

A. A. Bruner's Memorandum Feb 27th 1852

On the present date myself
in company with Mr J. B. White & Thomas
Soda commenced a journey to the west^{ward} our point
of destination was nothing more or less than the
Golden Shores of California And we must
confess that it was with some reluctance that
we bid farewell for a time to the homes of
our friends & relatives and boyish days And to
our friends & Relations, whom we dare not
predict that we would ever see again during
the future And as such Mystic Ideas
would occasionally present for themselves threw
availed future we could not but at times wish
that our position in life were such that the
necessity of such a journey would not bare so
painfully upon our minds

But notwithstanding these
childish notions & timidity we were resolved on
trying our luck and fortune in the land of gold
and adventures in which many to our knowledge
had bettered their condition in life And at
ten O'clock on the present day Mr White &
myself were mounted upon our steeds or
horses speeding on our way to the point of
destination And as we would pass each
well known spot of our associations we
would think farewell for an eighteenth month

Or two years and each panel of fence
which perhaps had been put there by our
own hand and each took ake off of whose
bows we had shot the spirit in our first
effort with the rifle we would say
farewell if not audibly that word
would have possession of our minds
for the time being. We crossed the swollen
waters of Lickcreek in who waters basin
we had from first memory chosen as the
waters for past time and amusement
in making the Silvery mirror or the
perch from its limpid bed or in collecting
a number of our associates and practicing
the art of swimming which of ten lines
were a source of much amusement
and merriment. And as we fur-
thered on our coast an inquiry would even
present to self for consideration would
we ever again be permitted to witness
the associations that had grown up among
us in the commencement of life or should
this be the last adieu. But that inquiry
we place upon the table for further
consideration and the reality of the
future will only fix and determine
the decision yet our hopes are
favorable

Feb 9th 1852.

Permised

Near the hour of twelve we arrived at
Uncle J. M^r I gave my horse in charge to
friends (white while I took a short farewell
interview with those of the family who were
present (uncle not being at home). In a short
time however we were again on our way
forgetting all our retrospective thoughts &
our imaginations were roused to the highest
pitch by peering into the distant future with
a prospective eye to the mines of California
where stores of wealth in imagination
would come up unacquainted by the gigantic
cones and pyramids of the Rocky mountains
And as we traveled in these
imagination we dreamed of luck and prosper-
ity and experience and also speedy return
During the same day we called at Uncle
J. Bruner's but found none at home but
uncle Cousins and Aunt were on a visit
to a relative of theirs therefore we did not
remain any great length of time but how-
ever during the time we remained Uncle
& I were on a grand trade swapping saddles
he asked five dollars as the difference between ^{them}
and as I thought the money was surely coming
to me and that he only wished to knock
the socks off of me and make the better

Feb 2nd, 1852.

Denmore

of the bargain by so doing we arrived
at the conclusion that it was no trade and
by going thro' the necessary formalities we
bid him adieu" Saddling our ponies again
in a short time we were again on our long
expected journey passing Cousin A. J. B.
we halted for a few minutes not finding
any person at home but his Lady and
young daughter we bid them an affection
farewell to leaving the homes of all
our kindred behind" In a short time
however after leaving Cousin A. J. we
met Father on the road returning home
from Greenville And when parting with
him" for the first I was compelled give
away to the weakness of human nature
and for a few minutes I found the tears
profusely falling from my eyes yet
when these childish emotions passed
over I was more braced and better pre-
pared to enter fully upon my present
undertaking
perhaps if any person should chance to read
these lines they would charge me with
weakness of mind or unwomanly timidity
But let me request you (He or She) If this should
chance to meet the eye of such not to be

Feb 2nd, 1852,

Greenville

too rash in your opinion relative to
myself unless unless you have during your
time been a participator in a farewell interview
with a parent when you had no assurance
that you would ever meet again And if
you have experienced such an interview we will
not eringe at your Opinions.
In the evening we arrived at Greenville where
we found Mr Dodd awaiting our arrival
we all three were lodged during the night
at Mrs. Canes's Hotel in the first part
of the night Dodd attended a free Mason
Lodge of which he was a member The
night passed in social conversation until
late bed time The topics of conversation
were principally of horse trade and Cobs.
These of course were the
fit subjects as there were a number of horse
traders associated with us and could
scarcely think of any thing else but gold gold
But during ^{the night} it appears that the Sheriff
Mr Bullen and his deputy S. Boston
became alarmed for fear they would not get
their tax due them from our company and
therefore requested it We paid up like good
little boys to the amount of six bits each

Feb 3rd, 1852,

Tennessee

Morning came which was the 5th we paid off our bills the individual amount was one dollar and sixty cents including our horses. We were mounted upon horses and in a short time saw no more of Greenville we at length came to Holy Chucky River where we found men repairing a toll bridge, they informed us that we could not cross upon the bridge but that there was a ford some little distance up the River where we could cross by keeping the oile coars but as we knew nothing of the crossing we therefore could not determine which was the white coars but by following ex the coars our judgment dictated we at length arrived on the other shore with no greater damage done than have our feet washed

which could not truly be considered a damage as some of our feet had not the replenishing effect of water the night previous. when we reached the South side of the River we were all night agoons had nothing more to do than to build towers and castles and speculate on the good luck and fortune that awaited us in the golden land beyond the forming billows

Feb 3rd, 1852,

North Carolina

We travelled during the day without stopping to take dinner or without giving our horses any thing to eat or any refreshment whatever (Shame on us) But our purses were light and we had no money when it conflicted with our purs striking

At the close of the day we called at Mr Woods Hotel for entertainment which was granted though friend Dodd was anxious to know at what price he afforded us entertainment - The response was one dollar six Dodd told him that according to his reckoning that was very dear entertainment. In the conclusion he arrived at was nearly this that he would bear such extravagant prices for one night. But in the eve the servants of one hour the servants had supper prepared we were called to the table with family while we were eating I was solidly guessing that if our horses were as hungry and savage as we were that between and us we would be shure to get the worth of our money. The land lord during the time we sat at the supper table remarked to Dodd that if he knew the extravagant prices at which he had to perchai the necessary provisions to sustain the reputation of the house he did

Feb 3rd 1852

North Caro

Not think that I could would grow
it longer at extravagant prices any more
I presume the land here was very dear right
for the latter portion of the road over which
we had traveled the day previous was very
rough the road ran near the banks of the
French Broad River and the floating ice
had formed dams across the banks until
the road was completely blocked in places
And had been chopped with axes leaving
a bank of ice on each side to the height of
eight and twelve feet

The Hotel of which I have spoke is situated
on the French Broad River at the warm spring
we did not visit the Springs yet I had some
curiosity to see them but not having time
to spare we after taking breakfast and
paying the dollar to the Hostess commenced the
third days travel

Early in the morning we forced ourselves on
our journey the weather in that vicinity
was tolerably cold therefore we experienced
some discomfort during the early part
of the day our whole ride during the day
was on the banks of the French Broad river
In the evening we arrived at Asheville
in North Carolina and put up at

Feb 21st 1852

North Carolina

Reynolds Hotel

The proprietor of the house seized an Ash-
ville paper who was a very sociable host
at sight he invited us to take a walk with
him to Church in the suburbs of town
which we readily accepted when we arrived
at the Church we found quite a large asse-
-bly there, The Minister was of the
Methodist denomination he held forth
Some hours and a half in a very eloquent
manner yet his eloquence would
scarcely rivet my attention to his subject
as my mind was so stimulated with
hope and prosperity which we would
analyze when looking toward the distant
future We returned to the Hotel
and the night passed off with a refresh-
ing sleep In the morning I was awak-
-ened by the rattling of the first breakfast
bell After fixing our toilets and
taking a wash we sat down to a delicious
and elegantly furnished table After eating
we filled our pockets with pound cake
and donuts which came in place very
nicely about Brown the same day our
horns were also very well taken care of
when we were setting off for the day

5th

Feb 5th, 1852,

North Carolina

Traveler the servant who had taken charge of our horses requested a dime I complied with his wishes thinking that the poor fellow wished to purchase some tobacco of which he appeared to be very fond. Our host took our names stating at the same time that there had been some eighteen gentlemen stopped with him some few days previous who were bound for the same destination as ourselves. We did not hesitate in doing so for we thought Mr. Reynolds was anything else than a designing or bad disposed man. We bid him adieu friendly adieu and left the beautiful little town of Asheville which is situated on the Stronah road River on a commanding eminence.

