

devoid of any change, or excitement whatever, that I fear I will be able to write little that will interest you. Now on a Cruise similar to those I have made before (in Europe), there was always something new and, to me, interesting to write about; but I suppose this vessel will finish out her Commission in Key West, the port to which we are bound.

The Dictator is, as you may know, a Monitor; and such vessels do not do much cruising. She is a very fine vessel, indeed for her class; possessing many qualities that are not held by monitors as a general rule. Chief among which, is she being a Seaworthy vessel; she has been to Sea several times, and encountered very hard