

care nothing for that. We again steamed along fairly until evening; when in the middle of the stream we saw on a sand bar two boats laden with coal which they offered for sale to passing boats. Our boat sailed towards them to get fuel but owing perhaps to the inexperience of our steersman we got stuck in the bottom. We thought we could get off again this evening but as usual were condemned to delay. Other boats came along to assist us, our baggage and much other freight was put on flatboats. The most of the men including passengers were required to get on the bank and push with all their might against the vessel; but all in vain, it moved not from the spot. I and some others including some women and children were on one of the flatboats and without notice were carried to the shore and there left nearly naked without food to eat. This evening I count not one of the pleasant ones of the trip; I had laid my two children to sleep near a stairway on the boat out of the way of people, and my wife and I were on the shore—imagine our anxiety. I could not get to them and none of our friends had seen them. My boy got up in the dark and fell into the hold. The Captain carried him up again unhurt. When I returned to the boat and found that this had happened, I made some noise. Those who had been put on the coal barges had to remain there until midnight until they were taken off, and then while being brought to the shore their boat upset and some of the men were nearly drowned before they were helped out of the water. Who would have imagined such things at home. We imagined golden mountains with air castles built upon them. The greater number of the passengers came on shore and we made fires and cooked outdoors, and slept this second night under God's free heaven. We were able to buy some food in a neighboring farm house but at extortionate prices; pint of milk 4 cents.

On the 14th forenoon, we came again on the boat, which had during the night been moved about a gunshot distance, with greatest exertions of men and steampower, so that it had water to float in; we then floated down the Ohio. Our bag-