

PRG 456/13 Diary of Henry Watson on board the *Katherine Stewart Forbes* and in Adelaide 1838-39.

Transcribed by Peter Anson, Volunteer at the State Library of South Australia, 2015.

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[Spelling, punctuation and pagination throughout is as in the original.]

[Complete version of a prefatory letter by John Sanderson Lloyd (husband of Charlotte Emily Lloyd nee Watson, daughter of Henry and Charlotte Eliza Watson), which contains biographical details regarding the Watsons and the Hacks.]

COPY

Adelaide, 1st August, 1911.

The General Secretary,
Public Library, Museum, & Art Gallery of South Australia.

Dear Sir,

When agreeing to your request that the Diary of the Voyage of my father-in-law, Henry Watson, to this Colony in the year 1838/9 should be handed to the Public Library, it seemed desirable that it should be accompanied by some information about the author and the circumstances under which it was written and the Voyage to Australia undertaken and this I engaged to supply. About the thirties of the last century, there must have been a rather general movement in favour of emigration from Great Britain. Many people were going to America. Colonies had been started in New So. Wales, Tasmania and at the Swan River. Edward Gibbon Wakefield published in 1829 his book advocating the sale of unoccupied lands & of the devotion of the money so obtained to the payment of passages for labourers, the object being to attract and bring together land, labour & capital, The previous plan had been to make large & free grants of land to persons coming out possessed of capital who were able to give employment to convicts for a certain period. Wakefield's book attracted attention & it seemed a simple matter to raise the necessary funds & to start the business of a new country, but in the case of So. Australia few preliminaries were settled, the Geography was unknown, the locality of the first settlement was not fixed, no lands were surveyed, and no funds were provided. Colonel Light was sent out to choose a site for the Town, but when he landed he was unprovided with horse or vehicle & was obliged to get about as well as he could upon his feet. To walk from Holdfast Bay to Adelaide & from Adelaide to the Port

[page] 2.

& back again involved a good many miles. He made his choice as to a suitable position for Adelaide & stuck bravely to it, in spite of much diversity of opinion and his survey of the City, & laying it out was effected in a wonderfully short space of time, but in the meantime emigrants were landing by the hundred, anxious to be placed upon their land, whilst many including the Governor, disappointed in not finding a harbour adjoining the City, desired that nothing should be considered fixed or settled until more examination of the Country & the Coastline had been made. Henry Watson came out to join his brother-in-law, John Barton Hack as a merchant & partner in the firm of Hack Watson & Co. John Barton Hack landed at the beginning of 1837, having sailed in the "Isabella", Capt. J. Hart, & called at Van Dieman's Land upon the way from England in order to obtain farming stock and animals. On arrival he wrote home tempting letters as to climate, soil, & prospects of the new colony, which no doubt had their effect in inducing H. Watson to join him in the hazardous venture. The two families of the Watsons & Hacks had been for years closely connected. Both J.B. Hack & H^y Watson had been brought up as quakers, a good deal together at Liverpool, where J.B. Hack married a sister of H. Watson [*Bridget Hack nee Watson*], and I have understood that at one time H. Watson, was engaged to marry Gulielma, a sister of J.B. Hack who died of consumption. Before however any movement to emigrate had been made, both families had removed to Chichester where Stephen Hack the father of J.B. Hack had a business as a tanner or currier,

and where on the occurrence of his father's death, J.B. Hack had to carry on the business. H. Watson was also at Chichester in business as a Chemist & Druggist & was there married. This was the state of things when J. Barton Hack was attacked by severe haemorrhage of the lungs which made it needful for him to seek a milder climate. Family emigration was [page] 3.

then the idea in fashion & J.B. Hack sailed with his family for So. Australia arriving in the "Isabella", Captain J. Hart very early in 1837. He was accompanied by his brother Stephen, besides his own family of wife & children. Some other relatives also came either then or later, Dr. Knott, who married his sister, & a Mr. Philcox who married another sister, and afterwards settled at the Cape with a Dutch wife. Henry Watson was born in 1802, his father W^m. Watson being an M.R.C.S. His mother was Martha Waterhouse. He was brought up at Liverpool, where he studied with his cousins, the sons & daughters of Nicholas Waterhouse the elder, under the tuition of Bernard Barton an uncle of J. Barton Hack. Mr. Watson's education gave him some knowledge of Greek, Latin, French & German, and for a time he hoped to become a surgeon or Medical man like his father, but funds running short, he was obliged to be satisfied to become a chemist & druggist, which business he carried on for many years at North Adelaide until indeed he was 86 years old or more. Mr. Watson's Diary contains the particulars of his voyage to So. Australia in the years 1838/9 to join his brother-in-law, Jno. Barton Hack as a merchant in the firm of Hack, Watson & Co. His party consisted of his father & mother (Will^m. & Martha Watson) his wife Charlotte [*Charlotte Watson nee Float*] & 2 children the eldest named Charlotte Emily about 2 years old & an infant Louisa about 6 months old when they started. The vessel in which they sailed was the "Katharine Stewart Forbes" of 500 tons and the voyage extended over 5 months. It was very stormy & rough especially during the early part of the voyage. Harriet Fowler¹ who started with them as servant or assistant, was landed at Spithead, having by that time had enough of a sea voyage. There were a good many fellow passengers, amongst whom are mentioned the Judge (Cooper) & his sister, the Doctor (Duncan)

[page] 4.

George Young & sister, & 2 Brothers named Horrocks, the Mitfords are also mentioned. There was a good deal of illness & much discomfort during the voyage. They started from Gravesend 11th October 1838, anchored at Margate for a day. Started again on the 13th reached Spithead on the 15th and there remained for a week going on shore at Portsmouth Ryde. Finally sailed on 23rd October were beating about in the Channel & on the 30th were off the Start Point. On 2nd November were in the Bay of Biscay 5th November were off Corunna. Then much rough baffling weather Crossed the line 14 Decr. 2 months out. Reached the Cape 6th February and stayed there a few days. In the afternoon 6th February ran out of the Bay with a fine breeze, 8th Feby. were off Cape La Guillas. 19th March 1839 Kangaroo Island in sight. Came through Backstairs Passage. 21 March, 1839 found themselves at anchor 2 miles above Glenelg. In recalling the history of the foundation of the Colony it should never be forgotten that one/of the principal points of the scheme was that no expense should be occasioned to the British Treasury, & this may be said to have been the condition upon which the Act of Parliament which permitted its foundation was obtained. All the money required was to be provided from the sales of land, & it does not seem to have been sufficiently remembered or suggested that in a new Country the residents would require not only shelter for themselves & their goods, but all kinds of public works, besides payments for all officials & servants of the government. The first Government House was built of inflammable materials, timber & reeds, & was burnt down with all the Archives, maps, & other valuable documents. In order to provide a road to the Port a long embankment across the swamp land had to be made at great expense, & the So. Australian Company came to the rescue & advanced between £13,000. & £14,000. to the Government for the purpose. When Col. Gawler arrived on 12th Octr. 1838 at Adelaide, he

¹ This name appears to have been recalled incorrectly: the diary records her name as *Hannah Fowler*.

[page] 5.

found all things in confusion in consequence of the absence of funds, He found I think about 1/6 in the treasury & he complained with reason that he had been sent out to found a colony without any outfit. He wrote to Lord Glenelg, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies 23 Jan^y: 1839, as follows, "that he found the "public offices with scarcely a pretension to system, every man "did as he would & got on as he could, there were scarcely any "records of past proceedings, of public accounts, or of issues "of stores, the survey department reduced to the deputy surveyor "general (Col. Light had resigned) one draftsman, & one assistant "surveyor – its instruments to a great extent unserviceable, & "its office with scarcely any maps of the country & totally "without system, records or regulations; the colonial finances "in a state of thorough confusion & defalcation, the population "shut up in Adelaide, existing principally upon the unhealthy "& uncertain profits of land jobbing, capital flowing out for "the necessaries of life, to Sydney & Van Diemens Island "almost as fast as it was brought in by passengers from England, "scarcely any settlers in the country, no tillage; very little "sheep or cattle pasturing, & this only by a few enterprising \individuals/ "risking their chance as squatters". The Governor supposed that he was justified under these circumstances in drawing bills freely upon the commissioners in England far beyond their ability to pay. It is easy to blame Governor Gawler, but his post was not an easy one between requirements, & the absence of money. Of course presently Governor Gawler bills came back dishonoured & this result which was quite unexpected by the colonies, & came to them as a surprise, caused a general crash and ruin amongst them. The effects were very serious. All the members of the Chamber of Commerce, with only 2 exceptions, became insolvent, & of course the firm of Hack, Watson & Co. went down like the rest. The great event of the reign of Governor Gawler was the

[page] 6.

dishonour of his bills & the consequences. Mr. Hack himself told me that Hack Watson & Co. when taking stock had supposed their property to be worth £30,000. I believe there was a mortgage over real property of £4,000. & no doubt an overdraft at the Bank. All the insolvents came out of the Insolvent Courts with their property lost and, stript naked and bared, had to make a fresh start in life, without means or capital, at the distance of a long voyage from all their friends & relatives in England who would have been glad to assist them in their distress if they could have done so. The poverty & misery of that time can only be imagined & the disappointment of all the great hopes & expectations which the emigrants had entertained in leaving the old country must have been felt very keenly. Capt. Grey succeeded Col. Gawler and arrived in May 1841 For/a long time after his arrival rations had to be distributed by the Government to keep the people alive. On the 5th July 1842 Lord Stanley, Secretary of State for the Colonies laid before the British Legislature the State of South Australia & its liabilities, as follows –

1. Parliamentary Grant advanced 1841	155,000
2. Bills of Col Gawler unpaid	27,290
3. " " Governor Grey, Maintenance of Emigrants	17,646
4. Borrowed by So. Australian Commissioners 6% to 10%	85,800
5. Outstanding debts of Gawler's government	35,000
6. Borrowed from Land & Emigration fund	<u>84,697</u>
	405,433

He proposed to settle the debt of So. Austra. thus –

1. To be made a free grant by parliament
2. & 3. to be paid by British Treasury
4. to remain as bonds at 3½% guaranteed by H.M. Government
5. & 6. to be covered by So. Austra. Debentures at 5%

He also proposed a vote of £15,000. to aid in carrying on the

[page] 7.

local government in 1842. His resolution was agreed to, and an Act passed 15 July 1842. When Col. Gawler was recalled the charge against him is stated as follows & amounts to this that he was an incapable financier & spent money unjustifiably. "Instead of directing attention to the cultivation of the "soil & the real foundation of the/colony, Col. Gawler launched "out into a most lavish expenditure in the erection of public "buildings quite unnecessary in an infant settlement and which "kept large numbers of labouring classes in Adelaide dependent "on Government works when they ought to have been clearing, "ploughing and cropping the land on their own account. By "this means the price of labour became inordinately high and "speculations in the town lots "buildings the principal occupations of the people. In 1839 there were only 2,500 acres of land under cultivation." Strenuous efforts had been made by the Commissioners in London to raise money by the sale of land & the real merits of So. Australia were magnified until the public were well nigh led to consider it the only settlement worthy of being the residence of a few Englishmen. Large quantities of land were soon sold in London, where speculation was rife in town lots and country sections. Up to August 1839 250,320 acres were sold producing £229,756, and 7,412 persons had arrived in Adelaide. People have to a great extent forgotten the crash & general ruin occasioned in Col. Gawler's time by the dishonour of his bills, but neither Mr. Hack nor Mr. Watson was able to recover afterwards from these troubles. They were not very successful in business although capable, respectable, industrious and religious, the one having associated himself with the Wesleyans, the other with the Church of England. They lived to be old men, Mr. Hack to be 79, Mr. Watson to be 92, but during their long lives they were

[page] 8.

they were always struggling men, with difficulty making ends meet, & never in easy circumstances. Both had large families to maintain & educate. They continued to retain the esteem and respect of their friends, and when Mr. Watson became blind from Cataract, upon which Dr. Symons operated successfully, the latter refrained from making him any charge. The Chief Justice (Sir Sam^l. Way) also extended his kindness to Mr. Watson, to the last, and when the latter was too weak and old to walk about, Sir Sam^l. provided him for a long time with an invalid chair, in which the nurses wheeled him about the Streets of N.A. to visit his friends. I have found the printed notes of a lecture by the late Sir H^v. Ayres, in 1891, on the "Pioneer difficulties in So. Australia"^x. It may be read with interest in connection with the early settlement of the Colony, altho' it does not go into detail on the subject of the dishonour of Governor Gawler's Bills. It, however, to some extent, supplements and confirms my Memorandum. With the arrival of Governor Grey in May 1841 came a period of strenuous retrenchment and in July of that year he met the legislative Council with estimates reduced from £78,787. to £19,173. and presently the tide began to turn. At the beginning of 1843 every able bodied man was at work on his own account. The harvest was abundant. The revenue began to improve. The exorbitant port dues were abolished, & the port road made by the S.A. Company for £13,400. under agreement with Governor Gawler was compounded by Grey for 12,000/acres/of land in full. Copper was discovered at Kapunda in 1842 & 1843 by Messrs. Bagot & Dutton & led to other discoveries of valuable minerals with large shipments and profits.

