

Joseph Arnold journal, 8 March-17 December 1815
C 720/4

[Page 361]

Rio de Janeiro: Mar. 8. 1815.

Tuesday Mar. 8th. Went on shore and attended a magnificent mass at the Cathedral at which were present the Regent & the princes, with all the grandees of the Kingdom. The music which took up the greatest part of the ceremony was very grand; and five or six eunuchs in high tune performed the greatest part of the vocal music.

Departed this life Eliz. Coward, a convict from the county of Dorchester. This poor wretch was sent on board with an infamous character, that she feigned epileptic fits, and fatuity, wh. was certified by four or five surgeons & Jailer's certificates. Her fatuity however appeared to be real, as well as her convulsions. She could not eat the salt provisions, she became dropsical & emaciated, and at length died of debility.

Thursday Mar. 10. Took a pleasant Excursion in the gig with the captain of Catharina on the Bragarza side, where we dined in a coffee grove, & enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the place, where the most beautiful flowers (such as are ornaments to the English hot house) appear in the hedges. Wrote letters order [indecipherable] to the Transport Board. A private

[Page 362]

one to Mr. McLeay, one to Edward & Another to Wm. Crowfoot wh. I send by the packet which will sail next Sunday.

Saturday Mar. 11. Went on shore and bought a few articles such as sugar & tea & Spirits wh. I may want at Sidney for wh. I paid 28.6£.

Sunday Mar. 12 Dined at the hospital with Mr. Dixon. In the morning went to the Mass at the prince's Chapel.

Monday Mar. 13. Took a long walk along the aqueduct wh. I followed to its source, & collected some very fine insects. Some slaves also whom I had purchased some of a week ago had collected many curculiones wh. I bought.

Wednesday Mar. 15. An American Privateer of 22 guns is off the port so that we are fearful of going out.

Thursday Mar. 16. We got under weigh this morning but only proceeded about a mile. The Orpheus came in last night & Lieut Purchase came to see me. The Achille & Orpheus sailed this morning

[Page 363]

& the Duncan bears two flags, a circumstance I never heard of before, white at the fore & blue at the Mizzen. The Cornwallis came in this morning with Sir G. Barlton's flag.

Anne Turner A convict, (as it appears in a fit of Jealousy) threw herself overboard this afternoon & immediately disappeared.

Friday Mar. 17. We got under weigh this morn'g with a fair breeze, but were brought to by St. Cruz, & obliged to get another certificate from the Admiral; so that we return this afternoon up the harbour. again

Saturday Mar. 18. We sailed from Rio Janeiro this morning with a fair wind. The fruits that were in season were melons, pine apples, green oranges, Bananas, plantains; guavas, Mammorys; quinces, Melons; custard apples, cashew nuts & mangos
Wednesday Mar. 22. The wind became adverse yesterday & there being much swell, the women were very sea sick & the ship offensive
Departed this life Anne Frost a convict woman aged about 30. She was of

[Page 364]

a good appearance & strong habit of body. About a fortnight ago she was attacked by a febrile complaint accompanied with some symptoms of Cholera & great pain about the belly wh. was swelled. I gave her some laxatives wh. opened her bowels, but without relief to the pain, she was even soon distressed by an inordinate diarrhoea for wh. I prescribed the Creta Mixture; but the pain became continual, she had no rest, the swelling of her belly remained & I ordered mercurial Ointment & camphor to be rubbed in wh. produced slight Ptyalism. She died however this morning exhausted. I regret that I did not venture upon a full bleeding, but the weather was excessively hot at the time.

Departed this life Wm. Dodman aged 2 years child of a free woman who died of Apoplexy when in Rio de Janeiro. His complaint was mesenteric obstruction.

Lat. 25.22 S. Long. 41.10 W.

[Page 365]

Mar. 23: Thursday. A very fine day & the wind perfectly fair.

Lat. 26.30 S Long. 40.46 W.

Good Friday. Mar. 24th. The morning was very fair, but about noon a squall came on with rain from the south, which still continues, and as the moon is at the full & the equinox present, some rough weather may be expected. We are now 28° South, the Thermometer this morning 82; since the change of wind to the south it is 74° only.

I fear some unpleasant circumstances during the voyage; some new sails were found yesterday rotten for want of care; to day they say there will not be bread enough for the convicts during the voyage; the suet is all done.

Lat. 32°.27'S Long. 28°.35'W.

Monday Mar. 27th. The wind very fair & the weather fine; Lat. 32°.27'S. Therm. 73°

Friday Mar. 31. The weather fine. The first albatroses seen to day. Therm. as low as 64°.

Lat. 35°.13'S. Long 28°.35'W.

Saturday Apr. 1st. The wind foul but the weather fine. The newgate convicts were served out two suits of cloths to day which is a gift of the Sherif of London.

Lat. 34.32 Long. 27.18 W.

[Page 366] 1815

Thursday Apr. 6th. It is said that Tristan de Cunta was seen this morning. The wind has been for some days to the Northward & Eastward.

Catherine Inglis, a convict, in a fit of passion this morning took a large quantity of Laudanum, but I made her throw it up again by a strong emetic. She is a handsome Scotch girl, & has long been a dashing lady of the Town, having travelled over the greatest part of England. She reads well & write tolerably. The Capt. as soon as he saw her took her into his Cabin & cloathed her, very unwisely in a ladylike fashion, & she has had always a servant to attend her. Being of a very romantic turn she seems to have taken much hold of the affections of Mr. Tween, & there being a

slight quarrel between them last night, she made use of the expedient of the Laudanum to destroy herself, but was discovered soon enough to prevent its deadly effects.

Lat. 37. 53S. Long/. 14. 42 W.

Sunday Apr. 9th. The Weather moderate but cold. Departed this life Sarah Dodman a free child. the last of the family that was on board.

[Page 367]

Dodman, who was transported some time ago, sent for his Wife & family to go out to him. His wife therefore, a healthy good looking woman & two children took their passage with us and now all are dead, the mother of apoplexy at Rio Janeiro where I buried her in the sand, & the two children on board of Marasmus. 37°.19S. 7°.35W.

Thursday Apr. 13th. No change, the wind has been moderate but tolerably fair, we passed the Meridian of Greenwich yesterday.
36°.59' S. 1°.38' W.

Thursday Apr. 20th. The weather has been remarkably fair & the wind moderate & nearly aft; we are now in the Longitude of the Cape & about two degrees south of it. The Therm. as high as 70°. 37°.21' S. 14°.56' E.

Sunday Apr. 23rd. Yesterday morning and during almost the Whole day we had a high irregular swell with little or no wind the waves breaking at their tops as if we were in shallow water, and that a strong tide was running against us; to me it appeared like the Strait of Gibralta with a swell from the Eastward opposing the tide. About eight in the morning I thought the water was somewhat discoloured, and observed to the captain the propriety of sounding wh. however he did not do. We found ourselves at noon by meridian altitude about

[Page 368]

thirty miles north of where the [indecipherable] Shoal is placed in Mr. Horsburg's charts & stood on to the eastward. In the evening a slight breeze came from the northward & eastward the sea & appearance of a current went down. To day by latitude and our chronometers we find ourselves exactly upon the spot where the shoal is placed but see no appearance of breakers from the mast head, altho' there still continues a considerable swell; so that the current must have carried us above 60 miles to the south west within the last twenty four hours. 38°.3' S 20°.29' W.

Wednesday Apr. 26th. We have had a calm all day & last night; the weather is warm, the Therm. as high as 74°.

Sunday Apr. 30th We have had very fine weather for several days rather inclining to calm, but to day the wind is considerable & to the eastward of South so that we cannot lay our course. 37.33 S - 33.33 E

I have been translating some of the sermons of the Abbot Gerson who is the reputed Author of the book De imitatione Christi which some

[Page 369]

attribute to Thomas a Kempis, also some of the Sermons of St. Augustine, and of Mons. Saurin the minister at the Hague. These by some changes I make use of on sundays to read to the Convicts after the Liturgy; between decks wh. is fitted up as a church.

Friday May 5th. We still go on very quietly, the weather is fine & warm, our Lat. is about 37° 16' and our Long. East 39°44'.

Monday May 8th. The wind is become considerable & to the westward so that we go at the rate of 7 & 8 knots, & have continued so for these two days.
South Lat. 39°.7' Long. East 49.

Thursday May 11th. Yesterday it began to blow Gale from the north eastward wh. still continues & to night it is more violent than ever with heavy clouds & rain.
Lat. South 40.29. Long. E. 54.

Saturday May 13th. The gale continues with great violence, with powerful squalls of hail about every ¼ of an hour; Yesterday the latitude was about 40°.20' South but we are now steering north east. 39.7 S. 67.33 E .

Sunday May 14. The gale has ceased, & the weather become fine. 38.41S 70.44E

Tuesday May 16th. At noon to day the Isle of Amsterdam hove in sight, which we passed within about 10 miles. ~~of~~. At three a strange

[Page 370]

sail was seen lying too off the Island; which soon came in chase of us, and by dark seemed to have gained upon us considerably, when we changed our course & made all sail possible to escape from her. It is needless to conjecture what she may be; our fears make her an American, but some think her a whaler or a botany bay ship going with convicts that have touched at that Island for water. 39° S. 77.37E.

Friday May 19th. The ship that came in chase of us on Tuesday evening was not seen in the morning when it blew a gale of wind with much rain & hail. Yesterday the Gale increased to a tremendous degree but diminished towards evening, but still continuing with considerable force. We scudded under the close reefed foresail as long as it was safe but the most part of yesterday lay too. The ship is very wet & we continually ship seas.
39°.19'S 88°.4'E.

Sunday May 21st. The weather is become fine, and the Wind is fair so that we are now in 94° East. Long: 37.7S 94. SbE.

Thursday May 25th. All yesterday it blew a very hard Gale of Wind, so that we could only sit on the Deck at Dinner with our plates on our laps; to day the weather is finer, but with a high swell; & the weather very cold. 39.8 S 107.3 E.

Friday June 2. The wind has been very fair for several days; blowing rather strong, we are now

[Page 371] 1815

in Latitude 39.30S and 560 miles west of King Island in Basse's Strait. I have for this week past employed myself in making Indices to Browne's Bodromus of the Botany of New Holland. Long. 132°. 55' E

Sunday June 4th. Departed this Life Sarah Shurwell aged about 50. This old woman came on board in a bad state of health, being of a broken constitution, on our way to Rio Janeiro she suffered much with a dropsical complaint which disappeared entirely. Soon after leaving Rio Janeiro she was attacked with a chronic Dysentery wh. resisted all means of cure. This woman has two fine daughters on board, one of whom is in keeping of Mr. Weir surgeon of the ship; her husband & son are also transported, all for the same offence. They were farmers residing near Reading, and have some relations there in good circumstances. 39°.50' S 139°.42' E.

Monday June 5th. We are now very near Basse's Straits & rather expected to see them this evening before dark but were disappointed. Mr. Tween I believe intends to run during the night into the straits trusting to his latitude at Noon. 39.43 S 143.33 E.

