new return.

Unfortunately we are obliged
to send our letters a day or two
prior to the receipt of those due
us, so that it is impossible to
answer or rather write so satisfactorily
as we would like to do. I hope
to hear from you by the mail due
on the steamer next Monday. No
doubt I shall receive the said
intelligence of Dr. Brown's demise
I do not know of anyone who more
deserved a long life although it
is to be hoped that he is better off.

Give my love to all surviving
relatives about London and tell
them I shall make a call before
the year is over. Yours truly, C. P. Key.

We expect to remain here about a
week and then take our departure
for Guaymas. After Guaymas
La Paz, and after La Paz Coahuila
and back again to San Blas which
we hope away from our point of
departure for the Standard ~~Steamer~~.
It will seem like home to me
to get back there once more and
will form an agreeable feature of
our cruise to everyone. By that
time it may be growing warm
enough to make it desirable
for us to get away from Mexico
anyhow; for when it does get
warm here it is warm in earnest,
although just now the climate
is delightful - neither too hot
nor too cold. I visited the
city this afternoon having nothing

else on hand to do, and I spend
two or three hours poring about
looking into the customs and
industries of the place. There is
enough evidence of thrift and
enterprise among the people to surprise
anyone who has only visited such
places Mexican ports as La Paz or
Acapulco; and a number of useful
factories and foundries and the
like are in active operation. The
people of course speak Spanish,
although many of them have
managed to pick up a smattering
of English so that it is not
difficult for an American to find
his way among them even without
possessing the slightest knowledge
of the Castilian. The inhabitants
may be seen of almost every
shade of color from the blonde
to the negro blood, but the

prevailing complexion is that
of the dark yellow looking
brunette.

Our life on board ship is about
the same old story: - get up in the
morning, wash, and go to bed, with
a little variation every day in
the shape of drills, and a daily
diversion when off duty of some
interesting game such as chess.
I gained quite a reputation down
at San Blas by badly beating
their best player who had
hitherto considered himself
invincible invincible. The first
day I am five out of seven
games and the next time
I get all seven. However there
wasn't much glory in that,
although it is pleasant to be
the best player on board ship.
I often think of the pleasant

I remember that he spoke in terms of the kindest remembrance of you, and alluded to some pretty verses which you had once given him and which he possessed with the greatest care. Besides, he said and a widower living in some town in Iowa, I think, and doing a flourishing business as an attorney at law, so that he must have overcome his early troubles, at least in a sufficient degree to secure a numerous other practice. Possibly all lawyers are not deficient in honesty and morality, although their reputation universally credits them with such weakness. You can continue to address as hitherto in care of Mary Agent, San Francisco and they will be forwarded to me, and as I have come to the end of the sheet of my as well close.

Thin my love to
appreciating friends.
I'll see what by
bought of East Indies.
I should like to see
the old story again and
Dixie without marriage
to the old story again
among the great others
with the 5 of the John at
least to me. I suppose
the whole of the girls
the same with young
to his side of the
Near the girls and
the two girls: I
suppose that the girl
Dixie she is the
to that his best. Poor
man to be such a
character to take and an
end of the paper will be
with the girls and the

from Panama having been delayed a day or two beyond the regular time, so you enabled to reply to yours of the 20th inst. received last night, and as you propose to send you a line on account of our having received orders of a character which will occasion a suspension of mail communication for a few weeks, in consequence of which you might suffer some needless anxiety if left uninformed. We are to proceed to Acapulco tomorrow, and after remaining only a day or two are to

return home observing that his
mother appears to be the happiest
woman or laundress while you - being
me to infer possibly something
directly opposite. Surely you do
not mean, Mother, that you are
the unhappiest, & I if I did to your
thoughts will you not tell me why?

