

Lawrence

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company,

S.S. "Massilia"

Apr 23rd 1887

My dear Father,

Your welcome letter of March 4th received at Colombo, together with a long letter from Mother, written shortly after returning from Boston, and one from Eva - kindly express my hearty thanks in the mean time, until I find opportunity to answer all - A bundle of papers too reached me safely

2, at the same place,
I what with carnival
& other news, interested
me much. George sends
a copy of the Brit. Colonist
Victoria with news
from that distant but
progressive part of the
world, and Bernard
(I fancy it is B's writing)
very kindly mails a charm-
ing little volume of
Dickens's Christmas Tales.
My best thanks and
all kind wishes to each
and all
with one, as with you,

3) novelty in any
form is decidedly at
a premium. Our present
voyage continues prosper-
ous and enjoyable
Our passengers are
numerous, and many
of them pleasant and
interesting. Amongst
others we bring this time
Shaw & Lillywhite's team
of cricketers who have
been trying their luck
in Australia and are
now on their way back.
We have had the
usual sports, dancing,
theatricals &c., and

have so far been
fortunate in our weather
having successfully
escaped anything like
excessive heat. The
telegram received at
Aden, where we touched
last, being no very
startling news, but
relates that my old
ship the Tasmania has
met with an accident,
having run ashore off
Corsica. No particulars
are given & we do not
as yet know whether
much loss will result.
Passengers and mails
are all right.

Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company,

S.S. "Manila"

4)

Apr-29 1887

The report you mention in reference to ships being put on the Pacific route between Hong Kong & Vancouver, I see is also referred to in one or more of the Montreal papers, but as I have heard nothing of it from any more authentic source I am inclined to discredit its accuracy, knowing as I do how, how excessively carelessly such items are allowed to get into print.

37 As to any plans of my
own, I have as yet come
to no definite decision
& shall postpone doing so
until reaching London.
I think it not unlikely
that I may decide to
make another voyage or
two, & must confess that
I look forward with some
dread to the prospect of
returning to Canada in
the character of a young
indigent and struggling
medical practitioner. My
present position gives me
command of advantages
material & social, which,
even with success, I could
never hope to obtain
in Canada, & in some

ways is much better
suited to my taste and
talents, such as they are,
than any position I could
hope to make there - In
any case, if it in the end
is banishment to some
frontier settlement of small
traders and shopkeepers,
I do not feel very keen
about forestalling my
fate. Again, from a
professional point of view
I am more convinced than
ever that the Australian
Colonies afford a vastly
superior field, & were it
not for family ties &
considerations, on which
perhaps I lay too great
stress, would not hesitate
to avail myself of the

Just favourable opening
I could find there -
However, no serious errors;
meanwhile I am plodding
along as happily & contentedly
as can be expected under
the circumstances.

I read your ^{College} report for the
year with interest and
was glad to learn that
encouraging signs of advance,
& increased revenue &
usefulness are not wanting.

My best love to Mother,
and remembered me very
kindly to all -

Long before this reaches you
I trust you will be enjoying
your well earned relaxation
after the trying work of the
Session.

With all sincere good wishes
Ever your affectionate Son
Gentle -