

Deer Island, Maine
Aug 16, 1880

Dear Dora, I received your kind and loving (loven) letter on the tenth instant and was very glad to hear from you that you were ^(wore) in good health as it leaves me in at present. We did not leave (leav) Port Johnson as soon as I told you but we left the next day, but did not go out. We anchored (ankered) down at Sandy Hook for two day(s). The reason we did not leave sooner was because we were afraid of (a fraid off) a storm. But Saturday (Saterday) morning (mornng) being (been) clear we left (left) and arrived (arived) at Dover on Tuesday (tuesday) and laid there (theare) three or four days). The reason I did not write to you sooner was that we did not know (no) where (whare) we were (ware) going (a goen). The captain (captian) being (been) ashore and I was waiting (water) for him to come aboard so we find out where (whare) she was going (a goen) to so I could(d) write) and tell you where to address (adress) your letter to. You were asking (asken) me in the letter about salt horse. We don't get none (nan) of that here (heare). We get corned (cornd) beef. I have no facelt (falt) to find to the grub here, only ^(only) we don't get sugar in our coffee) or tea, but that is nothing (noten). I am getting (geten) used (usted) to it now. Dear Dode (his pet name for her) you must not be discontented

for you don't know (no) how it makes (me) feel
to have you worrying (woren). So cheer up. Don't
let your courage (curge) fail for I will be
home inside of two weeks, if not before, for
the vessel is waiting (a waten) to be loaded
with cobble (cobel) stones. As soon as she is
loaded we are going (a goen) to Albany,
New York, up the Hudson (Huston) to on load
and from there (thear) to New York City. So
now as I have nothing (noten) more at
present I will draw this kind and loving (lover)
to a close hoping (hopen) that when it reaches
you it will find you in good health as it leaves
me in at present.

H North

Good by(e) Write soon

I remain (ramande) your loving
Francis J Shields
Deer Island
Maine

Don't forget (for gett) you(r) lover

Address your letter to Albany
New York

You must excuse me for not writing (written) sooner