

are covered with costly carpets; everything one sees bears witness of wealth, yet the owner of all this is not too proud to haul and deliver to his customers their daily supply of milk. He had two houses burned in the great fire in the city — several years ago he sent for his old mother in Switzerland and she now lives with them in plenty, enjoying aside from her old age fair health. Should this writing ever reach my dear home, he sends greetings to all old friends and relations. He came to us on the boat before we left and strongly urged us that we do not settle on land until we should have some money to work with; for unless we had we should, spite of the greatest industry, surely perish. I could have had three chances to work at my trade in Pittsburgh for \$1.25 per day to begin with; and afterwards more, but I declined, for if it be possible I will have some land, for a mechanic cannot rise as high as a farmer, although he may also make his fortune. Food is cheap in Pittsburgh. Hogs' heads could not be seen laying in the streets as some of us had been told at home, but we could buy them smoked in the shops for 4 cents a pound. Mutton same price, beef 6 cents, a glass of schnapps 4 cents, hams smoked 8 to 10 cents the larger the cheaper.

This day we made a contract with our Captain to carry us to St. Louis at the rate of 2 dollars for each person over 14 years, 8 to 14 counted two for one, under 8 free, with 100 pounds baggage free for each full passenger. We laid in provisions for a couple of days and towards evening left the city. We steamed pretty fast until 10 P. M. when the boat halted until morning.

On the 12th — Again steamed along; in the forenoon our boat ran into another, we supposed from the crash everything was in pieces; we found out it was done intentionally because of rivalry. This does not occur seldom, that they greet each other by destroying each other. Luckily our boat remained the victor this time, although damaged some. It is unpardonable that the crew should perform such dangerous feats and risk the lives of 250 people on this boat. It is said to be prohibited by a penalty of \$500 but they