We have passed through the village and surrounding vicinity and saw the stores of grain and well filled barns we could not but think that its inhabitants were favored with peace and plenty. About noon the same day we arrived at a little town by the name of Abencrsonville where friend White halted for a few minutes to dispose of some letters which had been entrusted to his care.

Feb 6th, 1852,

North Carolina

By the Students of Hall Branch Seminary which is situated in Washington county Tennessee of which White himself had formerly been a student.

Late in the evening we crossed the Blue Ridge at the base of which is situated the well known Basin Spring near the line between North & South Carolina and if my judgment serves me right it lay on the South Carolina side. As I before stated we traveled late dark overtook us before we could find a Hotel, the clouds began to bloom up causing the darkness to admit equal that of Egyptian darkness which was accompanied with rain and sleet which finally wet our persons and causing us to suffer more or less with cold. About nine o'clock we called at Mr. Hodges Hotel for entertainment it was granted us by the lady of the house as Mr. Hodges was not at home. Our horses was taken in charge by a servant. And as we were wet we were shown into the family's private room that we might have the comfort of the fire until we could be prepared in the hall.

July 7th 1859

South Carolina

We occupied the Room into which we had been shown some hours and a half during the time it appears that we had frightened the family from their comfortable position for in a short time after we waded out of the members of the family dispersed leaving us in full possession of the Room and five Rooms which we shuttled like so many prisoners rats and as we were in full possession of the fire by time supper was served and uncooked as we all most completely recovered from our awkward conditions we had incurred by our late travelling at night

After taking one of those large Snappers which hungry boys take we were shown into an elegant furnished Hall where a cheerful fire was burning After we had again become as though we were at home Todd remarks that the Young Lady who sat at the head of the table was quite handsome White gave me the wink to encourage the youth White replied in the affirmative that she was truly handsome and that her attention was particularly turned and riveted to each accommodation while at the table Todd seemed to half believe it

Feb 7th 1859

South Carolina

And I was almost persuaded that we would lose one of our travelling companions but after we had taken a nights sleep we found that our friend Still intended to accompany us though we will ever think that he was desperate - end

When we were preparing to leave in the morning we came very near meeting with an accident The colored man who took charge of our horses was carrying them when the Stage coach appeared on a hill at a short distance when the driver commenced blowing his bell as a signal of his arrival which frightened our mule to that extent that she broke loose and made tracks with all the speed of which she was possessed for Old Demisee It was truly amusing to see what good use of her time she made in endeavoring to escape the monster when dogs was falling so obstreperously upon her small ears

But however she did not run more than three quarters of a mile before she thought of having company and retraced her ears with almost the same speed that she had left And as the coach had halted in front of the Hotel

Feb 7th 1852

South Carolina

And had scared the hideous
Devil that had occasioned her Stampede She
ran into the Stall from which she had
been taken & where we again secured her
So much for the mule story

We paid off our bills which
amounted to one dollar and forty two cent each
for entertainment and passage on the road
we are not long getting under way the day
was more favorable than the one preceding
we had but every little rain in fact the latter
shown was quite beautiful

I will here notice a little
incident that occurred in the afternoon of the
same day. White was riding in front of us
some seventy five paces and it appeared
that the roads forked which awakened him
from his conversation with his thoughts
and his attention was attracted by two
sign boards pointing in different directions
he rode up to one and read and digest its
contents he then passed to the other and
divided his eyes for a moment on its
letter when he immediately jerked off his
hat turned his mule in the direction
of the first sign board and was making
off with all the possible speed that

Feb 7th 1852

South Carolina

his mule possessed all the while
administering the stimulating effects of his
cow-hyde and spurs We followed to him to
stop but he did not pay the least attention
to us but continued urging on his mule

At length we put off in pur-
suit and as our horses were faster than his
we soon overtook him

And wished to know the
cause of him acting so strangely he said
that the last sign board he had looked at
was directing us to a place called Scuffle town
and that as he did not have any dinner that
day he feared to go there lest the smallest
boy in the town would ride him
Mr. Todd & myself congratulated White for
his cunning stratagem and thanked our stars
that we had been so ingeniously rescued
from a road that was destined to lead us to
a village where we would be bound to
try our manhood in the art of Scuffle-
ing on an empty stomach

We readily handed over the papers to White
promised him that if it lay within our
power we would repay the compliment
and favor for the gelidious ears he
had pursued during the present day

Feb 7th

South Carolina

On the evening of the Seventh we also travelled till a late hour in the night but not so much so as on the day before we at length found entertainment at M^r Anderson's Hotel who had formerly been an old bachelor but had lately taken to himself a bride and it appeared that he spared no pains in giving us to understand that such was the case during the hours before bed time he gave us something of the history of his life and present business and intentions he appeared to be one of those large cotton raisers and teamsters, His farm was almost covered with dachies and the vicinity of his dwelling swarmed with servants to whom he appeared to be very kind. But I must say not so much so to them as he did to his lady who sat in a large armed cushioned chair in a carpeted Room with her fingers decorated with large gold rings reading Harper's Monthly Magazine she also seemed sincerely inclined, but the conduct both of her and wife appeared to be rather childish and disgusting

Feb 8th 1852

South Carolina

to those who witnessed so much loving kindness lavished upon each other yet Sidney be doing them injustice by entertaining such notions as they were at that time journeying thro' the honey-moon

But as it is more of my business how much they may love or how much they may act like children, I drop the subject by hoping that their days may ever be attended with as much love and kindness as will make their lives desirable & happy.

In the morning near three o'clock the old fentleman was up blowing a bugle singing out to them and then to the negroes to stir their buddies about which meant when rightly interpreted for the them to sailer forth from their worn couches and prepare for the labor of the day.

On the morning of the 8th we paid our hosts one dollar each for entertainment and to the darkey who attended our horses one dime it being his request as he had taken great pains in rubbing and currying them we were soon on our travail over the long stretches of sandy roads

Feb 5th 1839,

South Carolina,

And level plains where we could see for many miles before us along the road each side of which was paved with tall slim pines and as the sand in the road was very white it presented a view that I can compare to nothing else than a long deep alley with its floor carpeted with white edives or dicing.

Some times we would see a man upon a horse coming in front of us which would appear to us like a little boy mounted upon a goat but as we avoided near each other the man and horse would gradually become to the full size.

During the day there was nothing occurred worthy note of a place in our Memorandum. At night we called at one Mr. Ferguson's where we had been directed to by call for entertainment by a gentleman we had met on the road the same evening. The house or Hotel was situated some little distance from the main road in a forest or oak grove we arrived there just at twilight and called to the gentleman of the house if we could have lodging during the night he responded in the affirmative.

Feb 5th 1839,

South Carolina,

we lighted and gave our Amos in charge by a black boy and made our way to the hall and were invited in but to our utter astonishment we saw all the members of the room engaged in a game of cards.

This perfectly astounded the three of us we did not know but what we had be directed to this place by some designing individual and as we had not been accustomed to such games or of seeing individuals participate so freely and publicly in the same we could not but arrive at the conclusion that we had made choice of a gambling saloon for our nights entertainment.

