

Journal of a Voyage

from

Greenock to Sydney

in the

“Duncan”

11 January 1838 – 30 June 1838

by

Donald McKinnon



CUSTOM HOUSE GREENOCK, SCOTLAND

(Courtesy of Inverclyde District Libraries, Scotland.)

Journal of a voyage from Greenock to Sydney, kept by Donald McKinnon, 1 January - 16 June 1838

B 671

Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

INTRODUCTION

The aggregate of historical events which led to the emigration from Greenock, Scotland on the 11th January 1838, of 260 men, women and children aboard the vessel "Duncan", explain and adequately describe, in generally similar detail, the circumstances that motivated the departure of thousands upon thousands of Scots from their homeland to far distant destinations, places from which, in the vast majority of cases, they would never return.

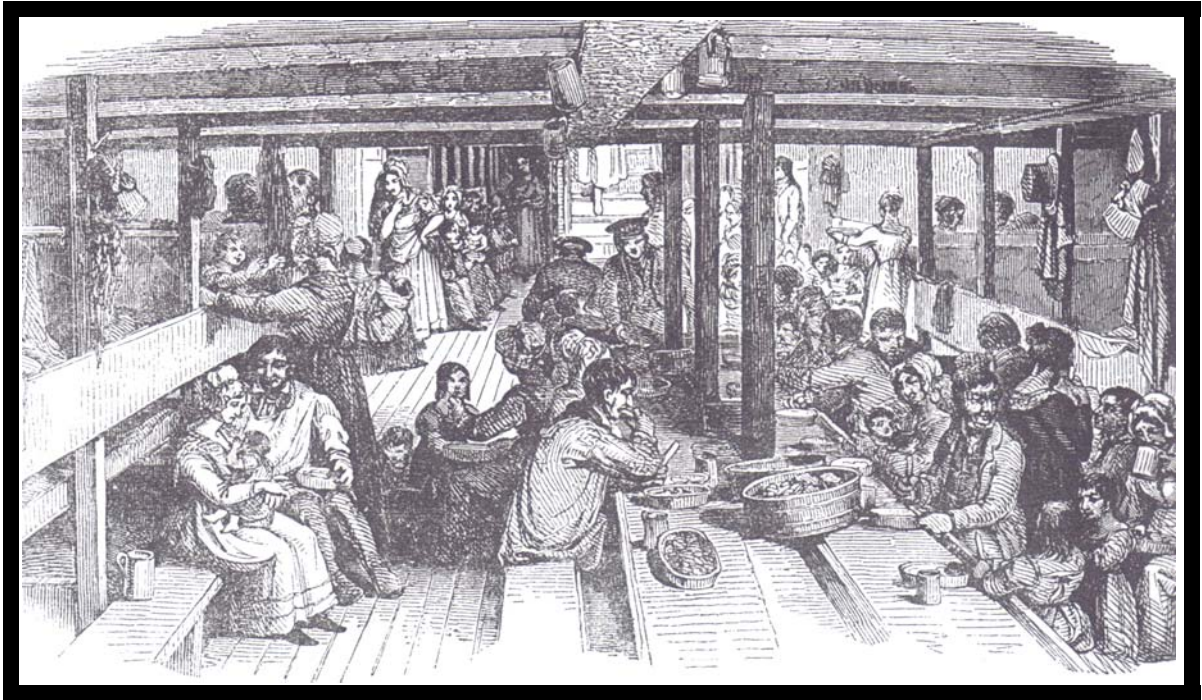
The Industrial Revolution, which commenced in Britain, gave rise to profound social changes that impacted on the manner in which people worked and lived. By the 1830s the relentless and ever expanding ripple effects of industrialisation were causing great concern in Scotland. Many city folk were unemployed and living in deplorable conditions and those who were living an agrarian existence remote from the urban areas were obliged to accept the awful reality that their way of life was, or was about to, come to an end in consequence of being evicted from their tenant farms as the "Highland Clearances" gathered momentum, or simply because they were too numerous in a location that could no longer support them. The land-owners saw the financial benefits of replacing their tenants with wool producing cheviot sheep, whose fleeces were destined for the mills, rather than the less profitable long established practice of leasing their land to crofters and tenant farmers. This development, concurrent with the decline of other economic activities, contributed to the Scottish economy being in the grip of a damaging depression which directly led to the inevitable resultant destitution of many Scots.

The influx of many displaced Scots from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to the major population centres, such as Glasgow, saw the growth of slums and the increase in squalour, disease and crime. This was occurring at a time when the British Government took the decision, based on the perceived surplus British population, to initially finance the cost of the passages, of working class people from Britain, by using the proceeds from the sale of colonial lands. Unsurprisingly, many Scots grasped the opportunity offered, not only to escape from their current precarious circumstances of poverty and privation, but also to realise the ambitious thought that life in a new land may provide the opportunity to own property, to provide a measure of employment security, to have more control over their futures and in particular, to provide opportunities for their children that would in all likelihood, never materialise if they remained in Scotland.

The "Duncan" was one of twenty vessels that departed from Scottish ports, in the period 1837-1840, with their estimated human cargo of 5260 souls, under the British Government Bounty System. Donald McKinnon, who was born on the Isle of Mull, was an articulate and literate blacksmith. After having moved to Glasgow where he married Janet Frazer; they had a family of three sons. The McKinnon family was counted among the 5260. It is indeed fortunate that Donald McKinnon had the ability, motivation, perseverance and foresight, to document his observations of events that occurred during the tedious and sometimes perilous, approximately 30,000 km voyage, that terminated at Sydney, Australia on 30th June 1838. The narrative that commences on a later page is the transcribed contents of Donald McKinnon's journal.



Emigrants on Deck in the 1840s
(Illustrated London News, 1849, Vol.14, p.40)



Emigrants at Dinner in the 1840s
(Illustrated London News, 1844, Vol4, p.229)

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The Original Journal Transcribed

by

C. H. McNeil & F. L. McKenzie-Edmonds

Permission to transcribe the “Journal of a Voyage from Greenock to Sydney in the Duncan” was generously granted by Officers of The State Library (Mitchell) of NSW.

Transcribers' Remarks

The Journal of a Voyage from Greenock to Sydney New South Wales has been transcribed with certain objectives in mind. The prime motivation was to make the journal, a unique document in its own right, readily readable to the interested researcher of Australia's immigrant and colonial history.

Every care has been taken, as far as is reasonably possible, to ensure that the integrity of the narrative was not compromised. Where the transcribers were unable to interpret handwriting whose illegibility may have been caused by the ink having bled through the journal's paper from one page to the next or due to some other cause; or where the author omitted a word or phrase or word usage went awry; or where a word could not be transcribed with some certainty, brackets were used to indicate that the replacement word or phrase shown in the brackets was, in the view of the transcribers, the most contextually appropriate. Question marks were occasionally used where there was some doubt as to the efficacy of replacement words or phrases. Where the transcribers were unable to transcribe, or make a suitable substitution, for a word or phrase, the word or phrase was replaced by brackets containing only a question mark.

Where it was deemed appropriate, some additional punctuation was included if, in the view of the transcribers, it improved the clarity of the intended meaning. The transcribers chose to use capital letters at the beginning of sentences, again to assist in the readability of the text. In some instances where the spelling of words, terms or names deviated from expectation the most appropriate spelling was used, in others the spelling of a word, term or name was left unaltered in order to retain authenticity. For example, "Sidney" was the author's manner of spelling the name of the Duncan's destination. Also, the author's use of the phrase "knots per hour" instead of "knots", was left as written. Equally, Scots words were not translated so as not to harm the tone of the narrative as it may have sounded in 1838.

Whereas the manner of presentation of each day's events, in so far as page numbering and the usage of dates was concerned, varied in the journal, the transcribers were guided during the transcription process, by the chronological order of events as recorded by the journalist himself, in order that the reader of the transcribed journal would be able to follow the daily events of the voyage with relative ease. The author's page numbering has been omitted from the transcribed journal.

Comments and observations that were made by the transcribers were written in italics and enclosed in brackets. A glossary of unfamiliar terms and words, many of them being of Scottish origin, is included at the end of the transcribed journal.

Notwithstanding the above comments, the text of the journal has not been altered.

The transcribers wish to thank the officers of the Mitchell Library, for having been granted permission to undertake the transcription of Donald McKinnon's journal account of the voyage of the Duncan. In particular we wish to thank Ms. Robynne Hayward and Mr. Arthur Easton (now deceased) both of whose cooperation and guidance significantly contributed to the success of the transcription undertaking.

C. H. McNeil & F. L. McKenzie-Edmonds

The Ten Days Preceding Departure

1838 January 1st

Journal

I left my own house taking my large chest containing my bed and body clothes with me, went on board the St. Catherine steamboat which was ready to sail. I reached Greenock at nine A.M., took some refreshment after which I went and put my chest on board the ship after having done this I returned to Glasgow in the evening. After reaching [it] I found that our finances was rather lower, at least would not reach far enough to enable me to proceed as there was yet articles wanted that we could not do without. After holding a counsel upon this point we found that without money we were unable to manage the affair, and as it was the holidays we formed the resolution of going to Greenock next morning with the view of taking back the chest and going to my work on the following morning, Wednesday. Accordingly as soon as I possibly could I prepared myself and went off to Greenock for the purpose above stated. The working of my mind upon that occasion I can scarcely reveal. Suffice it to say that it was everything but settled.

Shortly after, I went on board the steamboat and while she was gliding swiftly down the Clyde, I went down to the steerage to warm myself, and at the same time shut myself from any other object, saving that which labored within me. I was not long seated there when a man entered carrying a fowling piece in his hand. He seated himself in the corner opposite to where I was sitting and as he appeared to have no acquaintance with him, he, in my opinion as well as myself, was absorbed in thought. After looking at him for a short time I thought I had seen the face before but could not recollect where or when. I instantly formed the resolution of speaking to him to see if my conjectures was right. Agreeable to this resolution I drew near to where he sat and commenced talking about the state of the weather which was pretty cold and after cracking for a little time I told that I felt a desire for a glass of spirits and if he was pleased to accept of one, I would treat him to it, and at the same time would feel myself gratified by his acceptance. To this he consented and we went to a room for the purpose, and called for a gill.

After this was finished we fell on the crack and in a short time I found that he was going to Greenock to see the Duncan viz., the ship for New South Wales. I unhesitatingly told him that I was going there likewise and was very glad of his company. He soon lead me to the knowledge that he was one of the passengers for the colony, and that he was going to make some arrangements on board the ship before he would bring his family there, and asked me if I had no intention of going. I said I had and that not further back than yesterday, and that I had brought my chest on board. But finding that I could not manage it without some pecuniary aid I was on my way to take back my chest, to which he [said] it was a pity and advised me to acquaint the Doctor with it before I would take away my chest, and in doing so he would assist me a little and that he himself would go along with me, and if he could be of any service to me he would be happy of it. I thanked him for his offer, and said I would act according to his advice.

By this time we were drawing near to Greenock where we soon landed, and after partaking of another glass, we went on board and enquired for the Doctor, but was told he was not arrived yet. But at the very time that we were making the enquiry the Doctor made his appearance. He nodded to us both as he passed towards the cabin from whence he returned, and asked my companion if he had got his things on board, to which he answered "no" for that they were not forwarded yet. He then turned to me and naming me, asked the same question. I said "yes". But owing to unforeseen circumstances I was under the necessity of taking my chest back at this piece of intelligence. He seemed to be much surprised and asked the reason of such conduct. I told him the reason, and Donald, for such was the man's name that made me the friendly offer, told the Doctor the whole of what I told him on board the steamboat upon which he asked me how much would do me. I said "two pounds". He then asked Donaldson if he would become security for the payment of the money after landing. He said he had no objection, upon which the Doctor handed me two gold sovereigns for which I returned them both my sincere thanks.

After this we left the ship and travelled to Port Glasgow thinking that his luggage might be landed there but not finding them, we took the first boat for Glasgow, where we arrived at six in the evening, and after partaking of a little refreshment we, after making an appointment where to meet, parted. My return home and my unexpected success abroad changed the aspect of affairs altogether. My wife and our friends who seemed to feel quite happy that I consented to remain at home, burst into tears. But I was inflexible and by the hour of three o'clock afternoon of the next day I was on my way down the Clyde with all my family and luggage. We arrived at Greenock at six where we took lodging for that night, intending to go on board the next day. There was still something wanted and no means of getting as our finances was again exhausted. To supply this we formed a resolution of disposing of one of the wife's rings, and for that purpose, as well as to get some things we forgot in our hurry in leaving Glasgow, the wife took the first boat bound for that place. I accompanied her to Port Glasgow where I promised to meet my friend. I found [him] leaving the steamboat with part of his luggage, the other part not having been sent on the right road or rather given in charge to a person that did not seem to heed whether he sent them or not.

After searching through Port Glasgow we found that the luggage was deposited [at] Mr. Muir's, one of the ferrymen in Cardross, and upon due deliberation the question was put to me if I would go across with Mr. Fraser's boat, as my friend had no desire of going across himself. To this I agreed as I considered it my duty to return a good turn for another, he at the same time giving a supply of money to defray the necessary charges that might be at. I went off with the boat and reached Cardross about twelve P.M. and after refreshing myself I made enquiry for the article I was in quest of and found that it was sent to Helensborough in the morning for the purpose of being sent with the steamboat to Greenock. I had now no means left me, but either to go to Helensborough or return to the Port. And upon considering what was best to be done I made choice of the latter, as by going to Helensborough at that time I would run the chance of losing the steamboat as her hour of sailing was so near [at] hand as to render it hopeless for me to overtake her. I therefore took the ferry boat for the port where we reached about three o'clock. When my friend was told what had happened I was next sent to Greenock to meet the steamboat that was supposed to

contain the article he wanted and that he would go by land and bring the rest of his luggage on a cart and meet me at a certain place, which I did, and arrived at Greenock. I made enquiry if the Helensborough boat was yet arrived. One of the water officers to whom I put the question told me that she was coming into the quay at the present time. When she arrived I made enquiry after the article I was after, and was answered that there was nothing of the kind there, nor neither did they hear anything of it. This being the case I immediately went in search of the owner and by chance met him a little way from the quay. There was nothing left now but either to lose the article or instantly to go back again and try by all means to get possession of it as more delay was likely to prove abortive. It was now getting late. I however started off for the ferry port again, and as there was no steamboats going at the time I was resolved to travel it, and starting off I reached it about five or rather after it.

I enquired for the ferry boat but was told that it was gone for the night. I went into the ferry house and called for a dram and at the same time I asked if they would be so kind as to furnish me with a boat to ferry me across to Cardross. They could [not] say positively whether they could or not but they would see. In a short time after this a man was conducted to the room where I was sitting who asked me if I wanted to go across and upon my answering "yes", he went out and returned with another man that was to accompany him, providing I would give them the sum required for their trouble. I told them if it was any way moderate, I would, and if not, I would not, but that I hoped that they would be as reasonable as they could. They said they would take three shillings sterling and a half mutchkin. To this charge I agreed and all things was put in order for our departure and once more I was on my way to Cardross. Of this boat I perfectly tired as I was kept constantly bailing for the purposes of keeping the water from going over my shoe mouth. Upon reaching [Cardross] I found that the man and his wife, even Mr. Muir, had not yet returned from Helensborough where they had been with the chest. So I paid the men their fare and allowed [them] to return home as I intended to remain till such time as I got the chest into my possession. For that purpose [I] started off for Helensborough after getting directions for the road and the mark of the horse they had along with [them].

I traveled along about a mile when I heard the noise of cartwheels and men talking very loud. They came in sight and by the mark given I had no doubt but they were the persons I wanted and upon enquiry being made, I found I was right. They told me they had been too late for the steamboat and that they had been at a great deal of trouble. I told them that I considered I had been at more trouble than they were during the day, crossing and recrossing the ferry, which was the case, for they had called at the toll house, where they sat drinking till time, as the steamboat was gone and after finding that such was the case they prolonged their stay till that hour of the night. I expressed my intention of crossing the ferry that very night. Mr. Muir tried to persuade me from [going] and said he would go across with me in the morning. I asked his reason for not crossing before this time. He answered "bad weather". I told that this night was fine and that there was nothing to hinder him from going with me instantly. This he refused. I told him that I was determined upon going if there was men in Cardross that would go with me. He then told me the expense he had been at during the day in consequence of going from home. To this I would take nothing to do, as it was entirely his own fault for passing so much time in drinking

whiskey. This seemed not to please him and told me that the carter was to pay. I told him that he should be at that expense also, but as my time was limited that I would pay the carter which was three shillings sterling.

By this time we reached Mr. Fraser's house. I went into his house and asked if he would go across to Greenock with me in place of the Port. He said he would, as it was a good night. I ordered the cart to be brought to beach which was done and the money given in the morning, having been nearly all spent, I was under the necessity of borrowing from Mr. Fraser the sum necessary to defray the expense of the carter. We placed the chest in the boat and was soon on the water. We reached the ship before bedtime, got the chest on board, went in search of my friend whom we found in a short time, paid all expenses, after which we went to bed. This ended the fatiguing excursion of this day, but all was done to my friend's satisfaction.

The next morning, Friday, I put all my luggage on board and was admitted to No. 11 Mess. I likewise got tickets for berths for myself and family with five mattresses, five bolsters and five blankets. After getting all things arranged, and the ship to clear from the quay, the next morning I sent express word to the wife to come with the first boat that would leave Glasgow in the morning. Tea being over, we were walking upon the deck when a man was observed going on shore with something in his hand. He was instantly seized and then sent for, when it was found to be a pair of boots belonging to Mathew Devaney a sawyer from Greenock. The boots had not been paid for, the man said, for he appeared to be the creditor and as the sawyer would not pay the money he was going to take them away with these words in his mouth. The boots was snatched from him and himself ordered to go on shore. This he refused without the boots. The Doctor told him to come in a legal manner for his boots and that they would be forthcoming. The boots was given to Mr. Burton, 2nd Mate who took them to a place of security and as a number of people was going out and in to the ship, a watch was formed to prevent ingress and egress. I happened to be one of the very first put upon duty. We were not troubled much as there were but few that had a desire to come in.

The next morning, being Saturday, preparations were made to haul the ship out from the quay. Before we got clear, the wife arrived from Glasgow, it being the breakfast hour and the hustle great when she entered and was conducted to her berth. She not being accustomed to such uproar, she bursted into a flood of tears, beseeching for the sake of all that was good, to return home and relinquish the thought of going among such a crew. To this I objected on the score that she would soon get used to it, and while sitting in this disagreeable way, the [boat] had cleared and was on her way to the anchoring place, which was reached about twelve o'clock.

A few visitors came on board to see their friends, the man claiming the boots was among them but having no authority he was received with hisses and groans, which made him speed his way back very quick. The next day being Sunday there was but few visitors allowed to enter the ship, being but about a pistol shot from the shore. A great number of people had congregated there to take a distant view of the ship.

Monday being the 8th of the month we were called upon to the cabin door where the Doctor assigned to part of us our proper places in the Mess, giving one in every Mess the charge for the time being, causing it in our power to hand that charge from the one to the other as we had a mind. The Captain of the Mess as he was called, had to see that the rest of the people in the Mess was served with breakfast, dinner and supper, that is porridge and treacle for breakfast, broth and beef for dinner, tea and biscuits for supper. The biscuits was given out every morning as was also the treacle. The sugar was served out but once every two days. A number of strangers came on board this day among whom was persons looking out for debtors. At dinner time a few of them boarded and before the emigrants was aware of strangers being on board they were standing at the dinner table. Upon being discovered such a yell and uproar got up that would make a person believe that the ship was on fire.

I happened at the time to be looking after the beef upon deck, and upon looking down the hatchway I saw a man in the act of ascending the ladder with the whole of the emigrants after him, some giving him blows with their hands, others with bones while another was hauling at his coat tail. Upon ascending from the hold some put a coal basket upon his head. He, after taking this new fashioned head dress off, walked hurriedly towards the gangway, and as I was myself in the act of lifting up the basket to replace it upon his head, he turned about and said to me, "I sure says that you and I were formerly good friends". I looked at him and instantly recognized him to be one of Mr. Flemming's clerks. I asked him if he was that person. He told he was. Upon which I instantly shook hands with him and asked his pardon if I did him any injury. I at the same time begged of the emigrants to forbear as he was a particular friend of mine, which they did. Upon my pledging myself that he would go instantly on shore, and after conversing for a few minutes, I handed him into the boat, and wished him good speed. He shook hands with me and wished me a safe voyage and returned on shore. He never returned again, as the person he was in quest of was not there.

Shortly after this, a well dressed man came alongside and respectfully asked permission to board as he had no intention of injuring any person, as his whole intention was to look for a young [man] a nephew of his, that left his friend in Edinburgh some time ago and that he had looked through a number of the ships that was outward bound but without success, and that he hoped they would be so kind as to grant him the same indulgence, and moreover, he said he did not want to detain the boy from going with the ship, if he was on board, as he merely wanted to buy him the necessary articles for such a voyage, as he was altogether unprepared for the sea without them. This argument appeared [so] fraught with reason and friendly feelings, that he was instantly admitted on board, as there happened to be a boy on board at the time without having his parents along with him. The man entered and was conducted through all parts where the emigrants had a berth but without finding the object of his search, for the boy alluded to was not known to him. He went directly into his [berth] after thanking them for the indulgence granted him.

After this a boat came alongside asking admittance for to see if her son was on board. "What is his name?" bawled out one emigrant. She had no mind of his name. "What" says some of them, "you don't know your son's name?" "Oh never mind" says another, "she perhaps knows him best by head mark, let her come on board to see if she can find him".

She was handed up the gangway, and after searching all of the parts, she could not find her son, neither by name nor head mark, so she was handed into her boat and rowed on shore. I considered this a very curious adventure of a woman to ask for her son and at the same time did not remember his name, but had she even found the person she wanted, by head mark itself, she would have found it no easy task to get him taken against his own will, secure as he was in the inside of the Duncan, as the following lines will show.

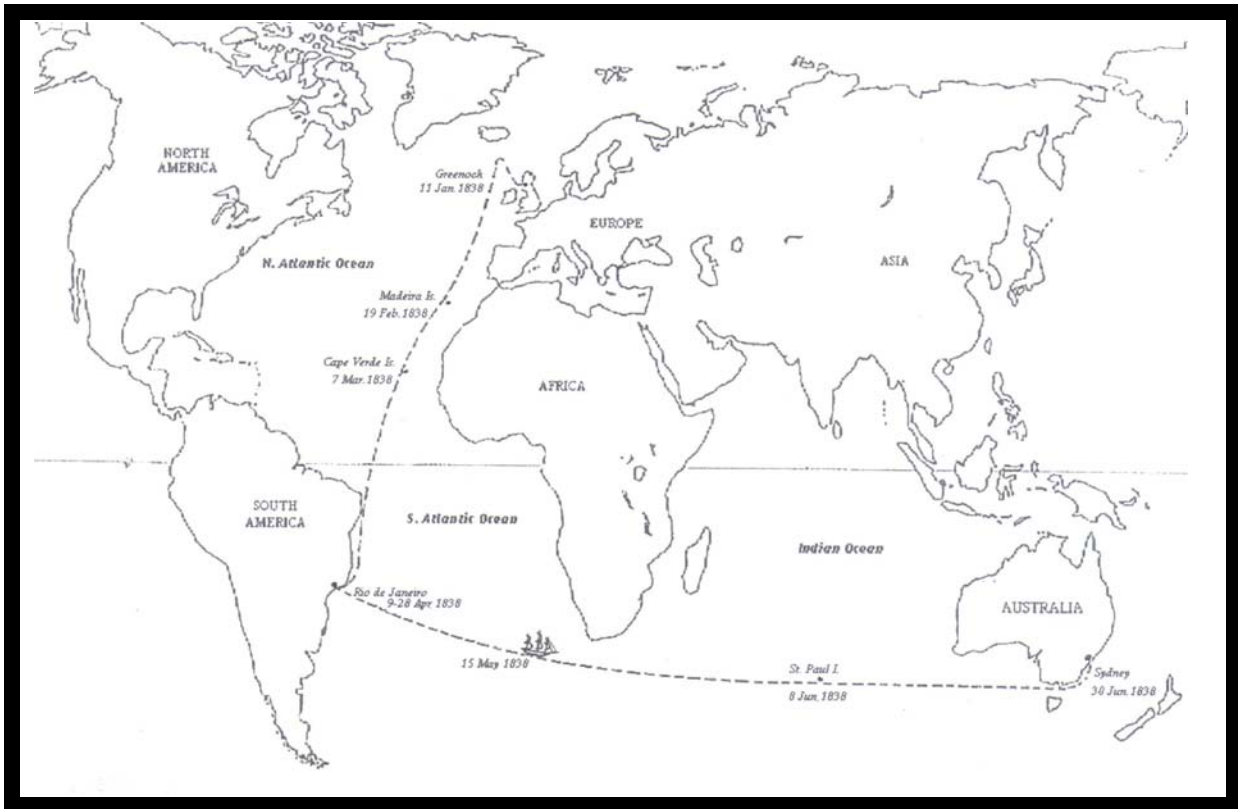
On Tuesday the 9th a boat came alongside with a man apparently dressed like a gentleman, accompanied with another sprightly fellow attired in the costume of a sailor, and the third, an elderly man which by his purple snout was easily recognized to be some peace officer or other. As soon as they entered they directed their steps to where the emigrants were assembled. This was disputed by some of the emigrants when the hero with the sailor clothes stood on the main hatchway and declared he would [go] anywhere he pleased. This was enough to show what he was and without any more to do he was instantly pitched off the place whereon he stood and shoved towards the gangway with the claret running copiously from his face. The would-be gentleman rushed towards the cabin but he was arrested before he reached that berth and dragged to the place where his companion was getting his lesson. He told the people to [be] aware of what they were about as they were King's officers on board. Upon this declaration the emigrants became rather irritated more than daunted, even the women bestowed some hearty blows upon the poor devils who was by this time craving for mercy in the most humiliating manner. The gentleman with his fearnought coat got a sound drubbing, the claret dripping gently from his nose. They were pitched into the boat without scarcely giving them time to descend. And at the same time pieces of coals and other missiles was hurled furiously after them into the boat while the boat men was rowing with all their might to get out of the reach of the exasperated assailants, leaving the old man behind them in the hurry of the moment.

He stood bareheaded and trembling with fear, beseeching them to have pity on him. Fear indeed was all that he experienced, for he did not get a single stroke for his age protected him, for had he been a young man he would in all probability have shared the same as those that was along with him. The former two as soon as they reached the quay where a great assemblage of people was now gathered, asked if any men would go with a boat for God's sake and fetch the old man on shore before the emigrants would kill him as the men that was along with themselves, would not return to the ship, neither for love nor money. However two men came off with another boat, and the trembling Beagle was taken into the boat. In his hurry he forgot his hat which was thrown into the sea after him.

