St Thomas Jan 4. 1854

My dearest love

I have determined to sail hence in the Ship Harmony for New Orleans on or about Wednesday the 8th inst. I write this written Expecting you will receive it before hearing from me by telegraph but in case of accidental detention to let you know when I am likely to turn up. There are two vessels - very small - Expecting to leave the first of the week for New York, by both of which I write you. I take the N. O. vessel because in that way I may Expect reasonably to be earlier put in telegraphic Communication with You. which it seems to me would afford me

more pleasure than almost any thing
on Earth Except seeing you.

Fortunately I have been and am in Excellent
health but a more wretched & Lonesome
and homesick time I never Spent than
the three mortal weeks which I have wasted
here. If God only grants me a Safe return
to you and to find you and Grace well
I think I shall feel a depths of gratitude for
his mercies which I have never known.
Not one line have I heard from you
since the 1st Dec. Darling and I dare not
allow my imagination to dwell upon
the contingencies which may have happened
or may yet happen before I see or hear
from you again. Farewell now my dearest
love, kiss dear Grace and do not let
her forget her papa. Remember me

affectionate & to your mother and
family and do not doubt that we will
again embrace each other by the first of
March

Your devoted husband
John Bigelow.

I expect to see you long before you receive
this or I should given you some account of
my dismal life here.

Reread
Nov 12th
1876