

the starboard wheel, with which we had much trouble for sixteen days of our passage. We have great cause to be thankful since the accident of the 24th, we had met with no heavy weather, as the consequences would probably have been most serious. The prolonged voyage of the *Shannon* caused us considerable delay, both at St. Thomas and Panama, as we were too late for the steamers, for which in ordinary course we should have been in time. With a passage of the usual length, I should have been in Victoria by December 1st, or a day or two later; as it is, I shall be well satisfied if I find myself spending my Christmas there.

Although the time of our accident and the detention so long in the tropics have been trying, my health has not suffered in any way. I have not had an idle Sunday since I left Southampton, as I found myself appointed chaplain on board the *Shannon*. At St. Thomas I had the pleasure of helping Mr. Roper, the very energetic incumbent of the English Church there; and at Panama, where there is no English clergyman, I held a service on Sunday last, and again by special request on Tuesday.

I must ask you to excuse this very short letter, for I hear that the tug steamer which brings the passengers has already left the shore, and her return may be my last opportunity of posting this. \* \* \*

O. KNIFE.