After this skirmish visitors became very limited and as for Beagles they were not as much as one of them seen during the time we lay in harbour. There were but few of the emigrants went on shore after this. This was a prudent measure as some [of] the Beagles which was lurking about might seize them under the pretence of examining [them] for the reception given to their brethren on board the Duncan. Before we cleared from the quay, they seized upon one of the men whom had gone on shore. A man met him and after conversing a little about the intended voyage the man asked the emigrant to take a drink with him, which the emigrant did, and while in the room, he was seized by some more that followed them into the house and dragged [him] into [their] presence. This was a preconcerted plan. His wife,

family and luggage was sent on shore. This act exasperated the rest of the passengers and was no doubt the cause of the roughness which they showed upon the occasion before related. Nothing else transpired during our stay except the putting on shore of a family that turned badly with that disease called English cholera. They were furnished with bed and blankets, three sovereigns from the Doctor's own purse and a letter of admission to the next ship, all things being in readiness for the voyage.

As soon as favoured with fair wind, one thousand pounds of fresh meat was put on board with a supply of vegetables, some live pigs and poultry. This was all finished on Wednesday the tenth of the month as the next day happened to be the day of sailing. In the evening we were formed into regular watches which was to continue during the voyage, for the purpose of assisting those that would happen to get sick on the water. 4 hours was the time allotted for each watch. Nine men was to mount guard every night. The men was also divided into parties of eight men for keeping the deck clean, the cleaning and watching came around every six days and sixth night. This arrangement proved afterwards to be very useful.



PROBABLE ROUTE TAKEN BY THE SHIP "DUNCAN" IN 1838

By Donald McKinnon

Journal of a voyage from Greenock to Sydney, kept by Donald McKinnon, 1 January - 16 June 1838

B 671

Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW

Journal of a Voyage From Greenock to Sidney New South Wales

The ship Duncan of Liverpool sailed from Greenock on the 11th of January 1838 with [blank] emigrants including men women and children under the superintendence of Dr. Dobie R.N.; Captn. Wardle, Commander; Mr. Martin 1st Supt.; Mr. Bantin, 2nd Supt.; [blank] 3rd Supt., & 36 Seamen.

We weighed anchor at 12 noon and with a slight breeze from the N.E. was towed to the tail of the bank by the Hercules tug boat after firing 2, 12 pounders accompanied with three cheers from the emigrants which wafted with the breeze towards the shore and was instantly answered by our countrymen as far as we understood by the waving of hats and handkerchiefs. We laid to for one of our boats which was on shore for some necessaries. On passing Greenock [we] met a new steamer upon her trial trip. She took from us the gentlemen we had on board for whose honour we fired another gun followed up with three general cheers from both vessels and parted. The breeze continuing such as to make any movement of the sails imperceptible. Our progress was very slow as we only reached South Point at nightfall.

Friday 12th: At 5 o'clock in the morning the Craig of Ailsay appeared in view. 5½ knots an hour till 12 P.M. Cleared the Northern Coast of Ireland skimming across the channel till the Isle of Man appeared at a distance, had the wind blowing right ahead. Were obliged to alter our course with crowded sails for the purpose of getting clear of the southern coast of Ireland which we did and we passed the Mull of Kintyre at night fall, following up the same course we took in the morning viz. the North of Ireland but keeping to the Scottish shore. As at bedtime 10 P.M. the lighthouse in the Isle of Islay appeared on our starboard but far on our stern. The wind blowing pretty fresh. We found ourselves far into the Atlantic Ocean on the approach of day viz.

Saturday 13th: Blowing a heavy gale, seas running mountains high the whole of the day, seasickness very prevalent.

Sunday 14th: The wind freshening with unabated fury, the seas running over all parts of the ship which render it necessary to lock all the hatches, which rendered our situation truly deplorable accompanied with the heavy labouring of the ship, heaving upon her beam ends, pitching the already exhausted sick passengers alternately out of their berths. The tumbling of barrels and chests from one side of the ship to the other with the groans of the sick made the scene most pitiful. All our canvas was a mizzen and fore top sail close reefed. One brig hove in view with bare poles, her name or destination not known.

Monday 15th: A continuation of the gale. Water, gruel to breakfast. Beef, tea to dinner. Wine and rum served to the passengers at night as it was impossible to cook.

Tuesday 16th: Weather a little moderate. Hatches unlocked. Beds brought upon deck to air them. But the aspect of the clouds called for all exertion to secure them from being wet or carried overboard. Closed hatches as formerly. Running 11 or 12 knots per hour. Continuation of sickness. Wine and rum served out.

Wednesday 17th: Continuation of storm. Mast or yards belonging to some vessel floating on the water.

Thursday 18th: Storm somewhat abated in the morning, but gathering clouds indicated that a storm was approaching. All hands was ordered aloft or in a word, as many as could be spared from duty on deck. The mast was soon divested of all the canvas, with the exception of 2 small sails close reefed. We ran in that condition for 8 hours, the ship labouring very hard till about 4 in the morning of Friday the 19th, when she gave a heave that sickened, I believe, every passenger on board. She trembled from stem to stern as she washed from the pinnacle of the liquid mountain into the yawning gulf, ready as it were to swallow the trembling fabric underneath the succeeding billow which dismantled her of top mast, unshipped her burthen, by breaking the mainstays which threw the wheel useless and the ship unmanageable and at the mercy of the waves by which accident her bowsprit broke, her bulwark carried away, rigging torn etc. This happened at about 550 miles from land. It was anticipated that we would call at some port in England or Ireland to refit, but owing to the discontent that prevailed among the passengers and the resolution that a great part of them had formed, of going on shore and relinquishing the thoughts of proceeding farther from their native country. This discontent having come to the Doctor's knowledge, he in his turn formed a counter resolution and bore off to sea with the view of calling at the first foreign port that would answer his purpose.

20th to 24th: Severe storm, frequent seas shipped, which inundated our berths. One ship in view and a few straggling porpoises. A number of patients in the hospital. A child committed, being the first death.

25th : *[No journal entry for this date.]*

26th : A calm with a few large porpoises at our stern.

27th : *[No journal entry for this date.]*

28th : A brig hove in view and proved to be a Yankie.

29th : *[No journal entry for this date.]*

30th : A brig in view but no colours exchanged.

[31st]: A storm. A ship in sight, destination not known.
February 1st: Severe storm, S.E.

2nd: A shoal of porpoises. Stiff breeze from the S.S.E.

3rd to 4th: Storm with remarkable heavy seas. Closed hatches. Deplorable situation of the passengers.

5th: fair wind, 9 ½ knots per hour.

6th: Storm N.W.

7th: Storm with rain. Closed hatches.

8th: Storm with rain. A brig at our weather bow at 7 P.M., lights exchanged.

9th: A brig on our weather bow steering the same course at a great distance.

10th: Mild weather. A tortoise afloat.

11th: Stiff breeze.

12th: Stiff breeze.

13th: Fair and mild.

14th: A stiff breeze.

15th: A child committed to the water.

16th: A tortoise floating, the boat lowered, but it escaped.

17th: Calm.

18th: Mild.

19th: Severe rain. A child committed to the water, 3rd death on board. 63 miles W.of Madeira.

20th: Fair with few showers.

21st: A clear sky. 6 ½ knots per hour.

22nd: A beautiful clear day. Great heat of the sun. A fine cooling breeze.

23rd: High wind from the S.S.W. with heavy seas. Land appeared to the leeward, which proved to be the Island of Porto Santo. A barren looking island with remarkable high hills, some of them of a conical form to all appearances, void of any kind of vegetation. It shews a bald point of rugged promontories towards the east with a number of small detached islands with numerous hidden rocks. It took us from 4 to 5 hours to clear it. Our distance

from land $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Running $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots per hour. Shipping heavy seas frequently, to the great annoyance of the passengers with whom the deck was crowded in consequence of the land being so near, being not six weeks from the time we lost sight of our native land to that of seeing a foreign island. Received an extra allowance of wine upon the occasion. We saw also at distance but not very distinctly the island of Madeira, distance 23 miles from Porto Santo and a shoal of porpoises to windward. A few rocks south east from Madeira rising perpendicular from the sea, 50 or 60 feet high without the least vegetation, very dangerous to ships at night, their distance from Madeira is about 40 or 50 miles. The visitors did not appear on our course throughout the night although constant watch was kept on the lookout for them during the night.

[24th]: I visited the fore part of the ship at 2 o'clock morning, my attention was directed to large porpoises going at a regular pace before the ship, quite visible to be seen by the transparent glare that shone from it underneath the water.

25th: Fine clear day. A slight breeze from S.S.W. A child died and was committed to the water early on the following morning, viz. 26th. At 12 noon this day Mrs. Aiken was delivered of a still born child which was committed to the water in the usual form. Wind N.E., 8 knots per hour.

26th: Nearly calm. 4 knots per hour, N.E. The cabin cook was flogged for pilfering on extracting from the mess some of their allowance of pork. While the Chief Mate was inflicting the punishment upon the man, his shrieks drew from part of the emigrants all kinds of epithets which was bestowed upon the Mate, in a manner bordering upon mutiny, to which he returned a haughty answer telling them at the same time that he would use them in the same manner. The captain interfered in behalf of his junior officer and stated at same time that he had as many hands as would overcome and confine the whole of the passengers if they showed the least symptoms of discord or interfere with him or any of his officers on the discharge of their duty which was an expression bordering, as I considered, on insanity, for they were as many emigrants on board as would swallow him and his crew if they were inclined to use physical force. A meeting of the emigrants was called by order of Dr. Dobie and we were accordingly arrayed on the poop on the larboard side & the officers and seamen were placed on the starboard, by order of the Captain to show us what strength he was possessed of to enforce his commands and told us that the ship was his and he would command it without control while he stood on two legs. The doctor remonstrated and reprobated the conduct of the passengers for offering to interfere with the ship's duty because it was necessary to punish delinquents and if discipline was not kept on board, that we ourselves would feel the baneful effects of it. That if the delinquent had been detected on shore in the same act, the punishment inflicted by the civil law would be more severe, that many a one has been banished from his native land for stealing a pack [of] napkins and that he hoped that nothing of the kind would occur for the future. No one of the emigrants offered to return a single answer upon the occasion. A large shark made his appearance on our stern and put an end to our convention and the ire of the Chief appeased by degrees and shortly after another cook was chosen in place of [the] one punished, who was in his turn advanced to the rank of common seaman. A ship or bark hove in view on our starboard bow, but being late in the evening we lost sight of her in the dark.

27th: Calm. Land appeared to the eastward at a great distance, considered to be one of the Canary Islands, but receive no positive information concerning it. A large brig appeared on our starboard bow. We made up with her before the middle watch and hoisted the British Ensign but received no answer. Our Assistant Surgeon asked our Chief Mate if she had shown anything, to which he made this laconic reply, "No, her master has no nation and therefore he thinks, shame. He wishes us to believe that he dropped from the clouds". She fell astern of us in the evening and we lost sight of her in the dark.

28th: Calm. The brig seen yesterday appeared at a great distance on our stern. A few beautiful fishes made their appearance alongside. They [were] straked like the skin of a zebra from a foot to 14 inches long. They were called pilot fish and in my opinion, the prettiest that ever I beheld. Several attempts were made to catch them with line and bait but without success, their shyness indicated that the proffered bait was not the kind of food they were in search of. One of the emigrant's cooks, through neglect, left his fire unextinguished after the usual hour, by which reason one of the rigging ropes caught fire, so as to endanger the ship. His punishment was four hours at the mast head. Another seaman was inserted in the logbook for being too slothful in executing his work. A deduction of his wages is, I understand, at the Captain's option.

March 1st: Slight breeze N.W., 4 knots per hour. Main topmast replaced with top gallant and Royal top gallant sail put thereon. A squabble took place among the water gang for that day, about going to the hold to pump. It came to [the] ears of the Captain upon which he threatened to close the hatches. Robert Lightbody was the principal instigator of the quarrel, for which reason his wine was stopped.

2nd March: Slight breeze N.W. Very warm. Robert Lightbody's child died on this day at Latitude 25° 55' [N], Longitude 21° 55' [W], halfway between Madeira and Cape Verde Islands. Our wine discontinued and lemon juice mixed with limes served as substituted for it, to be mixed in our drink, as an antidote to prevent scurvy. The men received the wine only for the space of seven days viz., that upon which we saw Porto Santo till the 28th Feb. A child born which survived but three hours, committed to the water. The damage done to the ship in the late storm repaired, with the exception of the ruther. A child died and was committed to the water three hours after. This is the sixth death that has taken place and the seventh body committed to the deep including the stillborn child.

3rd March: A beautiful sky with a slight breeze, N.N.W., five knots per hour. The mortality continues amongst the children. The whooping cough is the prevalent disease. A fine boy died this day, twixt one and two P.M. The body is deposited in the quarter boat till tomorrow morning for interment. A number of other children is dangerously ill and two women and one man which has been in a decayed state before he came on board. His name is William McKinlay. The scene at present is most distressing. Our excellent superintendent Dr. Dobie is suffering severely from grief and fatigue. His looks at present demonstrates the fact. He is, I believe, two stone lighter than what he was, when we left Greenock. The fact is he gives himself no rest day nor night, but always striving to administer to our comfort. Our wine is again served out as formerly and the heat of the sun

induced the Doctor to issue orders that neither old nor young was to appear on deck without their heads being covered. A great number of the children underwent the operation of bathing in the evening. Received medicine for my wife for the first time viz., 3 pills. Pain relieved throughout the night.

4th: Fine, steady breeze. Cloudy sky. 7 ½ knots per hour. The child's body was dropped over the poop after the usual ceremony had been gone through at ½ past six A.M. At ten o'clock the emigrants was ordered below owing to the heat of the sun. The wind freshened from the N.E. Our fore top gallant mast snapped in two by press of sail, it dropped upon one of the women by which a severe wound was inflicted on her head. She had a child on her breast which was providentially saved from injury, at least nothing serious. At [the] same time a ship appeared sailing right before the wind, no signals was made. Another child died the evening at 9 P.M. which makes up nine deaths in less than eight weeks. McNeil's child contrary to expectation is dangerously hurt, as being a bruise, the extent of the wound could not be ascertained.

5th: Died this day Mrs. James Aiken with a distemper contracted in child bed. She left one child to deplore the loss of an indulgent mother and to her husband, to all appearance a loving wife. She was much regretted by all passengers on board. Mrs. McNeil continues ill after the hurt received yesterday. The child's head is much swelled with severe pain. At ten A.M. a large brig hove ahead running right before the wind. At a great distance another vessel appeared to windward bearing upon us. She came nearly close alongside of us. She was rigged similar to a fishing wherry, from 20 to 25 tons burthen. I ascended the fore top and could see with great ease a great number of people on board of her. We soon lost sight of her as we were running at the [rate] of 9 knots per hour. The second mate allowed that she was either a pirate or a slaver as he termed her and indeed it was somewhat remarkable such a small vessel as she was would venture so far from land with any good intent as the distance from land could be no less than a 1000 miles at least. Mrs. James Aiken was interred at five afternoon. The corpse was dropped over the stern. After the first plunge the body rose to the surface, but at a great distance owing to the rapid pace of the ship.

6th: Stiff breeze, 7 knots per hour. A school formed on board and teaching commenced. Likewise a library from [which] I received for the first time, Abbot's "Young Christian". A sawpit was erected and the frame saw put in requisition, by which means some of our sawyers had an opportunity of showing a specimen of their dexterity as sawyers. Mrs. Thompson dropped down on the deck shortly after dinner. She was conveyed to the hospital for medical aid. 9 knots per hour at 8 o'clock P.M. Wind from N.E. Two sea gulls appeared for the first time since we left Porto Santo which indicates that we are at no great distance from land.

March 8th [7th ?]: Fine. Breeze from 8 to 8½ knots per hour. This day eight weeks since we left Greenock. Land was looked for early in the morning but it did not appear till about two afternoon when the Island of Santo Antão was seen at a distance N.E. It presented a formidable aspect with its lofty pinnacles shrouded as [they] were in the clouds with tufts of white mist floating on the sides of it, closing nearly a range of [minor ?] hills that stretched themselves towards the S. from our view. Upon our nearer approach the loftiness

was diminished in a great measure. It appeared to be about the size of Ben Lomond but not so sharp towards the point and more supported on the S. side by the hills already mentioned which rises to within five hundred feet of the top of it. Our distance from the shore precluded us from discerning any lesser objects. Being no less than ten miles, we could however distinguish the sea dashing against the rocks. From the round top could be discerned white objects resembling that of houses but not distinctly. There is I am told a beautiful town close to the shore surrounded with fine shrubbery. We passed it in about an hour's time. At tea time we were alarmed by the sound of a heavy fall in the direction of the fore hatch. A Mrs. Donald [i.e. Daniel] Gray was proceeding from the deck and in her descent lost her footing and fell on the lower deck in a dead faint. Medical aid was instantly rendered her. She was only recovering from the effects of the late storm and the death of her child. The evening became very calm so as to so enable our musical men to repair upon deck and treat us with some of their favourite tunes upon the fiddle. Dancing was commenced with great glee and our ebullient leader honoured us with his presence on the poop along with the Captain and First Mate and that they enjoyed the sport was visible to be seen from their countenance, at the end of every reel. This was the first dancing we had on deck since we left Greenock with the exception of one and that was passing Rothesay Bay the first night of our sailing, the two nights were near akin for beauty. The moon shone in full splendour on both occasions with this difference, the moon of the latter night was nearly perpendicular above our heads. A young woman was taken badly at ten o'clock after the dancing had ceased, she was not long out of the hospital and still on the list of invalids. A relapse, it is considered, is the consequence. Her name is Agnes McLean. Her father is one of those whom God has been pleased to visit by calling off one of his children on the voyage after a severe sickness.

9th [8th ?]: Finer. Steady breeze from N.E. 8 knots per hour. Clouds of sand off the coast of Africa by which all our sails and ropes was coloured and enveloped us as it were in mist. What size the clouds of sand may be when transported from the shore I know not, but I conceive they must be extensive or otherwise the sand would not lie so thick about our ship at such a distance, being I believe, not less than 300 miles from land. After tea our dancing was commenced and continued to a late hour. We sleep now with open hatches with air bags suspended for the admission of more air during the night from which we derive great pleasure. N.B. I omitted to state that our national dance of Baba the Bowster was resorted to this night with great glee. I joined in it myself for the first time these seventeen years past to my certain knowledge. We wanted nothing to make us cheery but the one thing congenial to a Scotchman's mind when heated in the dance, that is John Barleycorn, that grand elevator of the spirit.

March 9th: Strong breeze, 8 knots per hour. Great shoals of fly fishes seen for the first time, they are to all appearances pretty little fishes, they look somewhat like a swallow when on the wing, their flight is but short not exceeding at most 200 feet. There were no appearance of any dolphins being in pursuit of them. Some of the mess pork was stolen this day and an order issued against frying of pork for the future in case that those that was in the habit of frying might have part of the raw pork along with the boiled thing but I believe there was little use in resorting to such measure because the pork is taken by no other person but the cooks themselves. And till such time as it is properly sifted it will remain a mystery. It has

been the cause of discontent among some of the emigrants to be prohibited from making their mess or at least part of it ready in such a way as to please the palate, for it is well known that there is some people that will relish their pork better if it was fried after boiling than they do with mere boiling particularly in such a place as this where there is no other cordial at hand except that which is made up by mere invention from the regular allowance. We must make virtue of necessity and submit to that which we have no means to resist, but there is one point to be observed here and which would answer the end very well. Allowing that the practice of frying was permitted, all raw pork could be detected by compelling the individual to shew the contents of his pan which no one would refuse to do, and one sight of it would be sufficient to shew whether there was a mixture of raw and boiled meat in the dish and I do not believe there is any person on board that would eat raw pork while they can get plenty of boiled thing. Nor do I believe that there is a passenger on board that would curtail any of the messes for the mere gratification of throwing it overboard for there is no other means left for them to dispose of it. I shall leave it at the present time with this conviction that I shall have occasion to mention of it at some future period.

March 10th: Wind from N.E. and consequently against us which causes us to keep close to the wind 10 degrees from the line. A great shoal of fly fishes appears followed up by other fishes called African Mackerel in full pursuit making great havoc among the retreating fishes which when all means of escape failed them by swimming, they took to the wing but that also failed them, the pursuers was so dexterous as to keep sight of them even in their aerial flight and with such precision as to catch them. Before they were scarce in the water, lines was made ready with a fly made of white rag. The bows of the ship was instantly covered with people holding lines. My lines was the only one successful by [which] I gained a beautiful mackerel, six pound weight, and shortly after another of nearly the same weight, which was the only fish caught this day, and the first indeed on the voyage. They are the prettiest fish that ever I handled, from 15 to 16 inches long with a back about 3 inches broad, the perfect shape and colour of the Scotch Mackerel with this difference only, that the streaks which runs across on the latter, runs from the head to the tail of the former and their [flesh] not so delicious, being dryer and stronger in taste than that which I used to eat in Scotland. They are, however, very wholesome as we boiled some silver along with them. They came in great swarms about the ship but appear very shy throughout the day and at night they totally disappeared. A large shark appeared several times throughout the day. All means [were] resorted to that could be devised, to capture it, but of no avail, as he appeared not to pay the least attention to them. One of the sailors stated at [the] same time they [expect] more deaths to be on board which indeed proved too true, for throughout the night Robert Lightbody's second child died this [day]. The whole of his family fell victim to the fatigues of this distressing voyage, and [what] must his thoughts be if he possesses any parental feeling on this trying occasion. He left Greenock with his two children in health and at the end of 2 months he left them behind him covered with the mighty waters forming a trackless grave. This is now the eleventh death since we left Greenock, viz. ten children and one woman. This night proved remarkable warm while sleeping so as to make us dispense with all our blankets. A thin sheet was only necessary in the way of covering us from view rather than from cold. Mrs. McNeil and her child is recovering from [the] effects of the wound inflicted on her by the falling of the fore top gallant mast which is a great blessing. Mrs. Thompson is, I believe, getting better in the hospital after the effects of her

potatoes and fish of which she appears to have taken so freely. Mrs. McIllick and William McKinlay is in the way of doing better as I was solicited by the Doctor to give each of them a small bit of my fresh fish which I did. James McLean's daughter is not [better], so she remains still in a bad state. The rest of the sick children is in a mending state. The whooping cough is still prevalent but we, each and everyone of us, [has] reason to thank God that he has been kind to us beyond what we deserve in so much as to keep any infectious trouble from us as yet, except what is before stated, viz. the whooping cough.

March 11th: Beautiful clear sky. The sand nearly out of sight. Faint wind four knots per hour. I bathed early this morning, the water was very refreshing & after breakfast the seats was taken upon deck where the people heard [a] sermon there for the first time, the usual place for divine service being between decks. Four o'clock P.M. We were running at 3 knots per hour. A great number of fish seen sporting about our bows, the boatswain endeavoured to catch some but of no avail. None of the emigrants made the attempt. Some large fowls was seen flying about and likewise our friend of yesterday, Mr. Shark made his appearance once. The child is not interred up to this time, 5 o'clock. Remonstrances against being served from the top of the soup copper. The maxim is with all other articles of cooked victuals is to take them by turns first No. one and next No. nineteen, except the soup which William Quill altered for his own benefit, and that of his mess which is No. three and by commencing at [No.] 19 he is sure of having the thick [soup] reserved for No.3 which is his mess. I have noticed his [acts] upon more occasions. The first day the lemon juice was served out, the shares became short owing to the mate's want of knowledge of the quantity needed. The order was to take a little from those that was served to make up the deficiency to those that remained short of their share so as to make them as near to the point as possible. William handed all of the jugs to the mate except No.3. It was sacred and remained untouched. Such and such acts as this shews the man to be very wise for himself.

Monday 12th: A fine clear sky and little wind bordering upon a perfect calm. A shoal of porpoises about the ship. Great heat of the sun being only seven degrees from the line. Dancing kept up till near 12 o'clock when all retired to their beds after the exertion of the evening [of] March 12th was over. We were shortly after awakened by a noise issuing from the 2nd berth adjoining to us where James Bruce and his wife sleeps. The contention appeared pretty high and general. They were both males and females composing the contending party. The latter as is commonly the case, was more distinctly heard. Mrs. Bruce in particular was heard. She was bestowing with great liberality a great share of epithets upon some individual for having performed for her some services while she lay in bed with her husband. She threatened to go to the Doctor and acquaint him with it which threat she put in execution. She dashed in to the cabin in great fury and related what had happened during the time she was comfortably clasped in her helpmate's arms. Some nocturnal rover envious of the enjoyment possessed by this couple or rather afraid that they should be too warm being so close to each other contrived to ease them of their blankets. This might be an act of the generous Neptune towards strangers sojourning upon the liquate elements and bordering upon the precincts of his palace to put them in mind of paying due respect to his Majesty in due season whether or [not] it might be some other motive which will be nameless, it is not known. But it admits of no contradiction that the blankets flew

off the bed and up the main hatch with swiftness of lightning by some unknown power or other. An investigation [was] instituted next morning for the purpose of finding out if possible the perpetrator, but without success. The disturber of the peace appears to be veiled under a cloud of obscurity. The judge contented himself for the time being by putting some questions to the party aggrieved. Judge asked if they were sleeping when it happened. Party answered "no". "And why" says the judge "did you not hold fast then?" The next question was "what was you doing at the time?". To which question the party gave no positive answer. They were ordered to separate during the night for the future and each of them to take a separate bed for fear of repetition of the same, which was obeyed. However the magic spell which carried away the blankets furnished the passengers with matter of mirth for a considerable time. It likewise taught the sufferers to select proper seasons and places to enjoy each other's company for the future. (There is time for everything under the sun.)