Tuesday Morning June 6. The land about Cape Patton appeared this morning and we are

[Page 372]

now running into Basse's Strait.

Wednesday June 7. At daylight we were in sight of Curtis's Isles wh. we were abreast of about noon when Judgement Rock hove in sight and Kents Group wh. we were abreast of about dark. The Isles seen to day were Rodordo, Morlus Isles; the Devil's Tower, Curtis's Group, Judgement Rocks, Kents Group, & the Pyramid.

Thursday June 8. We were quite clear of Bass's Strait this morning & out of sight of Land, it being calm all the afternoon wh. we had not experienced for about 2 months.
38.56S 149.21E.

Friday June 9. Nearly calm. The rain head seen at a distance.

Monday June 12th. The winds have been adverse with frequent calms, so that altho' we are within 200 miles of our place of destination we are still buffetting about off Mount Dromedary.

Wednesday June 14th. The wind still foul, we are now in the Latitude of Port Jackson, with the wind directly in our teeth, having been completely thrown out; by taking too much care to keep a good offing we have found a foul wind.

Friday June 16. Land appeared at the mast head this morning wh. at noon was seen from the deck & proved to be the coast between Hunter's river & broken bay, the weather calm.

[Page 373]

Saturday June 17th. Land could scarcely be perceived at day light this morning but the wind being fair we soon approached it at about 4pm were within five miles of it. But what is most extraordinary although we had a good meridian altitude, and were so near the land, had good charts & glasses, yet we could not determine any part of the Coast, tho' we by our reckoning were just off Broken bay.

Sunday June 18th. We came to An Anchor at the entrance of Port Jackson this evening.

Monday June 19th. Called upon the Governor to day having sent my official documents yesterday. He received me very coolly as one man could receive another, and what was worse told me that he would not be at further expense upon my account, that he had no further instructions respecting me, except a postscript from the Transport Board to allow me rations, but that he wd. not find me lodging; that he should not at all trouble himself respecting finding me a passage home, and that I must get home as I could, that a government vessel was going home about Xmas, that the Sydney packet was going on sunday, but that if I wished to go in her I must find myself a passage. On my asking him when he wished me

[Page 374]

to call upon him respecting the Convicts, he said that the Secretary wd. go on board on Wednesday & that as soon as I had delivered the Medicines & Instruments I might consider myself as no further required; that he was at present very busy with his public dispatches and could not afford time to see me. Thus I am completely adrift, what can I do? I called on Sir John Jamison, but he is gone to the Nepean & would not be back until Thursday or Friday.

Tuesday June 20th. Called upon Mr. Redfern who is Surgeon General here, a little man who is a convict for life on account of the mutiny at the Nore. Dined with Mr. Bowles who is master of the Indefatigable, a ship with Male Convicts. He is a lieutenant on half pay.

Wednesday June 21st. Sent to the hospital Eliz Wright, a convict dying of Pneumonia. Dined with Sir John Jamison, who received me very cordially and wishes me to remain in the colony. Went round the Town wh. appears to be greatly improved, among other things went among the Tombs in the Churchyard, where I found many curious new Epitaphs; which are the following more than ordinarily curious.

[Page 375]

A small tribute to Jane Mahar

As much esteemed as woman need to be
A Loving Mother a Relief to Poverty,
Farewell my Children my Companion dear
Weep not for me nor drop a silent tear
But let this lesson in your memory come
She is gone for us to prepare a home.

On Catharinah West.

A Sudden Change she in a
Moment felt she had not time
to bid her friends farewell.
Think nothing strange
Chance happens unto all her
Lots to day, to morrow yours may fall.

To Anne the wife of Nathaniel Cotton
Sergeant of the New South Wales corps.

Do not regret your loss tho' it will
be felt severe, and when you pass this place do not come crying here.

[Page 376]

To the memory of Mary Skinner aged 3 years,
9 months and 4 days.

weep not for me my Parents dear
I am not Dead but Sleeping here,
My debt is paid my grave you See
Wait But a while you'll follow me
I was like a Lilly in my bloom
In my Infancy, I, was Cast Down,
Therefore be Careful how you Live
Death does not, always, warning Give
All you that Reads as you pass By
As you are so, Once was I
But as I am so must you Be
Prepare yourself to follow me,
I sleep in Silence never more wake
Till Christ shall Call on me to Glory take.

Here lies the Body of
Philip McCrory
De Pated this life July
The 25 In the Year of
Our Lord 1807 aged 27 Years
May his soul Restin Paceaemen.

[Page 377]

On Mr. Henry Lane who died Apr. 6 1815

With sollom delight I Survived
the corps when the spirit was fled
happy the Penitent sinner
& long for to lie in his Stead,
his languishing head is atrest
his thinking and sorrows are est
that quiet and musical breast
with neer be afflicted nomore.

To Letitia ONeal aged 4 years.
My Parents dear weep not for me
as I am so must you be
Think nothing strange Chance
happens to us all
My lots to day to morrow yours must fall
I was like a Lilly cut down in the Spring
God called for me in Heaven his praises to Sing,
but sleep here in silence. never more to awake
Till Christ the son of God does me into
glory take

[Page 378]

On Jane Morley aged 2 months

My parents loss is my Eternal gain,
Here I Rest Free From World by Pain
The Fire Snached my Life away
As I was at my harmless Play.

Sacred
to the Memory of
Mary Bruce
Princess of New Zeeland
who Departed this Life Feb. 27. 1810
Aged 18 Years.

Good Christians all that see this tomb
What I am come to is your doom
These Words is true that I do Say
The Secret that is between this Soul and Me.
No mortal Soul thats in this Life
Will ever know the Secret between me and my Wife
Altho' She, is gone, and I, am Here

Never till our Souls, Before the Lord does appear,
When we are there, Both Great and Small
God will Discover our secrets all.

[Page 379]

On William Gibbs Settler.

Weep not for
me my wife that i Loved so dear
I am not dead but sleeping hear
Sighs and tears is all in vain
Your loss i hope is my eternal gain
I diligently did serve the Lord
with patience i did wait God Gave
The Word the blow was Struck
and I Departed Hence.

To the Memory of Mrs. Mary King

Death in haste called me away
for to lay in, a bed of clay
To free me from, all endless pain
Your loss is my, eternal gain

Sacred to the memory of Charles Robinson
late private in the light infantry com -
pany of H M 73rd. Regt. (1st Bat.) who
depa^d. this life 23 June 18.? aged 20 years.

[Page 380]

Here lays a man who lived by faith,
and trod with joy the heavenly Path
firmly believed the Gospel Schem
a Saviour was his only Theam
and with his saviour now does dwell
Redeemed by him from sin and Hell

Sacred

to the Memory of John
Justice who Departed this
Life Anno Domino 1804 April 28
Aged 65 Years.
A constable and China
Mender but death his
Genious has Suspended
His China Broke o well
A Day and Crates of ware
His turned to Clay.

[Page 381]

In Memory of
Thomas Webb
who departed this life May 19. 1795
Forbear dear Brother
Weep not its vain

On Hawkesbury Banks
By Native's I was Slain.

The above are some of the more remarkable epitaphs in the burial grounds at Sydney; some of the stones are well cut and there are many respectable looking altar tombs. The church yard is without the town, and I think in a bad situation, the ground is of a hardish clay, in some places white, & fit for making pipes. In Wet weather the place is very offensive from the Stench arising from the bodies, some of wh. apparently are not far underground.

[Page 382]

Thursday June 21. Sent Francis Webb to the hospital. The Convicts were mustered to day. Dined with Sir John Jamison.

Friday 23 June. The Convicts went on shore to day. Called upon the Governor who refused to see me; called also at the Judge's who has invited me to dinner on Sunday, and also upon Sir John Jamison. What I am to do I cannot tell, my cabin is knocked away to day, so that I am again adrift, every thing is so expensively dear; it will cost be without wine beer or butter 13s/ a day with the greatest frugality for living, I have hired a room at Mr. Nichols's where capt. Tween lives; Meat of all kinds is 1/3 a pound, Spirits 8s/ a pint, Eggs 4s/ a dozen, bread /20d a quartern loaf. Butter 5s/6d a pound.

Saturday June 24th. Called upon the Judge, and Mr. Redfern to whom I delivered the midwifery Instruments. Dined with Sir John Jamison.

Sent a letter on Service to the Governor requesting him to order me a passage home or permit me to take a passage home on the Sydney packet and also enclosed to him my diary & Journal and printed Instructions.

[Page 383]

Sunday June 25. Dined with the Judge Advocate, Major Ogilvie, Mr. Nicholas, Capt. Piper, Mr. Justice Bent, Capt Tween . and a Mr. Oxley of the party.

Monday June 26th. I have been obliged to take lodging on Shore at Mr. Nichols's where I have sent my trunks & every thing else so that I am now perfectly adrift. Drank tea at Mr. Redfern's.

Tuesday June 27th. Received a letter on Service from Mr. Secretary Campbell in answer to my official letter to the Governor; also my Journal & Diary signed by the Governor. Dined at Sir John Jamison's, were were the Lieut. Governor, Capt. Piper & four other officers.

Wednesday June 28th. Have spoken to Mr. Bowles Master of the Indefatigable for a passage to England who asks 50£ & my finding my mess.

Thursday June 29. Breakfasted with Sir John Jamison. Returned my medical stores into the hospital. Dined with a large party at Government House.

Friday June 30. Received duplicate certificates from Mr. Wentworth for the medicines & stores returned; also a certificate from Mr. Broughton for 4 setts of Cloathing received into government Store.

[Page 384]

Dined with the officers of the 46 regt. Wrote letters to the Governor for a certificate reporting the number of Convicts arrived in the Colony.

Saturday July 1st. Breakfasted & dined with Sir John Jamison. I expected to have gone on board the Indefatigable for a passage to Batavia to day, but it appears she will not sail till Wednesday next.

Sunday July 2. Breakfasted with Sir John Jamison, was invited to dine with the lieut. Governor. Dined with the Judges.

Monday July 3. Dined with Sir J Jamison. Called on the Lieut. Govnr. Mr. Surgeon Forster of the 46 called on me.

Tuesday, July 4. I certainly am passing the Time very pleasantly, having continually invitations to spend the day with some persons or other. This morning I breakfasted with Mr. Surgeon Forster, and was asked for to morrow by Capt. Parker, Mr. Forster, Col. Molle; Major Ogilvie, Sir J. Jamison. Mr. Forster also has invited me to dine every day at their mess in the Barracks.

