

# Transcription of Isaac Washburn letter to his sister Abigail, written on board *Constitution*, August 8, 1844.

U.S. Frigate Constitution

Rio Jenero Brazil

8th August 1844

Dear Sister Abby,

Probably you little expect to receive/ a letter from the Sunny climes of the Brazils, but it.s so/ we arrived here on the 2nd August Sixty three days from N. York/ stopping a few days at the Isleands, of Fayal, Madaria and/ Tenarief, we had a very pleasant passage indeid. there was nothing/ remarcable accurd— the most butifull seantry that I/ ever saw— was these Isles that we stoped at and some/ that we passed they are Mountains and some of/ them looks like Mountains, that had been torne to/ pecies by and earth quake which maid them look/ awfully grand, we arrived on Friday last: June, July,/ August, are there winter months here but it.s hot enough/ now here to roast beaf in the Sun, and if they call/ this winter, I can't imagi what kind of weather/ they have for Summer: but I exspect its one of the/ hottest climates in the world, I have not heard/ of any Sickness, and I never enjoyd better health in/ my life and I am sure that I was never happier/ altho I have left behind many that are near and / dear to me but I can say for once in my/ life that I am contented/ we exspect to be out three years, or about, we are bound to/ China or a cruse around the world, I am in hopes that my/ appetite for roaing[?] will be content by the time I retuse[?], if Kind/ Providence favours me so much, this is one of the butifulest/ harbours in the world. so any Ship can lay here in purfic/ Saifty from all Stormes, Rio is quite a large place it is/ the Capital of Brazil, and the residence of the Emperor, the/ Brazilians are decendants from the Portages they are a very/ Swarthy race of People, and dont know any to much/ they are all catholics and believe that everyone els is a hentiu[?]/ the Harbour is lined with fortifications and they are said/ to very strict and riged in there disapline with the soldiers

The Ship is now filling up with Provisions to continue/ on her cruse we shal sail in about a month, our next port will be the Cape of Good Hope and we Shall returne/ by Cape Horne— perhaps you would like to know oure bill/ of Fare, I will tell you, Monday is Pork & beans, day, Tuesday/ is Banyan day, we have beef, Rice, butter cheas, pickles,/ Wednesday is Beans and Port day, again, Thursday is duff/ day, perhaps you dont know what that is, I,l tell you/ take 4tis Flower, a pint Hogs fat and mix it/ then add 2tis Rasins and water anough to make/ the concistance of batter put into bag and boil it/ 5 or 6 Hours or till dun and you have Duff/ put on Molasses and eat it if you like it Friday/ is another banyan day Saterdag pork beans/ and Sunday duff and Prayers, Quarters & ellise [?]/ but in port we have a plenty Fresh Meat vegetables/ &c. and fruit in abundance of all kinds except apples/ I shall not undertake to make any exuse for comming/ to see you— but if I ever get back I will then tell you/ you will remember me to your dear little family and/ Friends if any and also wish you to informe sister Mary[?]/ of my where abouts I have no conn[?] to write/ and is much as ever I can do pen this, and I write/ to let you know wher I am more than I have undertaken/ to write a letter

I Shall always remain  
Your ever and affectionate  
Brother  
Isaac Washburn

To  
Mrs. Abigail K. Hill  
Jericho  
Vermont  
U.S.