

the ship. Doctor Hunt, an
intelligent and highly respectable
individual intimately connected
with both the Russ and Griffing
of Delaware. He is a whole souled
pious young gentleman as well
as an accomplished and
scientific surgeon. A year older
than myself and superior looking.

We claim to be cousins, and no
doubt we are in some degree
related, but when it comes to
tracing the matter back we both
get terribly muddled - neither
having a very distinct knowledge
of the roots and branches of
our family tree. Threlk has
written to his mother to find
out all about it and I am
doing the same. He also states
that a certain John Russ a rich
lawyer, has made a pilgrimage
to England and will endeavor
to trace up the fortune! He
knew all about the unfortunate

Valparaiso Chile.
April 4th 1813

My Dear Mother.

We have been here
now, nearly two weeks doing
almost nothing at all, save going
about and enjoying the pleasures
of Gay promenades delightful
drives, pleasant visits, and
immigrating strolls among the
lofty hills and green parks
that lie beyond the city; yet in
all this time I have written
you but one little letter and
a line to Russ and another
to Robbins - good natural old
fellow. Of an ashamed!

You have often told me not
to commence a letter with
excuse, and as I generally try
to be obedient I will not attempt
any excuse this time, but offer
simply a word of explanation

I have been looking ever
vainly, eagerly for a letter from
home; but have had only the
one that printed me on my
arrival; but as we start again
tomorrow upon our arduous journey
to find that if I am going
to write to anyone at all I
ought to begin at once and
say what I can that I wish
the aid of the inspiration afforded
by a few words from my
correspondents. The mails
in this part of the world
are a riddle. They come
occasionally, but more frequently
they go somewhere else or are
lost altogether. Of the
return trip is no letter I
fear that you will generally
be in the dark as to my
whereabouts and welfare.

Recurre to present circumstances
and prospects as any criteria

of the future you can say
but it does not I will be
robust, well satisfied and
peculiarly well situated for
many a day to come.

When you next write I would
like to hear whether the election
has commenced all right.

I understand through some of
my associates that there has
failed to make connection, owing
possibly to some neglect or
misunderstanding on the part
of the paymaster at New York.

Also tell me whether you
received the letter which I
forwarded you from sea by
an American bag via Madeira.

It was written I think about
January 17th 1842 when we were
off Rio Janeiro and was my
a line to advise you of
my good health. However I did
mention the circumstance of
finding among the Officers of

the harbor. The city contained only a population of about two thousand and the inhabitants were mostly an inferior set; but at Conception, ten miles further up, we found quite an enlightened community and every indication of an advancing spirit of refinement. Coming on to Talpavaco all my old clouded ideas of South American ignorance and semi-barbarity quickly disappeared, for I found myself in one of the pleasantest cities of its size that I remember visiting in quite a while. The streets are clean and neatly paved; the buildings public and private, handsome and pleasantly situated, and the people are sensible and refined. The American portion of the community especially

are particularly friendly and courteous to strangers. The many colored customers are a sight in this city; people here look as they do in any other enlightened land. That is, they look like Spaniards principally, with a large proportion of Americans and others, all dressing just like Camden people - only a great better. The young are creating such a noise that it is fast-impossible to write you any love to all. With kindest regards to your family &c

Yours Affectionately,
C. D. Rice.
Wm. C. Rice,

Direct your next letter to
Ensign E. P. Rees.

U.S.S. "Portsmouth"

Care American Consul, Honolulu,
Sandwich Islands

After this direct as before.

Put on numerous stamps.

As letters cannot be stamped
here for the United States, they
must be paid for at the other
end of the line, and as few
people would care to pay many
dollars for my effusions I
will make them "free and far
between." If anyone asks how
it is just tell them.

E. P. R.

5
old bible that was carried out
to the great that might have
found anything if it had
been lost. Well, I'm getting
into a building subject.

The cruise thus far has
been very pleasant and
promises the same in the future.

After leaving New York we
encountered one wild gale, and
then we enjoyed delightful
weather down through the
tropics and until we arrived
in the vicinity of Cape Horn,
after which we were visited by
blows, rains, snow and miserable
demonstrations generally for
about three weeks. Day after
time we had "sounded" the horn
and emerged once more into
"God's own sunlight." Our first

port was Honolulu, Tahiti, where
we remained a couple of
weeks engaged the greater
portion of the time in surveying