And I presume if our horses had not been unsaddled and taken away to their feed we would most likely mounted them and been off in search of a Hotel where inmates would present a better sample of civilization. But however in a short time the three of us made it convenient to meet in grand council to take into consideration the propriety of looking out another hotel but with all this

Feb 8th 1852

South Carolina

counseling we could not arrive at a change of venue and therefore concluded to make the best we might get out of a bad bargain. And as we saw no money upon the table we finally came to the conclusion that they were playing nearly for amusement. When L. Subler time arrived we were much surprised to see what an elegant table was prepared which surpassed any thing of the kind we had yet witnessed. At a late hour we retired to bed the three of us occupied the same room which contained three beds giving us a fair layout to occupy each bed or double them as we saw proper to choose.

In the morning we sat down to the same table with greater variety varieties than the previous evening with our minds much reconciled towards our host. We had by this time solved the problem by observation and some remarks that the strange gentlemen made relative to the members of the family. It appears that the family was principally composed of young ladies which the

Feb 9th,

South Carolina

Diagnoses that were laying on all the dressing, ^{table} demonstrated beyond a doubt if we had not seen the first female about the premises. And our first had been excited nearly by two young gentlemen from some coasting Charleston who were on a coasting expedition to the young ladies of the house.

And the evening before while the girls were preparing that delicious supper (of which we took a last share) for their suitors. The old gentleman had nearly introduced a game of cards as a means of killing time with the youngster during the hours before supper time.

I suppose the old gentleman was aware of their great suspense and wished to alleviate their anxiety as much as possible until their hour would arrive. And had it not been for this supposition, ours we would even have condemned the old gentleman as being a spoating and bad man. But we must say that he is a gentleman and a scholar for this one act of his life.

Feb 9th

South Carolina

We paid off our bills to the amount of one dollar each, and a gain on our travels the day was beautiful and pleasant. During the day our conversation happened to be on the variety of tropical fruit and also the fruits of a southern climate. When White remarked that the pine apple of South Carolina was the finest fruit that he had ever tasted and that he saw no reason why there was not more of them taken to Tennessee as they appeared to be going to waist all over the country where we had travelled. He had reference to the large pine buss which at that time covered the ground for miles along the road over which we had been riding. Todd caught the fact at once and asked if these were the apples of in the road that he had spoken of. White took to said to be those they are. What other apples have I spoken of than the pine apple.

Todd immediately halted his animal and jumped to the ground anxious to test their

Feb 9th, 1852

South Carolina

good qualities looking all around him to make choice of the largest ones he could see. At length he found one that pleased his eye picked it up and scrutinized it very carefully and asked what part of the rough looking thing was good to eat. White told him that those things that were formed like pods all around it was the best and sweetest part about the pine apple.

When he immediately took off one pod and commenced eating it and remarked that it was the bitterest thing he had ever tasted. We could not carry the goats further for the long travel had suppressed so long began to betray us we give it full vent and the forest rang with our noise until I was truly ashamed that we had carried the goats to that extreme. Todd's opinion was that he could find as good pine buss in Tennessee as the pine apples were in South Carolina and unbeknownst to him that he had been so bad for a pine buss, not for a pine apple.

Our ride during the day had been attended with beautiful weather and at night we called for lodging at one Mr. Ruffs where there appeared to be

Feb 9th, 1859.

South Carolina

More dogs than men although there were some three or four very well dressed gentlemen appearing there about the hotel but I do think there were eight or ten dogs to each man.

We had not been about the premises but a very few minutes when our host drew forth his desk a large decanter of cognac brand and told us to help ourselves. We thanked him for his generosity but told him we could not drink making him believe we belonged to a fraternity that prohibited us from indulging. Supper time at length arrived when there was a table fitted up for us in the hall with very common victuals which the three of us sat down to. At the same time we heard knives and forks rattling upon the dishes in the adjoining room when we supposed the occupants of the house were eating. Whether this division during supper hours were made for the purpose of economizing or whether it was merely for the purpose of complying more strict with the rules of etiquette - Or whether there were some young ladies that dare not sup with as good looking gentlemen

Feb 10th, 1859.

South Carolina

As we were, I am wholly unprepared to determine, But if the honorable court was compelled to decide he would most likely give a verdict in favour of economy.

The next morning the same process was carried into effect - though our table was some better furnished than on the previous evening (yet the forks that was set upon the table was not a quality that we had been accustomed to feeding upon for we were fully persuaded that it was the spare ribs of some unfortunate old sow that had shee seen an ear of corn threw all her old age and had killed her out an honorable old age with starvation.

The morning was beautiful and pleasant we paid the best one dollar each and bid farewell forever to his spare ribs and battalion of dogs.

And as we were near ing the market where we intended selling our horses we began to make some efforts to dispose of them during the day we made some inquiries for men that wished to purchase but without much effect those that wanted animals for work during the ensuing season had either purchased

Feb 10th, 1859.

South Carolina

Or did that intend purchasing a unit
B later date therefore we met with the
success of that day. It appears that the
fairness of the present day has some
what blighted Mr Deeds hopes he entertains
a fear that if he even can sell his animal
that he will not have money sufficient
to take him thro' the journey

And talks of turn-
ing his face homeward if he do not meet
with some better prospect of selling in
a few days. I told him if he lacked
money that he should spare mine if it
was possible for all of us to continue the
journey but this did not altogether
seem to satisfy him but said he would
continue with us for a few days longer
and see if it was possible to complete
the journey. We called on the evening
of the same day at Mr Nummachers
hotell where we remained during the
night. This hotell is situated four miles
North East of Columbia the capitol of
South Carolina we found very good
entertainment at this place and on
the morning of the 11th we paid our
host the regular dollar and set off

Feb 11th, 1859.

South Carolina

for Columbia where we expected
to dispose of our horses and as we had but
four miles until we arrived there we rode
very leisurely giving our horses their
natural walk so they might appear lively
in the eyes of those who wished to purchase
And before we had accomplished one half
the distance we met with a German
gentleman who had been to market with
a drove of hogs. We told him that as he
was better acquainted with the city than
we were that he would be doing us a
favour if he would direct us to some good
hotell he remarked that he would take
pleasure in doing so. And directed us to
call at one Mr Popes he said that
was a fine house that he did not wish
better and for us to call there.

We took him at
his word and resolved on making that our
lodging until we could find sale for
our animals. We at length arrived in
town and learned the place where we
had been directed to call. The gate was
thrown open and we up our road in
we saw no person about the premises
but a very small boy we halloved a time

Feb 11th, 1852

Columbia S. C.

Orlino but no one responded to our calls. But the little boy came up and said that his father was not at home and asked we wished to see his Ma.

We answered in the affirmative and in a short time he had the old lady summoned to the call when we informed her that we wished to stay a day or two with them which she readily granted telling us that the servants were all on the farms at work and that would have to take charge of our horses and feed and water them. We took off our trunks and baggage and left them in charge of White. Myself and Dodd watered the animals and took them to the stable where we slicked them as much as possible so we might find sale for them. Our labours continued some two hours during the time we could see the piazza where we had left White with the baggage he was walking to and from as if he was discontent. And every few minutes a young woman would walk briskly from one room to another that was situated along the side of the piazza and another and another would continue to walk to and from.

Feb 11th

Columbia S. C.

I remarked to Dodd that according to all appearances that we had sold ourselves up to the Tennessee gentleman very cheap.

And that I would take the horses and ride through the City and call at the livery Stables and sell them if I could get a bid that would justify a bargain or trade and return in the evening when we would all leave for another hotel this being understood we took the horses down the piazza I saddled one of the them at the same time informing White of the conclusion and took my leave.

What progress the boys made in forming acquaintances with the occupants of our new hotel I cannot determine. Though I presume they were quite stum on the occasion, I returned in the evening without effecting any sales. The boys saddled their animals and we set off for the Columbia Hotel finding at all if we expected we conclude to remain there some three or four day or however until we found sale for our horses they were take to a livery stable where the furchaisers from the country come to by their animals for the ensuing season.