^xS.A. Register Tuesday, June 9, 1891.

[page] 9.

Governor Grey went to New Zealand in 1845 as Governor there. The task of his successors has been comparatively easy.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) John Sanderson Lloyd

[page] 10

COPY OF FAMILY CHRONICLE
JOHN SANDERSON LLOYD,
ADELAIDE

[A typewritten 4-page insert is adhered inside the front cover of the diary, which is an archivist's precis of the same letter by J. S. Lloyd.]

EXTRACTS RELATING TO HENRY WATSON TAKEN FROM A LETTER FROM JOHN SANDERSON LLOYD TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY, PUBLIC LIBRARY, MUSEUM & ART GALLERY OF S.A., AUGUST 1, 1911. [Handwritten annotation] (Letter No. 29505/1920)

“Henry Watson came out to join his brother in law, John Barton Hack, as a merchant and partner in the firm of Hack, Watson & Co. John Barton Hack landed at the beginning of 1837, having sailed in the “Isabella”, Capt. J. Hart, and called at Van Dieman’s Land upon the way from England in order to obtain farming stock and animals. On arrival he wrote home tempting letters as to climate, soil and prospects of the new colony, which no doubt had their effect in inducing Mr Watson to join him in the hazardous venture.

The two families of the Watsons and Hacks had been for years closely connected. Both J. B. Hack and H. Watson had been brought up as quakers, a good deal together at Liverpool, where J. B. Hack married a sister of H. Watson, and I have understood at one time H. Watson was engaged to marry Gulielma, a sister of J. B. Hack, who died of consumption. Before however any movement to emigrate had been made, both families had removed to Chichester where Stephen Hack the father of J. B. Hack had a business as a tanner or currier, and where on the occurrence of his father’s death, J. B. Hack had to carry on the business. H. Watson was also at Chichester in business as a chemist and druggist, and was there married.

This was the state of things when J. Barton Hack was attacked by a severe haemorrhage of the lungs which made it needful for him to seek a milder climate. Family emigration was then the idea in fashion, and J. B. Hack sailed with his family for S. Australia,

[page] 2

arriving in the “Isabella”, Captain J. Hart, very early in 1837. He was accompanied by his brother Stephen, besides his own family of wife and children. Some other relatives also came either then or later, Dr Knott who married his sister, and a Mr Philcox who married another sister, and afterwards settled at the Cape with a Dutch wife.

Henry Watson was born in 1801, his father, William Watson, being an M.R.C.S. His mother was Martha Waterhouse. He was brought up in Liverpool, where he studied with his cousins, the sons and daughters of Nicholas Waterhouse the elder, under the tuition of Bernard Barton, an uncle of J. Barton Hack. Mr Watson’s education gave him some knowledge of Greek, Latin, French and German, and for a time he hoped to become a surgeon or medical man like his father, but, funds running short, he was obliged to be satisfied to become a chemist and druggist, which business he carried on for many years at North Adelaide, until indeed he was 86 years old or more.

Mr Watson’s Diary contains the particulars of his voyage to South Australia in the year 1838/39 to join his brother in law John Barton Hack as a merchant in the firm of Hack, Watson & Co. His party consisted of his father and mother (William and Martha Watson), his wife Charlotte and two children, the eldest named Charlotte Emily about two years old, and an infant Louisa about six months old when they started. The vessel in which they sailed was the “Katherine Stewart Forbes” of 500 tons, and the voyage extended over 5 months.

It was very stormy and rough especially during the early part of the voyage.

[page] 3

Harriet [should read, ‘Hannah’] Fowler who started with them as servant or assistant, was landed at Spithead, having by that time had enough of a sea voyage.

There were a good many fellow passengers, amongst whom are mentioned the Judge (Cooper) and his sister, the Doctor (Duncan), George Young and sister, and two brothers

named Horrocks, the Mitfords are also mentioned. There was a good deal of illness, and much discomfort during the voyage.

They started from Gravesend 11th. October, 1838, anchored at Margate for a day, started again on the 13th., reached Spithead on the 15th. and there remained for a week going on shore at Portsmouth and Ryde. Finally sailed on 23rd. October, were beating about in the Channel, and on the 30th. were off the Start Point. On 2nd. November were in the Bay of Biscay. 5th. November were off Corunna. Then made rough baffling weather, crossed the Line 14th. December, 2 months out. Reached the Cape 1st. February, ran out of the Bay with a fine breeze, 8th. February were off Cape Aguillas. 19th. March, 1839 Kangaroo Island in sight, came through Backstairs Passage. 21st. March, 1839 found themselves at anchor 2 miles above Glenelg." ... *[handwritten annotation]* [Mr Lloyd here refers to the ruin of the business community occasioned by the dishonouring of Gov. Gawler's bills.]

"of course the firm of Hack, Watson & Co. went down like the rest. . . . Mr Hack himself told me that Hack, Watson & Co. when taking stock had supposed their property to be worth £30,000. I believe there was a mortgage over real property of £4,000 and no doubt an overdraft at the bank. All the insolvents came out of the Insolvent Courts with their property lost, and, stript naked and bare, had to make a fresh start in life, without means or capital, at the distance of a long voyage from all their friends and relations in England who would have been glad to

[page] 4

assist them in their distress if they could have done so. The poverty and misery of that time can only be imagined and the disappointment of all the great hopes and expectations which the emigrants had entertained in leaving the old country must have been felt very keenly." ...

"neither Mr Hack nor Mr Watson was able to recover afterwards from these troubles. They were not very successful in business although capable, respectable, industrious and religious, the one having associated himself with the Wesleyans the other with the Church of England. They lived to be old men, Mr Hack to be 79, Mr Watson to be 92, but during their long lives they were always struggling men, with difficulty making ends meet, and never in easy circumstances. Both had large families to maintain and educate.

They continued to retain the esteem and respect of their friends, and when Mr Watson became blind from Cataract, upon which Dr. Symons operated successfully, the latter refrained from making him any charge.

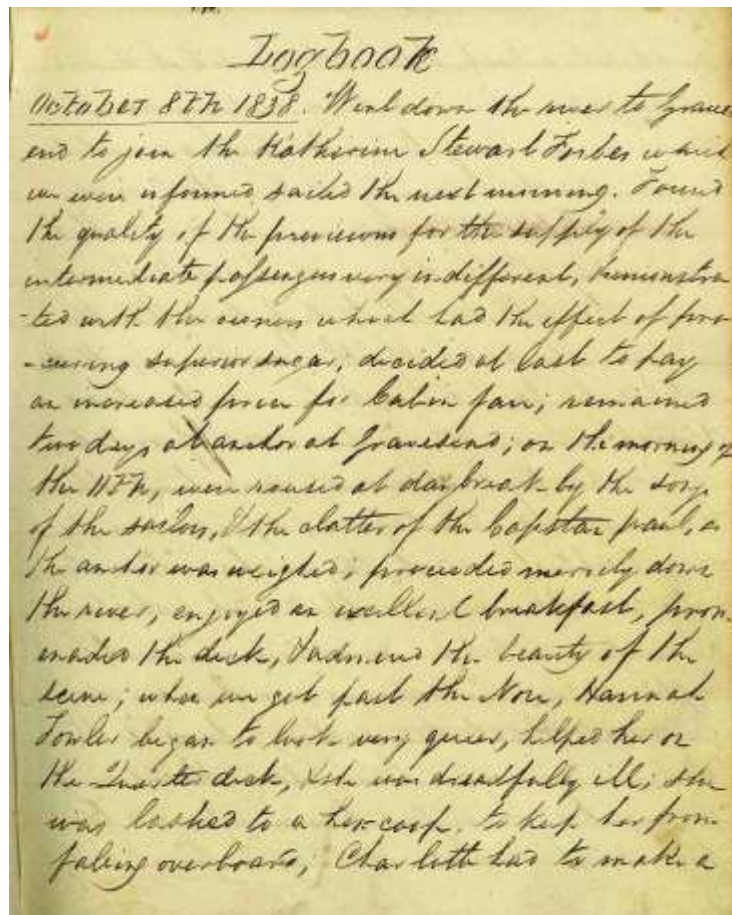
The Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way) also extended his kindness to Mr Watson to the last, and when the latter was too weak and old to walk about, Sir Samuel provided him for a long time with an invalid chair, in which the nurse wheeled him about the streets of North Adelaide to visit his friends."

[Adhered to the frontispiece of the diary are separate photographic portraits of Henry Watson and his wife, Charlotte Eliza Watson nee Float.²]

² The photograph of Henry's wife, Charlotte Eliza Watson (nee Float) is captioned , S. SOLOMON ADELAIDE, and would have been taken sometime after 1868, which was when Saul Solomon, who was an English born photographer, had moved to Adelaide from Ballarat in Victoria, forming an association with American born photographer, Townsend ('M') Duryea. Solomon operated from Duryea's studio in King William Street or the 'Adelaide School of Photography' in Rundle Street, which premises he managed, and later purchased from Duryea in 1875.

[Title page] LOG BOOK OF VOYAGE OUT AND LANDING IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1838–1839, by HENRY WATSON.

[The first page of diary entries is shown in this illustration.]



[Heading] Logbook

October 8th 1838. Went down the river to Gravesend to join the Katherine Stewart Forbes which we were informed sailed the next morning. Found the quality of the provisions for the supply of the intermediate passengers very indifferent, remonstrated with the owners which had the effect of procuring superior sugar; decided at last to pay an increased price for Cabin fare; remained two days at anchor at Gravesend; on the morning of the 11th were aroused at daybreak by the song of the sailors, and the clatter of the Capstan pauls as the anchor was weighed; proceeded merrily down the river, enjoyed an excellent breakfast, promenaded the deck, and admired the beauty of the scene; when we got past the Nore, Hannah Fowler began to look very queer, helped her on the Quarter deck, & she was dreadfully ill; she was lashed to a hen-coup, to keep her from falling overboard; Charlotte had to make a

[page 2]

precipitate retreat and did not stir out of her cabin again; the wind being contrary came to anchor in Margate roads; passed a wretched night; the children very ill & fretful on the morning of the 12th was myself taken ill & was nearly all day on the bed helpless as a child; Charlotte too/ill to dress herself or the children, who were both ill & screaming, Mother stretched upon her bed too ill to raise her head, Hannah on hers, Oh, such a scene of wretchedness can hardly be conceived; meantime the gale increased & the day was spent in ineffectual attempts to weigh the anchor; two stout messenger cables were snapped, & at last

it was given up as hopeless; another miserable night; the motion was much more unpleasant than when sailing; being at the stern we received a tremendous thump every time when the vessel having plunged her head into the waves, at length pointed it

[page 3]

toward the sky & treated us with a violent shock the poor children could not become reconciled to it any how, poor things the change was great for them from their quiet nursery where too heavy a footstep was forbidden, to this rocking abode upon the waters, where the dreadful clatter of the sailors overhead, & the roar of the boiling surges against the vessel's side made a din that prevented them from sleeping, & consequently us too.

October 13th. Were roused at daybreak by the sailors heaving at the Capstan, the anchor was soon up, we passed merrily by Deal where we left the Pilot, & sent letters to dear Gates & Marg^t & other friends, the sail by Dover was very interesting the coast of France was visible; the wind was as favourable as it could blow; before dark we were off Brighton, enjoyed a good dinner in the Cuddy

October 14th. On going on deck in the morning the Isle of Wight was fast receding in the distance. Unfortunately the wind chopped round to the

[page 4]

South-west, the whole of the day was spent in vain attempts to make head against it. The Juliet for Sydney that had passed us when at Gravesend in tow of a steamer was in company all day; there seemed little difference in the sailing of the vessels; they carried more sail than we, & could leave us behind. The evening was hazy and the Captain was afraid to attempt to run for the Needles, that were under our lee, so we kept at sea for the night & lay to. Oh the miseries of that night ! It was with the greatest of difficulty we could prevent ourselves being tossed out of our beds, I lashed Hannah into hers, she being too weak to hold herself in. Towards midnight poor little Charlotte Emily screamed out a sea having washed in and filled her bed; most of the passengers on the lee side of the ship were also washed out of their beds, & laid

[page 5]

on the floor in the main Cabin – then the noises, the lashing of the angry surges against the ship's sides, the smashes of glasses & crockery, the screams of the children, the breaking adrift of boxes from their lashings, altogether banished sleep, a jib boom carried away.

October 15th We had been drifted back 40 miles in the night & were far to leeward of Spithead, attempted to beat up towards it. The Juliet alongside, in a few hours we left her far behind. The wind was violent and the waves very grand. It was almost impossible to walk on deck. I came down stern foremost & nearly demolished Mrs. Mitford, thought it best to lie where I was lest a worse thing should befall, had not laid very long, before a wave came over the bows, & wet me through. We managed to get into Spithead about 5 in the evening & glad indeed we were to be in smooth water.

