

H. M. L. Cumberland

January 27th 1864

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My dear Father & Mother

I arrived all safe and sound on the evening of Monday, and awoke next morning to find my "occupation gone" — except a stray boy or two, looking happy in the consciousness that their "genus" ~~had~~ was not sufficiently numerous to call for school at three bells. I found the class of them extinct. On more particular inquiry I ascertained that they had migrated to Plymouth, and there appears to be a radical change about to take place: from what I can gather no more boys (2nd class) will be sent in sea-going vessels — it will do away with a good deal of unpleasant duty for the Schoolmaster, but I am afraid other duties will be laid on him still more foreign to his station. — What is going to be done

Corporal, and had passed very successfully.
He was in the seventh heaven about it, as
it more than doubled his pay, and raised
him from the rank of private to first class
kitchen officer.

I teach the commander's children still.
on the whole my time is rather more occupied
than it was.

I have been rather better since I've got on
board, though not first rate yet.

I hope to hear of an improvement in father's
health, and I mother's thumb being better.

My love to them all at home,

I shall be able to tell you more concerning
myself shortly I expect — meantime

Your affectionate Son

Thomas Tomescales

with me I don't know. The removal of the
boys only took place last week, and it seems
expected that there will be an order down
soon for the ship not to bear a schoolmaster,
indeed the commander hinted to me that
it was likely to be the case. — I, of
course shall be very glad. —

I am not allowed to remain idle on
board. The Captain very soon enlisted
my services on behalf of his children,
for the time of my old school hours. — So
I'm backward and forward between the
"Cumberland" & "Louthampton" every day.
I don't like it so well as my school on
board, and besides it is not part of my
duty, but I don't suppose it will last
long. My night school of course continues
the same. I became acquainted by the bye
with the first fruits of my night school, when
I came back, one of my scholars, a marine
had been examined to pass for a ship's