March 13th: Calm, accompanied with great heat. Another struggle about the soup. No.19 was called as usual whereupon the head of that mess for the time being, along with the heads of the next messes, remonstrated with William Quill against such fool play but William held fast that hold which was productive to his own interest and which he considered to be a loss of a favourite dish every second day, and he therefore held as fast as he could against altering the plan. But at the same [time] said that he would consult the Doctor upon the subject. This we considered to be a put off till such time as the fermentation of our feeling upon the subject would be over and then it would drop. I believe this would have the desired effect for a time as the head of No.19 mess would make no noise about it for he himself never tasted a single drop of their soup since he commenced the voyage, except one day which was at the beginning of the voyage. But the case was brought before the Doctor that afternoon by Robert Lightbody No.14 mess, & upon the subject being broached in presence of the Doctor, William instantly lowered his lofty tone and from the lion he became the lamb and referred it to those present if he did not give No.19 an equal chance with No.3. Now he knew this to be an arrant lie and it was proven to be so for the said Robert Lightbody confronted him at the time and threw the lie right in his teeth. The result of this was an order to take the beginning of the soup day about. This was a sore blow for Willie but he could not help it, and by this order the first became last and the last first. At the same time an investigation was entered into about the curtailing of the mess beef. That share belonging to No.14 appeared to have been cut after being put in the coppers, and as this could not be effected without the cook's knowledge, without the thief being very expert at carving. The cook denied having any knowledge of the theft, signifying at the same time that it was not done while in the act of cooking. This matter was settled by selecting one man from two messes to superintend the meat and see it put into the coppers. The selection commenced at No.1 & 19, the next No.2 & 18, No.3 & 17 and so on and at the same time a barrel was furnished with a lock and key to hold the meat while in the act of steeping. This it is hoped will put an end to these broils which I am certain is a great heartbreak to our excellent superintendent that is already overwhelmed with grief caused by the refractory and turbulent temper of some of those under his charge, people that is both void of common sense and reason. There is among the emigrants, I own, people of excellent morals, feelings, kind to those around them and ready to administer to their [needs] if they but possessed the means of doing so. But to take a retrospective of the

rest, I own that I have seen more hostile spirit carried on during the period of ten weeks than I did during ten years. Some of them was never content but when they were dealing out ill hatched stories for the annoyance of their neighbours. This admits of no contradiction as it was fairly demonstrated on more occasions than one. Jealousy and envy appear to [be] the two predominant passions. This has been so far verified by what happened in the case of Ronald McDonald on the above date viz. 13th March. Lady McDonald as we shall call her in future was taking her evening walk previous to the dancing. Commencing her walk was prolonged till such time as she reached the galley where the ship's steward was getting something ready for the cabin when he was accosted by a Mrs. Thompson in these words and at the same time taking hold of his arm. "You and I shall have a reel this night." "No", says the steward "I will dance none this night for I will have a reel with my flute". Following up his words with a movement of his feet and hands and in the midst of his hilarity placing his black hands unconsciously on Lady McDonald's body which she exclaimed against as being an insult upon her Ladyship and an infringement upon her husband's prerogative which he himself, it appears, held it only for 3 months previous to embarkation. This demonstrates in a degree, how a new acquired object is valued by a man particularly a wife when the honeymoon is not yet over. He watches with all the care imaginable with vigilance and perseverance. Such was Mr. McDonald's love towards his wife's chastity for as soon as he received intelligence of the assault made upon his wife, he flew in a rage at the audacity of the man of colour for touching his lady, for had it been one of the commonality, he would think nothing of it, and at the same time, he believed there was not a good woman in the ship but herself. In this point Ronald thought his lady to bear the preeminence while others thought the reverse, and indeed I own to be one of the latter myself for I never could see any attractiveness in the woman. She might do for a black man to be sure, for she was large enough. However she was Ronald's darling and he shewed that he was much afraid of her being brought aside by the steward and to put a stop to such fearful event, he carried the matter before the Captain and Doctor, who upon investigation found that Mr. McDonald had nothing to fear from that quarter, and at [the] same time laughed at Mr. McDonald's weakness and indeed he....

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The calm continued all day and night so much as to make a person think they were on dry land so still was the water that I, while in the act of drinking my tea on deck, rested a tin jug full of tea on the outshot of the bulwark, a narrow rail not exceeding 5 inches in breadth, while I along with my wife, sat upon the broad part of it with the rest of our supper dishes and all rested without the smallest drop of the tea being spilt.

Wednesday 14th: This day was remarkable warm. The heat was indeed intense so much so as to cause the pitch in the seams of the deck to melt. The sweat fell from each of us in streams. The ship was sailing at the rate of four knots per hour. A shoal of dolphins was seen in pursuit of fly fish. The former was seen by one party of the emigrants while the latter was only seen by the other. For my own part, for as anxious as I was to see the dolphins I failed. I could only see the retreating fly fishes. A brutal act was committed by one of the seamen named George [*surname omitted*] upon my own boy while in the act of bathing in the bathing tub along with a number of other boys. The sailor was sitting in the foxhole chatting with the rest of his shipmates when he instantly rushed out and took hold of the boy, dragged him firmly from the tub, by which means he was dangerously injured

in his private parts so much so as to render it necessary for the Doctor to strap it and at [the] same time to order him to his bed where he was confined as he could not suffer the pain when putting on his trousers. Two witnesses was examined by the Doctor and the Captain, both of their testimony agreed. When he was asked the reason for committing this crime he said the noise they made kept him from sleep and at the same time denied he had touched him. This was a barefaced falsehood, for he was not asleep at the time, nor he durst not do it, without infringing upon the laws of the ship, and indeed he infringed upon it so far by going into the foxhole while the rest of the watch was on deck, and as for touching him not, it was another falsehood, as the very witness which he brought in his own defence allowed that he struck him on the back. This he was thwarted in his point of denying to have committed a crime for no other reason but that of satisfying a malicious and ungovernable temper, and which could issue from no other source but that of a callous heart and cruel disposition.

March 15th: A fine morning. Rate from four to five knots. Rather sultry. The barometer indicated rain. The bathing tubs was removed during the night. When I went upon deck to bathe the youngest boy, one of the sailors told me I was to bathe the children at the main hatch which I objected to and told him that he would need to bring orders to that effect from the head of the house, upon which he told me I might get my orders from the devil to which I returned for answer that I had no dealings with that gentleman. Some coughing took place upon this occasion but the officer on the watch put an end to it by ordering the tub back to its former place giving directions to the sailors to clear it out first, which was done, and children went through the operation of bathing as formerly. A great shower of rain fell betwixt eight & nine A.M. accompanied by a stiff breeze which made the ship to run at the rate of nine or ten knots. It lasted only for a few hours. The wind ceased and likewise the rain became moderate and ceased & in a short time it became a perfect calm. The boy hurt on the night previous is confined to bed with an injunction to keep himself from any bodily exertion as it might irritate the wound and consequently prolong the cure.

March 16th: Perfect calm. Intense heat of the sun, being within three degrees of the line which is 180 miles. Being a general washing day it proved very fatiguing while I was in the act of scrubbing my jacket at the stern gun. The first mate ordered me to retire further towards the other end of the ship as he would not suffer any person to wash in that place being so near to the quarterdeck. I obeyed instantly but asked him at the same time where I was to go, as all the other places was taken up. He told me I was to look to that. I answered him that I was just doing that in the best manner I could. But as there was no place empty I had to wait, to which he answered that I was to wait till some other person was ready, and have no more noise about it, and told me at the same time, that no emigrant on board had offered to speak to him but myself. I told that I only spoke in my own behalf which was every man's duty to do but I had the consolation of not speaking anyway disrespectful to him, Mr. Martin. He told me he was in the habit of being obeyed without being spoken back to, to which I answered that I was not in the habit of suffering unreasonable talk when I was not deserving of it and that I knew what was my right as a servant, and that I likewise [knew] what was due to a master. To which he answered, and at the same time turning away in a rage, that I would have the last word although he should go to h..l upon which the contention ceased. The fact was this, he was stung to the quick because we paid not the

same submission to him as the sailors did, which we had no right to do as being passengers and not seamen. But tyrants always wishes to have all their own way whether right or wrong for he was a tyrant to the backbone, cruel in the extreme for his expression indicated that, as well as actions. He said when done with inflicting punishment on the cook, that if the emigrants saved his head from being broken they could not prevent him, Mr. Martin, from breaking his heart with work and damned him for a son of a whore, that he caused him to commit more sin than ever he was able to answer and that [he] would now glory to trample in his heart's blood. Our wine was stopped for wet deck below.

March 17th: Or St. Patrick's Day. A dead calm. Sun remarkable hot. I happened to be one of the party for scraping the decks and I really thought I would melt with perfect heat. All the men was called upon deck and was addressed by the doctor stating the ruinous consequences that would accrue from keeping wet decks below and that if proper attention was not paid to prevent dampness that scurvy would certainly appear among us. For that he gave us lemon juice & wine to strengthen us that was in health, but that it was of no use for him to expend the stores while we ourselves stood aloof from that which was productive to health and that the decks was damper at this time than they were in the time of the storm and when he, the Doctor, made enquiry about the persons guilty of spilling the water, it happened always to be Mr. Nobody or Mrs. Nobody and consequently he had to punish the whole to enable him find out the guilty person. But he hoped that nothing of the kind would occur for future and that the wine was in our own option that by paying attention to what he said he would continue the wine. But if not, that he would stop it altogether, to which we all consented, and dispersed for to get dishes for our wine. Towards evening large sheets of lightning was seen issuing from the east so as to illuminate that quarter with great brilliancy. My boy that was hurt by the seaman was dressed for the first time, his wound was very sore.

Sabbath 18th March: Calm continued. Three young sharks seen at our stern. A bait was thrown to them but they paid no attention to it. Shortly after the 3rd Mate caught one of them and hauling it upon the poop he cut the line and [it] sprung off the deck into the sea. In about an hour after a swarm of them was seen alongside the ship. They were quite small not exceeding 2 feet in length and one of them was caught at the bow of the ship and killed. He was cut up and the sailors took it to dinner and indeed I did not envy them for the eating part, although I should like to have the pleasure of catching it. Sermon was preached on deck and when we dismissed we were told that one of the sick children was dead. This child belonged to James Shearer. It laboured under sickness for a long time, and it is the twelfth death since we left Greenock, which is 9 weeks and 4 days. A shoal of black fish was seen at a small distance, they appeared to be very large, this is the first of their kind we have seen as yet. There was also some very small fishes seen at the same time about the ship. The contrast was very striking. The one nearly as long as our cutter and the other not larger than a herring. Our attention was attracted by the appearance of

[A recipe for beer was included at this point in the journal as follows]:
To make excellent table beer:

To 8 quarts of boiling water put a pound of treacle, a quarter of an ounce of ginger and two bay leaves. Let this boil for a quarter if an hour, then cool and work it with yeast, the same as other beer.

a large shark making his way towards the ship with his fin appearing above the water [at] a considerable height. He swam right across our stern with great rapidity just but a few moments after the body of the child which died but a couple of hours previous, was committed to the deep. The shark that was caught and cooked and one of the emigrants to whom the line belonged was served with a piece of it at tea time. He was kind enough to give me a small piece of it which I accepted. The taste was no way pleasant to the palate. It resembled much the taste of dogfish, which is well known to be none of the sweetest of fishes.

19th March: A dead calm continued as we are getting nearer to the line. The intense heat of the sun was beyond any yet suffered. Beds was ordered upon deck to air upon which occasion some of them was laid on one of the boats which held a screen sail and was instantly ordered to be taken off for which reason some angry words was exchanged between the Chief Mate and one of the Emigrants of the name of Dingwall, a mason. He said that it was a pity that people was brought here to be tyrannised by a parcel of trash to which the Mate made the following reply, that these people of respectable character should not have come there. Dingwall said that his character was as good as his. The Mate said he did not think it, and at the same time ordered him off the place whereon he stood, or otherwise, he the Mate, would tumble him off like a pierie and to be gone for an old growling B....r. Dingwall said he would be d....d if he would bring up beds again to be ordered down so soon, to which the mate again replied that he hoped he would be d....d and that to all eternity, and moreover he added he would like to see him in h..l, and him the Mate stirring up the fire to him. A seaman formerly a cook, a native of America, and of the coloured tribe, having lost a pair of Wellington boots, and the theft having come to the Captain's knowledge, he instantly instituted an enquiry into the case which was as follows: Mrs. Lightbody, Robert Lightbody's wife went clandestinely and said that she saw a certain boy with boots upon a certain time. This was also investigated and it was found out not to be the boots in question, but quite a different pair and belonging to an apprentice seaman, belonging to Ireland, and which he according to his own statement bestowed on the accused providing the said boy would give him a pair of shoes that would fit him. But the boy, having had no shoes answerable, and the boots being too small for him also, they were returned to him for the satisfaction of the Captain. The boots was produced and exhibited in presence of the Captain, the Doctor and Chief Mate. They all agreed that the satisfaction given is quite sufficient to shew that the statement tendered by Mrs. Lightbody was entirely a falsehood and a man was sent through the ship by the Doctor's orders for that purpose. It will be but doing justice to the boy to state the general behaviour of Lightbody and his wife since they embarked. For swearing, I never heard the match of him and she seems to be nothing behind, and for fighting with each other, they will vie with any that could come from that quarter to which they belonged. In the midst of the storm they were quarrelling and fighting to the great annoyance of the passengers in their neighbourhood. He had two children that died on the passage, the first was buried in the evend of the 2nd Inst. and Mr. Lightbody was seen dancing on the evening following, the 3rd, his next child on the 11th,

and upon the evening previous he was asked to sit by his distressed [wife]. He answered “no, she was not worth waiting upon”, at the same time joining the dance. The suffering child breathed her last on the morning of the 11th and was buried after the usual manner. And that same evening the father was seen going through the reel as cheerful as he used to be, to the disgust of part of the emigrants, who could not help taking notice of such conduct, by a parent bereaved of the whole of his children, by the just visitation of an offended God.

Tuesday 20th: Calm as formerly, but a somewhat cloudy sky which obscured the sun in a great measure so as to enable us to go about the deck with less precaution than on former days. Towards dinnertime a shoal of fishes was seen of which five was caught. They were similar to those mentioned in the former occasion but rather larger. This being a washing day, we had as was commonly the case, to wash the deck before we received our wine which was the case upon this evening. Shortly after we were ordered to take down all the clothes we had drying on the rigging as it was like to become a shower very soon. This being also promptly obeyed, and all put to order, when on a sudden, the voice of the Captain was heard and likewise that of the Doctor’s ordering all the women and children below. My boys happening to be on deck at the time, I immediately ascended the main hatch ladder so as to facilitate their descent which I did, and was in the act of writing yesterday’s transactions when one of the women descended the ladder and told me it was worth my trouble to go upon deck and take a view of the sky for that it looked terrible. This I instantly did as I wished to have matter for that day’s journal. All was bustle, the seamen was ordered aloft to reef and some few of [them] was left on deck to shew the immigrants which ropes to pull. By this time large fleakes of forked lightning was constantly on the wing followed with tremendous peals of thunder and rain. The latter was not heavy as the tarpaulin we had over the hatch was drawn on both sides but the centre part was suffered to remain up. The sails was mostly all reefed by this time and the seamen in the act of descending from the foremast when an awful crack was heard louder than that of the largest cannon. I was at the same time standing at the stern gun near the main hatch looking at the men standing on the round top and awful to behold. The electric fluid struck the fore Royal and instantly the rigging was streams of fire running down the fore chains with great rapidity and afterwards along the deck skipping in all directions by the attraction of the iron throughout the deck. A scream of terror issued from below. This was in consequence of some of the men being carried down the fore hatch powerless, being struck with the fire that was so general on the fore part of the ship.

After recovering from the surprise and awe which took possession of me at the time, I descended the main hatch to ascertain if all my family was safe. At the mouth of the hatch I discerned William McPherson, a sawyer, carried between some men towards the cabin and upon going below I was horror struck at beholding Neil Gilchrist lying stretched on the deck opposite my berth. This was a time of suspense. I was calling my wife and family together, which was not an easy matter as there was such an uproar, everyone bawling with all their might for their own. I did not know but what the ship was in flames as indeed we had every reason to fear from appearance and indeed it is impossible for me to convey by description, an idea of a scene of this nature and it is to be regretted that even the pencil cannot represent either motion or noise, and to those who have not seen anything of the kind it must be very imperfect. But I will endeavour to convey in the best manner I can by

laying it to any person's breast how he would feel himself in a situation of the kind, nearly 1000 miles from land surrounded by the most dreaded of all elements & his fellow creatures lying flat upon the decks with [no] power to help themselves in the least, but carried by those that was fortunate to have escaped the inflexible elements into a place of less danger, but at the same [time] not knowing but they themselves might be the next to request such help. But notwithstanding all this there was heard among the passengers execrations that was most disgusting of language. Language in at such a time as this could not but proceed from the most hardened and depraved heart upon such occasions but we have reason to thank the Almighty that in the midst of this calamity where so many souls was congregated together, that no lives was lost and that they were all spared as monuments of His clemency in this world of hope and repentance. The interference and protection of the Lord was brilliantly displayed upon this occasion in our behalf as the only dumb animal in that part of the ship was struck dead on the spot. We, the express image of His Own Person, was spared to bless and magnify His praise. As is before related, the bustle below was great. A number of the females was seen in fainting fits of which number my own wife was one. She remained in it a considerable longer [time] than any of the rest. I cannot proceed without remarking, and at the same [time] it forced a smile from me. although the time was ill suited for mirth, Dr. Dobie and Dr. Shannon, his assistant, was standing over my wife when one of the emigrants of the name of John Gray accosted the Doctor in these words and at the same time his legs trembling under him, "Sir, I was struck too and I am very bad", upon which the Doctor turned rapidly about, and said, and at the same [time] beating his knees together in imitation of Gray's, "Sir, I was struck too and I have to administer relief to the sufferers if possible. There was a number struck severely that's not making half of the noise you are doing, but you are always ready to complain when there is no reason". The chopfallen emigrant went away saying that his feet was sore. "Go away" says the Doctor "for William McPherson was severely struck and he bears it with fortitude. I say go away". The fact of the matter was this. The man was not as much as touched but fear made him believe that he was, and that the keen eye of the Doctor perceived, or otherwise he never would have turned him off so quick, for it was quite at variance with his feelings to turn a distressed applicant away with disdain. But Gray was instantly called upon to exert his exhausted power for his daughter that he considered to be asleep, was actually in a swoon and the fact of the matter demonstrated itself, for he lifted his daughter in his arms and walked stoutly along the deck with her. We were all ordered to bed which a great number yielded to, and the vivid flashes of lightning incessantly illuminating the lower deck, [was] followed with loud peals of thunder. After my family was in bed, I went upon deck, the atmosphere was burning hot. The four quarters of the heavens was in such a way as would delight the expert painter. It [was] interspersed with various colours but that of red was most prevalent. At times it [was] hidden from our view by a host of black clouds that marched in terrible array as if it were against each other discharging their artillery at each other as they rushed to the combat, for such it was to all appearances. Our attention was attracted by a large school of fishes as is termed by the seamen. They covered the sea, as far as we could discern by the transparent glare which shone from them. There was one large fish among them which we considered to be a shark. Rain fell in torrents towards morning.

Wednesday 21st March: The fore Royal was found to be in a state that rendered it unfit for further service without a thorough repair, in consequence of the large holes burnt into it on the preceding evening, and had it not been for the heavy rain which fell during the night, it is thought by the ship's crew that the ship would be in flames whereby we would inevitably perish. The mast also was found to be unable to bear any cloth owing to the rend it received. The deck as is mentioned before, was found to have suffered some damage. The fluid penetrated through to one of the berths and the mess tins suffered the same, as they [had] holes burnt through them, and notwithstanding all this the hand of providence was around us, that none of the inmates was hurt, (George Pinkerton and his family was the party that occupied the berth alluded to) and to follow up, the talk that was prevalent among the emigrants this day would be merely impossible. Everyone had an awful tale to unfold and even those that was not on deck at the time appear to outstrip those that was really on deck. Best let that be as it is, there was sufficient matter for them all to relate. Suffice it to say that the whole of them was inmates of the ship and even under deck there was plenty, both seen and heard, to make the most resolute heart to quake with fear and trembling. And as the inspired penman briefly mentions that those whom goes down into the seas in ships behold the wonders of the Lord and His mighty works in the deep. The fish that was caught the night previous which the hurry of them prevented them from being cooked was thrown over the side as being quite black with the effects of the fire. The day kept very heavy at least more so than the former days was, for some time past towards the afternoon, the clouds rolled a little and appeared to be somewhat unsettled. Everything was put in order in case the assembled clouds would discharge their contents upon us. Sheets of lightning appeared in different parts of the sky with a slow grumbling of a distant thunder but by degrees it dwindled to nothing and as the fire was of the sheet kind which is considered not to be dangerous, the people was allowed to remain upon deck. After going to bed the rain fell with incessant fury. A ship kept in sight all day.

Thursday 22nd: Dead calm. The ship seen last night appeared in sight towards our stern but soon disappeared. Young sharks was seen alongside but would not take the bait tendered them. Nothing worth relating took place this day except groups of people sitting in all parts of the ship. And by their gestures and the looks they, from time to time, bestowed on the fore mast, showed plainly the thunder storm was the subject upon which they dwelt and I believe it will remain uppermost in their minds till such time as some other object displaces it. The appearance of land, which we expect to see soon, will banish it in great measure from their minds. Towards evening the sky cleared up, no lightning appeared and we went to our beds with our minds more tranquil than the nights previous. No rain during the night but it continued calm so that our progress was but very slow.

(Mr. McIntyre's dog was omitted [*earlier*]. He was thrown into the sea on the 20th and must be mentioned in the pages containing the events of that day).

Friday 23rd: This morning John McIllrick's child died. This is the second death in that family and the 13th death since we left Scotland. Shortly after breakfast a large shark came alongside and made an attempt upon one of the sailors that was slung over the side, along with others cleaning the ship and painting her, by making a dart at his legs which happened to be hanging carelessly over the scaffold. Some person let go a blanket accidentally which the monster swallowed. I have this information from other people for I did not see it

myself. I went instantly upon deck to see this determined enemy of the human specie with a piece of pork in my hand which I threw at him so as to see his manner of seising his prey. The meat was very fat and consequently floated on the top of [the] water. He made several attempts before he was able to manage it. He put his head above the water and sucked it and let it slip down his throat. During these attempts the small pilot fish, three or four in number, was busily engaged in passing and repassing over his back which he offered not to touch. We got the ship hook with a piece of pork upon it but the Captain would not allow us to bring him alongside. As the ship was nearly cleaned I told that we had no desire of bringing him on deck as we wanted merely to destroy him before the child was let into the sea, and soon we would get him above water to clap a ball into him. He told us he would pull ten men of us into the sea upon which the hook was taken from us. One of the emigrants took his gun and put a ball into her [*the gun*] and went on to where the monster was hovering. A piece of pork was fixed to the end of a rope and dropped over. He spied it directly and came right underneath the stern and in the act of seizing the pork the leading messenger conveyed some news to him that made him turn on his back in quick time and then dived into the [sea] leaving the favourite mouthful behind him and from that day we were no more troubled with him. The ball took effect in the back of the neck and would without doubt reach the vital parts and consequently his death would soon follow. At tea time a regular row got up between two wives, one a Mrs. Thompson and the other Mrs. Burgess. The contention arose about the evening Mrs. Burgess accused Thompson of stealing blankets. Thompson in return accused her antagonist of stealing stockings and likewise of lying in a bed of adultery and told her that she had a wise like man left behind. Mrs. Burgess as she actually was, for Burgess was her lawful husband's name, did not appear to have any relish for such, [and] was rather daunted at this part of the story. Mrs. Thompson in a fit of fury threw a dish of tea upon Mrs. Burgess. This was an assault which Mrs. Burgess appeared to make more work about than the charge of adultery. Burgess himself disappeared for the time either willingly or accidentally. This was remarked and indeed it was very curious of a man to leave his wife in contact with two that was assailing her. For by this time Mrs. Thompson's husband had joked in behalf of his wife and declared that what he stated was correct and that Burgess was not the name of the present husband, but that he came along with her upon the strength of the first man's marriage lines, and that the Doctor had in his hands what will clear up the matter. Mrs. Burgess declared that Thompson knew nothing about her and declared that there were some in the ship that was acquainted with her, and at the time bawling out "Margaret and Bobbie Lightbody, will you not testify that I have had a good character since you kent me and that is now twelve years". Lightbody and his wife appeared not to say much about it, and indeed, although they had given their testimony, it would have fallen far short of Jamie Blue. Thompson at least, I would believe, the one before the other. The name of Mrs. Burgess's present man on the Duncan is Archibald Crawford, a nailer from the Calton of Glasgow. It is shameful to think that such characters as these would be admitted into the ship, and there is no doubt but the Doctor was imposed upon by several individuals, or otherwise they never would be there. But there is no doubt but the fancy characters will alter their colours and become much stained by the heat of the sun and a thorough wash, as nothing but fast colours will stand the test.

Saturday 24th: March: Weather remarkable warm. Nothing particular occurred upon this day.

Sunday 25th: A remarkable fine day. Crossed the line at four afternoon. Got under the South East trades wind. Sailing 8 knots per hour. The mains changed at nine in the evening.

Monday 26th: A continuation of the trades wind. A ship appeared ahead of [us] appearing homeward bound. We were ordered to get all our letters in readiness. A signal was [made], the ship obeyed and bore down upon [us] with crowded [sails]. We laid to the wind and hoisted the British Flag to the mizzen Royal. We could not distinguish her colours as the sails hid them from our view, but upon her approach the American flag waved in the wind. She was a large bark in the whale fishing trade bound for America from the South Seas. She passed within musket shot from our stern, lowered her flag and passed on her course. We followed her example and carried on our course, and since, we have seen no other vessel.

Tuesday 27th: A contention arose at teatime. There happened to be a great deal of tea left and William Quill would not allow the cook to give any more than the usual quantity which was two canfuls of 2 chopins each but he took good care that his own mess was supplied with no less than three cans full. Word was brought to the [passengers] that there was some tea remaining in the coppers and that Quill would not suffer the people to use it. Upon this information the Doctor ordered the whole of the messes to [be] called and the tea divided among them which was done to the great grief of the officious Quill, not even officious but obnoxious also. He was a tyrant to the heart and at the same time a great ass. For in place of calling the people to get their victuals, which was his duty, he called the dishes or at least wished the people to do so. His usual cry was this: "Call up your pails for soup. Call up your cans for tea", and so on. Such was his maxim in going to work.

Wednesday 28th: Nothing particular.

Thursday 29th: Nothing particular.

