

Letter to Anna Delaunay

1849 CHILE

Letter to Anna May 19, 1849

Mother does not know
about their corresponding
+ Thos warns Anna to be
careful not to let anyone
know.

Valparaiso, Chile,

May 19, 1849.

Dearest Anna,

Another favourable opportunity offers to communicate with dear friends at home, and I avail myself of it with no small degree of pleasure, particularly, as we have not had the good fortune of falling in with any homeward bound vessel since last putting to sea. I have been at this port since the 14th amusing myself as I best can. Tomorrow morning we expect to weigh anchor and be once more upon the briny deep. Our voyage has indeed been a long and unpleasant one as regards the weather &c, but I do not know we have any reason to complain. Old Cape Horn is a terrible monster as all find him who attempt to cross his path. There are many vessels here at the present time bound to California and they are constantly arriving and departing. The excitement here prevails to as great an extent as in New York. More than three thousand persons, have already left this place. Ships are scarce, Sailors difficult to get & freights are high. The news received at this port confirms all that is heard in New York and the inhabitants seem as crazy to go to California. Our Captain has ~~even~~ taken some little freight and a few more passengers at higher rates than he received at the commencement of the voyage. I have been introduced to several persons who have just arrived from San Francisco among the rest to Lieut Muse of the U.S. Ship Dale on her way to the United States with over a million of the precious metal aboard.

Mr. Dale (?)(Muse ?) says that the gold is as plentiful as it is represented to be and enough of it to supply all who seek for it. Goods of all kinds with some few exceptions, are selling for two or three hundred percent profit. He says all who go there

and conduct themselves properly are sure of becoming rich in a short time. A young (page 19 lpt.) gentleman of his acquaintance who has been knocking around the town of San Francisco for sometime doing little or nothing, finds himself \$300 or \$400 richer every week and knows not how he has made it. An English man of war arrived here the same day we did with \$2,750,000 worth of Gold Shipped to Europe. There is an Alcalde or Judge at San Francisco, but Judge Lynch holds power Supreme in and around the gold diggings. He manages to keep very good order. No man dares to behave amiss or robbing his neighbour of his gold as it lies exposed to day upon rags before the door of his tent while, perhaps, he is gone half a mile for dinner because he knows if seen he will be shot. For minor expenses (offenses) a certain number of lashes is given and then twenty four hours allowed for the culprit to go a certain number of miles and if found within those limits he is likely to be hung upon the first tree. Commodore Jones, it is said, has prohibited foreigners from going to the mines. I do not know how the Chilians and others will like this. But certainly foreigners could not be allowed greater privileges than Americans. This will likely produce disturbances and perhaps bloodshed. The Oregon and California Steamers, are reported, laid up at San Francisco, deserted. If this be true the communication between that place and Panama will for a time be cut off for the transmission of regular news. I might write for hours, tell you of the many, various stories in circulation but what will be the use, the news I hear here you must already have read in the public journals, So let me speak of Valparaiso. My first impressions of the place are more favourable than those of Rio de Janeiro. The houses are better built, the streets cleaner and the Benoritas ~~levelier~~ a thousand

times more lovely and fascinating. The news I have heard Since arriving at this port is so astounding and has produced such an effect upon my mind as to intoxicate me with (page 20, lpb.) joy and make me long to be at sea, once more on my way to California. The city at the present time looks American like, so where you will you are sure of falling in with Countrymen and turn which way you may, in answer to Buon dias Signorita, the men and women and children cry American, Muchas oro in California! and we answer Si Si Signorita, muchas oro. I begin to understand the lingo already sufficiently to make myself understood. I find my french & Italian of great use. The b'hoys understand Spreeing it here, and sometimes conduct themselves like a parcel of devils let loose. But this is not to be wondered at ~~when they were~~ after being confined a hundred days or more at sea. Rows ^{are} of frequent occurrence and blood is sometimes shed. The other day we were out riding My friend Mr. Wardle lingered some ways behind the party. Just as we turned in the road a man on horseback, rushed upon and endeavored to unhorse him. He gave a whistle when he immediately wheeled his horse and rode off in company with four or five others. Confound these Spaniards. They show themselves most humble as long as they believe they can get anything out of you, but if they can ~~kit~~ catch an American alone a dozen of them will knock him down and rob him. Sunday May 20th We shall positively sail tomorrow morning. I must therefore close all our water and provisions on board. Among other two oxen six sheep as many pigs, thirty turkeys & a hundred or more chickens. We shall live on fresh provisions all the way, salt beef, pork &c, being so much dearer. I am not at all sorry for this. I have eaten enough salt-"old horse" to last me the remainder of my life. I shall soon be in California. You may expect to hear from me again soon after my arrival. I wish you