October 16 Had the luxury of a quiet night,

[page 6]

it still blows furiously. F Bankhart came on board, discussions about the propriety of Hannah's going on –

October 22nd A week spent at Spithead. The wind has continued westerly sometimes blowing violently; have only been twice on shore once to Portsmouth, and once to Ryde; Charlotte & I accompanied the Mitfords & Father; we took a delightful walk to a hill above the town & admired the beautiful green fields and the rich russet tint, that approaching Autumn had given to the woods; we had been long enough at sea to appreciate the pleasures of shore enjoyment, & we felt as if gazing upon them for the last time, the very smell of the decaying leaves under our feet was delicious, and we bore off some oak boughs & acorns as last mementos of old England.

October 23 Were roused at daybreak by the sailors heaving up the anchor & were

[page 7]

presently running out to sea, cast many an admiring glance at the Isle of Wight as it receded from us. F Bankhart took away his sister Hannah Fowler which we did not at all regret as we found her no assistance but a constant burthen upon us. At night we were off the Owers Light[ship]; took Charlotte on deck to have a last look at a light of Selsey with which she had been familiar from infancy, passed a rough night.

October 24 The Isle of Wight still in sight, watched it thro' the glass till it appeared like a cloud on the horizon and finally disappeared. Was busy putting up hooks and making all snug in the cabin. A beautiful day wind contrary but making some way by tacking; passed several vessels coming up channel with all sails set, before a breeze that obliges us to be close hauled. Have seen nothing yet of the Juliet that got to sea some hours before us.

[page 8]

October 28th We have had a succession of violent gales from the westward so that after having been beyond the Edystone Light House we were drifted back within 30 miles of Portsmouth. The pitching of the vessel brought back the sea sickness, the nights were terrible, it being almost impossible to prevent being tossed out of bed, or to obtain a moments sleep when there. But beyond everything was the miseries of dressing and undressing. When the ship heeled over the wall appeared the most likely place to plant ones feet, when a sudden lurch of the vessel would reverse the position and every thing or person not lashed would be topsy turvy; but to dress children in this muddle and old women being quite helpless, never were poor people more to be pitied. It was rather annoying to see two vessels the Juliana with

[page 9]

convicts for Sydney, & the Louisa for Baltimore pass us, our ship however proves an excellent sea boat and rides over the waves like a swan. The sea becomes of a much deeper blue as it deepens having lost the beautiful green it had when in shallow water. Today being Sunday the Doctor read prayers & a sermon in the Cuddy. In the afternoon the wind for the first time this week shifted to the N.E. & we went on merrily, at present, & in the evening it has got back to its old quarter & is blowing great guns, the spray flying over the vessel the clatter of the sailors over head reefing topsails, & the wind howling thro' the cordage. The Captain would have been glad to run into Plymouth but could not fetch it, & I suppose does not choose to return to Spithead till actually compelled. It is miserable to feel that with all we are suffering we are making no progress. Mother continues

[page 10]

very ill. Charlotte is better of her sickness but continues weak and feverish; the children never were so well in their lives. Charlotte Emily gets very fat, & little Louisa is so lively & active it is delightful to see them & repays us for all we suffer on their account. The gale increases as I write, busy shortening \sail/ ship under foresail Reefed topsail

October 30th We have had two miserable days beating about off the Start: this morning it was agreed that we should run for Plymouth & we were making for it when in the midst of dinner, during a heavy shower of rain the Captain ran out without his hat, & had the yard squared that since we had left Portsmouth had been along the ship; we found that our hopes of seeing Plymouth were not likely to be realized, the wind had come round to the East, & we are going down Channel at the

[page 11]

rate of 8 knots, are now 40 miles from the Lizard at 9 PM – Mother & Charlotte both very ill, mother still sick, C has a cold & is feverish; she is sadly overworked, & is anxious; blow good breeze & waft us to milder climes & sunnier skies. The Joanna is gone into Torbay & cannot get out. Passed a vessel today, that had lost her foretopmast.

November 2nd We are now fairly in the Bay of Biscay. The long continuance of Westerly winds has driven this way the swell of the Atlantic Ocean & we are at length exposed to the roll of the never resting deep. Last night it was particularly grand. A sea came upon the poop, knocked down three or four, drenched the Judge like a drowned rat, frightened

Mrs. Duncan, who went spinning across the Cuddy, burst open a cabin door where the 1st mate Donovan is ill in bed, came prostrate her full length

[page 12]

& is embellished with two beautiful black eyes this morning. I stood some time at the Cuddy door to enjoy the beauty of the moonlight night. The waves were running very high, frequently flying in showers over the bow or striking heavily on the quarter giving the vessel a blow that made her reel, & causing a shock as if she had struck upon a rock. Our gallant vessel rode proudly over the surges, graceful as a swan, buoyant as a cork, as she plunged into each billow her huge mass in cleaving her way through sent showers of spray gleaming white in the moonlight far to leeward. The gale was rising, the topsails had been reefed & the men were taking in the mainsail; they were hanging like bees upon the yard, how they stuck there I hardly know for it blew so fur-

[page 13]

iously I could scarcely hold on upon deck, to walk upon it was out of the question. It was a magnificent scene never to be forgotten. We passed a most unquiet night tossed about in our beds. The children kept us from sleep, & it is dreary work to lie listening to the angry war of the waves close against your ear, & to remember (as I forget who it is that remarks) "There is only an inch plank between you & Death" – Charlotte & mother both sick this morning, the latter continues very ill. I have quite got over the sickness & should enjoy the sea but that I have to be Housemaid, Nursemaid, & Ladysmaid. I never find the days long enough for my many duties. We have had a very good run to the West, & are now making a little Southing, as there is now no danger of being embayed. The Carpenter calked the scuttle which let in water like a sieve.

[page 14]

Since writing the above, while quietly reading in the Cuddy, was roused by the crash of a Sea rolling up the vessels side & pouring over her bulwarks like a waterfall, drenching every one on deck & pouring down the hatchway; it is ankle deep in the Cuddy, so I tucked up my feet on a chair & went on with my book.

November 4th Sunday; A fearful day: the wind dead against us, the \Sea/ running high & breaking over the vessel. Poor little Apety, as Charlotte Emily calls herself was sitting on her grandpapa's knee in the Cuddy, when a tremendous sea came over the bow, rolled over the deck, sweeping all before it, washed overboard a dog that had got upon the cow shed for safety, burst into the Cuddy, knocking down everything moveable filling the glasses round the mast in their racks with salt water, setting the Cabin afloat, & drenching poor little Apety who was brought down without a dry thread on her; her Mama had just dressed her in her Sunday

[page 15]

best in compliance with her dear sister Madge's injunction never to get so barbarous & uncivilized as not to dress the child a little bit decent on Sundays. There was no Divine service on account of the weather, read to Mother & C. in the Cabin. We were more fortunate than most of our neighbours having very little water in our Cabin but what entered by leaks in the scuttles. Tons of water poured down the hatchways, setting cabin afloat; the poor people baling it out in buckets – much found its way into the hold, where there was 3 feet water, got it pumped out this afternoon. Dinner was a very serious business, people to leeward being in danger of receiving the contents of their opposite neighbours plates into their laps – no soup today – yesterday the Cabin boy when bringing the soup from the galley was knocked down by a wave, that filled the tureen with salt water. The ship all day under a reefed main topsail, and making more leeway than headway, tonight lying to; the motion now is much more unpleasant, first one side being uppermost then the other; at

[page 16]

teatime no sooner had one saved one's cup from going over to one side \of the table/, that it flew to the opposite, poor M^r Cottrill got two cups over his inexpressibles, expect to see them hanging in the rigging tomorrow; but the bumps & bruises, it is impossible to dress without hold, poor Hussey at breakfast complained he was just like a spotted leopard; it is very sad for poor

Charlotte whose back is constantly hurt; Father sick today for the first time. Mother very ill. Oh the misery of that day, As we lay \all the day in the Bay of Biscay Oh./

November 5th Passed an awful night the ship hove to; the sea striking her heavily about 2 in the morning two tremendous seas came in quick succession, making her quiver & groan beneath their shocks & deluging the ship with water – this morning the wind lulled and became more favourable; the Spanish coast came in sight, & I went on deck to see it. There appeared a lofty range of mountains on the horizon hardly distinguishable from

[page 17]

clouds, after dinner their outline became more decided; they were I believe a branch of the Pyrenees, about Cape Ortegale, this evening are abreast of Corunna. Are now fairly out of the bay of Biscay & shall have no very agreeable recollections of it. We have run about 120 miles the last two days southwards, a better course the Captain says than he expected, the waves tonight are beautifully phosphoric, but unluckily it rains so as to prevent one going on deck to admire them.

November 7th We were out of sight of land on the morning of the 6th & ran westwards all day the wind blowing strong from the SW, the ship pitching furiously; mother very ill in bed; Charlotte Emily fretful; cutting her double teeth; M^r Duncan lanced her gums, which seemed to relieve her, but her temper is violent, a ship with children on board is a purgatory; If I were to write a code of rules to be observed on shipboard, I should begin

[page 18]

“1st Keep your temper” – Job was never sent to sea with his wife & family & no servant.

Today has been nearly calm, the ship rolling heavily on the swell of the Atlantic, the day fine, the sea a brilliant blue, this evening after dear C & I had put the Children to bed, we went on the poop, & leant over the taffrail admiring the beautiful phosphoric appearance in the ship’s wake, globes of fire appearing to rise from the deep, flashing & sparkling in all directions, the night was mild & dearest C seemed light hearted, forgot her troubles (& they have been many & heavy) & became so girlish as to take hold of a rope to prevent her going overboard & dance away merrily.

November 8th Had the treat of a quiet night on going on deck, found that the wind had come right aft, & that we were spanking thro’ the water at the rate of 8 Knots under the influence of a rattling Northeaster. Studding sails were

[page 19]

set below & aloft, topgallant sails & royals; the ship was soon a cloud of canvass, “walking the waters like a thing of life” – the deep foaming in her track behind her as she ploughed thro’ it – but her progress was as easy as it was stately, none of the pitching we had endured as she battled her course against the opposing gales. It is surprising the influence over the spirits of the passengers effected by a favourable wind; all were on the alert, the croakers that prophesied we were in a doomed ship were silenced; we may see Madeira now in three days; Mother still sick in bed; C E as fretful as ever, her screams disturbed the passengers, “Pitch that ‘ere child overboard” growled one sulky fellow. “There should be an act of parliament making it hanging to take women & children a sea voyage” said another. Terrible work for her poor mother & Dad. Would advise ladies at sea to dine in Mackintosh aprons, poor Charlotte after dinner having a decan-

[page 20]

ter of wine pitched into her lap which broke her glass & almost her finger; made it very black. Father a little better. This evening the phosphorescence round the ship is particularly beautiful; it resembled a galaxy of \faint/ light with brilliant stars flashing thro’ it at intervals – sheet lighting in the SE horizon. Played a game of Chess with Miss Cooper & got thrashed; played last night with Mrs. Duncan & won.

November 9th A lovely day, nearly calm, the little wind there is, favourable, ship under all the sail they can put on her – something black was seen floating at a little distance from the ship which proved to be a huge log covered with barnacles. The Captain went off in the jolly boat to secure it, taking with him a fish spear, for he said whenever a piece of timber remains so

long in the water as to be covered with barnacles there is sure to be a shoal of fish about it; having

[page 21]

secured his prize by a rope, he commenced plunging his spear into the water and presently captured about a score of fish something like Cod, the sailors call them "Old Wives", they were about 18 inches or 2 ft long & perhaps 6^{lb} weight; the shoal accompanied the log as it was towed alongside, & the beautiful transparency of the deep blue water enabled us to discern myriads of them as they darted about feeding on the barnacles that the sailors cleared off the log with a shovel; several were speared close alongside & their capture was quite an event in our still life. A swallow came & perched on the rigging this morning and hovered about the ship all day; it came boldly into the Cuddy & a boy caught it in his hand, but released it; it had doubtless been blown off the land by the NE wind & found our ship a resting place, & claimed our hospitality. The evening was most lovely, the stars brilliant. C & I enjoyed our quiet promenade on the poop when we had left all quiet in our cabin. Several of the

[page 22]

gentlemen got up a dance, having two very good performers on the violin. It was a very animated sight to stand on the poop & to look down upon the moving throng below as seen by the light of the lamps in the Cuddy; a party of sailors collected at the other side of the vessel & certainly with their bare feet out danced the gentlemen. Some songs were sung "My native Land Goodnight!" was given with great effect.

November 10th A tremendously soaking rain. I never saw it rain so violently for a whole day, saved some rain water, which C found useful. Mother still very ill & desponding, she is still sick. Ate the "Old Wives" today at dinner, they proved excellent, boiled or fried. The wind which had been contrary all day, has become fair this evening, the rain has ceased & we had a beautiful sunset. A whale was seen when I was not on deck.

November 11th Sunday. We had anticipated our

[page 23]

usual Tempest which we have weekly experienced on this day, which has not been a day of rest, but today has been lovely, a fine breeze filling the sails which are all set to catch it. The Judge read prayers & the D^r a sermon. Latitude 40° 40" North.

