

Hamilton Hotel
Bermuda 9 Feb 1875

My dear wife,

How funny & old times it friends to tell you that the good Brig Excelsior sails today for New York & that I avail myself of her departure to write you -- Does not it sound as if we were our grandparents or great grand mothers and fathers instead of ourselves? -- as if it was express the year of grace 1775 in lieu of 1875!!

I suppose long are this will reach you -- if indeed it ever does -- you will have received very long letters by the Carrisa and will have probably seen Miss Ellie Outerbridge , who will told you of seeing me & give you very "oral" messages. I am enjoying myself very well -- I found the climate mild -- only having varied 5 degrees by my thermometer since may around -- say from 63 to 65 -- in my room & that night and day -- all the same -- In some respects I do not like it -- it is so very damp & the sky is perpetually loaded with misty clouds so that for days we do not see the sun & we have no fine sunsets, which require clear & dry air -- such as we have on the St Johns -- then too the winds are so high that it is unpleasant for boating 3 days out of seven and it makes it too hard work at the oars. Our hotel is very good & the table in all respects excellent.

We are enjoying first tomatoes, potatoes, lettuce, & of course the tropical fruits --mainly bananas. The invalids who come are alike here -- all but one I understand have been restored to health in a very great degree -- which speaks well for the climate notwithstanding the dampness which is disagreeable to me. Thank God I am very well & I trust that you & my dear baby & all continue as well as when I left.

It has now been 12 days since I last saw a newspaper or had any contact with the outer world so you can surprise the grand with which we at the hotel look forward to getting our letters & papers by the Carrisa which is to sail for New York on the 18th & is due here 22 February. After she arrives if I have a good chance of getting to Jamaica or Havana I should probably find my way there & take a steamer from there home or if there is no chance of doing so I may go home by the next trip of the Carrissa which will reach NY on or about 1 March. If I go to Jamaica, you will hear from me fully by the Carrisa on her arrival 1 March. I think I will have seen all of Bermuda I wish to by the 25 Feb.

I wonder what kind of weather you have been having at home since I left -- it is hard to realize in this very equable temperature that only three days away all is frost & snow. Some of the guests have been here since middle of Oct & will stay until June & they have their families with them.

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I went to Pembroke Parish Church on Sunday & heard an excellent sermon. I have read all my books. Now & then an Ecce Coelucca. The Callea is a wonderful & fascinating little book.

I wonder if Dody has been down to see you since I left as he expected, I fear that [?] Charlies thought otherwise.

I find that I must close as the Brig sails at 10 oclock [sic] & as I have some fears this may never reach you, I will not write a very long letter.

Goodbye my dear wife – kiss the dear boy for me often & give my warmest regards to your Aunt & all hands & if you send dear Dody my love & believe me

Your loving husband

JB Henry

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