

on my way up, I saw several ladies in their cheries some with a blanket around them, when I got up <sup>in my berth</sup> I could see nothing so I thought it was not much and intended to get my clothes, <sup>but</sup> I found fire and lot of smoke in my berth, so that I could not get near it, it broke through my, quick as I was not more than 2 or 3 minutes gone, the fire broke out close to my berth, all I saved was a pair of pajamas I slept in, you thought it queer me walking about the house in them, but here I had to walk on deck amongst the passengers till one was kind enough to lend me his Overcoat in which was a cap, but I got no covering <sup>for</sup> my feet, I dont expect there were any large enough, but soon got alright when I got ashore



Gisborne 3 Nov. 1883

My dear Wife & Children.

I will try to give you a description of my adventure in the ill fated steamer Waiarapa, the fire was first discovered close on 4 o'clock in the morning, the first I knew of it was one of the passengers who slept in the same berth giving me a big shake, namely he and my other 2 companions had been aroused and had hurried on deck without me, the one who awoke me was just returning to get his carpet bag when he saw me, as soon as I awoke I said what is the matter it is awful warm, he says jump out the ship is on fire, I made one bound out of my bunk, right over his head, he was getting something out of his bunk under mine, run on deck

I had £17. ~~etc~~ in Notes and some  
silver in my pocket book, which was  
also lost, I found in that Pocketbook  
containing the notes, or at least the  
police pick out amongst the debris  
my steamer ticket 2 Robin Hood tickets  
and part of my pocketbook, but that  
all cracked to pieces when dried also  
partially my letters of credit,  
my Watch & chain was found but  
is of no value except old gold, the  
10 mark piece G. Reiser gave me was  
also found in good condition the above  
is all that I saved of my own, I  
reckon I lost about between £52 & 55  
Mr. Allan was kind enough to wire  
me, to refurnish myself with clothes  
on the firms expense, still I cannot  
expect him to buy me a gold watch

& chain

It was very fortunate we were so near  
land only 20 miles from Gisborne, and  
that the weather was at calm and the  
sea smooth

There was only one person (a stewardess)  
burnt, her right hand back of the  
head and right ear

With kind regards to all

Your loving  
Husband & father  
L. J. Elving

I enclose all I saved out of my  
Robin Hood tickets