

Alpheus S. Boynton - Journal, 23rd December 1852 – 26 February 1856
MLMSS 1058

[Transcriber's note:

Alpheus S Boynton was a Canadian (although throughout his journal he refers to himself as American) from Hatley, Quebec. He was believed to be 24 years old when he sailed from Boston with his younger brother Henry on the Fanny on 23rd December 1852, bound for Melbourne where he hoped to "realise my hopes in the land of gold", arriving there 24th April 1853.

He worked for a time in Melbourne before heading for the goldfields in the Ballarat area where he worked a mine at Creswick's Creek but failed to "realise my hopes". Later in 1853 he became part owner of a carrying business which plied between Geelong and the gold fields and built up a successful carrying business. He was present and describes the events at Eureka Stockade and conditions on the goldfields. In June 1855 with a downturn in the market and homesickness, he decided to sell the carts and horses and return home.

With Henry he sailed for London on the Kent on 13th September 1855. They spent twelve days sightseeing in London and he describes in some detail visits to St Paul's Cathedral, British Museum, Tower of London and Regent's Park Zoo.

They sailed for New York from Liverpool on 17th December and after a stormy crossing arrived 15th February 1856 then travelled to Hatley, Quebec via Boston, and Portland, Maine, arriving 26 February.

He married Jane Grannis (Cook). They had a son, Charles Albert, who became a judge and prominent Republican in Texas. Alpheus Boynton's presence on the goldfields was mentioned in the book "Deaths at Eureka" by Dorothy Wickham. His journal covers the period from his departure from Boston to arrival back in Hatley.]

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Boston Harbour

Ship Fanny Ewer Master December 23st 1852

This dates the commencement of a journal I intend to keep during a passage from this to the port of Australia and whether I am destined to reach there and realise my hopes in the land of gold or find a watery grave my body to become food for the inhabitants of the deep that this may find a lodgement in the hands of my friends is my object in writing it.

This day is doubtless an eventful period in the history of my life, and one that is likely in a great degree to shape my future destiny, so far as circumstances in life may be considered to effect it. but whatever my future may

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be whether lighted by the smiles of prosperity or darkened by the frowns of adversity it is a day that will be looked back to by me with deep interest while I live. The scene on long wharf we have just witnessed is indeed sufficient to fill one's heart with Sorrows that is not altogether unsusceptible of true friendly feeling. when the moment comes that one is to leave his native land among whose hills he has found the brightest spots of his life, when he is about to speak perhaps the last farewell to his relatives and the companions of his youth. to go he scarcely knows where then, it is he has an opportunity to test the strength of the tie that binds him to home and friends. such was my lot this afternoon

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the vessel hauled out this morning we staid with our friends until afternoon when we took some small boats and were rowed down for which we paid each 25 cts and here I am and from this time my life at sea commences. until now I have not been able to fully realise that this is to be my home; that the boundary line of my travels (for at least three months) is to be the bulwarks of the ship

Friday Dec 24 9 O clock A.M. last night our new cot proved a good resting place our breakfast was swallowed with despatch and a good relish which consisted of Beef Steak corned Beef and Pork Potatoes sea biscuit and Butter and

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coffee strong enough to carry double and blacker than the [indecipherable] of charcoal, and that without milk, so we have to make a double portion of sugar supply its place

We have just been pretty loudly clapped after singing some of our pieces as any quality of music is acceptable at this particular time while the jolly tars are unfurling our sails to the breeze and the Fanny is beginning to walk down the harbour like a creature of life moderately at the commencement as if sparing of her strength conscious of the long journey she is expected to perform. and now while men women and children are thronging the deck I have just taken a long last look of Boston my adopted

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many fond recollections.

Saturday Dec 25th 1852

I wish my friends all a ~~happy~~ merry christmas and I suppose I have the same wish from them but my christmas will be any thing but merry while a feeling of Sea sickness pervades my whole frame. I can manage to write a little when I am in my berth but when out of it my head whirls like a top. yesterday Henry myself & F E Parker were among the first to be sick while three or four of our company can find no better business than to laugh at us; but they too must take their turn their stout stomachs will yet be called upon to yield up their possessions; onward is still the motto of our gallant Fanny. Like a huge monster of the deep she threads her course through [Henry may be Alpheus's brother]

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mountain waves scorning their feeble resistance. Yesterday afternoon the Juliett bound for San Francisco hove in sight far in the distance ahead; She hauled out from the wharf before us and now we are close alongside of her and like a couple of nags each seems to be striving for the prize, but the Fanny is inside of 2.40 and the Juliett is fast falling in the rear. ~~we were awakened~~

Sunday December 26 1852 we were awakened this morning by the crowing of the cock for we have about one hundred fowls on board, it reminded me of scenes in the old barn yard in the country. it storms some to day and the sea is quite rough we have a favourable wind blowing from the North East and we are going along with good

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speed. The Juliett can just be seen far back, she finds herself wholly unable to compete with our gallant clippers.

Monday Dec 27th 1852

We are now in the gulf stream the water is quite warm here though the wind is yet chilly. last night it blew a heavy gale at times and now and then a big wave would come dashing over the side of the ship and in at our cabin door without leave or ceremony, running over the floor and through our baggage. but these they tell me are only the rudimental lessons in the education of the Seaman. but the scene that is presented to the eye this morning is beautifully wild and sublime; well deserving the pen of the poet and the skill of the painter. now gradually we are elevated to the mountain top, now we poise for a

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moment on the summit to take a birds eye view of the blue rolling waters below; and now by degrees we descend again to the depths of the valley, while all around as far as the eye can reach sky and Ocean mingle. the wind still continues favourable and we are progressing finely but O! sick, sick! a cup of gruel is all I have taken since we left the harbour. pity the voyager with a weak stomach and nothing before him but salt Beef & Pork and Sea biscuit O! the name of it is loathsome. think of a fine ship baked in the burning sun of a dozen summers, and you will have some idea of what is called sea bread; both afford about equal nourishment, ~~all the difference there is~~ I think the chip would receive the preference however

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on account of being handled a little easier during the process of digestion.

Tuesday Dec 28th 1852

Today it is quite mild and pleasant and we have spent most of the time on deck. we have cleared the gulf stream but at present are obliged to contend with head winds tacking first in this direction, then in that, and making very little progress in the right course nothing worthy of note has occurred for this writing

Wednesday Dec 29th

Since last night at 6 O clock we have a strong breeze from a favourable quarter averaging eleven knots per hour and so it continues 4 P.M: the sea is very rough now and then while I am writing I hear a hearty laugh from the passengers on deck as a big wave comes over the

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side of the vessel completely drenching some poor fellow that happens to be walking along under it. The ship rocks so that plates slide about on the table, and the platters of meat &c have to be fastened by means of a rope.

Thursday 30th a week ago this morning we left Boston. I suppose now the sleighs are flying about and the bells are ginging merrily there with plenty of snow while in the soft warm breeze that blows upon us here it would not last an hour. It is cloudy to-day the wind is weak, the sails are flapping the masts, consequently the speed of the Fanny cannot be great. But we are hoping the breeze will strengthen and that another morning will see us advanced a long step on

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our journey

Friday 31st last night we had pretty good sailing but to-day the weather is a mixture of rain and shine, this morning a sail hove in sight off at our right, and we find with the aid of the telescope that she is a brig sailing in the same direction with us, but like all others she is getting far astern of the Fanny.

January 1st 1853 a happy new year to all my friends and if I were now on my return voyage to America with a small pile of rocks and a healthy vigorous system it would certainly be a happy new year to me. but while I am seeking and longing for a foothold on a land of whose facilities I have no true conception my happiness cannot be exceedingly great, but when

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I shall have arrived there and learned my position though it be not so desirable as I may wish, my satisfaction will be greater than while remaining in ignorance ~~though being on the highest~~ and living on hope; last evening it was still and starlight and our promenade deck assumed more the appearance of a dancing hall than any part of a vessel. A lamp was suspended from the rigging overhead which with the aid of the shining planets gave an abundance of light, and after securing fiddle, tambourine and bones, dancers &c, a ring was formed and had it not been for a sober and quite respectable company, one might easily have imagined himself in an Ann street gathering. in short we

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had a regular break down and the captain enjoyed the fun as much as any one present; they were up till 12 and then there went up such a shout for the new year as to awaken all the sleepers. we are going rather moderately to-day. this morning I saw the spouting of a whale but a good way off

Sunday Jan 2nd 1853

This is a fine warm day and since noon we have had a good breeze and are sailing along finely. today new made bread and apple pies have made their appearance on our table and they were very acceptable I assure you; having had no bread until now but hard sea biscuit but one of the passengers a baker has been engaged by the captain and some others to bake for us, so that our fare hereafter will be better than is generally

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known on so long a voyage in a sailing vessel.

Monday Jan 3rd 1853 this is a beautiful morning and all are in pretty good spirits save two or three who are yet sick. We have sailed a good piece during the last twelve hours our sails are all spread and we are on our direct course

Tuesday Jan 4th

as we turn out of our berths another fine fresh morning appears to enliven the spirits and invigorate the body we have been walking the deck in shirt sleeves and it is as warm here as it is in Boston in may. We are on our right course but sailing slowly.

Wednesday to-day we have been going about two knots per hour enough to give any one the blues unless dame nature has stamped him already with an indellible green;

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if there any such with us they are the favoured portion, for they are seldom subject to change. I have just seen the back of a large whale as he rose above the water's surface about forty rods from us.

Thursday Jan 6th two weeks ago today we left long Wharf Boston We have just witnessed a magnificent scene, and the first of the kind; the rising of the Sun. like a the Lion with his foot upon his prey, proud in his conquering strength, he rose triumphant from the bed of waters that seemed striving, but in vain, to quench his blaze, and to bury him forever beneath the surges of the rolling flood; up up he came until the Ocean's broad surface shone bright in his glittering rays. the wind increased during the night and now

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we are going along at a good rate.

Friday Jan 7th It may seem singular to my land friends when I tell them that now during their coldest month, we are wearing our linen coats and summer hats and the sailors are climbing the ropes barefooted with nothing on but a Shirt & pants. This morning three sails are in sight but a great way off. we are going very slowly again about four knots. we are anxiously waiting for an entrance into the trade winds.

Sunday Jan 9th yesterday we had to contend with head winds and now we are sailing nearly west while our proper course is about south east. Yesterday about noon we ran into a drove of porpoises; a kind of Sea fish from three to four feet long. their number

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was legion for the water was completely filled with them they swam before the vessel far a mile until the mate threw a harpoon among them and they disappeared. this morning at half past ten we had religious services on board. Some rough board seats were arranged on deck for the hearers and Dr Mount read a part of the episcopal services after which a sermon was read by a Mr Tenimby from Boston from the text in the 9 chapter 12 verse of Matthew they that be whole need not a Physician but they that are sick. singing was performed the Fine, Ridder, Parker and Boynton club.

Tuesday Jan 11th 1853 yesterday we were in latitude 32° 49' west and 2100 miles from Boston having been out 18 days

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the captain tells me we have not made so much on our direct course for a week as we could in 6 hours with a fair strong wind we have been going all ways but the right one when we have not been lying still. This morning we are going towards the coast of Florida; but soon the mate will sing out, "about ship" and then we shall go nearly east again. But there is one important item I forgot to mention. we took on board several swine one of which gave birth to Sunday to a litter of five young and tender

offsprings a roaster by and by will be very acceptable. The Yankees say we are bound to live if we dont lay up a cent. This is like a may morning in America.

Thursday Jan 13 nothing occurred of interest yesterday it was fine

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weather but our vessel scarcely moved in the water until evening when a wind arose from the north east and continued to blow up to the time of writing 4 P M having driven us along a good piece.

Saturday Jan 15 we are now in the tropic of cancer $21^{\circ} 21'$ - north lat. we have had a very good run during the last 48 hours the Sun is getting quite warm though we are yet about 1200 miles from the Equator LE Parker is as tough as a pine knot and about fat enough to kill. while Henry is very thin indeed and [indecipherable] health is quite poor neither of us have a stomach to seize upon the solid food as many in the Ship do. as the song goes jordan is a hard road to travel. James Young

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is well and in good spirits. has not been sick at all. pity he had not been bred upon the Sea for he is as much at home there as any other Shark. We have come 171 miles the last 24 hours. I understand we are going into the affections of a young Pork roaster and some fowls for a Sunday's dinner for the cooks have just been dressing them, I think I shall not object to becoming acquainted with the little squealer

Jan 17th today we are in lat 15° north having come about 200 miles in 24 hours yesterday was a very warm day we had religious services at the usual hour the former part in the episcopal form after which

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a discourse was read by a Mr Moulton our last piece of music was the sailor's hymn a tune in the American vocalist, which I believe was very much liked. Mr Moulton goes as agent for the well known Adams & Co express owners in Boston accompanied by Mr Adams Jnr he goes to establish a line from Australia to America. most of the passengers seem to have a regard for the Sabbath, as nearly all attend service put on Sunday clothes etc flying fish are getting to be very plenty they are about the size of a swallow, and at a distance have very much the appearance of one. but with a nearer view the head and tale of the fish are visible it is a perfect fish with the addition of wings. they seem to have been created for a twofold purpose. they can

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soar in the air or swim in water but their aerial journies must necessarily be short for they cannot fly after their wings become dry; they will flit along over the white wave caps for a short space then dive into the water

Tuesday Jan 18th 1853 yesterday was very fine nothing of importance occurred today it is quite warm, we are now in the trade winds and are going ahead well I have just been to the captain and asked to have a chicken cooked for Henry and it is going to be done immediately. he feels some better to day I have just tried the virtue of our salt water soap on some flannels and socks; it works admirably. it is 10 O clock am

washing is done and my clothes are drying on the rigging; I am becoming well initiated in the duties

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of domestic life

Thursday Jan 20th nothing transpired yesterday worthy of mention, it was a fine warm day but our speed began to lessen in the morning and today it is very much decreased and from appearances we are very fearful that a calm is in store for us while crossing the line. but we hope not for a week or 2 spent in the vicinity of the Equator in the blaze of the burning sun without a single cooling breeze to fan us would be a situation anything but enviable. we have recently established a bible class and every day we come into our cabin and read 3 chapters there are 5 or 6 regular members and often others join with us. it is warm and pleasant to day, we have had no rain of any account since we started, it is now noon we are in lat 6° north

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Friday Jan 21 last night I slept on deck with a coverlid and pillow beneath me. the broad Heavens above me, and a cool breeze from off the water blowing upon me. I spent quite a comfortable night, though I think the sharp bones that stand out so prominently to guard the little flesh I have remaining, must have made some impression upon the soft side of the planks. the wind arose during the night and has wafted us on to 3° 47' north lat 227 miles from the Equator. it is very warm but the hottest is not yet, as the sun at this season is about 17° south of the Equator.

Saturday Jan 23 1853 a month ago today we left Long Wharf. As I look back over the past to that day it seems like an event which belongs to departed years, and

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yet each day as it comes glides swiftly away, scarcely giving time to note its passage; breakfast and the duties of the morning are hardly over when we see the mate finding his latitudes, telling us it is twelve. the moon shines very brightly during the night time, enabling us to read by its light with ease; last eve L Parker and I had a game of checkers aided by the lunar rays. we are now in lat 4° 2' north. and ere another morning dawns upon us we shall be south of the equator

Monday Jan 24th 1853 We are now in lat 42' south. The wind has ceased to blow and we scarcely move. last night Henry and I both slept upon deck. took our mattress and rested well in company with many others the deck being covered with sleepers. The Captain has just ordered an awning to be placed over the deck to shield us from the burning sun. it is one

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of the large spare sails an excellent arbor and as cheering to us as the sight of an Oasis to the weary traveller while plodding his way over the burning sands of Sahara a desert.

Thursday Jan 27th tuesday we had a smart shower during the night two flying fishes flew onboard and were found dead in the morning. I have persuaded the mate to give me one of the wings which I have pressed between two leaves of this journal

and which takes the first place on the list of preserved curiosities. nothing of interest occurred yesterday but to-day is big with events; considered so by us who see nothing but the expanse of wide Ocean, the same daily routine of limited action, and hear nothing but the howling of the wind, and the splashing of the waves. We have just spoken the

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brig Menalto from Monte Video bound for Liverpool 60 day out. She brings latest intelligence from Australia having on board papers and two passengers from Sidney, the accounts they give are very cheering indeed coming as they do from a reliable source. an abundance of gold is the reward of the persevering miner. as soon as the Captain decided to speak her, we all gladly embraced the opportunity of writing a short letter to our friends. and for about two hours confusion reigned supreme some were seen writing in their berths, some on their knees, and some were so much excited they could not write at all. one was running this way for a pen, another that way to borrow ink, the third was tumbling over a stool in search of paper, and stationary stood high in the market, soon our letters were handed to the Captain who lowered

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a boat and in company with 6 others rowed out to the Brig. our letters were handed to the captain who faithfully promised to forward them each to its place of destination. the vessel that conveyed the two passengers from Australia having sprung a leak ~~the~~ put in at Monte Video where they took passage in the Menalto. before our crew got back another brig passed us. they rowed to her spoke her from the boat. she sailed yesterday from port Rico. our Captain wished to purchase some fruit of them for which he was willing to pay a large price; but they were entirely destitute of both fruit and vegetables. but our Capt [indecipherable] doubting their report still continued to banter for a trade when he was told that they had two small lemons which he could have if he wished, but he thanked them for their liberal offer and returned.

