

My Dear & affectionate Wife
Although great distance
separates us still I cling to the fond remembrance
of you and our son you may say why don't he
come home if he thinks so much of home because
I have left one ship and I will not leave another
we are now 9 days out of Callao and have got nothing
but 14 blackfish, I often think what a thing it would
be to you if I should never get home but good
only know whether it not be the best thing
for you I know that I have been wild and unsteady
and that I have not done as I ought to have done
by you but for every hour of uneasiness I have
been to you it has cost me months I write this to
let you know my feelings there is one thing
that has cost me many unhappy days that
~~it is that I am in hope that~~
~~you will forget that if ever I get there~~
perhaps some thing may occur to me that may
extinguish the lamp of my life before I get
home if it does then the all seeing and all
hearing God will watch over and protect
you as he has done heretofore for God is a
merciful God if death comes and cuts off the
thread of my existence then you can marry
again and perhaps take more comfort
then you did with me but if God should
spare my life I will make some amends
for the past when in Nahoe I had a chance
to go to California in Callao the same in
Callao I was offered 2 dollars per day for 1 year
but all that inducement could not make
me leave my ship

for I had rather come home with nothing than leave
another ship if fate wills it so then let it be
so just it is a better thing for me to come home
with nothing and that to a wife & child
to than the poverty of my life but God
will be done now and for ever more
Still I love you with a love that can never
fade and with fond remembrance I cling to
your last fond look of love I ever see you
give me we are now 27 days out of Callao with
20 lb black fish in 4 or 50 days more I shall be in
Talchano and then in 4 or 6 months I shall be at
home