Friday 30th March: The emigrants was served out with boarding pikes for cleaning, likewise cutlasses. They were very rusty and had much need of being cleaned. There was plenty of hands and we were not doing them. In the evening a regular row was set on foot which ended in blood by Dingwall striking his wife. Dingwall is a blackguard and the one he has for a wife is no better. He left his lawful wife in Glasgow. The Doctor gave them both a severe reproof and told them that he would send them back to Glasgow prisoners on bread and water if they disturbed the ship in the same manner they did. She was sent to No. 18 berth at a great distance from where Dingwall [was]. I was very glad of this part of the sentence because Dingwall and I exchanged beds some time before that. Turmoil took place and I was afraid that the Doctor, in his ire, would make the exchange invalid, but I understand that he gave Dingwall a fright that he never expected and it was nothing to what he ought to get for every adulterer ought to be made a public example of, for the way that he took to get a certificate was dishonourable. It was as follows. He, Dingwall went to the Rev. William Anderson, at the last Glasgow sacrament, and entered himself as a

communicant, and a joint member, appeared, ate and drank at that solemn table, came home in the afternoon, and fought with his partner. To pass the evening this piece of intelligence was given by herself, his fancy wife. This is an outline of the man's character whom the Rev. Divine had the honour of recommending to the Government agent for a free passage to a foreign colony where men and wives of sober, quiet and inoffensive disposition was wanted. We shall leave him at present with this conviction that if he or her is in life, we will have an opportunity of returning again to the same story or something similar.

Saturday 31st March: A remarkable fine day. Continuation of trades winds. A large hogget of potatoes was hoisted from the fore hold in consequence of [them] getting too hot together. The sailors upset it, the dish, in the act of throwing [it] overboard, the weight being too great. A general scramble took place. Men, women & children mixed in the affray of potato hogging. I received a few from one of the sailors with whom I formed a kind of intimacy. He was a man of colour, a native of Albany in the States of America. From him I received a few as I said. I pared them, washed and cut them into small bits to facilitate the cooking of them, thinking that they would prove a relish to the wife who happened to be badly on that day, and had lost all appetite for victuals. I cheered myself with the prospect of being able to offer her something that she could eat. Labouring under the influence of this idea I got them ready in the coppers which was used upon this occasion, as the whole of the emigrants was concerned in the affair. Every one had their own share put into a bag with a tally on it, after they were ready. I was walking towards the main hatch with them when I heard my name called by the Doctor. I answered and went up to him with the dish containing the favourite mess in my hand. He told me that they were bad looking potatoes and that they ought to be thrown overboard. I told him that I examined them at the time of paring them and that I found them to be free of any smell or softness to make them hurtful, lifting one of them and eating it and then walked away to my berth to share them with the wife, but she would not as much as taste them. I fell too, myself, and ate one or two of them with a bit [of] fried [bacon?] which I had made ready expressly for them. I [was] entirely disappointed, for they were not good. The consequence was after all my trouble to see them thrown over the side, which made me form the resolution of not gathering potatoes on board the Duncan. I became very thirsty after, then the tea time came on and being scarce of sugar I substituted treacle which spoiled it and I was obliged to want, for that night.

Sunday April 1st: This day was very calm and being the Gowkie day all attempts was made to hunt it, but of no effect up to this time, twelve o'clock. Continuation of calm, so that our progress was but very slow.

Monday 2nd: Calm continued. A ship to leeward at a distance of twelve miles. A large flock of small birds hovered about the ship. This indicated that we were approaching land as they are very small, a little larger than a swallow. They are called Mother Carey's chickens. They go in great numbers about the West India Islands and webfooted. George Pinkerton was admitted as a patient to the hospital labouring under a distemper which he contracted by exposing himself too much to the heat of the sun. The brain appears to be affected, for when spoken to he seems to pay no attention for a considerable time. A fever

is the result. A man of the name of Buchanan is badly with the same trouble, but not yet confined, but far spent, and the disease making rapid advances upon the constitution.

Tuesday 3rd April: A beautiful breeze sprang up during the night. Running from ten to eleven knots per hour. Bespoke a small brig from Rio de Janeiro to Bristol. This is the first vessel we spoke to with the trumpet, since we left Greenock. Upon her approach our Chief Mate took a speaking trumpet and in an audible voice, asked them these questions, "Where are you from?" After a few moments pause, a man was seen approaching the main shrouds holding a trumpet in his hand which he instantly applied to his mouth and said "From Rio de Janeiro". Our Mate put the next question "Pray, where are you bound for?", "for Bristol", was the reply. They asked our mate where we were from. The reply was "From Greenock, we're for New South Wales". At these words the speaker on board the brig withdrew the trumpet from his mouth and lowered it to the ground in the attitude of bading us adieu, and the conference ended. The passengers was delighted to see a vessel so near hand, and it formed matter enough for the whole evening to chat about, as all other subjects dwindled into insignificance upon its approach. George Pinkerton was considerably worse this day and consequently the whole of the heads of families was called to the cabin door and charged by the Doctor of their non-compliance to the orders issued regarding their own preservation from the heat of the sun, and enforced the necessity of adhering to the orders. He did not speak from inexperience he said, for this was the sixth time he passed this way, twice to India and four times to [New] South Wales. "You might", continued the Doctor, "in England or in Scotland remove a headache but you will find it quite different here for if the disease gets leave to rest for a day or two, it is out of the power of a medical man to keep it from making an inroad upon the constitution, and I beseech you now, for your welfare, that as soon as you find the least symptom of a headache to apply immediately for relief. The hospital is always open and if I am not there, Mr. Shannon is, and [you] have nothing to do but to apply for yourselves, your wives or families, morning, noon or evening, but the morning is the best time to take medicine when the stomach is empty for the medicine has more effect". The Doctor was right in what he stated regarding their negligence, for a number of the parents allowed their children to go about bare-headed for days together without control. The sick roll is swelling fearfully.

Wednesday 4th April: Fine Breeze. This day the deck was washed with lime juice which gave it a fine smell. George Pinkerton is in a state bordering upon dissolution. Two men, Robertson and McKellar sits up with him this night for the purpose of bathing his head occasionally. The Doctor has no hopes of him. Calm continuing. Little progress made.

Thursday April 5th: Calm with clear sky. No appearances of land as yet. Sickness increasing. Every hour brings forth a fresh case, but not of an infectious nature. Some of the children are worn down to mere shadows. The heat of the sun is intense. Our ship is mostly standing as still as if she was at anchor. George Pinkerton, the man that was sunstruck, died this evening at ½ past seven, leaving a wife and two children to deplore his death. The wife is far advanced in pregnancy which makes her burden greater. She intends to proceed to Sidney, rather than return to Scotland, the reason is obvious. She says that her relations has enough to do for themselves, and as for his friends, they would not look to her. The Government in all probability will assist her and her orphans in her distress. At

least this is to be hoped and I have no doubt but it will be the case, and that humanity will be displayed upon this occasion by those that has it in their power, is the wish of every feeling heart.

Friday 6th April: Died this morning Helen the infant daughter of Robert Edmonstone. She lingered long in severe trouble till the Lord was pleased to put an end to her sufferings by calling her to rest. Pinkerton's body was committed to the deep after the usual rites was gone through. Part of the blubber of a whale was seen floating on the surface of the water attended by a flock of small marine birds. James Bruce was exempted from duty this day in consequence of bad health. A young woman of the name of McLean has been blistered on the head last night. She has suffered severely in the hospital during the former part of the voyage. She is making little better [progress], for the heat appears to increase her trouble. Robert Burgess, alias Crawford, had to go through the operation of getting his head shaved. He has been very careless about himself, exposing himself continually in direct opposition to the Doctor's orders. A ship appeared in sight. She appears to be a Swedish ship of war, homeward bound. We are eagerly looking for a sight of land, the Brazilian shore is the nearest. The body of Helen Edmonstone was committed to the deep in latitude 21° 44' South, longitude 37° 37' [West], died this evening, the only daughter of Mathew Deviney, sawyer, from Greenock. She suffered long in affliction, she being the second child on the sick list on board. This information I received from her father a few hours previous to her death. She was committed to the deep in the evening.

Saturday 7th April: This morning it blows afresh. Running from ten to eleven knots per hour. No land as yet appeared up to this hour, 8 A.M. Our jib boom broke by a gust of wind, it abated toward evening. At nine o'clock a light like a star appeared to the south, it turned out to be the lighthouse on Cape Rio on the coast of Brazil. It is a revolving light and only shewed itself at intervals. The whole coast was illuminated with large sheets of lightning. Towards four in the morning it blew a remarkable hard gale, accompanied with a shower of rain bordering upon a cataract. Being close upon the land it was necessary to put the ship about to get clear by running to the north of Cape Rio. The ship appears not to obey the helm which caused a great hurry, but it was accomplished without any damage.

Sunday 8th April: This morning at five the land is within five miles of us. Cape Rio is a remarkable wild looking place. It reminded me much of the Mull of Kintyre with its bold and frowning promontories verging upon the sea. The north side of it appears quite bleached with the dashing of the sea. The whole of the coast as far as I can discern is one of the most rugged and wildest that ever I beheld. We are 60 miles from Rio de Janeiro. We have to beat against the wind. A great number of small vessels is seen here, mostly brigantines. We speak, nor shews colours to none of them. I breakfasted this morning upon sago for the first time as being lighter than burgoo. This change is owing to a slight headache I complained of yesterday. It was accompanied with a heaviness and inclination to sleep. I kept it a profound secret as I dreaded much to partake of any medicine, except salts. I never was fond of drugs at home but far less in this place. But I have reason to thank God, the Great Physician of soul and body, that I am this day free from every distemper connected with my body. This day at 12 o'clock we are laying close upon the land to the southward of Cape Rio. The country presents a beautiful aspect as far as I can discern. The

hills is nearly obscured from our sight and fine level plains enclosed with a splendid beach shews themselves to the passing mariner. The banks of sand at the water's edge is as white as snow. The fields produces more sugar in this quarter than the same extent of land does on the face of the earth. The hills is covered with beautiful green shrubbery, no doubt of a valuable kind. The beach abounds with turtle. There was a small land bird resembling a green linnet [which] perched itself upon our rigging. It suffered itself to be caught by two of the women who was on the point quarreling about it. The woman that held it in her hand threw it from her and it flew towards the land. The horizon is illuminated with sheets of lightning as has been the case for some time past. It is quite common in this quarter, being very near to the land, it was considered advisable to heave the lead, the sounding was 36 fathom water. In about an hour after it was found to be 33 fathom, upon which the ship was put about to get clear of the land. We were favoured by the breeze which sprung off the shore. I went to bed at nine and rose at two in the morning but there [was] no land in sight although the moon shone very bright.

Monday 9th April: This morning at six no land appeared. At seven Sugarloaf hill was visible. It is well known for it has the appearance of a sugar loaf. We are approaching it but slowly for want of wind. I will dispense with saying any more about it till I get a better view of it. Everything is put in order as we expect a visit from the Government Inspector as soon as we enter the harbour. As we approach the harbour, the appearance of the country is more inviting, hills rising in various forms stretching themselves with their lofty summits into the sea, with beautiful bays or small lochs entering betwixt them, strikes the eye of the beholder with admiration. There is not a hill, however lofty, that is not covered with vegetation, with very few exceptions. Nature has dealt bountifully with this quarter. For beauty, the scenery is indeed sublime, far beyond the comprehension of man. I am entirely lost in thought. I at once exclaim in the language of the inspired penman, while admiring the goodness and perfection of the Divine Being; he exclaims these memorable words "transported with the view, I am lost in wonder, love and praise"

Sugarloaf hill is at the mouth of the harbour to the left as you enter, it rises from the verge of the water in a conical form. It inclines to look abruptly on the interior part of the country, something similar to a rick of hay thrown to one side with the wind. There is a fortification on the right hand whose communication is cut off from the land by a drawbridge. After sailing a little further into the harbour, we were hailed by the guard ship and ordered to let go our anchor, which we did. By this time it was quite dark, which prevented us from making any observations. A child died during the night.

Tuesday 10th April: This morning we had a complete view of the shore, and also part of the city of which I will give a faint description in the observations made on land. At an early hour a boat came alongside manned by four black slaves. An officer was on board of her, which spoke English and asked where we were from and where we were bound for. On his being satisfied he told the Chief Mate to hoist the British flag to the masthead, which was done, and he went off. Shortly after, another boat came alongside with three officer inspectors. They went to the cabin, remained for a short time, and went off. From them the Doctor received permission to go on shore and also the captain. The ship was permitted to go a little nearer the shore as there was no infectious trouble on board. A number of gentlemen came on board throughout the day, but they appeared to be private characters.

The Doctor came on board in the afternoon after having had an interview with authorities. He had a great desire that the passengers should be accommodated with some island where we could enjoy ourselves for a few weeks, erect tents so as to allow the ship to get the air for that space which would add greatly to the comfort of the passengers, but that request was rejected. The next [request] was that we would be allowed to go on shore with our wives and families. That was likewise refused on the grounds that we would not be likely to submit to the officious characters of which their Military Police is composed of. This it appears has been the case on former occasions and it was necessary to guard against anything of a similar nature. Tradesmen was brought on board for the purpose of repairing those articles which had been so long out of repair. Our cooking materials was included. The Doctor intimated to us that five men would be allowed to land at a time, and for the sake of good order they were to be drawn by ballot which was done, and the first lot went off on the following morning.

Wednesday 11th: This morning the men went on shore with the beef boat. I was sent on shore with cooking materials to the smith's shop. I had a long way to travel after landing. The Captain was along with me accompanied by a Mr. Fox who acted as guide and interpreter. The streets which we had to pass is remarkable narrow, more the appearance of lanes than streets and very dirty. Their gutters is placed in the centre of the street and all the dust that is carried with the current which passes along the street, is left to accumulate to a considerable depth so that it is mostly out of a person's power to cross from the one side of the street to the other without the mud passing over the shoe mouth. Their pavement, if I give it the name, is very irregular, sloping to the middle of the street which makes uneasy walking, besides being interrupted in your progress by a set of fellows riding on mules as close to the houses as they can without jamming their legs to the wall, [&] a band of slaves carrying bags or pitchers of water on their heads, rattling small toy baskets full of shells in their hands. They constantly rattle them as they do in Scotland to divert young children when out of humour. They have a kind of song which they babble out. At the same time as I was upon duty I had no time to make further remarks. We reached the smith's shop about eleven forenoon. He is a native of France. He has one of his own countrymen working as a journeyman along with him, one Portuguese and the rest slaves, five in number, two of them was chained at their meal hours. There is 2 double hearths in the shop. [We went] from the smithy to a water merchant and the Captain bought twenty tons of water as part of a supply for the ship. Their currency is all of copper and paper. Five of their coppers is given for an English sixpence, ten for a shilling, etc. For a half-crown piece they tender a paper note called a Milreis. There is some of them valued at 5, 10, 15 and 20/-. Oranges is very cheap, we could purchase 100 for sixpence. Liquors is likewise cheap. One bottle of rum for a shilling, brandy 1/3, gin one shilling. As for wine, a common tumbler is given for the fifth part of an English sixpence. Tobacco 1/- per lb., sugar 3d. per lb., ground coffee 10d. per lb., unground 5d. I asked the price of a set of common earthenware cups and saucers. I was told 10/- sterling. I am confident that I could purchase the same kind in Glasgow for 1/8 sterling. I asked the price of a small bowl about the size of a small milk bowl. I wished to buy it for drinking our tea, but they would take no less than eight pence for it. I left it for some other person that [had] more money to spare, for the same bowl would be bought in Glasgow for one penny, or at most three half pence. I went on board in the Captain's gig. The men that was out on leave returned on board in the evening. They had a quantity of

oranges and other necessaries along with them and some of them had bought some spirits which was taken from them as soon as they entered the ship which was a great disappointment to them. However they could not help it for the Doctor would not yield to give it up, as he was determined to detain others from doing the like, but they had as much in their heads however as would suffice for one night. The enquiries made by our fellow passengers regarding the manners of the people on shore kept us up to a pretty late hour for their curiosity was great to hear how the natives behaved with British Subjects. Their features, the likeness of the streets, their houses, their shops, the costumes of the men and women, the very coins, was minutely examined. Indeed every question that an inquisitive mind could suggest was put, till the men began to get peevish and short in the temper and some of them getting rather sleepy put an end to the host of questions which was in store for them to answer.

Thursday 12th April: This morning another five men was landed in the beef boat. I went on shore along with the Doctor. Went alongside of a Yankie Ship of War which the Doctor boarded. She was a beautiful ship mounting sixty four guns of a large calibre. From her we went on shore, and after the Doctor had called in [at] an Englishman's shop of the name of Hudson, the doctor asked me if I could make out the Blacksmith's shop. I said I could and off we set. I conducted the Doctor through several streets on the right path, but after traveling for about fifteen minutes I could get no further and had to stand stock still. We could not ask for the right road from any person as we could not understand their language and we had no shift left us but to return to Mr. Hudson's shop. I was not without some fear of losing our way on our return, but we made it out and there found a guide, and after reaching the shop the smiths was not working it, being their dinner hours, as they have two hours to dinner.

Friday 13th April: I went on shore this morning to the blacksmith's but being Good Friday there was no work. I had a fine ramble through the town but the greatest part of the shops were shut particularly on the after part of the day. The ship's boat landed to take the Doctor on board. I jumped into it and the Doctor ordered the seamen to call at another landing place to take some parcels on board which he had purchased upon our landing there. The whole of the passengers which was on shore on leave was waiting. We took them with their goods all on board. As soon as they entered the boat the Doctor asked if they had any spirits with [them] for he was resolved not to allow any to go on board that had anything of the kind. They all declared they had none. One man owned that he had about a gill in a small bottle. He produced the bottle and was allowed to pass. I at the same time had in my pocket a bottle full of gin which I purchased. I was not free of fear at the time as I sat on the Doctor's right hand. I was not suspected in the least as I was on duty and consequently I got it on board without molestation, after which I drank a glass to our safe arrival in Sidney. I likewise bought a basket of oranges containing above forty oranges for fourpence halfpenny. The British bark, Glenbervie entered this port from Sidney in 93 days, she had been there with emigrants and was out for 13 months.

Saturday 14th April: This morning it came to my turn to go on shore along with McTier, Graham, McLean, Johnston, Shearer and my own son. The Captain's gig being rather small, as he was going on shore himself, we were transported to the pinnance and was

rowed on shore by four of the sailors. We were landed on a small sloping pier close to the Hotel de [Panorama?] a splendid looking inn commanding a view of the whole harbour. The first thing we did after landing was to treat the sailors to a glass of gin of which we partook. We next went to the fruit market but it was so dirty and muddy that we could [not] walk through it without going shoe deep in mud. We made no purchases there as it was early in the day. From thence we went to Charles Trassis an English grocer. Them that was with me made a few purchases there. I also bought things for some of the passengers on board. We left them there till our return from a ramble we meant to take through the town. We set off towards the blacksmith's shop to see how he was getting on with the work belonging to the ship. This was walking up to instructions I received from the Doctor before I left the ship. Vulcan was thrang working at the tiller of the ruther. After waiting a while he asked us if we would take a glass of French brandy and by our acceding to it he sent one of his men for a bottle of the best. He broke the seal and made us drink the whole of it before we stopped. There was seven of us and himself. We offered him one in return of friendship but he declined taking any more. He shook hands with us and we left the shop. We then took to the hills and entered an enclosure that had a footpath through. We were directed by several individuals in the most condescending manner. Everyone we met with vied with each other in shewing us kindness. We ascended the summit of a lofty hill where we had a view of the whole of the harbour, right and left, and of the whole of the town, the greatest part of which is built in a hollow surrounded with hills. We sat under a beautiful large tree with a circular seat of stone built under it. The scenery around us was most delightful to the eye, and to the ear most charming, by the firing of small and great guns from the forts. [This] accompanied the ringing of the City bells, which continued for a considerable time. As it was Easter Saturday we descended by a path that led through a gentleman's policy. All manner of fruit and flowers was around us, likewise the cotton tree from which I took a bud full of cotton, which I carried on board. We passed through the gentleman's courtyard ascending by a stair on the one side and descending by one on the other. We made signs to three black men that [were] working in the garden for some flowers which they instantly gave us. Had we been in Scotland and had taken a walk through a gentleman's garden we would in all probability be thrown into prison and punished for our temerity, but here in a foreign land and surrounded with strangers we were not only allowed to pass but every indulgence granted to us as far as our curiosity led us, to view the surrounding scenery. We left this garden after having the pleasure [of] walking through it for nearly two hours. We entered a dirty street partly overgrown with weeds. It contained houses only on the one side in some parts. Our attention was attracted by an effigy which was stuck up at the corner of [a] lane. Upon our approach we were told it was that of Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of our Saviour. Being a little thirsty we entered a grog shop and satisfied ourselves at very little expense with a glass of gin and a tumbler of wine to wash it down for about 2½d. each man. We would pay in Glasgow for the same drink and same quantity at least one and sixpence sterling. As the day was advancing we went to see some of their Churches which was wide open. We had a passenger belonging to the Church of Rome, along with us. We were allowed to examine the whole of the fabric, some of which was very large but not commodious. As there was no seating, they were not so splendidly furnished as I anticipated. There was a great number of images, some of them resembling [gold] and some silver but I am rather skeptical as to there being either, but be they what they were, they were there at the time. We repaired to the English grocers where

we had left the articles we bought in the morning and being in need of some refreshment we were directed to the Hotel Dunord which is the name in the Portuguese language, but in the English language it is called the North Hotel. The landlord has both signs above the door, the lower flat of which is furnished for drinking coffee and other liquids of every description. The back part of the same floor is fitted up for dinners and checks. One of our party and I asked for some dinner. We were sent to the dining apartment. It was furnished with about twenty small tables with two neat square stools for each as there is only two diners at each table. We paid one and three pence sterling for our dinner and afterwards returned to the coffee room where we left our companions with whom we partook of [a] glass of brandy, the bottle of which cost us 1/3 sterling. This Hotel is situated in a street called Rua Directa No. 94. The town is very ill provided with suitable places for the relief of nature, for during the space [of] five days that I had occasion to visit the town, I could not find a place of the kind, although I made diligent search for it. The beach being the only place to answer the purpose, after an hour's search, making signs to them in the best way I could, a slave sitting watching a canoe, took notice of me, and seeing that I was a stranger, beckoned to me to enter his little vessel and transact business over the stern of it, which I did. In return I gave him a copper to buy a glass of gin to himself. The copper is equal to a penny farthing English money. I shook hands with my black friend, wishing from my very heart that his generous limbs was free from their detestable bonds as his humane disposition deserved better treatment, for the very grasp of his hand indicated the feelings of his heart. And as my companions was waiting and the night pretty dark, we hired a boat and arrived on board before eight o'clock.

Sunday 15th April: As the markets is always open on the former part of Sunday, some of the passengers went on shore to purchase some articles they stood in need of. They returned in good time in the evening. Two gentlemen from the town attended divine service on board and afterwards inspected the ship.

April 16th: This morning I went on shore to the blacksmith's but being Easter Monday they were not at work. I had a stroll through the town along with the passengers whose turn it was to be on shore. After strolling through many of the streets we lost sight of each other. Three of them remained with me. We made our way to the beach at the one end of the town. We fell in with two British subjects, one which belonged to Inverness and resided in this place for the period of 23 years. He told us he had been very healthy during the whole time except the first months. He told us that the Glenbervie had a passenger on board that went to Sidney a few years since and had bought an estate that yielded him £3,000 per annum. He was returning to his native land to enjoy the fruits of his labour. The rest of our conversation which was but very short, turned upon topics no way interesting to the reader. The ruther of our ship which was sadly out of repairs as having lost all the gudgeons except the battens and this was what we had no conception of at the time the ruther gave way, or if it was known to the ship's crew, it was kept a profound secret from the passengers. It was brought on shore in a lighter, and some of the passengers that had not been on shore stowed themselves therein with the intention of landing. But the Doctor being on shore and seeing the lighter close to the sand and suspecting by the number of men on board of her that there was more men than what ought to be, he hired a boat and followed her to the landing place. He found his suspicion well grounded and among them two invalids. After rebuking them

for their doings and the Mate for allowing them to land, he instantly hired 2 boats to bring them on board, leaving me on shore to shift for myself, but I watched the ship's boat and got on board in good time. Mrs. McKinlay fell down the fore hatch by which accident her shoulder is dislocated, and some of her ribs broken. She was conveyed to the hospital where medical aid was instantly granted.

Tuesday 17th April: Nothing remarkable this day. One of the cooks having been refused permission to land, he in retaliation for his grievances delayed cooking the tea till 8 o'clock in place of six. He was called to the cabin for his neglect and threatened with the gaol if he did not mind his work better. He told them he did not care and instantly left the cabin.

Wednesday 18th April: The cook was sent on shore to be examined before the British Consul, and not yielding to their wishes he was committed to prison till such time as the ship would sail. The witnesses against him was McTier and Paul Main, the former of them is overseer for seeing the decks clean, the latter overseer over the burgoon copper. They came on board after leaving the poor cook in a dungeon for the grievous fault which he had the misfortune to commit.

Thursday 19th April: This morning Mrs. McNaught was delivered of a son being the fourth birth on board.

Friday April 20th: An eruption took place on board in consequence of something derogatory to the passengers' characters being found inserted in W. Q's journal, the pages of which if report be true, has been kept by the writer thereof for the purpose of inserting not only what passed under his notice but of the passengers' private character. A few of the passengers which saw the book by chance and perused it for a short [while] declares it to be the case, their own names being some of what it contained. This being made known among the emigrants, it created a general discontent among them and a great desire to see the book. The writer of the suspicious [book] was brought forth to answer for himself in [the] presence of the Doctor but he declared that [what] it contained was true. The Doctor asked [for] the book with the intention of reading it at a convenient season and upon receiving it, he sealed it. This did not altogether appease the discontent which prevailed among them, but it prevented any rash act which otherwise might be thoughtlessly committed. Numberless was the plans suggested for the purpose of hearing the document read, but of the whole none was found to prove effective. They at last came to the resolution of getting my journal read so as to form a precedent, by which means the writer of the other might be induced to satisfy them with the reading of his. After passing this resolution they dismissed for the night.

Saturday 21st April: This morning after the duty of the ship was over, breakfast and all included, I was sent for to lay open the pages of my journal, open to the whole of the emigrants. I told the messenger that I was ready to grant their demand, if acceded to my request which was a fair one viz. that they would choose a committee from among themselves for the purpose [of] searching each sheet as I would hand to them, and as soon as they were done with it, to hand it to me and I would give them another. This some of them entirely objected to on the ground that they had a right to a public investigation of it.