Feb 18th, 1859.

Columbia, S. C.

We remained in Columbia until until the morning of the 14th during the time we were since I had several bids for the pair of animals I had with me though the highest bid was but two hundred and ten dollars for the pair and as I thought that was not enough we did not effect a trade.

We continued to stay there for three days and during the time there were numbers of horse traders coming in from Tennessee and Kentucky with droves of mules and horses. This rather disheartened Mr. Todd and he began to grow very dissatisfied and in fact it began to look rather tedious to myself as we had so short a time to accomplish our trade and arrive at Charleston before the Steamer sailed which was to take place on the 22nd of the same month. Now we finally concluded to leave Columbia and visit the little town of Orangeburg which lay on the road to Charleston where we had been informed was good trading place in stalk. We then purchase a pistol and a memorandum book for each of us and paid off our hotel bills. My individual amount at this place was \$10.25 which was greater than either of my companions as I

Feb 14th, 1859.

South Carolina

Had paid for the feed of both my animals while we lay still to accomplish a trade. About ten o'clock we left the city crossing a large river near the suburbs on a toll bridge which must have been some three quarters of a mile in length.

During the day friend Todd became more fearful that he could not continue his travel and began to talk of returning home but we talked with him upon the subject until he got the consent of his mind to accompany us to Orangeburg and if he did not succeed in effecting a trade there that we would then have nothing more to say neither for or con. The distance from Columbia to Orangeburg is forty miles and the first day's travel we did not make more than half the distance as we commenced the day's ride at a late hour in the evening and also went some distance out of the direct road in order to see an old gentleman who we had been informed wished to purchase such animals as ours. We at length found him but could not bring about a bargain and left him to work out his own salvation.

We found our way to the main road that led to the burg in

Feb 15th 1859.

South Carolina

That we had in contemplation
And at the close of the day we found
ourselves in front of Mr. Woolf's hotel
it being the halfway house between
the two points mentioned. We called
for entertainmen and dismounted and
in a short time we were seated around
the supper table which was furnished
with good substantial food. And there
for the first time in my life saw
beef stake fried with onions perhaps
some persons would think such a
mistake chouter could not be eaten

But it appears that
the three stranger dawks set to the
table that evening thought quite
different. The morning following we
paid the gentleman of the house one
Dollar each for the damage we had
done and at an early hour shaped our
course to the little town of Orangeburg

About the middle of
the afternoon we found ourselves riding
thru the streets we called at hotel
for accommodations. Our horses were
taken care of for 25 cents per day we
paid 25 cents for each meal

Feb 15th 1859.

Orangeburg S.C.

That was considered to be cheap enough
And we concluded to remain there a few days
and if possible effect a trade.

We were shown
into the hall but there were ^{no} persons to
be seen the most of its occupants were
students who then were at school. but this
fact we did not know and we in fact found
the numbers of rooms that were situated
along the side of the piazza that we had
chanced to call at a hotel similar to the
one we first called at in Columbia. Reverting
in our late notions we strode into the
piazza and seated our selves upon a lounge
and were expectulating on our good or bad
luck (which ever term will answer best)

When we discovered
a young lady open the pocket gate and prom-
-inced up the walkway to the piazza where we
were seated on the lounge. She walked up the steps
and just as she arrived at the centre of the
piazza there was another lady came tiding
out of the hall and met here they threw
their arms around each other and such kiss-
ing and hugging I had not seen for
many days. And as I was so pregnant with
the belief of my first opinions relative

Feb 15 1852

Orangeburg S.C.

to the occupants of the house I could not refrain from speculating (thru my next home see the deeds just as this kissing scene came to a close. My informant had not failed to be noticed as it was audibly spoken). The two girls lost no time in leaving our presents and as they were going we could hear their suppressed laughter.

I presume they thought we were regular ruffians I would have recalled the speculation if in any power for fear I had been mistaken in my opinions regarding the people of the house but it was gone and I was left to make the best of it I might. And at the close of the day I found my judgment had not served me well the boarders began to come in for the supper there were some 75 students boarding there and half that many mechanics and workmen before bed time there was quite a debate between a Northern gentleman and a man of the village regarding the sites of the North and South. It appears that Curtilis or however that portion of it was figuring to effect a secession from the union.

They learned that we

Feb 15th 1852

Orangeburg S.C.

rose from Genesee and inquired if the people in our Country were figuring for the same. I wish what I could learn I drew an idea that they thought it to be their policy to secede if they could get any other State to accompany them.

And after that conversation was over they commenced pitching their fun at a few who was following watch making and mending in that piece almost every one had something to say in order to continue their jokes. It was perfectly abusive and if I had not been an inbred stranger I would have been tempted to side with the poor fellow and give him what little assistance my wit could have dictated. But perhaps he had become accustomed to such and did not feel the affect of their slang so much as I felt for him.

We retired to bed at a late hour the three of us occupying the same room after we had layed down. Dods said after mature consideration that he had arrived at the conclusion to leave us on the following morning and make his way to Genesee for he feared his money was to short

Feb 16th 1852

Orangeburg, S. C.

On the 16th and 17th of the present month White and myself remained in the village and on the former day friend Dodd made his words good and set off to retrieve his steps to Genesee what his feelings were on this occasion are better imagined than explained. But I have thought he bore the blow of returning home with much more grace than I could have done.

We accompanied him thro' the village and some mile and a half on the main road over which we had traversed so short a time before. All on the way the land of gold but this time it was quite different. Instead of being a compact company comprising all bound for the same pursuit and destiny, a part was returning home with disappointed hopes and expectations, while the other part was figuring to carry out their undertaking as best they might throw doubts and uncertainties. At length we called a halt and had a short farewell interview. We bid him adieu and made the best of life as he might. He returned the same to us and we then made our

Feb 17th 1852

Orangeburg S. C.

way to the village and but little thinking of the acute misfortune that awaited us. To hear in the future. The present and following day was spent in endeavoring to bring about a sale for our animals on the 17th some purchasers called to see them but we could not effect a trade and we almost came to the conclusion that no persons were standing in need of such property.

We intend remaining in that vicinity during that day and if we were not successful to head our ears to Augusta on the following day. We cancelled the prospect of such to move and concluded that it would be our better policy so to do. And if we could not then dispose of our 40 horses in time to board the steamer on the 22nd that we would lay over and take the following steamer which would leave Charleston Bay two weeks from the twenty second.

This being the conclusion our anxiety was somewhat alleviated yet we wished to arrive at a climate which would present no uncertainties. The 17th passed with out accomplish in any thing in our favour.

Feb. 18th 1859.

South Carolina

On the morning of the eighteenth we paid off our bills at the Hotel. my private amount including the horse feed was eight dollars and twenty five cents. And set off on the road that led to Augusta we crossed the little river that runs near the suburbs of the town and travelled some miles in a low and swamping country but finally came to a very beautiful country. We had now some eighty miles when we discovered a black Squirrel running thru the forest and as it was the first animal of the kind we had ever seen and was something of a curiosity we both made pursuit on horse back hoping that he might rise and perchance shoot it with our newly purchased pistols we effected the form but did not accomplish the latter. We then made our way to the road where there was any amount of sand talking and laughing over the chance we had just to have with our black Squirrel but our movement was soon turned to grief or disappointment we had not travelled far before all our wise carrying

and bright prospect for the future was knocked into a cocked hat (I'll allow myself the common expression) Our best animal was ruined or so much so that she was worth nothing to us in our present undertaking. She stepped on a billet of wood which we supposed had been used for a Strichen stick to the tuning of a waggon with one of her front feet which had sunk into the soft sand throwing the other end into her flank causing her to flinch and make a jump that caused the stick to penetrate here body some fourteen inches. I immediately discovered the accident and leaped from the mule on which I was riding and with two heavy Surger drew the stick from her body.

