

hasty note to hope that  
he will include me in a  
letter he says with to Bona  
He seems long to me since  
you heard from home  
but he hopes for letters  
at Venice. I don't if I  
to reach London, he shall  
get news there via. I  
spoke in comparison to the  
day's letters have borne. I  
wrote to you in Egypt & Paris.  
I hope to get full instructions  
in London as to procedure.  
We further our efforts to  
will also be occupied after  
we have seen Rome in  
I had late news of how sale  
was at home. Acc. to my  
I believe me. But I will  
write below.

find ourselves on the use of again  
returning Europe when everything will  
look civilized & common place. Fortunately  
Venice (our first halting place) is unique  
& one that I have greatly desired to see,  
so that it will I hope prove a safe  
pale from the glories of the departed.  
Our voyage which in prospect I made  
has proved, with the exception of one  
day & two nights, a charming pleasure  
trip. The first day after leaving Beyrouth  
found us off Cyprus in the bay of  
Larnaca. The town prettily situated  
with fine hills behind. Rhodus  
was our next stopping, it is a walled  
town of some size & fine modern sub-  
urbs.

A semicircular harbour the two points  
 of which are crowned with fortifications  
 & the near hills are heaved by high  
 snow-clad mountains. The chief export  
 from Rhodes is gale nuts used in dyeing.  
 At Smyrna we hired to Cherchez Thomas  
 & wait a day or a half for the next one  
 but it a fine city with good streets  
 compared with Eastern ones, although  
 approaching it from Zeyra I believe you  
 will call them miserable, hard ones. It  
 has a magnificent harbour with a mile  
 of substantial stone embankments. The  
 city is built on the slope of a hill, about  
 the height of Montreal mountain, & crowned  
 on the top with the ruins of a large fortification  
 built five hundred years before the present era.  
 The harbour surrounded by beautiful mountains  
 like those of the pines than the celebrated Bay of Naples.  
 The same day that we sailed from Smyrna  
 we stopped for an hour at Ilio, a rather  
 very pretty place where we got a large  
 accession of passengers. At Piræa we have  
 again to Cherchez our steamer but we were

3 delighted to have a day at Athens.

I made good use of our opportunity climbing hills & clambering over ruins with the desperation of a last chance & the hope of returning to our ship & visiting to our hearts content. We saw all the points of interest & were much gratified by our visit. Details of wh. we trust will give rise to many <sup>talks</sup> of pleasant reminiscences. The Asiatic Coast is a succession of sweep looking mountains, snow clad & picturesque. & all the Greek Islands are more or less mountainous, as we threaded amongst them we were sometimes in Channels not much wider than a Canal, at other land looked as if in a lake, then sudden up on one side again was only an ocean horizon. We are charmed with Crete. both as seen from its lake-like harbours & our nearer acquaintances. We dropped anchor there about seven A.M. & by half past we were ashore, accompanied by a Sergeant called Kommo, got a guide & a Carriage & drove about the town & its suburbs for three hours. The views are really beautiful.

& we were ready to say that this exceeded  
 all the other places we have seen. Thus  
 young ladies & their fathers (Carpueus) come  
 on board there. They speak English with  
 facility so we have become quite friendly.  
 they are grand daughters of Bishop Wches  
 & nieces of the Duchess of Northumberland.  
 Their father is a Greek. They speak & read six  
 languages & have read many standard  
 English works. From them we have learned  
 a good deal about Corfu & also about  
 Romania where they have lived & are  
 returning to remain for two years. Now our  
 baggage is drawing to a close as we hope  
 to be in Trieste tomorrow night & in Venice  
 on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>. I fancy after that it will  
 be only fatiguing needless travel till we  
 reach London as papa has no patience  
 with Continental Churches & picture galleries  
 & only wants to get again amongst geologi-  
 cal friends in London with whom he has  
 made engagements early in April. He seems  
 much pleased with his work in Syria &  
 has been writing out the results of his ob-  
 servations on board ship. I hear this as a mee-