Their ground was false ground I told them and they would have to search for the rights they were talking of. Accompanying the words with a turn of the key of the box and placing the papers therein, telling them that I would never take them out of it upon any other condition than what I stated to them. Some of the most refractory of them declared they would find a way to get at it. I told them that they were at liberty to do so, but to consider what they were doing, as a rash act would subject them to punishment, but that the box was there before them and to open it upon their condition was a point I never would yield to. This being reported to the whole of them, the greatest part of which declared that I was in the right, and [they] instantly selected four men to examine the book. I told them to sit on each side which they did, [they] examined the pages one after [another] until the whole was finished and found nothing therein that they could condemn. They went away quite satisfied and gave in their report to the general body. I followed close after them and asked the general body if they were satisfied with the report of their representatives. They told they [were] quite satisfied. By this acclamation, them and I became good friends. They were on the point of going to the Doctor to ask a reading of the other journal but he was on his way out of the cabin to go on shore and it was thought prudent not to interrupt him at such unseasonable time. He returned shortly after dinner and called the writer of the other journal to the poop, but what passed betwixt them I had no opportunity of finding out, but the result was visible shortly after, as another man was called and installed in the office, which he held from the time we embarked at Greenock till this day, that was the serving of the provisions which exempted him from all duty. Besides the high confidence which the Doctor reposed in him, he was a man that was not loved by the men. He detected omissions which the Doctor would in all probability pass over for one time, such as stopping the bread, sugar and other articles if the person was one number behind. He stopped the water for washing from several individuals because they could not produce dishes to hold at the given time which was impossible for men to do on several occasions. The result was that they had to go to the Doctor to get orders for getting it. I myself had to go to [the Doctor] at two different times for an order of the kind. One of those times, I doing duty on shore for the ship, and with regard to other things, he was equally tyrannical. He is a man that is not fit to oversee any free man and woe be to the slave under him. For my part I would not trust my dog to his care. But now that he is on a level with the rest and obliged to sweep the decks, watch, and clean the water closets as well as any of us, I will in pity give up saying any more about it at this time, but I hope the lesson he has received will make him more gentle for the future. A child which had been previously sick died, which makes the number of deaths up to twenty since we left Scotland. William McKinlay is always keeping very frail and still a patient in the hospital. The men which went on leave this day on shore did not return in time with the exception of one that had the good luck of getting a chance of the Capt's gig. Three of them came on board at a pretty late hour, another alone, and one remained on shore all night which caused a deal of excitement. His wife was in great fear during the night. This neglect of men allowed by their [character] to be of sturdy habits, furnished matter for conversation for the rest of the emigrants, for part of the night. Particularly as one of their wives expressed herself in bitter terms against the party that went on shore on Saturday the 14th, eight days previous, because they did not come on board till eight in the evening. The same woman declared that she would not for ten pounds [believe] that her man would behave in the same [manner]. She did not scruple to say that the delay was caused by intemperance and that it would have the tendency to keep other

men from getting on shore. I was myself one of the party this accused for a fault that we were not guilty of. It is true indeed and I will not deny but what we enjoyed ourselves, with the beverage offered for our acceptance on shore. But with great reserve, as we as well as those that went on shore before us, was warned of the nature of the liquids we were likely to get on shore. The Doctor was the only man we had to fear if we were to do wrong. But upon our presenting ourselves before him he was perfectly satisfied with the way we behaved ourselves and gave orders for another set to make ready for the next day.

Sunday 22nd April: This morning the man came on board, after as he expressed, having fulfilled his determination of sleeping one night in South America. But I am rather skeptical on that point. I believe his sleeping on shore was rather involuntary, but allowing him to have a desire to sleep on shore for one night, as he said, and also his sleep to be sweet and comfortable. He paid as sweet for it, as he had to pay three shillings sterling for the half of a room. The doctor was very much dissatisfied at his conduct and said that he would be the last, as he was fully resolved to stop the system, and he kept his word, as he always did. For the men whose turn it was to go on shore went to him for a document, which he usually gave to each company, in case of anything happening them so as to enable them to have resource to the British Consul. He utterly refused them on the score that the last that went on shore did not act as they ought to have done. This, the only recreation we had, was put an end to by the very men that was most likely to disclaim anything of the kind, had they not been seen by so many and Mrs. [blank] that declared she would not for ten pounds [believe] that her husband would behave in like manner for that she had never seen him drunk. He, by bad luck, happened to be one of the party for whose conduct the visiting system was stopped. It is really amusing to hear men and women preaching against their neighbours, with faces as long as my arm, while they and their friends, on the first opportunity offered to them, rushes into a worst fault. Not that they do it willingly, but when they get a certain length they have no control over themselves. I will not say that they were drunk but just "a wee drap in their ee" as the poet expressed. One good action they did I must own, and that was to keep the rest of the men from getting tipsy while in this harbour, and that will be some consolation to them.

The two boys that had the charge of the [hanging?] stove for drying the decks happened to let it fall over the side owing to the rope by which they carried it, being burnt through. McTier reported it to the Doctor and he told me that the Doctor was going to make the boys pay for it. This was very hard laws to make to make boys pay for an article that went overboard by mere accident, while two men that had the misfortune to let two buckets overboard was allowed to pass. But I will dispense with saying any more on the subject till such time as we see whether the demand is made or not.

Monday 23rd April: This day the bread was overturned and examined. The whole of it was brought upon the poop and picked [over]. All the male emigrants was engaged at this work. There was about 30 cwt. of bad bread found among it. It was inspected by two Naval Officers and condemned. The ruther was taken alongside this evening after it had gone through a thorough repair. Owing to the night getting very dark there was no attempt made to ship it, so the lighter was allowed to remain alongside all night.

Tuesday 24th April: Early this morning the ruther was shipped. A diver was brought from shore to dive under the water to see if it was right in its place which he did in a few minutes. The grating of the boiler was missing and a great deal of work about it, and whoever has been the perpetrator of the deed, God only knows. But the cook thought proper to mention to the Doctor that I made a great deal of enquiries about it and that he suspected it might be me. The Doctor confronted me about it and told me that, he the Doctor did not accuse [me], but that I was suspected of doing it. I in my turn told the Doctor that I would repel the insinuation and told him to his face that his suspicion was groundless and that if I was on shore that I would lay the case before the British Consul. The cook was called to state his case. He said that I made a deal of enquiries about the grating and said to him, never to mind it, for that we would make a new one for it. That was an arrant lie for I did not express these words. Neither did I ask him any questions regarding what the Doctor said to him about it. That was another fabrication, for I had no sinister motives for asking anything about it more than any other person. It is true indeed that I helped, along with another man, to place a few pieces of iron hoop to serve as a temporary grating for the purpose of warming a little tea [for] the passengers. Whether this was an inducement for them to suspect me or not, I have no means of knowing. But it was perfectly visible that the blame was thrown on my shoulders for the purpose of answering some end or other, and I am doomed to bear the weight of a crime which I had no hand in. And as I am fully resolved to lay the case before His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor as soon as we land at Sidney, and then it will perhaps be found out how the grating was disposed of, and may the Lord protect the innocent and bring to light the guilty.

Wednesday 25th April: A tank of fresh water was taken alongside containing 50 tons. It kept our men in work for the whole day and made up the deficiency in that useful commodity. This, along with 3 tanks that was formerly taken on board, 2 of which contained 50 tons each and one twenty tons, made up 170 tons in all. This night after preparing my fishing lines I went to the poop in order to fish. It was after ten o'clock, the Ship Steward and the cabin boy was there before me. Upon my approach the latter asked in a commanding tone what I wanted. I told him I wanted to fish and he told me there was no allowance for passengers to fish on the poop, and that the Doctor desired him to turn every one of us away if we attempted to go there. I told him the Doctor would have to send another person to tell me that, or otherwise, come himself, at the same time, throwing the end of the line into the water with vengeance and bestowing a curse upon my impudent interrogator. While this engaged, a fish had seised the bait. This ended the strife for a time. After taking it upon the poop I went down below with it, and placing it in a tub, and by the aid of the light, I unhooked it for I found [it] a difficult task to accomplish in the dark, as it was well defended with sharp fins or prickles that pierced me to the bone. It also squealed like a young rat which made me doubt whether to keep it or let it go, but upon being told it was good eating I kept hold of it and again returned to the fishing station, which by this time was taken by my friend the cabin boy. For it appears that as soon as some of the passengers noticed me with the fish, that they flocked to the poop, from whence they were instantly turned by him, signifying to them that he was instructed by the Doctor to do so, and after he had cleared the poop he took his station as mentioned. He blamed me for sending the rest of them up, which I denied, as well I might, for I had as little relish for too many to be there, as he had. He told me I did not appear to heed what the Doctor said. I

said I was not afraid of the Doctor. While my fault was only fishing, which I considered no fault, and desired him, for a young puppy, to go and tell the Doctor so. And that the sea was as free to me as it was to either him or the Doctor, and told him that I would see him, the cabin boy, d..d before I would stir a foot till such time as I was ordered to do so by the Doctor personally, or some creditable messenger from him, telling him, that if he had a desire to frighten people from the poop with his impudent gab, that he had selected the wrong man when he selected me. And with these words I dashed my hook and sinker into the water right on the top of his line upon which he drew in his line and went to his former station alongside of the Steward who had all this time hearkened to the conversation without speaking a single word. He had no sooner taken his seat beside the Steward than another fish was caught by me. This was my second one and yet neither of them had caught any, which I dare say galled the boy a good [deal]. But whether or not he held his peace for the rest of the night, none had the pleasure of catching any, as the tide which was very quick there, was on the turn, and therefore the lines, notwithstanding the weight of the sinkers, only skipped upon the surface of the water. And as it was folly to persist any longer, I went to bed well pleased with my success as it put within my reach the means of breakfasting upon fresh fish the next morning.

Thursday 26th April: This day there was 1½ ton of bread taken on board from the naval store in a launch belonging to one of Her Majesty's war ships, the other bread having been thrown over the side. This morning my first work was to gut my fish and prepare it for breakfast. At the time of doing so I took the opportunity of examining it. It was quite different from any fish I had ever seen. The head of it was shaped like that of a kingfish. The mouth also was the same, the only difference being two long things underneath the under jaw termed beard by the seamen. The body somewhat resembled that of fish quite common on the Western shores of Scotland called cro'tan, the tail of the same shape as that of a mackerel. It was allowed by the sailors that a wound inflicted by the fins of this fish was injurious, their points being poisonous. But this, like some of the rest of their stories, I found to be fictitious. As I happened to be pierced by accident in [the] thumb while in the act of unhooking one of them, but I felt no more pain from it than I [did] upon former occasions from a needle or pin. The fish when boiled proved a great relish, very fat and hearty and consequently would prove injurious to strangers if taken immoderately. The name given to it is catfish. The night being the only time for catching it, I made my appearance again upon the poop to the great grief of my companion of the previous night. For his grumbling bespoke such upon my first approach, and at last he asked me if I was meaning to persevere in fishing there against orders. I told him that I heard no orders to the contrary, saving from himself, and that I valued nothing he said. The Doctor desired him not to learn the emigrants to fish, for that he did not wish them to fish, as the fish in this place was not good for eating. I returned for answer, that I did not thank him for his learning, as I did not need any of it, and if the fish was not good for eating, what was his reason for spending his time in fishing it. "For sport" he said. "Well" says I, "[I] am very partial to the same sport". By this time another of the emigrants, as he termed, made his appearance and placed himself right upon Mark's right hand, for that was the boy's name. Mark, seeing that he was this overcome, drew in his line and left us in possession of the poop. Shortly after I caught a fish, one of the sailors whom had by this time, tried his luck as he called it, caught another, and my fellow passenger another, the sailor having gone to

another part of the [ship], we were again left by ourselves and in a short time my neighbour caught a second and a third. Instantly a monster of a shark paraded by the stern. We instantly hauled in our lines. In the act of doing this I felt a great weight upon my line. I gave it a butt jerk so as to make [the] hook take a proper hold, thinking it to be a small fish. But to my surprise and chagrin the line gave way with such a force as to make it spring up and entangle itself in the mizzen rigging. After some time I got it disengaged and found that three or four fathoms of the line was gone along with the hook. Thus being left with only one small hook, I put it on, but it was so small as to be insufficient to keep the hold although I remained on the station till four in the morning. My neighbour during that time caught four. I went to my bed bestowing many curses upon the monster that had so unceremoniously deprived me of my hook and line.

Friday 27th April: There was five live oxen taken on board and a quantity of fruit, all things making ready to set sail tomorrow.

Saturday 28th April: This morning being the fixed time for our departure from Rio, and as it was reported on the previous night that we would start at day break, I rose up pretty early to see the operation starting. 2 of Her Britannic Majesty's ships was under full sail and as they were to take the same route, we anticipated to have their company. Their tow boats with their crew was very busy. About 8 o'clock we weighed anchor and bore off. One of the war ships sent a boat with a complement of twelve men to help to tow us out as they themselves had got clear of the harbour. After labouring for a considerable time their services was dispensed with and they returned to their own ship which was already so far ahead of us as to appear more like a pleasure boat than a ship of war. We were obliged to drop anchor to keep us off the rocks. We lay in this manner for about an hour and a half when the anchor was again weighed, and in about half an hour it was dropped. In this manner we passed the afternoon raising and dropping anchor where, if they had lifted it in time in the morning, the same as the rest of the ships did, they might be as far out to sea as what the rest was. But the Duncan was always unfortunate, whether it was owing to a fault in the commanders or the men, I will not presume to say, but it must harm some of them. Her Chief Officers may be qualified seamen for anything that I know, but at the same time they were qualified tyrants, proud and insolent in the extreme, and looked upon the passengers as beings not worth attending to, and had [it] not been that the Doctor was always in attendance, the calamity in the ship would be still greater, for Mr. Martin, the Chief Mate, declared that if he had it in his [power] that he would tame us as they tame the lions viz. with hunger. This was the temper and feelings of the man that was second in command of an emigrant ship. This was the man who we had mostly to deal with on the dreary voyage. A man of a turbulent temper and fit to commit any act of cruelty upon those he had under his control, and by it he received from his men the appellation, "Danger". I will dispense with saying anymore about him at the present as I expect to have some occasion to treat upon the same subject at some future period. This evening one of the oxen brought on board last night was slain for the use of the passengers. The mode of killing was a novel way. A carpenter's mallet was used on the occasion and in place of taking the pointed end, the poor animal received ½ dozen blows on the forehead without falling. The seventh stroke was with the sharp end upon which he fell. Two or three strokes afterwards finished the operation with the mallet. After being skinned and opened, the whole of the entrails was thrown

overboard, head and feet included. At seven the breeze sprung up upon which the anchor was raised and we stood out to sea.

Sunday 29th April: This morning we were out of sight of any land. Two ships was in sight steering South by South East at the rate of 10½ knots per hour. Sea sickness prevailed among many of the passengers. I, as formerly, suffered at the same time. I vomited heartily and wished the ship had never touched at any port to cause such sufferings. I went to bed to sleep away sorrows, and lay there for the rest of the day. In the evening I got a little relief so as to enable me to partake of a cup of tea. Flora, the captain's favourite dog fell from the poop into the sea which was running very [fast] so as to give over the thoughts of saving her, and she was allowed to perish.

Monday 30th April: This morning the 2nd bullock was killed, in what [way] I know not, as I was in bed at the time. For when I went upon deck they were in the act of skinning it. But as far as I could learn, the animal, it appeared, was nearly dead with sickness so that the operation of killing would not be a difficult one. The bread bag belonging to No. 19 was appearingly light for which reason McKellar, my mess mate, brought it to the cabin door to ask the reason. Andrew Ross having told the Mate that such was the case, he, the Mate, said that he would have us to watch and see that all was getting justice.

Tuesday 1st May: Martin the Mate sent for me and told me that I was to help Mr. Ross and see that all was getting their weight. I told him that [I] did not dispute his weight and that it was not me that returned the bag. His Honour told me to pull the coul off my head. I asked him if he thought I was accessory to every fault, upon which he desired me to get out of the cabin, for that I had no right to question what his thoughts was, and told me at the same [time] that he would punish me if ever he heard [me] saying a word about meat or weight. Reflections upon Martin's words, and the turbulent temper he shewed during this part of the voyage, he, we've [seen] was not content but when he was bestowing abusive language upon some person or other, and like the generality of petty tyrants, possessed of the heart to exercise tyranny, but divested of the power, he was galled to the heart if any person presumed to return him an answer. Another bullock was slain this day for the use of the emigrants. But the greatest part of them would not take the flesh nor the soup, so the pigs came in for the greatest share of the half starved animals.

Wednesday 2nd May: Good stiff breeze. Running right before the wind at ten knots per hour. Sea sickness completely gone. A ship seen to our weather bow far ahead, which we soon made up, and she fell far astern. She appeared to be a French vessel. One of the stoves was kindled for drying the deck. But through neglect of those that, as being substitutes, or the obstinacy of the man that had the oversight of it, the flame got that strong as to cause great fear among the emigrants for their safety. McTier, whatever was his reason for it, would not extinguish the flames nor remove the stove, till such time as the carpenter of the ship ordered it instantly to be taken upon deck. This being tried, but could not effect it without endangering the ship by the myriads of sparks that flew from it with the force of the wind, it was found necessary at last, to throw water upon it to enable them to get it with safety upon deck. And had the Doctor or the Captain but known of such negligence in those in whom they placed so much confidence, there is no doubt but they would have censured

their conduct on such occasion, because their livery ran the same risk as ours, for a fire at sea is a calamity whose very thought is enough to make the stoutest heart to tremble with awe. The fourth bullock was killed this day and it was much wished it had been the last, for very few of the emigrants could make use of the meat. Some of them stewed their share, some fried theirs. There was a variety of ways of cooking the meat, each party striving to make it in such a way as to please their palate, but the regulation of the ship was to boil it some times with a little barley, and some times a little oatmeal sprinkled upon the water after the beef was taken out of the coppers. This is what the natives of the Highlands of Scotland term brockan, but [it is] not half so palatable nor yet so wholesome for the one is generally made of fat mutton, but the other of half starved bullocks, reared in a tropical climate and rendered worse by being kept on ship board, destitute of either food or water, except what was barely fit to keep the life in them.

Thursday 3rd May: This day the weather became a little colder which caused us to put on an additional article of clothes more than we used for a considerable period previous. The wind keeping still favourable. The ship kept on her course at a rapid pace, which if continued would bring us to the desired port sooner than was formerly anticipated, and God grant that this may be the case for we are heartily tired of our present situation. A number of the emigrants turned sickly and it was considered that it was owing to the dislike they took to the fresh meat. Whether this was the case or not I will not take it upon me to say, but it was reported to be the case, and one of the emigrants said in my own hearing that he never was sick with flesh meat during his lifetime. But upon this occasion, for my own part, the very smell of it when boiled was sufficient to turn my stomach against it, and upon several occasions compelled me to withdraw, while the rest was at dinner. This might arise from me being effected a little with sea sickness, but after I recovered, I could not endure it.

Friday 4th May: The wind continuing still favourable and the weather a degree colder. This morning being at the cabin door waiting upon a little oatmeal, as was commonly the case, for there was a gill dish full of it allowed to each family for gruel if they had a desire for it. But some families got four times that quantity whatever was the reason. But upon this morning a Mrs. Pollock asked double the usual quantity, stating at the same time that she was not able to eat the victuals allowed her owing to sickness and she would prefer a little brose. She solicited the Steward to indulge her with it. The Steward hesitated a little, considering what to do, when Martin the First Mate spoke and said that he would keep it off her allowance if she received any more meal than the one dish full. But however, she was allowed by the Doctor to get it. But Martin at this time, as upon other occasions, took to do with things he had no business with, but merely to gratify his empty pride and make people believe he had power and foresight. Of the former he had a little but of the latter he had none. It is somewhat curious that he would challenge a woman that was sick, for asking [for] the full of [a] gill dish of meal while he allowed others to get six or seven fulls without saying a single word to them about it. But he selected the time nicely to bluster out his nonsense when the Doctor was in bed or absent, for had he been present, he, Martin, would not have dared to utter a single sentence upon the subject. As soon as the doctor found it convenient he sent for the heads of the messes, for the time being [&] told them that in consequence of the periodical disease that prevailed among them, he thought proper

to call them for the purpose of stating [to] them that his belief was that the trouble did [not] originate from the cause ascribed to, but rather to the quick transition from heat to cold. And he then made allusions to one that laboured under the same trouble that had not tasted of the fresh meat, but the meat might be stewed for this day in place of being boiled in broth, to try if it would please better. This was done and it pleased some, but others declared that it was not a bit better, and declared that they would not taste of it again. After the breakfast was over Mr. McLean, the ship's Schoolmaster, was sent by the Doctor to enquire of the emigrants to what part of Scotland they were born in. This being done it was remarked that no name was inserted in the list but those belonging to the Highlands of Scotland. This created a great deal of conjecture among the Low Country people. Various reasons was assigned for it, and some families in that I thought was belonging to the Highlands, denied it at the time, thinking no doubt, it was for no honourable [reason] that they were separated from the rest of the emigrants. The Highlanders of course vindicated their own cause, and said that no harm could be meant by it. A certain woman in my own hearing said that she did not think but other names was inserted as well as that of the Highlanders, alluding at the same time to a man that had a berth near her. The man alluded to said in a kind of a disdainful manner, "No such a thing" say he, "My name was not taken down". Shortly after this, a message was sent to all the Highlanders to attend in the cabin, which they obeyed. I happened to be on the gallant fore-castle at the time the call was made, and by the time I reached the cabin, all was convened. The Doctor made a few remarks upon the course of which he adopted, to find out all those that belonged to the Highlands of Scotland, and consequently had a claim upon the donation made by the Highland Society. He, at the same time, opened a letter he held in his hand which he said he had received from the Chairman of the Committee. The letter stated that in consequence of the ship being soon to sail for New South Wales, and understanding that a great number of Highlanders was to embark, that they, the Committee, deemed it necessary to send a quantity of clothing for their use which they hoped they would accept of. The letter further stated that no mention was to be made of the donation till such time as they were fairly at sea so as to give the Doctor an opportunity of seeing who was most needful and at the same time, deserving. But that the distribution was left entirely at his own judgment, [*McKinnon remarked in the margin* "these is not the identical words of the letter but it is to the same effect"] etc. The document was endorsed by Mr. Fullarton as Chairman of the Committee. After reading the letter the Doctor said that he, in compliance with his instructions, would distribute the articles among those present. He then requested that they would retire from the cabin and he would call them in rotation, and each as they were called, was presented with blankets and a few other articles, viz. a pair of trousers, a shirt, a boy's shirt, a woman's shift, a petticoat, a bed gown and a cape. Each person did not perhaps get the same kind of articles but what is abovementioned was the general articles distributed. A great number of articles was left for future distribution which is to take place in the course of two or three weeks. If report be true, after the distribution, some of the people on board would draw some affinity to the Highlander but they were too late in reporting themselves as such. And had the cause been known at the time the names was taken up, I believe the list would have been better filled. The last of the bullocks was killed this evening after lingering out in a state of starvation for the space of eight days.

Saturday 5th May: This morning William Buchan's child died after suffering under a lingering sickness. This morning a squabble took place between Mr. Martin the Mate, and George Clark. The former would not suffer the latter to look at him. Clark declared he was as good a man as Martin, upon which Martin took hold of him to force him down the fore hatch. Clark resisted his efforts by taking hold of him. After two or three turns, the one did not appear to gain upon the other. The second Mate stepped in to assist his senior officer and would have accomplished their desire of thrusting Clark down the hatch had it not been for one of the emigrants that was going up the hatch at the time. He declared it was a shame for two men to yoke upon one. Hearing this they went away appearingly not to be altogether pleased with their success. A chest belonging to one of the emigrants of the name of W.....T..... was searched in compliance to the Doctor's orders in consequence of a charge laid against them by another emigrant by the name of G.....C....stating that the former had some articles belonging to him in their custody, but nothing of the kind was found in their custody. The accuser was asked if he would open his own chest and allow it to undergo the same overturn. To this request he returned a flat denial saying he had nothing belonging to any person. The case is to undergo investigation as soon as they reach Sidney, for it is a great pity that people should be accused innocently, without due punishment being awarded to the accuser, for such is the antipathy that the one bears to the other in this ship, that they are never content but when they nurse or hatch some vile charge against those at whom they happen to take the least dislike. Those that was strong strive to take every advantage of the weak and tyranny in all shapes is the predominant passion. Even the petty overseers we had, strived to rule over us with inflexible sway. Some of us might indeed exclaim in the language of the inspired penman "Servants have ruled over us: there is none that doth deliver us out of their hands" (Lamentations Chap.V, Verse 8). "Who whet their tongue like a sword and bend their bows to shoot their arrow, even bitter words" (Psalm 64, Verse 3). Such is the propensity of those we have to deal with, even the servants, that in return for a civil question we get an indignant reply. The fresh beef being nearly at an end it was thought proper to give fresh meat to some, and salt meat to others, to effect this in such a way as to give satisfaction to all parties, as well as to keep down grumbling and discord, two things that was always ready to start up on the least pretence. Tickets was issued out, the one half marked fresh and the other salt. These tickets was put into [a] hat and drawn by ballot and each got according to the ticket drawn whether fresh or salt.

Sunday 6th May: This morning the wind abated a little going South East. The inflexible tyranny of one of the petty overseers was clearly demonstrated. McT...in looking over the hanging stoves, noticed one of the boys that attended it, in the act of putting a tea can containing some rice, which was intended for one of the passengers, in the stove. He ordered it to be taken instantly off, the boy not complying to his wishes, he took it off himself, bestowing a torrent of abuse upon the boy for his obstinacy. The boy again put it upon the fire for which act of disobedience he threatened to strike him. The boy being mine, I stepped forward and told him the can was for a sick man, to which he returned for answer, that he did not care a damn. I told him at the same time that [he] was not to touch the boy. He told me he would, although I were looking in his face, and at the same time told me to be gone for a damned rascal. I in my turn retaliated and told him that he was [as] damned a rascal as was in the ship, and dared him to strike either me or the boy. Upon this

defiance a liberal share of epithets was exchanged till such time as the man of power was foaming with rage. This ended the strife as the fires was ready to go below. This is what I call petty tyranny and if you remonstrate in the heat of passion you are threatened with irons and although this was but a bugbear to frighten those that knew no better, it was galling to hear, for it is well known by any person of common sense, [that] they durst not resort to such punishment with the crime being of an aggravating nature.