This fell like a dark thunder storm over our heads at the time I observed friend White he was as pale as though a band of robbers had demanded our lives. Our case as travelling to companions to the land of gold appeared to be converging to nothing for it was quite evident that the loss of the price of the best animal we had would shorten our means to that extent that

Feb 18th 1852.

S. C.

We could not both think of continuing the journey we were put to our trumps to know what to do After a consultation we concluded to leave our damaged property to the first farm house where we would then determine what could be done we must have travelled some three miles before we could find a place to stop but as we had given the man no time to cool off and become stiff since the wound was inflicted we did not experience as much difficulty in getting here to travail as I had anticipated

Toward the close of the evening we call at Parson Quetkins acquainted of our misfortune and requested that we might stop with ^{him} until such time as we could determine what course to pursue and what disposition to make of our misfortunate animal. This he granted

When White and myself were alone again I told him that we had lost as much as a hundred dollars from our little funds that it was evident we both could not go on in safety and as

Feb 17th 1852.

S. Campbell

I had principally been the means of him coming so far on the journey that I would not have him to stop at this stage of the game and proposed to let him have what money I had and accomplish his undertaking alone or without any company.

He thanked me for my proposal but said he would do no such thing and that I ^{had} very nearly money enough to take me and with what he could let me have I could feel safe enough to prosecute the journey until complete and if any person had to return he should be the one. And I felt inclined for him to do just as he thought best either to continue on return yet my anxiety for California was not the same as the morning when we left home. But as such a state of affairs had fallen upon us I wished for him to be perfectly satisfied and therefore chose the easy course for each of us to pursue.

And as he would rather be the one that should return I expected fifty dollars of his money for which I gave him my note with directions for him to take the pay from the price of the wine which

Feb 18th 1859.

S Carolina

which I would leave in his charge
We remained with Mr Watkins during
the night contemplating what would
be the best course for me to pursue on
the following day as we had not determin-
ed what disposition we would make
of our damaged animal. At length
day light with the horizon and as our time
was growing short we were bound
to arrive at some permanent conclu-
sion. Mr Watkins made us a proposal
that we might take the best horse he had
and leave our crippl^d and that he
would take care of her until such time
as she could be sound and that if we
would then return the same horse or
as good one that we would then exchange
a fair. We took a walk to the horse
yard and examined the horses they were
very fine and the best one among them
I could not think was worth more than
forty dollars. But as we were bound to
leave the mare we considered that with-
ing could be accomplished better ^{by} to make
such a conditional ^{trade} as the old gentleman
had proposed. Therefore we exchanged
and prepared for leaving our ^{of}

Feb 18th 1859.

S Carolina

expenses were nothing while we remained
at this place I offered money but the best
would not except it bidding the best and
shortest advice we retraced our steps to
Orangeburg with the understanding with
the old gentleman that we should
correspond in future relative to the
traces and recovery of the mare.

We proceeded to Orange-
burg and both stopped at the same
hotel. The one we had left the morning
before our landlord was much surpris-
ed to find us there so soon after
leaving on the seventeenth. I acquainted
him with the cause that made us return
whether he believed me or not I could
not determine. But as it was little
difference with us whether he believed
the story or not we had no long yarns
to spin.

I inquired of the landlady if I could have
my cloathing done up by the servants
She told that it could be done without
any inconvenience as the blacks were
washing at the present time. So I
accepted the opportunity and had all
my attire in good order on the following
evening.

Feb 17th 1852

Orangeburg S. C.

The night of the 18th passed away and I and friend White mourned together perhaps for the last time our minds were peering into the future endeavoring to solve the destiny of each but the veiled future was to remain uncertain for us to draw any correct conclusions

Although White had consented for me to continue the travail alone and with a portion of his money also yet he still intended to make another effort I was much pleased to see his determination and proposed to let him have the old horse that I had taken in exchange for the mare and the mare and give what money he carried with them and follow suit as soon as possible yet I show very well that he would have to rely upon some other source besides this for means sufficient to complete a trip to the land of gold but I was willing to do more than this I would have divided the last cent of money I had if it would have propelled our travail together But this we men would do no good for

Feb 19th 1852

Orangeburg S. C.

our funds were so small for both to think of continuing
After we had taken breakfast I assisted in preparing to for him to commence his journey homeward after the horses were loaded I accompanied him some two miles during the time I requested him to leave the mare with brother James the mule with father and to give my saddle and bridle to brother Francis provide he did not make the second effort to continue his journey to California
We bid adieu to each other and it is unnecessary to attempt to portray the feeling of both which had been caused by disappointed hope
But if I ever regretted in my life to part with an individual it was on this occasion for one would have to return home to be a by word for those who had laughed at our first efforts to accomplish the wild quest some had termed it
While the other would be compelled to travail through a strange world without seeing the first familiar face or the first person to whom he could with safety intrust his first thought

Feb 19th 1852

Orangeburg G.C.

And now thus parted perhaps to meet
no more each to look out for himself in
view the future I retraced my steps
to the village and returned to the room
that we had both occupied and intended
to rectify my abridged journal After
this was accomplished I took a walk
to the suburb of town where the cars
were running on the railway I saw
several trains of cars pass and re-pass
I then visited the depot when I secured
a ticket as a passenger for the follow-
ing day the distance from this place
to Charleston is one hundred and
twenty eight miles which when
traveled over cost two dollars and
forty cents

I then returned to my hotel and
passed the evening with a strange
gentleman who was practicing
music on the flute and clarinet
he appeared to be a good disposed
and social gentleman

Just before night
had passed an Italian passed through
the village with a heard organ upon
his back who also had monkey

Feb 19th 1852

Orangeburg S.C.

with him which he considered the same
thing of a show. The would play the organ
while the monkey would pass through the
crowd holding out his paw to receive the
dimes which was due his master for the
music

The poor monkey received a few dimes from
the boys and also a crust of bread the latter
seemed to please decidedly the most as he
gained over it for a short time and then
consumed it with apparent good relish

In the fore part of
the night following there there was a
private party or a little ball came off in
one of the upper chambers of the hotel
the music continued very pleasantly ^{the} mid-
night when the party dispersed leaving
the house in stillness I then returned
to my private room and passed the
remainder of the night in a refreshing
sleep though before I fell into the land
of dreams I took care to place my
shooting iron under my pillow as I
had no other bed fellow though this was
folly in the extreme for once in the
land of dream I thought nothing of
the surrounding object longer.

Feb 30th 1862

Orangeburg S. C.

On the following morning I was up before the blush of ^{the sun} ~~the morning~~ had bedimed the thousands twinkling stars that peered forth from every part of the horizon anxious to hear the bells of the passenger cars toll the summons for all to be prepared who wished to travel on them during the day.

I took breakfast and then paid my washing and laundry bills when I turned together amounted to four dollars, and took with my lease of Orangeburg. The depot was but a short distance from the hotel in which I had been stopping and therefore took my satchel back in hand walked to the cars.

At about seven the rushing rattling rumbling cars were bearing me away swiftly away fifteen minutes more and the beautiful little village of Orangeburg had faded from my view perhaps forever we were speeding onward thirty miles per hour for the golden shores of California.