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then followed a continuous strain of loud and prolonged cheering as the news was communicated to the passengers. while reading from on of the papers the Belles life in Sidney the reader continually interrupted with hurrah! for Australia which reminded me of stump speechifying on the Common. our Fanny proved to be far superior to either of the vessels we have spoken. we are now east of Cape St Roque S A.

Sunday Jan 30 1853 3 days have now passed since I have written in my journal. during last night we were visited by violent rain the first at 9 O clock and the second at 3 this morning. after the first it cleared off and H & I prepared our bed on deck as usual, spread our umbrella which we made fast by means of a string,

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to shield our faces from the brightness of the moon, and then retired for the night. but ere long the rain driven by the wind came down upon us like hale, which we considered a signal for us to arise take up our bed and walk and immediately we arose and took up our bed and departed thence and went down into the cabin where we abode until morning. the wind blew strong and our vessel was propelled through the water with almost alarming rapidity. a gale often comes up in the space of 15 minutes roaring and sweeping across the Ocean, giving us but little time to prepare

for its reception; consequently the navigator in these latitudes is required to possess a watchful eye, and a knowledge of his profession, and such I believe we have in the person of

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our Captain. His voice is never heard giving orders to the crew except in cases of necessity; but when he is heard to speak his words are accompanied with a degree of energy and firmness that will startle the listener, and you may conclude that a time for action has come. as you hear the commands of the officers given one after another in rapid succession you may see the sailors climbing like squirrels up the ropes to mast head reefing sails &c while each repeated gust seems sufficient to unrig the ship altogether and leave her nothing but a remnant, a heap of naked masts and broken spars. such is the experience of the sailor. Be assured it is no place for drones in a ship's crew during a storm instead of going under cover to save a wet back, then is the time they are expected

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to make their greatest efforts, and exhibit the greatest fortitude and the the dizzy headed, timorous youth, had better die on land than place himself before the mast. we are are now between 13 & 14° south latitude nearly under the sun but the strong breeze from off the water which continues with us renders it quite comfortable

Wednesday Feb 2 for the first time in my life I can turn my back to the South and face the sun. we passed under it Monday. the cluster of stars called the Southern cross and which guided the bark of Columbus are now in view. I think however it is very much overrated as a constellation today the wind is weak and it is the warmest weather we have seen; we are in lat 21° south

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Henry is improving feels much better today

Thursday Feb 3 1853 We are in lat 23° 6' south and while we I write we are just about crossing the tropic of Capricorn. during 24 hours past we have had several pretty severe gales one at 2 O clock this morning carried away our mizzen top mast with a tremendous crash having broken it in two places. many of the passengers were very much frightened, especially the ladies some jumping up from their berths and running out screaming as they went. the ships carpenter and some of the passengers are now employed in constructing a new one from timber we brought with us. we have just had a treat. a rich Oyster stew the best

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that has found a lodgement in my stomach since I left Boston; and like the lover of his dram, I almost wished my neck a mile long that I may taste it all the way down. They are put up in air tight tin vessels for ship use; we exchanged some apples for them with Mr Knight the Super Cargo

Sunday Feb 6th yesterday they completed the mast and rigged the sails so we have a perfect Fanny once more. the weather is quite warm today owing to the weak breeze and our nearness to the Sun in lat 28° 41' S longitude 27° 55' west. we are living in expectation of seeing the Cape of G Hope in about 16 days I assure you the sight of land will be cheering to me

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be it only a heap of grey rocks or an unproductive desert. we have just got up from a rich repast one which comes before the Oysters in point of excellence a mess of warm maple sugar. I had two cakes in my trunk I melted them and H, L, & I had a first rate time over it. no sooner had I placed it to my lips than a thousand recollections rushed to my mind, of scenes I knew long ago in the sugar place; chasing the red squirrel with the loaded bow gun, or, concealed behind a big maple aiming a deadly arrow at the carrying bird as he was about to take away our pork rind the sound of the choppers axe as it came along through the woods borne on the fresh cool breeze of an April morning, the charming notes of the chick-a-dee as it hopped from branch

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to branch so merry and free O! happy days of my boyhood but days that never will return whatever promises the future may have I will leave a sigh for yore

Friday Feb 11th I have not written since Sunday as nothing of interest has occurred, the most of the time the wind has been strong and favourable the weather fair until yesterday afternoon a storm of rain came up accompanied by a strong wind and all night was so very squally and rough that it was with difficulty we managed to lay in our berths. Today we are going with almost rail-road speed; the sun has been shut out from us the most of the day so that we have been unable to learn our position. Yesterday our lat was 30° 23' S

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longitude 15° 19' west

Sunday Feb 13 – 53 We have made a great passage since my last writing to-day we are in longitude 7° 19' west the weather is becoming quite cool again so that we are obliged to put on our woollen clothes. If the wind continues to blow with its present force the prospect is fair of spending the next sabbath on shore. it will be a joyful day to many a resident of the Fanny, for we have become pretty near land sick a sight of it to-day would cause us to leap for joy. Often while sitting together at sunset, talking of the scenery that spreads itself around our native home, looking at the clouds towering one above another, our

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imagination ~~will~~ transforms them into mountains, and waterfalls &c. the Ocean west becomes our Massawhippi, and beyond that appears in regular form the old blackberry hill where so often we have spent a pleasant day climbing up its rugged steps and filling our baskets with the delicious fruit berry. such Seasons, though our views are only imaginary are not the most unpleasant even here.

Monday Feb 14 This is St Valentines day I shall not be implicated in sending many comics this year. there are some of the fair sex with us, but they are so well attended that it is impossible for us unfortunates to throw in a polite word edgewise

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last night the wind changed and this morning found us sailing north of east while our course is South east we are in lat 30° south long 6° 25' west, we have just paid 15 cts per piece to the Stewardess for washing some shirts with no more stiffness in the collars than in the sleeves

Wednesday Feb 16 The wind came round in the right direction soon after my last writing and we have been going finely since we are now in lat 31° 31' south long 4° 12' E

Saturday 18th we have been delayed by head winds and now we are a little nearer the [indecipherable] than two days ago a very aggravated delay, situated as we are almost in sight of

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land.

Feb 22 1853 My friends will say this is Alpheus' birth day I wonder if he will think of it 'tis a fine warm day but little did I think it would ever find me here. Alas! how imperfectly do we judge the future. I have just returned from a swimming excursion as a means of celebrating the day. no sooner had I proposed it than about a dozen volunteered and we had a pleasant time some jumping from the deck some climbing down the ship's side and being hauled up again by a rope, the water was warm and there was scarcely a ripple on its surface. we did not venture out far fearing the sharks. as soon as we had come out we looked down & saw a large number

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of dolphins a fish about three feet in length and the most beautiful that inhabits the deep, seeming to have borrowed its colors from the rainbow, they had noticed our splashing and had been constrained to leave their deep concealment and pay us a visit

Feb 26th 1853 This morning a bout 9 O clock "land ho" was heard from the fore deck. at first it was disputed, some contending that it was a cloud but the telescope was brought and it was declared to be land. then went up such a shout from the gazing crowd as nearly to sink the Fanny; at least it must have frightened all the whales in the vicinity. our glad hearts could not have beat

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more happily had we known that the discovery of a continent was to be our [indecipherable] through coming time. where first seen it was about 75 miles off but now as we are coming nearer the wild and craggy sides of the mountain are visible which line the coast as far as the eye can reach. Now we can see the village and [indecipherable] trees on the shore, but we must tack eastward to the inner bay before we anchor. as we approach the bay we get a near view of the table mountain said to be 3760 feet high*

Sunday morning we are anchored in table Bay in front of Cape town it is a beautiful morning and it smiles upon a happy company. all are busy putting on their

[in margin] * Just now my friend Parker on seeing our colours ascend to the mizzen topmast jumped upon the bottom of the boat and with feelings of lofty patriotism gave three cheers for the stars and stripes at the same time waving his hat when suddenly a gust of wind took it and carried it far to the leeward leaving his enthusiastic head as

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[in margin] bare as a scathed oak while his venerable locks floating on the breeze were no less an emblem of national honour than the proud flag he was so triumphantly cheering

finest apparel preparing to visit the shore. the broad side of table mountain is now before us to one who has always gazed upon New England scenery it is truly a curiosity. It lies back of the town is about two miles in length and runs parallel to the shore. above the middle nothing is seen but a solid rock nearly perpendicular in front appearing more like the work of art than of nature. The top is as level as the floor and is so long and so nearly perfect in all its proportions that it seems to have been lain by the line of the mason.

Cape Town Thursday March 3 It is now a good spell since I have had either time or inclination to attend to my journal. F Parker, Henry, and myself, are seated

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back of the City of Cape town on one of Afric's green hills taking a birds eye view of the town with a large bunch of grapes before us but which is rapidly diminishing. we have just been invited by a gentleman to walk through his gardens and examine his grounds we saw one of field consisting of 4 or 5 acres of the finest grapes besides an endless variety of ~~other~~ fruit trees most neatly arranged and in a most thriving condition. We were highly entertained and when we left he filled my hdkf with grapes fresh from the vines, and here we are spoiling them in the shade of a pine. It was extremely warm Sunday when we arrived on shore but I felt like a bird just

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flown from the cage that had long imprisoned him my shackles fell off, my fetters were loosed, and again felt myself a man, with power and freedom to walk abroad upon the earth. the bells were ringing for church, but we concluded to wait and attend in the afternoon; consequently we lost our meeting, as they have but two services morning and evening. So we set out to explore the town. we walked on until noon, through groves and arbours shaded with oak, the most beautiful that I ever saw; then returned to a hotel and dined at a table loaded with all the luxuries that an autumn ~~August~~ would bring us at home ~~besides many kinds that American soil has never produce~~ green corn string beans, radishes,

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cherry puddings, grapes &c besides many kinds that American soil has never produced. it seemed quite a change from a ship's fare. Cape Town contains 30,000 inhabitants composed of English, Malays, Hottentots, and Dutch, the former being principally the aristocracy, while the latter pay their attention more to the farming occupation. their grounds are beautifully laid out and highly cultivated some of them are very wealthy, possessing large and valuable vineyards; but with regard to inventions and improvements of every kind for labour saving, they are more than

century behind the times; and when compared with Yankee ingenuity, they can scarcely be called civilized, for instance, you

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may see 8 or 10 prs of oxen & cows together come into town attached to a load of half a ton's weight, the driver being furnished with a whip resembling a fishing rod and line, with which to crack up the leaders. The strength of the ox is lost on account of their peculiar kind of yoke, which is constructed as follows. a straight stick 4 inches in diameter square is put across their necks, into this are driven pins running down each side of the neck, then a rope passing from one to the other of these at the bottom lower ends constitutes the bow, so that when the ox draws, instead of the bow pressing against his shoulders it draws on his neck and chokes him. when asked why they do not adopt our style of yoke, they will tell you it is too heavy,

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that when travelling over the mountains it would cause them to hang their heads and inhale large quantities of dust. they are tall and slim with very large horns sometimes measuring 10 feet across Sheep as well as cattle are driven a long distance to this place, often occupying a space of two months over the tall mountains. a curious species of sheep are raised here called the big tail sheep the wool is of a very coarse quality but their flesh is delicious, and the tail often weighs 16 lbs. Beef is slim but cheap being only 5 cts per lb. The spile driving business also is very unskillfully carried out prosecuted. 6 or 8 men stand by to hoist the weight, they give one pull, each upon a separate rope, raising the weight about 4 feet, then let go

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the ropes and the weight falls upon the spile. its descent being so little that the movement of the spile downwards is scarcely perceptible, while with the use of the steam engine or even the crank the expense of half a dozen men would be saved and the work much quicker performed. in all business transactions there seems to be a singular adherence to the customs and regulations of their fore fathers; and a manifest unwillingness to deviate from them, you may come to them armed with the best logic and they will unhesitatingly turn a deaf ear when you advise the adoption of new plans. the US Consul to this place Capt Holmes tells me he has sunken more than 500 F in the ice trade

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he has an ice house established here but it is scarcely opened during the year, except for his own use. he has offered to supply butchers for a half penny per lb to get it introduced but his offer is unaccepted. indeed their aversion to it is so great that a person having died aboard the ship that brought the first cargo, the effect of the ice upon him was said to have caused his death, and Cap^t H was considered guilty of murder. their vehicle for conveying passengers about the place is made for one horse & two or three persons; appears some like our cab with the exception of the entrance being in front, and the driver's seat being situated behind. where the door of ours opens, and there he sits

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perched like an owl upon a limb, cracking his whip over the carriage. there are some 6 or 8 churches here and the same number of public houses. the latter are

remarkable as well for hard lodgings as loaded tables. but the scenery here is truly delightful; far surpassing my greatest expectations. one may loose himself here in forests of pine which cover acres and acres of the suburbs, that have been regularly planted in rows by the early Dutch settlers, and which stand so close together that it is as impossible for the sun to send his rays through their branches as it is to penetrate the darkness of night. the public promenade, the Botanic and Government gardens, are delightful spots and will amply repay the

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lover of nature for a visit to them. the numerous elevated points about the city abound in fine views of the adjacent islands and mountain grandeur. the one we now occupy commands a magnificent view of the city, the Bay and its shipping and Country far beyond; and now turning in another direction, the eye rests upon the grape vine, the apple, the quince, the lemon, the orange, the pear and fig trees, all laden with delicious fruits. the young native listens with curious attention to the description of the Snow-flake for he has never seen a winter. here fields never change their mantle of green and flowers live in continued bloom.

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Friday evening It now becomes my duty to darken the pages of this journal with the record of a fearful tragedy which occurred on board our Ship last evening. Just as we were weighing anchor and preparing to leave the Bay, The Chief Cook a negro was having some words of dispute with the head Steward in the galley, when Mr Abinett a passenger who has formerly been a Sea Cap^t interfered, and the battle came between the latter and the cook. loud and angry words were spoken followed by the throwing of hot water by the cook. a struggle ensued and both fell to the floor Cap^t A coming uppermost; but immediately rising said he would

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show him fair play; when the cook deliberately drew a long butcher knife from the side of the galley and stabbed the other in the left side and he ran to the after cabin saying I am knifed I am knifed. the cook was put in irons and the wound was dressed by the surgeon of the ship. it was found to be between the 7th and 8th ribs and directed towards the heart. the mate had orders to drop anchor, the sails were furled and we were doomed to wait we knew not how long. the night was a painful one for the wounded man we did not think he would live till morning. a slight partition separates his apartment from ours so that his groans prevented me from sleeping, and I could only

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lay and think of the scene that had passed, of ~~and~~ the savage and inhuman feelings of men around me, and then call to mind the kind words and sympathies of friends, the peace and quietude of a happy home. this morning H & I got permission to accompany the Cap^t on shore with the prisoner (though fortunately not as witnesses) to lay the case before the court. a deposition of the witnesses was taken and the prisoner was remanded to the ship, to accompany the object of his cruelty to Australia where he will receive his reward according to the deed. he is placed in irons at the stern of the vessel, where he sits looking into the water, a black object indeed, but not blacker

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than the foul deed he has perpetrated. it is disagreeable to have such a wicked wretch accompany us, but like Satan he can only go the length of his chain. Cap^t A is, much better and it is thought he will survive

Sunday 6th 1853 last evening just before sunset we set sail and floated slowly out of the bay amidst the cheers of hundreds who were thronging the decks of vessels ~~who~~ anchored about us, waving their hats and hdkfs, wishing us a speedy and safe passage to our destined port, the steamer was just coming in from Liverpool; her decks crowded with passengers, but too late to give us her news.

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our Cap^t took in a bountiful supply of provisions at the Cape fresh meat, new vegetables, water melons, fresh water &c and again after a weeks delay we find ourselves banished upon a world of waters.

