

11-6-1870

Letter from Anne Whitney, 1870 November 6

Anne Whitney

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Recommended Citation

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Steamship - Sunday ^{Nov. 6th} P.M. 1870

This is the 3^d day of magnificent sea & skies - yesterday there was a good deal of rocking movement - but it did not affect me - went only was dropping - Friday & today the ship goes like a bird thro' the water with no more jar than a boat in a river - & we are all in sound condition & take our places at table like other christies. The only dif^{er} between here & there is that here it is not everything that one wants to eat. Favorable winds or the construction of the ship prevent the disagreeable effects of kitchen odors & consequently make a vast improvement in our comfort - in short except for the lack of variety it is about the same thing thus far as land-faring & we only wish you could be here to enjoy it - or to see us - & be rebound

of yr. anxiety. It is a very
good looking body of passengers
of wh. 15 I am told are astron-
omers - one who sits opposite
at table is very intelligent &
communicative. The Captain
is kindly & looks after his flock
says - if this continues - we shall
dine in Liverpool a week for
today. I have just been looking
at the chart where the line
of our voyage is marked out.
The professor has explained
the gulf stream as far as it
is explicable - Perhaps you will
be glad to know that it (the S.
stream is not the erratic cur-
rent the unscientific have
in these last years supposed.
It seems to me that scientific
men are too slow to contradict

errors that have been put into
the popular mind by idle tongues
but how else? their heads wd
indeed be too full. According
to the present form & course
of the earth the gulf stream
cannot move or act otherwise
than as it does - a warm e-
quatorial current sweeps from
east to west opposite to the
direction of the earth & coming
against the barrier of ~~mountain~~
Mexico & that region swirls
round & off in a tangent
up the coast as far as N.
Eng. goes less & then shoots
off thro' these waters spread
all round & reaching to the
British coast - now I suppose
you knew this all before - I did
but

Thursday Evng. In the Ladies
cabin on deck - Yesterday &
the night before we were on
the banks of Newfoundland
& the air was very uncomfortably
cold. To day it is mild again
& alternates becomes foggy & clear
The steward brings us our meals
here because it is more desirable
to slim appetites to eat here than
down below. I have not yet
been sick - I played Chess with
prof. Jones this AM, but he
beats me without mercy - To-
night at midnight we shall
be half way to Queenstown - the
Capt. says so if we have equal
fortune to the end You will get
the telegram from Queenstown on
Monday