

morning, when we started for San Francisco, with a very large number of passengers, besides two hundred and fifty soldiers, and by evening we passed out of the Columbia River into the ocean. On our way down the coast one of the passengers died and was buried in the deep, while the military band played the funeral march.

After a run of three days we entered the harbor of San Francisco, and on the next day took the river steamer Chrysolopolus for Sacramento, on my way to Crash Valley. While sitting in the cabin I noticed a number of men sitting at a table, one of whom looked familiar to me. I drew a chair up to the table and was soon in conversation with them, for they were talking about the war in the South. I asked the person what part of the east he came from and he said Canada, and when asked what part he said Galt, and told me his name was Blacklock. I told him who I was and we had a good long talk about our school boy days in Galt. We had not seen each other for twelve years, but there on the western shore of the continent, thousands of miles away from our schoolboy grounds where we used to play together, we met and recognized each other in that foreign land.

Mr. Blacklock's mother and her family went out to California to live, one of her daughters being married to E. Burrows, who died some years afterwards at Placerville, California.

After remaining in Grass Valley for ten days I set out to return to Canada, and on the 11th of September left San Francisco on board the steamship Orisaba for Panama. There were not many passengers on board, so it did not take long to examine tickets and search for stowaways. A woman with her child were found between decks, and it was the rule of the company to send such ashore if they could not pay their passage. She pleaded with the captain to be allowed to go east, as her husband was dead, and she had no friends in that country, but he was determined to put her and her child ashore, but while having her placed in the small boat the feelings of the passengers were touched and a collection was taken up at once, sufficient to pay her passage to New York and from there to where her friends were. She, whose heart was full of sorrow, was in turn filled with thankfulness and joy at the sudden turn in affairs. The Orisaba was headed for the Golden Gate, and as we passed out into the ocean we did so with feelings of sorrow, as well as of pleasure, as we were leaving that Golden State, where we spent so many happy days, and with pleasure in wending our way eastward, to meet and enjoy the society of our friends in our own Canadian homes. We were once more on the Pacific's deep and by noon on the following day we had made 229 miles. All went well until about the middle of the following afternoon when an alarm of fire was sounded. We were within sight of the coast, but it was a bold rocky shore and it would have been impossible for many of the passengers to reach land in safety. I was between decks at the time. The alarm caused intense excitement on board and those who were most regardless in time of safety were now the greatest cowards. The

ship hands ran the hose down into the fire hole and ran about in great haste, but as no smoke was to be seen, all was quieted again by being told that it was a false alarm. A few weeks before the company had lost one of their boats by fire on that same coast, and the officers were testing the crew as to how they would act under an alarm. On the next day we passed a sailing vessel bound for San Francisco and on the following day we passed within sight of a group of islands. The course of the vessel was south and east. Two days afterwards we spoke to and exchanged papers with the steamship Sonora, upward bound. Her decks were crowded with passengers, wending their way to the Golden State of the West. On the next day we ran into the harbor of Acapulco, in Mexico, where the boat was coaled and watered. There was an American warship and British merchantman at anchor in the port. Our boat was soon surrounded by natives in their small boats, laden with fruit and shells, and they did a good amount of trade with the passengers. After a delay of six hours we ran out to sea again, and on the following day a gale sprang up and continued to increase until midnight. At one time it was doubtful whether the ship would weather the storm, as she was an old craft. The actions of the officers alarmed the passengers. There was no sleep that night until the storm abated somewhat, as every wave that would strike her side would make her crack as if she was being rent asunder, and when morning came it was seen that the water had washed clean over her smokestacks, for they were white with salt from the sea water. We were then within four days' run from Panama. Before we reached that city we met the company's ship Constitution, bound for San Francisco, and on the next day we entered the Bay of Panama. There lay at anchor near us an American and a large British merchantman, a coasting steamer and a number of small craft. In an hour after we dropped anchor in the bay a small steamer came alongside of us and took the passengers ashore, and glad we were to get off the Orisaba. On our way down the coast from San Francisco I made the acquaintance of Mr. Jenkins and his son, who were returning from British Columbia to their home in Branchton. They had been in the west for some time. As soon as we landed we took the train for Aspinwall, and in less than two hours we were upon the Atlantic side of the continent, a distance of forty-eight miles from Panama. Two men stole their way across the isthmus and endeavored to go aboard the steamship Northern Light, from Aspinwall to New York, but they were found out and had to work their way up.

Having crossed the isthmus in the afternoon we went on shipboard and sailed that same evening for New York. On the 28th we spoke to and received papers from the North Star, which was bound for Aspinwall with passengers for California. The passengers were in great excitement, for there was great cheering on board the North Star, and as soon as the papers were received we learned that the Northern army had gained a great victory. The war was the great subject of conversation and discussion everywhere among the people throughout that whole country in those days,