Wednesday July 5th. Breakfasted with Sir John Jamison. The course Sir J. advised me to pursue in prosecution of my intention of returning to this Country, is on my arrival in England, first to apply to the Admiralty for three years leave of absence to explore the new discovered country: this memorial to be present thru the

[Page 385]

transport Board; & being obtained a memorial to be forward to Lord Bathurst petitioning for the privilege of a free settler of the first class; the memorial to state my situation, rank, pursuits; personal property; & my desire of forwarding my pursuits in natural history; as well as practicing my profession, there being a want of medical men in the Place. This being obtained I am to seek thro' my friend Mr. McLeay an appointment in a convict Ship to this country, and if I should not be able to obtain this, I must apply to the Secretary of State for a passage out as a settler. To bring out with me an assortment of medicines, phamaceutical apparatus, phials &c. also furniture for a house and establishment.

Wednesday Evening July 5th. Dined with Sir J. Jamison; received from him various letters for delivery in England and other commissions.

He advises me first if possible to procure a convict ship to come out to this country; & to obtain leave. If I should not be able to effect this & if Mr. McLeay should be dead, I must endeavour to obtain leave of three years absence from the Admiralty, then apply for the privileges of a free Settler to Lord Bathurst by letter, stating my prospects in life; the desire of becoming acquainted with the country, my having visited

[Page 386]

it twice before &c & then if I should be unable to procure a ship for this country

as surgeon to seek a passage as a settler from the Secretary of State, & if this should be refused me to find a passage by a man of war or pay for my passage in any vessel.

The tradesmen in London I am to deal with are - Mortlock Oxford Street for Porcelain, Morgan & Saunders furniture makers.

Friday Evening July 7th. A man was hung to day for murder. Lieut Parker told me a shocking instance of depravity that occurred a few months since. A man was tried and condemned for some crime or other & had been guilty of a murder for wh. he knew two other men had been condemned who were innocent, the coffins of all three men brought out of the jail & they were going to the gallows when for some reason or other the two who had been innocently condemned were returned to the prison. The man however who had been really guilty for the murder for which they had been condemned went to the Gallows, behaved with the greatest Coolness, requested the

catholic attendant to say a prayer for him and was turned off, yet never confessed the crime that he had been guilty of and for which he knew two unfortunate innocent men were about to suffer. It is supposed

[Page 387]

however that some other accomplice made the discovery, as one of the magistrates heard of it & procured their pardon; altho' he was bound not to divulge the means by wh. he became acquainted with it.

Sir J. Jamison informed me that the following things were good to bring out. Printed Cottons for Gowns, curtains, bed furniture, sofa covers &c. Ribbands of all sorts, perret tapes, Thread of all kinds & colours; sewing silks of all kinds & colours, Silver Thimbles; worsteds of all kinds & colours; twist; broad cloth, the best silk stockings; Lace of various prizes; Cotton stockings long & short; Shoemakers thread and other shoe makers tools, such as awls; bristles, small nails &c. Yesterday dined at the Regimental mess; and to day likewise.

Saturday July 8th. Took a walk with Lieut. Parker & Lieut. & Mr. Hood of the 46th.

Sunday July 9th. Breakfasted with Lieut. Parker and three others in the barracks.

Dined on board the Indefatigable in company of Col. Johnston.

Monday July 10th. Breakfasted with Mr. Hood assistant Surgeon of the 46th.

[Page 387]

Drew a draft on Mr. Sykes for 50£ dated June 30. at Sydney N.S.Wales. at ten days - to Capt. Matthew Bowles or order.

Had the Mortification on mustering my trucks to find that my surgical Instruments were missing, they were left in the Store house; & cost me about 60£. I suppose they were taken away when the place was broken open about 10 days ago.

Tuesday July 11. Paid Capt. Bowles 50£ by a draft on Mr. Sykes. Took a receipt from him for 71£. Breakfasted with Mr. Forster, dined at the Judge's. Received certificates from Mr. Wentworth. Sent my luggage on board the Indefatigable.

Wednesday July 13th. Dined for the last time on shore at Sydney yesterday. Went on board the Indefatigable this morning & we are now out of the heads, going to the northward through Torre's Straits one of the most dangerous passages in the World.

Thus after remaining about three weeks at Sydney I am proceeding home. My reception from the Governor was cold and disgusting, and equally frigid from Mrs. McQuarie, both of whom I knew quite well when they arrived at this place. The reception from other persons

[Page 389]

was flattering and agreeable. Sir John Jamison offered me his house, & I usually messed at his table, when not otherwise engaged. Colonel Molle the lieut. Governor, received me well, the Judge advocate and the Supreme Judge paid me much attention & I spent some agreeable days at their houses. The officers of the 46th frequently invited me to their mess, and it was difficult to breakfast at the house that I had taken lodgings at. Mr. Surgeon Forster, Mr. Hood assistant surgeon, Lieut Parker, a brother of Lieut Parker of the Milford; Lieut. Grant & several others continually paid me attention.

Mr. Campbell a man that the governor fell in with adrift at the Cape of good Hope when he was his way here, is become exceedingly great and scarcely noticed me and ~~certainly~~ then

only but for Sir John Jamison mentioning my respectability to him. Capt. Antill who belongs to the 73rd. & whom I knew well when I was here before did not speak to me. Major Ogilvie brother of Dr. Ogilvie a fellow Collegian of mine, noticed me much.

Mr. Redfern, principal Surgeon in the place for abilities, paid me much court, this

[Page 390]

man I am told although disliked practice's to the amount of 2000£ a Year. He told me he was going home with the Governor & that he was going to Edinburgh for Graduation. He was a partner with Parker in the Mutiny at the Nore; & was transported for life, but has been emancipated.

Mr. Wentworth, Surgeon General is principal magistrate, and was sent out on account of some high way robberies.

Mr. Mountgarret was long a Surgeon in the Navy, but has been several years chief Surgeon at the Derwent, he has been a great Speculator, but has not made a fortune, rather has lost one after having gained it. He put himself under my direction for a diseased fore finger two of the bones of which have separated & the other is carious. I was not able to determine the nature of the disease, he had received a wound from the Saw when assisting at the Amputation of a man who is said to have laboured under the disease of the Skin, & this wound has been followed by the disease just mentioned. The hand itself was much swelled & there were

[Page 391]

purple spots on the back of it, so that amputation in my opinion, unless of the whole hand, was inadvisable. He had tried Mercury without effect, I advised an application of powdered charcoal & hot fomentations but I fear with little prospect of relief. He was attended by Mr. Bland (convicted of murder last year in the East Indies in the matter of a duel) & was sentenced to 7 years transportation, & is a naval Surgeon.

The State of Society is very preposterous at present in Sydney. The Governor admits convicts to his table, & the officers of the 46th do not. The Governor admits convicts to the highest offices; and seems to despise those persons who hold respectable situations not of his appointment. I myself was rather ashamed of being a guest at Mr. Redfern's table, although he is rich and a great friend of the Governor's.

The colony appears to me to be really in a state of dissatisfaction, Gov. Macquarie is hardly accessible to any one, I suppose the prince regent is more so than he,

[Page 392]

he appoints Convicts to the most respectable offices, & rejects the respectable settler; Two of the magistrates at Sydney, Darcy Wentworth Esqr., and W. Lord Esqr. are convicts. The inspector of Convicts (Hutchinson) is a convict & has even had the rope about his neck in the Colony; the Postmaster (Nichols) is a convict, & has been condemned since his transportation for crimes committed in the Colony. What can be the reason for this? Andrew Thomson was a convict, whom the Governor made a Magistrate, when he died, he left several thousand pounds by will to Mrs. Macquarie.

The Governor even wished to have the courts of law attended by convicts; Mr. Crosly, Mr. Eagar, Mr. Charteris and Mr. Robinson all of the basest characters who were sent out of the country for infamous crimes, appeared at the bar in the court of the supreme judge, and pleaded when Mr. Justice Bent objected to hearing them. The two magistrates who with the judge form this court were of the opinion these convict lawyers ought to be allowed to plead, on which the judge dismissed the court; All the public has suffered ever since on this account. All debts above

[Page 393]

50£ being recoverable only before this court. The governor certainly might have obviated this loss to the public by preventing these lawyers from pleading; especially as there are two or three regular attorneys (the Mr. Moores) in the place; a reference has been sent to England in the matter by the governor and Judges, and it cannot be terminated till notice arrives from England to

determine the matter. Mr. Crossly I observe has sent a long report to Sir Wm. Garrow on the Subject. The situation of Superintendent of Convicts ought to be filled by a person of the strictest integrity, Hutchinson however who fills this office, is a man of infamous character having been tried for his life in N.S..Wales as well as in England; When the Northampton arrived I expected that the best characters, among the Convicts would be taken notice of, and I accordingly recommended some to the governor in a written dispatch; I found however that his Excellency troubled himself not at all in the Matter, the women I recommended for honesty were packed off with the Rest to Paramata, and some of the most Infamous women in the Ship were

[Page 394]

put into good situations and respectable families. Even some who had been noticed as incorrigible theive's during the voyage soon were placed in respectable situation's, thro' the influence of Mr. Hutchinson. - I found very soon, that altho' I had no interest with the Governor in recommending the best characters for reward or attention, yet that others by gifts of Tobacco or spirits prevailed with Mr. Hutchinson in procuring good situations to women who had nothing to recommend them but being kept by the different officers of the ship, (from Capt. to the Boatswain) during the voyage as their mistresses.

Prostitution is little reprobated in the Colony; not long ago the Governor permitted Forster the Baker to go home, with his mistress altho' he had a wife in the Colony whom he had left; & this woman & Forster even went to government house to take leave, where Mrs. Macquarie handed them cake and wine.

Marriage is recommended however, but as if without regard to propriety; persons who have left wives, in England, & women who have left husbands in England marry again & several of the women we brought out

[Page 395]

to join their husband, found them married here, and in one case, what is very extraordinary, a Mrs. Cribb came out with me to join her husband; in the Northampton, and another Mrs. Cribb (wife to the same man) is going home with me in the Indefatigable.

The want of respectable persons as magistrates is truly mortifying, Mr. Riley (a magistrate at Sydney) two years ago was worth nothing, & has gained now a few thousand pounds by merchandizing; he is ignorant; of little or bad repute as a merchant, and seems to be a sort of but to the officers of the 46th., as he often makes use of unusual words and pronounces them improperly. A man whose name is Smith brought some tubs of Gigantic Lillies for Capt. Bowles, Col. Johnston said they were worth 5s/ each, other persons said they were worth 20 Shillings, & Smith had the impudence to ask 16£ for each tub. Such a gross imposition should have been punished by any magistrate had it come to his ears, but Smith knew how little justice prevailed in the Colony, he went to Mr. Riley and lodged a Detainer against the Ship, which Mr. Riley sanctioned, thus

[Page 396]

favouring so gross an imposition.

Mr. Broughton, deputy assistant Commissary is another magistrate, & by far the most respectable, he came out, servant boy to Mr. White Surgeon of the Porpoise Sloop of war.

Mr. Simon Lord, the third Magistrate is a convict & has little or on education, having been tried even & convicted here as well as at home. - The fourth, but principal Magistrate is Mr. Darcy Wentworth, Surgeon General, formerly of Great note as a highway man on Finchly common, and Hounslow heath.

