Dear Mother

We arrived here yesterday afternoon after a very pleasant passage of [illegible] days (as we should count, but of 19 only according to sea time). We were becalmed off the harbour several hours yesterday morning, and were detained by the non-arrival of the steamboat till 4 o'clock. We were obliged to leave our good ship several miles from the pier, as the water tide will not permit her to be towed in till [illegible] day, but the dirty little black steamer brought us all on shore bags and baggage. On reaching the wharf we [illegible] up our passports to a gens d'armes and leaving our baggage in charge of a custom house officer, took a carriage for our hotel. In the evening I took a walk round the town the first appearance of which is certainly very singular, and then took the first comfortable sleep which I have had since I left home. I find myself very well after the voyage though I think I have lost flesh instead of gaining it as I expected. I was not very sick at anytime and after the first two days enjoyed the passage very much, though the equilibrium of my breakfast was always very unstable whenever we had a very rough day. Luckily there were but few such things we had strong northwesters during the greater part of the time. We had about 80 passengers, about half a dozen of them were ladies, with the exception of Mrs Goffsen however, I had neither occasion nor inclination to pay anything to any of them. An steward was a very obliging fellow and I never wish to sail under a better captain. My roommate was an old German who had travelled all over the world but spoke no word of English, so that I was obliged to have recourse to my memories of Sander & Ertheiler, we got along very well together. I spent the mornings at sea in reading or playing chess and the evenings at whist or chess again, but dinner was always the centre of our system and furnished abundant food for meditation as well as the digestion. The weather was extremely cold for the first fortnight and I had to sleep in woollen stockings and flannel drawers and to wear a great coat constantly. My shirts held out very well and I shall have some washed here. I got some wine on board ship for my dinner as I found that I required something of the kind, but I had my gingerbread put on the table and gave away my peppermints as I cared for neither. Upon the whole I was very agreeably disappointed in the voyage, though 3 weeks at sea is a dreadfull blank in our existence to look back upon, and I quite agree with that poet who has written that, but

Two things break the monotony