Monday 7th May: Stiff breeze from S. E. Very high seas which rendered it prudent to slacken sail by reefing. We are about half way twixt Rio and the Cape of Good Hope. Mathew Deviney acted [in] a very unmanly action in as much as [he] seised a boy by the throat by which handling the boy suffered for a considerable [time] by the effect of it. This Deviney, as a sawyer from Greenock, for all the trouble he has suffered, and just newly out of the hospital, he is ready to fight upon the least occasion. I saw him offering to fight while holding his dying child in his arms. This day we were served with plum pudding and salt meat. This is the first of it that we were served with since we landed at Rio. We expected the wine but were disappointed. The clothes we have in the hold of the ship are utterly destroyed for want of being looked [at] in proper time. We were told before we left Glasgow that we would have access to our chest once in the fortnight, but I only could see my chest twice since we left Greenock up to this date. The wife's garment is not worth lifting. By the voyage, we have lost considerably whatever our gain may be after landing, but as the byword expresses, "a hard beginning has a soft ending", and if ever any poor sinners had a hard beginning, the emigrants on board the Duncan had it, and not even the beginning, but the whole of the voyage up to this date. In the evening as the tea was serving out, a noise was heard on deck. The cause of this noise when ascertained, was found to proceed from a quarrel between Bruce and Lightbody as they happened both to be at the water closet at the same [time]. It became Bruce's turn to enter when Lightbody took hold of him and held him till such time as five men had gone out and in, and latterly he was in [the] act of going in himself when Bruce, incensed at the usage received, struck at Lightbody which Lightbody returned, and the strife commenced. Bruce had the worse of it as no other thing could be expected, being no more than nine stone weight while the other, above fourteen stone. Bruce was bleeding by the effects of the blows from his heavy opponent, along with a blow on the right eye which blackened it. This combat was an unequal one, and had Lightbody been possessed of the spirit of humanity, as he was so much the other's superior in strength, and being entirely in the fault, he never would have lifted his hand against a man who he had so unjustly offended, not even at this time, but upon every trivial occasion without the least cause. But because the man was not his match in neither speech nor strength, Bruce suffered more indignities from Lightbody than any man of spirit could suffer without retaliating. And had he been in a place where the law is administered without partiality, there is no doubt but Lightbody would be made liable to the penalties of the law, but here there was [no] alternative. The weak had to suffer the strong to rule over them with uncontrolled sway. Bruce, whether in bed or out of bed could get no peace from Lightbody. From the night that his blanket took flight to this date, there was scarcely a week passed without a row, particularly the night of the watch, upon which night they were both on duty, the strong man on the first watch and the weak man on the middle watch. And during the four hours that Lightbody had the watch, Bruce could get no rest although he frequently went to bed to refresh himself previous to his time of watching

as well as to be out of the way of his tormentor, but all was of no avail. He was sure of being ferreted out to the great merriment of them of which Lightbody's retinue was composed. Disdainful epithets was always liberally bestowed on the poor tortured Bruce if he but presumed to say a word in his own behalf, such as, a scutry whelp, a nasty cheat, and other names too numerous to be inserted, and frequently he told him he would take down his breeks, as he expressed it, and skelp his ar..e. if he would offer to speak a single word. Such is an outline of what Bruce suffered from the man that took delight in tormenting him, and I leave the reader to form his own judgment upon it. A young woman of the name of Anderson is confined in the hospital through sickness. She is the second patient within this eight days past.

Tuesday 8th May: Remarkable heavy rain during the night. The ship running at the rate of ten knots per hour S.E. Frequent seas were shipped during the former part of the day. A flock of birds was seen at a distance quite different from any I had yet seen. Their colour is a dirty black, they are not so heavy as a booby, but rather larger than a gull. No person could tell me their name and therefore I was obliged to rest without it. Pease soup and pork was served for dinner today. This is the first of this diet since we arrived at Rio. Vinegar for the second time. This is a very essential article as the water is getting very bad, yet I do not admire it as a mixture, as I found it always did me more harm than good, as I could not partake of the least drop of it without suffering an hour or two of sickness and frequent vomiting. Thus I was compelled to take the water the best way I could. I generally kept my wine to mix among it, but of this generous beverage we have got none since we reached Rio, and for that same reason as well as others, I wish we had never touched at it.

Wednesday 9th May: Heavy rain and high wind, as on the previous night, from the same quarter. The weather is rather [colder] this day, than it has been since we left Rio in Brazil, and we expect it to be still colder as we are drawing nearer to that quarter of the globe, where the winter is getting in. For as the summer advances in Scotland and the greatest heat in the month of June, so the winter advances in this quarter and their coldest weather is in the same month. William McKinlay is worse this day than he has been for some time back. The Doctor has applied a blister to him but he appears to be very low. This individual has not had a day of health since we left Scotland. He slept in the same berth with me for a short time, and his cough during the night and likewise his restless sleep clearly demonstrated that some vicious malady was preying upon his constitution. Shortly afterwards he was taken to the hospital where every attention was paid to him that could be done to any person in his situation. Doctor Dobie behaved to him with parental tenderness and does to this day. Everything is done for his comfort, he is even fed from the Doctor's table with every cordial that is considered not to be at variance with his trouble. But notwithstanding all the attention that is paid to him internally and externally, the disease, it appears, has made an inroad upon his constitution that sets them all at defiance. He may, for all that, overcome his trouble, as nothing is impossible for the Great Physician of soul and body to perform. But at the present time there is little hope of his recovery. His wife is still a patient in hospital from the effects of the fall she received on the sixteenth ult., when lying at anchor in the harbour of Rio de Janeiro, which will be found in the page bearing that date. One of his family died on the [Fourth] day of March, and two of them is newly recovered from sickness. The whole of his family was seised except one boy. This

afternoon the ship is sailing with a quarter wind at the rate of ten knots per hour. She lies so much to the lee side as to make it extremely difficult for the emigrants, particularly the females, to walk upon deck, many of whom has been measuring themselves upon it. I was not ten minutes upon deck this morning when a young female on her way to the water closet was thrown all her length upon the deck, but there was little pity shown her, for as she was an impudent devil, as old as the hills in her manners, she could keep her feet and ground, against any attempts made upon her by any of the passengers, for none of the passengers could beat her for cunningness or tongue. But upon this occasion she was fairly overcome, and as none of the rest of the [passengers] had any desire of undergoing the same, they were seen but seldom upon deck throughout, and those that had occasion to go, they were rather wary, for they took hold with both hands and feet, as it best suited them. This being Lightbody's night upon the watch, I expected that Bruce would, as was generally the case, get a thorough hearing, but I was disappointed, for the quarrel they had lately, seems to have put an end to the freedom that was formerly used.

Thursday 10th May: Rain on the two preceding nights with a heavy sea. The wind being rather aft, the ship sailed with more ease than she did for some days previous, and consequently the inmates sat and walked with more comfort, and at the same time, less danger. We are about two thousand four hundred miles distant from Rio, and if this wind continues, we expect to reach the Cape of Good Hope in a few days. As the distance between the two places is allowed to be about three thousand miles, and since we left Greenock, we traversed no less that fourteen thousand miles and upwards of the trackless ocean. And notwithstanding all that, we have yet no less than seven thousand miles to cross before we reach our destination. But when we may reach it, God only knows, for we have been already seventeen weeks upon the water and has yet such a distance to go.

We might have been landed in Sidney, at least in sight of New South Wales, had it not been for either the ignorance or stubbornness of our captain at the commencement of the voyage. It is sure that it was no loss to him however long the voyage might be, for his wages is always running on, and it may be the last voyage that ever he will have the power to command the Duncan, and the longer he was out, the more money he will have to himself. It is quite different with us, for we are losing every day. The common period in which the voyage is generally accomplished, was enough for any of us to lose. But it is galling to think that seven or eight weeks more be sacrificed for no end, but because the Chief Officer of the ship would have us to take the road that he thought proper, merely to shew that he had the command, and consequently the ship had to be navigated according to his directions. I have no doubt but his theory may be good and his practice as a navigator may be likewise good. But I would like to know the reasons of our detention, if it was not the taking a wrong course when other vessels that left Greenock after us a day or two and whom had taken the south channel in place of the north and had landed at Rio five weeks before us. It may be said that we met with contrary winds, which was undoubtedly true but had we taken refuge in Lamlash Harbour for that night the adverse wind could be allowed to pass over, and us allowed to take the south channel by which course a great deal of trouble and fatigue, and in all likelihood the accidents that befell the ship would be avoided, for the cold experienced at that time was insufferable. And by that cold and sea sickness together, I myself by the effects of it, suffered for many a day and weeks and indeed it preyed that heavy both upon my mind and constitution that I was at times

despairing of ever getting better. I was worn to perfect skin and bones, so much so as to make Doctor Dobie express himself one night, while serving out some rum to the male passengers viz., that I was the picture of despair. This I allow to have been the case for I was at the time in the midst of it, so the Doctor was right.

Friday 11th May: We are four calendar months on the water this day. The ship is sailing at the rate of six knots per hour. My wife is confined to her berth this day very bad. This along with a dullness of spirit with which she indulges herself since we left Scotland, will, I am afraid prove injurious to her health. She despairs of getting to our destination. She frets much at ever leaving Scotland. The furnace door gave way, and owing there was some difficulty in getting the fire to burn so as to get the victuals in time, the cook reported it to the Captain, who asked him if he had shewn it to me, to which the [cook] answered that I had been, but that I would have nothing to do with it, owing to the way I was used about the grating. He asked next if Lightbody would do it. He was not the ship's blacksmith was the reply and therefore he would not meddle with it. They at last got McNeil to patch it together, to enable the cook to get on with his work in time. After all was in bed a call was heard that we were close upon land. I happened at the time to be upon deck and eager to see the land that was so close at hand. I went to the spot from where it was seen. Two of the passengers was there describing the small island as they called it, to the rest. We passed within twenty yards of it and that it was completely [covered] with fowls. At the mention of the fowls being seen thereon, it instantly struck me that it was a hoax for the purpose of raising a laugh at the expense of somebody. For birds could not be discerned even at the distance of ten yards owing to the night being pretty dark and hazy. And in a few minutes, I found that my conjectures was well founded upon hearing D. Gray grumbling as was his custom for being disturbed out of his sleep with their d...d nonsense, before they disturbed him with their singing. And now they wakened him with a cry about land. This was the case for as soon as they saw that his clothes was off, and apparently sleeping, they instantly roared out "land". This was echoed in different parts of the ship till such time as Gray was seen ascending the main ladder with scarcely his trousers on, but upon seeing no signs of land he returned to his bed in the manner above described. He was always quarrelling and they delighted to keep him in a mood for it.

Saturday 12th May: This morning the ship was running at the rate of eight knots. No land appeared. Towards noon the wind freshened and continued so all afternoon. Heavy seas was frequently washed over us, one of which gave me a ducking, as I was waiting on a little rice that [I] was making ready for the wife. But I had the consolation of having a number of companions upon this occasion, for it was customary for the passengers to attend always at the time the coppers was taken off the fire, to make ready anything they had to cook for sick persons, some rice, some arrowroot and some of sago. Indeed there was such numbers of different articles making ready at these times as to exclude the possibility of keeping them in mind, and there were such quarrels and broils among them for the seniority, as to make it a laughable scene for an unemployed spectator to look on. Upon such occasions as this, the man at the helm was no way slack to give the wheel a turn which generally brought a wave among [them]. That put an end to the quarrelling for which he himself enjoyed a hearty laugh, at the expense of our wet bodies.

Sunday 13th May: Incessant rain during the night but not heavy. Wind pretty high. The ship running at the rate of nine knots, the wind being on the quarter. The declivity of the deck was pretty steep, so much so with the rain as to make walking rather difficult. I myself received a severe tumble while conducting my youngest boy to the water closet. The boy was waiting at the closet, waiting his turn, when some of the men coming to the closet also, took his turn because he was not able to contend for it, till such time as I was obliged to go with him and hand him in. This shewed the love and humanity that was exercised on board of the Duncan. I said it was shameful for men to take the advantage of a child. They denied having done so, and one of them of the name of Buchan said that I surely would believe a man before a boy, to which I made answer that experience had taught me since I entered the Duncan, to place as little reliance upon men's words as I did on boys' words and wished the Duncan had been in flames before ever I had the misfortune to see her. Divine service was performed on the lower deck owing to the wetness of the day and the Captain attended for the first time below, since we left Greenock. The weather is getting a great deal colder, and the days shorter as it gets dark before six o'clock. One of the young women that was in the hospital is recovered and out, but the other is getting worse and threatened with an inflammation in the brains. But as all visitors is prohibited from entering the hospital upon no pretence whatever, I am lead to believe it to be a fever. Our pudding was very unsavoury this day owing to the suet being in a manner rotten, and the smell nauseous. The currants also is remarkable dirty.

This night at six, upon calculating their distance, they found themselves one thousand miles or thereabouts to the southward of the Cape of Good Hope. But whether I may place any reliance upon this calculation or not I am at a loss. But at all events I have no other means of knowing correctly. The Pacific Ocean [*the author probably meant Indian Ocean*] as far as we have traversed appears to be as void of objects as what the Atlantic Ocean was, for we have not seen as much as a single vessel this fourteen days past. No object whatever to attract notice, except a few scattered birds nearly the size of a goose of a brownish colour, with the exception of the head, which is white. To this bird the sailors give the name of albatross. They are very slow in their motion. They pass and re-pass close to the ship which gives Mr. Shannon our Surgeon's Mate, who is occasionally on the poop with his gun, an opportunity of letting them taste of his swan shot, and compelling them to take the water in place of the air. It appears to be a powerful bird as it flies backwards and forwards for a considerable time before he falls, which he does with his wings extended nearly vertical above his body, which causes a heavy fall into the water from where he attempts to rise, but without success.

Monday 14th May: This morning our yards was squared. Running right before the wind at the [rate] of six knots. A few beautiful birds of exquisite beauty for their variety of colours. They [was] of the size of a common dove. They are termed cape pigeons. Whether they are web footed or not I had no means of ascertaining, as being at the time destitute of natural history. But if they are not of that nature, their strength must be great before they can go such a vast distance from land, or otherwise their swiftness in flight must be prodigious. They seem to be very tame, as they fly close to the ship shewing no symptoms of fear, notwithstanding the noise and bustle on board the ship. This forenoon the distribution of the clothing from the Highland Society took place. Each man was served according to the number of their family. As it would take some time to ascertain what the articles was that

was given to each, I will state what I received for my own family, consisting of three boys. 1 bed cover, 2 pair stockings, 2 pair socks, 2 boy's shirts and 2 suits of clothes, this being the general run with those that had boys and whose families of females received, becoming their sex. The animosity shewn upon this occasion by some of those that did not belong to the Highlands, visible, for upon the least pretence the county from [which] the Society [originated, was] thrown in their teeth. An Irish woman of the name of Shearer was remarkable active at this work, for no end I believe, but for perfect spite, because she did not get anything herself. And had she known the reason, and the end the doctor had in view at the time of the taking down the names, who knows but she would, as many of her country people did, upon different occasions, deny their country, for the sake of getting what did not belong to them. For they have been known to do it for the sake of a peck of meal, which the books of the various committees for the relief of the poor citizens of Glasgow, can shew. And it is my belief, as I mentioned on a former occasion that had the Doctor given notice of what his reason was for taking down the names belonging to the Highlanders that his role would swell considerably. This was demonstrated by a young woman by the name of Isabella McDonald. She denied upon more occasions than one that she had any connection with the Highlands. But after she saw what the people was getting, that had the spirit for to own their country, and was proud to have it in their power to say that the bleak mountains of Caledonia was their native land, her conscience became unsettled. Not by reason of her denying her country, but because she was likely to lose something. Consequently she sent a messenger to the Doctor to state that she took no notice of herself or otherwise she would have given in the place to which she belonged. The reply was that any person who had denied their country had no right to go there. She however, received her share of what was going. I [thought] that things will go on well with the poor Highlanders after they reach Sidney, otherwise they will in all probability [have] lost one of the number. This night we were awakened from our sleep by a noise under deck where one of the sailors had laid himself to take a little sleep. [At] the time that he was sleeping, Lightbody and his accomplices, whose watch it was, either tied the sleeping seaman or allowed others to do it upon one of the forms at the very time his watch was out, by which means the poor devil got an unmerciful fall, which caused him to utter a yell that made the sleeping inmates start with fear. When I wakened, Lightbody was standing over the prostrate seaman, but he withdrew instantly from it and went to some other place till such time as the bustle was over. By this time the chief carpenter who happened to be Officer of the watch, came below, and gave the seaman a severe reproof for sleeping on his watch and threatened to punish him if he would not go on deck, telling him at the same time that he was well served, for that he had no business there. After the seaman went away, the mystery was unsolved as nobody knew who it was that did the deed, the watch disclaiming of having any knowledge of it. When John Gray, one of the emigrants started upon his feet and declared that he knew who the person was that did it, Lightbody took it to himself and told him to go to his bed, for a snuffy looking B..ger. D.Gray then spoke and declared that no person could get sleep the night that Lightbody was on the watch. Lightbody told him, as he told his brother, to sleep for a chuckle-headed B..ger, that his head was like a fifty shilling pot and advised him to keep within his berth for if he offered to come out he would soon tumble him in. Gray told him there was no fears of that. If he did that, he would find it the hardest job that ever he tried, for as long as his bones was. For that he was licked off the fore castle before, and that he would yet be licked between decks yet. This was alluding

to a bit battle that one of the sailors and Lightbody had some time ago, of which I happen to take no notice. However it appears by Gray's testimony that Lightbody had the worst of it. Lightbody said he would never be licked by him, and that he was like a cowed dog, he could bark best in his den. Upon which Gray said he was a blackguard and a keelie, and that [he] ought not to be among men and that he should be in the Gallowgate yet, for he was not sure but what it was him, that took the bonnet off his head there. To which the other replied that he never saw him with anything worth taking of, and that if he would come out of his bed he would keely him. Upon this a host of rare epithets was exchanged. By this time Mrs. Gray was on the ground keeping her husband from rising as he was in the act of drawing on his trousers. She at the same time gave occasional broadsides to Lightbody. He in return, told her that she was right to keep her man back, for that he would knock the d...d big head off him. Gray told him that he would give him a good chance, the best that he had in his life. He by this time was standing on the outside of his berth. Lightbody did not seem to relish any closer fighting, neither did the other as he directly went on deck to send us, he said, a man that would settle the other as soon as he went up the ladder. Lightbody said "Oh he, he's away. I was expecting to get a licking, but I see I am safe yet. It's one good thing." Gray returned in a short time and after a few words of no conciliatory nature, when Lightbody spoke to Gray in the following laconic words, "Although you are daft" say he, "you should not let folk know of it. They pay no attention to what you say nor heed your quarrelling, but I am half daft myself and I'll no stand it". The quarrelling ended in a short time with a determination on Gray's part to bring it before the Doctor in the morning. This, I believe daunted the other, as a murmur went through the ship that several was intending to give evidence against him for his conduct, always on his watch nights. This was nothing but what I expected to have been done long before this time. For from the time we left Greenock to this night we never had a quiet night when he was upon watch except one, and that was five nights ago when Bruce and him, had the quarrel.

Tuesday 15th May: This morning the two parties made up matters so that there was no more word about the last night's affair, which saved the Doctor some trouble. The poor sailor who had suffered the pain of the fall last night had also to suffer himself to be laughed at by the ship's crew and passengers for a considerable part of the day. Three children were this day christened. Two of them were born at sea and one in Glasgow, a few days previous to embarkation. She is a female child belonging to one Thos. Muir. The other, a boy born at sea belongs to George Clark. The third, a boy also, born at Rio de Janeiro in South America belongs to Nathan McNaught. At twelve P.M. the different parties assembled in the women's hospital accompanied by the respective sponsors for their children according to the Rites of the Church of England. From thence they went to the cabin where the ceremony of baptism was performed by Dr. Dobie after the manner of the English Church. The two boys was named after the ship and captain, Duncan being the ship's name and the Captain's name Wardle. The girl was called after the Doctor. The following is a copy of the certificates of baptism granted them by the Doctor.

Emigration ship Duncan at Sea
Latitude 37° 1' South. Longitude 1° 24' East.

I hereby certify that the infant boy of Nathan McNaught and Margret McNaught was this day baptised by me and named Duncan Wardle McNaught. The same has been duly registered in the Log Book of the Ship and also in my Journal Book.

May 15th 1838 (Signed) John Dobie Surgeon
Superintendent.

The above is word for word with the certificate granted to McNaught and consequently the same as the other two, only the difference of the names. George Clark's son being called Duncan Wardle Clark, and Muir's daughter Jean Dobie Muir. How far this will agree with the articles of the Church of Scotland of which they appear to be members, I know not, but the Minister and the gentlemen composing the session of that Church will probably be able to tell, if application is made for that purpose, after they land.

Wednesday 16th May: This morning the ship was going right before the wind at the rate of eight knots per hour, south east. Throughout the day, it became a little calmer but towards evening it blew fresher, and during the night it was thought expedient to shorten sail, and consequently all the studding sails was lowered to ease the vessel. It is allowed that we are passing by the Cape of Good Hope, if this be true, our course will be direct east. And by a continuation of this wind we will, by the assistance of [The] Almighty, accomplish our voyage in a few weeks. This is much to [be] wished for as the sufferings of some is unsupportable, for as I stated before, the strong takes the advantage of the weak in every point so as to make their life a life of misery. There is nothing that they would desire better than torturing a person as they know that their bodily faculties is not equal to theirs, particularly strength. A...McPh. is one of those that exercises his power to a considerable height in this manner. I remember one day at the copper fire when the people was in the act of warming or frying part of their victuals, Mac was there also. A man of the name of Muir came with a pan to make something ready. Allan upon this occasion would not let Muir warm his morsel until such time as his was ready, although there was room at the same. And because the man spoke somewhat cross to him, he in his turn would strike him, the man at the same time holding a child in his arms. This was because he knew the man was not able to contend with him, to dispute his right. There is, as I stated before, men and women of most excellent morals, I believe, on board, that could command their tempers in such a way as to enable them to overcome their enthusiastic opponents. But in the whole, I heard more abusive language expressed in the Duncan during the voyage, than I did for a period of thirty years, which is as far back as I can rightly remember. They were no way scrupulous of sparing each other's character in the worst possible manner because they knew that they were in a place where no means of punishment for defamation of character could be adopted, and indeed they were some of them that ignorant as to [be] incapable of understanding the meaning of their own talk. Some of their expressions was quite at variance with what they meant to express, and they were so selfish as to believe themselves the most accomplished. And at the time of talking which was always their hobby, as they never got wearied talking, they were delighted to think that their witty talk brought bursts of laughter from the hearers, at the expense, as they made themselves believe, of those that they were talking with. But the laugh was raised generally at their awkward way of expressing themselves, but of this no person needed to strive to convince them of their error. Others of them was so incorrigible as to give the worst word in their head even to

those that was their best friends, some so dirty as to let vermin accumulate to such a height as to cause their bedclothes to be thrown over the side, by which many thousands perished in the deep. Upon this occasion, a man was sent by the Doctor to examine the whole of the passengers' bedclothes which he did with the most scrupulous attention and I am happy to state that they all proved clean, except the above mentioned. And in the face of the whole inmates of the Duncan, if any person was to mention it to him, he would, with the most unblushing audacity call them liars and abuse them in the most unwarrantable manner possible. This person would not hesitate to tell you that his family was as cleanly a family as was in the ship, while indeed in my opinion they were the filthiest in the ship.

Thursday 17th May: This morning the seas is running very high, the wind also. Our sails was reduced to a few sheets close reefed. Running at the rate of from nine to ten knots per hour. I was this day rendered unfit for duty from the effects of the fall on the deck last Sunday when my foot went in below one of the guns, which made a small excoriation near the little toe. And by means of the salt water getting into it, and no attention paid to it considering it of no consequence, it in a few nights cankered to that degree that it was out of my power, owing to the pain and swelling, to draw on a stocking. And as this was my turn to sweep and scrape the deck, the superintendent of that department found it necessary to employ one of the substitutes. This is the first time I have been off duty since I got better of the great sickness I had at the commencement of the voyage. The wife and myself is now both of us confined and indeed we were well enough confined before, as every one is, that is on board the Duncan. But this makes it still worse. Screens or curtains is put up to secure us from the cold weather while asleep. This is a necessary appendage and very beneficial to me as well as others, and rather more so, as my berth is right opposite to the main hatch and very cold, but a capital berth in warm weather. This day I was attacked by William McPherson and his wife, blaming our boy for accusing their innocent son of scrapes, as they termed it, and telling their son not to keep his company. My wife said that our boy kept as good company and better than ever their son was. This, the madam would not believe [as] she was in a respectable way of doing [things] and she became very low when she came here. It was told her, that her young son spat in a man's face upon a certain day. This she would not believe because he hesitated a little and said he had no mind of it. This cleared her boy as she said, and although another woman gave evidence to the effect that he did it, but this woman was not worth believing, because it was likely to involve her darling into the fault, she carried on to a great degree signifying that no person knew anything about her and that she was at every person's defiance. My wife at last wearied at her presumption [of her intention?] to go to Mr. Sinclair [*probably* McLean] and defy him if she could. This piece of information appeared to stick in her throat and suppress all others, for she was instantly as mute as they were [on] any occasion, for sometime in the afternoon, William, the boy's father went and seated himself beside John McLean. This was the man's name in whose face the spittle was cast, and very gravely said, that it was a terrible thing of McKinnon's wife to blame his boy with a thing he was not guilty of. McKinnon's wife was perhaps right in making the charge when I remember of it now. "And did he do it?" was the question put by William to McLean. "Yes" was the [reply]. This likewise stuck in William's throat as the previous intelligence stuck in his wife's. But did they take their excuse for being so positive? No, they were too respectable to bemean themselves so much to people so much their inferiors, but they kept it to themselves. This

indeed is respectability and I wish them joy of it, but for all that, my family has been very light in the head, and at the same time mischievous enough. I will tell McPherson and all his friends, that they never heard me nor my wife quarrelling, nor me telling her to go to h...l for a d...d b...ch, nor yet threatening to knock her teeth down her throat. This is a beautiful bit for a morning piece. Of their respectability, I put not the least shadow of doubt, as I consider that all the spirit dealers in the Cowcaddens is the same, not only when they were there, but even at this very day. And as I mean for the sake of respectability to be a spirit dealer, if I can, when I reach Sidney, I hope that they will, even in that quarter retain that character.

Friday 18th May: This morning was very calm but the sea notwithstanding retained a considerable swell so that the ship at times heaved very heavy. Nothing particular occurred worth inserting, excepting that a great many of the passengers is afflicted with salt water boils which prove very troublesome to them. I am still confined through the effects of the fall. The wife is recovering a little but the use of medicine is weakening her much. Much praise is due to the Doctor for his patience and perseverance in the midst of trouble. He is always at his post watching with parental care, the welfare of the people under his care, not even at this time only but from the commencement of the voyage.