November 12th The fine breeze continues & freshens; the ship under all sail, another studding sail set on the larboard side; are making 8 or 10 Knots an hour; the "deep boils like a pot" around us, as we cut our way through it, but there is scarcely any perceptible motion. Mother much better; had her dinner on deck and enjoyed it. When I entered the ship I subscribed £9 to the intermediate mess for luxuries; the intermediate passengers have voted that as I have left the mess I am not entitled to any compensation, & I am thus cheated out of my £9. I hope they may enjoy them.

November 13th Today on going on deck after dinner I heard that a whale had been seen & presently I had the pleasure of seeing him rise almost close to the ship, blow up a column of water & lashing the

[page 24]

sea into foam, disappear, he seemed about 30 or 40 feet long, of a dark grey colour on the back & dirty white below, with a broad head; the water being beautifully clear, we were able to track his course by a dark green line \under water/ as he continued to play about the vessel for an hour or two: most likely the ship in its course disturbed the fish or animalula that constitute its food, & thus it chose to accompany us for miles. Some of the young men attempted to shoot him with a rifle but without success. Made 150 miles in 24 hours. The temperature is high about 70° – the evenings are particularly pleasant, the stars shine with great lustre. Was busy today cleaning my saddlery which was covered with green mould; everything spoilable is destroyed on shipboard. Hope to see Madeira tomorrow.

Nov 14th In the course of the afternoon the Island of Madeira came into view appearing like

[page 25]

a cloud on the horizon. The Captain expected to pass to the eastward of it but a favourable shift of wind enabled him to pass to the westward.

Nov 16th Have been driven out of our course by violent SW gales. We lost sight of Madeira which I but indistinctly saw yesterday morning as we left it behind us. We are today about 100 miles to the north of it again; had a dreadfully rough night, nearly tossed out of bed. Baby screaming all night, she begins to loathe her food, which is none of the most desirable, the milk being poor & her arrowroot &c. badly prepared, she loses flesh; & Charlotte loses heart. Mother in bed all day, was as sick as ever last night. All this joined to the fact that we are much in the same position we were a week ago makes us very dismal Higho! The waves are particularly grand. The Sun was shining brightly this morning & I observed a brilliant effect of sunlight I

[page 26]

have frequently seen attempted to be represented in painting; the beautiful blue waves as they raised their towering masses between the vessel and the Sun, were tipped with a rich emerald green as the light fell on their translucent summits while each was crested by a beautiful white spray which the wind carried in a shower before it. I was sitting on the poop with little Apety on my knee, father just opposite to us (Charlotte fortunately had just gone down) when a tremendous wave rolled over the poop, drenched us all; Father who was sitting with his back to it was lifted up & washed to leeward, till brought up by the binacle. Poor little Pet, as I carried her down to Mamma kept chattering a wonderfully long story in her giberish. The misfortune is that her many mishaps have rendered the poor child so timid, that she screams in agony at every extraordinary lurch of the vessel & it is impossible & indeed hardly safe for her to run about, so that we have two infants in arms

[page 27]

& one a tremendously heavy one.

Nov^r 19th Have been beating about driven back to the North of Madeira, the Sea running very high: no quiet night or day, children cross & ill; father & mother both ill; last night it became calmer; C, M^{rs} Mitford & I had a pleasant hour \last night/ sitting on the poop admiring the Stars, which shone with great brilliancy, the air was mild and we did not doubt that our English friends would be cowering round their fires or walking about wrapped in great coats to protect them from the inclemency of the weather. This morning to our great delight the wind became favourable & we rapidly made up our lost distance. The Island of Madeira again came in sight & we passed it to the Westward at the distance of about 25 miles, appearing like a cloud & scarcely to be distinguished from one, it seemed very precipitous; the sun set splendidly

[page 28]

a beautiful new moon has come out to enliven us & ere it "fills its horns" I hope it will light us over the line. The temperature continues steady about 75°. We sleep with our window open. Baby better today; has been almost all the day on deck & seems revived by it. Mother better, not sick for almost the first day since we left Portsmouth.

November 20 Have been all day running before a favourable wind, stud^g sails set, have made 140 miles in 24 hours. A regular ball this evening, C was well enough to dance a quadrille; a splendid sunset. Latitude 31.

Nov^r 21 On going on deck this morning, the Island of Palma one of the Canaries in sight; it appears very lofty, its distance 40 or 50 miles but it towers above the clouds that are hanging on the lower ground. Teneriffe is said to be in sight, have been straining my eyes till they ache, but cannot say I can distinguish it from a cloud; the swell is now sub-

[page 29]

sided & we are skimming over "the smooth surface of a summer sea"; am a gentleman at leisure again; we have engaged a M^{rs} Nourse, a decent body, & I have had the luxury of lolling on deck all morning, enjoying the sea breeze & the sunshine, too idle even to read. Father saw a white sea bird that had come off from one of the neighbouring islands. We have

seen few or no seabirds, but occasionally a Mother Carey's Chicken. Went out on the bowsprit to lookout for Bonitos or other fish without success, the ship was a beautiful object as seen from thence, decked out in all her canvass; it was delightful to look down upon the deep blue water almost dark as indigo, till the advance of the vessel disturbed & crested the tiny waves with white spray. The Captain has now broached his Claret, as a pleasant drink for warm weather, when we get to the line we are to have Champagne. The preserved meats which we have just commenced prove excellent.

Nov 22 The Isle of Ferroe the furthest to the west of the Canaries, about 10 miles off this morning, it was a beautiful object, its craggy outline being
[page 30]

relieved against a clear sky. We hope that we are now getting into the Trade winds, they are yet light and baffling from the N & NW. The sea is smooth; one would scarcely believe to look at it/ it could have used us so tyrannically as it has done. I'll speak you fair, old Father Neptune, but if you catch me again in the centre of your wide empire, if I can help it, do with me at your good pleasure.

Nov 23 Another lovely day; the sky begins to equal my expectations of that of the Tropics, it is lovely at sunset; the Moon tonight was brilliant & a large party danced merrily on deck under her light.

Nov 24th It was reported this morning that a shoal of bonitos were at the bows of the vessel, one was caught with a white rag on a hook, saw the first flying fish; have now got the regular NE Trade wind: it becomes oppressively hot in the middle of the day, but the evenings are exquisite: got out into the jolly boat hanging over the vessels quarter
[page 31]

to enjoy the brilliant moonlight on the water, the light streaming on the sails all set to catch the favouring breeze, the sound of music & the steps and laugh of the dancers come to the ear mingled with the splash of the waves as we plough through them at the rate of 8 Knots, the scene \one/ of festive jollity – Men, such sober persons as C & the Judge dancing together; the other night we had a concert; a Scotch lassie, Miss Young, sang some of Burns songs excellently; I proposed in my ardent loyalty that we should close with “God Save the Queen”, which was given by the little band of her subjects, on their way to the most remote of her dominions, with much enthusiasm.

Nos manet oceanus cercombagus arva beata

Pitamus arva, divites et insulas,

Jupiter illa pis secrevit litora genti.

Nov 25th Sunday – Service for the first time on the deck – a sail was stretched out for an awning; the union Jack covered the Capstern, instead of a pulpit cloth & the Judge read prayers to a very

[page 32]

attentive congregation, and the crew and passengers being all assembled drest in their Sunday best: was amused with the mate calling the men up to prayers, “Come bowl up, bowl up or I'll stop your grog” – A lovely day, promenaded the deck with the Mitfords & in such weather & scenery wished for Madge to enjoy them.

Nov 26th Was called at daybreak to enjoy the luxury of a bath went on deck in a pair of old trousers, & had 3 or four buckets of water doused over me, the best was one the mate sent over me from off the poop, that pretty well knocked the breath out of me; another lovely day; nothing so impresses upon me the immensity of the ocean, as the fact that we have seen no vessel since we left the Channel tho' we are in the regular track of all the outward bound Eastern ships, no doubt there are hundreds around us, but nothing appears to break the uniform circle of which we are the centre, the atmosphere being so clear that the

[page 33]

horizon is seen sharp and distinct all round.

Nov 27. Another bath at daybreak; it is delightful after sweltering in the close cabin: at noon today in Lat. 16.58. N. have made 192 miles the last 24 hours; got out on the bow sprit to watch the flight of flying fish which skim out of the water as the vessel approaches; it was beautiful to watch the rainbows caused by the Sun shining thro' the spray around the bows.

Nov 28. Took a bath at daybreak. Saw a whale this afternoon at some distance ran up the rigging & had the pleasure of seeing two large Sperm Whales playing about & blowing up clouds of spray: they appeared 30 or 40 feet in length but did not accompany us long; Music and dancing in the evening by moonlight.

Nov 29. It is a true remark that those periods of History that are the happiest, are the least interesting, our days pass without much variety, we are running before the Tradewind at the rate of 180 miles in 24 hours, over a sea with

[page 34]

scarcely a white ripple to disturb its blue surface, save when a flock of flying fish spring out of the water after a short flight & plunge into it again with a splash that can be heard some distance. Today father watched a dolphin chase a flying fish till he caught it & another dropping just before him he bolted it too, a flying fish was found in the fore chains, it had knocked out its eyes with the force it had flown against the vessel. The night air now intensely hot 82°, we are off Sierra Leone, about 120 miles from the land, several slept on deck last night, the nights are perfectly delicious. If I were asked the completest of luxuries I should say it was to sit on the poop of a vessel skimming before the Tradewind on a splendid moonlight night & to drink Sangaree.

Nov 30. The report of a vessel ahead set us all scribbling; we soon found however that it was a brig, crossing our course & making for the African

[page 35]

coast some say she is a slaver some a pirate. Have been much interested, these fine moonlight nights by watching the clouds fly across the moon's surface to the N. in the opposite direction to the Trade wind, thus giving ocular proof to the double current, the heated air flowing off from the equator to the poles.

Dec^r 1st "A shark astern" was the cry this morning. I ran up & found he was just hooked, & was struggling furiously; after a violent effort he got off, the mate said he was a Sand shark the most voracious of all & he had never seen one before out of sounding, he was about 10 feet long; tho' pricked by the hook, he was soon back again, another piece of pork was put on the hook, he dashed at it, turned on his side, showing his white belly; we jerked the rope & the rascal went off with the bait; we soon got another ready; the tidbits he had got only whetted his appetite, on he came again; "give him line" said the mate, Now jerk him, "Hurrah we have the villain"; he lashed the water into foam

[page 36]

"indignant of the guile". I thought we were as sure of him now as if we were on deck but no sooner did we get him out of the water, than his weight straightened the hook (which must have been badly tempered) & away he went again, but tho' we had used him so vilely, he came back again & smelt at another bait; but "experience makes ever sharks wise" & he wisely thought better of it. The wind failed us today the sea became as smooth as glass; we got up a beautiful awning from the main to the mizen mast & the heat became so oppressive as to render it impossible to do anything but sit under it, to catch a breath of the faint puffs of air that occasionally swelled out the sails, then deserted them, & they flapped idly against the masts. The moon was full and shone so brightly that we could discern the ship in company some miles distant; while

[page 37]

the passengers were dancing I went to the stern & heard that two sharks had been seen; we presently got hold of one which broke away. The Captain came up and sent for a dolphin hook, which being baited, he presently got hold of one, which was presently hoisted over the taffrail; the hook broke just as we got him in, he was presently dragged forward & dispatched,

a bulldog we had on board flew at him like a tiger; the shark was a Blue one about 8 feet long. There was brilliant sheet lighting all round the horizon tonight.

Dec^r 2nd We passed a tremendous night of thunder & lightning. I never saw the flashes so brilliant & so frequent, the thunder crashed in deafening peals almost at the same instant with them; the rain poured down in torrents; about 2 this morning a water spout passed near us; providentially we sustained no damage, tho' many declared they heard the thunderbolts fall hissing

[page 38]

into the water around us: fortunately the children slept thro' it all — being Sunday, the Judge read prayers in the Cuddy. We hoisted the ensign to the Whaler, which replied with the American flag; she then bore down upon us, & a boat came off; the Captain was in her, who proved a regular Yankey, yellow & shrewd, he wore no coat, his name was Coffin, his ship the Statesman from Salem; he had just left St. Jago, & brought a most acceptable supply of oranges, bananas &c. Captain Fell had seen him before at Adelaide on his last voyage, so they were old acquaintances, Coffin was born a friend [annotation in pencil] \Quaker/; Knew Barton; he sat down to dinner in his shirt sleeves, & proved very pleasant he said last night they quite thought our ship was struck by the lightning. It made quite a commotion in our ship to receive a visit on the water — The Whalers crew are all Temperance men, they have no grog on board: the boat's

[page 39]

crew got all as drunk as glory on board our ship, & many of them had to be lowered down the side by ropes. Tonight it again lightens most beautifully, the sheet lightning makes every object visible on board, & the Whaler lying off for her Captain with a light burning on her poop is made conspicuous by the flashes. A rocket was sent up to announce the safe arrival of the Captain which with his drunken crew was a matter of hazard.

