

3
I denne Tid blev jeg ①
forenet med Hr Capitain
Ancheren om Overfarten til
New York og skulde betale
33 Spdr. for hver af mig og min
Kone samt 25 Spdr. for hver af mine
Børn foruden Kostholdet over Søen
som jeg maatte betale med 12 Spdr.
for hver voper og 12 Spdr. for mine
Børn. jeg havde altsaa udbetalt
til Capitainen 177 Spdr. foruden Lan-
dgangs Penge som jeg ogsaa maatte
betale til ham med 2½ Spdr. for
hver Person saa altsaa hele summen
udgjorde til 189 Spdr. 60 Skilling
nu havde jeg tilbage 16 Spdr. hvil-
ke jeg omvexlede i Sølv til 3.9
Gylden dette var alle de Penge
jeg havde. I den Tid jeg laa i
Drammen traf jeg mange som ud-
skjældte mig for min taabelige Hen-
sigt i at reise til Amerika, og
endelig fik see en Kone ved Möllen
paa Herket paa Drammens venstre Side

Som sagde mig lige i finene at
jeg havde kun alene den hensigt
med min reise at jeg vilde saa-
ledes omkomme min Kone og

Börn saa jeg kunde være fri deres
Byrde, og him tillagde at him
var end mere forfærdet over min
Natur som kunde have villie til
at dræbe uskyldige smaa Börn
enesfört jeg kunde være kjed af
min Kone, jeg svarede at jeg
ikke havde saadan hensigt hvorfra
Gud bevare endever sagde jeg.

Him blev end mere med samme
ytring og bekræftede at med Svergen
og banden at him vel kunde see at
jeg skjulte en Skalk under Kaaben
og saaledes upaatvivligt havde til hen-
sigt at Dræbe min Familie; thi al-
drig havde nogen kommet til Amerika
og ikke heller kunde de komme der; men
det var Mordiske Hjerte som vilde saa-
ledes udfinde Morderi. Ved at høre paa

denne uformyftige tale maatte jeg lide
 ad hende og spurgte endda paa nye
 om hun troede hvad hun talte,
 hvorpaa hun bekræftede sit forrige.
 Da svarte jeg at det var skam
 at Werden skulde føde saadane
 Folk som bar saa slette tanker
 om sine Medmenesker. Aldrig havde
 saadant vort min hensigt og aldrig
 vilde jeg formode at jeg skulde falde
 paa saa onde Weie; da jeg havde End
 var laavet saavit god Oplysning at
 jeg vidste langt bedre end at gjøre
 saa som hun havde forelagt mig, og jeg
 vilde derfor anmode hende om at vogte sig
 for saa Grinligt et snak i Efter-
 tiden thi der den hun folder over
 andre vilde gjerne ramme hende selv.
 Derpaa fagnede hun noget men dog
 holdt ved i sin forrige paaastand
 hvorpaa jeg lod hende fare i sit
 haab og gik min Wei saa snart
 jeg kunde. Mange andre trof jeg

ogsaa i Drammens by som gav mig mange slemme Ord. Blant andet var jeg inde hos Pastor Jespersen og han tilspurgte mig om jeg troede at finde en kortere vej til Himlen fra Amerika end jeg kunde finde i Norge. Hvorpaa jeg svarede at jeg ikke troede saadant; men jeg tænkte sig da jeg at naar jeg var afsondret fra alt Ryguelöst Selskab samt al Træng og Herredømme som der fantes i Norge da troede jeg at jeg skulde tjene min Gud bedre i enrum i Amerika og saaledes finde en bedre vej til Salighedens Opnaaelse end jeg havde i Norge, hvorpaa han lang og kom i anden Samtale med mig.

Endelig skred det til Tiden at vi skulde tage til Søen og kom endelig paa Skibet som hedte Emilie den 17^{de} Mai og vildt over til Göteborg som vi ankom den 20^{de} Mai. Paa denne trip blev enhver angreben.

af den almindelige Sösyge saa der
ikke var nogen fri derfor anden
alene jeg og min elste datter samt
en Bögervend fra Holmstrand,
Capitainen vilde intage fem i
Gotenborg til Ballast i skibet
og dette tog saa lang herstand at
vi blev ligende der en 14 dages Tid
og der kunde jeg spore forejellige
Folk. — Naar vi havde intaget Ballast
tog vi endelig Söen ijer den 5^{te}
Juni og da fortsatte Seiladsen med
Behagelig Wind, saa vi den anden Dage
Maargen kunde see Norge ved Arundale
Grense, vi Seilede da lunge med Norges
Sydelige Vids forbi Christiansand
Lindörne og Farsund med Liator altid
i N, Den 7^{de} Juni som var den förste
Finsedag saa vi sist vårt Fädreneland
Norg. Vi fortsatte kursen Norden for
Skotland hvilket er kortere end at gaa
ijjenom den Britiske Canal. Sözzgen
tog til ijer nuster hos alle Passagerne

uden alene vi foranførte blev stædse
 friske, min kone var heller ikke
 meget plagt af denne Syge; men der-
 imod min Søn Aslak blev syg
 i Sotenborg og denne Syge varede
 i omtrent 5 Uger og Udtil saa
 Plagfuld at jeg ikke havde Haab om
 hans Liv, da tænkte jeg paa Korte
 og angrede min rejse og tænkte saa-
 fremt dette barn skulde Dø paa Søen
 og begraves blandt Bølgerne da blev
 dette Død regnet paa mig fordi jeg
 vaarede saadan rejse, jeg angrede meget
 paa min afreise, og tænkte saaledes ved
 mig selv at det blev mig umuligt
 at indstaa saafremt han skulde Dø
 og kastes i Søen, ved hver Bølge
 Stød mod Skibet forstillede jeg mig
 den spæde Legemets stød blandt samme
 Bølger, I denne forvirring Sukke og
 bad jeg stædse til Gud om Helbred
 for mit Barn; men ikke aabenbarede
 mine Tanker til nogen, men Gud var stædse

Levret mit Barn blev frisk igjen
 og fik sin fulde Helbred Men da
 blev jeg meget Glad saa jeg ikke
 kan udfoer det med Pen hvor glad
 jeg var; Vi Seilede Norden for
 Skotland og forbi Skottlandsöerne
 Sundaöerne Faröerne og Orkenöerne
 og kom endelig i det store Atlantiske Hav.
 Her Seilede vi for det meste med
 ubehagelig Wind som stædes var
 os imod og fra W. Saa vi maatte
 altid krydse mod N. W. og S. W.
 saa Seilladen altid blev os besvæ-
 rlig og meget Lang. Vor Capitain
 holdt hver aften Bön og sang samt
 Leste hver Söndag dagens Text hvil-
 ket var meget goet. Den 10^{de} Jun
 fandt jeg behag i at forfatte en sang
 som følger

1. Hi Norge vort Fædreland haver forlat
 Fra venner og Frænder Fjellige (sæt)
 Og koursen mod Westen vi haver an-
 Hvor vi agter Land at bestige
 Med Haabet at faa der Blidene Naar
 End Norge os vilde Fjellige,

2. Vor Seilade er bleven hel ^{Sed.} Sunst^{ig} og
 For hvilket vi herren bør prise.

Som flyede os Sömand af ^{Blod.} Stadenlands
 Der vil stor Kjærlighed vise
 Vor Capitain maa. Berömbse faa
 Vi Fligter ham meget at prise.

3. Vort Skib er et Tempel hvor Helliged^{ig}
 Hver aften i Bøgnedags tiden.

At prise vor Herre i Aandens andrag
 Af hjertet med sande tillider
 At han er vor Gud, som redder os ud
 O! glemmer ham aldrig i Tiden —

4. I herren tilfreds vi forholde os vil
 Fornöiet hel Mantur og glæde
 Til "Wiinlandegode" vi föie os vil.

Med haabet om blidere Faage
 End Norge os gav Vi kaster dets drag
 Og søger en blidere Bane —

5. Vi bede vil ^{End} Herren om hans bistand ^{Sed.} saa
 Paa Havet vilbrusende Bølger

Han vere vor hjælper han vere vor tröst
 Han vere vor Stedige Følger
 Han vere vort haab i Clandeligt Raab
 Lad Dankheden ikke Fordölges —

6 Stillefred Mine venner fornøiet og Glad
Vi ville os altid i jende

Ei tænke paa Norges Afskediges dag
Men lade os deri befinde
At vi vandrer hen, fra Trældømmens ^{Land}
Og vil os til Friheden finde. - Finis

Den 11^{te} Juni kunde vi se
en liden Ø kaldet Borra men der gaves
intet Spor til at være Beboet, her
Krydsede vi forbi N. W. allerting
ometod os vel Den 13 Juni saa vi enden
Springvaller som altid holdt side med
skibet 4, 6. a 8, i sammen, disse
Størrelse var forskjellig endel troer jeg
kunde være omtrænt en tre (3), Alen
lange nogle større og nogle mindre, naar
gav sig tilsyns da blev det næsten altid
storm efter Søndagen den 14^{de} Juni
blev en meget stor storm saa
Bølgerne flere gange overkylede skibet
og da blev vi meget forfærdet da
det var en usædvanlig rörelse for
marfarne søfolk, Stormen holdt ved

hele Aften. Men ved den Varighed
bleve dog vi saa vant ved dette at
vi ikke saa meget Forstærkede derfor.
En nat blev dog saa Grusom storm
at vi knapt kunde ligge i vore
Senger, Tilslutning Brødede vore
Senger sønder og der blev en meget
stor Alarm blant Passagererne,
I denne Tummel sprang en Mand
fra Sigdals Præstegjeld Tværs over
Skibet i forbausende Forstærkelser og
raabte til mig om hvad det vilde
blive af saadant. og hvorledes de skulde
bære sig ad, da han var saa forstærket
at han endog Liv kunde formode,
jeg svarede sjönt jeg selv var bange
at han ikke skulde frygte, Men sette sit
haab til Herren vor Gud og omraabe ham
om hjælp da vilde vi sikkert finde redning
i vor Nød, Manden gik tilbage igjen
og blev tolmødig og stille.