Feb 30th 1862

S. C.

Steamboats and railroads! what mighty inventions with what startling velocity they hurry us along until even the over charged mind almost feels its lack the power to keep pace with their progress. Who ever has passed over similar roads will or would understand me. One mile fast succeeds another with a rapidity almost incredible and so soon he who travels them for the first time is aware that half the distance is completed he finds himself in view of the point of his destination. So it was with myself I had never been a square jump from home and knew little of the rapidity with which the adventurer is carried across this mighty continent. I had heard men speak of it it is true but I had never realized till ^{on} the present occasion. Perhaps I was longer on the road than I imagined. When the mind is full we take but little note of external objects or the flight of time which is bearing us to the great Ocean of eternity. My mind was busy I ^{was} thinking of home of friends

Feb 30th 1852

G. C.

and relatives I had left in
Venice And all the joys of child-
-hood which no man ever witnesses
the second time a thousand things
a thousand scenes which I had
scarcely thought of till they
would present themselves to my mind
But I could only soliloquize that
these scenes and days are gone forever
gone and now bid them adieu

With one reluctant
leap I had thrown off the affections
of home associations and was then
spread on the way to the land of promise
to the poor laboring mass of mankind
My school days were also over - days
which memory now recalls with
inspiring feelings
And before I had scarcely ceased
my reiterating, every passenger
for the steam boat passengers for
different hotels resounded in
every direction; we were truly in
the heart of the city the cars ceased
there motion where hundreds of
people were passing to and fro
And numbers of carriages and

Feb 30th 1852

Charleston S. C.

Omnibuses crowded the streets whose
drivers were calling out the names of
the different hotels and in the city
wanting passengers to the same

I was almost just to
my triumph to know what hotel to choose
as I was entirely unacquainted with
any of them and did not know what
portion of the city I wished to go to
at length I responded to a call that
was shouted for commercial Hotel I
leaped upon his vehicle with a half a
dozen more strangers we were soon
out of sight of the congregated crowd
near the cars the drive took something
like a mile threw different threats
when he halted at a magnificent
hall we paid each thirty cents for
the accommodation he had rendered us
and dismounted from his carriage

The hotel was of the
finest stile and near the portion of
the city where I wished to put up and
I felt as though luck had favoured me
in finding a good house so near the
the point where passengers for California
should embark on the twenty second

Feb 20th 1852

Charleston S. C.

I delivered my carpet sack to the host or however to the bar-keeper and involuntarily gave in his book for supper lodging breakfast and dinner on the following day, the hotel was filled with gentlemen from several of the adjoining States and from the interior of the State in which the city is situated. I learned during the hours before bed time that they were principally merchants who were then laying in goods for the coming season.

The streets were lighted so that it almost equaled that of day. I placed myself in the door of the hall for a short time surveying with my eye the lights that were placed at every corner and in every street

and watched the policemen promiscuously from one block to another with a searching eye, seeing that nothing transpired disorderly.

But I had not been in this situation a great length of time before I found it was rather an awkward position I had taken. I had observed several ladies passing during my station there.

Feb 20th 1852

Charleston S. C.

But had not once thought of their curacies and professions. I had stooped from the door down on the sidewalk that I might have a better view up the street I had scarcely put myself in ^{the} condition when one of those fair creatures that were passing came to a sudden halt I thought nothing of that but continued my observations in admiration of the fine city which was so new and superbly grand to me.

But shortly another and another of those specimens halted until some half a dozen were grouped in a few feet of where I was standing. I brought myself of the awkward position I had chosen and concluded that they were the chaps who stole Massa Onions and tipping my hat to them and retired within doors with thoughts of propriety incurring more discretion for the future.

About nine o'clock the drums fife and bugles began to play filling the listeners ears with all kind of galyans and sounds which came from all directions of the city as a signal for all business to be suspended and doors closed. We retired to bed.

Feb 21st 1852.

Charleston S.C.

On the following morning which was the 21st I made inquiry relative to the banking house where I could have my bills exchanged for gold coin, which was very necessary to have accomplished before I proceeded farther on my travels as specie was the only medium that would be recognized as money after the shores of the State.

I therefore made inquiry of my host and learned something of the place. Supposing there would be no difficulty in finding it I set forth in search. But after rambling through multiplied numbers of streets until I actually become ashamed of myself I concluded if I could be fortunate as to find the street on which any hotels were situated that I would be very apt to detect out my hotel instead of the exchange office. It was not long however before I found myself at the hotel. When I hired a buggy and set to the post office which which I had learned was in three doors of the exchange to which I wished to go I presented the bills

to the clerk he examined them and said they were all right and proceeded to counting the coin for me, he at length examined one bill and said that it called for another Bank he then gave me the coin for all but the ten dollar bill, and ^{proceeded to} making his memorandum. I then asked his attention and wished to know where the bills that I was holding in my hand called for telling him that the face of it was just the same as those he had just taken. But he began to differ with me saying it belonged to another bank up the street but as an accommodation to me he said he would give me the coin for it. He then opened his drawer and threw two two and a half pieces of coin on the counter before me and immediately turned his back and pretended to be busied about something else. Before I had touched the coin I saw their faces and again called his attention and told him that was not the money the face of the bill called for. He cast his eyes upon them and immediately saw his pretended mistake, and said he had become to be very careless and

Feb 21st 1859..

Charleston S.C.

And begged all kinds of pardons
for the mistakes as he called it

But my
notions were quite different from the
impression he wished to leave upon my
mind I meanly thought he wished
to make money enough to buy a box of
cigars or something of the kind.

After I had accom-
plished the exchange I went to the ticket
office at Mr. G. Whirsom's situated on east
Bay 110. and purchased my passage to
Shagroas which cost \$5.50 and then
returned to my hotel for dinner after
which I wrote a short letter to J. B. Bates
stating my success and that I would
ship on the following morning on the
Loahel and placed it in the letter box
on the side walk which would be
carried to the regular office by the
house boys that were continually walking
the streets for that purpose.

I then purchased a
few a pair of blanket and some other
little articles which would be very
request on the voyage which cost me
three dollars and twenty five cents.

Feb 21st 1859..

Charleston

during the evening I formed a partial
acquaintance with a young gentleman
from the state of Georgia who was bound
for the same destiny as myself I was
much pleased to find a partner and as
he was boarding at another hotel near
the one in which I chanced to call at
we concluded that both should stop dur-
ing the night at the same place.

This being the con-
clusion I paid of my bill at the one where
I had called the previous evening and accom-
panied him to the one in which he was
staying my bill at the former place
amounted to three dollars, which made
one dollar to each of us.

After we had arrived at the last hotel there
were some ten or fifteen gentlemen
came in we were not long in learning that
they too were on the same expedition
as ourselves. They hired an upper
hall for their exclusive benefit or accom-
modation they had with them several
plates and dishes and invited me
to take part with them as they were
going to have some music, and spend
the night cheerfully as it ^{was} the last night.

Feb 29, 1859.

Charleston

What we would do in the States for some length of time. I therefore accepted the invitation expecting it would be nothing more than a social party for a few hours. But before I could relax myself from the press I lie without offending them I became perfectly disgusted with the public & wished I had remained in the former hotel. But before the gray dawn of day had appeared the house was once more quiet and silent as the grave and by taking advantage of the hours I got sleep sufficient to carry me thru the following day without any great deal of drowsiness.

At an early hour in the morning of the 3^d we took break and paid the boat fifty cents per hour and then sailed forth to the wharf to board the Isabel. We were but a short time in finding the wharf where our vessel lay and after securing a berth in the stateroom I took a seat upon the hurricane deck to survey the broad expanse upon which our vessel lay and thence which the

Isabel Charleston

In a few minutes would be plunging her way over its broad and blue bosom bearing us away far away from our native soil. And while I sat in this position I could not but admire the magnificent grandeur that presented its self in every direction. In looking to the South the eye would be lost in distance with countless numbers of barks and ships with their white sails amputated to the breeze plunging thru the intermediate space whose appearance would vary in proportion to the distance they were from the eye. And others sunny white sails which had lately been washed with the heavy rains and storms would present an appearance of so many snow stacks floating upon the bosom of the blue expanse.