Dec^r 3rd Poor Mrs. Mitford's baby died today: it had long been declining; it has suffered from poor living. Charlotte was much distressed from being similarly circumstanced in having the charge of young children: it is a most responsible charge on board ship. The poor little thing was buried in the deep in the evening, the Captain reading the service. A large party of ladies went off to pay a visit to the Whaler, I went in the evening. These kind of visits are very interesting at sea: they offered us oranges & water, the latter most excellent, they had brought it from America; it was quite a treat after our

[page 40]

putrid stuff: inspected the huge boilers they had on deck to boil down the blubber. The water was beautifully luminous as we rowed back after dark in the Whale boat.

Dec^r 4th The Whaler still in company; her boats were down this morning & I watched them for some time in pursuit of Whales thro' the glass; fortunately the fish came towards our ship; they were black whales; they came on in a line blowing up the water, the 3 boats followed, the oars bending under the strokes of the rowers, the harpooners standing up in the bows ready to strike, it was a most animating sight, as they came rushing down the long swell upon their prey, but just as they came up with it the fish disappeared & the boats after waiting some time returned to their ship. In the course of the morning we could see with our glasses that they had better success, & our captain went with a party on board the Whaler; they had taken 3 Black Whales the largest 17 feet long

[page 41]

the Captain brought back its head & tail. In the evening the Captain hooked a small shark & we soon got him on board, he was about 4 feet long. Two others were in company but they took example by the imprudence of their brother & declined the bait.

Dec^r 5. Had some of the Whale's head fried at breakfast, it tasted like coarse beef; those who could get over their disgust at such food ate heartily. We had some of the Shark at dinner & I enjoyed it much; it was excellent. We had a regular tropical thunder shower, the rain descending in torrents; fresh water for washing is so valuable that every one is catching it greedily as it pours off the awning, some young fellows after getting wet through in catching it

pour it over each other in bucketfuls & are at "high jinks". At night there was sheet lightning all round the horizon; it was grand to hear the approach of the rain (the water being nearly calm) till the advancing deluge poured on the ship, then the lightning flashed, brighter & blue
[page 42]

the thunder pealed almost incessantly, scarcely had one ceased its mutterings, than another crashed over head, as if the batteries of artillery were discharged. This evening we hooked a magnificent Shark & got him out of the water when his weight straightened the hook and he went off.

Decr 6th The rain has cooled the air, temperature 78, it has been steady at 84 varying very little day or night. It has been very oppressive during the calms but today we are in hopes we have caught the S.E. Trade, which I did not expect we should have met with 5° N. of the Line

Decr 8th Caught a large Shark; he nearly got off for just as we got a noose round his tail, the hook straightened & we drew him on deck by the tail, there were several beautiful pilot fish about him & remora attached to his back, but unfortunately it fell off before we got him on board.

Decr 9th Prayers in the Cuddy by the Judge. A vessel was seen ahead which we were all in hopes was a homeward

[page 43]

bound; she however proved our old friend the Statesman, Whaler. It was very interesting to meet again; she was a beautiful object as she bore down to us, just as the Sun was setting a water spout at the same moment appeared in the distance. The Captain hailed thro' the trumpet asked him if he had taken any fish which he had met, asked him his lat. & long. & told him all the lady passengers sent their love to him.

Decr. 10. Employed copying journal in great hopes of meeting vessels being now in the track of the homeward bound.

Decr 11 Lat 2° 7 N. The phosphorescence of the water at night has lately been very remarkable. In the wake of the vessel appears a long luminous track extending as far as the eye can reach. It is caused by millions of animalcula that are disturbed by the passage of the ship; when close to them they appear like redhot shot, and the light is so great as to illuminate the poop. We caught one in a bucket; it proved a little gelatinous substance about the size and shape of one's little finger. When put into a glass it soon lost its brilliance

[page 44]

but resumed it when stirred by the finger or taken into the hand; the light seemed first to proceed from several prominent pores (which I afterwards saw more distinctly by daylight) then first shone with green light like so many emeralds and then the whole animal glowed with phosphorescence so brightly as to show the faces of those who crowded round it. The light is evidently at the will of the animal, but what purpose it is to answer in its economy, thus to light up a brilliant pathway in the Ocean I know not, unless it is to show the wonders of the Lord to "those who go down to the sea in Ships".

Decr 12. The gentlemen of the Cuddy were assembled by the Captain this morning to hear a very grave charge that the D^r. Duncan had to make against M^r John Horrocks. It seems they had some words on the poop yesterday arising out of some rough play, when

[page 45]

Horrocks followed the D^r. to his cabin, and demanded an apology or satisfaction, which the D^r. refusing, he struck him a blow in the face, as he was laid down on the sofa. It was unanimously concluded that for such an outrage M^r H should be expelled from the table unless he made such an apology as the D^r. might be satisfied to accept. This he consented to do, they shook hands and the affair was thus satisfactorily adjusted.

Decr 14. We have at length crossed the line, our latitude today being 0.12 South. We are not to have any visit from Neptune, our Captain not approving of it, & among so many hot bloods his visit might raise more feuds than all his buckets of water could cool. It is very pleasant to see the dear Children so much improved, little Apetty is once more a sweet

engaging little thing & runs boldly about the deck. Baby is much improved by the attention of M^{rs} Nourse & by her food being more carefully prepared. She is on deck almost all day long.

[page 46]

Dec^r 20 A huge hiatus in my journal proceeding from no better cause than having nothing to record. We have been running down the S.E. Trade, & are getting on delightfully, yesterday 160 miles Latitude 10°5 S. The temperature is but little above 80 & I rarely find it too hot in the shade. On Sunday we had prayers on deck; in the afternoon discovered a sail \a brig/ on the starboard beam, hoisted the ensign but she took no notice, she was supposed to be foreign from her rig; the two vessels passed swiftly in opposite directions and she was soon out of sight. It was some relief from the monotony of our lives to see once more another object than sea and sky extending round us in an unbroken circle. The sky at night presents a delightful novelty as the Southern constellations come into sight; the Captain last night pointed out the Southern Cross, could not make it out distinctly being near the horizon, the Magellan clouds are beautiful objects, I much regret that I did not bring the Map of the Stars, it is too hot to read in the Cuddy, and one can do nothing in an evening but

[page 47]

walk on the poop & stargaze. Have had our cabin cleared out, the hay round the bedsteads has got very musty from the wet coming in. Nothing should be stored near a window. The beds are best athwart ship, they take up least room. Wish I had had iron bedstead, or sofa bed, we sleep on mattresses. Cots for the Children would have been preferable.

Dec^r 24 Yesterday was Sunday, service on deck. At noon a large shoal of Bonitos round the Ship it was nearly calm and it was highly amusing to see them leap out of the water, it seemed to be merely in frolic as no flying fish were to be seen. We have been making about 2° a day; are now 20°/2 S. Lat. 32°.2 W. Long. Showers today have diminished the steadiness of the S.E. Trade wind. We were completely becalmed when I went on deck this morning; heavy rain was falling almost all round the horizon, the Sea around us was as smooth as a lake but towards the East appeared a dark line that advanced with great rapidity. As it approached the Ship

[page 48]

her sails were filled in an instant, & she went at a great rate thro' the water. "Stand by the main royal halyards," was soon the order, as the freshening breeze made her lean over till it was scarcely possible to walk the deck." The ship was presently relieved of the main royal and top gallant sails & the squall soon passed over. Much speculation prevailed as to whether we should see a sail having done so every 3 or 4 Sundays, & sure enough one was discovered astern, which proved to be a very large ship probably a man of war, steering the same course as ourselves. We have seen very few birds, a beautiful white Tropic bird came and hovered round us a few days ago. The Sunsets are now splendid, they have often been very beautiful, but did not come up to my expectations of Tropical sunsets, but two nights ago after the Sun had sunk, the clouds round the horizon were illuminated by such splendid tint of pink, orange and gold as no human pen or pencil could pourtray. A large schooner was seen to leeward this

[page 49]

morning, about 10 miles off, steering our course.

Dec^r. 25th Christmas day, and the thermometer about 80° Not much worth recording except a capital dinner; fresh mutton and pork, plum pudding, mince pies & champagne; so much for the privations of a sea voyage – the most disagreeable incident connected with Xmas festivities is drunkenness among the men some of whom last night were in a state of insubordination & one was put in irons.

Dec^r. 29th Five vessels were in sight yesterday, one we approached sufficiently near to speak, she proved to be the Garrow of L'pool from Belfast with 300 emigrants for N.S. Wales. The Paddies clustered upon her like a swarm of bees, our Captain invited Capt. Henderson to dinner and he & the Surgeon, a tall gaunt man in Naval uniform, came off in a leaky boat, that

they had to bail to keep from sinking. They left before dinner was over being afraid to leave their vessel, well for them they did for the wind fresh-

[page 50]

ened in the evening & blew a gale in the night from the SE passed a most uncomfortable night almost tossed out of bed. Mother sick again today, the Ship pitching furiously. Saw a vessel, supposed to be a French Whaler at a distance. The Sun vertical today. Lat 23°4 S. Dec^r 30th Several vessels in sight, approached a large one within 3 or 4 miles, telegraphed her; she proved to be the Royal George for Sydney; she was at Gravesend when we were; we exchanged the lat & long, the latter they made a degree different from us; invited the Captain to dinner which he declined. it is beautiful to observe the variety of information that can be conveyed by Marryatts signals. In the evening all the vessels has left us astern; ours is a sad slow coach. At noon the sun so directly overhead that I stood in the shadow of my broad brimmed straw hat. The weather is now pleasantly cool having a fine breeze before which we are making good progress to the S.E. we dress accordingly, waistcoats have long since disappeared, neckcloths have followed

[page 51]

drawers are a superfluity \& jackets only worn at dinner time/; we have not for a long time slept with more covering than a sheet & with the port open, I wish I had brought more socks and fewer stockings.

Dec^r 31 A lovely day \we are/ spanking before a fine breeze with stud^g sails set; some interest is excited by a wager between Hussey & Cottrill that the former does not walk 24 miles on the poop in 24 hours to commence tonight at 10 O'clock. He will thus walk the new year in. The last sunset of 1838 was a splendid one. Fare well old year in which I have taken the most important step of my life & may the next year, with God's blessing realize the bright anticipations we have entertained

1839

Jan^y 1st The commencement of the new year was announced by three hearty cheers by the passengers on deck, that wakened us; a large party were dancing the new year in – the match came to nothing owing to a squabble, we are a sad quarriesome lot, on shipboard the \dark/ shades of peoples charac-

[page 52]

ters are developed, perhaps the truth is that we are brought into such close contact that the disguises that people usually wear are seen through.

Jan 8th A long pause in my journal, I regret to say that our dear Baby has been and continues very alarmingly ill; several of her teeth are pressing & she has a very high fever; she is very much reduced; we have had her gums lanced, & done all we could think to relieve her. I do not know that much more could have been done if we had been on shore. Dearest Charlotte of course very anxious \her back has been bad & she has been cupped & found relief by it/. The dear little sufferer is very patient; she has been in a warm bath tonight & is now in a sound sleep; she takes very little food: we begin to hope that she may be mercifully spared to us. We have been making tolerable progress this last week towards the Cape where we hope to arrive in a fortnight, we have

[page 53]

had baffling & variable winds since we lost the S E Trade, we ran about 200 miles one day, when favoured with a fair wind. Another of the sailors put into irons for striking the steward; when seized he struck the Captain, the Captⁿ is remarkably mild, but firm; no one can conduct himself more agreeably. Saw today the first Albatross; it was considered a young one that had not attained its full plumage.

Jan. 9th This morning as I was taking my usual morning walk before breakfast, I heard a deep sigh and a splash just over the vessels side & on looking perceived a huge Whale within 10 yards of the ship, he sported about the vessel, blowing up clouds of spray, he was of the kind called a Finback; his movements were really graceful, as he dashed his huge bulk thro'

the Ocean as over his own domain being formed “to play therein”. We saw him again at noon, but not so near. Dear Baby is still very ill; there is not so much fever today, but

[page 54]

she is very much reduced. It is mournful to see her so changed; she seems to know us and makes an effort to give us her usual sweet smile of recognition. She does not seem to suffer much pain. Dear little patient creature, she seems dearer to us than ever.

Jan. 12th Baby continues much the same; her gums were lanced yesterday; the bowels continue as much affected as ever, & she is consequently extremely reduced. The fever is decidedly less, & we are encouraged to hope that she may be mercifully spared to us. A large Ship in sight last night; this morning we telegraphed her, she proved to be the Cassandra from Port Glasgow for Bombay. We afterwards neared each other sufficiently to speak; she was a most beautiful object, being under a cloud of canvass, as she bore down upon us, rising & sinking gracefully upon the swell. We are making a very good progress towards the Cape where for dear Baby’s sake we are anxious to arrive.

