



Independence  
Seaport Museum

*Exploring America's Maritime Heritage*

Penn's Landing at  
211 South Columbus Blvd. & Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-3199

Phone 215.925.5439  
Facsimile 215.925.6713

## **Transcript John Clegg Journal**

**Creator:** John Clegg

**Dates:** 1847, 1848

**Quantity:** 1 volume (64 pages)

**Call Phrase:** Clegg journal

**Provenance:** Donated by Karen Oswald. ISM number: 2003.42

**Summary:** Journal of John Clegg kept on a voyage from Liverpool to New York, October 23 to November 30, 1847. Clegg records his impressions of the trip, including remarks on his health and that of his fellow passengers, shipboard life, homesickness and observations of the weather. The journal ends with a copy of a letter home to Clegg's family dated Philadelphia, March 10, 1848, in which he writes about the city and opportunities for success. He also briefly mentions his job at a bandbox maker's shop in Gray's Alley (which ran east-west from Front Street to Second Street between Chestnut and Walnut Streets).

**Transcript by:** Megan Hahn Fraser. The following is a literal transcription, maintaining spelling, punctuation and grammar as written in the original.

## Notes

Taken by John Clegg during his voyage to America in October and November 1847.

Saturday Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> 1847.

We have been in Liverpool more than a week, having arrived there on the 15<sup>th</sup> Inst., and this is the day upon which we have the privilege to get our luggage, and sleep on board.

Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> We got on board with our luggage last night, and those who could, slept; but of all the nights I ever passed, the last was the most remarkable, the most ridiculous, the most disgusting, and the most uncomfortable[:] the most remarkable on account of the sights revealed, to see some 280 men women and children huddled together in the most reckless manner, not having had time to arrange, what little they had the privilege to do, all emigrating to a strange country because they could not live comfortably in thier own: ridiculous to see and hear them singing songs, telling tales: then there are some few thinking and weeping for those they have left behind, others with a great many children all crying or yelling in the most disagreeable manner: disgusting on account of the filthy smells brought in the ship by the filthy Irish, by whom at the present time, almost every vessel is crowded; and uncomfortable in the extreme on account of what I have related as well as the inconveniences of the ship. We went out of the docks this morning about 10 O'clock.

Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> On account of the wind, we were only taken out into the river yesterday morning, where we are likely to stay, untill the wind changes in our favour.

Oct 26<sup>th</sup> Last night was dreadful to all of us who had not been accostomed to a seafaring life for although we were anchored in the river so stormy was the night that the ship was driven several times round the river and in one part of the night so great was the motion of the ship that the passengers all began to feel its effects in sickness. About the midle of the night another ship that was anchored near us either dragged or sliped its anchor so that she was tossed about and struck our ship but her very little damage while she got greatly damaged herself: she gave us a heavy blow for it awakened all who were not

awake and took a part of the coping off our main deck but she completely lost her bowsprit so the next day she had to be tugged back to Liverpool to be repaired. By this time our damage being no hindrance and the wind having turned in our favour about 7 O'clock A.M. we were being tugged out at which time I wrote a letter to my parents which I sent back by the steamer. Evening. We have had a very pleasant day's sail not having yet got out of sight of land. We have had a very pleasant view of the principal sand banks light houses, +c. together with a splendid view of the welch mountains.

Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> We entered last night into the Irish sea which is a very dangerous one inasmuch as it abounds in rocks and other dangerous places. We encountered one of the heaviest gales and whirlwinds that we perhaps could have done in so dangerous a place. Every sailor was up all night the sea was rolling tremendously, boxes and barrels were breaking loose of thier ties and rolling about in the vessel children crying and scarcely one in the ship who was not sick and vomiting which created such smells as were scarcely suportable under differant circumstances and add to this the fear of being lost for the Captain himself began to have apprehensions of the sort being in such a dangerous sea. About 6 O'clock A.M. as the day was breaking our fears began to abate the sea became gradually more calm and we were pronounced out of danger.

28<sup>th</sup> Oct. To day has been remarkably calm and pleasant something of which we greatly stood in need after the sickness of the last night. I myself was very sick indeed but by the help and blessing of God I may after this perhaps escape with little diziness only.