Monday March 21 as I have witnessed nothing of interest previous to this date, I have deferred writing. we continued to sail well until last friday when the wind died away and since that a dead calm has settled about us, the vessel lays as still as if anchored and the smooth surface of the water is scarcely ruffled by a single breeze

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but I will give the occurrences of to-day a place here and devote a few minutes to their record that my journal may exhibit at least one bright page. It has been a day of exciting amusement and cheerful sporting and to my latest day I shall remember with feelings of pleasure my boat excursion on the Indian Ocean. We got leave of the Cap^t to take a ride; accordingly after dinner a boat was lowered for us and myself and H in company with 7 others started out 5 of us taking the oars. it seemed as though former days had returned and that I was rowing again through the waters of the old St Francis. we went on about a mile ahead of the ship, now

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measuring our strength with each other, rowing for dear life as if to escape the rapids, then resting awhile upon our oars. thus the time was rapidly passing full of enjoyment when "Shark ho" was cried out by one of the party, at the same time pointing to a large black fin protruding from the waters about a dozen rods from us. all eyes were fixed on the spot, one took a loaded rifle then stood in the bows of the boat, others took the oars and we moved smoothly forward; when within a couple of rods the rifle was discharged and the black fin slowly disappeared. we continued quietly to row along when shortly it made a second appearance at a short distance; we rowed up and after a second discharge of the rifle

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it disappeared again but with the evident intention not to be hurried by a ball of lead propelled by a mere handful of powder. by his slow movements and the fearlessness with which he regarded our weapons, we concluded he must be a big customer, but it was good sport and we proposed to continue it. soon the big fin made its appearance again. This time a motion was made to rush upon him suddenly with the boat this was objected to by some but the majority decided in favour of it and on we went when close to him we halted a little and fired and then pulled for the spot, and to

our amazement we found a large spotted ill shaped animal whose name we knew not, laying

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upon his broad side apparently directly under the boat, and with ignorant boldness we began punching him with our oars as if capturing a wood-chuck, while with one stroke at our boat he might have sent us in every direction. we found that rifles and oars would not accomplish answer our purpose and ~~he we thought~~ we concluded to leave him to himself awhile and row to the ship for harpoons. just before we reached the ship the Captain having witnessed our operations through the spy glass, lowered another boat and with harpoons and another crew he set out, with us for pilot in pursuit of the spotted beast. we soon got in sight of the black fin and the harpoons took the lead. we were not long rowing to the spot, the captain threw the harpoon but the flesh

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proved so tough and elastic that it seemed to defy all weapons, at length he succeeded in putting a boat hook into his eye and both crews assisted in pulling him up. the contents of one of Colts revolvers was then discharged in his head, and after afflicting all the wounds we were able to, the Captain made fast to him with hooks and harpoons and sung out, "now boys for the Fanny", all eyes were turned to the ship, then about five miles off, a breeze having sprung up and driven her along. it was evident that our task was a heavier one than we had performed for many a day as the fish weighed about half a ton and of such a shape as to

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drag very heavily in the water. but we were determined that trifles should not prevent us from securing our booty. the boats were connected by a rope and all set out for the Ship. we rowed for half an hour labouring hard and moving slowly but a little faster than the Ship. at length the mate discovered by our slow movement that we had something in tow, and backed the sails. we then began to gain of her and soon we arrived and were paid for our pains by the loud cheering of the crowd, waiving of ladies hdkfs &c. our game was hoisted on board by means of ropes and tackles. some call him a sun-fish some a Devil fish. judging from his peculiar

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formation and his unwillingness to die I shall decide in favour of the latter. it has no bones and is not eatable. a ball cut from its flesh will bound from the deck to the top-mast. the oil from the liver of this fish is said to be very valuable for medicinal purposes, but this is somewhat diseased it proved of no use and all was thrown overboard various opinions are entertained with regard to the skill and energy of the two parties that manned the boats which has drawn out a bet from on of the opposite party and is taken by one of ours. they challenge us to a trial to-morrow for a distance of three miles which of course we are not backward in accepting, intending

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to show them how to row for big pay, so our fun we hope is not over yet.

Tuesday March 22 This morning unfortunately when we arose we found the Ship sailing at the rate of 8 knots per hour through rough sea, so that our boat racing must

be postponed till the next calm. a report has lately been circulating among the passengers that it is the captains intention to liberate the prisoner and set him to cooking again. that such management on the part of the captain would be very injudicious is unquestionable, and the liberty that has been granted him of late seemed to confirm the report in the minds of the passengers; accordingly

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last evening it was deemed advisable to appoint a committee of 6, one from each apartment in the Ship, to wait on the Captain and lay before him the fears and wishes of the people there represented. we found that our fears were not groundless, for in twenty four hours he would have been at liberty and the lives and property of the passengers again exposed to his inhuman and ungovernable anger. but the result of our deliberations proved satisfactory. a door is now being made to his room which is to be kept locked, and inside of that he is to be kept in chains and irons until we get to Australia. the wounded man is rapidly recovering

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Tuesday March 29 – 1853

This morning we past St Paul's Island leaving it 3° at the north of us longitude 78° east; we are sailing with great speed.

April 16th 1853

The promised land of Australia came in view Thursday morning to the great joy of all. but a contrary wind has driven us along the coast about a hundred miles; and now saturday afternoon were making our way back towards our destined port, while the banks of the coast are in full view. we hope to arrive in Port this evening.

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Melbourne Australia

Sunday April 24th 1853 I have at last gained a foothold on the far famed land of gold. Since my last writing we were obliged to beat about the coast for nearly a week on account of head winds anxiously waiting for a change. sailing along in view of a beautiful shore yet denied the privilege of treading upon its rich soil but at length we arrived having made the voyage from Boston in 118 days including a week detention at the Cape. from my own observations here no cause appears as yet to change the good opinion I have formed of Australia, nor do I regret that the reports I heard of its richness induced me to

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leave my native land for a season to seek a competence here where it may be more quickly obtained. labour is in good demand, mechanic's wages are \$5 per day, Government pays to common labourers \$2.50 per day without rations. meats are cheap and fair in quality, tea, sugar &c low while the prices of some other kinds are very extravagant.

This morning I paid 50 cts a qt for milk, 50 cts pr lb for cheese, Butter is \$1 to \$1.25 pr lb, apples 37½ cts pr lb, eggs 14 cts each, oats \$7 per Bus, Bricks \$80 to \$100 per thousand, lumber from \$150 to \$180 pr thousand feet, american axes \$ 2.50 Boots for which I paid \$2.75 in Boston are worth \$12.50 here, liquors are retailed at 25 cts pr glass and yet there are plenty of tipplers here; house rent is also

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extravagantly high. one room and by no means capacious or stylish cannot be rented under \$15 pr week; many of the most respectable families are living in canvas tents on the beach where we have pitched ours. we have our own cooking utensils and are fast acquiring skill in using them. Melbourne the principle City of the colony is indeed a place of no small importance; the streets are broad and regularly laid out, and are lined with stores many of which would do credit to Washington street or Broad way; it contains at least 75000 inhabitants when 15 years ago there stood only a few inferior huts.

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Collingwood Sunday May 1st

This evening finds me under the same canvas roof but located in another town and following an occupation in which I have not been engaged for seven years; not cutting up Beef and Pork but swinging the axe and drawing the cross-cut saw. Collingwood is situated two miles from Melbourne; the most of our fellow passengers have gone to the mines; Henry is working at the carpentering business in Sandridge, L Parker, I Young, & I have taken a job of sawing and splitting fire-wood out of the red-gum tree for \$3.75 per load and make about \$6 pr day; and by economising and roughing it in a tent as it is termed, we can manage to save a good share of it.

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the size of our tent is 8 feet by 9: it is stretched upon three small poles for which I paid 50 cts each. at one end is a door which we close tightly by buttoning; now and then the wind and rain beat heavily upon it as if it was a thing of small importance, but still we nestle here like pigs in the clover; what care we for the raging elements? we are the builders of our own habitation and we know the foundation upon which it stands; it is water proof and it has stood upright through many a stout breeze. Henry and three others of the Fanny passengers have been out to see us to-day but are now gone. the interior of our dwelling though having quite a comfortable appearance would present a novel one

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to the eye of one whose walls are decorated with paintings and drawings, who has been educated to thumb the piano, work embroidery, and attend to the various occupations of the drawing-room. L Parker & I are writing; our carpet bags serve for desks, our candle stick not of modern invention, but honorable for its age consists of three nails driven into a block of wood. in one corner sits the tea canister, frying-pan knives & fork (for we have only one of the latter) in another sits the tea kettle tin pale etc, and in another a pile of boots. Young has rolled up in a blanket and laid himself away for the night, and as it is getting late I will follow suit.

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Collingwood May 28 1853

Once more I will devote a few moments to my journal and the little I shall contribute to its pages to-day will be done under the most discouraging circumstances that have attended me at any writing since its commencement. it is now about a month since the last date, during which time I have been very ill, and for awhile could scarcely hope that I should again be blest with this privilege; but strength is again slowly returning for which I have cause to be thankful. after rising from the sick couch it is

somewhat dampening to ones spirits to find that while strength was rapidly leaving his limbs, and flesh

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his bones, a corresponding amount had been leaving his purse. after paying the doctor's Bill and other expenses, loss of time included I find myself \$15.0 out of pocket a bad beginning this, but I can do no less than hope for a better ending. health is the poor man's capital, and when that is gone deplorable indeed is the condition of him who is obliged to sustain the loss, in a country upon whose soil he can scarcely tread without incurring a tax, where a high price is demanded for nature's beverages, where he can have free possession of nothing but the air he breathes thank Heaven for that, its winds cannot be measured their freshening and invigorating effects may

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be felt by all without a price when I was taken ill I left the tent and went to a boarding house in Sandridge. during my absence my comrades took two others from Milton, in company with them, and rented a house for \$6.25 per week; and now I am with them again, anxiously waiting for strength sufficient to swing the axe and mall.

Collingwood June 12th

Another fortnight has passed since my last writing and here I am upon my slim resources not having earned a dollar since my first illness; it is but very recently that I have had strength to work and then not having trees to chop we have all remained unemployed.

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but tomorrow providence permitting I shall try my luck with the rest. A week ago yesterday and to-day our house was a scene of deep despondency and indescribable gloominess occasioned by the sudden and unexpected death of one of our company a Mr Miller from Milton Mass. at the time I had so far recovered as to leave my boarding house and join the company again he was laying still from the effects of a bad cold. A physician was called in twice but deeming a little medical advice sufficient he requested the doctor to discontinue his visits thinking that he would soon recover. as he complained of continual thirst, dryness in the throat and mouth,

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gruel, sago, and different kinds of drinks to strengthen and nourish were prepared for him; the neighbouring women also some English people were very kind in preparing whatever he might want. he continued without change complaining of nothing but thirst and want of appetite, until the night of his death, after eating quite heartily of sago and saying that he relished it very well he laid down as usual still complaining of nothing but thirst. but during the night we discovered by the wondering of his mind and increased thirst that he was worse and it was deemed necessary to watch with him. he continued to fail and at 5 O clock A M before

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a doctor could be had he was observed to be dying. we immediately awoke the neighbours and called them in but before any one could reach the house he was

dead. never before have I been the subject of such melancholy feelings in common with the rest filling each heart with sadness. first I thought of the condition of our deceased companion; poor fellow; he left Boston only 23 years of age, a healthy robust man, with prospects not less fair, nor hopes less bright than any of ours; and like us he was fondly looking forward to the time when if prospered here he should return to gladden the hearts of his fond parents, and to make

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cheerful a home that had long been anxiously waiting to welcome him. but now alas! how different now. he is gone to his long home, and the sad news too has gone to his bereaved friends. Then I thought of our own forlorn condition, far from home and in a strange land destitute of many of the comforts of life, and now called upon to the discharge of a duty with which we were unacquainted, and for which we could not have been less prepared. I thought of the millions who are crowding these shores, many of them only to die here neglected and alone and for what? for gold! yes for the very object of my search, that which I had often thought worthy of so great

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sacrifice, but which then seemed to dwindle into insignificance when compared with the comforts of a happy home and the society of friends. I went round amongst the neighbours and after two or three vain attempts I succeeded in borrowing a board upon which, with the assistance of two or three neighbouring women we laid out the corpse. a search was then made for boards and a coffin constructed by some carpenters near us. the day wore slowly away and when night came as there are but two small rooms in the house the corpse remained in one and our beds were removed to the other. during the night, turns were taken in watching the corpse. the next day being Sunday we

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procured a teamster with horse and dray to convey the corpse to the burying ground, that being the usual custom on account of the high price demanded for hearses about \$39. at four O clock he came and we all walked about two miles to the episcopal burying ground whence we were to leave the remains of our comrade and friend.

No group gathered round to weep in despair
Over the form of their brother so manly and fair
Not a mourner to follow with solemn tread
To the lone church yard the home of the dead

poor Miller was not the only one who was to be laid beneath the sod, for the coffins came in thick and fast, and by glancing my eye about the ground, I witnessed such a sight as seemed almost incredible to myself.

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The entire ground had more the appearance of a ploughed field than a grave yard. scarcely a blade of grass was permitted to grow, on account of having been dug up to conceal the bodies of the dead. some were put two in one grave and that as thick as the graves could be dug. coffins are so numerous they are not taken into the church but directly to the ground. the custom of the clergymen is to preach the funeral discourse for as many as may be taken into the ground, he then goes to the

burying ground, and after offering a prayer for all collectively, dust is consigned to dust ashes to ashes. then after paying \$5 at the office near the entrance for the grave and registry of his name, we returned with gloomy feelings to a gloomy home.

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Collingwood August 1st

Once more after much neglect and many broken resolves I have taken my journal to write. I had almost abandoned it altogether under the pressure of business that has come in so plentifully since my last writing. but duty calls and demands the continuance of a work so faithfully begun, however badly and unskillfully managed. and in order to give an unbroken history of our proceedings I find I must retrace my steps more than a month and a half back to the period of Miller's death where I left off. and I am thankful to be able to write a brighter page than the last; for the result of my efforts during the few weeks that

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have past, as well as my future prospects give me sufficient cause for thankfulness, when contrasted with the circumstances that attended my last writing and the five weeks that preceded it. Soon after Miller was buried we bought four standing trees for which we paid \$65. for one of them \$30. I then commenced work for the first time since after my illness, and never shall I forget with what discouraging feelings I would seat myself upon the log, after drawing the saw and swinging the axe until my strength had nearly all departed, fearing that I should never again fully recover it. but shortly I began to mend, and strength began to increase; there being five remaining in the company we purchased a horse and dray for \$420.

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the rest of them fell the trees and chopped them up, and I drove the team to town and sold the wood. we were about two weeks in chopping the wood, and selling it for which we took over \$600. each one clearing above \$100. as we were then out of trees to chop and having found a job of chopping at Richmond, it was proposed that L Parker and I (having been the two who selected the team for the company) should buy out the other three shares and take it ourselves. accordingly we did so and Henry, Bannister, and Young procured an addition to the tent, a small stove and other articles necessary for comfort, and after dividing the household furniture and cooking utensils,

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which consisted of a three legged stool manufactured with the axe, a strip of board which served for a bench, a couple of pails, a small kettle for boiling potatoes and meat, four knives and three forks, tea kettle, & five tin cups, we packed their portion into the dray and I moved them to their new home in the bush, which by the way is as pleasant a place as I have yet seen in the Colony. and it was with many unpleasant feelings that I found I must leave them. while baiting the horse they treated me to a lunch of fresh bread butter and sugar, and after wishing success to them all, and bidding them good bye, I returned to do the best we could with our team upon

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which we then depended for success. we left the house and engaged board with a couple of English people near by for \$7.50 pr week each; our stable rent was \$1.75

horse food over \$20. private land on which we piled our wood 75 cts, so that our expenses amounted to about \$40 per week. about that time the officer appointed to sell trees having taken a greater price for trees than the required Government price, and adapted the surplus funds to his own use, was complained of to the crown land commissioner and discharged from office and it was declared that no more trees should be sold within the City boundaries about six miles out, we wished

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to continue in the wood business but this overturn put a damper on our plans but fortune favours the bold, and we were not to be put down so easily. Seeing our neighbours all taking advantage of the absence of an officer, by walking the wood from the public lands to their fires, we could consider it no less than a favourable opportunity, and every morning at day break we found our lot of rented land covered with sticks of wood in 8 feet lengths, from 1½ feet in diameter down to small limbs; appearing like entire trees of smallish size; how they came there I shall leave my Yankee friends to guess. we would then chop it up, cart it to town and sell it through

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the day. in a few days however the constable residing near our stable, discovered our proceedings and came to us boiling over with rage, threatening war and bloodshed; then turning madly upon his heel left us to our own meditations. having pretty well learned how to manage public officers here, that a glass of brandy or any small favour in their line would buy them, and thinking a little advantage derived from a mean Government through the traitorous actions of one of its officers not only undeserving of punishment but rather commendable called upon him at his residence and told him if he would manage to look the other way and keep mum,

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that he might wake some morning and find a little pile of wood in his yard. this touched his bump of acquisitiveness; wood is a dear article and he knew not how to get it cheaper. then his benevolence became awakened and feelings of human brotherhood (which a short time before he would have been thought incapable of possessing) now began to manifest themselves and he seemed deeply interested in our behalf. in short the result of my visit was a settlement of all differences, he agrees to my terms to the letter, and as the word is all was again serene. early in the morning a day or two following he heard the sound of axes on the Government

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ground. he armed himself and hurried to the spot with the intention of arresting the party, but finding a couple of americans instead of taking us prisoners he threw down his weapons and assisted us in loading our dray; and from that time he has occupied the first place on our list of Colonial friends (?) and such he will continue to be so long as his own interest is concerned. So much for neighbour Wright the constable, and such may be considered a fair specimen of the official dignitaries of Australia.

