

on my way up, I saw several ladies in their chemises 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 don't 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