[page 55]

Jan 14th Since last entry, dear Baby has continued without much alteration; we have not yet succeeded in stopping the Diarrhea, & her appetite is very bad, I have not been able to get any Prep^d. Chalk for a chalk mixture, & have mashed some Camph^d. Chalk which I had brought for Tooth powder. The weather also is very unfavourable; we have had for the last 3 days a violent gale from the S E, which has driven us back 3 degrees to the North; we are now in 30 & have been as far as 33 S: the weather is cold and we feel it the more after the warmth of a Vertical Sun; everything is disheartening, but I trust we endeavour to put our confidence in Him who has promised to sustain even those “who dwell in the uttermost parts of the Sea”. We have had some sea birds to visit us; we were delighted to see an Albatross that came sweeping round us with a wing almost motionless & then settled down upon the water in our wake. Numbers of black petrels “Cape Hens” I believe, come about us; our young

[page 56]

sportsmen attempt to shoot them I am glad to say without success; It seems to me brutal to send a poor bird fluttering on the water with broken wing, when it has flown at least 1000 miles to see us, when the sole pleasure, if such it be, consists in the satisfaction of having been able to hit it

Jan 16. Dear Baby continues without much change for the better. She takes her food a little better but there is little if any real amendment; she is sadly changed from the little plump thing she was. We are still struggling against a contrary wind, we are now in 29° 30” S. having been as low as 33°, we have attained the meridian of Greenwich & could be soon at the Cape with a fair wind – tonight we are able to keep our course.

Jan 17 Baby a little better we hope. We have had a grand excitement in the capture of a monstrous Shark. It was nearly calm & someone had seen the fin above water some distance astern, a baited hook was lowered

[page 57]

and the mate felt him bite; it took a dozen of us to haul him to the vessel, where we held him with his head out of water till the Captain passed a noose over him; as I looked down upon him with his jaws distended I saw at least two feet down his monstrous throat armed with terrible teeth; we got him safely on the poop where he soon put the ladies to flight by lashing his huge tail; he was a beautiful blue on the back & white below, he fell with a violent tumble upon the lower deck where he was dispatched but such was his vitality that after his head & tail were off & all his internals extracted he floundered about the deck; he was quickly cut up & eaten; really fried shark is very good decidedly better than cod, prejudice apart; several more followed the ship in the evening. There is a poor old woman of 76 who is very dangerously ill & the sailors have a superstition that they always follow a ship before a death, as ravens perch on

\^x his jaws when dried passed over my head/

[page 58]

the house of a dying man, hence the deadly enmity the sailors have to the Sharks. It is perhaps cruel to destroy them wantonly but I cannot look on these "Sea Tygers" without horror.

Jan 17th No stir in the air, no stir in the sea
And the ship is still as she may be.

Never did I see the Ocean so beautifully calm as when I went on deck before breakfast not a ripple to be seen. The wind that for the last week has been dead against us had entirely sunk, & the ships head was all around the compass. A faint breeze sprung up from the N.W. the mate directly sung out "Square the main yard". Stud^g sails were soon out on both sides of the ship, & she soon got way on her. The breeze freshened & we soon began to get on at the rate of 8 Knots; the Captain said we could go 2 more if she were in trim, but she is like a log. It is joyful to feel that we are making progress for the voyage seems as if it were to be interminable. I find that

[page 59]

I have not mentioned that M^r Ferguson who has been in the army gives all the young men a drilling every afternoon. It is most excellent exercise. We have the ships muskets, & are soon to have some ball practise; the marching about the deck & the maneuvering form just the kind of exercise so difficult to get on shipboard. Dear baby is not quite so well today, at least her dear anxious Mama thinks so, which makes her very wretched. Poor dear little sufferer. Her gums were lanced again today & the D^r felt 2 teeth just ready to come through the gum.

Jan 18th The wind before which we were running yesterday – delightfully, came round to south this morning, & blew in heavy squalls; I never saw the ship heel over so much as she did before they could furl the royals & top gallant sails & reef topsails; the water came in at the leegangway. Dear Baby no better she seems gradually sinking; she takes scarcely any nourishment. May we be enabled to feel that every dispensation of the Almighty is ordered in wisdom & in mercy.

[page 60]

Jan 22nd The wind has continued contrary, it seems as if we were never to get to the Cape; Baby no better. Have been shown some verses addressed by Miss Cooper to Miss Day \from/ which as they describe the supper on board the K S Forbes, consisting of grog & wine, I extract a few verses

"And when arrives the hour of Nine,
Who joyous looks for glass of wine,
Or else for Spirits oft doth pine?
Shocking Miss Day

Who from a single man doth take,
The grog he for himself did make,
Putting her character at stake?
Fye fye Miss Day.

Who receives biscuits, ale so sweet
From one a gentleman complete ^x
Who oft makes pretty speeches neat,
It is Miss Day.

I might prolong the tale of woe
But oh it would distress you so
Oh breath of scandal lightly blow
On dear Miss day –

It ought to be added that this is all badinage & that Miss Day is one of the discreetest and most ladylike women on board –

^x Ferguson

[page 61]

Jan 26th The wind still contrary, are today further from the cape than we were a fortnight ago; we have occasionally calms; the other day during a calm we were visited by a shoal of Albicores which however would not take a bait; the Captain & some of the young men went out in his gig for a row; yesterday we were much amused by the gambols of a shoal of Porpoises that followed each other in regular order, jumping out of the water as if they were

playing at leap frog. Dear Baby continues with very little alteration, we flatter ourselves that there is some improvement, she takes her food better & looks more lively.

Jan 27. Telegraphed the Eleanora for the Cape of Good Hope, she left London 10 days after us, the wind is now favourable: we seem as if we were fated to have Contrary gales; were nearer the Cape a fortnight ago than now.

Jan 28 Divine service in the Cuddy. Baby no better.

[page 62]

Jan 30th Dear Baby seems now decidedly better, she takes mutton broth with appetite & we are in much better spirits about her, The wind too has become favourable, we are today in the latitude of the Cape in 13 degrees of E Long. are in good hopes of being there tomorrow if the breeze continues, having done 150 miles yesterday. We have been much amused lately by the gambols of shoals of Porpoises, they come round the \ship/ springing out of the water and are very interesting. We are busy getting up the chain cable & hanging the anchor over the bow ready for dropping in Table Bay: never assisted in any work with more good will.

Jan 31 More need for patience, a dead calm and the ship heaving upon the long swell, The sea appears teeming with animalculae; they are attached to each other in strings and it appears as if they were little snakes, others of a large glassy consistence refract the rays of light and appear like little

[page 63]

gems of crimson blue and green, got up several bucketfuls of water & found them beautiful transparent little things possessing rapid motion when in a glass by the contraction & dilation of their bodies. They would have been beautiful objects under a microscope. We must have passed thro' many miles of them. Our dear baby continues/to improve, we now trust that she will be mercifully spared to us. Numbers of Albatrosses, Cape Hens, Mother Carys chickens come about us skimming along the hollows of the waves, & giving us joyful intimation that we are approaching the Cape.

Feb 1st Land, land! was the first sound we heard this morning, shouted the mate down the hatchway, I got to the end of the bowsprit & saw the summit of the Table mountain distant I suppose 50 miles. All this morning we have been admiring it as it comes into view, a canopy of clouds the "Table cloth" resting its top; it is one of a magnificent range of mountains, a suitable termination to a great

[page 64]

continent; the water has lost its beautiful blue and is now a dirty olive, as we are in soundings 5 O'clock came to anchor in Table Bay, the scene is magnificent. The Table mountain cloudcapped rises above the town; being a precipice of upward of 3000 feet. Cape Town is a beautiful object from the sea appearing to consist of regular white houses with verandahs in front. On entering the bay we perceived at the foot of the lighthouse the wreck of a large vessel which proved to/be the Julianna for Sydney that we saw in the Channel, she got on shore on a fine day by steering too near the rocks.

Feb 2nd. Were up in good time to enjoy the beautiful panorama of the bay, & surrounding mountains the clouds hung upon them – & threatened us with a stormy day, a threat that they carried into execution for no sooner were we in the boat than a violent gale with pelting showers came on & we were all wet thro' directly; we felt sorry we had brought little Apetty; however it cleared up & leaving

[page 65]

little pet fast asleep at the inn we went out shopping. We found it difficult to obtain any refreshment as all the places are full owing to so many ships being in harbour. We found the Dutch shops much cheaper than the English, the town still retains much to remind us of its former masters the Dutch; the houses of the principal inhabitants are stately substantial buildings, 2 rows \of trees/ shade the streets \which are unpaved and of red sand/. We went into the Governor's garden where little Apetty was almost wild with joy to run under the trees. The Museum was unfortunately closed. Were interested in seeing the waggons drawn in one

instance by/10 pairs of Oxen; on the whole are much more delighted by the town & bay than we had expected.

Feb 3rd, Sunday. Remained on board all day. In the evening, the wind swept in gusts over the mountain down upon the Bay; the sea rose, the vessel pitched furiously at anchor, & we were in for a regular Noreaster; more cable was reeved out, the Royal yards sent on deck, & every thing done to make her snug

[page 66]

we consoled ourselves with the reflection that at the worst we should only be driven out to sea & not on shore. The Robart, a large E Indiaman & some other ships dragged their anchors; we however held on. The water was beautifully luminous, every wave appearing tipped with light. Were occupied today in finishing our letters for England, which we sent by the Joshua Carrol.

Feb 4 Charlotte not feeling inclined to leave Baby, & being desirous of seeing Constantia, I joined a party who had engaged a carriage, & mounted the Box to have a better view of the country. Our driver was a negro in a peaked Chinese hat, & managed his four spirited well bred little horses with great ability. The road wound under the Table mountain & Devils Peak, & skirted a continuation of this range the whole way. Nothing could be more hopelessly sterile than the country. On our right rose the naked precipices, around us was a sandy waste, the road was in some places

[page 67]

almost axle deep, & when on a declivity was the bed of a rivulet, I could not but admire the skill of our charioteer, who would put his horses at full speed down these difficult passes, & dash thro' the sand & up the next hill, the carriage rolling about while I fully expected we should go over. Our Scotch friend M^r Young exclaimed to the Negro, "Eh my gude man, have a care of us or you'll keck us oot, M^r Watson hould on there like bricks", but our black Jehu was in no danger of an overturn, he cracked his immense whip & guided his team to a niceity. We passed some handsome Dutch looking country houses surrounded by vineyards, but the general aspect of buildings & fences was untidiness; walls brokendown, gates going to decay. We were told that the transition from Slavery to Apprenticeship has caused a great scarcity of labour. I could not of course ascertain how far this arose from an unwillingness of the Blacks to work, or of the Whites to pay them for it. The Village of Wynberg has a pleasing neat appearance; some of the wattled

[page 68]

huts of the Negroes were surrounded by neatly kept gardens of Indian Corn. The bushes that skirted the road were gay with a profusion of flowers; I could not but remark the scarcity of Birds a few swallows (House swallows) skimmed about, some gay dragonflies, & gaudy butterflies hovered round the flowers, but with these exceptions all nature seemed seeking refuge from the glare of an African sun, that blazed down upon, the heat being also reflected from the sand & rocks around us. At length broiled by heat & choked with dust we arrived at Constantia, & were politely received by the proprietor, Sebastian High, a German. He showed us the spacious storehouses where the wine was kept & gave us each a glass, which was very different to the trash we had drank at the Inn & which they called Constantia. It is a sweet wine, they let the grapes remain on the trees till they are almost raisins, & press them in the night to avail themselves of the dew. The wine has a strong Mus-

[page 69]

catel flavour. We did not see the Vineyard; it was evident they did not wish us; they said it was far up in the mountains. We walked about the garden which was very spacious, great part of it covered with weeds, no attention to order or neatness. There were hedges of roses & of Myrtle, orchards of Orange trees, Lemons Mulberries Peaches & Pears. We observed the pendent nests of a small bird in some lofty oaks near the house. On our return we went into a vineyard belonging to a Mynheer Kluter, the vines are about the height of gooseberry bushes, they are planted in rows, they had been pruned very close, & each allowed to send up about ½ doz. shoots, each bearing about 2 bunches. The shoots had been topped at a yard

high. The vineyard was irrigated by a drain from a reservoir on the hill which a negro said was turned on every night. The field was overgrown with couch grass which he said was only cleared away once a year when the vines are pruned

[page 70]

at which time they are also manured. I do not wonder at the earthy taste complained of in Cape Wine as the air is filled with red dust from the ferruginous soil; we could smell the land very plainly when on board in the Bay, & I quite believe the sailors yarn about smelling the land at night before they can see it.

Feb 5 On board all day, they were busy in getting on board the stock & water. We occupied ourselves very agreeably in watching the ever changing prospect, the clouds floating over the sides of the mountains, the flocks of gulls & shags the shoals of fish, & the passing vessels. We have now had enough of Cape Town & are anxious to get on to our destination.