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> We have still a continuation of fine weather but the breze improves as well as being more favourable. We have now been out of Liverpool 3 days and have only got about 160 miles off scarcely a good day's sail but if the breeze continues as it now is we shall before night see the extremity of the Irish coast. Evening. The breeze continues and we are sailing rapidly. The whole of the passengers seem to be getting the better of thier sickness and now begin to enjoy themselves. I myself have been delightfully pleased the whole of the day. In the former part of the day I learned from one of the passengers with whom I happened to fall in conversation that the cabin boy was the son of a primitive Methodist preacher who had been stationed and much respected in Oldham. I went to see

who it could be and found it to be Wm. Henry Toulter the eldest son of the late Mr. Toulter who so lately died in America. From the conversation which I had with him I found that he had come over to England to a friend of his father's who resided at Burnly in Lancashire for the benefit of his health and was now working his passage back again to his mother and the rest of the family who are residing in New York. He knew me very well as soon as I introduced myself and was very glad to find that there was one on board who knew him and took an interest in his welfare. We became very intimate and he wished me to call and see his mother whom he assured me would receive me well. I promised him that I would do as he desired me.

Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> The breeze is still favourable but very strong and with it the motion of the vessel becomes more general and irregular. At times the motion of the ship is so great that here [i.e. her] stern is at least 40 ft higher than her bowsprit in a moment after the reverse in fact at one moment we seem to be in a deep valley surrounded by huge moving mountains at the next on the top of the same. I myself feel highly pleased to view the wonders of the watery deep and could as regards myself be very comfortable were it not for the sickness of those around me and the bad smells that prevail. This being Saturday night I cannot but think of those whom I have left behind knowing they are thinking of me, but if I was to insert all my thoughts upon that subject I should swell my journal too large.

Oct 31<sup>st</sup> This is the last of the month and the sabbath. Many are the thoughts that every sabbath brings to my mind about home and all that is endearing but I must again desist for want of room. The breeze about the same as yesterday accompanied with a great deal of sickness.

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> The breeze still continues as strong as ever and we seem to [be] dashing onward at a furious rate riding over mountain and dale. The last 3 days the wind has been very favourable indeed and we have made a great progress in our voyage. I hope it may continue for I long to see the land of America and know the result of my undertaking.

Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> Last night contrary to all appearance the wind changed and there came a very strong gale against us which arose about 10 O'clock and continued until this morning. In

the gale we were drifted back about 60 miles and lost our top fore sail yard and all. This occurred in the night so I heard nothing of it until this morning so soundly did I sleep amidst the roaring of the sea the pitching of the vessel the rattling of boxes barrels and tins and the howling and screaming of passengers which frequently occur in the night if the sea be a little rough, although there is no danger. Evening. The day has in some measure been calm though the moving of the waters has been great but as the day is drawing to a close the breeze begins to improve again and turn a little more in our favour.

Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> We have a good aft wind this morning and we are sailing very comfortably though not so quickly as we should have done with the same strength of a side wind for in a side wind we can fill our sails and in an aft wind we cannot. Evening. The wind continues the same and we have had the pleasure of watching the fishes and other inhabitants of the sea play about the ship.

Nov 4<sup>th</sup> The wind continues about the same but the morning is very wet so that we have no pleasure on decks. Noon. The day has now become very fine the breeze continues and the sea is very calm, so that we have now a very fine opportunity of viewing the watery world. We have seen some very large fishes some as large and formed like hogs and in the distance we have seen some whales. We have hitherto had very good sail for although we have only been out of Liverpool 10 days we are 1000 miles beyond Cape Clear or nearly one half of the whole voyage. Evening. The breeze is still favourable though with less vigour.

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> The wind is against us and the day seems to be very unfavourable both wet and cold besides the moving of the vessel which creates so much sickness, There are some passengers who have been sick and confined to their berths ever since we came on board and we begin to fear that fever will be amongst us. Noon. The day improves none so that we are very uncomfortable in having to be confined below. Evening. To night about 5 O'clock one of the passengers died an occurrence that shocked me very much. He was an Irish man and had a wife and one child with him to see him plunged into a watery grave. I have thought a very great deal about the notoriety of this day in England and what I have seen since I embarked so I took my pen and wrote the following.

The fifth of November of this very year  
I shall remember while reason doth reign  
For then was the time as from this will appear  
That England I'd left and was ploughing the main  
Bound to a country where freedom abounds  
Where industry meets its reward  
Where labour is wealth and justice resounds  
That wisdom doth meet with regard  
That Country's America, peopled by men  
The sons of a true british race  
Who left thier own soil mountain or glen  
Because poverty there was disgrace.  
Oh! England how fallen thou art.  
Where's freedom that sons such as thine  
The famed sons of science and art  
Should be left through injustice to pine.