Den 22^{de} Juni fant jeg mig befriet
i at forfatte en Sang som følger,

- 11
1. Paa Emilie Discanten Stemmer Skat
Til pris paa Atlantiske Bølge
Pasathiske Selskab i hvælken^{er} stand
Som mone Norwiger rømme
Ferglommer sin plát, for Fædrens Stand
Det vore Opofrelse sønner.
 2. Til Wiinlandagode vor hensejt bestaar
Hvor sjebnen os blidere Smiler
Wort haab er at komme i bliders kaar
End der Fædrenestovet sin hviler
End gives skal pris, for sine beris
Paa Bistand hvor skibet omsvirrer
 3. Enhver Emigrant som paa Emilie gaar
Opstemmer Doctiana Klarpe
Min pris til Der. Capitain Andersen Sta
Alt med sine Søfolk saa raske
Med Glæde og roe, vi skubes saa Fier
For hvilket vi heren böi Takke.
 4. O, Sid min Hjerte med Hjerte og Aand
Var rensat fra Syndige Flatter
Saa jeg kunde gjengjældet betrede^{det} Land
Hvortil min Bestræbelse Sigter
Og siden min Tid Opofre saa blid
Følge Apostlernes Skrifte. Finx.

Denne Sang opflog jeg paa Dækket
paa et Mandag. hvor der fik
Mange Seibkaber flere afskrev den,
men titelntning blev den bortrøvet
og jeg ved ikke af hvem det blev for-
rettet, I denne Uge havde vi temelig
God Wind, Endel af vor Passagerer
iser Lwindshjör var sygt næsten hele
Söfuren, Jeg havde mine Tanker stæde
henvent til Gud og bad ofte til ham
i mit hjerte, at han vilde fremdeles
staa os bi med sin Naadige bestand
og hjælp, og sjenke os bver for vores sjæles
Stæles saa vi kunde betrede Amerika med
fornyede hjertes,

Den 14^{te} juli fik vi Grund paa New-
Fundlandsbank hvor da blev prøvet Fis-
keredskaberne men det slog intet til den
Dag, Her fik vi dog see en mangde Skib-
som laa paa denne Grund for at Fiske
fra forskjellige steder i Verden. Denne
bank er den rigeste Fiskerplads i hele
Verden, paa det sted som vi inkom
paa denne bank er omkring 20 mile til fra New Fundland

Vi krydsede frem i S. M. fra denne Bank
og kom fra mange smaa banke som
var tildeels 10, 15, & 20 favnør. Lz b.
Den 22^{de} S. M. kom vi til en Bank
som ogsaa laa mange skibe deels
for Anker deels drevet af Winden
alle for at Fiske, Her Fiskede ogsaa vi
og fik en stor mængde af Hellefisk
samt Todisk saa det fyldte 5 Fønder
foruden det som blev fortært af skibets
Mandskab, denne dag følte jeg mig mest
upasselig der blev saa stor en stank
af denne søfisk at jeg knapt kunde im-
gaa syge og jeg heller ikke var nogen
"Leibhaber" af denne Ret. Over Helligslynd
Viede fordelt Most (4 Lb) dog fik vi en
som viede (2 Pk) og 5 Mpf og endels
meget stors som afspaltede Fiskered-
skabene saa vi ikke kunde spore dem
fra vort skib. Her saas ogsaa end
Kvaler men ingen af dem vare store.
Vi krydsede hid og did i forskjellige
Retninger dog altid lidt Fremad
den 7^{de} August fik vi dog Lørdag igen

New York hvilket gjenntrede os
 meget; da der kunde opfare at det
 snart maatte skides til end med denne
 lange Søreise. Fra den Tid havde vi
 omkring 31 Mil til New-York, endelig
 kom vi til Quarantine Pladsen lidt
 udenfor New-York den 11^{te} d. Maaed.
 Her kastede vi Anchor, og snart kom
 d. Doktor som skulde besee alle
 Passagererne om vi ~~ikke~~^{var} Friske saa vi
 ikke bragte nogen Syg ind i Landet
 hvilket vi alle var fri for og Vis-
 itationen gik vel, disse Mand kom
 om en liden Tid tilbage og den med-
 fulgte vor Captein til Staden, vi
 blive paa skibet paafølgende Nat, men
 den anden dag som var den 12^{de} August
 kom der en Mand med en liden seil-
 baad som skulde afhente alle Passa-
 gererne og bringe dem til Staden.
 Han havde to Madtrosser som vare Nege-
 re og disse vare saa sorte at der var
 entet at se hvid paa den inden allene Fø-
 derne og det hvide i Øinene

vi skulde da først befordres til et
 stort Waskehuus som stod paa
 Pale lidet fra Land, her skulde alt
 vort Føi vaskes og igjennummes
 om det var reent, og alle ^{vore} ~~vare~~ kister
 bleve aabnede for at igjennummes og
 alt gik meget godt, Flis ikke vort
 Føi havde ^{da} været reent nok havde vi ma-
 atet opholdt os ~~for~~ nogle dage paa denne
 Waskobod for at gjøre vort Føi reent.
 Men dette blev vi fri for, vi bleve
 derpaa bragte til staden New-York. og
 da bragt paa en meget stor Frægt-
 baad med alt vort Føi. her kom Cap-
 tainen igjen til os og gav mig Oplysning
 om mange Ting som var os nyttige, og
 bad mig have al den Opsyn som jeg
 kunde over mine Medfølgere Ligesom
 jeg havde haft for under hele Søreisen
 Captainen maa jeg meget berømme da
 han havde altid stor Omseer for os
 Passagerer under hele Føirun vil gaver
 der de som klagede paa ham; men disse

Klagede uden Haarsag da de ikke havde
spjønne paa hans store Omhyggelighed
for os og sin Trofasthed Handterende
Mod os i alle dele, og jeg befandt
ham saa Redelig i alle Ting og var
derfor efter min Samvittighed pris
ham meget for alt, jeg havde en
stor bysde hel Løcreiser for Regnekaboner
og Proviant ^{afdelingen} ~~for~~ ^{for} men jeg havde dog
spot og wanere til Løn af det u-
fornuftige Selskab som fantes iblandt
os. en stor deel antog alt for min
Pligt, men ikke for min Godhed, hvil-
ket var saa aldeles urimeligt da vi
alle vare lige Pligtige og lige Dulystige
dog skal jeg endt ^{læge} paa hjertet
da det var ufornuftighed ^{stodighed} som talte
Vel var Captainen dyr imod os i
fragt, men det var vel anvent da han
var saa meget omhyggelig i alle dele for
sit Mandskab at jeg skal pris ham
hver dag og time vi var under hans Op-
sigt, Herin Ledsage enhver som fatter

forsat at vandre til Amerika) paa gode
skibe og omhyggelige Skibsførere saa de
kunde nest endes hjælpe Lande med liv
og helbred i Amerika og siden sin tid
henvandre i at tjene Guds i Aand
og sandhed; da vilde det held at vi
havde en bærer vi til Halighedsen fra
Amerika end vi havde i Norge.
Her stoppede vor reise Natten over
men den paafølgende dag som var
den 13^{de} August; da blev Contracten
gjort for os af Baptamen om at kom
me op igenem Landet lige til Illinois
for 13 dollar for hver voksen og børn
under 12 Aar gik to mod en voksen
og Børn under 2 Aar gik frit. Mod
hver voksen person skulde frit 40
skaal pund og det øvrige betales med
1 $\frac{3}{4}$ dollar pr 100 ^{skall} pund, jeg havde
ikke mere penge i behold end 16 dollar
og derfor var ^hanmodenelse om Laan
hvilket Adelmødige Mand ^{gav} laante mig
39 Dollar hvormed jeg betalte Frigten

8
För mig og mine. de Penger der
Penger, jeg selv havde vilde jeg
benytte til Proviant^{inkjøb} og for
Føiets frugt, Staden New-York kan
jeg ikke beskrive i skjønhed og
Stadseelige skjønhed Bygninger;
dog syntes jeg at denne Stad
havde ikke saa behagelig beliggenhed
som mange andre byer jeg har set
før, dog var New-York saavell
den største som den rigeste Stad
i Frisatoderne saa hovedstaden
Washingtons haver entet derimod
at lige. Vi reiste fra New York
samme dag mod aften paa den før
omtalte store Fragtbaad som blev
tillige med 6 andre ^{fulde} trukne af en
Dampbaad op ad Hudson Floden
til en By kaldet Albany, ligger ved
denne flod saa endel Byer. Vi
kom til Albany den 15^{de} Aften
og der bleve vi insatte paa byge-
da at Føiet skulde weies der