“Cras ingens iterabimus aquor” –

Feb 6 The morning occupied in receiving the remainder of the cargo & getting the decks cleared. In the afternoon weighed & ran out of the

[page 71]

bay with a fine breeze, which unfortunately left us when between the Lighthouse and Robbin Island – an awkward place to be calmed in. However after being drifted back into the bay, we were favoured to have a fair wind, & made good progress during the night; is

Feb 7 At daylight we were approaching the Cape of Good Hope, a lofty range of mountains extending inland; wished sincerely as we doubled the Cape that it may be one of Good Hopes to us. False Cape is a magnificent headland, at the entrance to False bay. The sea was breaking over a sunken rock “The Bellows” which has been fatal to many ships.

Feb 8 The land still in sight about Cape La Guillas, we have a very heavy swell being over the bank of the same name; the sea almost equals my expectations of that about the “Cape of Storms”; the ship rushes down the long swells, as if she were going to be swallowed up. Flocks of Mother

[page 72]

Careys chickens about the ship & a few Albatrosses.

Feb 13th We have at length a change in our fortune, since rounding the Cape we have had a favourable breeze from the West, before which we are making excellent progress at the rate of 150 miles a day. The wind being directly aft the ship rolls very much and the waves run magnificently high. Flocks of Albatrosses come sweeping gracefully around us affording a fine mark to our sportsmen. But to tell you the truth no great mischief is done. Except spoiling the proverb “as sure as a gun”. Dear Baby recovers marvellously; she begins to gain flesh, & again delights us with her sweet smile; may we be sufficiently thankful for this & all other mercies. Poor little Apetty has a very severe cold caught I suspect by sleeping near an open window; it is singular that we have been able almost all the voyage

[page 73]

to sleep with a current of air blowing near us without sustaining the slightest inconvenience, & it is only now that we are approaching a colder clime that we find it requisite to discontinue it.

Feb 15th Nearly calm this morning; we have been employed catching Albatrosses by means of a hook baited with a piece of pork; they came about it in a flock & alighting on the water rush at the prize with outstretched wings, contending eagerly with each other for it; five of them were taken, & a large sooty Petrel almost as great a bird as the Albatross & if possible more beautiful; these sea birds when not shot at, seem to have no natural fear of man, they almost brush past the ship with their gigantic wings, it is quite easy to believe the legend of that which “Every day for food & play, Came to the seaman’s halloo”. I love to watch them wheeling round the ship, scarcely moving their wings, & settling down upon the waves which they ride upon so buoyantly, as to show

[page 74]

their white bodies at a great distance

Feb 17 Sunday. "Oh we have past a miserable night". Yesterday it came on to blow a stiff breeze from the N W, & we cut through the water at a spanking rate; on going on deck before going to bed the scene was grand in the extreme the waves occasionally flying over the vessel, as she cut thro' them at the rate of 10 Knots, & in her wake they were beautifully luminous, sheet lightning flashed all round the horizon from which we anticipated rain which in the night descended in torrents finding its way into our cabin & streaming over our beds. I suspect that our long baking in the tropics has caused the seams to open. At 4 this morning the wind suddenly shifted to the S W & took the ship aback, & spun her round; luckily no damage occurred excepting sending every thing moveable to leeward. Have been getting our wet mattresses and blankets on deck to dry; it is some consolation in our troubles that we are making much

[page 75]

excellent progress, having accomplished 214 miles since noon yesterday. We seem now making up for our lost time. The children better. Dear C suffers much from her back as she gets no rest night or day in this commotion

Feb 18. A fine calm morning; several Albatrosses were about & I got out a line & hook; it is singular how soon they discover the bait & as soon as one settles on the water to take it the rest dash down, & fight for it. I caught two great beauties, one 11 feet from \one/ wing tip to the other, I design the skins for Uncle Cooke & Alfred Waterhouse if I have any luck in preserving them, but unfortunately I have no Arsenic on board. Busy all day skinning & cleaning my prizes. When put down on deck they were quite unable to rise from it owing to their huge wings.

Feb 19. Dear Baby has at last cut one of her teeth that have caused her such severe suffering, she

[page 76]

is now nicely recovered, & is gaining flesh rapidly; her bones were literally starting thro' her skin, we feel as if she were again given to us

Feb 20. A spanking breeze; our old ship seems determined to let us see she can go when she has a chance, she made 214 miles the last 24 hours; the sea is running very high; an immense wave washed over the deck, & poured in torrents down the hatchways, many cabins were floating, ours escaped

Feb 21. Passed a wretched night, the sea breaking over the ship, which seemed to stagger under the shocks; she rolled so as nearly to throw us out of bed & to banish sleep; meantime the water found admission thro' the skuttle, & streamed on our beds, which were all in a pool tho' we had a Mackintosh cloak over us; fortunately the children remained dry. A wave struck us with frightful violence this morning, & we shipped a great deal of water. Got beds, mattresses &c

[page 77]

upon the poop to dry, dear C and I quite enjoyed the grandeur of the scene, the waves came nearer to my idea of "mountain high" than any we have yet seen; the wind carried off the crest of each billow in a shower of spray; the Albatrosses wheeled round the ship which dashed along as if she would emulate their flight; she has performed 230 miles since noon yesterday 3 more weeks like the last & we are at Australia; it is not now further than New York is from England, & we feel as if just there ! how our ideas of space expand ! Appety does not now care how much the ship rolls, she runs about bravely; we are always careful to keep her out of harms way; poor little Mitford about her age, a fine daring little fellow, fell down into the hold the other day & tho' stunned does not seem much the worse. Got the carpenter to calk our skuttle.

Feb 23 We are all suffering from our wet beds, C. & I & the children have very bad colds, sore

[page 78]

throats &c, part of the bulwark carried away by a heavy sea; the wind however is as fair as it can blow; we are now in latitude 40° S, & the westerly gales seem to blow with the regularity of a trade wind; whenever the wind shifts to the south it is intensely cold, & seems to blow from/ off ice; when it changes to the N, it brings fog & rain.

Feb 24. Sunday Service in the Cuddy; a lovely day but cold; the ship seems determined to make up for lost time, & we get on delightfully.

Feb 26. We are today $\frac{1}{2}$ to the S of the Island of St. Paul & are $\frac{1}{2}$ way from the Cape to our destined haven; it would have been very interesting to have visited this singular rock, the crater of an extinct volcano into which the sea has found an entrance. We still suffer severely from colds, & am anxious to get to the northwards, but we shall not do so till we approach Australia, lest we should lose our favourable westerly breeze; whenever it

[page 79]

ceases, & we are becalmed, which happens every 3 or 4 days, the rolling of the vessel upon the tremendous swell of these seas is most unpleasant. We have been busy packing up dirty clothes in boxes & casks & getting things a little in order for disembarkation; the idea of it is delightful

March 2nd Sunday. I have not kept up my journal lately for no better reason than having nothing to record. "It is strange" says Lord Bacon "that when men go to sea, when nothing is to be seen but sea & sky, they keep journals." Really for this week past I have nothing else to record. We have been running before a favourable breeze most of the time & are today in Long^e 92° E which gives us 6 hours in time earlier than our English friends. I am sorry to say that the quarrelling goes on. John Horrocks attacked his younger brother in an assassin like manner & tried to strangle him, "Shipboard" says the Captain is a wonderful place for love & fighting"

[page 80]

March 3rd. "Merrily, merrily bounds the bark", she has done 190 miles since yesterday at noon, we are nearly in 98° E. In less than a fortnight we trust we shall be at our destination. Blow good breeze.

March 7th. A terrible night, the ship under double reefed topsails & courses, the jib blown to ribbons; the ship pitching furiously; it rained in torrents, which found its way thro' our skuttle upon our beds, & we were lying in a pool, sleep out of the question. The wind became fair this afternoon and we are making good progress.

March 8th A lovely day, the wind directly aft; stunsails aloft & aloft, Longitude at noon 110° E. 180 miles since yesterday; this day week if the wind holds we shall be there.

March 10th Sunday. Service on the deck; probably for the last time. Our ship "flies like a courser near the goal". It is a great mercy for which I hope we are thankful that at the end of this long voyage

[page 81]

we are all in excellent health

March 11 To our great disappointment a dead calm this morning. At noon a fine breeze sprang up from the West & we are making good progress again. Our longitude today 115° E so that we are south of Cape Leeuwin: we have now Australia to the north of us & have only to run along the coast to arrive at our destination. We are nearly 4° to the south of it & shall continue in the same parallel of latitude about 40° till we arrive south of Kangaroo Island.

March 13. We have had a most wearisome calm till last evening, when a breeze sprang up right aft which freshened in the night so that we could no longer carry stunsails. We are at noon in 119° E L & are beyond King George's Sound; Oh that the wind would last, at present we are spanking at the rate of 10 Knots. A grand muster of the troops for the purpose of returning the muskets

[page 82]

March 14 A fine steady breeze, & we are shortening our distance delightfully. It is now 5 months since we left Gravesend. Oh these weary weary 5 months

March 17. \Sunday/ We have been making 180 miles a day these last 2 days, having had a rattling breeze from the S W. We are today in 133° E L & if the wind continues are in great hopes of seeing Kangaroo Island tomorrow, were busy yesterday in packing up our things for going ashore, a most joyful occupation

March 18th A lovely day but unfortunately almost calm, & we have again to be patient Long 134° 58. Lat. 37°.29. They are busy getting up the chain cable & making all preparations for land. No chance of seeing the land today as we had hoped

March 19 Kangaroo Island in sight this morning. The wind unfortunately was directly contrary for our getting into Investigators Straits, we therefore kept to the south

[page 83]

of the Island & have been all day passing along its southern shore in order to get through Backstairs passage. When off Cape Linvil we passed an insulated rock over which the surf was breaking most magnificently flying over it in showers. The day is beautifully fine, we have been fishing all morning for Baracoota a fish like a pike, they are very good eating. Kangaroo Island appears very barren, & presents a rugged precipice to the sea. I have perched on the fore topsail yard with the mate admiring it. We hope to get round Cape Willoughby before dark. We feel too excited to settle to anything

March 20. Were up by sunrise which was most beautiful. We were becalmed between Cape Willoughby & the Main, Granite Island was conspicuous towards Encounter Bay. A breeze at length sprung up but it was directly contrary. Have been all morning beating about in the Channel

[page 84]

it is doubtful if we shall double Cape Jervis tonight. The delay is most trying. Spoke the Resource coming out bound to Port Lincoln \Philip/ she was the last vessel I wrote by, asked if there was anything new at Adelaide, "Nothing said her Captain dryly, but that the Thos. Harrison arrived there a month ago". She was to sail from London some weeks after us & has beaten us by a month ! Heres consolation for us ! At 3 this afternoon we doubled Cape Jervis & had a fine breeze to take us up the Gulf, I got up into the main cross trees with the Judge to admire the land. The country about the Cape seemed very barren, cliffs of a reddish sandstone \the strata/ inclined at a considerable angle rose to a considerable height from the water. The Wakefield mountains were covered with stunted Gum Trees which did not give us a favourable impression of Australian vegetation. They are however exposed to the full fury of the S W gales. When we got

[page 85]

round the Cape we got a view of Mount Lofty, & of the coast on the east of the Gulf. We saw a smoke under Mount Lofty & when it grew dark a great fire. The evening closed in soon after passing Rapid Bay & we have been feeling our way up with the lead

March 21. We found ourselves this morning at anchor about 2 miles above Glenelg, the night having been so dark that the proper anchorage could not be distinguished. The anchor was therefore raised & we moved up to Glenelg. All eyes were turned with intense anxiety to the land of our adoption as we approached the shore. It appeared beautifully clothed with wood; lofty hills ~~appeared~~ rose in the distance, & the intervening country presented a most picturesque ~~appearance~~ succession of wooded elevations. A boat presently came off for the letters, & we heard from the boatman that no one would be allowed to land till the ship had been inspected by

[page 86]

the colonial surgeon, much disease having been introduced into the Colony by the Emigrant ships. We heard with deep regret that Barton [*John Barton Hack*] had lost his eldest daughter by fever about 3 weeks ago; it was gratifying to hear that he & the rest were well. We watched with great anxiety for his arrival: at last a boat pushed off in which were two gentlemen, one of

whom I soon recognised thro' the glass to be Barton & we soon had the delight of welcoming him on board. We found the rumour of poor little Annie's death but too true & that the Baby (of whose existence we had not before heard) was very seriously ill: the rest were well. Barton dined with us; it was too late to think of getting up to Adelaide that night with our young tribe. After fixing to provide some vehicles for us at 11 tomorrow morning B & his friend [Henry] Inman departed.

March 22 We were up early to make our preparations for going ashore & to feast our eyes by gazing

[page 87]

on the land of promise. We at length got with the Captain into his gig & shoved off, joyful enough to leave the old ship in which we have been so long imprisoned, & \we/ soon were landed on the beach of Glenelg, & the first person who came to meet us proved to be John Knott looking remarkably well. Barton, Willie & Edward all on horseback soon arrived, & Louisa, Allie & Bedford in a Van. All the children wonderfully grown & altered & improved in the interval. Charlotte & I with baby got into a four wheel chaise. Father mounted Eddie's horse and mother went in the Van with the children. The road \which/ was a very good one passed thro' a forest of Gum Trees, The country appeared parched from the summer droughts which have been very intense. The views increased in beauty as we advanced \approached/ Adelaide, which I was astonished to find really bore a very townlike \appearance/. A large stone Church was nearly finished, excellent brick

[page 88]

& stone houses, large warehouses & shops were now to be seen when only four years was a forest over which the Savage roamed in undisputed sovereignty. Our dearest Bbe [Bridget Hack nee Watson] welcomed us most joyfully, she was looking quite as well as we could have expected. The house & stores they have built are large handsome structures.