Nov 6<sup>th</sup> The wind is still unfavourable and the morning not very promising. The man that died last night has been consigned to his watery grave this morning after the usual formalities being repeated by two of his countrymen. Noon. The wind is still against us and we are sailing little and that not in the right dirrection. The day is more calm and pleasant so that we can again enjoy ourselves on deck. I had almost forgot one circumstance viz. that one of the sailors with an harpoon caught a large porpoise either last night or early this morning weighing about 150 lbs. I got about 4 lbs of it and we had some cooked for dinner which we all relished very well. We cut it in stakes and fried it along with some bacon and I must say that it resembled beef in taste the most of anything that ever I tasted except beef itself. Evening. This being saturday fresh thoughts of home and those so dear to me rush to my mind not knowing how in the present time of distress they are faring and knowing thier thoughts for me but by the mercy of God I am still preserved in health and strength not suffering more than others in simular positions but they I know not how they are but I hope that the God who has so kindly preserved me still in mercy continues to preserve and comfort them.

Sunday Nov 7<sup>th</sup> To day is very cold indeed colder than any we have before had the wind also is very strong against us and at times the waves roll over the decks and the water comes down into our berths but thank God ours is so situated that we are comparitively happy being as well placed as any in the vessel except the first cabin passengers. I have

therefore read the prayers psalms and lessons of the day and I think them very instructing and remarkable.

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Last night was very stormy indeed for I do not recollect that ever I passed a more uncomfortable one in my life never sleeping from beginning to end. The whole of the day was rough but in the night it was doubly so. Such screams and noises I scarcely ever heard for a whole night together but suffice it to say that morning came and never was a morning more desired or better wellcomed by me. As the day appeared the wind became less turbulent but the sea rolled about fearfully night again came before we wanted it but with it almost a calm. I was glad indeed that it was so for I stood greatly in need of rest. I retired to rest about 6 O'clock but as is usual on a fine evening there were such noises with the passengers talking singing shouting +c, that one could scarcely have slept under differant circumstances but however I got to sleep and it was well I did for I was told the next morning that the storm set in again as strong as ever about 10 O'clock and continued the whole of the night and to day. I was awakened about 5 O'clock this morning Nov 9<sup>th</sup> amidst dismal noises indeed: barrels rolling about the place thundering against the berths we ourselves scarcely being able to keep in. Evening. The sea is still very rough and we are not likly to have a pleasant night. I forgot to mention that in the storm on the night of the 8<sup>th</sup> we got two of our largest sails shattered to pieces by the wind viz. the fore sail and the main top sail.

Nov 10<sup>th</sup> The storm continued the whole of last night with unabated vigour and is likely to do so to day. I hope by the help and blessing of God that we shall arrive safe. Evening. We have little alteration for the better but perhaps before morning we shall have.

Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Last night was rather better but the sea is still very heavy and the wind against us. Noon. The sea is almost as rough as ever. To look upon the sea in a storm is the most beautiful sight I ever saw but to reflect upon its consequences is equally awfull. I have read many discriptions of storms but none equal to the reality. To hear the winds roar as though they would tear the very waters asunder and the waves like so many mountains tipped with snow so white is the whole ocean with foam dashing against the ship like thunder. How dismal are the sounds and sights? And then how awful to contemplate the

idea of going down under such circumstances which all must do either less or more at such times. I myself thought that I would rather be at home by a comfortable fire side but then if we must cross the ocean we must run the risk and what is the use of giving way to such ideas: it is no use meeting sorrow half way: We must prepare for the worst and hope for the best and no doubt that Kinnd Being who has hitherto kindly and safely led us on will not desert us in the time of need.

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> The storm abated last night but the sea continues very troubled. The wind is still against us and we have been more than a week and made little or no progress in our voyage.

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday is again arrived and there seems a little hope for us for the sea is now more calm the wind a little more in our favour, and the day more pleasant so we are making a little progress in our voyage which at the present time is a great consolation to all. Evening. The breeze improves and turns more in our favour for which I feel very thankful for I am very much tired of the company and mode of life on board.

