

On Board Brig Com. Decatur
Of Bonavista, Sept^r 11 1820

Dear Mother,

We are now just running into Bonavista to see if any American vessels are there bound home, that we may send a little Oil by them. I have but little time to write at present in I expect every minute we shall lower a boat to board some vessels which we see lying at Anchor in by the Island. I wrote to Eben and Betts a short time since and put them on board a Sch. bound to Cape Cod. in them I wrote all the news, we have no more Oil than when I wrote to them, say 180 Barrels, We have a fine old man for our Capt and so far we have lived very well and I believe it is his intention that we shall through the ^{rest} of the voyage - We have not been very lucky thus far in getting Oil. and I fear we shall be obliged to go on to the coast of Brazil for right whale Oil which is so low that it is hardly worth getting. -

I write you, Mar, because I know you are always glad to hear from me, ~~not~~ because I have any thing to write that would be any wise interesting, these long voyages, where we are all the time at sea afford but few incidents worthy of remark - we have the greatest part of the time good weather ~~and~~ very hot, and nothing to do, we were the most of the summer sailing about the Western Islands

We were on shore but once - from there we went to the
Canaries. There I was gratified with a sight of the famous
Peak of Teneriffe, we were close in with it two or three days
and had a fine view of it. - The mountain rises so gradually from
the base ~~meanly~~ to the peak that they in some measure destroy
the effect which would be produced from a more perpendicularly
ascent - from this Island we went to Cape Blanco, ~~there~~ we
did not see the land till but a short distance from it - from
there to these Islands there is nothing to be seen here but
Mules, Goats, Monkeys, Portugues & Salt - There are a number of
Whalers in company with us, some more, some less, ~~more~~
than ourselves - My love to Aunt Lincoln, Ebenezer

In haste your son -

Wm. Dawes