The Deputy Commissary is one of the most dashing men in the Colony, he wears two epaulets and a feather in his hat; he keeps a carriage and has a wife and family. It is easy to know how he became by this great advancement, & why he was introduced to the Prince regent on his appointment to this place. Mrs. Allen is sister to Mrs. Harry Johnston, and Mrs. Harry Johnston is mistress to Col. McMahon, and Colonel McMahon is private Secretary to the Prince regent, and Mr.

Deputy Commissary Allen sends great presents of Shells and Weapons and other curiosities to Colonel

[Page 397]

McMahon ! Mr. Piper called himself Capt. Piper because he is naval officer, he is a great buck & wears a fancy uniform, this situation formerly was of little value, but since Governor McQuarrie has levied such heavy duties on various articles it has amounted to a vast deal, as he receives 5 per Cent on all duties; and as Spirits alone pays 2s/ a Gallon and the Sydney Packet paid 6000£ for duty on spirits, Mr. Piper finds a good plan of it, keeps a fine house, & boat, and riding horses, and Gig and Curricule and pair.

The Duties on some articles are certainly very great & I think improper, Coal is 50s/ a ton, (dearer than in England) whereas it is dug a little to the Northward by convicts and ~~ought~~ would cost little but for the duty. All these vast sums are expended in increasing the Salaries of every one the Governor likes, in building ornamental fabrics & making roads &c.

The Great colonial hospital, more resembling a magnificent villa than an hospital was built by levying a duty of 7s/ a Gallon

[Page 398]

on Spirits and allowing no person to purchase but four monopolisers ~~persons~~ ; who sometimes bought it at seven shilling a Gallon, & retailed it at 8s/ a pint. This Hospital which Consists of a body and two detached wings has a magnificent appearance out side, there being a fine Veranda at the upper story supported by round stone pillars quite round the building, the roof resting upon similar but smaller pillars of wood. One of the wings was intended solely for the first surgeon, who certainly would have been most magnificently lodged; but for the Supreme Judge who has procured two rooms as an office to be taken off it. The other wing is for the two assistant surgeons & is furnished with Kitchens, stables, cook houses &c, & I am sure could not be decently furnished under two thousand pounds; & what an assistant surgeon who can scarcely afford more than two chairs & a table is to do with such large magnificent apartments I cannot tell. The main building as I said before is very large, consisting of eight Wards each of

[Page 399]

which I suppose is 60 feet long; four of these wards are given up to the two judges, each of whom has a court and a deliberating room; the other four wards are for patients. It appears however to me, that nothing can be worse contrived than this building, it might perhaps make a good barrack, but certainly must be a very bad hospital. Four large wards and nothing else; every hospital should have rooms adjoining for the nurses & attendants and noisy patients who should always be within call; but here are nothing but four large wards. Every hospital should be provided with water closets; but here is nothing of the kind except a detached building behind the hospital; every hospital should have a plentiful supply of water, but here is only a well; and it appears to me that all the filth that is thrown out of the building must remain and contaminate the Air for want of Sewers and water to convey it away. On the whole as an hospital it certainly is a most preposterous building.

Governor McQuarie seems very desirous to leave his name to perpetuity in the colony, almost every thing that is discovered in the Interior has his or his wife's name. An Island discovered to the Southward is called Macquarie Island,

[Page 400]

there is in the interior Macquarie River; Macquarie Mount, Campbel River, Lachlan river, Macquarie Vale, &c. in Sydney are Macquarie Place, Macquarie Square, Macquarie Street; and most new public Buildings have Macquarie in large letters at the front, even the Store house founded & almost built before the Arrival of Govr. Macquarie has his name in both fronts. But why has the governor built such foolish trumpery useless buildings about wells and pumps when useful buildings are very much wanted? When a cargo of Convicts arrives here there is no place to put

them in either at Sydney or Paramatta, they are usually sent to the latter and must find lodgings as they can, by wh. all kinds of theft and wickedness & prostitution is promoted. Mr. Marsden the 1st. Chaplain & a Magistrate told the Judge in my hearing that he could not execute the sentence of the Law when persons were sentenced to solitary confinement, for that he had not cells to put them in, but Governor Macquarie has built at vast expense a great inconvenient hospital, and two buildings that surpass those of many governors for one surgeon and two assistants !

[Page 401] 1815

The natives about the colony seem to be as rude and savage as ever; there are many more living about Sydney than when I was here before, old Bennelong is dead, Philip told me he died after a short illness about two years ago, & that they buried him & his wife at Kissing point. They seem to be more cunning and artful than formerly, and are equally fond of drink, I saw them often so drunk that they could not stand.

Governor McQuarrie a few months ago made a sort of Settlement for them at middle head, and appointed old Bungaree, chief, putting a medal about his neck, and cloathing him; he gave them also a farm, and implements of husbandry & convicts to instruct them how to till the ground, I was told however that it was a foolish business, that they will not work on their farm, that they leave it to ruin, that old Bungaree threw away his medal & cloathing, and that no good was done. I believe the mode of proceeding was improper, as there certainly might be something done for them. Mr. Surgeon Forster of the 46th. saw a native of Port Hacking with a large tumour growing to his breast

[Page 402]

of six or eight pounds weight, he offered to admit the man into the military hospital and cut it off; the savage consented, came to the hospital, remained there a week took what medicine as was required, bore the operation quietly (at wh. Sir John Jamison acted as assistant;) attended regularly till the part was healed, & then went away.

Another native applied to the governor for a grant of Land, he had been brought up by an English Settler, and had not learned the native language; he now lives on his farm & cultivates it properly. There was a reward offered for a murderer by the name of Collins, who had attacked several persons & robbed them, he lived concealed in the Bush, and for a length of time was a terror to the Settlers; the natives of the Cow pastures discovered him, and gave information; some soldiers went to the place, it was a small concealed hut in the thickest part of the country, & could not be discovered until the very entrance was found. Collins was not within, the soldiers & savages concealed themselves in & about the hut, in wh. was much booty that Collins had taken from different settlers, and when he arrived they started up to

[Page 403] 1815

seize him, but he endeavoured to escape, when the chief of the Cow pastures gave chase after him and at length wounded him with a spear in the leg, which stopped him, he then withdrew the spear and hurled it at the savage, when a young native son of the chief fired a pistol at him, and wounded him so that he was taken; bound, brought to Sydney, tried, condemned, & executed. All the natives of the Cow pastures came in a body to Sydney to claim the reward, wh. they equally divided. There is some danger however of them committing hostilities; a native committed a robbery; and being taken, was committed to prison; the natives were indignant at it armed themselves, threatened to set him free by force, to kill as many whites as they could, to burn houses & commit other depredations, & were not pacified until the man was set free again.

They have the same dislike of wearing cloathing as formerly; very often appearing naked in the Streets, and even the women sometimes are naked.

The governor is very tenacious of having every department in the colony under his immediate authority, even the Lieut. Governor has no more to do in the Colony than a pri-

[Page 404]

vate person; & when the Governor went to the New country he left such strict particular orders to Col. Molle that he could not interfere in any department; advising that all letters that required his interference should be left with his confidential Sergeant, who would forward them to him. He is so anxious to appear at the head of every thing that he has passed himself off as a discoverer of a considerable part of the new Country, where as it had all been gone over before, and he and his wife, & thirty or forty men with a herd of Cattle, and horses and cars of equipage went as far as they thought proper in a Carriage; all this expedition he has described as if an undertaking of hard ship & danger, whereas it was merely a pleasurable excursion. He has thus endeavoured to filch away all the credit that is due to Messrs. Blaxland, Wentworth, Lawson &c. who were the first that discovered the pass over the blue mountains & who were nearly starved on their way, and has even called the pass itself Cox's pass because Mr. Cox, (who has an estate near by,) by his order made a road down it. Even Mr. Evans who went 150 miles south West of Bathurst plains, has not been sufficiently rewarded; & is

[Page 405] 1815

now going down to the Derwent to his wife and Family. The large river that Mr. Evans discovered flowing to the South west, it is supposed will fall into the sea somewhere about Bass's Straits, Mr. Evans told me the banks of it were steep as if it were subject to inundations; there are fir trees very strait and lofty; vast quantities of Emus, Kangaroos & water moles. The fish in the river he described as very large. Most of the country was covered with a saccharine matter which resembles mahna, it appears in small drops or tears of various sizes, and is of a more pleasant taste than mahna. Some that Mrs. Molle gave me to taste of, at the Governor's table, tasted very like the sugar that is sometimes covered over wedding cakes. Mr. Evans said that he thought that one person might collect a gallon of it in a day, & that he used to eat a great deal of it in his travels. It is equally found on the ground stones, & plants, so that it cannot be an exudation from any vegetable; I am induced to believe it is the production of an insect of the Gryllus tribe, which is either excrementitious or an article of food. Mr. Evans brought also some pieces of rock crystal, and mina novus, some of these had a purplish cast like light

[Page 406]

coloured amethysts, but a convict who is a jeweller & who formed one of the Governors retinue to the new Country, (by name ...) said that what they shewed him at Government house, as a natural production, brought by Mr. Evans, was merely coloured Glass, but that

it was not his business to undeceive the Governor who believed it to be amethyst.

Friday July 14th. This morning we were off the coal river where we distinctly saw the light house & flag staff. To night we are off Port Stevens. There are in company two vessels going to India; one a ship called the Cochin, the other a brig called the Campbell Macquarie, these vessels accompany us thro' Torre's straits.

Saturday July 15th. The payment of money is very irregular in N.S.Wales, as there is no certain Standard. Currency is usually is small bills from /1d. to perhaps 100£ which are issued by different persons in the colony. These bills are dirty small bits of paper some of wh. are hardly legible. This kind of money passes sometimes at 25s/per Cent discount, and sometimes even at 60 per cent; many also of these bills will not pass at all, and often I have known a pound currency given for two dollars or ten shillings sterling.

[Page 407] 1815

Another kind of payment is in sterling bills issued by the Commissary, these bills are mostly one pound notes like English bank notes. Altho' these bills however are considered as sterling yet they are valid only in the Colony. To procure a sum of money for them that can be forwarded to England,

they must be taken to the Commissary, who will consolidate them, or give a treasury bill for them, this however can sometimes scarcely be effected, as owing to a difference between the Governor and the Commissary, he has been placed in difficulties, & but for the assistance of some respectable persons in the Colony must have become a bankrupt.

Another irregularity in the payment of moneys are the various values of coin, a spanish dollar in reality is 5s/ sterling, but some persons will give 6s/3d sterling for a dollar and I have even known persons who want spanish dollars to send home, give 7s/ for each.

The common sterling coin of the country are holy dollars and dumps. These are merely spanish dollars, with a hole cut out of the middle of each, from which is taken the dump, the dollar thus diminished goes for 5s/ sterling

[Page 408]

and the middle part wh. is about the size of a sixpence but having the thickness of the dollar goes for /15d. The dump has a crown stamped on one side & fifteen pence on the other, with new South Wales round the Edge. This mode of cutting dollars is for preventing their being taken out of the colony.