to write me as often as possible. You must know how much I long to hear from (page 21, 1pb.) you and how much more I desire to see you. I hope I shall find at least one or two letters from you to me to welcome me upon arriving in a far distant country where I shall find no kind soothing friend to soothe my weary hours. But the time will soon roll around for me to return & receive your greeting smiles. I don't think I will be much longer than one year. So my dear girl remain faithful and improve yourself all you can to please me. I have seen many women both here and in Rio since I left New York but not one I would give in exchange for my lovely Anna. I think of you very often. Not a morning passes but what I gaze upon your miniature. The bible I gave you you gave me I have commenced reading and hope to finish before the end of the voyage. If you have never read the Sacred volume I wish you would do so to gratify me, and treasure up its precepts I believe a change for the better has been wrought in me since our parting and I trust it will continue to go on. I left New York with the determination of returning if God ever permits it, a better man in every respect. I considered well the temptations I would be exposed to. These I have endeavored to resist & hope still able to resist in California. Most all going to San Francisco are young men many of whom have never been from home before they know they are no longer under the least restraint and therefore lead a very dissipated life. I foresee what will become of them. Not one of these will succeed and the probability is they will leave their bones in California. A few words more and then I am done. I wrote you a long letter from Rio and enclosed it to Mr. Wm P. Thompson, this I hope you have received. Remember me kindly to your family and friends Feel assured, dear Anna, though far distant from you of a continuance of my love and believe me --

Yours Very Sincerely Thomas Whaley

(page 21 lpb., crosswise)

I would have written you a much longer letter giving you a full account of the voyage but for the uncertainty of you ever receiving it. I presume you must have removed the 1st of the Month. I will therefore enclose this to my friend Mr. Thompson, requesting him to deliver it to you. In your next you will inform me of your address. No I will not enclose this to Mr. T. he may have caught the fever and perhaps is now on his way to California. Let me see. I will direct it to No. 10 Amory St and if you have removed the postman will find you out. I believe it unnecessary to wish you to keep as Secret as possible the correspondance between us. My Mother knew nothing of the attachment between us before I left New York. I have informed her of it Since I know She will be very angry and I expect to receive a long letter reprimanding my conduct, but I don't care I am of age and must act for myself particularly concerning things so intimately concerning my future welfare. Only let me be able to carry out my views in respect to you education and you improve the opportunities which I trust to be able to afford you and we will leave the rest for time to elucidate. Once more a parting adieu. T.W.

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Sunday May 20th

We shall positively sail tomorrow morning. I must therefore close. All our water and provisions on board. Among the things two oxen, six sheep as many pigs thirty turkeys and 100 or more chickens. We shall live on fresh provisions all of the way, salt beef, pork and so forth being so much dearer. I'm not at all sorry for this. I have eaten enough "old horse", to last me the remainder of my life. I shall soon be in California. You may expect to hear from me again soon after my arrival. I wish you to write me as often as possible you must know how much I long to hear from you and how much more I wish to see you. I hope I shall find at least one or two letters from you to welcome me upon arriving in a far distant country where I shall find no kind soothing friend to soothe my weary hours. But the time will soon roll around for me to return and receive your greeting smile.

