



ON BOARD S. S. LAPLAND

September 17th/20

My dear beloved Friend,

I have your letter addressed
to Brussels, & forwarded to
the billon in Paris & I have
been keeping back it; reply
so that it may "land" in
England, even if we are not
permitted to do so this time,
and make its way directly to
you wherever you may be in
that desolate Island.

I forget who it was who

said it was necessary & wisest
a Heaven if it did not exist
in order to redress the wrongs
of this world. Let there I am
sure I would not have the
trouble I experience here
in meeting you. Still I
want both of us to stay
below for some years that you

may continue your beautiful
work and that I may succeed
better than in the past to
justify the length of days which
I have already enjoyed.

I am much comforted by
the knowledge that this year
is not to end without seeing
face to face you & Mrs de

Always I am rather a Johnny My heart is big enough for
all the little boys who are in their different ways
worthy of their father's mother's devotion I am
filled

his life - I was with that Johnny were to accompany 3
you to the States. If he would my little 4 year
oldish boy and stick with even at his tender 39 or
in quest of the setting sun! He would find himself
advised before he passed the Statue of Liberty &
he could go to Harvard or Yale, our Oxford &
Cambridge and make of his life just what his
heart desired. But of course he clings to his father
& mother as the tide of England will one day hold
him in its fond and final embrace!

Give him our love & tell him how we wish him.
Do not tell him how worried we were at his grief
over illness.

Of the making of books. There is no end,
but nobody ever said that of paintings &
portraits. We want him too many of them,
& the people of this day count him too
many of good for the future to heed how
the man or woman of today looked in the
flesh. If you have a few years spared to
you will endow the world with an illustri-
ous gallery just as sure as Sir Joshua &
Rembrandt's Gainsborough enable us to come into
touch, as it were, with England of the 18th Century.