on my way up, I saw several ladies in their shawls come with a blanket around them, when I got up, I could see nothing so I thought it was not much and intended to get my clothes, but found fire and lots 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 the pair of pajamas I slept in, one 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 I was a cap, but I got no covering my feet, I don't think there were any large enough, but soon got alright when I got ashore

Masonic Hotel
Gisborne 3 Nov. 1883

My dear Wife & Children,

I will try to give you a description of my adventure in the ill-fated steamer Kararapa, the fire was first discovered close on 2 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. 10s. in Notes and some silver in my pocket book, which was also lost, I found in that pocket book containing the notes, or at least the police got not amongst the debris my seamstress kept 2 Robin Hood tickets and part of my pocket book, but that all crumpled 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. Reider 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 refresh myself with clothes on the firm's expense, still I cannot afford him to buy me a gold watch.

It was very fortunate we were so near land only 10 miles from Lisbon, and that the weather was at calm and the sea smooth.

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

With kind regards to all.

Your loving
Husband and father

I enclose all I saved out of my Robin Hood tickets.

L D Elong