

Foundation Documents – transcript – PRG 1135/4

Letter to the Parents of Richard Francis Burton, 15 October 1832

Monday, October 15th 1832

Dear Parents,

I embrace this favourable opportunity of informing you of my good state of Health and perfect Happiness – we have at last weathered the Cape and in a fair way for the Whaling Ground we experienced very bad weather off the Cape. It blowing a continuous gale and the Seas running(?) mountainous highs our Ship is a good Sea Boat and we laughed at the storm---

The Captain is a second father to me he points out the best method of my proceeding so has to make myself generally useful without the least infringement upon the duty of others or degrading to me indeed he is all I or any of my friends could wish him he corrects me when I do wrong and stands and stands up for me when imposed upon by any of the other officers in fact I am so happy that I feel more at home when even the Wind and Seas are battering our poor bark than I ever did at Mr Mrs – whe have had some sport annoying the Albatrosses having shot many I would bring one of the skins home for Marianne only that they all are(?) so large the smallest being eighteen feet in the Spread of his Wings I have got one for her already it is the skin of a Mallymoak(?) about the size of one of our geese at home and tell her I will bring all I can for her also that I should like when I return home to find her teaching two little boys their ABC = . Whe have lowered once after Whales, but without success. Having chased them for about 12 hours in the Boats and as many in the Ship we lost them- we have spoke several outward boundaries but not one home till this –

I have several more patients but thank God they have all recovered and at present are all in a good state of Health and in high hopes of getting Whales everyday. I hope in my next letter I have the pleasure of informing you our better success –

I would wish to hear from you by every whales that leaves the Port of London which you can do without any expense to either of us and tell my friends that all newspapers sent to me are like being England before my eyes and if you could send me some out I should feel obliged My Aunt Moore would for a word save the Papers and you might send them to me –

I long to hear from you to know how you are getting on in your xxx? concern I hope is God it may succeed if it – in fact my only unhappy moments are when I think of home pray write by first ship and let me know.

I must close hastily pray forgive all mistakes, as we sailors are not so steady in our house as at home therefore we cannot guide our pens so precisely as we landsmen could have done == Give my love to my Aunt & Uncle Moore and little Augusta to Aunt & Uncle Mortimer and Edward to my cousins George and Marianne Moore and the little Moores if their are any. Give my respects to Mr Muller and tell I have not forgot him to Mr Mrs and the little Robinsons and tell them I often think of them.....(section of letter missing).....

We are in Latt by obs 29o. 00 S and long 47.33.6. off the Coast of Madagascar-
All Well