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I do not ~~forget~~ think it will be much longer than a year. So my dear girl remain faithful and improve yourself all you can to please me. I have seen many women both here and at Rio since I left New York but not one I would give or exchange for my lovely Anna. I think of you very often not a hour passes but what I gaze upon your minia ture in the bible you gave me. I have commenced reading and hope to finish before the end of the voyage. If you have not read the second volume I wish you would do so to gratify me and treasure up the piece and points. I believe a change for the better has been wrought in me since ~~my~~ our parting. I trust it will continue to go on. I left New York with the determination of returning if God will permit it. A better man in every respect. I considered well the temptations I would be exposed to. These I have endeavored to resist. and hope still able to resist in California. Most all going to San Francisco are young men, many of them have never been from home before. They know they are no longer under the least resistance and therefore lead a very dissipated life. I fear what will become of them. Not one of these will succeed and the probability is they will leave their ~~wixkxkx~~ bones in California. A few words more and then I am done. I wrote you a long letter from Rio and enclosed it to Mr. William P. Thompson, this I hope you have received. Remember me kindly to your family and friends. Feel assured, dear Anna, ~~ixixix~~ thoughts fondest are from me are a continuance of my love and believe me. Most very sincerely Thos. Whaley

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Another favourable opportunity offers to communicate with dear friends at home, and I avail myself of it with no small degree of pleasure, particularly, as we have not had the good fortune of falling in with any homeward bound vessel since last putting to sea. I have been at this port since the 14th amusing myself as I best can. Tomorrow morning we expect to weigh anchor and be once more upon the briny deep. Our voyage has indeed been a long and unpleasant one as regards the weather &c, but I do not know we have any reason to complain. Old Cape Horn is a terrible monster as all find him who attempt to cross his path. There are many vessels here at the present time bound to California and they are constantly arriving and departing. The excitement here prevails to as great an extent as in New York. More than three thousand persons, have already left this place. Ships are scarce, Sailors difficult to get & freights are high. The news received at this port confirms all that is heard in New York and the inhabitants seem as crazy to go to California. Our Captain has engaged some little freight and a few more passengers at higher rates than he received at the commencement of the voyage. I have been introduced to several persons who have just arrived from San Francisco among the rest to Lieut Muse of the U.S. Ship Dale on her way to the United States with over a million of the precious metal aboard.

Mr. Dale (?) (Muse ?) says that the gold is as plentiful as it is represented to be and enough of it to supply all who seek for it. Goods of all kinds with some few exceptions, are selling for two or three hundred percent profit. He says all who go there

and conduct themselves properly are sure of becoming rich in a short time. A young (page 19 lpb.) gentleman of his acquaintance who has been knocking around the town of San Francisco for sometime doing little or nothing, finds himself \$300 or \$400 richer every week and knows not how he has made it. An English man of war arrived here the same day we did with \$2,750,000 worth of Gold Shipped to Europe. There is an Alcalde or Judge at San Francisco, but Judge Lynch holds power Supreme in and around the gold diggings. He manages to keep very good order. No man dares to behave amiss or robbing his neighbour of his gold as it lies exposed to day upon rags before the door of his tent while, perhaps, he is gone half a mile for dinner because he knows if seen he will be shot. For minor expenses (offenses) a certain number of lashes is given and then twenty four hours allowed for the culprit to go a certain number of miles and if found within those limits he is likely to be hung upon the first tree. Commodore Jones, it is said, has prohibited foreigners from going to the mines. I do not know how the Chilians and others will like this. But certainly foreigners could not be allowed greater privileges than Americans. This will likely produce disturbances and perhaps bloodshed. The Oregon and California Steamers, are reported, laid up at San Francisco, deserted. If this be true the communication between that place and Panama will for a time be cut off for the transmission of regular news. I might write for hours, tell you of the many, various stories in circulation but what will be the use, the news I hear here you must already have read in the public journals, so let me speak of Valparaiso. My first impressions of the place are more favourable than those of Rio de Janeiro. The houses are better built, the streets cleaner and the Saneritas leveler a thousand