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> The morning of this sabbath is a very pleasant one and welcome indeed. The morning is so fine and the wind so favourable that we are rendered comparatively happy with our prospects for getting a thousand things with which we might find fault under differant and more favourable circumstances. Evening. The wind continues favourable and I have spent one of the happiest days to day that I have spent on board the vessel. I have found great pleasure indeed in reading my bible and prayers together with Mr. Wesley's hymns and I can truly say that the pleasures of religion are justly described by him when he says

“To purest joys she all invites  
Chaste holy spiritual delights  
Her ways are ways of pleasantness  
And all her flowery paths are peace.”

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> The breeze still continues favourable and the day itself is one of the finest we have had. We are sailing quietly indeed and the sea is quite smooth. We are all in

excellent spirits and begin to think and talk about landing in seven or eight days but I have hopes that we shall land sooner may God grant that those hopes may be realized.

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> I retired to rest very early last night and slept very well but I was told this morning that we arrived on the banks of Newfoundland about 11 O'clock last night a point that is called about 1100 miles from New-York. It is very strange that when we enter the banks the atmosphere and all seems to change. I believe it to be many degrees colder although the breeze smells sweeter. Parties going to America with weak constitutions or any kind of ailments upon them experience severe trials on crossing the banks. A poor Irish woman that has been sick the most of the voyage died last night about the time we entered the banks and I expect that she will be thrown overboard to day. I rose early this morning and went upon deck and the sight that I saw was the most beautiful I ever beheld. It was the dawn of day but such a one as I never before witnessed - for beauty the whole heavens seemed bespangled with gold in the most beautiful manner imaginable. I fell in conversation with the first mate who is a very familiar man and he told me that such an appearance of the sky was often seen on the coast of America. Evening. The day is very calm indeed but as is usual on the banks it is remarkably misty. One thing that I have noticed is very remarkable viz. that hitherto during the whole of the voyage we have caught no fish only when we have had someone dead on board. The first fish we caught was on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>br</sup> when the man was dead and to day with the woman dead above mentioned we have caught 13 of the finest cod fish that I ever saw.

Nov 17<sup>th</sup> The morning is very fine indeed but very cold the breeze is a gentle one so that we are not sailing quickly. Evening. The breeze has again grown stronger but nearly ahead of us but the ship is very steady and the prospects of our voyage being nearly at an end makes all seem more pleasant and happy.

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> Nothing remarkable has hitherto occurred the wind and sailing about the same as yesterday. Evening. We have now a complete calm so that we are sailing little.

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> I cannot but think of the care of an over ruling providence in our preservation. We have many times been on the borders of destruction but never in a more alarming position than last evening though not fully aware of it at the time. We were awakened about 12 O'clock by a cry that the vessel was on fire. We were not much alarmed at the time but I found this morning when I came to examine the place and talk with the seamen about that the danger was great and had we had a strong breeze instead of a calm that still continues the vessel would have been soon enveloped in flames but thank God that such was not the case. The fire originated in the cooking place and had been burning at least 3 hours before it was discovered. Evening. We were becalmed until about 12 O'clock at noon when a strong head gale sprung up and still continues.

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> It seems that the gale was soon over for we found ourselves this morning again becalmed and was told that we had been so since 12 O'clock last night. Our provisions are nearly all getting exhausted and our inconveniences every day becoming greater so that a continuation of unfavourable weather brings every day a greater degree of dispendency but I hope and trust that our strength will be sufficient to our day. Evening. The calm still continues but we must hope for the best.

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> Though we retired last night to rest in a calm we were awakened again about 11 O'clock being in a heavy storm. The storm continued the whole of the night but the wind was favourable for us so we did not feel so much of it as we should have done though we had another sail carried away and the waves rolled over the decks at times like a river. We were kept awake the most of the night after the storm had commenced by the incessant rolling and pitching of the vessel for all that when morning came though we often got properly wet with the spray coming over the vessel like a cloud and the atmosphere so cold that we could scarcely bear it every face seemed to beam with joy with the prospects of a speedy termination of our voyage. Evening. We have had a very good day's sail the breeze still continuing favourable but the day has not been spent as a sabbath ought to have been a great many of the passengers seeming to think little about that Being who has so kindly preserved them in dangers seen and unseen for if the poet could with propriety say upon land surely we can more so upon sea say that

“Dangers stand thick on every side  
To push us to the tomb”

Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> We have sailed very little during the night being almost in a calm which continues this morning. Noon. The calm still continues and I must say although the weather is remarkably fine that all the passengers seem gloomy. Evening. The prospects are no better the breeze being very light and that ahead of us. It is very evident that we are not very far from land for the sailors are every day engaged in tarring afresh the ropes and washing the out side of the vessel which are always signs of being near land besides we are every day seeing other vessels, which untill lately has been very rare having been during the voyage about 3 weeks and nothing in the shape of one. There is one vessel that has been in our sight the whole of the day. She has often been viewed by the telescope and she seems to have encountered a very heavy storm for she had lost her main top mast. Some seem to think she is the Columbia but wether she is or not we cannot tell but if she is the Columbia we have been very fortunate indeed to have escaped going upon her.

Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> Our hopes are no more cheering this morning than yesterday the calm still continuing. The weather is very fine and warm but I cannot enjoy it for I feel so very ill tired of the life we have to lead having little of which to make a comfortable meal and every day becoming more filthy not having the convenience of cleaning as we ought to have. The calm still continues and as regards the weather I never wittnessed a finer and more comfortable day in spring that the one that is passed the sea itself appearing as smooth as ever I saw a small pond.

Nov 24<sup>th</sup> A favourable breeze sprung up last night and still continues so that our hopes are in some measure revived reports being circulated that 2 days more will take us into New-York. Evening. The breeze still continues favourable but our prospects are again less clear for there is every appearance of a stormy night.

Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Last night was very stormy but we continued sailing the whole of the night and this morning about 9 O'clock we found ourselves in very shallow water being only 38 yds deep. The water began to look very muddy which convinced us that we were very near some sort of land but we had not long to conjecture before we were enveloped in a

dense fog and as suddenly overtaken by a very heavy rain squal. The winds howled fearfully the rain fell in torrents and out sails were all spread. This was a time for seamanship. Every sailor at the time was below decks and a part of them asleep but the Mate whose sonorous voice and reiterated commands rung through the whole vessel like thunder brought every sailor instantly on duty. No time was now to be lost for we were in the midst of danger. Every sail was ordered to be reefed and the vessel reversed for we afterwards found that if we had continued our course a few moments more might have seen us a wreck. The whole of the above was the work of a very short time but the sea continued troubled the whole of the day and the rain and mist accompanied it.

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Last night we had very heavy flashes of lightening and distant sounds of thunder and a continuation of both the fog and rain together with the troubled state of the sea which remains. It is remarkably strange that the Captain of this vessel should have gained the good name that he has the pleasure to enjoy as a sea Captain for if ever a man was in want of the knowledge requisite for his place surely Captain Deland is one for he no more knew where we were yesterday morning than any common sailor on board the vessel. The fact of the case is that the fame which the Captain enjoys clearly belongs to the first Mate who has repeatedly proved himself to be a better man than the Captain but unfortunately for us they are at variance with each other the Mate being about to leave this vessel on account of some differance when we arrive in New-York. It is the settled oppinion of the passengers that if the Captain and the first Mate had been intimate as they ought to have been we should have been in New-York at the present but as it is the Mate has confined himself as narrowly as possible to his own position and has had the pleasure of laughing at the Captain's ignorance or at least embarassment. Noon. We are still sailing with the vessel reversed and the Captain is anxiously looking out to see the visage of the sun so that he can find our position and the course we have to steer. Evening. We have now got in deeper water and our vessel again put upon her course but we are almost in a calm so that our spirits are still dropping for want of better prospects.

Nov 27 Last night after we retired to rest a favourable breeze again sprung up which still continues. We are again full of hope and I must say were it not for that very necessary

Organ of the mind We should all many times have been completely miserable for it is now our full employment after eating one meal how or upon what we must make the next so few and small are our stores are becoming. Evening. The night of this day I cannot forget for it always brings thoughts of home and those so dear to me but I cannot insert them for want of room. I feel happy indeed that our prospects of landing are not less clear than they were this morning for the wind continues favourable.

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> This is the 6<sup>th</sup> Sabbath that we have been on board. It is a long time indeed not to see land upon which to be able to set a foot when I have until now been accustomed to spend the whole of my time upon it: then there is the anxiety which seems to double the length of both night and day. Oh! That God may grant us a favourable breeze that we may get into port for the filth by which we are surrounded and the disappointed expectations we have had begin to make us completely miserable. Evening. The breeze seems a little more favourable but the day having been so very cold we have had no pleasure either above or below decks and we have heard so much about landing that we receive little consolation from anything else that may be said.