Saturday 19th May: This morning the ship was sailing at the rate of six knots only. Soap was served out this forenoon. This is an article we were much in need of as we had no more of it than what would do for a small washing and indeed there were some of them in the ship that had not a single crumb. The quantity given was in proportion to the family. I received about 2 lb weight. This will, I hope, serve till we reach our destination which according to expectation will be in a few weeks. A few hasty words arose between Jas. Bruce and one of the boys attending the stoves which ended with a few blows, Bruce being the gainer, but it gained him little credit nor yet did it make a man of him to strike a boy, for a jest that was not worth noticing. A few of the birds called cape pigeons was caught with lines. I had an opportunity of examining [them] and found that they [are] larger than a common dove. They were also web-footed. This enables them to soar far from the [land]. They have also a long bill, a great rise above the nostril, the tail is remarkable short, the belly is pure white, as it appeared when on the wing. But they [are] not at all deserving of the character I gave them in a former sheet for beauty, as there is no diversity of colours in plumage except that of black and white streaks. They were all set at liberty. One of them with a ticket leather suspended from his neck, with these words written thereon 'ship Duncan of Liverpool Saturday 19th May 1838'. The captain was again among the emigrants enquiring after their health. What this is owing to I cannot tell further than that we are getting nearer Sidney.

Sunday 20th May: This day the ship was running at the rate of eight knots per hour, south by south east. Divine service was performed between decks. The suet was of such nauseous smell that we could not make use of it for our pudding and had to take it without suet.

Monday 21st May: This morning is rather calm. Three and a half knots per hour. Got up to five knots in the evening. The largest flock of fowls seen that has been yet seen during the voyage. All of the gull tribe, and by the manner in which they were flying, it indicated that

there was plenty of fish in the track, but being at too great a distance we could not discern them so that we could not know what kind of fish they might be. Shortly after dinner we were agreeably surprised at hearing “pannikins for wine” called out. Some of us took it to be a piece of diversion on the part of the man that cried till such time as we saw some of them that had gone first, returning with their allowance (and as by word expresses, seeing is believing). We all started to our feet and was soon in possession of our respective share. From the time we arrived at Rio de Janeiro it renewed our spirits very much. This beverage we all hope will be continued all the way, as the distance is but short, in comparison to the distance which we have already sailed. We were favoured with it only every second day for a while, but it is to be hoped that favour will be granted to us every day during this part of the voyage.

[*McKinnon commented*] “Pannikin is the sea term given to the jug from which we drank our tea or any other liquid which we had for drinking on board the ship.”

Tuesday 22nd May: This morning the weather was very boisterous. The ship heaving heavy, which made our situation very far from being comfortable. The [wind] blowing from the N.N.W. The wind increasing and the appearance of the sky threatened storm. The ship was divested of a great deal of her sails except what [was] necessary to carry her through. In the evening it blew very hard, but taking a turn aft, the ship sailed with great ease. This favoured all the canvas that she could carry, [the sails] was crowded which made her plow the watery plains at the swingeing rate of 11 ½ knots per hour. In the afternoon a regular row was set on foot in consequence of a report that was spread through the ship to the effect that a certain man had given a veil to a young woman on board for being so condescending as to grant him a certain favour. The girl's parents having, as they thought, traced out the party that [had] given scope to this story opened upon them very furiously, telling the man that he was under a fictitious name and that the woman that was along with [him] was not his wife, but another man's wife and that he had made use of her legal husband's marriage lines to get on board. He then mentioned his right name as he did on a former occasion which has been already related. The fictitious named man would fight right or wrong, when he heard this, but no fighting went on. At this, the whole of the battle was fought with the tongue. The man who was said to have given the veil kept mute all the time, and took no part in the affair in which his name was frequently alluded to. And when some of the emigrants spoke to him about it, he said it was not true and passed it over with a laugh. In this indeed he acted very prudent as there is scarcely any possibility of convincing the people in this place, they are that keen to hear a bad report of their neighbours, that they snatch it with eagerness and treasure it in the inmost recesses of their stomachs and there it is secure until such time as they find an opportunity of throwing it right in your face. This they will do without the least reserve. Some of them took delight in nothing more than speaking behind other folk's back, passing remarks upon every trifling matter. These people consider themselves more respectable than those about whom they so freely spoke. A certain [person] opposite to where I slept, expressed herself in wondering what I was always writing at, and what I could get to write. The clothes that was given out from the cabin was an object of remark to this respectable personage, saying that they, the persons that got them, was not out of need of them. I often thought that they were very happy they had the fortune of being partly brought up in noble castles and seats, but after

this I found that it was as well to be brought up in places more humble. Anger and resentment had risen to such a height as to make the place more like a bedlam than that of a place where sane beings was residing and for there was always quarrelling, almost without intermission. This morning as I was at the coppers, the talk was turned upon the Highlanders; one man of a Highland [birth] declared that he denied his country at the time the name [was] taken up. Upon which I answered that traitors always did that, but at the same time he claimed kindred with some of those that received the clothes. He afterwards said that such as those that was getting meat and clothes on board had no occasion to ask a better situation than what they had. Such a person should never allow himself to be called a Highlander as he did. His motives for doing so is best known to himself, but by what accrued from it, it was scarcely worth his trouble to return to what he had formerly nominated in disdain and contempt.

Wednesday 23rd May: This morning was very calm and continued so all day. A great flock of birds was seen, chiefly albatrosses and cape pigeons. They were so far famished for want of food that they came quite close to the ship and rested on the water. Our boatswain by this was induced to let out a line with hooks and baits, which they greedily seized and in a short time five of them was taken. Upon examination I was quite mistaken with regard to their size, which is mentioned in a former sheet. They are in reality heavier than two of the largest domestic geese. Four of them measured ten feet when their wings were extended and one which was the last that was caught, measured twelve feet. Their bill was about seven inches in length. It was tied with a cord to prevent them from hurting the emigrants who flocked about them. They walked round the deck without offering to fly off. A pair of them was set against each other to fight, which they did with great fury, wounding each other at every charge. They [were] so far exhausted in this warfare that when thrown overboard they could not as much as lift their wings out of the water. One of them was seized for stopping. They fought in the water to see which of them would seize the bait first. Some of the albatrosses began to get much upon the reserve. At last one of them, a beautiful bird, was hooked and partly brought out of the water but the hook, losing its hold it had, he once more enjoyed his liberty. But this liberty was not of long duration, for as he was sitting on the water looking on the object that had given him so much pain, without the least attempt to touch it, Mr. Martin the Chief Mate happened to be on the poop with his gun at the time. He, notwithstanding all the remonstrances that was made against it by the onlookers, levelled his piece and killed the unconscious victim while sitting in the act of refreshing himself after the fatigue he had undergone in procuring his liberty. Martin, after having performed this piece of work, went to his cabin and laid aside his instrument of death and afterwards came upon the poop to enquire if the bird had risen after he had received the shot, and on being told that he did not, "No", says he, "he would not go far after I had given him the dose". This he said in an exulting kind of mood, the same as if he had been speaking to a parcel of children that would consider it a clever action to kill a bird when sitting. Whatever some of his hearers might think of this action, another part of [them] thought it a piece of cruelty to act as he did and any person possessed of the least spark of feeling would not do it.

O Martin thou art mighty full
A bird to kill while sitting still

For killing dead that mighty fowl
Your name shall sound from pole to pole.

This caused a deal of diversion to the onlookers and was the cause of them being set against each other after they were taken. I expected that as soon as they would find that the hook had taken hold of them that they [would] fly off. But in this I was mistaken, for they did not as much as make an effort to that effect, but suffered themselves to be dragged through the water setting their large webs against the water which made it very difficult without a strong line to take them out of their favourite element. At the time of this diversion, two large whales made their appearance at our stern. This was the first whales we had seen in the Pacific Ocean. [*The author probably meant Indian Ocean.*] Their backs was so full of barnacles as to give them the appearance of rock with the sea breaking over them. After eight o'clock the wind rose and the rain fell in torrents throughout the night with large flakes of lightning and the ship ploughing her way at the rate of nine knots per hour

Thursday 24th May: This morning the wind continues the same but the rain ceased. The sun appears with great brilliancy which makes the scene very pleasant, thanks be to God. The wife has so far recovered as to be struck off the sick list, and will, I hope, soon be quite well. Her strength is greatly exhausted by reason of the medicine with which her disease had to be treated. Doctor Dobie behaved to her with great kindness for which he deserves our united thanks. This being Her Britannic Majesty's birthday, I expected that it would be demonstrated by firing some of our great guns, but in this I was disappointed as well as on other occasions, for there were not as much as a single gun fired, and we were even deprived of the means of pledging her Majesty's [health] except it was in stagnated water or pease soup, as the wine which had been given to us for five days previous, was stopped on this day, contrary to expectation. Disappointment was very general upon this occasion, as double allowance was anticipated, but behold, even the single allowance was withheld. The ship sailed for the last 24 hours at the rate of ten and a half knots per hour.

[*The author wrote the following summary of the wine distribution, on the reverse side of the sheet of paper describing a funeral at sea, placed originally near the end of the narrative*].

Wine received on hour with the date of receipt as nearly as possible, January 17th being the first day of it, and such to the men during the 18th, 19th, 20th, & 21st, then it was stopped till the 14th February, Valentine's Day. It was then served out to the females only and upon Friday the 23rd, upon which day we got sight of Porto Santo the men was served with wine daily, until Wednesday the 7th of March and after that date, we were served with it but once in two days. This system continued until we arrived at Rio upon Monday the 9th April. Again it was stopped until Sunday the 20th of May when men and women received their share daily, Wednesday 23 included but upon Thursday 24 being Her Majesty's birthday we got none, and on Friday 25th the old system of once every two days began.

Friday 25th May: This morning is remarkable calm. One or two knots being the most that she sailed this day. This is a great damper upon our spirits owing to our want of knowledge

as to where we are, and having yet many thousands of miles to sail before we reach our future home, some of the women is nearly throwing themselves into a consumption with perfect grief, while it is reported that there [are] some people on board that would be happy if the ship would not reach Sidney for five or six months yet, as they never were happier in their life time than they [have] been since they came on board of the Duncan. This may be true for any thing that we know, as there is persons of various opinions here, but if they be such, I hope that their wish will be ineffectual and that the time will soon arrive that will demonstrate such. And if they do not choose to work for their bread, let them go and beg if they find more comfort by it. For one meal per day on shore is preferable to three in the Duncan, and any person that could earn one shilling per day would not so remain in her for two shillings, even with the meat they seem to relish so well. But where there is many men there is many minds. This day Mrs. Robert Brand was delivered of a daughter. Both of them I am happy to state is in a thriving way. This is the fifth birth since we left Scotland, three of which is living and two dead. This being a washing day, the men as was always, then washed the deck. The mate Mr. Martin on seeing some dirt on the outside of the ship, ordered the men to wash it off instantly or he would stop their wine. This is an extra piece of work for the emigrants. They had before, to clean the inside of the ship, but now they must clean the outside, or forfeit their drop of wine. This great man surely thinks a great deal of that generous liquor for he appears to think that the emigrants will rather undergo any hardship than want it, upon the most frivolous occasion. This was nothing but a threat to stop the wine. A man of the name of [*name omitted*] was threatened to be put under a stoppage for not drawing a rope by this would-be comptroller of Her Majesty' stores. We only get the wine now every second day and indeed all the wine that has been received by the emigrants yet, has been but trifling. At the time of the storm when victuals could not be cooked, wine was given to the women for five nights and a glass of rum to the men, and then it was discontinued for the space of four weeks. Again it was served out to the women until we reached Porto Santo, which was the first we saw after leaving Scotland. Upon that day it was given to the men also. We continued getting it daily for ten days, when it was again discontinued, to be given but on every second day. That was the day upon which we had the beef and pudding. This we were stripped of, the one half of what we used to get during the former ten days. This was continued until we reached Rio de Janeiro and then discontinued, till Sunday the 20th May and continued for two days when it was again brought down to the old system, viz. every second day and this is threatened upon the pretence to be discontinued.

Saturday May 26th: This morning betwixt nine & ten o'clock one of the seamen of the name of John Sharp from Port Dundas near Glasgow, died. He had been a long time in trouble. He got the better of it for a short time, but a relapse having come on, he again took [to] his bed for a considerable time till God was pleased to put an end to his sufferings, by calling him to the mansions of happiness where the wearied rest from their labour. His relations is entitled to the whole of his wages even for the time he was bedfast and unfit for duty. As a sailor, wages can not be stopped on account of any trouble that he may have the misfortune to be seised with, except one trouble which delicacy permits us not to mention. The young woman that was confined in the hospital as is mentioned in a former page is so far recovered as to be able to walk about. Her squalid looks demonstrates that her trouble for the time had been severe, but one week of trouble on board of ship is worse than three

weeks on land. The confinement is great as they can get but little air compared to what they would get on land and the nourishment given, nothing to what would be expected on land, for it can not be thought that medical men can give them what they have not in their power to give. There is one notion that I found our medical men possessed of. That is, keeping back wine from their patients. It is contrary to the maxims followed up by their brethren on shore, where wine is allowed to be of great service to sick persons. I found the same to be the case on sea. Although void of medical skill, yet I could perceive when I was myself eased from my trouble by one kind of treatment more than the other, and further, I could hear from other patients when they found ease by certain treatment more than the other. In all the observations it was found that a glassful of wine gives more spirit and renovation to some of the sick than all the pills and drugs that was given them, and when one person in a family was badly, and their wine stopped, the other part that was getting [it] gave it to the sick, although contrary to the doctor's orders and it was found to be of beneficial effect. Our excellent Doctor no doubt kept back the wine with the view of doing good to his patients as it unquestionably did to some that was labouring under diseases of an inflammable nature, but in other cases where nothing of the kind appeared, his motive for detaining the wine is best known to himself. One pig was killed this day for fresh soup to the sick people. This is the first of the swine that has been killed since we left Scotland. This night is very calm, the ship is sailing only one or two knots per hour.

Sunday May 27th: This morning at two o'clock the breeze freshened by which reason the ship quickened her speed to, from five to six knots. This was gratifying as it was right aft and some sullen clouds indicated that it would strengthen soon, which was the case, for at three after noon it began to freshen, which caused them to take down all the studding sails that had been put up through the day to catch all the wind that could possibly be caught. And at four o'clock her speed came up to ten and a half knots, which rate she kept up through the whole of the night and at the same time she had no more motion than if she had been lying at anchor, such was the steadiness of the breeze. This is the only pleasure that people has at sea, when it happens that the vessel makes her way with both speed and steadiness. It is but a rare occurrence on a long voyage, as least it has been so to us, for if we got a breeze we were sure of a rocking along with it. A boy of the name of McKinlay fell down the fore hatch in to the lower hold whereby his neck and side was hurt but not severely. Shortly after, my own youngest boy, fell headlong down the after hatch and we have reason to thank God that a man happened to be standing underneath the hatch at the time, upon whose shoulder he lighted with his head foremost, the man having crouched involuntarily by the weight. By this means he next fell upon his knees which altogether broke the fall, so that he got off without injury, a small lump upon the fore part of the head being all. But had he been allowed to fall on the deck without it being broken, it would in all probability been as much as his life was worth.

Monday May 28th: This morning the wind kept up, but altered three points off the right course. This is a great grief to us, as we are beginning to weary very much at the length of the voyage and besides, the weather is getting very cold. As we are getting southward our progress is not great this day, as we have to beat hard to the wind. This mighty ocean appears to be void of anything except birds. Of them we see great flocks, but of vessels we have seen none, this four weeks past. And although we had been desirous of making our

way through the trackless ocean without seeing any ship, we could not I believe, have done it with more success, for we seem to be in a track that no human being has a desire to trace. It is reported that the compass is not genuine. This may be the case for any thing I know, but if the compass was accurately read and proper attention paid to it, my belief is that it would adhere more to the truth than what was reported of it. Paper will not blush to tell what is marked on it, but the writer may, if he deviates from the truth, neither will the compass, but the man that takes [it] in hand to read it and make use of it in the hour of danger and can not understand it, he may blush with shame. We are still keeping hard to the wind up to the hour of ten P.M. A row started up between a Mrs. Muir and a Mrs. Graham, the latter is a Highland woman. This being the case the former took the liberty of putting Graham in mind of what she had received from the cabin, viz., the clothes mentioned in former pages, and as an additional favour, she told her that all the Highlanders was both scabbed and lousy. Had this indeed been remarked by some other person of a sound skin, it would not be so much taken notice of, but by a woman whose very face was in one scab and her nose for a considerable time bore the mark of it and looked more like one having the cancer as any thing else, I look not upon this as a mark of calumny, but she should be more delicate in her expressions, at the very time she was labouring under the disease which she attributed to others. As for the other part which she alluded to, I question not, but all the spare ground she has is as well stacked as any in the ship. The quarrel having become the theme of some of them that was at the coppers in the afternoon, and different remarks passed upon it, that Kennedy an Irishman, remarked that the Highlanders got as much as would keep them clean since they came on board, as would do it, although they had been possessed of nothing more. To this I replied that the Highlanders kept themselves clean before ever they saw the things, and that there was some families on board that had not as much as one stitch of them on their body since they got them and yet they were as clean as he was, or will be, or any person belonging to him. Upon this, the son of the Green Isle turned his tune and said he did not mean to give offence. He only wanted to bring them off the story altogether. This was a very good off-put, but had he said otherwise I would believe him, for his desire was to prolong the story and if possible to raise a contention betwixt the two parties, at the time our attention was rivetted upon [the] crowd that had assembled upon the poop. This was occasioned by a bird that had been caught with a hook and line. It was an albatross of a black colour, not quite so large as them that was formerly caught. He was set upon the deck without any restriction upon him and then upon the top of the launch about ten feet above the level of the deck, and every opportunity was given to it to see if it would fly, but to no purpose. Fly it would not. He was quite inactive, even to walk upon the deck was a burden to him. But I understand that these birds is so seldom on land except at breeding time, and even at that same time they hatch their young so near to the sea that a few steps will bring them to it. And whenever the young ones is out of the shell they at once take to the water from which they seldom ever return, till the next breeding season. This makes them quite unused to hard ground, and the feet is that soft as to cause an unusual degree of pain, which compels them to relinquish the attempt of flying off from hard ground. But off the water, they can fly with great alacrity, at least as quick as any bird of their weight could be capable of doing. There was a flock of other birds of a greyish colour about the size of a black bird but appearingly more slender. This is the first of them we have seen. Their name I have not learnt as yet.

Tuesday May 29th: This morning the wind turned rather aft South South East. We are by this on our right course. Speed nine knots per hour. Shortly after, the wind changed to our quarter, which caused the ship to be brought nearly close to the wind, leaving, however, three points free, which enabled them to keep her on her right course. We are four thousand four hundred miles from Sidney. By this calculation we have only sailed twelve thousand miles, had we been on the right tract. But in addition to that, we have wandered to and fro in the Atlantic ocean about eight thousand miles and upwards, and by the tossing we got there, we may thank God and the good hull of our ship, that we were not in the bottom of the sea. This day our pudding was so raw as to render it unfit for eating, except the exterior part of it. As for the rest of it, we were under the necessity of roasting it. This was entirely owing to the negligence of the cook, for although ours was in that state as being at the mouth of the coppers, another pudding belonging to Kennedy which happened to be at the bottom, was nearly burnt. The bag in which it was contained was literally roasted. This by indolent disposition of the cook in not watching his charge. The one part of the contents of his coppers was raw while the other part was roasted, and the pork was generally rendered useless with boiling. This was done to extract all the fat they could from it, as the grease was the cook's own property, when skimmed off the water. And if this was mentioned to him, we were sure of getting [it] nearly half raw the next time. My [wife] is again afflicted with the salt water boils which is so prevalent. She is so weak as to be unable to suffer the treatment adopted, mercury being greatly in use, which causes great pain in the mouth.

Wednesday May 30th: The ship is running her course at the rate of eight and a half knots per hour. A wild row was set on foot between Mrs. Gilchrist and Mrs. Burgess about a pair of shoes. The language used by the parties was altogether abominable. Decency indeed would shudder at the mention of it. The opponents appeared as if they had been in close intimacy for a series of years. For without the least hesitation they launched out what they allowed to be each other's character and not even what was past. But they assumed the spirit of prophecy to foretell what was to come to pass upon their arrival at Sidney. Indeed it [is] no new thing here to hear a person giving another a character that they never had before, for in the height of passion they will say anything, and the more piercing the words is, the more they glory in it. A person to stand in his own defence here, would needs to have served seven years of an apprenticeship to fliteing for there appeared to be both journeymen and women very expert in that line. It is deplorable to think on the dissension and animosity that prevails among them going to a strange land. At twelve o'clock at night the ship is going only at six knots per hour.

Thursday 31st May: This morning at two A.M. her speed by the lag line is only three knots, at four when I retired to bed the same, at six a dead calm. At ten P.M. the gig was lowered into the sea where the Captain and the Doctor with four seamen rowed to a distance to take a view of the ship. Afterwards the mate took a look round her in the same manner. This I noticed to have been the case sometime before we reached Rio, when the sailors was set to wash and paint the outside of the vessel before we entered the port of Rio. This may be their motives at this time and I hope that we are nearer land than we expect, and that they mean to make the ship as clean as possible before we land. This day I lent my fishing line and hook to one of the emigrants to join it to his own line which was rather short, to reach the distance he wanted from the ship, as the birds which he was striving to catch was rather

shy. He had three hooks attached thereto. A heavy bird having taken a hold of it, and the distance being too great, the line gave way at the man's hand. By this accident we were both of us deprived of the only fishing line we had, and the bird went off with no less than forty or fifty fathom attached to his nose, which indeed is a pretty large halter. How long he may keep it himself is uncertain, but that we were deprived of it by his means is unquestionable. Tropical birds and fishes has left me now without any means of recreation except my pen, which if possible, I will keep out of their way. I am very sorry that the ship is sailing at such a low pace as to enable us to catch birds, for in all her sailing this day, she did not exceed eighteen knots [*author meant nautical miles*] in the whole. At this rate we may be long enough wandering through this wilderness of water. The men is called into the cabin by the Doctor's orders to interrogate again with regards to their age, the trade they mean to follow after landing, their religion also, and some other questions. But as the list of their names is in alphabetical order it has not as yet come to mine, and as he appears not to be in any hurry about it, I cannot say when, for he is only [at] the length of the letter C when he stopped, but when it comes to my turn I will take notice of it.

Friday June 1st: The wind is rather fresher this morning S.E. by E. Rate eight knots per hour. The weather is remarkable changeable here, half an hour will, at least it has been the case since we came into the Pacific Ocean [*the author probably meant Indian Ocean*], alter it either the one way or the other, rough or calm. The surge is very heavy here even in calm weather. But in stormy weather the waves is not so fierce nor yet so quick as what they are in the Atlantic Ocean (not in my opinion), and I have viewed both with an intense interest, but my observation may deviate from others for all that. Towards night the breeze freshened so as to drive her on at the rate of eleven knots per hour [&] consequently the sails was reefed. The mizzen topsail had double reefs. Some of the passengers having gathered together at the time, and was talking about the rapidity at which the ship was sailing, when another passenger remarked that she would run herself out of breath before she would stop, and then she would take a lazy fit and stand for a day, by which means he said she lost as much the one day as she gained the other. The Doctor resumed his enquiry this day, the object of which was to find out where each man was born, even the parish, their religion, and if any of them had any relations in the colony. This is all that was asked at me when interrogated by the Doctor.

Saturday June 2nd: This morning the breeze continues with a pretty heavy sea. Frequent seas were shipped, by one of which I got a heavy dunking, while sitting on the weather rail near to the quarter deck. I was not alone altogether for a number of the men at the coppers was favoured with the same compliment. Shortly after the wind kept up during the day.

[*The remainder of Saturday June 2nd to Wednesday June 6th: The journal pages for this period were probably either mislaid or destroyed.*]

Thursday June 7th: Storm with heavy sea running before the wind, with only a fore sail, fore & main top sails close reefed. Frequent seas shipped into our berths, the billows rising to such a height as to touch nearly our main yard, and each of them threatening to bury our gallant ship under its mainstay bulk yards, and stays was giving way in every direction. Even the iron chains could not resist the violence of the contending elements. We are now

entered so far into the Indian Ocean that by calculation we must be very near the island of St. Paul. Towards night the ship is thrown to the wind for fear of coming too near to land. Before moving in this position she heaved at a great rate throwing us nearly from our berths.

Friday June 8th: Continuation of storm at daylight. The watch set in the fore top to look out for land, called out "land to leeward ohoi". Upon this information all was hurry with the passengers. They were soon out of bed to get a sight of land, a sight they had not seen for six weeks previous. When I got upon deck the land stood to the N.E. like a distant cloud. The ship was allowed to take its right course bearing S.E. from the land. We were at too great a distance from the Island of St. Paul to get a correct view of [it]. It is however but a small island. It lies very low. Its distance from Sidney about three thousand five hundred miles. Three ships was seen bearing from it in different directions, one of them with bare masts. Another sailed upon the same track that we were on, about six miles ahead of us. More cloth was given to our ship for the purpose of bringing her [closer]. We reared her a little, but she altered her course and bore N.E. toward the Indian shore and we bore S.E. and were soon out of sight of each other. In the evening the wind ceased in a great measure, the sky looked settled like, but at twelve o'clock it blew very hard, when the sea became as turbulent as it formerly was. One [of] the yards snap in two and fell with a great crash.

Saturday June 9th: Storm continued from N.N.W. Frequent seas shipped, some of them into our berths while I was resting myself in my bed. A sea was shipped which entered the bed and left me quite wet. This proves very disagreeable as a person has no way of getting themselves dry, except when a blink of the sun comes, which is but seldom, and remains but a very short time. At one in the afternoon the wind blew with a great fury accompanied with heavy rain which lasted the whole of the afternoon. The sea ran fearfully, each billow rising as high as the main yard, discharging themselves on the deck and from that into the hatch way with fearful impetuosity, which made it a hard task for the men to bail it out with buckets. Previous to the gale, I had got two small bannocks of oat meal baked, being a gathering of three weeks out of the gill dishful received each morning for gruel for the wife who had been sick for a long time. These bannocks [was] intended for my breakfast the next morning, it being the Sabbath day. Shortly after I got them under the coppers, which was the only place for getting it ready. I waited there from half past twelve till four in the afternoon, the rain and wind battering at me without intermission, fully determined not to lose such a delicious repast as what I was in the act of getting ready. And after it was done I had to shift my clothes. I suffered myself to be ducked in this manner for a morsel for which I would not give a penny in Glasgow, even were it right cooked, which was not the case here, for when it was on the point of being ready, one of the passengers having a pan full of sago which he was also getting ready, which by the heaving of the ship fell from the fire, when the whole of the contents was discharged on my bread. This accident prolonged my time and made the bread ill tasted. I was very ill pleased at this, but I could not help myself. The wine was served out this day contrary to expectation, it being soup day.