And when turning to the beach the eye was met with the grandeur of the city the works of man the church spires and steeple piercing the clouds of heaven and the light house which had furnished the beacon light for many weary worn navigators. It seemed as if anxious to show its grandeur

Atlantic

But I had not been any great length of time in this way before the wheels of the vessel began to move slowly through the water as if to show her steady grandeur and to summon all to come on board who intended taking passage on the occasion. In a few minutes more the bells were tolling as the last signal for passengers to secure their positions on the vessel. And when the steam was brought to act upon the machinery and the ship slowly heading to the bottom of the mighty Ocean the customs were placed on deck to ward the customhouse officers that were then leaving the harbor and so we were the steamer was ploughing through the limpid waters at the rate of fifteen miles per hour and the last lingering look from many an eye was cast at the shore where we had just left. O! what a multitude of retrospective and prospective thoughts thronged the minds so many adventurers in pursuit of California Gold. Shall all meet with success or shall only a part and of but a part on which page will my name be noted.

Atlantic,

We had not been but a short time afloat before the majority of the passengers took the sea sickness and were vomiting at a pernicious rate. It was a slight calculation to sicken the stomach of any animal to see so many vomiting at the same time. I really began to feel qualms myself to see so many sick at the same time and vomiting all around me but I thought of the phlegmized carbon which I had prepared and brought with me and by taking a draught of the same in a cup of cold water it was restored to my natural feelings without experiencing any great deal of sea sickness or whatever we may please to term it.

About four o'clock in the afternoon the steamer ran on to a sand bar which frightened some of us more or less. Though we were not lodged but a few minutes until the captain and crew effected her release and again sailing in safety over the billows that had begun to form on account of a little wind that had disturbed the equilibrium of the waters.

Atlantic

The provisions on board the vessel were not to be considered of the first quality though I presume as good as is generally taken on board Steamers but perhaps I could not relish the victuals because they were cooked with bad water and gotten up after sea fashion which I was indeedly unaccustomed to.

During the voyage to Havana Cuba there were countless numbers of salt water fish following the ship for food that was thrown over board after each meal. But it is useless for me to particularize every little incident that occurred. It may suffice to say that after embarking on the 22 we were four days sailing to Havana in Cuba.

On the evening of the twenty fifth we came in sight of Cuba and also the city of Havana which presented one of the grandest scenes yet witnessed and as we entered the harbor its grandeur increased on every side the whole front bordering on the harbor was one impregnable fort with point shot point in every

Feb 23rd 1852

Isabel

In every direction of the entrance of the harbor after the Sable had run in and cast anchor she gave a salute by firing a canon as is customary when entering a harbor or when leaving the salutation was returned by a war steamer of Spain.

The harbor was filled at that time with ships whose flags indicated that there were some from almost every civilized nation in the world. And when at a distance from them the scenery appeared as though it were one grand forest of gigantic trees placed upon the surface of that great body of water.

I had anticipated going to shore as soon as the ship was anchored but we learned that the customhouse officer would not grant us a permit to leave & our vessel until the following morning therefore we had to remain on the vessel until the next day. The evening passed off with more or less anxiety with myself for I did not take any great pleasure in laying upon the water without effecting ^{myself} Havana and completing the journey.

Feb 26th 1852.

Havana C.

On the morning of the 25th just as as the sun began to throw his golden beams upon the Splendor of the City and upon the smooth surface of the harbor caused it to serve as a grand mirror in which we could see a great portion of the City. The cannons began to fire forth these boisterous noise from the forts and Spanish war vessels that lay in a short distance from where our ship was anchored. I was almost made to believe that they were opening fire on our vessel as the fragments of the charges were falling in the water at a short distance from us. But what still confirmed me in this opinion was that the firebusting expedition in which the American people had engaged so short ^{a time} previous was already over and that they intended taking revenge for the same. But almost at the same time the cannons on our vessel was also fired off and the whole performance proved to be nothing more than a salutation of the

of the rising Sun. We remained on the Isabel until nine or ten o'clock when we began to feel the necessity of having something to eat as we had not taken anything since four on the past evening. And about the same time we saw a small sloop or vessel making its way to our ship to convey us to shore. It ran along side of us some three hundred throes their baggage into sloop myself in company. And were taken to shore where we were met by a young gentleman from the States who conducted us through the narrow streets until we reached an American hotel near the heart of the City and also conducted us over all his departments of of accommodation and to choose for our selves his rooms were doubtly well furnished but as there were so great a number of us many had to occupy the same rooms. By this time we were almost as savage as wolves for we had taken anything since the last evening and it was then time for dinner over and fatigued with our walk thro' the hot sun of that climate we threw

Feb 26th 1852. Havana Cuba

Our selves upon longes of the depart-
ment until our breakfast was over
when the whole number flocked to the
table without the least manners or
sense of decorum. The same would
have appeared to an uninterested obser-
ver. Something like a drove of stam-
ped hogs flocking to a small trough.

And it occurred to my mind at the time
that if some of the members of the
company had crassels they would
look nothing more to present them-
selves as a fine specimen of the
animal itself.

Our diet consisted
was prepared in quite a different
manner from the American custom
The cooks and waiters were principally
composed of Spanish Negroes who
followed the customs of that country
We were presented with all kinds
of meats and vegetables many of
which I knew nothing of. The greater
portion of the meat consisted of salt
water fish Shell fish Turtle &c
We took two meals during the day
which was customary in the city.

Havana Cuba

We remained in City until the
first day of March during our stay there
were many things occurred which I dare
not attempt to particularize.

But we will
notice some of the more important features
of the time. The day after we were
permitted to go to Mass, the Roman
Catholic priest died which created great
trouble with the inhabitants of the city
there could scarcely anything be heard
but the tolling of the church bell
each of which appeared to be very well
furnished with bells some of them
would measure from 4 to 7 feet in
diameter and were suspended in the
air on the most prominent parts of the
Churches and each of them would have
a man standing immediately under them
with a rope attached to the hammer or
clapper saving the same to and from
making the whole surrounding city
and country see and see the solemnity
of the occasion. The burial was
attended with something like one thousand
persons. Though I was not an eye witness
of the procession but was nearly

Havana Cuba

Informed by a member of our company
During the whole day the streets were
filled with the buggy carriages and
omnibuses which were very peculiar
in style quite different from ^{the} American
style

On the night of the following
day there was a grand ball some
of which also created a great deal
of excitement I learned that a diffi-
culty had been sprung among the elite
of the party and that there were
some stabling and shooting done but
whether the reports is true I shall
not attempt to say

The Sabbath did not appear to be observed
the stores were open peddlers in part
were continually passing through the
streets singing old *Go go no bivano*
The Army of Soldiers were mustering
beating drums & blowing pipes and
horns during the greater part of the
day And girls of bad character
were packing hand organs tambourines
and guitars from one hotel to another
making music for which they
expected each person or by themselves

Havana Cuba

To throw in a dime for the same
they were successful to a surprising extent
with the majority of the California boys
At the close of such
time the girl who played on the tambourine
would pass through the crowd that was
assembled and present the instrument
to each individual for him to throw in
his dime And I was greatly surprised
to see one Mr Jackson throw in all he
had just and all without the least
reluctance

The time passed off which we
remained in Cuba without seeing any
seeing anything of the country and but
very little of the city as we were prohib-
ited from travelling even in the street
without a passport or a Spanish pilot
although some of our company payed
a pilot or guard to conduct them to
Bishop's garden and to some other of the
most prominent scenes and features
of the City But as there were so
much cautions taken to prevent us from
traveling even with a pocket knife
about our persons I thought it more
prudent to remain at the hotel

Havana Cuba

And rectify my journal and after doing so write ~~write~~ a note to my relatives in the States. But however were permitted to take our clothing to the washroom which was situated some few blocks from the one on which our hotel was situated without having a passport or guide.

We had no bills to pay while we remained in Havana as bread was paid by the ~~the~~ home we purchased our passage. My expenses were comparatively small as I feared to eat any great deal of the fruits that were brought to the hotels each day for sale although I had a curiosity to taste of each kind that was brought in some of which were very delicious.

