

My dear wife. Vera-Cruz Feb 17th 1846
We arrived here on Sunday the 8th of this month, in just forty-two
days from the time of our leaving Boston, in quite a crippled condition
Besides having as bad a vessel as could be constructed for Sea going,
we had in a cargo consisting principally of iron, and with few
exceptions was all under deck - very deeply loaded too; which made
our poor Schooner labour most fearfully. We had four gaffs broken
and our sails much damaged. We took our fore boom for a main
gaff. We had some severe weather but our disaster arose more
from the condition of the vessel than from any other cause
The people here were quite surprised they never before saw
a vessel so deeply loaded. On Friday the 30th of Jan^y
at 4 o'clock P.M. we arrived in sight of the light house
at Vera Cruz, at 7 o'clock in the evening we were
within about 3 miles of it, but had no pilot on board,
yet we supposed that we should soon be at anchor
as we had a fine fair breeze and the harbour
so near us. When we took a severe gale from the North
we were driven to sea again, and arrived in nine days after it
It is healthy here, the climate is delightful; the season
is far advanced, all is green and growing. All the productions
of nature here are on a grand scale - Such mountains
I never saw before - the Perote and the Arazatio -
with their snow capped summits looking far above
the clouds appear like watch towers upon the heavens
I said that the productions of nature here are on a grand scale, and so
they are unless man comes under that head; if man is considered as

My Dear wife,

Vera-Cruz Feb 17th 1846

We arrived here on Sunday the 8th of this month, in just forty-two
p
days from the time of our leaving Boston, in quite a crip^led condition
Besides having as bad a vessel as could be constructed for Sea going;
we had in a cargo consisting principally of iron, and with few
exceptions was all under deck - very deeply loaded too; which made
our poor schooner labour most fearfully. We had four gaffs broken
and our sails much damaged. We took our fore boom for a main
gaff. We had some severe weather but our disaster arose more
from the condition of the vessel than from any of other cause
The people here were quit surprised they never before saw
a vessel so deeply loaded. On Friday the 30th of Jan^y
at 4 o'clock P.M. we arrived in sight of the light house
at Vera Cruz, at 7 o'clock in the evening we were
within about 3 miles of it, but we had no pilot on board,
yet we supposed that we should soon be at anchor
as we had a fine fair breeze and the harbour
so near us -- When we took a severe gale from the North --
we were driven to sea again, and arrived in nine days after it
It is healthy here, the climate is delightful; the season
is far advanced, all is green and growing. All the production
of nature here are on a grand scale - Such mountains
I never saw before - the Perote and the Arazatio -
with their snow capped sumets looking far above
the clouds appear like watch towers upon the heavens
I said that the productions of nature here are on a grand scale; and so
they are unless man comes under that head; if man is considered as

(Coll. 88, Box 1/1)

Date: Feb. 17, 1846

Description: Letter from John Davison to Eliza Ann Davison, his wife, written
in Veracruz, Mexico.

A production of nature, then nature in Mexico is a capricious thing. In the people I am disappointed very much; they are with the few exceptions of the Indian cast, full as dark if not darker than our Indians, are short, chubbier and hardy, can live on a plantain a day are ignorant, without pride, ambition, or energy; I never saw such blank stupid countenances

I have been on shore but once, and that only long enough to look around the city -- Vessels here cannot approach much within half a mile of the shore but lay at an anchor off in the harbor. The city is built on a low sand plain, it covers perhaps as much ground as Augusta, but has no resemblance of any of our towns or cities -- It is enclosed by a wall twelve feet high with five gates, its streets are rather narrow, run at right angles, and are handsome enough -- It is compactly built, the buildings of brick or stone, from two to four stories high, flat on the top and covered on the outside with a whitish cement, has a very handsome market place and is very well supplied with poultry, fish, vegetables, and fruits of a most excellent quality, but every thing at an exorbitant price. We are now unloaded and shall leave for Tabasco on Thursday, shall probably leave Tabasco for New-York about the middle of March and arrive at New-York about the last of April. Time begins to hang heavy upon me, it seems a long time since I left home. You know not how much I want to see you. I desire most ardently to be voyaging homeward again -- My thoughts of home seem long and lonely -- My hope -- My desire is that we may all be permitted to meet again before many months. But my Dear

a production of nature, then nature in Mexico is a capricious thing. In the people I am disappointed very much; they are with the few exceptions of the Indian cast, full as dark if not darker than our Indians, are short, chubbier and hardy, can live on a plantain a day are ignorant, without pride, ambition, or energy -- I never saw such blank stupid countenances

I have been on shore but once, and that only long enough to look around the city -- Vessels here cannot approach much within half a mile of the shore but lay at an anchor off in the harbour. The city is built on a low Sand plain, it covers perhaps as much ground as Augusta, but has no resemblance of any of our towns or cities. It is enclosed by a wall twelve feet high with five gates, its streets are rather narrow, run at right angles, and are handsome enough. It is compactly built, the buildings of brick or stone, from two to four stories high, flat on the top and covered on the outside with a whitish cement, has a very handsome market place and is very well supplied with

^ poultry, fish, vegetables, and fruits of a most excellent quality, but every thing at an exorbitant price. We are now unloaded and shall leave for Tabasco on Thursday, shall probably leave Tabasco for New-York about the middle of March and arrive at New-York about the last of April. Time begins to hang heavy upon me, it seems a long time since I left home. You know not how much I want to see you. I desire most ardently to be voyaging homeward again -- My thoughts of home seem long and lonely. My hope -- My desire is that we may all be permitted to meet again before many months. But my Dear

Dear Son, I have not forgotten you my child - my hope -
my pride! What shall I say to my noble boy? What can I say?
to say I love you, and want to see you, is too cold, too formal,
it would not express the first glimmerings of your fathers love and
care for you ^{my} darling boy. I cannot tell you how much I love you
nor will I attempt it, for it seems like violating sacred things
Be a good boy for your father is always sorry when you
are not good, when father comes home he will bring
you some oranges and a little drum - Love Mother
and be good to her, and help her all you can.
I will write to you when we arrive at New - York
you need not write until you hear from me again

My best respects to Father Mother and Olive
To Capt Springer and family
I have written this some what hastily to be
forwarded by the American Consul
I have taken up but 13 1/2 dollars of my wages
and have sold enough of my clothes here
to come to five dollars so that I have
five dollars in cash on hand
Adieu Dear wife for the present

Affectionately your husband

John Davison

Dear son, I have not forgotten you my child - my hope -
my pride! What shall I say to my noble boy? What can I say?
to say I love you, and want to see you, is it cold, to formal,
it would not express the first glimmerings of your fathers love and

my
care for you ^ darling boy. I cannot tell you how much I love you
nor will I attempt it, for it seems like violating sacred things
Be a good boy, for your father is always sorry when you
are not good, when father comes home he will bring
you some oranges and a little drum -- Love Mother
and be good to her, and help her all you can.
I will write to you when we arrive in New - York
You need not write until you hear from me again

My best respects the Father Mother and Olive
To Capt Springer and family
I have written this some what hastily to be
forwarded by the American consul
I have taken up but 13 1/2 dollars of my wages
and have sold enough of my clothes here
to come to five dollars so that I have
five dollars in cash on hand

Adieu Dear wife for the present

Affectionately you husband

John Davison



[postmark] New Orleans La.
MAR
7

[sidesways on left side]
Vera-Cruz
Feb. 17 1846

Mrs Eliza Ann Davison
Augusta
State of Maine