

Wednesday Evg

My darling Maimie/

I have to ask your forgiveness for not fulfilling my promise of writing to you yesterday but I feel so tired and good for nothing after traveling the best part of the night & found so much to attend to when I arrived at the office that when mail time came it found me with only one page written & not liking to send you that I tore it up.

To day what do you think I have been doing? On arriving on Thursday I found an invitation awaiting me to join in the trial trip of the great Russian frigate (General Admiral) so named after the Grand Duke Constantine whose flag ship she is to be. This is the largest war steamer in the world being over 6000 tons burden or double the size of the Merrimack.

You can imagine I could not resist this temptation so I arranged it with Mr. Scharff about the office & went. I had to be up at 5 ½ oclock AM! & went on board at 7 when we started about 500 of us - ladies & gentlemen & so large was the vessel that that number didn't much more than make it look cheerful! A band of music, champagne & dancing (in which I did not join) completed the affair. The fates however were against us for instead of boldly standing out to sea – we did not go out of sight of land for the tide was so low that we could not cross the bar at the mouth of the NY Bay, so we passed the day steaming around the bay & up the river & returned about 6 oclock. She leaves in a couple of weeks for Russia & if they have a general war, may take a prominent part in its history. In addition to our disappointment in not going to sea, it commenced to rain before our return. Among other friends Baron Osten-Sachen was on board.

I enjoyed my last visit to Frankford so much dearest & I shall have such pleasant recollections of the Arsenal & its kind & unforgettable inmates. I hope our last walk did you no harm darling & gave you no cold, for I am fearful it was imprudent in me to have kept you out so long – Tell me all your doings & news generally so as to cheer me up & keep me from having the blues and not seeing you for so long – for a week & a half seems very long to me dearest I assure you – I am getting more impatient as time advances. I have your sweet picture before me now. [Fulton ?] looks down upon me at my desk in the office & looks very sweet [lest you deny ?] you would not accept him.

Goodbye dearest – love to all -      Your loving  
JBH

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