Da en Kone fra Lillejorde Præstegjeld
 som ikke havde mere Penge end
 2½ dollars og hun derimod havde
 en Søn paa 6 a 8 Aar da var det
 for hende umuligt at komme længere
 for Penge, hun gjorde derfor begjæring
 til alle Passagererne om de vilde låne
 hende 10 a 12 daller Men som ingen
 vilde betroe hende, Endelig hørte der
 Mand som saante mig i New-York
 laavet hende hvis hun kunde formaa
 mig til Lantion jeg negtede dette i
 lang Tid men maatte dog tilslutning
 føie hende da jeg havde Medsynt over
 hendes store Jammer, jeg saante altsaa
 12 daller af benevnte Mand og fulgte
 derpaa Konen oppaa Albany Contor
 for at betalte for hende men da den Mand
 der ikke vilde gjøre det imod 1½ doll.
 blev der entet af med betalingen,
 Vi gik derpaa tilbage til vort Føn
 som da allerede var befyldt paa en Ca-
 malbaad, jeg satte mig nn paa Baaden
 og for at beskue vore billetter da de
 alle vare i en Døge og jeg vilde derfor

Øge at udfinde den rette for enhver.
Medens jeg sad under denne Beskæftigelse
blev min Pung Bortstjålet saavel disse
siste Laante 12 Daller som min egne saa
jeg ialt mistede omtrent 28 Daller i Sølv
samt en Pung som jeg ikke vilde solgt
for en Daller. Nu blev jeg udsat for
den allerstørste Vanskelighed da jeg
nu ikke eiede 1 cent til at kjøbe
noget for. Vi drog afsted samme dag
fra denne By paa en Canalbaad som blev
fremtrukne af 2^{de} hester saavel Wat som dog
denne Canal varer tit en By kaldet Buffalo
som ligger ved Eriksen og Canalen kaldes Eri-
-Canal og er omtrent 60 Norske Mil.

Under denne reise var jeg i megen Bekym-
ring for Penger til Ophold for mig og mine
jeg var bejjende hos de fleste af mine Ri-
sebrødre om at faa nogle Penger til Laane
men da der var i vort Selskab en meget skøn
Compagnon indgaar fra Christiansand som sagde
sig at være Doctor til alleslags Syge Patient-
ter og kalte sig Brant Wapant det Løgne-
agtige søgte at jeg ingenlunde havde mistet
mine Penger men at jeg eiede denne Speculation

for at bedrage min forrige Gælder og ved dette
 røgte fik han et stort parti til at Deel
 tage med sig i sine Løgn og saaledes forraadte
 alle fra at laane mig Penge. Han erklærede
 at han kunde vel see at jeg var en stor
 Skjelmur og at jeg derfor burde straffes med
 hunger medens der gaves Leilighed dertil.
 Han aflagde ^{Saadan} ~~den~~ Dom at jeg med min Fa-
 milie skulde blot nyde 1 Brød for 9 cent
 uden Smør til dagen saa jeg kunde erkjen-
 ende min feil og de mange Møder som
 jeg skjulte under Kaaben, Saaledes ^{med-} ~~saa~~
 kunne han mig dag for dag med den
 største Skjenskel. Ejend af denne hans
 Trindskel og ved af denne fra hans uret-
 færdige Dom svarede jeg ham tilslutning og
 følgende Ord. Hvor er du som Dömmen
 en Fremmed Mand ham staa eller han
 falder for sin egen herre saa kommer
 ikke dig ved. Thi det vil vorder sig best
 at en først seer til at den Ransager
 dig selv. Vel er jeg en stor Synder for
 Gud; men det tilkommer ikke dig at
 at straffe mig derfor saa til dig selv og lad

22
Mig i min tempe skibne var med fred.
Efter dette blev han noget bedre med mig
jeg fik Endelig laant 2 Dollars af den
samme Mand som jeg forhen havde laant af
og dermed plattede jeg mig nogle Dage.

Efter denne Canal er en stor smængde
Bjer Dels stor deels smaa og deriblant
er Rochester, en meget vakker By og
deri boede endel Norske Folk, men her var
ikke Land at faa kjøbt, for Regjeringe friir.
Et lidet Stykke fra Rochester ligger
en liden by kaldet Lockport som er
meget værdig for de mange sluser
som er indmureret igjennem en stor
Bjergaar, der staar 5 opholdende
Sluser som her kaldes Lock og 2 i
bredden. Men der arbejdedes nu paa
paa at omkomme dem til større vand
rum og ikke saa mange i høiden men
3 i bredden. Vi kom endelig til
Buffalo den 23^{de}. Agtst hvor vi da
bleve forflyttede af Canalbaaden og indfl-
ggede paa en meget stor Fragtbaad hvor vi
havde godt Opholdstid.

I denne begjærte vi omkring for at se om
om og dels for at kjøbe det fornødne til paa-
følgende Seiling, men jeg manglde Penge
for at kjøbe noget for saa jeg da paany
var indsat for stor fare. Jeg bad Forskj-
ellige om Laan men kunde intet formaa
derved. Endelig fik jeg 2 Daller af
en Mand af vort følge udgaar fra
Voss i Bergens Skift mod at han
skulde erholde en Rife af mig til
sikkerheds pant for Laanet. Nu blev
jeg for en Tid reddet igjen, den 25^{de}
2. M. var Tiden opnaaet at Dampbaaden
skulde gaa opover de 3 store Ferskvaa-
nde kaldet Erie Huron og Michigan
Søen og paa denne baad blive vi indtagne
tiligemed en meget stor del andre
Emigranter da denne Store Baad gaa
afsted fra Staden borte der en meget
skjøn Anseik. Saa varede for den Tid
medens vi vare saa nær Staden at dens
beboere kunde høre det, men det varede ikke
lange da baaden løb ualmindelig fort.
Thi den havde Dobelt Maskineri og 4^{de} Etage høi

den var det største Seilfartoi jeg havde skuet
24 under al min reis. Her havde vi godt
Opholdstid. Denne Dampbaad Seilede for det
meste om alle Kjøbstæder deels for at
optage vore som Maskineriet drives med
deels for at Landsette Passagerne og Deels
for at optage Passagerne. Somtider Sei-
lede den lang ud paa søen saa vi ikke kunne
spore noget Land fra nogen kants da disse
Farvande vare meget store. Da vi kom i
nærheden af en By kaldet Milwaukee kom
der os imøde en liden Dampbaad som skulde
undersøge om nogen af Passagererne vilde Land-
sættes der. Her Landsattes næsten alle af
mit Følge uden alene de fra vore som vilde
til Chicago i Illinois men alle vi andre
reiste paa denne lille Dampbaad ind til byen
Milwaukee som ligger i Wisconsin, og dette
var Søndagen den 30^{te} August. Naar
vi kom ind i denne by maatte vi betale
10 daller for Landsætning som udgjorde
til 27 cent pr Person. Her traf vi Norske
Folk som var i Tjeneste i Byen og som
kunne underrette os om at der havde omdannet sig
Endelig Familier fra Fins Prestegjæld om trent 2
Norske Wiit fra Byen

vi havde Tøj som maatte befordres med
 Heste og derfor ikke saa snart kunde faa
 anledning til at reise derfra og vi bleve
 altsaa ligende her til den første September
 Da vi kom ind i denne By, havde jeg
 ikke en eneste Cent saa jeg kunde kjøbe
 Brød for mig og mine, ikke heller var
 der noget at faa kjøbt i Byen, saa ord-
 sigten syntes mig mere end vanskelig
 Jeg ønskede mig Arbeide men dette var
 ikke at bevente da jeg ikke kunde forstaa
 et eneste Ord, An syntes jeg det gik
 over min nattnur saa jeg angrede meget
 for min afreise fra Norge, og sukkede under
 denne skjæbne med et utolmodigt Sind
 Men dog blev min Kone mig til
 Sand Trøst; Da hun forelagde mig at
 jeg som Stedse havde været Frimodig
 skulde ikke da tabe Modet, men havde
 at Naar Naar Nöden er størst er
 Hjælpen nærmest Saaledes gik det ogsaa
 En Mand fra Wigdals Prestegjæld laente
 mig 4 Daller, og da var jeg allerede hjulpen
 for en Tid til at kjøbe Brød for mig og mine

26)
og i forening med denne Mand liede vi os
en Mand med 2 heste tit at kjøbe
os op tit Norske Fok for hvilket vi
maatte betale i Sammen 4 Daller. Vi
begave os paa veien tit Norske beboere
7^{de} September. og kom den 2^{de} s. m. tit
de Norske som havde bosat sig i Town
8^{de} kaldet Miskigo, Naar jeg kom der
var jeg Pengeløs igjen. Jeg fik nogle fra
Tina Prestegjeld som antog sig min Nød.
Disse underkøbt mig med Familie i
nogle Dage. og siden lærte mig noget
Proviant tit min Familie saa jeg kunde
faa Anledning tit at søge fortjeneste
ved arbejde. Jeg kom først i arbejde
hos benevnte Fyndöling Toften Gstenen.
Løstern for at tilberede korn
Min tit Winteren. da denne Edelmæ-
dige Mand lærte mig Winterlogi
hvilket han ogsaa opfyldte med mange
Velgjerninger imod mig. I paafølgende
Winter var jeg i arbejde hos Anførte
Americaner og fik en halv daller Dagen
som altid betalt med varrer.