Sunday July 16th. It blew a gale last night with frequent heavy squalls of rain, the wind being then and still continuing in our teeth. My situation is far from pleasant, my cabin very small & not large enough to swing a cat in, last night my bed became wet through with the rain & sea dashing in at the port wh. has not been caulked in.

Wednesday July 19th. The wind has been strong & foul, but we proceed to the Northward and Eastward. The Brig Campbell McQuarie and the Ship Cochin sail very ill, so that we proceed slowly. This morning at day light we were close upon the an extensive reef which stretched from abaft the beam to nearly ahead, we were to leeward of it, and perhaps may think ourselves fortunate that the wind had been foul as we most likely should have run upon it during the night; for it did not appear that Capt. Bowles expected to fall in with it,

[Page 409]

for in the morning on my asking him whether it was down in the chart he said not, but that he thought it was part of Middleton's Reef. The Cochin was not in sight & we did not see her until nine o'clock. On referring to the Chart and making a calculation it appeared to be really Middleton's reef; though the master of the Macquarie denied it. The reef seemed to be very extensive and to run in ridges, for from the Mizzen to I saw three or four one behind the other, with high breakers on each.

Friday July 21st. Yesterday the wind was moderate and fair, to day there is a strong breese abaft the beam so that we go at the rate of 7 or 8 knots about NNW.

There certainly is danger in going at this great rate in a Sea little known, even the Porpoise & various other ships have struck upon rocks here which were unknown before. The masters of other ships seem to know nothing of it and appear to trust more to chance than any thing else. We now certainly approach the dangerous part of the navigation fast: The usual plan of entering Torre's Strait as advised by Capt. Flinders is by an inlet thro' the Reefs called Pandora's passage, this inlet is nearly in

[Page 410]

the latitude of the Middle of the Strait, but Capt. Bowles told me he did not intend to try this passage, but should make the reef opposite Sir Charles Hardy's Islands, and look for a passage thro it, when he would make these Islands, then Bird Island, and so within side the reefs along the Coast of New Holland in Capt. Cook's Track. How far this may be practicable I cannot Say, but

there certainly is the Greatest danger in it, & I fear the danger is not entirely estimated as both Master & Mates seem more to trust to chance than any thing else.

Saturday July 22. The wind on the quarter & considerable, we are steering for NW to NNW: by reckoning we are now 120 miles off Cat's Reef & 180 of Wreck reef, & the Course we now Steer will carry us between these reefs.

Sunday July 23rd. The wind about S.E. our Latitude is a little the the Southward of Wreck reef, our Longitude is uncertain, but supposed to be a little to the Eastward of Wreck reef. We steer about NNW. with the expectation of Seeing the Reef. This morning a great many

[Page 411]

birds were seen, but altho' we continued our course nearly all day we see nothing of the Reef this Evening. The masters of the Macquarrie and Cochin dined on board, (Simmonds and Pearson) & I believe it is determined we shd. go thro' endeavours Strait, making Hardie's Island.

Tuesday July 25th. The wind is fair, & we saw nothing of Wreck reef so that we are probably to the eastward of it.

Yesterday I had a slight shivering fit followed by general pain, particularly of my head, loins and legs, accompanied to day with great languor, & loss of appetite; what is going to happen to me I know not, nor can I account for it.

Wednesday July 26. The febrile symptoms that I laboured under yesterday & wh. alarmed me are much better to day. Our latitude to day is 18°.10'S, & we are in the Cumberland's track.

Saturday July 29th. The weather is very fine, to day we are near the situation of Deane's Shole but do not see it.

My fever is entirely gone.

[Page 412]

Wednesday Aug. 2nd. We were in the Latitude of Sir Charles Hardy's Islands on Monday at noon when we proceeded due west & ran till night when we lay too, yesterday we ran all day & lay too all night, to day we made sail at daylight & are going nearly west being by a rather uncertain Reckoning only 40 miles west of the reefs at 8 this morning. Mr. Pearson of the Cochin however by two lunars yesterday morning made us 150 miles to the east of these reefs. The weather is fine with a strongish breeze from the SW apparently a trade Wind.

Thursday Aug. 3. We came within sight of the reefs at 10 this morning; & this afternoon are within side surrounded by reefs except to the N.W. no bottom, weather fine Wind S.S.E. no anchorage, situation most critical & dangerous.

Friday Aug. 4. Last night we had a most perillous night, at day light we were within a few yards of a reef & a few minutes more of darkness would probably have proved destructive to us. All day we have been running among reefs & rocks, a most dangerous navigation. To night we are at anchor under a reef, and are almost surrounded by

[Page 415] 1815

reefs. There is an Island or two and apparently the main land of new Holland in sight.

Saturday Aug. 5th. We got under weigh this morning a little before 8 a.m. with a fair wind & proceeded at the rate of eight knots to the Northward, passing several low Islands with trees on them, & along the main. About half past eleven we were between two very extensive rocky reefs,

and found ourselves in shoal water (only 4 fathoms) we still were going at 8 knots & it appeared to be most dangerous navigation. At twelve we found our latitude to be 10°.36'. Nothing shews the uncertainty of the navigation from the entrance into the reefs off Hardy's Islands to the extremity of New Holland called Cape York than this; At 10 an Island hove in sight wh. Capt. Bowles supposed to be Turtle Island, but soon afterwards he thought it might be Pudding pan hill, as he said the current was so strong to the southward. At twelve o'Clock however our latitude shewed us to north of Cape Your, & that what we took for Turtle Island was really one of the York Islands, & Mt. Augustus with

[Watercolour sketch of "Coast of New Holland about Cape York" inserted here with description as follows:

N.B. These are the bearings of the land at 11°.15'.. about the time the reefs near cape York were reported from the mast head, which are by far the most dangerous and extensive that were passed. The Island which is in this sketch bears NW 6 or 8 miles, at noon (when these reefs were passed) bore SWbyW about 3 miles. And Cape York which 11°.15' am bore WbyN at noon bore W. But the importance of this sketch consists in the opening which it exhibits between the York Islands and Cape York, which is that which was passed by Capt. Cook in the Endeavour, & by taking advantage of which, the dangers from these reefs might be avoided.]

[Page 414]

its flat top. We therefore proceeded close along the York Islands & were running at the rate of Seven knots to come to an anchor under Possession Island for the night, & had just hauled to the wind round the Northern most of York's Group, when the ship struck very easily, so that altho' I was on the poop I did not know that she was fast, till I looked along side, & saw the sand working up on the starboard bow. It appears that on each side there was thirteen feet abaft the Main Mast, but foreward there was 4 or 5 fathoms. The Island was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile off, & there was much discoloured water between us & ~~the Island~~ it, we were evidently on the edge of a sand bank, for the first hour we bumped a good deal, but as the water was ebbing we soon became steady, & various devices were made use of to stir her but without avail. We therefore removed the provisions forward as she evidently hung abaft and hoped to get off by the flood. The Tide changed about 4pm & soon flowed to the eastward at the rate

[Page 415]

if above 2 knots, but still the water about the main chains did not indicate any rise, but even seemed to become more shallow. This I accounted for by the sand rising on each side of her from her forming a bed. About 6 o'clock a warp having been got out on the lee bow and a strain hove upon it, she seemed to alter the direction of her head half a point; and then began to bump and strike, which she continued to do till about a quarter past seven when she came head to wind, and her sails being backed she went off by the stern. Thus we had a very narrow escape, the wind was very considerable, even blowing a gale from the SSW, but we fortunately were under the lee of one of the York Islands; & the water was tolerably smooth. On our striking we made a signal of distress, & fired Guns when the Cochin & brig who were a head came back, and assisted us with their boat's crews. I suppose no place in the world could be worse to be wrecked in than this; the natives of the Island being the most cruel cannibals, and we were at a great distance from any settlement, the nearest perhaps being Timor. Not far from this place Governor Bligh when

[Page 416]

in the bounty's launch was nearly being cut off by the native's, one of his boats crew being killed. & near this Bampton & Alt lost five or six men who were murdered by the natives. The islands as we proceeded along them had the most delightful appearance,; on several spots were curious pyramidal objects like Sentry boxes among the bushes, Mr. Bowles said they were

the Mussleman's tombs, Capt. Pearson said that were the cottages of the natives. From Capt. Flinder's book however they are reported to be "ant hills" of this remarkable shape.

I have said how dangerous it is to run among these reefs and Islands at the tremendous rate we did yesterday & to day, not knowing where we were, and bearing up, and away, according as the course was opposed by the reefs & shallow water. By Capt. Flinder's Chart there is 13 and 15 fathoms close round the northernmost York Island, but we I believe went rather nearer than he did, and found only thirteen feet.

[Page 417]

As it is, it certainly is very fortunate we are now in 9 fathoms water. But surely there never was such a hazardous navigation before gone thro' with, in the way we have done. I even think we are led into danger by having two other ships in company, for the Master of the Cochin appears to be a careless man, and heedless of all danger. Who would have thought of three ships running among the reefs off Sir Charles Hardy's Islands; laying too all night among the reefs, proceeding to the northward, unknowing of the name of any object in view, ignorant of the currents or tides, and running on eight or ten knots among reefs only guided by a man at the mast head, who hails the steersman to starboard or port, the helm as he sees reefs or shoal water a head [indecipherable] In proof of our not knowing where we were at any individual time, I may observe that what we took this morning for Turtle Island, or even pudding pan hill proved at noon to be Mount Adolphus on York Island, and this morning the master of the brig asked whether the Islands we then saw were Sir Charles Hardy's Islands which are nearly 100 miles to the Southward. !!!

[Page 418]

Sunday August the 6th. We endeavoured to get under weigh this morning but various accidents happened; a cable broke; the boats got adrift some men were hurt &c.. so that altho' the Cochin and Macquarrie had got under weigh by 8 o'clock we were foiled, and as they had gone on several miles towards Possession Island or Endeavour Straits when we found we could not get under weigh we hoisted an ensign union downwards at the mast head and fired a gun. But they left us to our misfortunes and here we remain to proceed by ourselves. I greater hope that we shall take more precaution than before. The Islands that are near us seem to be uninhabited; but to the S.W. we saw some fires; the current runs very strong, and at various parts of surrounded sea appears ~~to be~~ shallow water.

Monday Aug. 6th. We got under weigh this morning at 8 am. and proceeded from the northernmost York Island to Endeavour's Strait, having a boat a head. The soundings were generally 6 or 7 fathoms, the tide running very strong to the eastward. ~~and~~ The passage of the Strait appears to be about a mile broad, and the current sets strong on the small Island ~~on~~ forming the northern side of the Strait.