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Collingwood August 14

This is Sunday and a very pleasant day. we have been expecting our old chums from the bush to visit us but they have not come. L Parker & I are still in the wood

business and thus far have succeeded much better than we could have hoped at the commencement. it is now five weeks since we bought out the others in the team and we have cleared besides our expenses \$350 each. the week ending July 23 we took \$200. leaving \$83 clear for each and in two days we took \$92.50 a little more than Canada can afford for common labour; and yet it seems less to me here than

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\$2 per day did there. money is very plenty here. a hundred pounds may be found in the pocket of most any old cogger, for it is considered no more than a ten dollar Bill is in America.

Wednesday August 17 /53

Last Saturday was the finishing up of our wood business with the Government. Friday evening a party was taken and fined in the act felling a tree. Soon after we (not then knowing their fate) fell the tree (it being the one we had previously selected for ourselves) and next day chopped it up and sold it, and

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thinking that, worthy a closing act we withdrew from the field, and for a few day have done but little. Today Parker and I thought we would go out and buy a load of wood of our old chums in the bush. on our way out for want of something to engage our attention we commenced bidding each other for the other's share in the team; I bid him \$225 he took me up, and now the team that was owned by five is owned by one.

Tuesday 23rd /53

Today I have sold the team to a couple of young men from Wisconsin for \$475 and now am in possession of \$512.

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Monday Aug 28th /53

This is a beautiful day. The sun returning to us again from the north smiles with unusual warmth and loveliness while Parker and I are seated on the bows of the steamboat [indecipherable] on our way from Melbourne to the mines. The bay through which we are passing is the finest I ever saw; it is fifty miles across and the entrances to it from the Ocean is only a channel one quarter of a mile wide it has very much the appearance of a lake. the land is visible from one side to the other and this morning the

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water appears like a body of glass so smooth and glistening is the surface. a drove of Porpoises are swimming and plunging along under the bows of the boat, while just below them the white pebbled bottom of the bay is visible all the way along. last Wednesday after selling my team we took the steam boat for Geelong with the intention of buying another heavier one; but finding horses very high there we did not purchase. while there we met with a Mr Critcherson from Boston who had been to the Balarat diggings

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and whose purpose it was to return again with some loading. he was very anxious to have us return with him, and accordingly we made arrangements to do so and take

his loading. we then returned to Melbourne on Friday. Saturday purchased our team, yesterday went out to see the boys and H returned with us and today accompanied us to the wharf. at eleven O clock he bade us good bye and returned; our boat left the wharf and here we are bag and baggage, bound for the nuggets. very likely some of our Yankee judges of horse flesh

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would be amused to see the thing we have with us; it is wrapped up in a horses hide and we call him Punch. I will venture to say he has not felt a curry comb for six months, his hair (where the harness has not rubbed) is about four inches long; he looks as though he might have been driven through Canada about 20 years ago by a french begger. but, like a singed cat, he is better than he looks, he cost \$325, and when a heavy load is to be taken through a mud hole, Punch will be found at his post, ready to measure his strength with a better looker.

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we are now approaching the City of Geelong; a very pleasant place, though quite behind Melbourne in commercial importance agricultural pursuits are more extensively carried on here; the land adjacent to the City is finely cultivated and the fields present a green and lovely appearance. but we are nearing the wharf where we expect to meet our friend Mr C who has been two days waiting for us. we shall stop in the City tonight, purchase some provisions oats etc and tomorrow pursue our course to the diggings

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Tuesday Sep 5 /53

We are now in the vicinity of the gold fields. a week age today we gathered up our load in Geelong which consisted of some lumber and tools for Mr C, blankets, rugs, clothing &c and one woman and started; the most of our load was swags for those going to the mines. there were 8 persons all accompanying the team on foot except the woman who rode. we came along quite smoothly the first day about 13 miles, then, it being nearly sun set and having found a favourable spot to camp we turned out on a

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Side hill, released Punch from the dray, tied him to a tree with a long rope that he might feed, then, some unloaded what provisions we required while others fell a tree and made a fire, which resembled one of our log heaps in full blast; we then backed the dray near to the fire drew our tarpaulin over it, boiled our kettle, and after taking our supply of Bread Cheese and tea, we all crept in between the wheels and soon we were dreaming of home and knew not but we were there in a snug feather bed, until awakened by the cold, our blanket

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having worked off we were forced to cover up again. this was our first night in the bush. the next day it rained some and the wind blew with such tremendous force that it was with difficulty we managed to move forward at all over the long plains; added to that we found there had a large quantity of rain fallen in the interior, and the roads soon became extremely heavy. we arrived at Ballarat after great fatigue on the

fourth day 58 miles from Geelong. we now found ourselves suddenly in the midst of the most extensive gold fields of the Colony

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where at present, they are making the greatest discoveries in gold that the world has ever known; though it is attended with great expense, the hole having in many cases to be dug 150 feet deep and slabbed from top to bottom. I can scarcely describe my feelings at the first appearance of the diggings. I can only say that it seemed as though the bowels of the earth had been hove up by some mighty convulsive shock, and that ~~man~~ puny man with his pick and shovel, was more fit for an astonished beholder than a doer of the work.

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our informant Mr C went about among the holes and we followed. here said he is where I and my mates sunk a hole 70 feet deep when we struck a ledge which slanted off into that man's claim, and we could go no further; he bottomed his hole and took out 20 lbs weight of gold. there said he, turning round is where thousands of dollars have been taken out, and there is the hole that contained the big nugget weighing 134 lbs of pure gold; the largest ever found. there were four in the party, they came in one steamer and returned in the next

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each with a fortune having been here less than three weeks. we camped that night near the commissioners where we paid \$6.25 for stabling the horse over night. the next day we completed our journey and arrived at Creswick's Creek 12 miles from Balarat. yesterday we took our tarpaulin and constructed a tent by peeling bark from the stringy bark tree for the ends. today it has rained nearly all day but we have partly built a turf fire place, on the top of which we intend to put a bark chimney.

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Oct 22/53 Creswick's Creek

Bitter and sweet are both to be tasted in life time. if we get a fortune we must take the mis with it. today we have lost Punch a horse worth \$350. he has been grazing about in the vicinity of tent and some one's hands have frozen to him during the night. thinking it would better suit his convenience to ride than walk. there is very little hope of recovering a horse that is stolen from the diggings we have just finished digging a claim with a company of seven others which occupied us four weeks and each one's share

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amounts to about an ounce of gold. this with the loss of the horse seem to make up a blank in the digger's lottery. but we hope there is yet a small fortune here for us and all, and time is the rock from which we must hew it. the weather is now fine though it has been very wet since we have been here. it is now the second month of spring here and a time of general sheep shearing among the squatters, or owners of stations; and flocks. and it is by no means a small business with them when each one is the owner of from 40,000 to 60,000 sheep

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A man's days work is to shear 150; and plenty are found who can shear 200. but the same accuracy is not observed here as among our sheep shearers in America. the sheers are made to move from stem to stern of the sheep as if propelled by steam, and the poor creature is let loose with half its fleece remaining upon its back and about the same quantity of hide. our curiosity has been gratified with a sight at the native blacks; the lowest race of human beings on the face of the whole earth, they are about us in any quantity; their skin is

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nearly as black as the African's, their hair is black and straight; they are small in stature the lower limbs being about the size of a man's arm; very deficient in intellect, with large flat nose, thick lips, high cheek bones, low and retreating forehead and sunken eyes, and when gazing discerningly into their unmeaning features, one can hardly decide whether he is looking in the face of a large monkey or a human being. their dress consists of a possum rug thrown loosely about their shoulders with the exception of a few who have been persuaded to wear clothes. the women

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called lubras; they carry their little ones on their backs; it has much more the appearance of a forest here than in the vicinity of Melbourne; and it is filled with birds of various kinds, though celebrated more for their gaudy plumage than enchanting notes, they exhibit all the colors of the rain bow, but their songs are like the peacock's feet they spoil the whole, for they are a combination of squaking, screeching, and screaming; among them are the parrot, parroquette, cocatoo, and laughing jackass; the note of the last resembling the hearty laugh of a person. *

[in margin] * there but few kinds of wild animals here, the Cangaroo, and the Cangaroo-rat, the wild dog the possum and wild cat we can chase the possum up a gum tree but not the coon in the hollow

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tomorrow I shall start for Geelong and Melbourne in search of the horse and to see the boys who I have not heard from for nearly two months, and get some letters from home if any have come.

Creswick's Creek Nov 20th /53

We are now in a gully working a large claim 14 in a company; Pa and I bought a share in two California pumps of Mr C for which we have been offered \$200 each they pay us each \$2.50 for the use of them. one of them has earned us \$5 per hour by letting it. Punch that was lost is

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found again; he had strayed away to a station 5 miles off with some other horses and after searching the country for miles around we offered a reward of \$5 and he was found and pointed out to me by a hut keeper on the station, where I found him in rattling good feed and looking finely. and now according to a bet between myself and Mr C, I must stand an Oyster supper ~~when~~ at Parker's Court Square when we return to Boston. the next morning I took the team and started for Melbourne and Henry & I returned each with a load of flour to the mines;

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we sold our loading and cleared each \$110.25 then turned out our horses to graze and H is working out the claim with us. last night he, myself, and P, set up all night after working hard through the day to pump the water out of the hole, which requires to be done continually every 10 minutes. it was the weariest night we ever experience, but we did not spend it without a little fun.

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Creswick's Creek Dec 1st /53

We worked about ten days in our claims when the banks caved in having been undermined by water and quick sand. it being very difficult to work part of the company then left it unwilling to spend more time and money in a mere speculation. some however chose to go on so P, Mr C, & 6 others continued to work the claim and if possible find the bottom, as it was a place in which all had great hopes, but which none had attempted to work for want of pumps, Henry and I started with our teams for Geelong where he took

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the boat for Melbourne to attend to his affairs there, and I returned with a load of goods for a store keeper here. I was gone a week and earned over \$65.

A Trip to the [indecipherable] Bate's Ford Dec 4th /53

This may justly be called a wild and spot I am seated on a stone in a cavern or aperture in a large rock which overhangs the River Barwon 7 miles from Geelong. it is Sunday yesterday I purchased my load and came out as far as the above place, then put my horse into a large paddock, or pasture to remain until

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Monday. Today I took a stroll down the river. a small stream which runs along between two high ranges of hills. it is almost impossible to gain access to it except in a few places, the banks of it terminating in steep and ragged precipices; at last however I succeeded in reaching the stream and had a fine bath in the clear cool water, an exercise that once delighted me more than a lesson in Geography. To be away in some shady nook with the spotted trout in a running brook I loved far better than I did my book Though sorry I am to say it. soon I arrived at the

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cave; when I approached the mouth a wild cat darted away back into the crevices of the rock, and all was silent and I left king of the castle undisturbed to explore the new regions into which I had so accidentally entered. I walked along over the broken bottom until the front light could aid me no longer, and not knowing what venomous reptiles might inhabit the gloomy cell, I returned again to my present seat. it is quite a spacious apartment, and the grey cold walls above and around me gives it any thing but a

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pleasant appearance it is distressingly hot without, but in here an overcoat is necessary for comfort. The scenery around is indeed lovely but my lonely feeling today will not permit me to enjoy it. green fields of waving grain stretch backward

from the River while here and there a snug little cottage nestles quietly among the hills; but it is already past noon and I must away back up the river again

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Muddy Water holes Monday Dec 5th

So named on account of the poor quality of water at this place which has a thick and muddy appearance; it stands in holes or small ponds similar to ponds I have often seen at home frequented by ducks and geese, and occasionally a resort for the old sow and pigs. it is water that we would not put to our lips at home unless driven to it by extreme thirst; and yet there are many here travelling through the Country, with large swags upon their backs, who are glad to draw from such fountains as

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these, the water when boiled is not injurious but without it is unwholesome and disagreeable to the taste. just in sight ahead of me is the grave of a murdered man, around which is constructed a wooden picket fence. he was murdered for his money though he had but four shillings about him. he had accumulated his pile at the mines but had sent it to Geelong by the Government escort. the robbers knew of his success, and supposing the gold to be upon his person followed him.

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Burnt Bridge Dec 6th /53

Some time since a bridge was burned here and from that circumstance the place derives its name. a new public house has just been opened here for the accommodation of travellers. it is the only building in the place it being merely a way station where teams stop to get feed and water Punch has the privilege of drinking from a pure running stream here, the largest on the road except the river B. while I am baiting large numbers are passing to and from the diggings, sore footed and weary, with large swags upon their backs

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yesterday I came to a man seated on a log by the road side. I say mate said he how far is it to water? when told the distance he asked inquiringly are they long miles? I told him I thought they were measured by kangaroos Oh! for God's sale said he what shall I do with my feet. the poor fellow had far more blisters than nuggets, and each as big as a half crown. he had evidently seen better days in his own country, but was now returning to Geelong with the gloomy prospect before him of taking up with whatever chance might offer until he could accumulate a sum sufficient

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to take him home again.

Scot's Marsh Tuesday Dec 6

I have camped here for the night spread my tarpaulin blankets &c and placed my Billy on the fire for tea; an article indispensable to the bush man or miner. what he cannot do with the Billy he considers not worth doing; in it he washes his gold, washes and boils his potatoes, meat, vegetables, dumpling puddings, and makes his tea and coffee, though not always all in the same water. and this extraordinary article is simply a small tin pail with a cover.

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I am just on the border of the marsh; there are a few tents here for the accommodation of travellers. A long string of bullocks teams are just coming up to camp for the night; a thick cloud of dust completely covers them and the tremendous cracking of their long whips reminds me of the 4th of July on Boston Common, though the crackers are a different kind; the report is not caused by the exploding of gun powder, but the explosion of silk, hair, hide &c, for the inhumane wretches have no mercy on the poor Bullocks. scarcely a mile can be travelled without

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finding more or less of these creatures lying dead by the road side. the night H & I camped here going down a splendid team got bogged on the opposite side of this Marsh. the heavy load nearly buried them in mud, and the drivers who were hired by the week, after thrashing them half to death left them there through the night in the morning when we passed the largest and fattest Bullock and pride of the team was dead, and two others scarcely alive. if such treatment was offered to animals in the US a law of the land would be grossly violated, and the offender be made to suffer the penalty.

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it is indeed a christian law that protects the dumb Beast from abuse at the hand of master, but in a Country where Christianity is not a native production and the imported article is not to be found, such offences can go unpunished.

Balarat Dec 7th /53

This is now a surveyed Township and the most flourishing in the interior. Buildings are rapidly going up here in every direction, and it really seems as though the people have imbibed a little of the Yankee Spirit. The gold fields here have been, and are by far the richest

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in Australia. the ground is completely hove up for miles in extent, and tents stand as thick as houses in Boston. every thing is lively here, trade is brisk, and all are wide awake for making money.

Creswick's Creek Dec 7

I arrived here this evening found my mates all well. the hole they were digging when I left they succeeded in bottoming and found it a rank chicer, or in other words a blank. and now Mr C and P are working on the house for Government

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Creswick's Creek Dec 23 /53

a year ago today we left Long Wharf Boston and went aboard the Ship Fanny, with no little anxiety on our minds respecting the long and weary voyage before us, and the state of the Country to which we were bound through having to contend with difficulties and discouragements at my commencement here, yet if the future deals with me as kindly as the past has done, I trust I shall never regret having made the resolution I did a year ago. 8 months have now passed since we arrived here and not the first letter have we received

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from home yet, except P who has had an answer to one written at Cape Good Hope I have just got back from town with a load having been gone week.