da her forskede en atter. Penge mangel.
 Endelig blev jeg forenet med 2^{de} brødre
 om at tjene hos dem i et Aar for 200^{de}
 daller, og skulde erholds Huse til min
 Familie. Somt Provianten mig selv.
 Denne tjeneste begynte jeg den 8^{de} Mars
 Somme Maaned fik jeg Roe og Skov
 for 18 daller som var saare nyttigt for
 min Familie da min Kone med minste
 barn havde været Sgk hele vinteren
 som saasomt de fik Mulk saa
 blev min Kone god ijsen Hos disse
 brødre bestod mit arbejde i at
 staa paa en Sgk og skjære bord
 af forskjellige Træsarter. Naar jeg havde
 været i denne tjeneste et halvt Aar
 blev min Husbonde saa Ubillig mod
 mig at jeg ikke kunde see mig nærvæ
 for fremtiden at blive hos ham.
 jeg satte mig til at tænke paa hans Befalinge
 paa grund af at jeg vilde see at han
 ham noget fortjente paa mig saa at
 han skulde sige min tjeneste da jeg
 ikke selv turde sige den paa Grund af 7^{de}

Kennels (28)
forlise min tjeneste Løn, men jeg raadede
min Hensigt den 9^{de} ~~November~~ September
for hvilket tilbød jeg blev meget Glad.
Saaledes har jeg leveret til denne Tid
i Medgang og Modgang men altid under
saartarbejde da jeg stædse er udfordret
med den største Fliid i at leve og
jeg kunde skaffe mit Hustru det fornødne
med Føde og Klæder og vi har End være
saaret ikke født nogen Mangel men
har stædse haft det bedre end i Norge
og endda tillagt os noget lidt Penge
tilbestemt hvilket altid er Hensigten for
Mennesket at det altid vil komme Fremad
i Verden, Saaledes er det ogsaa her,
Gjerrigheden hersker nesten hos alle,
jeg kan sige at jeg aldrig har været
Plaget af Gjerrighed, men dog har jeg den
atbrude at faa saa mange Penge at jeg kunde
kjøbe mig et stykke Land, hvilket jeg
ved herrens bestand, ogsaa vil haabe at
kunde skee i Fremtiden, Herrens Vei er
ikke vor Vei og hans Tanker ikke vor Tanke
En Salomon siger; Mennesket Hjerte
betænker sin Vei, men Herren straffer den.

Saaledes er det gaaet med mig; da jeg
 agtede at kjøbe mig land og komme mere
 frem i Verden, da slog Herren. Paa
 mig, saa vi paa en og samme dag faldt
 i Sygdom saavel jeg som Konen og elste
 Barn hvilket skedde i Slutningen af
 August m. Denne Syge kaldes her Feber
 = Ager men paa Norsk Koldaggen. Denne
 Syge holdt sig ikke lange, men bortgik
 med det allernæreste som nogensteds
 skan skee. Min Kone og barn vare
 syge i 5 Uger og jeg i 7 Uger dog tog
 det lang Tid før vi kunne arbeide
 da alle vore Kræfter vare tagne vorelle
 hurtigt til ved Spiselyst. Saa at jeg
 i January var næsten saa god som før
 dette syntes nok en Fremgang for mig
 men jeg kan antage Herrens Rødsel for at
 ske altid til det beste. Thi har jeg
 aftaget i Jordisk Midler saa har
 jeg dog tillagt i Aandelig Rigdom. Derfor
 ofte jeg vilde ønske Herren vilde give mig
 Kræfter til at vokse dag fra dag saa jeg
 kunde Endelig naa Maalet for min ~~Træls~~ Træls

30
som er Sjellens Evige Lyksalighed,
og for hvilket jeg vil have min største
Beskjæftigelse for saaromt ikke Herren
vilde aldels forskyde mig for mine mange
Synderskyld. Dog har jeg det haab til ham
at hans Naade og Barmhjerthighed ikke endnu
er uddødt. Herren er befunden Naadig
mod enhver angervoren Synder hvilket
endnu maa formodes naar alvorlig Peni-
tende finder sted. —

Jeg har hidtil dage jolet mine Kaar afvexlende
men somfordetmeste her hjemsogt mig
med haardt arbejde til at forsørge mig
og mine. Dog formoder jeg at Eftertiden
vil gjøre mine Kaar alt Mildere og Mildere
jeg kan vel erfare; at den Arbeidende
Mand kan gjøre det godt her da her i
Amerika. Vörner langt mere sine Arbeidere
end Norge kan med sine. Vel næsten
jeg ikke at her nufortiden er en
Kalmindelig Følgemangel men om saa dette
er, da kan dette endog dette Land gjøre
enhver stadig og troe Arbeider inden kort
Tid Rig og mestis.

Her gives alle Producter indenlandsk for
 det meste og alle af en Varmarket
 god Beskaffenhed som er Ualmindelig
 at findes i Norge. Her kan Planter og Græs
 alle de sorter man vil ønske sig
 saa jeg ved intet at staa tilbage,
 uden allene Risengræs og Græs da disse
 maa have en varmere Klima til sin Væxt
 hvilket sted ingenlunde vil byvæse
 sig for Norske Folk. Her Nedsaaes Winter
 hvede og Foraarshvede med Sædetider
 kan enhver mædte dog antages i almin
 delighed at det første er det bedste.
 Winterhveden saaes i følgende Tider:
 September, October, November og
 December. Jeg har seet dem som
 har saet i Slutningen af December
 Dens høstetid er for det meste i Slutning
 en af July dog somtider før og som
 metider Sildigere Foraarshveden saaes
 i March og i førstningen af April
 og dennes Høstetid bliver 2 3 a 4 Uger
 sildigere efter Aarets beskaffenhed.

32) Mais eller Indianers Korn saaa
fordetmeste i Mai saavel som de
fleste af andre Sæd. Pløisningen
af Nyt Land er den beste Tid i Juni
og Juli som da i næste Skiot maa titen
er med Vintertvede Tid at gaa Pløiet
1 Aker ^{nyt} Land koster fra 2½ til 3 Daller
efter Jordbundens Beskaffenhed og Gjæ
rdet omkring 40 Akers Land koster
omtrødt 24 Daller Gjærdet splittes
fordetmeste af Beg 11 fod langt og
4000. skiver (Rais) ^{til} antages for nok
til 40 Aker Land, Splittningen koster
fordetmeste 8 daller 1000. opleses efter
Skierne Langde Triangel Winkel omtrø
et Saaledes  af 8. skier hvi
Saa Creaturene ikke kan Springe over
af Sæden maa i almindelighed Anjorden
Men Creaturene gaar for det meste
inde i Skoven uden Tilsyn Men endda
af Beboerne her tager man til at injerde
sine Creature at dette da dette er meget
gavnligt for Lyftaafrentingen som ellers titda
et haafølge stor bever

Træene maa man altid vel omhye-
 rde især om Natten da her gives en
 Ubr som kaldes Prærisven som
 ved bevogtningene Efterskadenhed kan
 ødelægge meget af dem, Svinene gaar
 orden flere og tilføje for det meste
 i 10 Maaned, og disse mæder sig
 meget godt, I December Maaned
 ere de fædret da her om høsten
 falder en mængde Nødder af Træene
 som giver Svinene til den beste Fæd-
 ning, af disse haver enhver mand en
 Mængde saa man vil finde svin alle-
 vegne i Skovene, De Strækninger som
 antager til Høistaatter bliver aldrig
 bevogtet fra Creaturerne, men dette
 men dette optages mit i Deres almin-
 delige gang og det kan med god føie
 lade sig gjøre, man kan skaae og Ruge
 Winterfoder for en Koe i 2 Dage
 efter Rønnings beretning found.

Jordbundens Beskaffenhed er særdele-
 lig paa Fædning som kommer af at
 her voxer en mængde græs.

og naar dette om høsten nedfalder titlige
Sned att Löv af Træerne da vil att
tyene Jorden til Fodning vext.
34 Den överste deel af Mjorden er
for det meste Sort, dog er den
titdele hvid og Sandagtig og derimod
er titdele Leer og titdele Sand. Skovland
gives overalt i denne Kreds fra some p
der er den naturligt tyk men tit-
dele er aabent Land imellem samt
titdele tynd Skov att er Lövskov.
Her antages i almindelighed for at være
det beste og Fedeste Land da som
voker sorteg og Löv, derimod hvor
der voker hvideg er meget Magrare
paa Höien er Simdet men i Dalene
Frugtbarst, paa Höien er titdele sten
og i Dalene svampige steder det er
best at have sit hus paa Höien
og sin Ager i Dalene mange forsk-
jellige Religions Sectar som her
herker er endel saar meget forskjellig
fra den os bekjente Herakens Luth
eriske da er megen Feil i mange af
sine Landemænd som titdele beblande
sig med forskjellige secter og saaledes af d
den den öfste Moder Religion

Den største aarsag til dette fald er at op-
søges af følgende aarsager.

