

to those classes with whom I have been brought into contact socially and professionally. The lower orders, I grant, are often very "bruto," and the women especially so..... This is a very comfortable steamer, and very ably commanded by Capt. Hall, the only American captain employed, I believe, on this line, a British one..... The French steamer left Callao twenty minutes after us. I asked Capt. H—— if they contemplated a race. He said, rather hesitatingly—"No—o—o—, but we will each go as fast as we can!" So far he seems very well satisfied with our progress.

Friday, May 23rd.—Between five and six o'clock yesterday afternoon, we ascended the promenade deck to watch the gambles of an immense shoal of porpoises. They really seemed to enjoy their sport as much as a parcel of school-boys playing at leap-frog. After tea we tried to extract a little music from the wretched piano—Mrs. C—— and afterwards a Bolivian gentleman singing to my accompaniment. He is an engineer, employed by his government on a mission to New York. He has an excellent ear and voice, but cannot play. He tried to tune the piano and succeeded, but the screws are so loose that the strings relaxed again in a few minutes. He sang a love song of his own composition, dedicated to his wife, a North American lady, in their honey-moon, and after he had hummed it over a little, I managed to make an accompaniment for him..... On reaching Paíta early this morning, we found that the French steamer was in before us..... Weather very pleasant.

Saturday, May 24th.—In spite of headache, I could not resist playing a game of chess with a Dr., (I could not catch his name when introduced), an American going to California. I had the best of it until—my head growing worse and worse,—I made a rash move and lost the game. He is the strongest player I have met with since I left Canada. He said he had been trying to find a player among the gentlemen passengers, but never dreamt of finding one among the ladies..... We arrived in Guayaquil at half-past one, P.M. It is the chief sea-port of Ecuador, and a place of considerable commercial importance though it certainly possesses little else to interest one. They say that living is very cheap there. The Captain says that in Quito you can rent a fine house at ten dollars a month, and live splendidly on four rials, (forty cents), per day. The climate is excellent, and fruit abundant..... Mrs. C——y, Mrs. C——n, their children and myself went on shore for a little stroll, and refreshed ourselves with some very tolerable ice cream, and buying a few little nicknacks for Northern friends. We all stepped on the scales in one of the shops, and were weighed—Mrs. C——y marked 100 lbs; Mrs. C——n 135; and I, 120..... The Captain says the French steamer is a much more powerful one than ours; that it consumes upwards