Creswick's Creek, Australia Dec 25 1853

This our first Christmas in Australia and how differently are we situated to-day from what we have been in years past. not only a change in Country, and climate but a great change in events and circumstances has been brought about. we can easily imagine ourselves at home to day, where we have spent many a merry christmas,

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We can fancy the Sleighs passing, and repassing, we can hear the ginging of Bells, and the prattling of another string of Belles whose tongues are as nimble as the horse' feet, the crack of the whip, the merry laugh of the company. we can see the sparrib suspended upon a string, turning slowly before a rousing fire, and almost catch the delicious odour from the oven door, which tells us the old goose is nicely browning, we rush out to take one round at snowball before dinner. when lo! the the first object that meets our astonished

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gaze is a Big red-gum tree, we look to the Earth and instead of finding 4 feet of snow, upon its surface, we see it parched, and cracking beneath the almost vertical rays of the sun. we listen to ascertain whether our ears had deceived us. and instead of the ginging of Bells, the forest is made to ring with the loud cooe of the Native black, calling for his lubra, the loud and angry barking of dogs, the faithful keepers of the tents, during the absence of there masters, the cracking of a dozen pistols warning the stranger not to enter a tent, without first

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making known his business. such are the scenes of christmas on the diggings. Parker and I have spent most of the day by ourselves. we all had an invitation to dine out and Mr C accepted, but we had the raw materials for a pudding at home and P and I concluded we would stop and manufacture the article. we thought we could hardly excuse ourselves if we did not make some extra effort for christmas dinner, but it was like the toad swelling to equal the ox. ~~however~~ Our ingredients consisted of flour Raisins, currants, suet, salt and a little green tea which happened to

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creep in with some other seasoning, got some cotton cloth for a bag and found ourselves fairly started for a boiled pudding. we then put together the different kinds, sewed up our bag, and having filled it, put it into a galon sauce pan to Boil. but like an old woman's conscience, the pudding began to stretch and soon we discovered that the bag was too small, so we took it out and P held it in an upright position while I sewed on what we called a second story; filled it up and returned it to the sauce pan again. this time we

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found our Boiler rather small for the pudding; however by boiling one end at a time we managed to proceed with it. when our stomachs told us it was sufficiently boiled,

we took it out, cut it half in two, bag and all, but to our astonishment we found our cake was dough except an outside crust A few long stitches sewed up the wound again in the bag, and the pudding was replaced in the sauce pan there to remain until done. when it was boiled we made some sauce of sugar Butter, and vinegar. and the commenced

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to devour what had cost us so much time to prepare. we had no turtle soup, nor lobster salad, and we paid but little regard to the regular courses, of the dinner table. having purchased some cans of fresh preserved Tomatoes lobsters, oysters, cranberry jam &c we made out very well. & while we were enjoying our feast, Mr C and another person came in, and if the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it, ours must have been excellent, for there was but very little of the two story pudding left for supper.

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Creswick's Creek Dec 26th /53

We have just purchased a Store with a small stock of goods for £120 our object in buying is to convert it into a restaurant and this afternoon I start for Geelong for a load for ourselves and P will remain in the Store.

Jan 4th 1854

Yesterday I arrived from town with all necessary articles for a Restaurant having paid out about £65 or \$325 for the load. but the store keeper for whom I have been teaming, being very anxious to have me continue offered very fair for the Store and Stock and today we

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have sold to him with the intention of buying another team, and both go on to the roads.

Jan 11th /54

We are now with Henry in the township of Banoondara. Young and Bannister have not yet returned from the diggings. to-day we have bought a horse for £115. horse dray and harness costing about £160 and tomorrow P and myself start for the Creek each with a loaded team

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Baroondara Feb 22nd /54

I have just arrived here this afternoon from Geelong where I left P preparing our loads. I found the boys all together and well H Y & B not having seen the two last since we first went to the diggings more than five months ago. We had quite a joyful meeting and some would have thought while listening to our yarns on different topics that we were what the collonians call old chums and no gammon. None could be considered capable to teach us the art of Gold digging for the knowledge we possessed of that branch was derived from experience; some of us had dug six weeks others more or less but

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each had a hard trial.

The time of my arrival was by no means unseasonable, for the boys had just gathered around the big tool chest and as it is on the eve of my birth day they could do no less than treat me to a share in their clever feast. I had great hopes of receiving a letter from home this time but when applied for "none for you and a shake of the head", was the same old discouraging answer from the clerk. Two birth days have now passed since I have received a single sentence from my folks. I would give a £5 – note for a dozen words from them tonight but money will not buy them.

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Parker and I have been constantly teaming to the diggings since my last writing. We have now three horses and two drays with which we take from 45 to 50.00 gross weight. We perform the trip in a week 70 miles over a bad road; nothing extraordinary with us at home but it astonishes the collonians One of them asked me how I managed to go so quick; I told him it was all owing to smart well fed horses and sober teamsters. It is not unfrequently the case that they occupy three weeks making the same trip, but the cause is easily explained. They adopt the wise plan of starving their horses

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because the price of grain is high and are content with taking half a load. Then the first public house they reach they will sit and spin yarns over a glass of old Tom till they get a little cranky, as they term it; their horse is neglected, they care for nobody and nobody cares for them three or four days before "Richard the third is himself again and when they arrive at the diggings it is time to be in town again; they find the merchant waiting for his goods, his horse is thin and weak and half the money for carting is retained by the merchant for damaged goods. Such is a specimen of not a small portion of the Collonial teamsters

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and when they see business done with despatch, they think that some supernatural power is agent in forwarding the work. I intend to return again to Geelong tomorrow to join P, and from there to the Creek with the loads.

Ashby March 12th

We are now stopping with Mr & Mrs Lombard. The former sailed with us from Boston and came out as carpenter of the ship. Since his arrival here he has married and settled in this town about ½ mile from Geelong . We shall now make this our home while in town. We have nearly constructed a stable in a yard near by

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for our horses when returning from the diggings The frame consists of round poles which we brought from the diggings, over these canvas is drawn tightly and nailed; it is 12 by 24 feet containing four stalls and a room in one end for hay, grain, harnesses &c. We have earned £53 - this trip each one clearing £20 -.

We have had no rain for nearly five months and every thing is uncommonly dry. The face of the whole country both field and forest is black from the effects of fire which has spread with fearful rapidity destroying nearly every blade of grass upon which bullocks and horses depend for

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food. Water is very scarce and dust very plenty ~~the~~ and when it is accompanied by wind, which is ever constantly blowing across the plains one is scarcely able to open his eyes. It is not unfrequently the case that gravel is raised and carried with such force as to cause the horses to turn their heads from it as if pelted by hail stones. I have become heart sick of the country, and would leave it in the first ship homeward bound were it not for a few of its golden treasures.

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March 22nd 1854

We are now getting in one payment what has been due for us for months. It has rained four days almost incessantly while we are laying by unable to move our expenses being £2 – per day. The roads are getting very wet and heavy and the price of cartage is rapidly rising but our situation is preferable to those who have started with heavy loads and been caught in the storm unable to move farther without either putting on stronger force, or leaving part of there load and returning for the remainder.

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April 3rd 1854

This morning H returned to Melbourne having spent the Sabbath with us. He came down on thursday accompanied by J Young, and a Mr Howe who came out in the ship with us from Boston but as we were detained longer at the diggings than usual the two latter had returned before we arrived. They are all well

April 18th 1854

The few days past have been big with interest. We arrived here last Wednesday Thursday morning I went to the Express Office to send a letter to Henry. But instead of sending one I received one from him

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I broke the seal and read as follows,

Dear Brother

Leaving you at the whf in Geelong I arrived in Melbourne about 5 O clock but imagine my surprise when stepping from the boat I met J Young accompanied by our brother William, he arrived at Port Phillip heads on the 29th ult and brings letters and packages for all. joy at that moment was unbounded, the first jump I made was from the floor of the Office to the ceiling, and the next was from the whf to the deck of the Steamboat and Parker and I were on our way to Melbourne, having left our horses in charge

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of this man with whom we board. The boat, though urged on by wind and Steam never move so slowly before since it was a boat (at least by my time) but with eyes and thoughts turned Melbourne-wards we waited impatiently the moving of the waters. We arrived about 5 and were not long travelling 5 miles to H's place. We found them altogether but W^m unfortunately was lying upon a sick bed. It was a joyful meeting though W^m was far too weak to answer one half of our long list of questions. We sat up nearly all night reading our letters, for it was the first lisp we

had received from home. The next day P returned to Geelong and I stayed with them till Monday; then having made arrangements

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with for Wm, H, and Howe (a ship mate from Boston) to go to the Creek with us on our next trip to finish a Public house that is being built there their tools to go up on our next dray &c, I started for Geelong to join Parker.

Ashby April 28th 1854

We arrived here last evening and found the boys awaiting our arrival. Brother W^m has nearly recovered from his illness. When coming through Bunningong I bought another horse for £100 and today we were offered for him £130. Tomorrow we start with four horses five of us in company for the diggings

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This time we have cleared each about £25 –

Barabool hills July 30th 1854

I will now discharge a duty long neglected, to my journal. It is but recently that I have been placed within its reach as it lay in my trunk in town and I a hundred miles away teaming between the Creek and the Avoca diggings. Since my last writing we (P & I) have continued in the same business we entered into nearly a year ago when we laid down the diggers implements and left our fortunes in the earth for the same reason that many others do viz that we could not find them. Of our success since my last writing I cannot complain. At two trips from town to the Creek

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we cleared over and above expenses, £160 – each both trips occupying about three weeks being about £5 – or \$25 pr day each. Other trips though not as profitable paid us very well. One trip from the Creek to Avoca a distance of forty miles cleared for us £50.10 – or \$31.50 a day for each the trip occupying four days. Brothers W & H worked on the public house until it was nearly completed, W's health improved rapidly and in a short time was better than it had been for years; They then returned about a week since to H's place near Melbourne and purchased each a horse and dray. We returned from the diggings on Wednesday and the following morning I took the boat for Melbourne to see my brother and get some letters from home which I was fortunate as to obtain; one from my

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Mother and brothers and one from M^r Kings people in Cambridge Mass. I read that all were well and prospering, cheering intelligence to friends so widely seperated the Universal globe rolling between us. It is indeed cheering though I cannot know their present situation as a letter occupies four months in making its long journey from the kind hand of the writer to the anxious reader, during which time sad changes and fatal accidents may occur of which I must remain totally ignorant.

Today is Sunday and a very fine day; P & I are seated one upon the box that contains our prow the other on the tarpaulin in a field about six miles from Geelong. Last night I returned from Melbourne and this morning (as cargo has come down to an exceedingly low rate)

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we took some rations for ourselves feed for the horses and one dray, came here where the grass is good, put hobbles upon the horses and have given them a few days rest while we will write some letters to send by Adams & Co's Express which will leave soon, hoping that cartage will then be higher or the state of the roads much improved

Ashby September 18th 1854

About a month has elapsed since my last writing on account of ~~having been prevented by~~ the occurrence of a sad accident. We were on our way to the diggings on the 6th inst about thirty miles from Geelong when passing a gum tree the end of

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the dray shaft propelled by two horse power, struck the tree and unfortunately my right hand was between to receive the force of the blow. The hole that was made through the thick bark with flesh and blood clinging about it, the appearance of the finger nearly severed from the hand the bone being broken entirely off and the middle joint fractured, all told too plainly of the tremendous crash; and the thought that I had either lost a finger, or crippled it for life, rushed upon my mind in all its dreaded reality. It occurred at 11 AM, and I was two miles from Meridith a surveyed township but containing only ~~four~~ half a dozen houses. P who now had all upon his hands, hurried about for a saddle horse that would bring me back to Geelong

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as ours were all too heavy, but his efforts failed, love and money combined could not procure one, and I had started to perform the journey on foot when a public house keeper whose heart had not altogether abandoned its claims to feelings of humanity, hailed me and ~~offered me the loan of~~ his horse which notwithstanding its unfitnes for use in consequence of a badly chafed back, was kindly placed at my service, and with feelings towards him almost as greatful as though he had at once restored my finger, I mounted the horse and started, about 4 PM, stopping occasionally to bury my burning hand in a puddle of water. It was 8 before I arrived and found a surgeon. P continued on managing both teams and had the good fortune to

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dispose of one of them on the diggings. For a week the pain from my finger has been almost insupportable but now as the inflammation has subsided it is easier, but it has furnished me with a month's job at least. J Young has come on with a team to fill the orders and have the benefit of part of our trade until I am able to attend to business again My Brothers have gone to the Murry river NSW to buy some colts for market. Business of every kind except grog selling is dull

Geelong Oct 8th 1854

On the night of the 6th inst a man by the name of Scobie was murdered on Ballarat and strong suspicions are fixed upon a M^r Bently a hotel keeper on the diggings It appears that S in an

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intoxicated state attempted to force a passage into the house and in the act broke a window. He was followed and attacked by 3 or 4 persons and in the morning was found dead. M^r B is now in charge supposed to be the guilty party.

Oct 19th 1854

Since my last all eyes have been turned to Ballarat. Bently has been examined by Magistrate Dews and as no positive proof of his guilt appeared he was acquitted and the case dismissed. The people not being satisfied with the verdict, rushed to the hotel and burned it to the ground A number were then arrested and taken to the camp on suspicion of having fired the building, when

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the enraged thousands swarmed about the camp and demanded their release, threatening at the same time in case of refusal, to destroy the camp and all the forces there arrayed Their request was granted and thus a general conflict was prevented. A monster meeting of the diggers was held and addressed by talented men who came forth from their picks and pans with red shirts and wide awakes, and took their stand upon the platform; not to fire the people with a rebellious spirit but a spirit of resistance to oppression, to claim their rights as men. Resolutions were passed that no more licences be paid, and the licences they held were burned there and then, loud protestations were made against the proceedings of the magistrate in the case of Bently, a petition was drawn up and signed by

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a large number and a committee appointed to wait on the Governor, praying for a more thorough investigation of the Bently case; accordingly a reward of £300 – was offered by Government for information that would lead to the conviction of the murderer of Scobie. The result was that a servant of B's turned Queen's evidence ~~against~~ implicating B, his wife and two other men in the affair, who have been arrested and committed to jail. It was soon discovered that magistrate Dews had some interest in the hotel which ~~explains~~ was the cause of his partiality in the examination he was immediately discharged from office. This being known his situation became a very dangerous one on the diggings, the cries of the people for his blood could not be mistaken and Dews left the gold fields.

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Melbourne Oct 20th 1854

To-day I have bought an American Spring wagon for £35 – worth about the same number of dolls at home; and part of two harnesses for £13 – In search for a wagon I have just taken a ride over the first Rail Road constructed in Australia; known to the world as the Melbourne and Hobsons bay RR extending over a tract of country 1½ miles in length. Although no fatal accident has yet occurred on this road, I think a far safer method for preventing the destruction of human life, would be for the conductor to engage a lad with his tin whistle to walk before and sound the alarm than trust to the feeble tones of his infant engine. my hand is rapidly improving

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Ashby October 25th 1854

Loads of canons and other fire arms are being transported to Ballarat, and detachments of soldiers are daily arriving at the diggings marching through with drawn swords and fixed bayonets, They are saluted by the diggers with Jo, Jo, as

they pass along and in one or two instances with stones and dirt. Fortifications composed of Bags of grain wood &c, are thrown up in front of the camp. The diggers also are fortifying themselves at the Eureka a portion of the diggings about mile from the camp. A stockade has been constructed and the diggers are being regularly drilled preparing for armed resistance.

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Baroondara 30th Oct 1854

I arrived here yesterday from Geelong W & H have returned with their colts; I have bought one of them and start with him tomorrow for Geelong.

Ashby 6th Nov 1854

On my arrival here from Melbourne I met P & Y just returned from the diggings We purchased the goods that were ordered which amounted to three loads and for the first time since my hand was broken I started with a team. While at the Creek I made a contract with a baker to supply him with two tons of flour pr week and what other articles he may want at the rate of £14- pr ton until the first of April. I am to buy the goods and receive pay for goods and

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cartage and delivery of them.

Business being now secured through the summer for a strong team we will buy and load the goods tomorrow, hire a man to drive my team, and I'll go to Melbourne to purchase another. My finger is now nearly healed but in consequence of not having employed a proper Surgeon it has been rendered forever useless.