times more lovely and fascinating. The news I have heard since arriving at this port is so astounding and has produced such an effect upon my mind as to intoxicate me with (page 20, 1pb.) joy and make me long to be at sea, once more on my way to California. The city at the present time looks American like, Go where you will you are sure of falling in with Countrymen and turn which way you may, in answer to Buon dias Signorita, the men and women and children cry American, Muchas oro in California! and we answer Si Si Signorita, muchas oro. I begin to understand the lingo already sufficiently to make myself understood. I find my french & Italian of great use. The b'hoys understand Spreeing it here, and sometimes conduct themselves like a parcel of devils let loose. But this is not to be wondered at ~~when they were~~ after being confined a hundred days or more at sea. Rows/^{are} of frequent occurrence and blood is sometimes shed. The other day we were out riding My friend Mr. Wardle lingered some ways behind the party. Just as we turned in the road a man on horseback, rushed upon and endeavored to unhorse him. He gave a whistle when he immediately wheeled his horse and rode off in company with four or five others. Confound these Spaniards. They show themselves most humble as long as they believe they can get anything out of you, but if they can ~~catch~~ catch an American alone a dozen of them will knock him down and rob him. Sunday May 20th We shall positively sail tomorrow morning. I must therefore close all our water and provisions on board. Among other two oxen six sheep as many pigs, thirty turkeys & a hundred or more chickens. We shall live on fresh provisions all the way, salt beef, pork &c, being so much dearer. I am not at all sorry for this. I have eaten enough salt-"old horse" to last me the remainder of my life. I shall soon be in California. You may expect to hear from me again soon after my arrival. I wish you

to write me as often as possible. You must know how much I long to hear from (page 21, lpb.) you and how much more I desire to see you. I hope I shall find at least one or two letters from you to me to welcome me upon arriving in a far distant country where I shall find no kind soothing friend to soothe my weary hours. But the time will soon roll around for me to return & receive your greeting smiles. I don't think I will be much longer than one year. So my dear girl remain faithful and improve yourself all you can to please me. I have seen many women both here and in Rio since I left New York but not one I would give in exchange for my lovely Anna. I think of you very often. Not a morning passes but what I gaze upon your miniature. The bible I-gave-you you gave me I have commenced reading and hope to finish before the end of the voyage. If you have never read the Sacred volume I wish you would do so to gratify me, and treasure up its precepts I believe a change for the better has been wrought in me since our parting and I trust it will continue to go on. I left New York with the determination of returning if God ever permits it, a better man in every respect. I considered well the temptations I would be exposed to. These I have endeavored to resist & hope still able to resist in California. Most all going to San Francisco are young men many of whom have never been from home before they know they are no longer under the least restraint and therefore lead a very dissipated life. I foresee what will become of them. Not one of these will succeed and the probability is they will leave their bones in California. A few words more and then I am done. I wrote you a long letter from Rio and enclosed it to Mr. Wm P. Thompson, this I hope you have received. Remember me kindly to your family and friends. Feel assured, dear Anna, though far distant from you of a continuance of my love and believe me --Yours Very Sincerely Thomas Whaley

(page 21 lpb., crosswise)

I would have written you a much longer letter giving you a full account of the voyage but for the uncertainty of you ever receiving it. I presume you must have removed the 1st of the Month. I will therefore enclose this to my friend Mr. Thompson, requesting him to deliver it to you. In your next you will inform me of your address. No I will not enclose this to Mr. T. he may have caught the fever and perhaps is now on his way to California. Let me see. I will direct it to No. 10 Amory St and if you have removed the postman will find you out. I believe it unnecessary to wish you to keep as Secret as possible the correspondance between us. My Mother knew nothing of the attachment between us before I left New York. I have informed her of it. Since I know She will be very angry and I expect to receive a long letter reprimanding my conduct, but I don't care I am of age and must act for myself particularly concerning things so intimately concerning my future welfare. Only let me be able to carry out my views in respect to you education and you improve the opportunities which I trust to be able to afford you and we will leave the rest for time to elucidate. Once more a parting adieu. T.W.