1. Den at de finde en anden Religion
lettere for deres fremgang, og mindre besvær for
deres aandelige Beskjæftigelse. hvilket alt
er for enhver formodning af den største Daarlighed
2. at de tildeels kan volds Præster og i Tale

Find og saaledes finde sin velkomme inden og
og Nöie hvilke besvær mange ere bange for.
Invidere har jeg at beklage at saa mange
af mine Landsmænd Udgiver sig for Prædi-
kante og Veiledere for andre paa Livets
Ulibrige Bane, men har forglemt at Indprædi-
ke for sin egen Aand Dukkens rene Røst.
som jeg antager for en stor daarlighed. thi
enhver kan belønne hvad det betyder at forgive
aandene kald, og ikke at kjende forvise det i
Gjerringerne, jeg antager dette for en stor Daarlig-
hed, og ynker meget over mine Landsmænds
Ferttagende. Endel af disse vilde meget gjerne
vorde antagne til aadentlige Præster, hvilket
jeg allerede er i tvivl for at komme i gang
hvilket blinde afgjørende de ikke selv begriber
thi hvorledes kan disse Præster veilede ungdomen
til Confirmationen da de neppe selv kan
læse sine a.b.c. jeg benytter dette tilbud da
jeg antager min egen veiledning for min
for mere nyttig end disse alkyrmister. Jeg vil
de ønske meget til herren i det blødt at enhver
af mine landsmænd maatte, naafinde den bedste og
alvorligste vandel for sin sjels frelse, og saaledes
finde den retteste vej for vor vandel i jensum dette
liv til det evige og uforanderlige hvorefter vi skal

36
Sagte med største Røst alle vorde ijsen
derne. Vorden. Da her gives en Mængde Reli-
gioner er det saare givindt, for den vraklende
at gaa over dem. alle fra Irland, England
Skotland Frankriget og tildeels fra Tyskland
har den katolske Religion, Quakere, og Hæn-
giamere gives her meget af fra Norge. Hedsning
er og Gøder og Protestanterne og her meget af
Monotister og Baptister Mormoner og Mocha-
medanere. Alle Indfødte ere godt oplyst
i skirning og Regning. Saavel Kinde som
mand nogle af disse have god Religion i
sinning med vorde den Lutherske, og endel
bekjender sig ikke til nogen Religion og ikke
hellere vil Troe Bibelen. For Land og enter
forvender den Mængde heller siger den at
være Løgn. De troe hverken Gud eller Gæver
ikke Himlene eller Helvede og Ingenmands Opstandelse.
de hofder ingen Opbath og heller ikke nogen anden
gæve. Men bekijsf tiger sig med Læring
det i aviser. Den største deel ere gode Folk
og Reale i alle sine Handlinger uden allene i
sin Guds Ordskele. De afskier enhver som er
Uretfærdighed, og straffer uden ophold Forbry-
deren. I ethvert Forsamling er 2 Vorenskriver
og disse bliver udvalgte hvert aar af blant
de beste af Biboune. Naar en vil fore sig
saa kan han bade gaa Indkøbet og handle
sagen same Dag. Hvis at en ønsker sagen henviset
til Høieste Ret, da kan det føres uden ophold
Laarne bliver Foretalt af Congressen og udgør den
i alle hørende. Den bliver skrevet og en hver skal
den, hvilket som helst er godt og som helst. Slette mand
at en meget godt, at de ikke skal tænke end i 4 Aar
men omstillelse forandring. Kan sku dogt aar. Ingen lide
adning bliver valgt til Embedet uden han foret

THE TRIALS OF AN IMMIGRANT: THE JOURNAL OF OLE K. TROVATTEN

TRANSLATED AND EDITED
BY CLARENCE A. CLAUSEN

"America letters" were a great stimulus to Norwegian migration during the middle decades of the last century. Many of those that were sent home by the more versatile emigrants were widely read and discussed, copies often being made for circulation in neighboring valleys. "They first brought the 'America fever' to the country," comments a present-day Norwegian historian.¹

One of the most influential of these letter writers was Ole Knudsen Trovatten, author of the journal translated below. He came to America in 1840, first going to the well-known Muskego settlement west of Milwaukee, but later, in 1843, moving to Cottage Grove in the Koshkonong area southeast of Madison. He had served as *klokker* (sexton) and school-teacher in his native district, which went by the forbidding name of Ødefjeld (in Laardal, Upper Telemark).² There he evidently became a character of considerable controversy because not only was he suspected of being too fond of the bottle, but he was also accused of trying his hand at making counterfeit money. According to one source, it was the complications growing out of this accusation that sent him to America.³

Despite these suspicions and accusations, the *klokker* seems to have been held in high respect by the "common man" of his neighborhood. "By the people, Trovatten was regarded as a sage who could confound both pastor and judge when he so desired," and, according to reports, the Telemarkings traveled for miles to consult with him on knotty

¹ Ingrid Semmingsen in *Utvandringen og det utflyttede Norge*, 11 (Oslo, 1952).

² Literally translated, Ødefjeld would be "Desolate Mountain."

³ *Billed-magazin*, 2: 283 (Madison, 1870).

questions. Their confidence in his judgment and veracity apparently did not decline after his departure for America. His letters to friends back home seem to have caused a minor social upheaval, as is evidenced by the following testimonial from one of the many who fell under the spell of Trovatten's pen.

The *klokke*'s praise of America exerted a tremendous influence among the masses of the people in Upper Telemarken, and now for several years rich people and poor, the great as well as the humble, had talked about Ole Trovatten, some to blame and defame him, others to praise and extol him. The opponents of emigration avowed that he was a dangerous person who sought to lead people to ruin, while others took a different view of the matter and declared that they were ready to place their hand on the Holy Bible and, under oath, testify that in his home community Ole was known to be a reliable man. I shall not try to pass judgment upon his honesty, but by the common people he was generally regarded as an angel of peace, who had gone beforehand to the New World, whence he sent back home to his countrymen, so burdened with economic sorrows, the olive branch of promise, with assurance of a happier life in America. . . . "Ole Trovatten has said so" became the refrain in all accounts of the land of wonders, and in a few years he was the most talked of man in Upper Telemarken. His letters from America gave a powerful impulse to emigration, and it is probable that hundreds of those who are now plowing the soil of Wisconsin and Minnesota would still be living in their ancestors' domains in the land of Harald Fairhair, if they had not been induced to bid old Norway farewell through Trovatten's glittering accounts of conditions on this side of the ocean.⁴

As some of Trovatten's letters have been preserved, we are able to sample the messages he sent to his former fellow parishioners. In one of them he intimates that people back home may think that he regrets having left, but herein they are badly mistaken: "Under no circumstances would I return to live in Ødefjeld, not even if I could be owner of half the annex. Ødefjeld is such a wretched place that one ought by no means to live there. Every inhabitant would do better by

⁴The writer of this passage, Gunder Torgersen Mandt, came from the parish of Mo in Upper Telemark and settled at Koshkonong in 1843. The quoted statement is found in *Billed-magazin*, 2: 38.

selling his farm to people from Lower Telemarken. It seems rather questionable to me to abide by one's ancestors' ignorance of better districts and their fear of emigration." He continues, "Fertile fields lie uncultivated in America," and a "much better mode of living is open to every honorable citizen. . . . Every poor person who will work diligently and faithfully can become a well-to-do man here in a short time." Soil and climate combine to make the prospects for farming very alluring. "Every man here has a large number of pigs and also chickens. There are some who have as many as a thousand chickens." What a contrast to the hard-scrabble existence in Ødefjeld, he plainly implies. As for himself, "although I have been sick almost half a year and have a family to care for, still I have accomplished more than a worker can do in Norway." He had already acquired forty acres of land besides some other property, and he was earning wages of from sixteen to eighteen dollars a month with board.⁶

This optimistic report was written in July, 1842. Some time later he became *klokker* and schoolteacher in the Liberty and East Koshkonong parishes.⁶ His neighbors there spoke very highly of him both as a *klokker* and as a man: "I have never before or since heard anyone who had so beautiful and powerful a voice as this man. He was, furthermore, an able teacher, well-intentioned, helpful, and kind. The newcomers always found in him a sympathetic friend and dependable advisor. . . . Many of the pioneers in this area will remember with thankfulness the name of Ole Knudsen Trovatten."⁷ But

⁶ A translation of Trovatten's letter by Theodore C. Blegen is found in *North Star*, 2:76 (Minneapolis, 1920). A discussion of his influence as a letter writer can be found in Blegen's *Norwegian Migration to America, 1825-1860*, 197-200 (Northfield, 1931). Other accounts are found in Ingrid Semmingsen's *Veien mot vest*, 75 (Oslo, 1941) and H. R. Holand, *De norske settlemesters historie*, 146 (Ephraim, Wisconsin, 1909). Two of Trovatten's letters in the original Norwegian are published in *Telesoga*, no. 5, p. 2-9 (September, 1910).

⁷ "Ole Knudsen Trovatten became the first school teacher on Koshkonong, at a salary of \$10 per month"; R. B. Anderson, *First Chapter of Norwegian Immigration*, 427 (Madison, 1896).

⁸ This statement was made by Knud Aslaksen Juvi from Telemark, who settled at Koshkonong in 1844; *Billed-magazin*, 2:24. In a later issue of *Billed-magazin* (2:283) Trovatten is also described as a man "who was always ready to reach the newcomers a helping hand. . . . Many of the early settlers speak with gratitude about his kindly services."

fortune turned against him. His wife died of cholera, probably during the late forties, and his three children apparently were carried away by the same scourge. Possibly as a result of these sorrows, he succumbed entirely to alcoholism and was eventually laid in a drunkard's grave.⁸ Ole Trovatten's letters speak eloquently of the optimism with which people of his generation set out for the New World, and his life bears witness to the hardships and tragedies that many of them met in the land of promise.

