

1852  
Chincha Islands June

Dear Brother

It is a long time since I wrote you  
last for which I shall not make any excuse as you  
know the family feeling, I am not an exception.  
Suppose you will like to hear what kind of a place  
the Chincha's are and how I like it, most happily I think  
I be if I could be when I could tell you all about  
it without using a pen, I have been here now  
about forty days being at anchor between two of the  
Islands within hail of each - they bear from each other  
about North & S. ~~as~~ we are lying so as to be partly  
sheltered by the Southern Island from the N.W. gale which  
is constantly blowing in and making heavily on the northern  
side of the North Island off which lie some detached rocks  
under the lee of which the boats moor in smooth weather  
and take guano which I run down in canvas shoots, it  
is the most tedious way to load a ship imaginable, thank  
fortune the Custodian has only to be ballasted in that way  
The small vessels (under 50 tons) load entirely with boats  
the larger ones go to the North side of the Island when  
proper moorings are laid down and haul stores into  
the rocks and load the shoots into the hatchway  
through which they run in the average about 300 tons  
per day, we shall probably get under about the 10th July  
and I hope in Callao by the 20th



I shall be well pleased to get away from this place  
I never was so discontented anywhere before whenever  
I come here again my wife must be with me

The Shucka islands consists of three islands the North  
middle and south - the north is the largest from which they  
have been taking guano since an eight years ago from a  
recent survey by the government it is estimated that the  
North island contains seven millions of tons guano the middle  
and south islands I should think contain as much each  
- there is not much probability of the guano business feeling as  
prosperous - The guano is said to be manufactured by birds  
which is hard to believe if true I am sure it would flood  
nations that parts - The guano in many places is more  
than 100 feet deep - not a trace of vegetation is to be seen  
on any of the islands - Birds are seen here in any  
quantity if they were half as plenty in common as here I think  
you and Bill, must would have been more successful in taking  
pass - There are rather plenty principally mackerel they  
are rather lean I should think would last about <sup>10</sup> 4 1/2

I have not much to say about the ship - she is in about  
the same order as when she left Boston and I hope to get  
her home as well she is little prospect of improvement - The  
male has got the gout in both legs and the inflammation  
in one arm which with his other qualities you may judge  
how much use he is - the 2<sup>d</sup> male is my whole dependence but since  
we have been here he has been most of the time in the  
boats - I was unfortunate in getting a cook and steward



in Bona two great rascals over our shoulders  
While the cook I was obliged to discharge a rickshaw  
under suspicion of trying to poison & in our place had one  
of the sailors cooking since, the steward still remaining  
and is pretty well tamed.

July 25th for some of time I did not finish this  
at the Island but delayed a while I arrived here  
when I have got still less. I arrived here on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and  
and here to be an az in for a few days. The ship  
loaded to 20<sup>th</sup> for a aft, and I took into go home  
So I have some little uneasiness about the trimming of  
the cargo - as it is impossible to be in the hold while  
the ship is loading - it is very difficult to tell whether the  
cargo is trimmed or not all we have to depend upon is  
what the trimmer says, and I believe they will say a  
thing to save work - our ship no doubt is a well trimmed  
as other ships - and is certainly stronger than most of them  
I am in a hurry now

Give my respects to all the folks  
and a adieu Madam for yourself and family  
from your affectionate Brother

Step. Graves