[Page 419] 1815

There were no marks of natives on the York Islands, but we saw fires on the main land of New Holland near Endeavour Straits, which increased much as we approached. Before we passed the narrow part of the Strait we saw the Cochin and Brig getting under weigh from the south side of the strait near the fires of the Natives, and when we came up with them, the Cochin hailed us and told us that the Capt. and first mate had been wounded by the Natives last night. From what I heard of it, the two masters of the vessels, the first Mate, a Mr. Underwood (a passenger from Sydney) & two or three men went on shore about four o'clock yesterday, & were immediately attacked by the natives who threw Spears & fish gigs at them from the bushes, Capt. Pearson received a spear through his back which went a little way into his breast, & Mr. Cox the first mate had a spear go through the upper part of his right shoulder. The spears were of wood and like those of Port Jackson. - The natives advanced boldly against the fire Arms, and when Capt. Pearson's party reached the boat

[Page 420]

they followed them into the water when Capt. Pearson was wounded. They report that they killed, or any rate dropped two or three of the native's & they fired 30 or 40 ~~shot~~ & bullets among them. I rather think however that the English were the aggressors, for altho' Capt. Pearson said that the natives at first threw spears among them, yet Mr. Cox said that he advanced towards them for a parley, and was very near them when Mr. Underwood fired at one of them & he fell, ~~when~~ & immediately they threw their spears at him and one of them went through his shoulder, stopping about the middle of the spear, so that he ran towards the boat supporting the spear and carrying his musket, and was the last to get into her, when the natives ran into the water after him, but too late. A very large number of fires appear on the largest Prince of Wales's Island to day, so that it is probable the alarm signal has been made among them.

[Page 421] 1815

About three o'clock Wallis's Island was in sight and we found ourselves in less than 3 fathoms in the spot where Capt. Flinders has marked out 3 fathoms. It was nearly low water and we felt the ship touch the ground for several minutes before she struck in two fathoms. In about a quarter of an hour after striking a few times she floated again and proceeded about twenty yards when she again struck in about two fathoms, the tide was running very rapidly to the eastward, and she went off again in a few minutes, and did not touch afterwards. At night we came to An Anchor off Booby Island. I am really astonished how such risks can be run with ships & it strongly shews how cautious ship owners should be in the choice of their masters, or at any rate how necessary it is to have the Vessel insured. We had a boat out to sound a head but altho' she signalized under three fathoms we went on, and when she stirred up the mud astern we still went on setting more sail to force her over. Who could have told that there might not be a pointed rock

[Page 422]

sticking up wh. might have gone thro her bottom and destroyed her [indecipherable] or a gale of wind

might have come on or a swell & she might have struck so violently as to break her back.

Tuesday Aug. 8th. At Sunrise I went on shore at Booby Island. It is not above a mile round and completely rocky, a few bushes growing here and there. The whole of the top part is white with the excrement of birds, many hundreds of wh. are continually upon the Island whence its name. I saw besides Boobies, some beautiful white and blue cranes, also a King fisher, and various other birds somewhat similar the large Thrushes. There are two very small beaches where they turned five large Turtles last night. The reefs round the Island are covered with fine madrepores some specimens of wh. I brought on board. Even on this small spot there were various insects I saw a wasp, several butterflies, and some very large grass hoppers. On the top of the Island were some stones piled up by some persons who probably had been left there, and on the south side was a boat not much injured. It probably was left by the Frederick a ship that

[Page 423]

was wrecked a year or two ago in Endeavour Straits, & the men came here to escape the savages of the main & large Islands. They were taken off by the Capt. Ashmore two or three months ago.

Wednesday Aug. 9th. We left Booby Island this morning and are going on gently with the S.E monsoon. We expect to see Wessel Island the day after tomorrow, thus we may consider ourselves safe thro' Torre's Straits, we took much less precaution that is necessary in such a dangerous navigation, we were aground three times where indeed it might very easily have been avoided, & the more dangerous parts among the reefs to the east of the Strait were passed almost miraculously with touching.

Thursday Aug. 10th. We have had fair weather all day; in the morning a sudden alarm was given that we were on a sand bank, but on examining further it appeared to be a large collection of yellow substance floating on the water, which extended for several miles & continued passing the ship most of the day. I procured some of this substance but could not determine as to its nature, it resembled in the microscope very fine chaff or saw dust, I saw no motion in it, but from the uniformity of its appearance I am led to believe it is of an animal nature.

[Page 424]

Saturday Aug. 12th. It was determined a few days ago that we should call at Wessel Island and then part company, we therefore ran a head this morning in expectation to see it by night, but looking in the Chart to day I see that Capt. Flinders has laid the Wessel Islands close to New Holland whereas Mr. Heather's charts make them 90 miles off Land and there are two degrees nearly difference in Longitude & latitude between the two charts, so that I have not the shadow of a doubt but that except the Islands as laid down by Capt. Flinders there are no others, so that we shall probably not see land till Timor heaves in sight.

Tuesday Aug. 15th. The Cochin left us yesterday going to Amboyna. The weather continues to be very fine and the wind fair.

Friday Aug. 18th. We have been becalmed all day, but expect hourly to see Timor; The weather is become very hot. My cabin is so close that I sleep in a hammock outside, by which I avoid a great many bugs and cockroaches that are very troublesome during the night.

Saturday Aug. 19. This morning at day light Timor was in sight and we cruised along the shores of it at about 4 miles distance all day. This Island is very

[Page 425]

lofty some of the mountains appearing to be 6000 or 8000 feet high. It is well wooded, most of the trees being palms or cocoa nut trees, but altho' we proceeded so nigh the shore all day, yet we did not see one house or piece of cultivated ground the whole way.

This morning at day light it was tolerably fine with but little wind, the mountains of Timor were covered with clouds and about 7 o'clock there was some rain, the surface of the sea having a very irregular appearance here and there being calm spaces, and spots where rain seemed to fall heavily. I remarked that where the rain fell there was a fogginess over the water which was very unusual; soon after eight there were two or three short but heavy showers with little wind, and suddenly the captain called out to the watch to furl the top gallant sails for a whirl wind was coming. I looked at the place and saw a small part of the sea twisting round violently and the fog also was whirling round; I immediately saw it was a water spout, & looking up into the super incumbent clouds I saw the point of it wh. soon joined the lower part and formed a perfect spout. It advanced but slowly, but came alarmingly near the ship perhaps within 2 or 3 cables lengths.

[Page 426]

after this another spout formed & then a third but more imperfectly when the cloud went off. The more I see of these phenomenon the more I am astonished as to their cause.

Sunday Aug. 20th. This morning the Island of Rottee was almost out of sight, and the brig left us during the night intending to go through the strait between Rottee & Timor. We soon passed close by the Island called Pulodana, and another called Douw where we sent a boat on shore which brought off a few Cocoa Nuts.

Monday Aug. 21st. This morning at day light an Island called Savu was in sight which we cruised along and at 10 o'clock came to an Anchor in the bay wh. in the Chart is called Seboo. This Island is about 30 miles long; on the west side at day light, as it was low water, we saw a vast number of people on the reefs picking up fish or shells. We expected to be able to procure pigs or bullocks or fowls at this place, & sent knives, rasors, needles, linen &c. to barter. When We came to an anchor they shewed on the beech a white flag bordered with black, and on sending a boat on shore, by leaving one man behind, a principal person & six or eight attendants came on board. He had a printed

[Page 427]

cotton gown on, a crimson handkerchief round his head, and a piece of blue cotton bound round his loins. In his hand a carried a cane with a gold top on wh. was engraved the name of some dutch governor of Oopang; & [D C V]

I went on shore about noon, many natives surrounded us, most of them having cloths bound round their loins & a piece of cloth abt. their shoulders. They were of a dark colour & had smooth skins with black strait hair. The country is covered with palm trees which are either cabbage trees, beetle trees, or fan Palms. The huts were small & covered with the leaves of these trees that were set around their sides like faggots. All the men had the insides of their mouths red, and their teeth quite black wh. I am told is occasioned by their chewing betle nut. We saw a few pigs, some sheep resembling goats, small horses, and fowls. There was very little fruit, the chief presented us with a few oranges, and there were some cocoa nuts. They seemed to be a miserable covetous dishonest set of people giving nothing not even a drink of Cocoa nut milk without first receiving something for

[Page 428]

it. We bought two pigs for two dollars each wh. weighed about 60 lb a piece. On the beech were several large prows carefully placed under covers, they seemed to be about 60 or 8 tons burthen. The beech was covered with beautiful specimens of madrepore, & fragments of fine shells, among wh. I saw many of the pearl nautilus but none of them perfect. Finding there that we could do nothing in the way of barter and that we could receive neither meat nor fruit we weighted immediately and expect to see Lombork in a day or two.

Tuesday Aug. 22. A Mr. Siddons of Port Jackson who seems to be a credible person, and who is now Capt. of a small vessel called the McQuarrie; has been long in the Sandal wood trade; and told me the following story. I must first premise that the Sandal Wood is the produce of the Santalum officinale and grows principally upon the numerous Islands that form the interval between India and China and New Holland, particularly the Islands called Sandal Wood Islands; Cataman, The Feejee's Tangatabo &c, This wood is

[Page 429] 1815

of a very strong Smell; and is principally used by the Chinese as an incense, who give about 80£ sterling per ton for it. The Islands on which it grows are Inhabited by Malays or savages, and the persons who go to collect it are obliged to conform to the customs of the country where it ~~grew~~ it can be procured, and undergo many hardships and dangers on account of it. Capt. Siddons has been many times among the Feejee Islands for it, and the account he reports to me so much resembles the accounts that we read of in the Arabian tales of Sindbad the Sailor, that I cannot refrain from reporting them. Mr. Siddons I must premise had been so long among them that he understood their language ~~perfectly~~ tolerably well.

When a man dies says Captain Siddons, the wife is strangled, some of them hang one wife, some more, I have known some of them have five or six. I ~~saw~~ myself saw one woman strangled, her husband was an old chief who died of a lingering disease. A friend of mine, who was a chief, invited me to see the ceremony, and I went on shore. The body of the dead chief was rolled up in large folds of a kind of cloth that ~~grows~~ is made in the country similar to but

[Page 430]

coarser than that made at Otaheite; they conveyed his body to the house of the Colloo or priest. These persons have great influence in the country and are supposed to foretell future events. They placed the chief's body on the ground with the feet towards the door and there were some thousands of natives attending the ceremony. A woman ..?.. was sitting near the head of the body which was uncovered, for the cloth was rolled principally across the belly. She had in her hand something very like a powder puff, and she continually puffed the face of the corpse with a black powder. I was anxious to get near the body but my friend continually exhorted me to keep at a distance, I nevertheless persisted and stood within a few yards of it. The woman continued to ~~power~~ puff the face with the powder, and after waiting an hour or two I heard a murmur among the multitude and a short of shout. My native friend told me that it was occasioned by the arrival of the dead chief's principal wife, who lived some miles off & who had just arrived in a canoe.