The journal given below was probably written in 1842, before Trovatten left Muskego. As it has come down to us, the manuscript is evidently not complete. The opening sentence would indicate that some introductory material is missing—probably a discussion of his motives for migrating—and the concluding paragraph breaks off in the middle of a sentence. But, fortunately, the part of the journal which deals with the Atlantic crossing, the arrival in New York, the journey inland, and the first contacts with a pioneer settlement have been preserved. It gives us vivid glimpses of life at the time when the immigrant stream from Norway was swelling into mighty proportions.⁹

TROVATTEN'S JOURNAL

At this time I reached an agreement with Captain Anchersen about passage to New York. I was to pay \$33 per person for me and my wife and \$25 for each of the children. In addition there was the expense of provisions for the trip, which cost me \$12 per adult and \$12 for the children. Thus I paid the captain a sum of \$177, independently of the "entry money," \$2.50 per person, which I also had to deposit with him. The total therefore amounted to \$189.50, leaving me \$16, which I changed to 39 guilders in silver—this was all the cash I had.¹

⁸ *Billed-magazin*, 2: 283.

⁹ The present translation was made from a photostatic copy of the Trovatten journal on file at the Minnesota Historical Society. The original manuscript was in the possession of the late Halvor Skavlem of Janesville, Wisconsin. The manuscript is unsigned, but internal evidence, as proved by Skavlem, makes it clear that Trovatten is the author.

¹ Captain Thomas Anchersen was one of the best known skippers in early Norwegian immigrant history. He brought several shiploads of homeseekers to

While I lay in Drammen I met many people who rebuked me for my "crazy notion" of wanting to go to America. One woman even went so far as to tell me straight to my face that my only intention was to destroy my wife and children so as to be rid of all encumbrances. She was especially horrified, she said, to think that I had the disposition to kill innocent little children, though it might be understandable that I could be tired of my wife. I assured her that I had no such vile intention, but only hoped that God would keep all of us from acts of that nature. She continued, however, in the same vein and swore that it was easy to see that there was a scoundrel concealed under my cape who undoubtedly intended to kill his family, because no one had ever reached America and it was impossible for anyone to get there. Only people intent on murder, she explained, would set off on such adventures. Listening to this nonsense made me laugh, and I asked her if she really believed what she said, which she maintained she did. I replied that it was a shame the world should bring forth people who held such evil opinions about their fellow men. I assured her again that I harbored no murderous intentions and did not expect to fall into such evil ways, since I was, God be praised, sufficiently enlightened to know better than to act the way she thought I would. Finally I advised her to keep her tongue from such abusive language in the future, for the judgment she passed on others might easily fall on her own head. This quieted her somewhat, but she still clung to her own ideas. I therefore left her with her hallucinations and got away as soon as possible, but I met many others in Drammen who had much that was bad to say about my venture.

At this time I also called on Pastor Jespersen, who asked me if I expected to find a shorter road to heaven from America than I might find in Norway, to which I replied in the negative. "But," I added, "when I am removed from all the evil company and all the tyranny and oppression which is found in Norway,

the New World during the years 1839-44. An account of one of his trips to America with an analysis of a typical group of immigrants is given in an article by this translator, "An Immigrant Shipload of 1840," in *Norwegian-American Studies and Records*, 14:54-77 (Northfield, 1944). According to the ship's list, Trovatten and his wife were thirty-two years old at the time of this journey. They had a daughter of seven and two boys, one four years, the other eight months old. The silver coinage probably refers to the Dutch guilder or gulden, which was valued at 40.2 cents.

I believe I will be able to serve God better in America and thus find a surer way to salvation than here in Norway." He made no further comments and turned the conversation to other matters.

Finally the time arrived when we could take to sea. We boarded our ship "Emilie" on May 17, and sailed for Gothenburg, where we arrived on the tenth. During the trip everyone was attacked by seasickness except me, my oldest daughter, and a baker from Holmestrand. The captain wished to take iron aboard in Gothenburg as ballast, and this took so long that we remained there fourteen days. Thus I had an opportunity to get in touch with certain people. When we had loaded the ballast we finally put to sea again, on the fifth of June. As the wind was favorable we caught sight of Norway at Arendal on the morning of the second day. We followed the southern coast of Norway past Kristiansand, Lindesnes, and Farsund, with Lister always to the west.² On the seventh of June, which was Whitsunday, we saw our fatherland, Norway, for the last time.

We took the course north of Scotland, which is shorter than going through the English Channel. Seasickness again attacked practically all the passengers; only those of us already mentioned remained well. My wife was not affected much either; but my son Aslak became ill in Gothenburg and remained sick for five weeks, at times suffering so much that I lost hope for his life. Then I thought of Norway and regretted ever leaving. I felt that if this child should die at sea and be buried amidst the waves, I would be guilty of his death because I had undertaken such a journey. I was deeply grieved and felt that it would be impossible for me to endure it if the boy should die and be tossed into the sea. With each beat against the ship, I imagined his frail body being washed about by the waves. During this crisis I continually prayed that God would grant health to my child, but I did not reveal my thoughts to anyone—and, God be praised, my child regained his strength. Then I became extremely happy, so happy that I cannot express it in words.

We sailed north of Scotland, passing the Faroes, the Orkneys, and the Hebrides, finally getting out on the vast Atlantic. Here we encountered unfavorable wind, as it blew steadily from the

² Actually, as they sailed along the southern coast of Norway, Lister would have been to the north.

west, forcing us continually to tack towards the northwest and southwest, thus making our progress slow and cumbersome. The captain held devotions every evening and read the text for the day every Sabbath—a very fine practice indeed. On June 10 I entertained myself by composing the following poem.³ . . .

On June 11 we caught sight of a little island called Borra, but there was no evidence of its being inhabited.⁴ On the thirteenth we saw a number of grampuses in groups of four, six, or eight following the ship to one side. They varied in size, but I judge that they averaged about three yards in length. When they show themselves you can always expect bad weather. On Sunday the fourteenth a severe storm blew up; several times the waves washed clear over the deck. This terrified us greatly, for we were unused to such heaving of the ship. The storm lasted a whole week, so we got somewhat used to it and lost much of our fear. One night, however, it stormed so furiously that it was almost impossible to stay in our beds. Finally the beds began breaking down, and a horrible commotion set in among the passengers. Amidst all this uproar, a man from Sigdal raced across the deck in great panic yelling at me, asking what in the world we should do. He was in such a fright that he could see no hope for survival. Despite my own fear, I replied that he should not be afraid but should put his trust in God and call on Him for help—then we would assuredly be rescued from our great plight. This calmed him and he went quietly back to his place.⁵

On June 22 I felt the urge to compose the following song.⁶ . . . On St. John's Day I pinned it up somewhere on deck where

³ The "poem" rejoices in the fact that they are on their way to the land in the west where they expect to find better conditions than they did in the land of drudgery, which they have just left. Praises are offered to God because He has given them a good captain and sailors of their own blood who are ever kind and considerate toward the passengers. Trusting in God, they hope to arrive safely in the pleasant land of Wineland the Good.

⁴ This probably refers to the tiny island of Boreray near St. Kilda, west of the Hebrides.

⁵ Another passenger, A. A. Vinje, probably referring to the same storm, says that "the timbers sustaining the upper berths gave way, precipitating them upon the lower ones, and the screams and cries of the frightened passengers added to the fury of the storm." Quoted in G. T. Flom, *Norwegian Migration to the United States*, 200 (Iowa City, 1909).

⁶ This "song" deals with the same ideas and sentiments as the poem referred to in footnote 3: they sing praises because they are aboard the "Emilie" on their way to Wineland the Good, where fate will smile more kindly on them than she did in the land of their fathers. All the emigrants should praise Captain Ancher-sen and his brisk seamen for the good care given the passengers. God grant that

it soon attracted numerous admirers. Many made copies of it, and at last someone stole it, but I never learned who the guilty person was. During this week we had rather nice weather; nevertheless some of our passengers, especially the women, were sick practically the whole trip. I had my thoughts turned steadily toward God, praying inwardly to Him that He would continue to support us in his mercy and grant us zeal for our souls' salvation so that we could step ashore in America with renewed hearts.

On July 14 we struck the Newfoundland Banks, where we tried our fishing tackle but had no luck. We did, however, get an opportunity to see numerous ships from all parts of the world that were there to catch fish. These banks are the richest fishing grounds on the face of the earth. At this point we were some twenty miles from the island of Newfoundland. Our ship held a southwesterly course and crossed many small banks where the water was some ten, fifteen, or twenty fathoms deep. On the twenty-second we reached another bank where there also were many ships—some at anchor, some drifting before the wind, but all trying to catch fish. We, too, tried our luck again and caught such a great number of halibut and cod that we filled five barrels besides what was consumed aboard. That day I was a bit indisposed because of the horrible stench from the fish—and furthermore, I am no lover of this dish. Most of the halibut weighed about 4 *Ltt.*, but we caught one which weighed 12 *Btt.* and 5 *mfs.*⁷ Several much larger ones were hooked, but they broke the lines, so we failed to get them aboard. In this area we also saw several whales, but none of them were large. We tacked hither and yon but managed to make some progress; and on August 9 we took on a pilot from New York, which cheered us very much, for we then realized that our long journey must be drawing to a close. Actually, we were then about thirty-one miles from New York.

Finally, on August 11 we reached the quarantine place near the city. Here we cast anchor, and soon two doctors came aboard

they may land with purer hearts on the shores of the New World and later continue to follow the behests of the Apostles.