Nov 29<sup>th</sup> The morning is very cold indeed as cold as ever I felt it in the most severe winter. We have both snow and hail and one of the most piercing winds I ever felt but for all that every face again seems to beam with joy for we are another time reassured that our landing time is very near which seems very evident for the sailors are now preparing the anchors for landing by hauling up the chains. Evening. About ½ past 3 O'clock this afternoon we got a Pilot on board. If those who had never been a sea voyage for such can scarcely conceive, had seen the joy which every passenger could scarcely help but express each in his own way they would indeed have been surprised. But who can wonder at our joy for I must confess that I welcomely felt it and joy it was when they consider our long absence from land our privations and inconveniences and our brilliant and I may say happy prospects of a speedy and safe landing. None can tell in fact it is impossible to describe the pleasure that is felt both by seamen and passengers when land is proclaimed.

Nov 30<sup>th</sup> It seems that the Pilot thought it most safe to hold to last night instead of sailing. Holding to as the seamen term it is setting the sails in such a manner that the ship cannot move evenly in the best of Winds. About daylight this morning our sails were again set for sailing and as the day advanced we became more and more in sight of land. To describe the feelings of all on board at the present would be more than I could accomplish. Oh! What a change there seemed to be in every face at one moment all ecstasy with the thoughts of once more enjoying land having been safely brought through so many dangers and the next gloomy as possible with the thoughts of being cast upon a strange land destitute of friends and relations wondering how or by what means they must gain subsistence. As regards the weather I must say that the morning is very cold indeed. The decks are covered with snow and hail and every block and rope is covered with ice an half of an inch in thickness. We have often been told of the beauty of the scene which the harbour of New-York presented to the eye and to witness it notwithstanding the severity of the weather all the passengers are upon decks and for my part I must say that it is the most beautiful sight I ever beheld. To see the land on each side for miles in length towering its head studded with beautiful trees and lovely palaces for lovely the[y] do indeed seem all built of wood in a very stately form painted white each surrounded by a beautifully green plot of land. Then there are the small fishing boats pilot boats steam tuggs +c all floating pleasantly along. The next that takes our attention are the fortifications of the City the Hospital and right before us a full view of the Harbour itself studded with vessels from almost every Country waving thier bright Flags as much as to say we are again safe we have again conquered. Beyond the Bay we have then a splendid view of the City and O the thoughts that that view brings to the mind of the thoughtful imigrant. What says he? Is this the fair land of America? Yes the satisfaction that the sight gives responds yes and so it is my eyes behold it. Only look at the enterprise of the people who could have raised such a City and commanded such attention in so short a time a City whose splendid buildings well formed streets and lofty towered Churches would do honour to Britain herself. To Britain did I say! But I fear I shall very soon have to reverse the saying and say through Britains aristocratic rulers that her grandure would do honour to the Free and Enlightened Country of America!!!

Written by John Clegg on his Voyage to America in November and October 1847.

J Clegg Junior

Turn Over

Philadelphia  
March 10th ||48

Dear Parents Brothers + Sisters,

I cannot let this opportunity slip without saying a word or two. You will doubtless think it strange that I should again write before I have received answers to those which I sent on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February but if you do I must beg to be excused as I could not do less under the present circumstances. I have seen the state of England as brought by the several mails and I have also seen John Crompton's letter from Schofield and Jackson in which is it stated that the various mills in Oldham have submitted to a general abatement of from 10.15 to 20 per cent also that Rowlands has been stoped several weeks and were then only working 3 days per week. I know that the above must have affected you very much and I cannot do less than let you know that I sympathize with you. I hope though you are thus depressed in circumstances you are blessed with the best of health and cheerful minds looking forward to better days. You must not let your spirits drop for want of hope for you know when the spirits are down all are down. Fret not for me for I am really in the land of plenty. I am fully recovered from my sickness and thank God I am now in the very best of health. My situation as a sailman suits me very well and had it not been for my sickness which left me in debt about 35 dol. I should soon have had plenty of money but as it is I must wait a little but it seems to be designed by an Alwise Providence for the best for had I not been sick I might not have had my present situation but setting aside all conjectures I feel a stimulus which with the exception of when I am thinking of those so dear to me in England makes me feel completely happy. I feel that this is really a thriving Country and a Country in which God being my helper I shall thrive and at some future day praise God that I embarked for it. When I was in England I do not remember that I ever wasted either time or money that should have been differently employed upon a visit to any place in my life and the consequence was I never either saw or enjoyed much. Here I neither waste time nor money yet in my present situation I can both see and enjoy.