[Page 431]

This ~~woman~~ female soon arrived at the spot surrounded by her female friends, I did not observe any Mark of dejection about her, She advanced to the corpse & kissed it, and retreated about twenty steps from it backwards and keeping her face towards it; a woman that was ~~our washer~~ ~~woman~~ well known to me was sitting there and she placed her self upon her lap, her female friends went up to her and attempted to kiss her, but she repelled them scornfully with her arms. The woman on whose lap she sat, then put one of her hands behind the widow's head, and the other on her mouth when instantly a man placed a cord round her neck which Six men who were ready took hold of three at each end and [indecipherable] pulled with all their might, and I did not see the widow make the least struggle, altho' after the manner of the country she was only covered about the middle; not even her legs moved. I was anxious, said my informer, to know what was done with the bodies, and had recourse to my friend who had invited me to see the ceremony, who told me however that that was not permitted to be known, but that I might see all that they themselves knew.

[Page 432]

I accordingly went to the ~~priest's~~ Colloo's house in the evening; the dead chief and the strangled widow's body were placed together near the door; I had one of my boat's crew with me, and he offered to bring the bodies into the house. I was anxious to find in the ~~interior~~ apartment whether there was a grave dug, but as it was dark I ~~could only~~ therefore felt about with my feet but cautiously lest there might be some cavern underneath the house, but I found none. The people then brought the chief's body to the door but there was so much cloth rolled about it that it was with difficulty introduced; the body of the wife however was easily brought in and they were laid together in the priest's house, more than which I was not permitted to see. Another instance of the same kind I was more intimately acquainted with. Returning from a cruise I found my friend Rueammory dead, he was a fine young man and was the person who had entered into an agreement with me to furnish me with a cargo of Sandal wood. I was greatly sorry for his death, and immediately called upon his mother, who had also

[Page 433]

been a great friend to me. On seeing me the old woman embraced me, and with tears ~~in her eyes~~ told me that Rueammory was dead, and what could she do, she could not procure the Sandal wood. I explained to her how grieved I was at the death of her son and requested to go and speak to his body. I knew before hand very well that it was customary to speak to and visit the dead as if they were living & that some persons gave answers in their name. I therefore went with the mother to the apartment where the body was laid and taking hold of the dead chief's hand I said to the deceased. I see Rueammory what has happened to you, you are dead, you have left us; you know Rueammory the agreement that existed between us, that you were to procure me a certain

quantity of Sandal wood which I have paid you for, and which I have not yet received. What is to be done? His mother then who stood near him answered for him.

Yes, I recollect the agreement; and it shall not be broken, I will fulfill it; Much more conversation passed but which is needless to repeat, when we retired from the body.

I was by this time become intimate with the natives, I

[Page 434]

had a house and farm, and most of my property was tabooed, or rendered sacred, so that any person injuring it might be destroyed. The old woman therefore took me into her house & we had much conversation respecting the sandal Wood that I had agreed for; she wept much during our conversation, and put me in mind of her son's principal wife, reminded me that she was a great favourite of the white people that she fed them, and cloathed them, and added, you know that she must follow her son to the grave unless her friends rescue her, & I know of no friend she has but yourself, run, instantly, wait not a moment and you may save her. After enquiring what I must do to effect this, the mother told me that as I had been invested with the Authority of a Chief, and ~~that a~~ chief by making a large present and going on his knee before the friends of the deceased holding the present up in my hands and repeating the words "I beg the life of this woman" I might save her. The

[Page 435]

mother reminded me that if I saved her I had a right to her, but that she did not wish any person to possess the widow of her son; I therefore told her I desired only to save her life; when she clasped me in her arms and wept much. I hastened immediately down to the boat, the brig was unfortunately thirty miles off, we pulled on board as fast as possible and I took one of the largest ~~sea elephant's~~ whale's teeth, which are more valued there than gold, I then took a fresh boat's crew and pulled back again, I knew I had not a moment to loose, I therefore ran to the place where I knew the ceremony would take place. The wicked Colloo however had hastened the business, he was always my enemy & had often said that the white people would be the ruin of the inhabitants; the mother endeavoured to prevent the execution but could not; the priest said that it was necessary; that women had no right to interfere, that men only had any business in these concerns; that he was determined that the usual

[Page 436]

rites should take place, and the unfortunate woman was strangled, about a quarter of an hour before I arrived with the ~~elephant~~ whale's tooth. My departed friend had three wives two of whom were strangled, the other was saved by the influence of her friend who had great influence in the country. When I saw the two bodies together and that I had in vain endeavoured to save the widow, I was greatly vexed, and went towards the widow's corpse and kissed the face, the ~~priest~~ Colloo was standing near it, I upbraided him, but he was cool, and merely said it was the Law. These people are canibals, the Islands they inhabit are many, & have no appropriate names except the native names. They are divided into different districts and there are often wars among the people of the neighbouring places. I had bought a bolt of Cavass of the master of a vessel that was there, and he demanded a very large piece of Sandal Wood for it, then time as much as it was worth. I however was obliged to consent &

[Page 437]

took him on shore to a place where I knew a piece large enough was lying for I was well known, & had some authority on the Island, but he was strange. We were looking at the log which was not quite large as that agreed upon, and were talking about it when an old woman well known to me ~~came up~~ appeared with a large basket on her shoulders. She came up to us & without addressing me as usual she exclaimed in a dismal tone - War. - War. - War - I immediately knew that something was wrong and that the man that was with me would have fled to the boat but I prevented him by saying that I was always safe & that he would be safer near me than by fleeing,

he therefore remained and soon after a native friend came up; he told me they had been at war & had killed the chief of Hyparthar that they had been fortunate enough to seize his body & would feast upon it to morrow, inviting me to take a share. I consented & seemed pleased at the circumstance, told him that I was very fond of fresh meat,

[Page 438]

that I had been long on salt provisions & that I hoped they would let me have my share. I then walked about by concerns, and in an hour or two the native that had spoken to me before, led me towards that log of Sandal wood I had been bargaining about before; the body of the captive had been laid beside it. It was that of a man about 6 feet high, there was a large wound across the forehead and another over the top of the head as if from the blows of a club. I started back at the sight and the native exclaimed, "are you afraid? Sanga, Sanga; said I, "no no" I hope to have a feast on him to morrow. Now it generally is observed among these people that they ~~generally~~ eat human flesh cold; so they roast in one day & eat it the next; and before cutting a body in pieces the ~~priest~~ Colloo performs a long ceremony: I went with my native friend to the priest's house, he was then about to perform the usual incantation; he had a long staff in his hand, and placed one end of it on the ground, and exercised him violently in reeling to and fro with it, till he was overcome with the exercise

[Page 439]

when he fell down, and was carried into this house; he then said something in the manner of an oracle to ~~them~~ the people that stood around wh. meant "that they would succeed in what they were about to undertake", referring to the battle that was intended. They then went down to the dead enemy, and with pieces of wood or bamboo made very sharp they cut his hands off at the wrists, his feet at the ankles, his legs at the knees and his thighs near the middle, dividing the bones with an English ax that they had been furnished with. They cut the head off very low towards the breast, and placed it in some hot ashes that had previously been prepared in a hole dug for the purpose, and when it had remained there a sufficient time they then rubbed off the hair with shells, and the different parts of the body were then placed in this hole, and, covered with stones that had been heated, when it was covered up till it was ready. I told the natives that I expected to have my share, but that I was then going on board & that if I did not come on shore to morrow, I desired they would send my share on board, for it was quite necessary for the

[Page 440]

furtherance of my trade that they should believe I was fond of human flesh. The inhabitants of Hyalou such was the name of this place promised I should not be deceived, and I left them. I then went on board I told my mate what was going forward, & desired that on the following day when the human flesh was brought on board for me, he should refuse to receive it on board, that he should appear disgusted of it, that he should say, that altho' the captain was fond of ~~human flesh~~ it that he abominates it, & that they might carry it on shore again. It was therefore done as I desired, on the following day they brought the roasted human flesh along side; and the mate refused to receive it, saying that I was not on board; they were very angry & at length went away with it, threatening to kill him if they met him on shore. Two days after this I went among them again, and pretended that they had deceived me, that they had not sent me the flesh they promised; they persisted in affirming that they had carried it along side and that the mate would not receive it, I told them I had enquired about it & that

[Page 441]

no one had seen or heard of it, they then repeated that if they caught the man they would kill him. I ~~then~~ immediately went to the mother of Ruammory and told her I was angry, that I had been disappointed. She spoke respectfully to me, as chiefs generally do when they address each other; in a very low mild voice, she returned "if you are angry we are dead", she then asked what could be done to pacify me, I told her I must have a certain quantity of sandal wood, when she

immediately sent away a number of persons and collected it for me, which appeased me, soon after this having collected my cargo I left the place. I have heard no more of these people. They are a dangerous race ~~people~~ to go among and I was the only person of five vessels who had any authority among them & that could procure any quantity of sandal wood from them.

One of the most extraordinary circumstances respecting the natives of these Island is the excessive value they set upon large teeth such as those of the whale or sea elephant, so that persons going to procure sandal wood generally

[Page 442]

procured as many and as large teeth as they can. The principal things the natives barter for are axes knives or razors, but they will give as much wood for one large tooth as for five or six axes. It does not appear however that they make any use of these teeth, sometimes a chief may be seen with one hanging in the manner of a locket, but this is very seldom. When a man receives a large tooth he hangs it up in his house for a few days and scarcely ceases looking at and admiring it; he frequently takes it down and rubs it with a particular kind of leaf and polishes it, some of them expend nearly a month rubbing the teeth. The vessels ~~ships~~ that went from Port Jackson carried the teeth of the whale or the Sea Elephant, but some vessels from India brought elephants teeth which they cut in pieces and formed like natural teeth. These being very large they were considered of the greatest value and procured vast quantities of Wood; the report of their arrival induced some chiefs to come from Islands 200 miles distant to see them. They set no value on money, a ship called the Eliza with several thousand dollars on board was wrecked on a reef near one of these Islands. The master of her & some of the people put 3000 or 4000 of them in the Jolly boat and made for the Island

[Page 443]

that was most frequented, where he found a vessel from Port Jackson & got on board of her; the Jolly boat was left towing astern & it was some hours before the shipwrecked master mentioned the dollars. This was done in the presence of the mate of the ship, who reported it to one of the sailors, & they removed them by stealth some being hid in the mates cabin & others sent on shore by the accomplice who buried them. It so happened that some of the natives saw him covering something up, and when he had left this place they discovered the dollars, and on the following morning they were widely distributed among the natives, who gave them away for the smallest trifles; such as a nail or other small piece of Iron. A man named Savage who had been some time time on the Island of Tongatabo about this time came to the Feejee Islands in a canoe and hearing where the wreck was; went to this place and found them lying in heaps upon the beach.