⁷ *Ltt.* signifies *lispund*, a measure of weight equaling about 17.6 pounds, and *Btt.*, *bismerpund*, about 13.2 pounds. The translator has been unable to find any explanation for the term *mfs.*, although this seems to be the way it is spelled in the original.

to examine the passengers and make sure we would not bring any diseases into the country. The inspection went well, as all of us were declared free of contagion. These men soon returned, and our captain accompanied them to the city. We remained aboard the following night, but the next day, August 12, a man arrived with a little sailboat which was to take the passengers to the pier. He had two Negro sailors with him who were so black that there was nothing light about them except their teeth and the whites of their eyes.

First we were taken to a kind of "washing house" which stood on pillars a short distance from shore. There all our clothing was examined. Also, all our chests were opened for inspection. Fortunately, everything went well. If our clothes had not passed inspection for cleanliness, we would have been forced to remain in this house several days to clean them, but this we escaped. Next we were taken to the city, where we and all our goods were put aboard a very large freighter. Here the captain again visited us and gave me useful information about many things. He asked me further to look after my companions as carefully as I could, just as I had been doing on the ship. I can speak in the highest terms about the captain because of all the solicitude he showed for us passengers during the whole voyage. To be sure, there were those who grumbled, but their complaints were groundless; they had no understanding of his great concern for us or of his upright dealings with us in every respect. I found him to be thoroughly honest and must therefore, in accord with my conscience, praise him for everything.

During the whole voyage I had lots of trouble taking care of the accounts and supervising the distribution of provisions; still I reaped nothing but scorn and disgrace from some of the unthinking dolts in the group. Many of them seemed to assume that it was my duty to perform these tasks, not that I did them out of the kindness of my heart. Their "gripping" was absolutely unjust, since all of us were supposed to share alike in work and responsibilities. But I shall bear them no grudge, for they spoke out of their ignorance. True it is that the captain charged well for the passage, but it was money wisely spent, seeing that he took such good care of his passengers throughout. I shall respect him for every day and every hour we spent under his supervision. May the Lord guide all those who decide to leave for

America to seek passage with good ships and solicitous captains! Next to God's aid, this is the most important factor in enabling them to land safe and sound in the New World, where they can continue to serve their Lord in spirit and in truth. Perhaps they will then discover that they can find a surer way to salvation in America than we had in Norway.

The freighter remained in New York overnight, and the following day, August 13, the captain helped us draw up the contract for our trip upcountry as far as Illinois. The charges were \$13 per adult, two children under twelve years passing as one adult, while children under two years were to travel free. Each adult could carry 40 pounds on his ticket; anything over and above that was to cost \$1.75 per 100 pounds. As I had only \$16 left, I was forced to ask someone for a loan. The generous man let me have \$39, which covered the passage for me and my family. My own money I intended to use for the purchase of provisions and for transporting our goods.

I cannot express any opinions about the beauty of New York or about its stately buildings, but it did not seem to me that this city had as pleasant a location as many other cities I have seen. New York is, however, the largest as well as the richest city in the United States. Washington, the capital, can in no way compare with it. We left New York toward evening that same day aboard the above-mentioned large freighter which, together with five others, was towed by a steamer up the Hudson River to a city called Albany. Various towns were situated along the banks. We reached Albany on August 15 and were put off on the wharf where all our luggage was to be weighed. There was a woman from Seljord who could not go any farther, for she had only \$2.50 left and she had a son six or eight years of age. She therefore asked the other passengers if they would lend her \$10 or \$12, which no one was willing to do. But finally the man who had lent me money in New York promised to grant her the loan if she could induce me to act as surety. For a long time I refused, but finally yielded out of sympathy for her. As a result, I borrowed \$12 extra from the man and took the woman up to the office in Albany to arrange matters. But the official there demanded \$14, and consequently nothing could be done. We then returned to our luggage, which had already been placed aboard the canalboat. I sat down on the deck to inspect the

tickets and distribute them properly, for they were all in a bunch. While I was thus occupied someone stole my pocketbook containing all my money, including the \$12 just borrowed, making a total of about \$28 in silver together with the pouch, which I would not have sold for a dollar. This put me in a most serious situation, since I did not have a single penny with which to purchase anything.

We left the same day aboard the canalboat, which was pulled by two horses, traveling both night and day. The canal ends at a city called Buffalo, which is located on Lake Erie. This canal is called the Erie Canal and is about sixty Norwegian miles long. During the trip I was much concerned about money for me and my family. I tried to borrow some from most of my companions. But there was a scoundrel among us from Kristiansand who called himself Brandt and claimed to be a doctor capable of curing all sorts of patients. He spread the slanderous rumor about me that I had not lost the money at all but was merely trying to double-cross my creditor. He managed to induce many others to help spread his lies and thus keep everyone from lending me money. He said he could easily tell that I was a great swindler and consequently I ought to be chastened through hunger, now that the opportunity offered itself. He passed judgment to the effect that my family and I should be allowed only a nine-cent loaf of dry bread per day. This would make me aware of my shortcomings and the many vices hidden under my cape, he argued. Thus he humiliated me day by day in the most shameless fashion. Finally, becoming tired of his insults and injustice, I asked him who he was who presumed to pass judgment on a stranger. I would have to stand or fall before my own Master, I told him, and this was none of his business. "Assuredly," I continued, "I am a great sinner before God, but it is not up to you to punish me. Look after your own affairs and leave me free to wrestle with my own difficulties." After this he behaved somewhat better toward me. At last I managed to borrow \$2 from the same man who already had helped me, and this tided me over a couple of days.

Along the canal there are many towns, some large and some small. Among them is Rochester, a very beautiful city. Some Norwegians had settled there, but there was no land left in that

area at the government price.⁸ A short way from Rochester is a little town called Lockport which is remarkable for the many sluices mined through the solid rock. There are two parallel channels, each having five locks. Still they are working incessantly to make three channels and to heighten the locks, thus reducing the number.⁹

We finally reached Buffalo on August 23. There we were transferred from the canalboat to a large freighter, where we had good quarters. We went uptown to look about and to buy necessities for the ensuing trip. But, I, of course, lacked money, so again I was in great straits. I asked several for a loan, but all in vain. At last I did get \$2 from a man from Voss, by giving him a rifle as security. Thus I was saved for a little while. On the twenty-fifth the steamer was to begin its trip up the three great fresh-water lakes—Erie, Huron, and Michigan. We were taken aboard, together with numerous other emigrants. While the great boat pulled away from the city, beautiful music was played as long as the people ashore could hear us. This did not last very long, however, because the boat developed great speed, having double engines—and it was four decks high. It was the largest boat I saw during the entire trip. This steamer usually touches at every port, either to take on wood, which is used as fuel for the engines, or to let passengers off or on. At times it was so far out that we could not see land on either hand, these lakes being so vast. When we neared the city called Milwaukee, a little steamer came to take off those passengers who might wish to land there. Practically all of our group went ashore except those from Voss, who proceeded on to Chicago in Illinois.¹⁰ The rest of us took the little steamer for Milwaukee, which is located in Wisconsin. This was Sunday, August 30.

When we reached the pier, we had to pay a total of \$10 before landing, making twenty-seven cents (\$.27) per person. Here we met some Norwegians who were working in town. They were

⁸ A famous immigrant leader, the sloopers Lars Larsen (Geilene), settled in Rochester. For an account of him see Blegen, *Norwegian Migration*, 27-29, 41, 54.

⁹ In the original, this sentence is rather obscure, but the meaning seems to be as given above.

¹⁰ According to the ship's list, there were twenty-three immigrants from Voss. All of them went to Chicago, where a small Vossing colony had grown up during the previous few years. Later most of them moved north into the new lands opening up in Illinois and southern Wisconsin. They became the founders of the great Vossing settlement at Jefferson Prairie, Wisconsin.

able to tell us that several families from Tinn parish had settled about two Norwegian miles from Milwaukee.

As our luggage would have to be transported by means of horses, we could not leave Milwaukee at once but remained there until September 1. When I arrived in the town I did not have a single penny with which to buy food for me and mine; neither was there anything to purchase, so the prospects were more than dismal. I wished to obtain work but could hardly expect to find any because I did not understand a word of the language. Now I felt that things had become too heavy for me to bear; I regretted very much that I had left Norway and, in a mood of depression, lamented my fate. My wife, however, was a true comfort to me. She reasoned with me that I, who had always been of a buoyant spirit, ought not yield to despondency but should remember that "help is nearest when prospects are drearest." The old saying proved true this time also. A man from Sigdal parish lent me \$4, which enabled me to buy food for my family. He and I clubbed together and hired a man with a team of horses to take us out to the Norwegian settlement. This cost us a total of \$4. As has been already stated, we left September 1 and arrived the next day among our countrymen who were living at Muskego.

When I got there I was broke again, but I met some people from Tinn who were willing to help me in my need. They let me and my family stay with them several days and later lent me some provisions while I was looking for work. I was first employed by one of these men of Tinn, Tosten Østensen Quisterud, to fix up his house against the cold. Furthermore, this generous man promised me lodgings for the winter, a promise which he fulfilled, besides helping me in many other ways. During the winter I worked for native Americans at half a dollar per day, which was always paid in goods, since there was a great shortage of cash in the community.¹¹

Finally I entered into an agreement with two brothers to work for them at \$200 per year, but I had to provide house and food

¹¹ These families from Tinn parish had settled at the north end of Muskego Lake in Waukesha County in 1839 under the leadership of John Nelson Luraas. This formed the nucleus of the later famous Muskego settlement. For accounts of this migration from Tinn, see *Billed-magazin*, 1:6-8 or Blegen, *Norwegian Migration to America*, 87, 115, 120.

for my family independently.¹² I began this job on March 8. That month I bought a cow and a calf for \$18. This was extremely fortunate for the family, because my wife and youngest child had been sick the whole winter, but as soon as they got milk, my wife got well again. My job with these brothers was to saw boards from various types of wood. When I had been thus employed for half a year, one of my employers became so unreasonable that I could not tolerate the idea of working for him any longer. I therefore disobeyed his instructions somewhat so as to make him angry at me and drive him to fire me. I did not dare to quit the job because that might deprive me of my wages. But I gained my point and was fired September 9, which made me very happy.