I am here located in the midst of one of the finest Cities of America not 5 minutes walk from the side of the beautiful river Delaware by the side of which I can walk at pleasure and catch its health blowing breeze. On the other side of the City we have the river Skulkyl and within the City promonades squares and parks without number. I can go down to the Wharfs and see the pleasuring steam boats and vessels sailing to all the various ports of America some to Liverpool and other parts of Europe and occasionally take a trip myself When business requires. On the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst. I took the railway to Wilmington and returned along the Delaware by the steamer a distance of 38 miles and in the course of a day or two I shall have to go to Trenton and Princeton places about 50 miles off. You will say with all these new scenes and pleasure of traveling at somebody's else expence he will soon forget us all or he will get a taste for traveling and then perhaps turn to a spendthrift but I tell you know I have taken the Bible for my rule and God for my guide I am spending nothing myself not evenly wasting time that I have at my own disposal. I am making all my privilages subservient to a better end. I am preparing myself by information for going in trade of my own account when Heaven shall have favoured me with a privilage. I am every day gaining the confidence of my employer and he had evenly gone so far as to hint about taking me into partnership at some furture day. One thing for which I love this Country is the go ahead principle of its natives. All seem to be engaged striving one against another. You will see them dash along the streets almost at railway speed scarcely having time to observe anything so bent do they seem of gaining thier object. They are the same in all they do so that if you are not very quick you will be left behind. O! What a Country for an aspiring youth he cannot do less than feel stimulated by thier example then he has the encouragement to know that all are considered equal in the point of law and if he has merit, he knows he will reap the reward of them. If you have received the other letters you will know how the Country is in respect both to the necessaries and superfluties of life. We have every thing in abundance which man could desire. I must now say a word to the family for I see you are all listening till your very ears tingle, evenly Richard stands close to Edward's side devouring every word as he delivers them for I presume that Edward is the reader. Ann I fancy if it be evening has her needle in her hand but stoped also hearing as attentively as possible. Mother also is on the other side of the table perhaps with a stocking upon her

hand about to darn it but she is also stoped so interesting does the letter feel that her very heart is actually leaping for joy to hear that all is so well then there is father sitting by the fire side and who can tell the joy that he feels he sits unobserved by his mind is pleasantly at work. I know you have every one been laughing while this has been read but now Edward Richard + Ann listen. I want you all to be very good children. Waste none of your time or money in extravagance. Obey your parents and look to thier welfare. Do well for them and you will do well for yourselves. Let no opportunity slip of improving your minds. Persevere and be dilligent in all you do and show to all around that you are really good children and I have no doubt but you will be blessed with prosperity. I must now say a word to brother James for he must also read this. Think of me and do not be discouraged either by hard times or anything else. Be determined to rise. Work for it and I know you will. I wish you all to think of me with a pleasant mind and let not the thoughts of my being away trouble you for I shall not forget any of you. For my sake cultivate a close friendship with all whom you know I love especially Wm Davies + Family. Look upon Elizabeth as daughter and a sister and let them read both the voyage and letter for they are each equally applicable to thier interest and circumstances. I shall now conclude hoping that Bro<sup>rs</sup> James Edward + Richard Sister Ann Elizabeth Davies her father + mother and the rest of the family also Mr. & Mrs. Dixon J. Travis J. Humpreys J Henthorn James Schofield + Family and all enquiring friends and relations will accept my best love and do the same yourselves. Tell J. Schofield also to give my love to the various members of No. 121 lodge of M Druids and still belive me to be

your  
affectionate  
Son  
John Clegg

P.S. Give my respects to the neighbours + if you think proper Edward may read both the voyage and the letter for them also give my love to my Old employers and give me every particulars in your letters of all that will interest me.

J. C.  
Address  
Mr. John Clegg  
Mr. John Crompton's  
Band Box Maker

No. 11 Gray's Alley  
Between front + 2<sup>nd</sup> Str.  
Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania  
America