Melbourne Nov 10th 1854

P, Y & man left Ashby with their teams on the 8th and I took a Steam boat for this place. Today I have purchased a horse for £60 – a wagon for £87.10 – or \$437.50 worth not more than \$75 in Boston and ~~and~~ two harnesses for £12 and now we have two

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wagons and four horses intending soon to put the third horse on to one wagon and shall dispense with the drays

Ashby Nov 25th 1854

Things are assuming a very threatening aspect on Ballarat. A society called the reform league has been organised among the diggers, a kind of independent club determined to oppose the operations of Government, such as hunting the poor diggers through holes and into the bush for licences who have not gold to pay them with &c. The Ballarat Times news paper speaks loudly in opposition to their proceedings and openly encourages the diggers to persevere in their acts of resistance. It is greatly feared that those heretofore peaceful diggings will become a scene of war and bloodshed if speedy

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measures are not taken by Government to secure the people's confidence and rid itself of some of its compt and vilianous officers. The last letters from home inform us of the dangerous illness of Brother W who is no doubt in consumption

Ashby Dec 10th 1854

The blow at last has been struck but the wrong party has triumphed. A week ago this morning about 4 AM as a detachment of soldiers was nearing the diggings, the diggers armed and equipped went forth to meet them; leaving the stockade insufficiently guarded; resolved that if they entered it should be over their lifeless bodies. The forces at the camp taking advantage of their absence rushed upon the stockade and with overpowering numbers shot them down, and then with barbarous cruelty rode over them thrusting their

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bayonets through their bodies and taking some prisoners. Some of the diggers fled at the approach of the troops, others fought desperately, resolved to have their rights or die in the attempt. The exact number of killed has not been ascertained supposed to be about thirty diggers and nearly as many soldiers. A number of dray loads of dead bodies were taken to the burying ground about a mile on Sunday. Many have died since of their wounds both diggers and soldiers. We were on our way to Ballarat and met coffins, and men with broken limbs returning to Geelong. ~~The soldiers generally~~ The conduct of the soldiers generally through the whole has been any thing but that of men, and some have brought upon themselves everlasting disgrace for what true soldier would discharge his musket at an

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innocent and helpless female standing in front of her tent? And yet such was the case with some of the brutes clothed in uniform. On the 6th the Governor elated with the success of his ~~soldiers~~ troops proclaimed Marshal law, to take effect on the 8th in the vicinity of Ballarat. All communication with the camp was cut off, supplies to the diggings to be stopt, people forbidden to assemble in groups of three or four in number, and no lights allowed to be kindled after 8 O clock PM. But he was then assuming more power than he possessed. A large meeting of the citizens of Melbourne was held and resolution adopted that the the Governor had not authority to establish Marshal law and demanded its repeal. It was a death blow to Marshal law; it was repealed on the 8th. The prisoners have been committed to jail at Melbourne to

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await their trial. All is now quiet at Ballarat. Bently has had his trial; has been convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to six years hard labour on public roads of the Colony. The same day another man might have been convicted of the crime of horse stealing, & his sentence would have been fourteen years. Where then I ask is the boasted justice of your British laws?

Ashby Dec 24th 1854

Two years ago this morning we were sailing out of Boston harbour. Some of had collected on deck and were singing some piece selected for the occasion, some were casting a longing look to the city of notions which all were leaving with regret, and some with upset craniums were already making

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for their berths, resigned to spend a week there with only now and then a bowl of gruel for subsistence. We are still teaming, Brother W with a team came down from Melbourne on the 16th inst to join us. We have received letters from Brother Wesley

dated in August his health was then improving. Cheering intelligence for us, who feared the next letter would be clothed in mourning for his death.

Ashby Jan 24th 1855

To-night we have got a new table into our Bachelor's hall and I have spread out my portfolio to contribute a little to my journal as a christening for it. A short time ago some new American chairs made their appearance unknown to some of the family, and by degrees our house is

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getting astonishingly well furnished.

I think at this rate we shall soon be prepared to invite some of our have-been-stylish neighbours to visit us. Yesterday a very destructive fire broke out in Sandridge. The buildings being very dry it spread over eight allotments, burning about 60 houses and destroying property to the amount of £100,000 -

The present is quite an exciting time in Melbourne. The so called rioters who were taken prisoners at the stockade and other places in Ballarat are now being tried before the Supreme court and the proceeding there are looked forward to with intense interest.

Mr Seecamp editor of the Ballarat times was the first, for libel was convicted yesterday sentence deferred; court adjourned till Feb 5th A large meeting of the citizens of Melbourne

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has lately been held, and addresses delivered in which the proceedings of the Governor and council in relation to the trial of these men were loudly condemned. They do not hesitate to state openly that he is unfit to hold office in the Government and tell him that if he does not resign he will be expelled from the colony &c. The line of telegraph from Geelong to Melbourne is now completed and in operation. It was done by a Yankee. We are still teaming; have five horses and two wagons. The overland mail arrived last week by the Madras no letters. Yesterday I was presented with some Boston papers, issued in October; somewhat old but interesting by them I learn of the annexation of Charlestown to Boston, the prevalence of cholera in America. interesting

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letters from emigrants to Nebraska &c

Yesterday sent £40 – in a letter to Wesley and letter and nugget to Mother by Adam's & Co's Express

Ballarat Feb 1st 1855

A mounted trooper while passing a tent today near the township was fired at by an inmate of the tent and wounded in the leg. Information was immediately given to the police who went directly to the tent but it was struck and all within had fled. The police are after him in every direction.

Balled Hill near Creswick's Creek Feb 3rd Two days ago a man was killed by a pistol shot on the Creek. Two men were deciding a dispute in a pugilistic encounter, when a comrade of one of the parties coolly drew a

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pistol and shot the other through the body. He then ran into a saloon for protection. The diggers surrounded the place and commenced thrusting their knives through the tent threatening death and destruction to the establishment if the murderer was not given up; At length he came out and gave himself up. He was taken to the camp and will probably swing for it. The victim of his anger survived but four hours. Business is slack and crime is increasing fearfully on the diggings.

Ashby Feb 5th 1855

We have just arrived in town from the diggings. On our way up when about 40 miles from ~~the~~ town one of my brother's horses was taken lame and rendered unfit for use

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consequently W had to return to that place the second time for a load, and J Young started homeward with the lame horse and another in an empty dray. Today when coming home about a day's journey from here we met Y in search of for his horses. During the night being lonely they had wandered away to find their mates. He took a horse from W's team and continued his search

Ashby March 20th 1855

We have today changed our residence. The rat force having increased and become so powerful in our old habitation we were obliged to surrender. The house we now occupy has just been completed, and now old things have passed away and behold all become new. we find our quarters much more

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comfortable than formerly. A new gold mine has lately been discovered in Sharp's forest 25 miles from Geelong. About 300 persons are at work there and stores erected within a week, and the diggings promise to be permanent. We have a stable 80 feet long nearly completed. there are 5 of us now together The rainy season is now about commencing when long boots and rubber coats will be in good demand

Ashby April 22nd 1855

Two years ago today we left our first foot prints on Australian soil The scenes through which we have passed since then have been changeable; some Oh how dismal, and some are clothed in brighter colours. But as I review them and call to mind the feelings I possessed through each and all, the many hardships endured, and few pleasures enjoyed, and think how cheered and encouraged

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I was by the hopes of a brighter future, I am almost astonished at my own efforts, and have not a heart if circumstances should require it, to travel the same path again. Among all those scenes I find none that I love; none to which I have become attached. Australia to me is like earth to the pilgrims; a preparatory place for a better country; yonder's my home
Business of every kind is quite still for the season. Markets are very fluctuating and fortunes are lost and won as the dice happen to turn. Calculating on the state of the market here is almost out of the question, unless one knows what is traversing the Ocean, and to know that he would need telegraphic communication with every custom house on the face of the globe; for a country that neither produces nor

manufactures anything, the regulation, or irregation of her markets must depend upon

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importation alone; If I had a small cargo of Butter, Cheese, or Sperm candles here at the present time, I could make a fortune as easy as to take a pinch of snuff; and another person with a cargo of lumber would loose a fortune as easy as I would make mine; for it has been sold cheaper here than in Boston. so goes the world in this country. Real estate has fallen greatly, large owners who a short time since were worth £20,000 must now divide that sum by 2 if they wish to ascertain their true value. The price of horses is rising and we intend to sell out when we think it is highest; there is always a rise in the price of horses here in winter in consequence of requiring about threbbles the number to perform the same work; and such is likely to be the case until R Roads are constructed between the sea port towns and the diggings;

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which may reasonably be expected by the next generation, if the children possess the energy of their fathers.

Ashby May 5th 1855

Farewell To Punch

Punch, the old friend and companion of our early days in the colony; that brought us first upon the road and opened to us the way to success, and with powerful limbs and a generous will promised that we should meet it, is sold and gone into other hands. It seems as though I have lost my friend; as though good fortune has been driven away from us forever by our own ungrateful actions. His round and plump form has just turned the corner; he tried to give us a parting look but was pulled along by his

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new master; poor poor Punch it grieves me to see him go; how fresh to my memory are his faithful actions during our first trip; when obliged to stop with his load in deep mud, he would turn his head and look back, his large eyes beaming with intelligence, to see if we were at the wheel to help him; then he would put his shoulder to the collar again and take it out. To correct him with a whip was an act of unpardonable rashness; for it seemed like correcting one, who, was capable of advising. Reason and experience appeared to be his guides instead of the reins (for he has never worn the latter) when called by name he would turn and walk towards me with the seeming wisdom and dignity of a sage. He is gone and knows not how fondly I loved him; but how could I make him sensible of it? what gifts could I bestow?

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had I hung upon his neck a golden chain; or fastened in his fine brown mane some choice specimen such paltry trinkets could never please his noble nature, but were we in America he should never be the property of a stranger; I would show my gratitude by giving him plenty of good hay and oats, he should spend his days with me, and when his strong limbs had grown feeble with old age and could support him no longer, I would lay him quietly down so low that he should never be disturbed in his long repose

Ashby May 6th /55

Today on the ~~on~~ arrival of an acquaintance from the diggings an American, we received the mournful intelligence of the death of a former companion of his an acquaintance of mine also, who has been working in a steam saw-mill about 40 miles from here.

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during the night while in the mill some of the machinery broke and a piece of wood struck him on the head knocking him senseless; He lived 24 hours but never spoke. The scene is described as being dreadful. He was a promising young man, possessed a well stored mind, and his people are highly respectable.

Ashby May 7th /55

As the price of horses has considerably risen we have concluded to sell off our teams, Saturday we sold two horses, one wagon, and two harnesses, we have now three horses and one large wagon left.

Ashby May 12th /55

We have sold all of our horses but one, the following is the buying and selling time and price of each horse and name

Bought June 1 st /53 for £85 -	Jenny	Sold August 19 th /53 for £95 -
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Bought August 26 th /53 for £65 -	Punch	Sold May 5 th /55 for £125 -
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Bought Jan 11 th /54 for £115 -	Grey	Sold May 10 th /55 for £135 -
--	------	--

Bought Feb 13 th /54 for £60 -	Snob	Sold Sept 9 th /54 for £75 -
---	------	---

Bought April 25 th /54 for £100 -	Bill	Sold Sept 9 th /54 for £140 -
--	------	--

Bought Oct 30 th /54 for £45 -	Wallace	Sold April 28 th /55 for £90 -
---	---------	---

Bought Nov 10 th /54 for £60 -	Charlie	Sold May 5 th /55 for £120 -
---	---------	---

Bought Dec 1 st /54 for £45 -	Tom	Sold May 12 th /55 for £75 -
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Bought Kate
April 9th /55
for £60 -

Sold
April 14th /55
for £80 -

Bought Bill
April 25th /55
for £89 -
£ 724 Total cost

Sold
August 25th 1855
for £55 -
£ 990 total receipt

Ashby June 12th /55

I am just recovering from the colonial fever which is very prevalent here at present. It has been about four weeks since the first of my illness and I am yet quite weak from ill effects but the prospect is fair of soon regaining my former strength. Business of every kind is almost at a stand still; My Brothers and Young are here today having been here three days seeking for loading. they have nearly a load at from £10 to £13 – per ton to Ballarat and £14 – to the creek. a year ago now cartage was about £60 – per ton. The cause of the present low prices is the uncommon scarcity of rain but very little having fallen

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up to the present time, and the dry and good state of the roads has enabled merchants on the diggings to supply themselves with a winter stock, consequently the demand for goods is very little. We have one horse and wagon left unsold. The boys have 6 horses one wagon and 2 drays. The price of horses has fallen greatly since we sold.

Ashby July 4th /55

This morning at sunrise as usual, I suppose the booming canon aroused the people of Boston and told them it was the anniversary of their national independence. I should like to be there. I can fancy on the hill by the frog pond the framework for the illumination the platforms erected in different localities for the bands that are to enliven the scene with their national airs, Yankeedoodles &c. I can see seated on the green

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grass all around thousands of people great and small, who have congregated there from all parts of the State to witness the scenes of the 4th. I take a stroll across the beautiful green to see the fashions, when suddenly I find myself mixed in with all kinds colours and grades.

The old grey headed man passes slowly with feeble steps, leaning on his staff. He has been there many a 4th but like a good citizen he loves to celebrate the day on which he and his descendants were declared free from British oppression. The next object that attracts my attention is a rugged youth, sauntering along with a cake of ginger-bread in one fist, while the other clinches a hunk of cheese, he is looking about him quite unconcerned, all alone, though surrounded by thousands, while the ginger-bread is rapidly and unconsciously disappearing. His brown and healthy features tell at once he is from the country. What cares he for the

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fashions! He has come from way down east to see the 4th and he means to enjoy it, first, by obeying the call from within. next a young man of the city comes along. His complexion and dress are quite different from the last, and he is not burdened with a load of ginger-bread; but on his arm hangs a lass of 16 tripping along by his side. The lock of arms seems as strong as if connected by magnetic attraction, but just then a cracker is tossed by a youngster, and alas! it descends upon the heads of the devoted pair. The lock is suddenly broken, with a scream from the affrighted maiden, cruel boy. But being reminded by her lover that it is the 4th, and that crackers are a means of celebrating it, she becomes reconciled and passes on again as cheerful as ever. The floral procession, the playing of the fire engines in the morning, giving a cold bath to the brass

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ball on the top of the towering flag-staff, the string of tents extending round the common, and in the evening, the screeches ~~of the~~ occasioned by treading on coins, the crowding and squeezing of the swaying mass, all are fresh to the mind's eye. what a wonderful gift is the imagination; bestowed upon us poor mortals. Though situated in the darkest dungeon, with imagination, in a moment our fetters are broken, the prison walls are scaled, with the speed of lightening we fly to our native shores and are free again and in the full enjoyment of all the bright scenes that have gladdened our past life.

I have nothing of importance to write. The times are very dull. LP is yet at the creek selling off our goods. a nugget of gold has recently been found on the Maryborough diggings weighing 1044 ounces. we have still one horse and large wagon unsold the boys have the horse on their team.

Numerously signed

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memorials have lately been presented to Governor Nathan ~~pray~~ for the release of M^r Seecamp who is now suffering imprisonment for publishing a seditious libel in the Ballarat Times at the time of the Ballarat riot but no attention has been paid to them as yet. I notice in the list of letters to-day 3 for Brother W^m and one for Len. I will write a note in the morning to a friend in Melbourne and have them forwarded forth with.

Ashby July 5th /55

The anniversary of American independence was celebrated in Melbourne yesterday by the Americans in that place in a manner that reflects credit both to themselves and the nation which they here represent. An excellent dinner was served up to about 120, after which toasts of various kinds were given. hung about the walls were ~~the~~ portraits of nearly all the distinguished men

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of the United States and some excellent speeches were delivered by Americans. The company consisted of all the American merchants in the place, invited guests of different professions, clergymen, members of the press, consuls from different nations, &c the American consul Mr Tarlton occupying the chair. They had a good time and like true Americans they enjoyed it.

Port Phillip Bay Steam Boat Geelong Aug 22nd 1855

I have just left the wharf for Melbourne for the purpose of engaging a passage to London. The ship Kent is advertised to sail on the 8th of next month for London and we intend to burthen her with at least two who have become satisfied with Australian experience.

