

On board the "Roman"
Saturday, 24 April 1869

My Dear Lucy!

We are now five days on board, and are very well satisfied with our progress. On Tuesday we expect to be in St. Helena. We all suffered at first a good deal; even myself was for one day very wretched, with also for a day or two, and at least two nights. Jennie of course was somewhat knocked up by this; but she is, I think, gaining strength, and feels less wretched. She has already for three days been at her table. Julia, of course was thoroughly knocked up. She slept all Tuesday, and was the last lady to appear at table. But she also has already made her appearance there, and is now doing well. — One of the children on board was so exceedingly ill with the sickness that they almost

almost despaired of her recovery,
but she is to day also on deck;
we have to day a calm day, and
are now writing on deck. We
had at first the wind most favorably
at our back; which of course set
the vessel rolling from one ~~side~~ side
to another; gradually this changed till
we had the wind quite ahead, and
now it is (at least was this morning)
perfectly calm. It is just now
about noon. You will have seen the
lost of the passengers in the
papers. Mrs. Hull sits near us doing
her usual work, whilst he is dozing
under his helmet. Behind us sit the
Mariniers, the family of the Captain
of the defunct "Jason", and a
Mrs. James from East London &
Kitty W. Miam's Town, who has a
little daughter of Edith's age, but taller
and more advanced. Further back is Brian
(we call "Alex's coach") reading
Call Mall Gazette on his green garden

Chair. Before us sits Mr.
Jarvis, the inventor, reading a
novel of Mrs. Trollope's which we
have lent him. A very neat
~~expressing~~ man, Mr. Woolley
who has probably not to be
long, is more forward. He is
one of the passengers from
Port Elizabeth. There are several
Germans on board, - Dr. Meyer
of Catania, ^{with his wife} ~~married to~~ a
Scotchwoman, the sister of the
wife of the Dutch ~~Merchant~~ there
(Mr. MacArthur), - a Mrs. Krantz,
wife of the Doctor at Lincastown,
with her children, and her ~~brother~~
^(Mr. Kilian) who wears a funny furcap,
which when you see him first in
front, looks very much like his
hair. Brushed very firmly.
Then there are the Hammersteins,
Jews from Hussia. - Their brats
are very noisy, day and night,
Monday, 26/morning. ~~Especially~~ ^{Especially} today and
to day we have a gain in the wind in our
tail, very excellent as far as progress

goes, but not comfortable for
~~those~~ inclined to seasickness.
Yesterday particularly was a hard
day for Gemme, although she
kept up to all meals. In the
evening I had a violent
tooth ache, for which Gemme
applied mustard plaster, and
homeopathy, and the doctor
chloroform. I had, however, a
good night, and am to day
much better. - As to the adver-
tures of our voyage, - we have
seen three other ships, all
homeward bound, - and our screw
has cut a porpoise, or other big
sea animal in two. It gave the
ship quite a jerk, and I thought
the screw had dropped, or some
thing of the kind happened.
But the second officer saw
part of the animal, and the red
colour of the water thence gave
also evidence of the nature of the
accident. - We have quite manage

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on board, - four seals, three
zebras, one or two hyenas,
one eagle, Kaffir cranes, and
several other birds, one
monkey, besides the fowls,
geese, ducks, and sheep for
feeding purposes. The cooking
is really very good, and the
ship kept in first rate order.
The only thing I dislike is our
place at dinner, and this for
Gemma's sake, who is placed
among people who are not all
congenial. This is partly my fault,
as at first we were put at the
Captain's table, but just on
the most draughty side; to this
I objected, and we were then placed
in a sheltered position at the
bottom of the other table. In our
former position, we should have
had as vis à vis the Hulls & V. Jones,
but in our present one we are opposite
to Dr. & Mrs. Meyer. Gemma sits
next to Mr. May, a courteous man.

the H. W. of the Military
Store Department, whose little
girl was so. Mr. May himself
was in business in Port Elizabeth
but is now going home for good.
Beside my right left is a little
boy who separates me from
the Chief Engineer, an
old acquaintance, as he was
in the "Celt" in 1859 when
I went home. The noise from
the engine prevents almost
any conversation across the table
at least for Jennie. On that
account the Hullo as well as would
have been not much good, whilst we
should have had the Hammershlags
as neighbours, - whom we desire to know
as little as possible. So, perhaps we are
not so badly off; where we are; although
if the Captain had not been a stranger to us,
we should have been better placed. - The
Captain himself is a very tidy animal of

the feline tribe, who one must
allow, keeps his stage in capital
order; but there is something
about him, that one does not
like. - Julia sits separately
at the Captain's right hand,
divided from him by a
Mrs. Jonstone, wife of an Inde-
pendent Minister at Graham-
stown, who takes seven children
home, and is to be followed
in a few months time by her
husband. Julia's other neighbour
is a Captain Macgregor, of
whom nobody seems to know anything
but he has told Julia that he was
Natal, and had heard one of her
father's sermons, &c. - Jennie
has not been today either at
breakfast or luncheon, but
is most worried of her time, and
is now reading Harry Clowdale's
Courtship. The ship we have
just passed, is the "Kermat",
but where I cannot say, I trust

very much you have got your
money all right by from
Natal, - I mean that it has
been arranged to your satis-
faction. I must draw on the
money which I have in Barra-
do & Co's hands on ~~ask them~~
I have left there suf-
ficient, and in case you are
in any difficulty I need
not draw on ^{myself} ~~them~~ for some
months to come. Please tell

me all about it as much as you
can. - St. Helena 27 April
Tuesday morning. When the sun
rose, we were in sight of the
Island, and whilst we were
at breakfast we came very
near to the anchorage; and a
little before Ten we were anchored.
We are now at the Hotel. Gemme
thought it better not to attempt
Longwood, - partly the long
drive, - and it being a little shabby
and I think also the expense
£3-00

(£3-0-0 for a carriage which
only takes four persons in)
determined her. We are going
to have some sort of dinner
at one o'clock at the Hotel, where
we are now writing. Emma
does not like to leave Edith who
is suffering a little from her teeth.
— One thing I want to say, I hope
Fau & you have done nothing as yet
regarding that little Ernest's grave.
What Emma really wishes to be done,
is only for the present some
temporary enclosure, — a ~~rough~~
of poles and a little wire just
to prevent cattle &c from press-
ing. Any thing else would better
be deferred. We know your very
kind intentions, dear Fau & you,
but do not think it right that
you should go to any expense.
Let this be done at our expense,
and let me send you a cheque for what
has been expended. — Will you kindly
ask any time you are at Savage's to
let me have his bill; perhaps I can manage
to

to pay him the small amount I still
owe him, by a cheque; Ask him
to give you the bill on foreign papers,
or otherwise only tell me. It is as
much. Please do not pay any
bills for us, which may come in,
but tell us about them. —
If there is a half bound copy
of my Compas. Grammar to spare,
please present it as far as to
the S. A. Public Library. — I
hope to be able to do something
on the way from here to Madeira,
but with the heat and the
confinement, &c., I doubt very
much, whether I shall do
anything. Even reading is
frequently too much for one's
head. Julia has been making
extensive purchases, — Bright
books, — lots of nat. we made
articles, — photographs, fruit &c.
We got a few photographs and
fruit. — But I must close. With best
love to Sam & you, yours affectionately
W. H. Miller

P.S. I add one word to ask dear
brothers not to let Wilhelm's rather
inevitable remarks at our (after)
rapports, lead go any further than
themselves, in case particularly
we came out with him
again.