During the evening of the 27th we were informed that the vessel Ohio had arrived in the harbor and was anchored so that it was the vessel which we would board to St. Ignace or Aspenwall. It was desirable now to me for I disapproved very much of remaining in a place where I saw not ~~then~~

March 1st, 1852.

Ohio Cuba.

ten paces from any hotel without being looked upon with suspicious eyes or allowed even to walk through the street with a penknife.

On the 14th day of March our company was carried to the ship Ohio by a Simonsen cutter to the one that had taken us to shore on the 26th of the last month. We found our selves on deck the Ohio about eight o'clock. The day was one bustle and confusion made so by loading coal and merchandise there were thirty odd Negro men

perform the labor. The day was extremely hot and the darkies had no apparel save the parietum not as much as a shoe and their labor was continued until dark without stopping to take dinner a hunk of bread and meat in the hold was the repast the poor fellows got. While their masters or overseers were urging them on while the sweat was streaming from every pore in the hid. I blame on any enlighten mind who treats his fellow man in this manner without conscience condemns him and bid him deal gentle

March 27 1852

Ohio vessel

At length might select one our ship
Still lay in the harbor torn by swells
of the sea I made inquiry of the purser
where I might find my bunk as I
would wish to lay down he took me to
the fore part of the ship and showed
me a bunk in the extrem end stowed
away with the anchor chains and
all kind of lumber barrels and trash
I examined the place and found I
could not have the first breath of fresh
air and concluded the hericane deck
was a more preferable bet than the
one he had designated as belonging
to me Therefore I took my blanket
on top of the hericane deck where there
was no covering save that of the
Heavy heavens and made my bed
near that of a stranger whose
name was Dugress that night since
as an interdiction to our acquaintance
he was from the State of Georgia
A civil and well disposed man as
further acquaintance proved him
to be

March 30 1852

Ohio vessel

One the morning of the 2 I awakened
from a tranquil and refreshing sleep
Sleep Altho my bed had been in
the open air and covered chiefly
Oaken plank with one woollen blanket

The day labor soon
commenced and the proceeding were
near the same as on the previous day
Therefore nothing seemed worthy of a
place in our Memorandum.

Early in the morning of the third
March we discovered the Albatross
Ship Georgia from New York arriv-
ing into the harbor with some five
hundred emigrants also bound for
the land of gold. They were taken
on board of our vessel (the Ohio) which
increased the number of passengers
to some fourteen hundred nothing
it very disagreeable and unpleasant to
all by being crowded. Victuals were
on the table from one day end to
another for it was consumed
all the time in feeding so many

Near the hour of three
when the passengers had all been
transferred from the Georgia

March 8th 1852. Ohio vessel

The Ohio we set sail for Shagries or Aspenwall Bay we left the harbor when the sea was calm but the first blue wave curled its surface our voyage to Aspenwall embittered nothing for our journal excepting the death of one Lady and one gentleman the Lady's death was caused by some infirmity the gentleman by accident falling through the hulk can deck to the fireman's department a distance of forty feet he was killed almost instantaneously.

We were detained at City day by the irregularity of Steamers a larger portion of the time we were in the city & the remainder on the different vessels. And we were from the evening of the third until the evening of the eighth on the water to Aspenwall making the trip in five days during the night we remained on the ship though some before daylight left the vessel on small boats that the natives brought into

March 9 1852. Aspenwall Bay

Ship and there stopped at Shagries and on the following morning hired canoes and natives to take the up the Shagries River ~~up~~

On the morning of the 9th those who had remained on the vessel were landed on the wharf; I consumed the greater part of the day to accomplish the same I suppose I got to shore in the fore part of the afternoon and purchased a ticket on the Rail Road a distance of some fifteen miles where the road intersected with the Shagries River and as the road did not complete any further we were also compelled to hire canoes and natives to take us up the river to Gorgona a distance of sixty miles to take our bearings of the stream. For this purpose we chartered a small boat of a native capable of accommodating forty persons we paid three hundred and twenty Dollars for the boat and four natives and in a short time had our boat so full that all could not be accommodated therefore all

March 9th 1859. *Shagrie River*

What came in after the number of forty was set on shore and proceeded up the River. About six miles before we ran down the natives commenced pulling us up the stream. Our progress was very slow and we soon found that we had done wrong in hiring a large boat for the small boats that had but few persons in them were entirely passing us.

We traveled during all the following night and our staps of sleep were short and far between we provided ourselves with cheese crackers Sardines and boiled ham which served us very well for sleeping during the night and some of the passengers had also prepared themselves with brandy but I believe none of them became very drunk. We stopped once during the night at a native Hacienda or house and called for coffee it was given to us for twelve and a half cts per cup.

March 10th 1859. *Shagrie River*

And we also found some trouble in getting the natives to leave the place they wished to lay by until the following morning but our company at length succeeded in getting ^{them} to continue steaking the boat during the remainder of the night.

When morning arrived we found that half the distance to Gorgona had been accomplished & to speed our progress many of us during the day walked on the shores over a small path leading thro' a wild forest where countless numbers of wild birds were singing their own languages quite different to any I had ever heard before. Their plumage was of every color and very beautiful.

And when the path lay near the river we could see numbers of Alligators sunning themselves on the bank we shot at them with our revolvers and shot guns but none of the balls seemed to have much effect on their rough hides.

March 10th 1852. Shaguis River

As we near the shore we came to a small house built of cane and in front of the same a large piece of canvas floating in the breeze with the words American hotel in large letters. We left the boat with the intention of having one more good dinner.

We accosted a native who was standing near the door and soon knew what we wanted. He could speak some little English and told us that in a short time we should be accommodated.

Some of the boys myself in company stepped in to the house and it contained nothing like furniture excepting some four or five wood stools and a couple of cots made of raw cow hide. The floor was nothing but the natural earth and in the middle of the same stood a large wash kettle upon three stones in which an old native woman was boiling coffee for our dinner.

March 10th 1852. Shaguis River

At length the old lady had the coffee made and we were all called to dinner which was chiefly composed of coffee for drink and the sugar was all that could be had at our only discovered American hotel. Each man was furnished with a cup in hand and had the same filled as often as he chose for 12 1/2 cents each.

We arrived at Gorgona in the evening near sundown and call for supper at an American restaurant and were elegantly furnished at this place with anything we might choose for seventy five cents. After taking supper we went to the shore where our boat lay and took our baggage from the same, and as all the beds in the village were occupied we concluded to form ourselves and by joining our blankets together we could have something like a cot for each company. Our blankets were spread on the beach where we lay until two o'clock on the following morning.

Births

Genettie Jones Bruner was borned
August the 16th 1870.

Lanorah Jones was Borned
July the 16th 1874

Colbert. S. Jones Bruner was
Borned September the 14th 1876.

Corra. W. Jones Bruner was
Borned April the 23rd 1878.

William D Jones Bruner was
Borned Oct 2nd 1880,

Charles A Jones Bruner was
Borned Aug 2 1882.

Naoma Jones Bruner was
Borned April 18th 1884.

Stella M Jones Bruner was
Borned April the 5th 1887.

Eugene Cleaveland Bruner was
Borned July 23rd 1892.

Births

Archibald A Bruner
Borned Sept the 7th 1827,
Deceased July 2, 1907

Matilda Brouch Bruner
was Borned Jan 7th 1831,

Matilda Jones Bruner
was Borned March 28th 1850

Samuel Bruner Father of
A A Bruner was Borned
in year 1803 ~~1806~~

Mahala Bruner Mother of
A A Bruner Borned in the
year - - - 1809.

Thanks to my cousin for her prayer
She found in brightest visions for and
Her thoughts are pure as dew of ^{heav'n} Heaven
That fall upon the flowery lea

O! If to all such hearts were given
Our avow'd could never otherless be
But in communion with our God
W'd rais our eyes from earth to heaven

Cal 1855