Three days ago I left P at Creswick (where I been for a fortnight) to dispose of the remaining stock and come down with my brothers and

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Young to sell our remaining horse, examine the ship and make their arrangements to leave for the other side of the world

Steam Boat Duncan Hoyle Queen's Wharf Melbourne Aug 25th

I have engaged a passage for P and myself for £35 – or \$175 each to London and from there we will take a steamer for America

I am now about to leave for Geelong. on arriving here I took three letters from the P O two from brother W one dated in New York and one to J Young I think from his brother W^m who has for years been supposed dead. If this be the case, the tidings when they reach their aged parents will cause them to leap into new life, and grief and mourning will be changed to joy and thanks-giving

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Hobson's Bay Ship Kent Sept 11th 1855 evening

I have again taken up my quarters in the Ship, but different feelings from those I possessed when I went aboard the Fanny nearly three years ago. Different because since then I have been an actor in many of the rugged scenes of life and am now better prepared to meet the inconveniences attending a voyage at sea, and also because my prospects are brighter, I am going home. Since my last writhing I have been to the Creek again, settled up affairs there, sold the store to my brothers and Young and H is tending it

We bought our gold dust and returned to Geelong where I found M^r Boyd (one of the firm with whom I traded) waiting our arrival; he is bound for Scotland his native land and his company is very acceptable

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There are but few passengers with whom I am now acquainted but the ship is an excellent place to form acquaintance. A steam boat ~~took~~ employed by the agents took us and our baggage from Cole's Wharf to the ship at 2 O'clock

We have nearly all we require of private stores nick nacks &c and the remainder I will purchase on shore to-morrow as our skipper does not intend to sail till Thursday

Sept 13th 1855 Thursday 2 PM

Melbourne is now rapidly disappearing but with a vision undimmed by a single tear I can look upon its vanishing spires; with an instructive impulse I turn to the land that is now ahead. Though a great way off with imagination I can see the free and rugged shores of the American continent

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looming up before me. I only regret that I must leave behind me brothers and friends whose circumstances demand a longer delay. I fear I shall hardly receive a welcome when I arrive home so great will be the disappointment and so much less the feeling of joy that is anticipated on that ~~when~~ occasion when they discover that only one has

one out of three has come. already I can see the cloud of sorrow overspreading the features of the little group when receiving the answer to the repeated question where are W^m and H.

In consequence of a head wind a steam boat is towing us down to the heads about 60 miles. Unlike the custom in American ships the second and third class passengers who are formed in what is called messes

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of eight in a company have their weekly rations weighed out according to the dietary scale that each one holds and the Ship provides a cook to prepare them for each mess and I think the arrangement a mess in every sense of the word but we have evidently fallen into good hands for there are four ladies in our mess, who, thanks to good breeding do not like to see men handling the dish cloth, but it is almost unanimously voted by the second cabin passengers that a person from the third class be engaged to act as steward a committee has been formed and has had an interview with the captain and he has promised to pay half the amount required for such services

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Southern Ocean Sept 22nd 1855

lat 57° 33' south long 170° 58' west

We have now been 9 days out during which time I have been unable to write on account of sea sickness but am now better; our position being pretty well south the climate is quite cold and many of our passengers afford conclusive evidence that blue noses are to be found in other latitudes besides way down east, and not a few are beginning to show by their thin and cutting features that they are not blind to the improvements in navigation, that to be qualified for fast sailing they must be clipper built. The weather is extremely disagreeable we are obliged to contend with a cold spray or drizzling rain nearly all the time and when we can keep our footing we have to

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tramp the deck to stop our toes from freezing but to the man whose native elements are wind and water, who can see no need of more land than here and there a sand bar to dry his fish upon, the scene before us is one of pleasure and admiration to see when leaning upon the bulwarks the huge columns of water come rolling and sweeping across the ocean until they dash themselves in pieces against the broad and unyielding side of our noble ship, or bear her up upon their swelling bosoms until her masts seem to pierce the clouds.

It has been rough nearly ever since we started and we have had a good wind. I am glad to say that I am not deceived in the character of captain Coleman. He is evidently a man not to neglect his duties over a

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bottle of champagne, and a thorough navigator. And next to managing the Ship his attention directed to the comfort and health of the passengers

Southern Ocean Oct 2nd 1855 lat 58° 20' S long 95° 54' W

Since my last we have made an excellent run having been blest with a fair wind the most of the time. On making the 180th of longitude or half a circle we had two Saturdays 8 days in one week which is explained by the fact that 24 hours is gained

in making a circle of the earth. It was a topic of general discussion amongst the passengers many conscientious scruples being entertained with reference to making the 8th day a substitute for the 7th and regarding it as the Sabbath. but in order to have our weekly calendar correspond with London reckoning

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and to avoid being termed a cargo of Jews when we arrive there it was finally decided in favour of conforming to the rules of the ship. during three or four days last week we were sailing among icebergs; some appeared about 200 feet high and above $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile long but differing in shape and size; some had perpendicular sides with flat smooth tops others were in the form of mountains and steeples. The weather has been very cold the most of the time since my last writing, isuckles hung from the chins and ropes hanging about the decks and in the lower part of the rigging were frozen to twice their original size by the sea pouring upon them over the sides of the ship but the atmosphere is becoming more mild just at this moment a big sea came tumbling over the bulwarks and upon the head of

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some unfortunate individual who like the caged lion is trying to get a little exercise on deck. a roar of laughter goes through the crowd at the poor fellow's expense as he stands statue like with arms extended as if paralyzed while portions of the Southern ocean are streaming from his nose and fingers such scenes are not infrequent amongst us and they add not a little to the mirth and good feeling of the company accept he who is thus made victim to the turbulence of the angry elements

Oct 6th 1855 lat 56° 52' S long 66° 12' W

We have now doubled Cape Horn and are headed North east having sailed a distance of 5625 miles in 23 days being an average of 1700 miles per week and about 244 per day an excellent run. This morning we sighted three vessels supposed to be bound for California

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or the western coast of S america The sun being now in the torid zone travelling southward we begin already to feel his warming effects as we proceed to meet his rays and soon old Sol will be as oppressive as Jack frost has been During the past week many of us have experienced the most excruciating pain in the feet being the effect of sudden cold upon the nerves

Oct 25th lat 1° 9' N long 30° 15' W

We crossed the Equator 15 minutes past 12 O clock this morning it has been a subject of much speculation and numerous bets have been taken upon the ~~time~~ particular time we should occupy in passing from the Southern to the northern hemisphere we are now 40 days out being probably the quickest passage ever made from Hobson's Bay to the line. We are now in the vicinity of calms though

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we are still favoured with a light steady breeze. We have just spoken a vessel from Calloa bound for Cowes 72 days out, when our signals told her the number of days we have been out her commander was evidently astonished at our speed by his asking again if we meant from Cape Horn * If we are favoured in future as we have been we shall make the quickest passage on record

Oct 26th lat 3° 7' N long 30° 14' W

Today we find ourselves nearly becalmed our speed being about 4 nots per hour. last evening we had quite a pleasant entertainment. those who took part in the proceedings ~~we~~ were expected to contribute a few shillings to defray expenses and then if they were singers or declaimers they were invited to display their talents for the benefit and amusement

[head note] * From her also we receive the intelligence that Sebastopol is taken. It may be well supposed that the communication of such news to a company of Johnny Bulls created some noise

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of the company while they wet their whistles with wine champagne Porter and Ale. We had the pleasure of listening to some excellent songs and the recital of some were good pieces. Indeed I am puzzled to know where to look whether to the saloon or the steerage for the best heads and greatest excellence. Among so many sailing as we are from a country such as Australia has been where so many fortunes have been dug and more reverses experienced it is difficult to judge the man by his outward appearance or measure the capacity of his brain by the dimensions of his purse; the most ignorant and depraved are as likely to possess a fortune as the most talented and respectable and hence it is that there are those in the third class who in point of real worth, of mental and

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intellectual acquirements stand far above many, who with an air of importance walk the poop ~~the~~ deck and dine with the captain. We have just passed another vessel a brig with the stars and stripes waiving from her mast. I would gladly have gone aboard her and had a conversation with some of Uncle Sam's boys but our captain did not see fit ~~to speak~~ lower a boat or even speak her

North Atlantic Nov 8th lat 33° 3' N long 41° 54' W

This morning we sighted a ship about 10 miles ahead sailing our course and with the spyglass we ascertained by the construction of hull that she is a Frenchman. As there are few passengers on her decks she is supposed to be a merchant vessel. We have now nearly overhauled her

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and next to sighting land the sight of a full rigged ship with her masts bending to the breeze and on our own tack is the most delightful to the voyager; I can compare it to nothing but meeting with an old townsman in the centre of an African desert. She is now opposite to us about 100 rods off on our lee. Our captain stands in one of our boats which is made fast to the side of the deck ready to speak. Three times three is roared out by the dense mass of passengers that crowd our forecastle and is responded to by the swinging of hats and the waiving of handkerchiefs Our captain asks where she is from, her commander answers Havre; we ask where he is bound, if he has any news of the war &c but as no answer is made he is supposed to be unacquainted with

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the English language and we get no information. We now have an opportunity of getting a better idea of our own majestic appearance and of gazing on the fine proportions of our own noble craft. It is from an opposite point that we get a better view of a vessel than from her own decks; so the Frenchman becomes to us a mirror reflecting our own image. Now we take the wind from her she drops off still further to leeward and is left behind. Large quantities of sea weed have appeared within a couple of days past floating out from the gulf of Mexico. A melancholy event has recently occurred in the third cabin. A young female who has been to Australia for her health ~~accompanied by an aged father~~ and who is now returning accompanied by an aged father ~~is labouring~~ has become a subject

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of mental derangement and her horrid screams and fearful oaths are extremely unpleasant to all she is confined in the ship's hospital in the physician's care. We have nearly a head wind and are obliged to sail north west half west when our proper course is about north east it seems a pity that we must sail to England against head winds when with our stern to the breeze we could walk into N Y at the rate of 14 knots

Nov 19th lat 49° 12' N long 11° 26' W Opposite the English Channel
We have just passed what is supposed to be a wreck. It is a vessel bottom up and appears to be about 400 tons burthen. It is a melancholly spectacle; the waves are breaking over her as she lays there in the awful solitude of the ocean

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once traversing the deep like a creature of life – now a victim to the furious elements. Gladly would we learn the history of her perilous adventure but her black keel cannot speak. Very likely her crew found a watery grave. 2 P M The Liverpool an American ship has just crossed our stern bound for England. Since we passed her captain has put the ship about and we are now on her tack. A week ago we expected to be in London before this, but there's no luck in the wind; we're obliged to beat about continually to gain any distance making now for Ireland. On the evening of the 11th we encountered a severe gale. It came upon us suddenly with our canvass all spread studding-sails set &c one of the latter and our our mizzen-top-sail were torn to strings and before the tars could

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jump into the rigging we were going with fearful rapidity before the wind. The night was dark, we were making the most fearful plunges through the water when a ship! a ship! was heard from the fore-castle. Fearful looks were exchanged among the passengers and for a few minutes the excitement was great; but soon it was ascertained we were past all danger. The strange vessel was sailing in an opposite direction and passed us like a shot so near that a stone might have been cast upon her deck. There is something admirable in the coolness and energy with which our captain commanded the ship in a storm. In stature he is tall and well proportioned and possess a pair of lungs like a smith's bellows; and in a voice that rises above the tempest he thunders forth his orders

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The world is made vocal with the praise of the warrior for the firmness and intrepidity he displays when in the presence of contending with his foes, but when we behold the commander upon the ocean, to whom is entrusted not only the lives of hundreds of human being but also the commerce of nations, battling not against an arm of flesh but against the combined forces of the enraged elements, which, in the darkness of night are leagued together to crush him, and conquering the tempest by skilfully wielding the weapons of knowledge, firmness, courage and energy, the feeling becomes too deep for utterance; the full heart there beats which the tongue cannot speak, and spell bound we stand, wonder, and admire

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Nov 20th 1855 evening

We have just witnessed a solemn scene a burial at sea. A young child in the third cabin, who has been ill for some time died this morning and at half past four was buried. The melancholly task was assigned to the boatswain and his mate. The body was coarsely sewed up in canvass, then brought upon the deck with the British ensign for a shroud and laid upon a plank which was placed across the bulwarks prayers were then read by the captain and the body was consigned to the deep. After witnessing the ceremony, I could felt like adopting the language of the poet
"Oh! Bury me not in the deep deep sea,
Where the billowy shroud will roll over me;
There no light will break through the dark
No sun-beam rest upon my grave.
It matters not, I have oft been told,
Where the body shall lie when the heart

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But grant ye, Oh! grant ye this boon to me;
Oh! bury me not in the deep deep sea.

Nov 24th lat 48° 54' N long 5° 28' W

We are now in the mouth of the E channel. Our distance the last 24 hours is 119 miles the wind having shifted to a more favourable quarter during the night. At half past one P M land was discovered from the main Royal; It is the coast of France but as the day advances the wind gets more ahead and the ship breaks off from her course again

Truro County of Cornwall England

Nov 26th evening This morning at 9 A M a pilot came on board for the mail. We ascertained that we could get a passage on shore; accordingly Boyd, Parker & myself with many others in all about 70 commenced packing up our trinkets and making preparations to leave; and for a while the Kent was a scene of bustle and

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confusion. When all were ready we took our gold in my carpet bag, left our luggage in the care of a good lady in the adjoining berth, lowered ourselves into the boat and left the Kent but not without giving three hearty cheers for the good old ship and her gallant commander. The sea was somewhat rough but with the exception of an occasional sprinkling we proceeded finely and soon reached the town of Penzance for 10/- 275 miles from London. There we took the cars for this place. We passed

through a finely cultivated country interspersed with hills and vallies and never before did the neat and quiet homes of the husbandman appear so lovely. The principle ocupation in this county appears to be that of mining, copper tin, iron and coal are found here This is a very neat little town containing about 12000 inhabitants
Tomorrow morning we take the

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coach for Plymouth a distance of 50 miles

Plymouth Nov 27

Arrived at 5 O'clock after a pleasant ride through some of the most delightful scenery in England. Exeter 56 miles from P 10 A M here we are allowed an hour to walk about and see the place before the next train arrives. This is an old but very pleasant town.

London Nov 28th evening

We are now in the metropolis of Great Britain and the first city in the world. Just arrived by the Parliamentary train. The country through which we have passed today is more level though we were occasionally propelled through long tunnels bored through solid rocks and often elevated to a fearful height supported by ~~stone~~ massive columns, now emerged in darkness beneath the surface of the earth, and now taking a

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bird's eye view of the ancient towns which nestle beneath us, The building of a RR in England must be attended with great expense, We had the opportunity of seeing some fine specimens of English stock, sheep in particular as we passed through the county of Devonshire. Some of the towns through which we passed were Hele, Collumpton, Tiverton, Taunton, Bridgewater, Weston-Supermare, Nailsea, Bristol, Twyford, Ashton &c

Royal Exchange This is a fine building ~~in front~~ is the general post Office being connected with it. Here is a clock which gives the exact Greenwich time being regulated by magnetic telegraph running under ground to G distance about 8 miles. In front of this is ~~the~~ a statue of the Duke of Wellington mounted on his charger; it was erected to his memory while the hero was living. Canon St Here in the front wall of an old church in its natural shape is the most ancient

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stone in London placed there by the mason in the thirteenth century.

Search the city round and round

Still this is the highest ground.

The Bank of English. This is an immense building constructed of stone and occupying eleven acres of ground * Here we have deposited our bag of valuables which cost 1/- and now we are at liberty to knock about the streets of L. We are now taking a view of S^t Paul's Cathedral a building second to none in the world if we accept S^t Peter's at Rome. It was begun and completed in 35 years by one architect Christopher Wren whereas S^t Peter's was 125 years in building and under 12 architects. ~~One is~~ I am lost in amazement as I gaze upon the immensity and grandeur of this edifice and reflect that beneath the marble floor upon which I now stand lie entombed the ashes of Nelson, Wellington, Howard, Cornwallace, Abercrombie and many others whose names I have

[In margin] * here is a clock which by some ingenious mechanism gives the time in four different offices where dials are placed. This bank employs 50 clerks

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been accustomed from childhood to associate with something almost divine. We paid 3s – 2d each on entering which entitled us to a guide.

The whispering gallery excites great interest celebrated for the transmission of the slightest sound along the interior of its walls. When we entered the gallery the guide requested me to seat myself on the opposite side a distance of feet and he would communicate with me by whispering. I felt inclined to doubt the fulfilment of his promise, but with his face to the wall he has just given us the dimensions of the dome in words a distinct as though he had sat at my elbow. The face of the clock on this church is 57 feet in circumference, the pendulum is 14 feet long and weighs 200 lbs. The bell is 10 feet in diameter, weighs 11474 lbs, strikes the hour and tolls to the death of the Royal family; it is now striking two while we are standing by it and has almost a stunning effect.