Thus life has run along until now with its ups and downs and much hard toil. I always try to keep employed in order to supply my house with the necessary food and clothing. With God's help we have not suffered any need but have always been better off than we were in Norway. We have even managed to save a little money which, of course, is one of man's objectives. This desire to advance in the world is also present here. Avarice rules practically everyone. I think I can say that I have never been bothered with greediness, but I have a strong desire to secure enough money to buy myself a piece of land. With God's help, I hope this will be realized some time in the future. God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. The mind of man concocts its plans, but God decrees his fate. This has been my experience. While I was hoping to buy land and get ahead in the world, the lash of God struck us. My wife, my oldest child, and I were taken sick on the same day, late in the month of August. The disease is called "Fever Ague."¹³ It did not harass us long but passed away as quickly as can possibly happen. My wife and child were sick for five weeks, I for seven. Nevertheless, a long time elapsed before we could work again, as all our strength had been sapped away. But with the aid of good appetites we gradually regained our vigor. By January, I was almost back to

¹² The original states that he should be paid \$200 per year "og skulde erholde Huus til min Familie samt proviantere mig selv" which I have interpreted to mean that he himself should provide the house as well as provisions, though it might mean that his employers were to provide the house.

¹³ "Fever Ague" was probably malaria.

normal. Of course, this attack might look like a great misfortune, but I dare assume that the chastisement of the Lord always turns out for the best. Though my earthly resources may have been diminished, I have gained in spiritual wealth. I hope that God will give me strength to grow from day to day until the goal of eternal salvation is reached, which shall be my constant endeavor unless God has rejected me entirely because of my sins. I still entertain the hope that His grace and mercy have not been exhausted. The Lord has ever been gracious unto contrite sinners, and we must assume that His mercy still endures for the truly repentant.

Up to now my fortune in the New World has been rather varied, but generally I have been bowed down with hard work in order to provide for my family and myself. I believe, however, that the future will gradually ease my burdens. I feel assured that the laboring man can do well here because America rewards her workers far better than Norway is able to do. I will not deny that at present there is a great shortage of money here, but even under such conditions this country is able, within a comparatively short time, to make every earnest laborer a rich and independent man.

Practically all necessary products are raised in this country, and of a quality that is unusual to find in Norway. As far as I know, any kind of produce that you might desire can be grown here except rice and coffee, which thrive only in warm climates, climates quite unsuited for Norwegian settlers. Either winter wheat or spring wheat can be sown here, but it is usually maintained that the former does better. Winter wheat is sown during the months of September, October, November, and December. I have seen some sowing done in the latter part of December. It is usually harvested toward the end of July, but at times either earlier or later. Spring wheat is sown in March or early April and is harvested some two, three, or four weeks later than winter wheat, depending on the year.¹⁴

¹⁴ The original reads "Førsaarshveden saaes i March og i førstningen af April og dennes Høstetid bliver 23 a 4 Uger sildigere efter Aarets beskaffenhed." This would seem to mean that wheat is harvested twenty-three or twenty-four weeks after being sown, which would make an unduly long growing and maturing season. The sentence is here interpreted as if a comma had been omitted between "2" and "3"; that is, that spring wheat is harvested two, three, or four weeks later than winter wheat, which is referred to immediately above.

Maize, or Indian corn, as well as most other kinds of seeds, are planted in May. June or July is the best time for breaking virgin soil, which must be sown to winter wheat the following fall. The charge for breaking runs from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per acre depending on the nature of the land. To fence forty acres costs about \$34.00. Fence rails are split from oak trunks, usually eleven feet in length. It is estimated that four thousand rails will suffice to enclose forty acres. The cost of splitting rails is about \$8.00 per thousand. The rails are matched in length and arranged in zigzags, eight tiers high to keep the cattle from jumping over. Usually all fields must be fenced, as the cattle generally roam about in the forests without being tended. But some of the settlers hereabouts are now beginning to enclose the pastures, as this makes it easy to fetch the cattle in the evenings, which otherwise may be quite a job.

The sheep must be well locked up, especially at night, because there is a breed of wolves here called the prairie wolf that can do much damage to the flock in case of negligence. Pigs roam around without any attention for about ten months of the year, and they get along very well. By the month of December they are at their fattest, because during the autumn lots of nuts fall from the trees and this is the best pig feed available. Every farmer has numerous hogs, so you may run into them everywhere in the woods. The meadows are not protected, but the hay is cut right where the cattle have been grazing; and this does not cause any difficulty. As Rynning said, in two days a man can cut and rake enough hay to keep a cow during the whole winter.¹⁵

The soil here is extremely rich because of the luxuriant grass and the vast amount of leaves that have added to the fertility every fall. The topsoil is usually black, but in places it is light and sandy. The subsoil consists partly of clay and partly of sand. Most of this region is wooded. In some areas the woods are extremely dense, but there are also open or sparsely wooded places. All the trees are deciduous. It is usually assumed that the best land is found where black oak and maple thrive, while the white

¹⁵ This statement is found in Ole Rynning's well-known guidebook for emigrants, *Sandfærdig beretning om Amerika* (Christiania, 1838). The book has been translated and edited by Theodore C. Blegen under the title *Ole Rynning's True Account of America* (Norwegian-American Historical Association, *Travel and Description Series*, vol. 1—Minneapolis, 1926). See pages 41 and 79 of the Blegen version.

oak grows on much poorer soil. The climate is most healthful in the high regions, but the soil is most fertile in the valleys. The higher areas are usually stony, while the low places may be marshy. It is usually best to build your house on a high place and have your fields in the valleys.

Among the many religious sects found here, some are very different from the dominant Lutheranism familiar to us. There are numerous failings among my countrymen over here, many of whom get mixed up with various creeds, thus undermining our superior mother religion. The main causes of this defection are the following:

1. They find some other religion more conducive to their own advancement and less troublesome to their spiritual life—all of which impresses a sincere person as the greatest of vanities.

2. Some of them can become preachers in these false sects and thus find a livelihood, free from the sweat and toil which many of them shun.

Furthermore, I regret that so many of my countrymen pose as preachers and guides to others on the slippery road of life but have forgotten to speak unto their own souls with the voice of truth. I regard this as a serious evil. It is easy to realize what will happen when people pretend to hear the call of the spirit but do not live accordingly. This is a great failing indeed, and I grieve sincerely because of my countrymen's shortcomings. Some of these men would very willingly accept appointments as pastors, and I am afraid that they may gain their objective. They do not realize how blindly stupid it would be for them to attempt to lead the young to confirmation when they themselves can scarcely read their ABC's. I will take a determined stand against such doings, for I regard myself as a better guide for my dependents than these alchemists. I wish that all my fellow countrymen could find the one true way of salvation which leads through this life to that eternal, unchangeable existence for which we should search all the days of our sojourn on this earth. Since there are so many religions here, it is easy for the wavering to be led astray. All the people from Ireland, England, Scotland, and France, and part of those from Germany are Catholics. From Norway have come many Quakers and Haugeans.¹⁶ There are

¹⁶ Haugeans were followers of the revivalist, Hans Nielsen Hauge, 1771-1824. There was a strong Quaker and Haugean element in the early Norwegian emi-

numerous heathens, Jews, and *Protenstantere* [sic] here, also *Monotister* [sic], Baptists, Mormons, and Mohammedans.¹⁷ All the native Americans are well versed in reading and writing, women as well as men. Some of them profess a sound religion resembling our own Lutheranism, but others profess no religion at all and have no faith in the Bible, either distorting its meaning or dismissing it as a lie. They believe neither in God nor in the devil, neither in heaven nor hell, nor in the resurrection of the dead. They pay no respect to the Sabbath or to any devotional exercises. When they read, it is usually the newspapers. Most of the people are good citizens, upright in all their dealings except when it comes to religious worship. They despise all sorts of dishonesty and mete out severe justice to criminals. There are two judges in every township, chosen every year from among the best citizens. If a person wants a trial he can get his case registered and decided the same day, and if he wants it appealed to a higher court that can also be done immediately.¹⁸

grant movement. The Haugeans were especially strong in the Muskego settlement. Both the Quakers and the Haugeans were looked upon with suspicion by the Norwegian state church and were thus often made to feel the heavy hand of the law. For a discussion of these religious movements and their relation to emigration, see Blegen, *Norwegian Migration to America*, 27-47, 160-163, 249.

¹⁷ The terms in italics do not exist in Norwegian, but the author undoubtedly refers to *protestanter* (Protestants) and *monotister* (monotheists).

¹⁸ A few sentences at the end of the manuscript have been omitted, since they are practically illegible and are apparently somewhat garbled. As was mentioned in the introduction, the manuscript breaks off in the middle of a sentence. It is not known whether the author broke off thus abruptly or whether a part of his original manuscript is missing.