March 24 Have been busy all day in looking about the town. Walked with father & Barton to the Clubroom where all the British & Colonial papers are to be read. In passing along the wide streets one observes at every step \the/ progress the town is making. Building is going on with the greatest activity. In the afternoon dear C & I rode on horseback to see Barton's Stockyard. We passed thro' the parkland & crossed the River at present merely a chain of pools. We followed the course of the river some distance for the sake of the delightful level ground for a canter, & the beautiful scenery on its bank.

[page 89]

The trees were very lofty, & flocks of parakeets fluttered among the branches. We came upon a party of Natives, who were chopping these noble trees to pieces. I hear that it is found impossible to prevent them cutting down the trees, they say they are their trees & they are right. One fellow was cutting away most furiously at a lofty branch making the wood resound with his sturdy blows; seeing me admiring him, he called out "looky there", then with one furious blow he severed the connection with the tree & down came the immense branch thundering to the ground splintering into pieces in its fall, while the savage, enjoying my astonishment, flourished his hatchet over his head & screamed with delight. The gins & children began to get about us & one great fellow, his head covered with red ochre ~~running~~ \streaming/ with grease, began to grin so horribly (I believe with good nature) that C grew frightened lest he should seize his spear that was leaning against a tree, & we therefore put our horses

[page 90]

to their speed & left our sable acquaintance. We called at Barton's Stockyard; a tame Kangaroo belonging to Stephen was turned out for C's inspection & much amused us by the astonishing leaps it took.

March 24. Rode down to Glenelg in the evening in order to sleep on board the Ship so as to unpack the goods in the Cabin early in the morning. On arriving on the beach after Sunset found that a boat had just left for the vessel: was in somewhat of a quandary having sent back my horse, paced the beach for 2 hours until the gig came off

March 25. Busy all day dismantling the Cabin & sending the packages on shore. Greatest part of them remained on the sand all night, fortunately a very fine night. Willie brought down a Horse & we took turns to ride him home

March 26. Started before 6 in the morning with Father & Barton to see the special survey

[page 91]

that they have got at Mount Barker. We rode over a fine rich plain from the town to the foot of the hills. We ascended the "tiers" with some difficulty the road being very steep. The views down the different ravines became very grand, & much reminded me of the scenery of Wales & Cumberland to which in this country is superadded the climate of Italy. On looking back we obtained a fine view of the Gulf with the vessels at anchor, the intervening wooded plain & the harbour, a beautiful sheet of water 6 or 7 miles in extent. The road along this rocky region was extremely good & tolerably level; we passed through the stringy bark forest, many of them are very stately trees. We then entered a very superior country consisting of rich well watered vallies beautifully wooded, completely resembling a nobleman's park. The grass was dry from the long drought, but it was very deep.

[page 92]

Flocks of different coloured parrakeets flitter from tree to tree; we heard but did not see the "laughing jackass". Cockatoos occasionally screamed & scolded at us as we disturbed them, & took their flight deeper into the wood, conspicuous by their white plumage among the green leaves. But with these exceptions nothing could exceed the silence & solitude of these wilds. We passed a little village of poor German emigrants whom a benevolent gentleman has located in small allotments in a beautiful fertile situation. On approaching Barton's station, herds of cattle began to appear among the glades, & teams of working bullocks driven about announced our arrival near human habitations. On arriving at the Stockyard we found Stephen busy branding cattle: we joined him at his dinner of Pork & Damper washed down with Tea, made in an iron

[page 93]

pot, & we did full justice to our fare after a 30 miles ride. The land in these vallies is of the richest description, consisting of a deep black soil. This region must be the garden & granary of the colony in future years. The substratum seems to be limestone. The ranges near Mount Lofty are primitive. After resting about 3 hours we remounted our horses. The Sun set as we entered the Mount Lofty ravines which looked very grand by moonlight. We got home about 9, having been out 15 hours & in the saddle 12, having ridden about 64 miles, not bad work for people who have been five months on ship board

March 27. Rode down to the Harbour where the K S Forbes is removing, having had a boat capsized at the Bay. The Creek is a beautiful sheet of water capable of holding hundreds of vessels secure from every wind. The K. S. F. is 500 tons, & it

[page 94]

said she will have plenty of water over the bar. What would people want with a better harbour? The road to it is most excellent.

March 28th Rode out with C round the plain near the City. In the evening dispatched a letter to Gates N^o 2 for Caroline via Mauritius.

April 4. Went again with Barton to Mount Barker, & was more than ever impressed with the beauty of the scenery & the richness of the soil. We managed to stow away for the night in Stephen's boarded hut. I slept on a shelf or rather laid on it, for I was afraid to sleep lest I should roll off. In the morning went with Barton to the top of one of the "Three Brothers", (hills from which the farm takes its name). The view from its summit was most beautiful. It appeared that an opening in the hills towards Onkaparinga afforded

[page 95]

a much more easy road to the City than the usual track by the Mount Lofty ravines we determined therefore to explore a new road on our way homewards. Taking therefore with us Jack Foley, a celebrated Bushranger we started about 2 in the afternoon. After leaving the vallies, we traversed many a rocky range, covered with thick scrub, till at length we came upon

opposite the rounded hill we had steered for but between it & us was a fearful precipice of bare schistous slaty rock. We were obliged to lead our horses among these pointed crags, which frequently gave way under us & rolled down the hill. At length we managed to scramble into the gully at the bottom & had as hard a climb up the opposite hill. We descended into a beautiful plain waving with Kangaroo grass like a field of oats. We shortly after came upon cattle tracks & at

[page 96]

length to M^r Eyre's station, where a drink of water was most acceptable. We were then directed to M^r Morphetts station which we reached just as evening was closing in. We here parted with our guide Jack with directions for him to explore a better road back next morning. We were now safe if we could only keep the track of the drays, but it soon became so dark that we were constantly losing it. At length we came upon a steep hillside where no cart could ever pass. I began now to fear that we were completely lost & expected that we should have to camp out for the night. Unfortunately we had nothing to strike a light, nor had we hobbles for our horses. Mem. Never go again into the Bush without these indispensable requisites. Most fortunately when we arrived at the foot of the hill we again struck the track. A long road down Hurtle

[page 97]

vale brought us to "Challens" one of the Company Sheep stations, & here we were glad to dismount & get the good woman to make us some tea & fry us some rashers of Bacon, having eaten nothing since noon. The remainder of the journey was performed by moonlight & we arrived at home by 11, having been 9 hours on horseback instead of 4. The effect of trying to find a shortcut.

April 14 C & I wrote to G & M pr [Ship] Nereus a joint letter B .

April 23rd. Alas ! for the fallacy of human expectations. Our poor baby whom we had brought with so much anxiety & watchful care across the sea, & who seemed so completely reestablished in health since she got on shore, was this day snatched from us very suddenly. Several of her teeth were pressing, we had her gums lanced, lest congestion came on & after two days illness we lost her. She passed away so tranquilly

[page 98]

that we could scarcely tell when she ceased to exist. Thus it has pleased Almighty God for purposes only known in his inscrutable wisdom to bereave us of our child: may He give us strength to bear this heavy blow of his chastening hand. She was the darling of our hearts, the light of our eyes, endeared to us by her many sufferings & her sweet patience under them. Her countenance continued still more lovely after life had left it, nothing could exceed its beautiful expression, its calm serenity. She died this morning between 5 & 6 O'clock being exactly a year old.

April 25th. This morning I performed the melancholy duty of laying my child's head in the dust. Her remains, after having been taken into the Church when the usual prayers were read, were conveyed across the River to North Adelaide, to a beautiful

[page 99]

enclosed piece of ground where our poor niece Annie Mary Hack already reposes, & by her side we laid our dear little Louisa hoping we may be found worthy to rejoin her at the resurrection of the Just.

April 29. It is with great regret that I have to record an act of aggression on the part of the Natives. Three of them attacked an old shepherd in the employ of O [Osmond] Gilles, felled him with a waddie & stabbed him in the body; he is subsequently dead of his wounds. The bodies of two more Whites have been discovered whom they have speared in the bush. They have also speared 2 Cows & calves near Lake Alexandrina. It is much to be feared that this is the commencement of a war of aggression on both sides. The lower class of whites are of course much exasperated & are ready to take fearful vengeance. The Colonial Secretary in the absence of the Governor

[page 100]

has thought it fit to withhold the rations distributed daily, consequently many sheep have been speared. The Sec^y assembled most of those about Adelaide & thro' an interpreter explained that these allowances should be stopped until the murderers are taken. This evening three Blacks supposed to be implicated in the murder of Gilles's Shepherd, & three in that of the man on the Para, have been brought in by the police.

May 3rd House swallows are now abundant; when we landed a few stragglers only were to be seen. I apprehend they are here winter visitors & that they do not build & rear their young here.

The aggressions of the Blacks begin to be very formidable. They knocked a man off his horse, the other night after dark as he was returning from the Port, & ran a spear into his horse. An old lady walking between N & S Adelaide, was struck with a waddie because she would not comply with the demand for

[page 101]

"white money". To the present date 7 whites have been found murdered, & I cannot hear of a single instance of retaliation on the part of the Whites. It is much to be feared we shall hear but too much of it as no one thinks of going into the Bush without sword & pistol. A public meeting is to be held on the 7th to consider the best means of meeting the present exigency.

May 5th Wrote to Gates & M^c, also to Selsey

May 7th A most interesting public meeting at the Court House, the protector of the Aborigines was much censured. The trial of the Blacks in custody is still put off, very unwisely if it be intended that an exhibition of the punishment of the guilty should have any influence on the rest.

May 11th A very distressing attempt at suicide occurred last week. A gentleman of the name of J Fogg Taylor to whom father had been introduced in Liverpool, called upon us, apparently much depressed in spirits from hearing discouraging accounts of the colony; it seemed that he was also without ready

[page 102]

money. Barton supplied him with the latter, & he appeared much relieved & very grateful. The following morning we heard that he had fired a pistol at his head & that he could not recover. He has however lingered till now & it is possible he may get better. He has made a will and executed a conveyance of his property to Barton, who will have to dispose of his goods. We have had another sad accident with firearms. Stephen & his friend Mason in returning to Mount Barker were loading their pistols, when one went off & the ball passed thro' Mason's hand. He was brought next day to the cottage at N Adelaide & is now going on favourably.

May 22. Poor little Gulielma, the baby, who has been ever since our arrival, lingering in a hopeless condition, was at last released from her sufferings; she is interred by the side of our dear Baby at North Adelaide. There continues a great mortality among young children, the weather is still dry, it seems as if we were to have no rain in winter.

May 26. This has been a memorable day. The Governor acceded to the request of M^r M^cLaren, Manager of the S A Company, to be present at the commencement of the operations upon the new line of road towards the Port, at which the company intend to erect wharfs so that ships of large burthen may discharge cargoes upon them. A very large party of ladies & gentlemen on horseback & carriages repaired to the scene of action where after some very good speeches, the Governor with a spade commenced the line of road, & the whole party adjourned a marquee where a sumptuous repast was prepared. Every thing was of the best & plenty of it. The Governor acquitted himself to admiration, & all was hilarity & good humour. Barton Capt. Hart & I after dinner went on board the Rapid which is in the Creek.

June 1st We have the Rains at last: for the last week or two we have been anx-

[page 103]

iously watching the clouds & the Barometer. At length the glass which has for months been very high has fallen, the clouds have gathered & the thirsty ground has been refreshed by a bounteous rain. The water this morning is standing in pools, & it has rained all day at intervals.

June 2nd We had a complete deluge during the night I never I think heard it rain more violently. Woe to those who dwell in tents. Poor Capt. Hart is bushing it. He left nearly a week ago to proceed overland to the Whaling station at Encounter Bay. We heard last night that he had lost his horse, a beautiful black filly of Barton's, in a bog, & had to tramp it on foot: he had sent men out to look for the mare who had returned unsuccessful. Excellent accounts from the Fishery. They have taken 9 Whales already. We must console ourselves with whales for the loss of the horse.

[page 104]

July 1st Capt Hart returned with Capt Devlin; they succeeded in securing the mare on their return. Capt Hart proceeded in the Rapid to the Fisheries, the brig was purchased from Government. Capt. Devlin went in the Lady Mary Pelham to New Zealand for timber for the Company. The Adelaide is also chartered for the same purpose. The rains have now set in; we have for two or three days together deluges of rain; the weather will then clear up & be most delicious. The grass is now springing up abundantly, & the earth is closed with verdure. It is very cold in the mornings and evenings, tho' the thermometer is not often under 50°. When we arrived

[End of diary entries.]