



[William Crosfield Letters](#)

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Fifth Avenue Hotel. New York
Monday November 20. 59

O far beyond the waters

The fleet feet may roam,
But they find no light so pure & bright
As the one fair star of home;
The star of tender hearts, mother
That glows in my English home.
A.W.S.

Many many thanks to
papa for extended leave tho' it
has put me in such a fix. I did
not know what to decide when I
got your letters after church yesterday
and long deliberation rather
muddled me but at last when
I made my calculations I
found that thirtyfive (35) days
of the perils of old Neptune wd
be repayed by eight days in
Jamaica. If I could get this much
in February I should jump at it
but now the dull time is in the
island. You would hear in a former
letter of my prep at Wadana and
how much I was pleased with it. A
rose smells sweeter at a distance
than if you try to devour the whole
of its scent at once; This visit in
a slight degree alters the premises
of papa's letter and so left me at
sea looking for some further
indication of the direction
of the wind found it at the

end of your letter where our
sentence shows that you expected
me to be in colder climes before
long, ergo not the West Indies.
And again, if I don't come here
soon I shall have to spend all
my time over introductions and
show relations so to prevent an-
other mishap I shall come
home right away on Dec 14 (allow
I would the loss of 33 Indians
what does papa say to my plan
for Cunard? I am glad that the
latest accounts of Cousin Anne
and no less of yourself my dear
mother are so favourable. I return
framed with some old friends;
my N.C. letters retired into the privacy
of my desk after a long
sojourn, and made way for late
arrivals into my breast pocket. Thanks
to Edward Dawson for his kind in-
tention at Chicago. H.B. McConnel was
not in the city but his ride was very
attractive.

Now I think I may continue
my journal from Washington
where I left off "long time ago." My
leave taking of that city was
glad today in sunshine and a
short journey over the branch
Balt and Ohio R.R. to the Relay

near which it crosses the Thomas
Viaduct, and thence over "the Main
stem line" of the same brought
me in sight of Baltimore just as
the sun was setting. A bright gleam
rested on land and water and as
it touched the many spires with
its rich colour. The beryl of Constan-
tinople, not I dare say that there
is any similarity but it was in-
voluntary. On Sunday morning I
went to church and having heard
a sermon on "Remember the Sabbath
day to keep it holy" received a kind
invitation to go to New 39 whenever
I go to Christ Church again. In the
evening I went out to find a church
and as my object was closed I followed
the crowd and settled in a M.E.
church one of a very large congrega-
tion. The subject of the lecture was
"the licensing system of the State of
Maryland" good no doubt but not what
I wanted to hear on Sunday evening.
I will here notice a peculiarity worth
imitating to my idea the minister
gave out we shall not take up the
collection as announced for the
amount contributed this morning
was enough to cover the expenses if
they seem to exercise their faith
and go on without a next egg.
Monday was bitterly cold very raw
and everyone was talking of snow

swalked about the streets till I
was tired of pretty women and
then went to the top of the great
monument in memory of Washington
it stands on high ground in the
centre of the city and from it four
avenues diverge, the great ones of
Baltimore live in this neighbourhood
and here is the most likely place
to see the fine cattle by which the
ladies are drawn and driven in
their plain carriages. Swalked till
near dinner time and came to
the conclusion that I am growing
lary. One more look at the ladies
satisfied me for I had a bad cold
and the raw wind was not pleasant
soon the dullness settled down into
a rain storm which lasted the
whole night. Next day was rather
too warm but I surveyed again
the beauties of the "city of monuments"
and left it well pleased at five
o'clock. The journey was much such
as night journeys are so that
I was not sorry to get to Philad.
at 10½ when supper and to bed
closed the programme.

In the forenoon of Wednesday
I called at Mr. Farnall's office and
he asked me to go out to his house
to spend the afternoon. Of course
I gladly accepted remembering
the fine time I spent there

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some weeks ago. From Mrs. F. I received
even more kindness than I could
have expected. In the evening we
went to call on some neighbours
where I found a family of intelligent
daughters. The father is a pleasant
old man to whom I was introduced
before (Mr. Dunlap.) Next day was
spent at the church of St. James the
Less and with two horseback riders.
Mr. F.'s two sisters spent the day there
also but I have spoken of them else-
where so will not say anything
here; he and I unforgettably left
the ladies and spent the evening
by invitation at another neighbour's.
Daughters again. On the homeopathic
principle I cured my houseiness.
Oh how they make one talk, not
a moment's rest first the mother
then the girls, and as some of the
family are Roman Catholics of
course that was one of the subjects
of conversation. I have spoken
rather at length on these matters
of little interest to you, but I
assure you it is such a pleasure
to speak of persons. Thursday
again in town but I dined at
Mr. F.'s and spent the evening
with them. I really feel quite

proud to claim my kind
hostess as my country woman
when I hear on every hand how
much she is admired and
beloved, and how her simple
Christian charity weaves her
yet closer to the hearts of all
my friends for in twelve months
she has made very many.
They are looking forward to
coming back to England next
April she particularly with
great pleasure, when her first
pleasure may be to learn to
love old England. Fortunately
I am bringing a likeness of
the child for if I trusted to a verbal
description, fear I should be
biased. Took the precaution of
not trusting my memory as I
have already Mrs Putkin's in mind
and shall no doubt be expected to
say something of the young
Melledge if I see it. Hope all
my descriptions will be correct
and that I shall not be induced
to say of them all "they are
strong minded babies". Shall

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He expected to like babies when
I got home or not? I think Butcher
must do all that for me.

I got here Saturday afternoon
and soon found a friend, Mayhew,
he is out to see life and upon
the Illinois CRR his account
seems to be like mine. He goes to
San Francisco, Japan, China &
India, rather as small topics is
it not? But he talks — Yesterday
I went in the morning to hear Dr
Lyng again and liked him as
before, after dinner I enjoyed a
visit to Five Points school and
then went over to hear Beecher.
His subject was "He that taketh not
up his cross etc" but we were not
told whose we were to follow or
whose words he was quoting. The
last part of his sermon was
devoted to the present crisis. And
he told us that the time is coming
when "the gallows will become
honourable" that in those days the
gospel will be preached not in
the words "take care of yourself"
and "do nothing that's dangerous"
but fearlessly and as Christ preached
it. His last prayer was devoted to
poor Brown and his companions

"Those men who we in our weak
judgement think misguided
but who no doubt acted in accord
to directions from above" "may be
deaf to the degrading cry of
multitude glorying in their
suffering." I was not so much
pleased as on the last occasion.

I went today to see Church's
Niagara and Heart of the Andes
(proofs \$2.00). I was not disappointed
with the former as I had expected
after the original. The latter is
a marvel so soft, so elaborate
so bright so beautiful: here was
the artist who they say is generally
"on hand". Tomorrow I am engaged
to dine with Willis James.

I intended to write to Charlie
this mail but I have no time.
His case shall receive attention
next. I am sorry that I shall
not get the missing letters for
a long long time. Hopefully will
be in Havana in February. My
grandson I guess would hardly
receive a message if sent it.
I must reduplicate loves and
best wishes to you all the Waters
and the Ryers. Remain my
dear mother your very
affectionate son

W. W. Field