Between your position of a long
lip, & a harshly devoted to the
culture of all that is good & the
discouragement of every evil, & I
rewarded with the arrival of
manhood and a number of a
noble family of children of whom
any mother ought to feel proud -
& I that of Mrs Carroll, who has
so little it is true in her own
acting to ~~depress~~ ^{regret} but so much in
the deportment of her offspring &
depress there can be no comparison.
If she is happy then you ought

Should be my opportunity
I will send you another
line before the departure
of the next steamer a
month hence, but I
do not think that there
will be any chance
of the Miss Carroll
arriving at all &
Wm. Potters as father
will likely be at
Paris. He & Mrs are
to be out of an eye
a great while though
his absence & the
Miss Carroll
I am, & his body
his great noble
& I of his General
highly pleased to
you, my dear

to you 9 months ago from San Blas,
& I think, we have been history
along the coast stopping for our
mail at this place, then proceeding
to Saiguas and Pabilaguas & I
now back here again. We arrived
here yesterday afternoon after an
absence of a little less than a
month, & I found to our surprise
& delight a voluminous
mail awaiting us. We had not
expected this good fortune as we
had reason to suppose that our
letters would only be sent by the
regular mail steamer which

is not due until the 26th inst.

By this arrangement we will have the pleasure of receiving two mails within 9 few days of each other instead of getting it all in a bunch as we did last time; and will have time to answer the first dated before receiving the second. I have two letters from you unanswered, the first dated Jan 26th and the other Feb. 16th. The former was received a day or two after the departure of our mail north; so that I have since been unable to respond, and the latter came to hand yesterday.

That Const. Marshal about which you inquired was in the case of Pay Inspector Spalding now being tried for defalcation, neglect of duty, falsehood, inefficiency &c &c at New Zealand, and it was at

one time supposed that Const. Gray, our Captain, would be one of the members of the Court thus detaining us for an indefinite period at New Zealand, but happily these fears proved to be unfounded and we were allowed to depart in peace. Another Const. Marshal about which I may have spoken was that of Bostonian Layton, a warrant Officer formerly attached to this vessel, who was tried just prior to our departure from San Francisco. His offence was neglect of duty, and absence without leave, but as warrant Officers are not expected to exhibit all the virtues and instincts of regularly educated gentlemen, we do not feel particularly interested or surprised by his conduct.

You mention the fact of Edl Correll's

their power and rhetorical genius
yet the enterprise which has
enlarged the Sheet to twice its former
^{size} and filled its columns with
interesting matter outside of
temporance lectures, is to be
commended and deserves the
support of the Community.

So long as I remain in the
Pacific you need have no fears
concerning the dangers to which
you are exposed. The
Ocean retains its name on account
of the mild and peaceful
condition of its waters, but in
these latitudes strong winds and
heavy seas are scarcely ever known
so that I am quite as safe and
free from danger as when on the
solid land. The law allows us
only one month's pay as indemnity
for the losses incurred by ship-

wreck or other destruction of our
vessel and property, but as this
small amount barely covers the
real stores which it is necessary
to lay on for a long cruise, it
practically amounts to little. As
we are foolish enough to embellish
my room with pictures, paintings
mirrors and various fancy articles
which are of considerable value
in the opposite and when all
these happen to be lost and have
to be replaced to suit my peculiar
taste the entire expense is very
considerable. I am glad to
learn that Griff Eidsen feels
himself able to forego the
fascinating of a business life
for a sufficient length of time
to visit the Centennial Exposition
I hope he may be able to copy
it but I doubt whether anything

that she ~~and~~ bring money into
his pockets can afford him much
gratification at the present time. I
wish our whole family, or as many
of them as are able, could
arrange to visit home this year
I will be one of the number. I
don't think I ever had a better
time than when I visited the
Oregon boys last summer a year, and
I suppose my enjoyment would
be multiplied many times if I
could meet the Kantas crowd at
the same time, from here we are
going to Acapulco and then back
in a month to get our mail, I
may get another letter from you on
the 21st just before we sail. My friends
say that I am looking better than
they have ever seen me, and I
am truly so feeling top-top. Give my
love to inquiring friends. If there

to be filled with Deprave & Lying.
But then I suspect that she,
poor woman, has many a care
and sorrow that we know not
of, and that striking a man of
all his joys and of all of
yours that she will be
found to preponderate. It is true
that we seldom appreciate all our
blessings, but I suppose that is
not so much our fault as it is
the weakness of our nature. Now
having finished my lecture I will
turn to other matters, I was
glad to receive the copy of the
Eastern Register which you were
kind enough to send. It seems
to have greatly improved in some
respects, and although its address
are scarcely to be admired for