Sunday June 10th: The storm abated this morning. The sun shone with great splendour. I breakfasted upon my hard-earned bannocks for the first time during the voyage. At twelve the ship was running at the rate of eight knots. After dinner wine was served out. It is

thought that we will be served with it daily till we reach Sidney. We have been often disappointed, and this may be one among the rest. Towards night it blew a terrible [gale], the sea washing over the ship in such a way as to make it necessary to lock the hatches during the night. This is the first time the hatches was closed since we left Rio, and I hope will be the last as it is very disagreeable, particularly in the day time. Robert Campbell's child is dangerously ill with the croup. Very few children gets the better of that trouble.

Monday June 11th: The wind is a little abated blowing from the N.W., rate nine knots per hour. At 10.a.m. it blew so hard for a few minutes as to threaten to carry away some of our rigging. Our mizzen mast ran great hazard as having on more sail than what it could rightly carry, and the men having had no time to reef, owing to the suddenness of the gust. The Captain cried to them to come down for God's sake, for fear of being washed overboard, but nothing serious [occurred]. The main & fore top gallant masts was also in danger, and it is the general belief that if the squall had continued for an hour, that we would not have a mast standing. Thunder and lightning accompanied the squall and in the evening a fearful shower of hail followed. We are net five months at sea this day Thursday 11th January being the day which we left Greenock.

Tuesday June 12th: This morning Robert Campbell's son died of the croup. He survived about eight days after he was seised with this dangerous malady. The wind is blowing fair aft, the sea is comparatively smoother by what it has been for some days past. The ship is sailing very fast. She sailed 208 miles in the last seventeen hours. At this speed we expect to reach Basses Straits on Saturday first. This is a beautiful day for sailing, the sun is bright and a stiff breeze from the N.N.W. The remains of the child was committed to the deep after the usual ceremony was gone through.

Wednesday June 13th: Fair wind N.N.W. Nine & a half knots per hour this day. Widow Pinkerton was delivered of a daughter. She lost her husband on the passage on the fifth day of April, four days before we entered the harbour of Rio de Janeiro. She is, I am happy to state, in a favourable way of recovery. Frequent squalls throughout the day, which kept the sailors very busy, taking from and giving her cloth occasionally. Mrs. William Quill is in a distressed state. She has suffered severely during the voyage. She is a very quiet agreeable woman. She makes no needles with no person as far as I have heard. Mrs. McKinlay is getting better. I understand she would be as well taking care of her children, as lying up in the hospital. I have heard of people that considered themselves dying when there was nothing wrong with them. The two misses A...s is turned complete connoisseurs for the want of other work. I hope they will soon get buyers to keep them in some kind of exercise and save them the trouble of passing remarks upon their neighbours, and I hope they will for their own credit refrain from molesting and backbiting people that gives them no reason for it. But they take a kind of delight in ridiculing their neighbours which shews [the] malignant spirit they possessed.

Thursday June 14th: Light breeze N.N.W. Six knots per hour. Mrs. McKinlay is discharged from the hospital. Mr. McPherson was admitted. Mrs. Clark fell upon the deck by which fall she received a black eye. Her husband for all the attempts he made, he could not manage to give her sister a black eye. I have no doubt but it would be easier done than

lifting her coats and skelping her posterior as he threatened to do in presence of many. Coopering is carried on to a great extent here. A great number of small thingies and a few bains were made. These were very rough made but I think, no wonder of it, for they were very deficient in tools. The wood belongs to the ship, and whether they will be allowed to bring them on shore or not I can not say, but at all events they are at a great deal of trouble making them. Mrs. Pinkerton's infant is in a bad state appearingly at the point of death. She moans very heavy and has done so since she was born. The doctor has little hopes of her surviving. James Bruce took the strunts and would not pass the water because he would not be suffered to stand in a place which he considered to be his station during the time of passing the water. A deal of talk passed between him and his companions upon that occasion but he stood firm and passed none during the whole time they were at it. The child that was born yesterday died this day. She no sooner entered the stage of life than she made her exit. One of the Misses A....s and a Mrs. Sh...r had a kind of a set to with their tongues at the washing tubs when Miss thought proper to cast up to Mrs. that she was Irish, upon which Mrs. answered in these words, "Yes" says she "I am Irish and I do not deny it like you, and a decent married Irish woman's daughter, but you are an Irishman's bastard". This stuck in Miss's throat for she is an Irishman's daughter of the name of Conor. There is another half sister, her name I have not learnt. The mother is a Highland woman. They take the name of A....s on board after the step father. A finer man never broke world's bread, affable and kind to every one around him, so as to gain to himself the good will of every prudent thinking person. The time that I am writing this, the death of a child is contradicted. This shews the little confidence that can be placed in what is told on board the Duncan. They care not what to say. I am happy indeed for the widow's sake that it is a false report as her heart must be very sore already by the death of her husband. The child is in a distressed state at present. We are this night up as far in the Chart of any Ship that ever sailed this ocean, but it depends all together upon the wind. If we keep [course] and reach Sidney in as short a time as she [*ship's name omitted*] did, we may perchance accomplish it in less time. If we do, it is unusual sailing.

Friday June 15th: This day the wind was favourable as before, but not so strong running, only 6 knots per hour. This being a washing day, and the day on which my turn of the water came on, for each family in the mess took turns of the water. Upon this occasion two girls had volunteered to wash my clothes as the wife was sickly. This being done and the clothes dried, the girls claimed a pillow slip which a Mr. Bruce, they said, had lifted off the top of my clothes. This Mrs. Bruce denied, stoutly alleging that the article was hers. The girls declared that such was the case. I spoke in behalf of the girls' assertion but at the same time told Bruce that I had no mark on the slip, but could not understand how her article came among mine. Bruce said that as our clothes were close upon each other, they might be mixed. The slip by this time was looked for among Bruce's clothes but without success. She said she did not know what had become of it, but in a short time it was found deposited in her bosom. This made me the more urgent in my demand for I could not conceive what could induce her to put it in her bosom, at such a time. We were by this time examining the slip for a mark which Bruce said he had upon it, when Mrs. Bruce came slyly and snapped it out of my hand. I followed her to see and get it to examine it, when her husband took hold of me by the waist and tried to throw me. I also took hold of him and threw him upon the ground. By this time the Doctor had got word of it, and sent for us both, & asks the

cause of the quarrel. This being told, he asked if I had any mark. I said "No". He asked Bruce if he had any. He said he had red keel on it. This being found to be the case, I allowed it to have been a mistake, for I could say no other thing, and I told the Doctor at the same time that they might claim all the pillows I had for that matter, for that I had no mark upon them, for I had now but one for each of my family, and I considered that no person would seek any more. The Doctor told us both that he would stop our wine till we reached Sidney. "And for you Mr. Bruce", he said, addressing himself to Bruce, "you have been frequently before me" and threatened to put [him] upon bread and water, "and if I hear any more about you I will put my threat in execution". At the time of serving out the wine, Bruce presented himself at the cabin door but was told that his wine was stopped and that of his wife's. After the men was all served I stepped forward and asked the Doctor if he thought himself justified in stopping my wife's wine which was the only nourishment she had in her weak state, suffering as she was from the effects of her late sickness. He told me very surely that he wanted no talk. I said he would hear no more at present, but afterwards he would, and with that I came off fully resolved to see what was the cause of the wife's wine being stopped, as she had nothing to do with my quarrelling. But at the same time putting on a determined resolution never to taste any of my own wine, even if I were asked to, while on board of the Duncan, sealing it with a hasty oath. A descant upon the day's transaction wound up the rest of the evening among the emigrants, a great [many] of whom has some ill will at me for no other cause that I know of, except it be for writing and taking down, as they suppose, their fighting with their wives etc. This and this only can be the cause of their ill will towards me. Bruce was very ill at the loss of his wine and got one of the men to plead for him to the Doctor. I asked none to plead for me and indeed I question if any of them would do it. But my resolution was fixed: that is not to [accept] of my own share of wine if it should be offered to me, as I considered my fault but trifling, compared to other people's faults which was often of an aggravating kind in the eyes of the law of my country, insomuch as they made each other's blood to flow, and throwing jugs of warm tea at each other, men and wives fighting, but the like of that was kept hidden from the Doctor with all the secrecy imaginable. For if the Doctor was to hear of it, it would be the means of preventing the men from lording over their wives. But my faults if there were any, was piped at once. I of course have my faults, as well as others, because they are lifeless, that is faultless, but God forbid, that I should be guilty of the one third of what was laid to my charge. Were it so, I would prove the most obnoxious of all human beings, altogether unworthy to live among rational creatures. Andrew Clark was one of [my] greatest enemies. He delighted in the affair because I rescued his sister-in-law from his tyranny. By this event I suffered a great deal, even from quarters where I least expected it. But as the prophet Jeremiah expresses, "the heart is dutiful above all things, and desperately wicked", such I found [it] to be with those to whom I shewed kindness. My boys did something that displeased me for which I chastised them. While in [the] act of doing so, Mrs. Clark directed the attention of those around her to notice me, at the same time exclaimed with a loud voice "those McKinnons again".

Saturday June 16th: This morning the wind was favourable running at the rate of nine and a half knots per hour. A beautiful clear sky at intervals at which time the sun beamed with great splendour. Nothing of note happened during the forenoon till the dinner was over, and pannikins for wine called. Bruce appeared at the service door and received his share. I did

not appear. The Doctor sent for me and told me to go to the hospital and get two glasses of port wine from Mr. Shannon, and each day I to attend and get the same quantity as the wife was weakly. This I did, and received two glasses of excellent wine and felt myself very happy in procuring such excellent cordial to the wife, for the two glasses full of it was worth five of the wine given at the cabin door and in place of being a loser, I consider myself a gainer. Andrew Clark's sister in law went for her wine as usual as he always got her wine along with his own, but she was told, by [him] that he had got no wine for her, his wife remarking that such was the way that blackguards ought to be served.

[Sunday June 17th to Saturday June 30th: The journal pages for this period were probably either mislaid or destroyed.]

[The journal was presented to the Public Library of NSW in 1904, by Mr. Donald McKinnon, the son of the author Mr. Donald McKinnon Snr., some 66 years after it was written. The author was employed by the Royal Engineers as an Overseer at Goat Island and, based on available evidence, was drowned in Sydney Harbour, while in the performance of his duties when proceeding from Goat Island to Sydney, sometime in the period from January 1839 to January 1845. However, the absence of his name from the 1841 census suggests that he may have died between January 1839 and March 1841. Janet McKinnon died in 1885, aged 83; Donald McKinnon Jnr. died in 1914, aged 85.]

Sources:

- "Journal of a Voyage from Greenock to Sydney in the Duncan."
Author: Donald McKinnon. State Library (Mitchell) of NSW (CY 980, B671).
- State Records of NSW: (Reels 1289, 2654; 1841 Census).
- State Records of NSW: Letter by Janet McKinnon, wife of the author Donald McKinnon, to His Excellency Sir George Gipps (Col. Sec's. Ref. 45/1394).
- Sydney-Presbyterian-Memorial of Presbyterian Inhabitants December 1838.
State Library (Mitchell) of NSW (CO 201/294 ff 26-31 PRO 324).

[The following undated entry was included in the Journal]

Funeral at Sea

When a person dies at sea his body is sewed up in a piece of canvas with a shot or two at the feet and sometimes stones. This was what was used on board of the Duncan. After this the body is either [taken] to the poop or gangway. During our voyage two was let off at the gangway but all the rest was dropt off the poop, at the same time covered with the National flag. When all is in readiness the person appointed to read the service makes his appearance, uncovered, all the men present doing the same. The service is read with due solemnity and an earnest attention is paid throughout the whole, and when he comes to these solemn words, “for as much as it hath pleased Almighty God of his great mercy, to take unto himself the soul of our dear brother, here departed, we therefore commit his body to the deep, to be turned into corruption, looking for the resurrection of the body, when the sea shall give up her dead, and the life of the world to come” etc. At the commencement of this part of the service one of the seamen stoops down and disengages the flag from the body while the others, at the words “we commit his body to the deep” project the grating upon which the body is laid right into the sea. The bag which contains the body being loaded with shot or stones at one end, glances off the grating and plunges into the ocean and

In a moment, like a drop of rain
He sinks into its depths with bubbling groan
Without a grace, unknelled, uncoffined, an unknown

Hall’s fragments of voyages.

Transcribers’ Postscript

It is regrettable that Donald McKinnon’s record of the last fourteen days of the Duncan’s voyage has been lost. Interested readers of his journal will never know what events took place from the 17th to the 30th June 1838, but are left to imagine the various weather conditions that may have confronted the ship’s crew while keeping the ship on course and also the conflicts and animosities that may have been intensifying between the passengers whose otherwise staid demeanour may, by this time, have been contorted to breaking point as the ship drew closer to its destination as it sailed purposefully across Australia’s southern waters. However it can be speculated, with a degree of certainty, that among the emigrants there would have been palpable feelings of relief, anticipation and jubilation, that their protracted and tedious voyage, was drawing slowly yet finally to an end. However their excited emotions would have been tempered by an unsettling sense of fear and foreboding, engendered by the certain knowledge that they were about to be thrust into a raw and harsh Penal Colony of fifty years continuous existence, situated in an alien and possibly hostile and largely untamed land whose similarities with Scotland would not be at all evident, and that they and their families were now faced with the reality of having to recommence their lives in such an environment.

[The following undated letter was included in the Journal]

Childe Harold

My Dear friends,

~~Such was my thoughts upon the night while sailing from the River Clyde with a slight breeze.~~ Early next morning we passed the Craig of Ailsay and in the forenoon we drew nigh to the Irish shore. About four o'clock the breeze freshened and at the same time right ahead of us, we were this blocked up in a narrow channel with no room to traverse it with safety. Consequently the ship was put about so as to bear before the wind. Our course lay towards the Mull of Kintyre and the means in their power was resorted to, so as to enable them to clear it before the return of the tide. All the canvas that the ship could carry with prudence was used. This had the desired effect for we cleared the dreaded place at nightfall and passed through the channel at the rate of 11 to 12 knots. By this time sickness had laid many of the passengers in their berths. I was myself slightly affected but the desire of seeing my native shores of the Western Highlands kept me still upon deck. At 10 o'clock P.M. we cleared the western point of the Island of Islay, ploughing our way into the Atlantic Ocean. By that time I was compelled by sickness to creep to my berth from which sickness I did not recover for three weeks, but thanks be to God, there was none of my family ill but myself alone. Janet was squeamish for a day or so, as was also little Donald, but Sandy and John had none. The gale continued for three weeks without intermission. I cannot at present convey to you the deplorable situation in which we were placed during that time. With the exception of a few, every person was laid [low], the ship rolling at a desperate rate nearly on her beam ends so as to call all our exertions to enable us to keep ourselves from being thrown from our berths. The sea to all appearance had risen to the height of mountains. I was under the necessity of creeping out of my place of confinement whenever fresh meat was served up.

main [top of page missing]

our bowsprit was broken and the [top of page missing]

away and to complete our calamity, the main [last word missing] ruther snapped in two by which reason our wheel was rendered useless and the ship became unmanageable till such time as a lever was fixed, and by the aid of a block and tackle she was made to obey the helm. This catastrophe befell [us] in the midst of a mighty ocean about seven hundred miles N.W. of Uist commonly called the Long Island. We had to retrace all that back to gain our wished-for track. It was reported that we would call in [at] some British Port to undergo repairs, but the fear that the passengers would leave them, made them alter their course for some foreign port. For had they entered a British harbour, more than the one half of the people would have left them. However the trial was not made. We were kept on the blue waters in storm and rain and the first land that we got sight of was one of the Madeira Islands, Porto Santo, not six weeks after we lost sight of our native land. The day was very boisterous and we ran to the eastward of the Island. The Chief Mate went to the round top to look out for breakers. I went up along with him and received from him all the intelligence about the place about which I inserted in my journal. This shews to [me] how rapid I am recovering my health and I am happy to state to you and well wishers that I never enjoyed better health than I do at present, thank God for his mercy, and likewise my family, notwithstanding the mortality that is in the ship, He has been pleased to spare them and grant them health. [letter apparently incomplete].

Glossary

<i>Bain</i>	= A bathtub.
<i>Bannock</i>	= A round flat cake made from wheat or barley.
<i>Bemean</i>	= A less common word for demean.
<i>Broil</i>	= A loud quarrel or disturbance.
<i>Burgoo</i>	= Porridge.
<i>Checks</i>	= Nips of spirits.
<i>Chopfallen</i>	= Dispirited.
<i>Chopin</i>	= A Scots unit of liquid measure equal to two mutchkins).
<i>Coul</i>	= A close-fitting cap.
<i>Crack</i>	= Conviviality; good conversation.
<i>Cro'tan</i>	= A fish species common to the West Coast of Scotland.
<i>Crouded</i>	= Crowded.
<i>Daundered</i>	= Strolled.
<i>Evend</i>	= The end of the evening.
<i>Fearnought</i>	= A thick woollen coat.
<i>Fleakes</i>	= Flakes.
<i>Flite</i>	= To contend, strive, wrangle.
<i>Gallowgate</i>	= The pathway that originally led from the New Gate Gaol to the town gibbet.
<i>Gig</i>	= A light tender for a ship, often for the personal use of the captain.
<i>Gowkie Day</i>	= "April Fools Day"; "Hunt the Gowk". A Gowk is the butt of any practical joke.
<i>Head-mark</i>	= The unique facial appearance of each individual of a species.
<i>Hogget</i>	= A large cask.
<i>Jamie Blue</i>	= James McIndoe d. 1837. A Glasgow street orator described in the elegy by R. Husband.
<i>John Barleycorn</i>	= A folk song whose focus is barley and the alcoholic beverages made from it.
<i>Keel</i>	= Red dye.
<i>Keelie</i>	= A young rough and tough working class person from a city or town.
<i>Keely</i>	= Reddish.
<i>Kent</i>	= Knew.
<i>Livery</i>	= Lodging; quarters; rations.
<i>Milreis</i>	= One thousand Reis = One Portuguese Dollar (1809).
<i>Mutchkin</i>	= A Scots unit of liquid measure, equal to a quarter of a pint (Scots).
<i>Pannikin</i>	= A small pan or cup, usually made of tin.
<i>Pease</i>	= An archaic word for pea.
<i>Pierie</i>	= A spinning top.
<i>Pinnance</i>	= Any of the various kinds of ship's tender.
<i>Plew</i>	= Plough.
<i>Policy</i>	= Enclosed ornamental grounds.
<i>Reef</i>	= To reduce the sail area (by taking in a reef) as is done in a high wind.
<i>Rick</i>	= A stack of hay.
<i>Ruther</i>	= A vessel's rudder.
<i>Seise</i>	= A variant spelling of seize.
<i>Scut</i>	= A contemptible fellow.
<i>Shew</i>	= Archaic spelling of show.
<i>Skelp</i>	= A smack or slap.
<i>Snuffy</i>	= Having an unpleasant appearance; sulky, angry, vexed.
<i>Southard</i>	= Situated towards the south.
<i>Straked</i>	= Striped.
<i>Strunt</i>	= Sulk.
<i>Thrang</i>	= Busy, meaning both crowded with people and fully occupied.
<i>Vulcan</i>	= The Roman God of fire and metal-working.
<i>Wherry</i>	= Any of certain kinds of half decked commercial boats, such as barges.

Sources: Collins English Dictionary 1980.
 Google : Online Scots Dictionary; Portuguese Currency; Scottish Fish Species.
 Oxford English Dictionary, Second Edition, 1989.
 Wikipedia.

Caledonian Mercury (Edinburgh Scotland)
Jun 30 1838

The Emigrant Ship Duncan

We are happy to announce the arrival of the emigrant ship Duncan, at Rio de Janeiro, on 10th April, after a tedious passage from Greenock of 88 days. This vessel sailed on 11th January for New South Wales, having on board sixty families, or about 260 persons – under the superintendence of Dr Dobie R.N. a gentleman of experience, appointed to this charge by Government. For six weeks the Duncan encountered most boisterous and adverse gales, during which the emigrants suffered considerably from sickness. We regret to state that 14 casualties are reported, chiefly among the children; but, considering the severity and length of the voyage, we are satisfied that but for the judicious arrangements and anxious care of Dr Dobie and his assistants, the mortality would have been more extensive. An official list of deaths is subjoined for the information of friends and relatives in this country. The Duncan was to resume her voyage in about ten days, in which time it was expected that she would be refitted, and the passengers' health restored by a plentiful supply of fresh meat and vegetables, which they could not fail to obtain :-

Jan.	23.	Thomas Robertson	10 months.
Feb.	16.	Elizabeth Gray.....	6 do.
	19.	Ann M'Lean.....	17 do.
	24.	Thomas Gibson.....	16 do.
March	2.	Mary Lightbody.....	3 years.
	3.	William M'Pherson.....	4 do.
	4.	William M'Kinlay.....	2 do.
	5.	Mrs Aitken.....	26 do.
	11.	Jean Lightbody.....	18 months.
	18.	Eliza Shearer.....	7 do.
	23.	John M'Ilwrath.....	2 years.
April	5.	George Pinkerton.....	31 years.
	6.	Ellen Edmonston.....	2 do.
	6.	Margaret Divine.....	12 months.

Mrs Aitken died of puerperal fever.

George Pinkerton of coup de soleil.

GOV. GAZETTE 4th Jul. 1838. [515]

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney, 3rd July, 1838.

EMIGRANTS

The emigrants who have arrived in the ship *Duncan* have been landed and lodged in the Emigrants Buildings in Bent-street, where persons desirous of engaging them are requested to make application. The following abstract is published for general information.
No. 343. July 4, 1838.

MARRIED

Stone Masons.....	12
Slaters.....	3
Blacksmiths.....	5
Joiners.....	8
Carpenters & Joiners.....	7
Quarrymen.....	3
Surveyor.....	1
Farm Servants.....	4
Plasterer.....	1
Sawyers.....	5
Gardener.....	1
Farm Overseer.....	<u>2</u>
	<u>52</u>

UNMARRIED

Stone Mason.....	1
Stone Cutter.....	1
Turner.....	1
Shepherd.....	1
Schoolmaster.....	1
Attendant on Engineer.....	1
Farm Overseer.....	<u>1</u>
	<u>7</u>

SINGLE FEMALES

House Servants.....	6
Cooks.....	2
Dress Maker.....	1
Dairy Maid.....	1
Nurse Maid.....	<u>1</u>
	<u>11</u>

By His Excellency's Command

E. Deas Thomson.

Caledonian Mercury (Edinburgh)
Monday 29.10.1838

Ship "Duncan" – This large and fine ship sailed
 From Greenock for Sydney on the
 11th day of January last, with about 260 emigrants
 of all ages, under the superintendence of
 John Dobie, Esq. Surgeon, R.N.
 She experienced very bad weather
 in the first part of her voyage,
 and was obliged to put into
 Rio de Janeiro on the 10th April to refit.
 We are happy now to announce
 her safe arrival at Sydney on 30th June.
 The voyage thither seems to have been as favourable
 as the previous part of it had been the reverse,
 as from the number of passengers reported in the
 Sydney Herald,
 it does not appear that any unfortunate casualty had
 occurred.

John Dobie: Death Notice

Hampshire Chronicle
 25 July 1866

Dobie – On the 17th inst.
 At 49 Pall Mall,
 John Dobie, Esq., R.N.
 in the 69th year of his age,
 deeply regretted
 by all who knew him.

Note: The International Genealogical Index records show that a John Dobie was born in Culross, Perthshire, Scotland on 17 August 1797, his parents being Alexander Dobie and Marion Anderson. Additionally, information provided on the Duncan's passenger list suggests that Dr. John Dobie's origins may have been in Perthshire, Scotland. A date of birth of 17 August 1797 is consistent with a stated age of 69 at the time of death of Dr. John Dobie, RN, on 17 July 1866.

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY of BIOGRAPHY: MUP, Vol. 1, 1966, pp 310-311.

DOBIE, JOHN (1794-1866), naval surgeon and grazier, entered the navy in 1806 and was appointed an assistant surgeon in October 1813. In 1820 he was placed in medical charge of the naval department at Trincomalee. In July 1824 he sailed from England as surgeon of the transport *Princess Charlotte*, and in November reached Hobart Town with his charges in good health. After a brief stay in Sydney he was appointed to the *Warspite*, 1825, the *Boadicea*, 1826, the *Java*, 1827, the *Madagascar*, 1828, and the convict ship, *Lady Nugent*, June 1836. On arrival at Hobart in November, he again could report no deaths among the 286 convicts on board.

In 1837 Governor [Sir Richard Bourke](#) sent him to England with personal letters to [Glenelg](#), secretary of state for the colonies, and instructions to use his own judgment in recruiting free immigrants for New South Wales. When he was returning in the *Duncan* with 272 free settlers, the ship encountered bad weather and docked at Rio de Janeiro where Bourke, returning home, commended his management of the passengers. In December 1838 he was appointed by Governor [Sir George Gipps](#) as first health officer in Sydney and received a grant of land in the Cassilis district. To the governor's regret he resigned in November 1839 to lead an expedition into the unsettled Clarence River valley, where he took up Ramornie station in June 1840, Stratheden station in the Richmond River valley in 1842, and exchanged Ramornie for Gordon Brook station in 1845. He was a magistrate of the territory in 1840, and was listed among the 'Largest Occupiers of Crown Lands and Largest Holders of Stock' in 1844. He contributed greatly to the early development of the Clarence squatting district. Dobie's dispenser, John Campbell Shannon, became his station manager. At the same time he took an active part in political and government affairs. At the squatters' meeting on 9 April 1844, called to protest against the new land regulations, Dobie seconded the motion for the formation of the Pastoral Association of New South Wales, and in 1850 he signed the Armidale petition to include New England and the Clarence district in the proposed state of Queensland. On 8 January 1851 he attended the Moreton Bay and Northern Districts Separation Association as a member of the committee. He was a witness at select committees on immigration in 1838, 1845 and 1852, on the upset price of land in 1847 and on crown lands in 1854.

Dobie was a member of the Australian Medical Board from 1844 to 1864. He was appointed a non-official nominee member of the Legislative Council on 13 October 1851, and served on eight more select committees before his resignation in March 1855. After selling his properties on the Clarence and Richmond Rivers he returned to England where he died on 17 July 1866. He was unmarried.

Select Bibliography

Historical Records of Australia, series 1, vols 18-20, 22, 24, 26; W. G. Armstrong, 'The First Australian Health Officer', *Medical Journal of Australia*, 24 June 1939, pp 928-29; *Clarence River Historical Society Records*, 1 (1932-35), 2 (1938); *Clarence River Historical Society Bawden Lectures*, nos 53, 87, 100, 101, 111, 115, 116; Adm 104/15 (National Archives of the United Kingdom).

Author: Louise T. Daley

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Sydney Cove

From the Stream

by

John Carmichael

(Courtesy of the National Library of Australia)

(nla.pic-an10132578)