

U. S Naval Hospital

Yokohama, Japan

Jan 16 1899

Dear Mr. Henry

I received this afternoon your letter of Dec 22nd containing the good news about the house. I was getting quite anxious to hear from you and the interval between more but the mail has been longer than ever before. We were twenty five [sic] days between steamers and then three mails came in within three days of each other. We are now promised regular mails every eight or ten days as new steamers are put in the route. Things certainly have turned out better than we expected and in our pocket our loss with considerable satisfaction. I am heartily glad to be rid of that Staten Island business which has been hanging over our heads so long and I trust now there will be no hitch in completion of the sale and there is nothing bogus about the sale.

I thought when the time came Kappf would put up money enough to stave it off, but I suppose he could not raise it. Were he not such a scamp I would feel sorry for him for it is hard to have one's home sold. But he is naturally a fraud and would cheat any one he could so I suppose sympathy is wasted in his case. What are you going to do about the mirrors – Perhaps the purchaser of the house will buy them, but Kappf will cart them off if he can. As a matter of fact is not Mrs. K. just as much liable for the deficiency as we are? But I suppose Greenfield will try to get it out of us as being the more responsible parties.

I am much obliged to you for the action and trouble you took in the matter and trust the arrangement you made was the best under the circumstances. You ask for the dates of the letters I received from you. The following are those since last summer Aug 4th-- Sept 10 – Oct 26 – Nov 12-- Nov 17—Dec 22 – But on account of the irregularity of the steamers they often were long in reaching me. As soon as I know what I must pay I will make arrangements to settle. We are all getting on nicely here and had a very pleasant Christmas. Lena and the children are well and Capt Coffin has improved considerably since his return. The life here agrees with him much better than in San Francisco, but he never will be very strong again. Lieut Hobson is in Yokohama to day [sic] on his way to Manila. We had a very pleasant visit from him this afternoon. We sat and talked for over an hour and seemed to enjoy being with friends and away from curiosity gazers. It does not seem to us that his head is the least turned by his fame. He was just the same as we always knew him. I am disgusted that the papers should publish so much rot about him – and I believe these scurrilous obstacles are inspired by envious enemies. I had a very nice letter from Reggie by this mail but I have not heard from Jamie since he was in Hong Kong. Indirectly I hear very good reports of him however and he is just as popular as ever. Not long ago Capt Glass passed through here and spoke in the highest terms of him.



He said the engines always worked well when he was on watch and he never felt any anxiety when he knew he was on duty in the engine room. I trust he will give up his notion of resigning as it would be a crazy thing to do, but at the same time I trust he is not in the least off his base. He is just an irresponsible sort of a boy with no idea of what in the world and its struggles are – and chafe under the confinements of ship life and its monotony under the present circumstances. I am glad to hear encouraging accounts of Joe and trust his improvement may be permanent. It seems to me there is a fair prospect of his being returned in the Service but I understand he can come in with his present high rank and pay. That would be expecting too much. He now has more rank and [?] the same pay that I have after twenty four [sic] years of service. Let me know how Sid comes out at the end of the term. His standing for one month was published and is was better than last year even. Poor Rob seems to be hard worked but I guess he can stand it and I admire his pluck and industry. According to the papers stocks are steady crawling up – and the financial condition of the country is phenomenal. Your finances must be all the better in consequence and I trust you feel easier than a few years ago. Perhaps by the time this reaches America you will be in Naples. I envy you the trip and I think you are wise to escape our cold weather at home. I would keep well south until the middle of April at least –for our winter and spring climate is terribly favorable to pneumonia. If I were a gentlemen of leisure [of sic] would always remain south from January till May. A great many lives would be prolonged by adhering to that rule.

Dorothy was much pleased with your letter and will answer soon. Keep me posted as to your address. All send love.

Very sincerely yours

F. [Hecussur ?]

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