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We are now in the interior of the brass ball on the top 404 feet from the ground. It appears about the size of a canon ball from the street, yet it is 6 feet in diameter and 8 persons can sit here quite comfortably. After taking a view of each part of the magnificent structure we have seated ourselves (it being near service time) to listen to the discourse and the deep tones of the organ.

Dec 1st This morning M^r Boyd Parker & myself took the cars at 10 O'clock to visit the celebrated crystal Palace which has been removed from Hyde Park to Sydenham a distance of about 8 miles. We travelled through the park and palace from 12 till dark and then left without seeing all. an attempt to describe what I have seen would be vain. It is a grand display of art. many articles have been removed that were on exhibition in 1837 [?] but there are still enough remaining to occupy attention and excite interest

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Dec 3rd The Kent arrived at her dock yesterday. This morning we went aboard for our luggage; it was removed to the custom house where 2/6 was demanded of each for the privilege of having our trunks ransacked, their contents spread upon the floor, and all private effects made public, not excepting love letters, valentines, christmas presents etc and after much delay and great annoyance owing to bad management in that department we arrived at our quarters at 6 PM having spent the whole day over it

Dec 4th Victor Emanuel the King of Sardinia arrived in London on the 31st ult and to day was escorted through the streets to Guild hall to receive an address from the Lord mayor and aldermen I have just returned to my hotel from the crowd 6 pence procured me the use of a bench placed upon the side walk from which position I had the satisfaction of looking upon a king. But his birth and rank has not banished the evidences of human frailty from his appearance; notwithstanding he is one of Europe's Kings, like all other men, flesh and blood seem to be among the

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materials of his construction.

The weather is very unfavourable for the occasion being extremely sultry Everything in London presents a very dark and gloomy appearance at this season on account of thick fog which settles upon the city it sometimes becoming necessary to light the street lamps in the middle of the day

Tower of London Dec 5th

The name of this place has always been associated with superstition and gloom; and has ever created within me a feeling of dread; but now while I stand surrounded by chopping blocks, fatal axes, and instruments of torture and death of every description, and my senses are brought in contact with the very instruments which were actually employed in the most horrid scenes of which the mind can conceive a feeling of horror chilled my very blood and I feel thankful to a kind providence that gave me birth in a christian land and in an age of civilization. The Armory connected with the tower is very interesting; figures representing all the ancient kings, knights, princes &c wearing the actual armour and holding the weapons of the time in which they flourished are here exhibited. One golden armour of James 1st being at present worth £1200- in [indecipherable] gold

[in margin – refer to next page for reference and continuation] * Thames Tunnel.

The river Thames is now flowing over our heads while we are surrounded with brick walls the top of which are only 15 feet from the rolling waters above. This is truly a wonderful piece of workmanship and one which a

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a piece from the keel of the Royal George which had lain in water 52 years and which had turned to stone, ancient guns, the cloak on which Woolf died enclosed in a glass case and on which blood is still remaining, and many other ancient relics too numerous to mention all of which are very interesting *

British Museum Dec 6th Here may be seen the largest collection of the different species of animals, birds, insects, fishes, and reptiles, and the greatest display of antiquities that is to be found in any establishment in the world; affording a grand treat to the lovers of natural and ancient history. In the former department there are curiosities from every portion of the globe; the depths of the ocean also have yielded

[in margin – continued from previous page] century ago would have been considered impossible to accomplish it is 1300 feet long 35 feet wide and 22 feet high, was 18 years in building and cost £446,000 there are two passages through each 14 feet wide & between them are stalls fitted up where presents of all descriptions are sold in large numbers to strangers visiting the place.

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up to this establishment the wonders with which nature has entrusted her and which she has held so long in concealment, and when in the latter department surrounded by the heads of renowned philosophers and ancient heroes who lived before the christian era one can almost imagine himself flourishing in an age long past and insted of looking forward to a millennium he will be looking for the appearance of the star that is to proclaim to the world a saviour of men

Among the objects of interest in the Roman gallery are busts of Demosthenes, BC 384 years, Diogenes the cynic philosopher BC 412 years, Pericles BC 497 years

found near Tivoli in 1781, Sophia BC 495 years found in 1775 near Gensano 17 miles from Rome; part of a mosaic pavement representing the head of Neptune found in the ruins of Carthage

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Lycian Saloon B Museum

Here are sculptured remains extending back as far as the subjugation of Lycia by the Persians BC 345 years; in the Greek galleries I notice two fragments from the pillars of the tomb of Agamemnon, and some casts which are considered among the earliest specimens of Greek art; they represent Hercules and the two thieves of Ephesus. In the Assyrian gallery is a statue of stone on its original pedestal representing Ashmakhbal first Assyrian King who is supposed to have reigned about 930 years BC taken by M^r Layard from the ruins of Nenevah in 1847. There are many other sculptures nearly all executed in a species of alabaster.

Egyptian gallery

Here are monuments which are regarded as the earliest within the range of antiquity; assending to a period not less than 2000 years before the christian era.

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According to my guide book these sculptures represent different characters and are very imperfect the most of them being badly mutilated. Among the curiosities in this department is a sun-dial of the Roman period called Cleopatra's needle found in an excavation made at Alexandria white marble; also mummies, false Gods, Porcelian vases &c as ancient as the Pyramids by which they were once surrounded

Dec 7th 1855

Last evening I was called upon by Mr Edmiston (a member of the common council to whom I brought a letter and parcel from his son a merchant in Geelong) and invited to take tea with him at his dwelling. I spent the evening very pleasantly.

Today we paid a visit to the Polotechnic where one can get a sight at a little of every thing for a shilling. In the space of

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two hours I listened to a very entertaining lecture on minerals during which many very amusing experiments were made, took a peep at the dissolving views, witnessed an experiment with the infernal machine for blowing up man-o-war ships, and took a journey to the bottom of a fountain in a diving bell. the last experiment afforded me no little satisfaction. the large quantity of air that is pumped in through a tube from the top to force out the water and thus cause the bell to sink created a strange sensation as if grills had been stuck into my ears but as the holy men came out of the fiery furnace, so came I from the depths below without the smell of fire. from this building we passed through into another large building where where a cattle show is to be holden in a few days and where are some of the finest specimens

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of cattle that I ever saw American farmers sometimes raise what they call good stock but their best specimens are very inferior to any that I saw here. M^r Boyd took leave of us yesterday and proceeded on to Edinborough

Dec 8th Today we visited madam Tussaud & Sons's celebrated collection of wax statuary which I believe are said to be the best in the world; they represent all the most eminent characters in Europe and Great Britain and some in America taken some from life and others from correct paintings. The first proprietor of this establishment is now dead and her sons under whose superintendence it is now conducted have constructed a figure of her the most life like of any object

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ever made of wax. she is represented in a lying posture and by some invisible means air is communicated to the figure causing the bosom gently to rise and fall as if she were breathing having the appearance of a person in a quiet sleep. The most interesting part of this exhibition however are the relics of the Emperor Napoleon These are very numerous, many of them came into the possession of the English at the battle of Waterloo and many others were left to the son of Napoleon the King of Rome. there is a figure being a correct likeness of the great hero, the coronation robe, also that of Josephine, the original eagles taken at Waterloo, the identical sword used by Napoleon while in Egypt, the camp bedstead mattress and pillows used by him during 7 years at St H and on which he died, the identical cloak also which

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he wore at Marengo, and which served as his pall to the grave these were all left to his son. The bed alone cost the proprietors £430 -.

The carriage that conveyed Napoleon to the field of W taken by the English cost £2,500 - a whip picked up on the spot, favourite garden chair used by N at S^t Helena, also the carriage used by him at S^t H and the last he ever entered, and the counterpane on which he died, piece of the celebrated willow tree under which he was buried; the shirt, waistcoat, drawers and hdkf worn by the emperor in exile, also the celebrated atlas used by him during many years in which are plans of several battles drawn with his own hand.

Farther along is the chamber of horrors, in this department are figures representing the greatest criminals and murderers

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many who possessed talents but whose evil propensities possessed them and led them on to crime misery and death. these figures though finely executed I think are inferior to M^{rs} Peppy's in the Boston Museum in consequence of the different characters not being represented in the acts for which their names have become notorious, there seems to be a lack of life like appearance in these characters which is found in those of M^{rs} P's. In this department is the celebrated French Guillotine an instrument which in the hands of an impetuous people has proved fatal to many.

Zoological gardens Dec 10th

This beautiful spot is situated in one side of regents park. The park is an enclosure of 450 acres the public promenades are well shaded with large trees and is a delightful retreat in summer from the noise and bustle of London. Passing

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through into the garden for [indecipherable] we are saluted with the growling of lions, the howling of wolves and the screeching of numberless feathered monsters. The animals are placed in very large cages some of them having large yards in which to

exercise, the birds are seen hopping about on dry branches which are set inside their several apartments, and although limits are assigned to their movements, they can scarcely complain of their confinement for they are surrounded with trees plants and flowers if every description the most lovely. Water is brought to the garden in pipes and numerous small ponds are constructed for those animals ~~and fowls which require it~~ and whose element it is. Here may be seen the most splendid specimens of wild animals from all parts of the globe; not stuffed curiosities but living and moving. among those which most gratified my curiosity were the Giraffe of the largest size, the Rhinoseros and the Hipopotamus. this must

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be a delightful spot in summer when ~~every thing~~ all these trees and flowers are in bloom, and when all these thousand songsters forgetting their confinement unite to fill the fragrant air with their enchanting melodies.

Rustick seats are provided in different parts of the garden and also a refreshment and confectionary establishment for the benefit of visitors. Were the entrance fee ten times the amount this place is well worth a visit.

evening contrary to our expectations we find that gold is exported to this market in bars from the N S and that our best plan is to dispose of ours here accordingly we have sold the dust this afternoon to Samuel Montague for £4-2-3 per oz and taken their draft on Duncan, Sherman & Co New York

Liverpool Dec 11th

This morning 7 of us all bound for different parts in America took the 8 O'clock train on the London and north western R R for this place having been in London 12 days, As we came

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northward we found the ground covered with a thin coat of snow probably as much as is often seen in this country we arrived here at 8 PM and have just selected our quarters in the Fox an Goose hotel near the depot.

Liverpool Dec 13th 1855

The most I have seen in this town to excite interest is the wharves and the extensive shipping the St John's market and the exchange are fine edifices though I have seen nothing of the former kind in my travels to equal the old Faneuil Hall market in ~~Boston~~ however much they may excel in other buildings they must erect one more market before they can claim equality with the Bostonians. Crimes of every description are daily committed here and jails and court houses filled with

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criminals; one is hardly safe to walk the street with anything valuable exposed to view. Today we have taken saloon passage for N Y in the W^m Tapscott a sailing vessel of 1800 tons register Our intuition was to have taken a steamer across the Atlantic but as some of the steamers have been taken off and employed in the government transport service to the Crimea and not wishing to be delayed ten days in Liverpool we have taken the to leave our tickets cost us each eleven pounds 8/6 which is to secure to us the best fare and accommodation

Ship W^m Tapscot Captain Bell river Mersey
Monday evening Dec 17th 1855

I find myself once more settled in my quarters on board the ship though I hope for the last time; The Steamer Canada arrived yesterday and brings news

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from the U S the most important of which is the discovery of a new mine of gold in California reported to be the richest yet discovered in that country. Our vessel hauled out from her dock on Saturday and today at 11 O'clock A M we took a steamer and came out to her with the captain. Tomorrow morning at 4 A M O clock the steamer will tow us down the channel.

North Atlantic ocean

January 1st 1856 lat 48° N and about 750 miles from Liverpool

We have now been out a fortnight and the distance we have made was accomplished the first five days. since then we have been battling unsuccessfully with strong winds and big waves. The exceeding roughness of the ocean beats all I have yet seen; When we were in the south Pacific

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I was accustomed to fancy London but a step from home but this notorious Atlantic is a hard road to travel N Y seems now as far off as L from Melbourne. I suppose my friends at home are spending a happy new years day in visiting, sleigh riding sending and receiving presents and attending to all the little etcs which are among the duties of a social community while I am rolling about at the mercy of the winds and waves between Ireland and New-foundland. They little think how near I am to them and yet how long I am doomed to remain here in the centre of the ocean is a question very difficult to solve

Jan 15th lat 41° 30' N long 52° W We are now on the grand banks of New Foundland about a 1000 miles from New York. Since my last writing the wind has been more favourable and we have now a prospect of soon reaching the long sought shore

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Sunday Jan 27th lat 40° N lon 57° W

We are a little farther west than we were at my last writing but we have made nothing for a week on Friday night when north of the gulf stream and in long 58° 30' W we were visited by a severe rainstorm accompanied by strong wind; as the night advanced the wind and cold strengthened until the whole rigging, pullies ropes &c we covered with ice and became unmanageable and our captain was obliged to wear ship and make for warmer latitudes again the rain turned to sleet and hail, the wind increased and soon the sea was rolling mountains high; our canvas was all taken in but the main topsail to prevent the mast being carried away while the furious tempest sweeping through the bare rigging sounded like the terrific yells of a thousand wild-cats so it continued through the day and part of last night

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At 10 O clock last night a tremendous sea supposed to be as much as 400 tons washed in upon our decks carrying a boat from the bulwarks against the house on deck with such force as to break it in pieces part of which struck one of the sailors breaking his leg and collar bone. The ship moved heavily for a while beneath the increased burden until by degrees the enormous body passed off through the

scuppers as it flowed from one side to the other with the motion of the vessel. The fury of the wind is much abated this morning still it is strong. How much of such ill success we are destined to meet it is impossible to tell. O! impenetrable future it is on thy chart alone that our winding course through the ocean is fixed; and there is but one being who knows whether it extends to our

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native shore or whether it shall terminate where breakers rear their black destructive heads, and storms more terrible wait the approach of the fatal hour when they shall burst upon our heads and leave us only a spar on which to cling for life. But whatever be our fate we will be grateful to a kind Providence for the wise concealment and hope for the best

Friday Feb 15th 1856

The New Jersey shore is in full view this morning, and it is a joyful sight to me as it must be to every American when returning to his native land after an absence of more than three years. This morning at 6 O'clock we received a pilot on board with a supply of N Y papers which are very acceptable to us having seen so few since our departure. The sea this morning is quite smooth, we are sailing along briskly before a steady

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breeze and have now a prospect thank Heaven of soon meeting with and enjoying the society of our friends. about three years and two months have elapsed since I left Boston. during that time I have crossed the atlantic three times, spent two years and five months in the Antipodes, traversed the waters of five oceans, visited four grand divisions of the earth, and sailed round the world. I have been seventy three days without the sight of land, winter's freezing cold and summer's burning heat, ice bergs and the suns verticle rays have been my companions in the same month; but a sea life at best is but a dreary one to me; the grandeur of occasional scenes, the excitement which is now and then produced by heaving oceans, howling winds and creaking masts is lost in the overbalancing monotony which precedes and follows it, and it is with a feeling of pleasure that I turn my eyes from a world of waters to fields and forests

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which though now covered with snow and barren I know will soon put on a gorgeous robe and be laden with green foliage and waving grain, and exchange the roar of angry elements for the sound of the woodsmans axe, the lowing of herds and the music of birds

Marlboro Hotel Boston

Feb 20th We arrived here at 3 O'clock P M yesterday from N Y having been two days on the road on account of the large quantity of snow drifting upon the track. Towns, miles and rods were all numbered and when Boston came in view the thought of soon meeting with those who I expected to find here almost raised me from my seat, I wanted to fly from the encumbrance of wheels and steam that I might be sooner in their midst; but what a change! many of my

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acquaintance are gone; some to California, some are dead and more are married; among the latter are two of my brothers and the unexpected change in the aspect of things has almost upset me

Monday Feb 25th 1856

This is a beautiful morning the air is pure and keen, the sun as he climbs the Heavens smiles with unusual loveliness, and the frosty snow as if it were strewn with diamonds, sparkles and glistens in his rays with almost dazzling effect; in a word it is one of New Englands own mornings.

We have just left the B & M depot and are rolling along towards Portland at the rate of 20 miles per hour; and if we meet with no obstructions in 30 hours we shall be at home

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Compton Feb 26th 1856

9 O'clock A M. We find We find there is no coach leaves here until 2 O'clock consequently we have engaged passage in a private conveyance with a man who is now away to the centre for his team.

Pearlash hill Hatley C.E.

The old red house ~~is now in view~~ which I have not seen for four years and five months is now in view, and joy at the thought of being in a few minutes within its walls has put a stop to my journal.

I will now drop my pen and grasp the hands of friends

[Transcribed by Peter Mayo for the State Library of New South Wales]