Thursday Aug. 24th. 1815. There never was a navigation so uncertain as ours. We were near the land this morning, which was very high mountains. They took a lunar last night by which & the chronometers

[Page 444]

we found ourselves to be near Sumbawa, and we expected to make the Straits of Allass by the evening. We arrived along this mountainous country at two or three miles distance, and at two made a cape, ~~which~~ but did we did not know whether it was the eastern cape of the Strait of Allass or the cape of a bay which in Heather's charts is placed a few miles to the east of the Strait. About 3 pm it was determined to steer to the northward and examine the place, which we did till sunset, a high peaked mountain was on the left but we could not determine whether this was the peak of Bally or the peak of Lombock, we rashly ran into the opening, and a very strong current opposed us, so that it was determined to endeavour to work out again, which we are accordingly doing, but even now we do not know whether the Strait is that of Allass or Lombock.

Friday Aug. 25th. This morning we again entered the doubtful Straits, but altho' the wind was fair, the tide was so strong that we made but little progress, even at 2 p.m. the Capt. told me he was afraid we had mistaken the bay to the eastward of the Straits for it. I have no doubt however in my own mind that we really are in the Straits of Allas; tho' we are now not half way thro', it is now dark and we have the tide against us driving us to the South

[Page 445]

ward, & we are so much on the Sumbawa side that we have no bottom; We are however making for the Lombock Shore and hope to come to an Anchor. 1815

Saturday Aug. 26th. We came to an anchor last night and remained quiet, the tide scarcely flowing at all to the northward. The extinguished volcano of Lombock is very near us about 8000 feet high. The country is very sandy but in most places covered with bushes and trees, and there is a town or two among the Cocoa nut trees near the shore. There was a calm all this morning, and we had observed from some time that large volumes of smoke rose perpendicularly on Shore much higher than we had ever before seen, several hundreds of these appeared in different places, but on taking a spy glass we were greatly astonished that instead of Smoke they consisted of vast columns of Sand resembling water spouts, and traversing along the country, many of these columns were very small but ascended to a great height, others were very large, we often saw their beginning a small quantity of sand whirled about violently near the ground & soon increased higher and higher till some of them seemed to be 500 or 600 feet high. the large ones seemed to be very small at the bottom as if they only affected a very small

[Page 446]

surface, they then spread out like a funnel and the sand turned round very rapidly along the column. These whirlwinds of Sand are doubtless the very same that we read of as being so destructive to caravans and passengers who cross the Deserts of Africa.

Evening. - The columns of sand continued to prevail till noon when a strong breeze sprang up and the whole country for many miles was entirely obscured by a general blowing of sand which mounted into the air like a heavy cloud & even quite obscured the mountain; so that the sand must have been carried thro' the air at least 30 miles.

We are now escaped from the straits & are becalmed to the northward.

Sunday Aug. 27th. This morning our decks were covered with a quantity of fine dust, which was produced by the columns of sand yesterday on shore for most of the afternoon we were surrounded with a thick mist, but which instead of watery vapour was nothing more than fine particles of dust which must have prevailed to an extraordinary extent for we were at least twenty miles from Land when we were thus obscured by dust.

[Page 447]

Monday Aug. 28th. This morning as soon as morning dawned we found ourselves near a small sandy Island, as by the time the sun rose we found ourselves within a mile of a reef extending along to leeward appearing about fifteen miles long, & at many places dry. I observed on one part of it a fabrication of wood. A number of stakes to the number of 100 or more were fixed upright & some cross pieces were fixed to them, a boat was near them & Capt. Bowles said it was built to catch turtle with which however I do not believe. Other Islands soon hove in sight but we could not satisfactorily determine what they were; we cruized along them the whole day and even at sun set do not know where we are. I suppose however the Islands were the four brothers, Dog Island and Gallion with several others that are not named on the chart. Last night it appears that a current took us 15 miles more to the north than our reckoning gave by which we avoided the reef that we were so near at daylight. This is about the sixth narrow escape we have had in this ship.

Tuesday Aug. 29th. This morning we were nearly in the same place we were last night have head to windward. We are now past all the Islands

[Page 448]

that are placed at the east end of Madura; & the wind is fair. These Island particularly Gallion are beautifully cultivated, and seems to be very populous being covered with small house. We saw many people working in the fields, which are very small and seemingly covered with corn. Only one building seemed to be respectable which was a house with a sort of Spire and surrounded with a Veranda. On our shewing our colours they hoisted an English jack so that probably the dutch have not yet taken possession of the Island yet. There seems to be great communication between these Islands as the beaches were lined with boats wh. were also seen in every part of the surrounding sea.

Wednesday August 30th. This morning we passed within a few miles of a mountainous Island about 20 miles long called Lubec . The wind is fair & we expect to be at Samarang to morrow.

Thursday Aug. 31st. We were very near a point of mountainous land this morning wh. Capt. Bowles said was the Madolien Island and as we wanted to go to Samarang wh. is near these Islands we expected to come to an anchor before dinner, but land was reported to the NW at 10 am & the Capt. then took it into his head that the land seen in the morning was Cape Ass? & not near Samarang but that the land ahead was the the Mandolien Islands, we therefore steard

[Page 449]

for it & having come up with at about four pm: we found it to be a number of Islands of wh. I counted in one view 14, in another 18, & it was then supposed that these were the Islands of Caraman, Java, so that we must have left Samarang in the morning. We therefore are now going direct to Java. But what a miserable business do we make of our navigation !!!

Sunday Sep. 2nd. 1815. We came to an anchor this morning in Batavia roads.

Monday Sep. 3rd. The weather here is rather hot the thermometer 84°. Every thing is cheap, fowls 7s/6 a dozen, eggs 200 for a dollar. There is plenty of good fruit particularly, Oranges, Pine apples, Pummelos; & bananas.

Mr. Bowles told me he had got a freight for the ship & was to have 28£ a ton for Coffee & 30£ a ton for pepper, that he he would be ready in a month.

Thursday Sep. 6th. I went on shore to day and was introduced to Mr. Pretiger, and a Mr. Van Bracha and a Mr. all of them respectable merchants, the last the son of the late Governor General. Dined at Mr. Pretigers was speaks English but with a foreign accent, he is perhaps a

[Page 450]

dutchman; and is agent to the East India company here.

The City of Batavia appears now to be much deserted, the walls are thrown down, many of the canals filled up and all much out of repair; the streets are in many places covered with weeds and many of the houses without inhabitants. Most of the shops are kept by Chinese; European and Chinese goods are dear, Nankin is a dollar & half a piece, and what is extraordinary I could find no tailor to make trowsers for me, and they always charge as much for making as the Cloath is worth. A European merchant who speaks English (I believe he is a German Jew) called Marquis keeps a large shop, but they seem there to be so careless about customers & have so many servants to wait upon them that it is miserable to purchase any thing. Provisions are very cheap, fowls 8 or 12 for a dollar. 8 dozen eggs for the same. Mr. Bowles has bought several dozen bottles of Cajepot oil for 8 dollars a quart. Maderia wine is very cheap, old wine having been 6 or 7 years in India is

70£ a pipe. The horses are very small, the carriages are something like one horse chaises but drawn by 2 or 4 horses who travel very fast. Most people keep carriages,

[Page 451]

some 6 or 8 and the respectable persons are never seen walking in the streets. I have found those persons to whom I have been introduced very polite; unfortunately few can speak English, several of these have offered me their carriages, particularly Mr. Seberg, & Mr. Pretiger. The roads from the town are very beautiful, there being a row of fine trees on each side & a canal on which canoes & boats are continually passing, so that there is no necessity for land carriage, no vehicles being seen but carriages, along these canals there is a considerable current according to the quantity of rain in the high country. On each side the road at the distance of about 40 or 50 yards are the country houses of the principal people, many of these are very large & magnificent, with gates or lodges, adorned with Statues, these spacious mansions are generally white washed and the Statues are black; the gardens are generally very formal, with strait walks & hedges, trees cut in fantastic forms, and chinese ornaments. The rooms are very large with folding doors &

[Page 452]

wide windows of Venetian blinds. Along the rooms and galleries are gas lamps suspended from the ceiling which burn all night, and these are even in the bedrooms, in Mr. Predigers, I suppose there were 20 lamps of this kind. They have numerous servants, I believe he keeps about 30 only to wait on himself & his wife. Their dinners are very profuse, when there were only four at table there must have been 30 different dishes.

One of the most remarkable objects in the country is the chinese burial grounds, one of these seems to cover 30 or 40 acres of ground. The chinese never bury their dead under ground but make a sort of tomb into one end of which they shove the body & close it with a stone on which is an inscription. Some of these tombs are spacious, and the inscriptions beautiful cut and coloured with blue, scarlet & gold. These colours seem to be very permanent some of the stones seem to have been placed there for 100 years but yet the colouring is beautiful altho' some of the stones seem to have been underground.

[Page 453]

These tombs are mostly in the form of horse shoes; and to some of the largest are stone columns on the top of which are small Idols like lions.

Monday Sep. 11th. Received an obliging note from Mr. Assey, chief Secretary to the Governor to see me. I accordingly called at Government house, & he obligingly asked me to stay some time with him in the country about 40 miles off.

This Gentleman is a native of Beccles & went to school with me; he left it to make his fortune in India abt. 14 years ago as assistant Surgeon in the company's Service & Now receives above 500£ a month !!! 1815.

[Page 445] 1815

Tuesday Sep. 12th. Agreeable to invitation I went up to Government house to breakfast this morning when Mr. Assey introduced me to the Governor. The house is about 3 miles from town and is magnificent, the servants many & the rooms large and well ornamented with pictures, statues & chandeliers. The breakfast & dinner services also are very handsome.

Wednesday Sep. 13. Remained at Government house, having sent for my luggage Mr. Assey & the governor inviting me to stay with them some days in the country. I find great inconvenience from my not understanding the Malay language as I cannot make any of the servants understand, & Mr. Assey is much engaged and on the whole with me so degage, that I seem to be lost in the crowd, for every one is expected to take care of himself. We set off in one of the government carriages about one & arrived at the country house about 40 miles distant about 5 o'clock, having

changed horses five times. The country house is very large there being a body & two wings, the body is for the governor, the left wing which is nearly as large as the body for the offices, & the right wing is for visitors.

[Page 456] The governor in the evening shewed me some beautiful drawings of temples & Idols he had visited in the Island, and also has lent me Dr. Horsefield's manuscripts on botany to facilitate my researches.

Thursday Sep. 14. We set off from the country palace this morning for the Governor's country house about 14 miles more in land, at a place called Ciseroa. This building is small but comfortable every where there is great seclusion, & it is surrounded by the finest scenery. The only persons here at present are Capt. Watson, aid du Camp, Mr. Methuen

D^o, Mr, Salek a young Javanese who speaks english well, Mr. Assey & myself.

Friday Sep. 15. Took a long walk & collected some fine Insects; but as the country about this place abounds with tigers, it is rather dangerous to go amongst the Jungle alone, the natives travel several together & in the night never without torches. They report that a fortnight ago a man was carried away from a cottage just before the windows, & that the tigers have sometimes crossed the garden near the house &

[Page 457]

stood on the bank near the road & looked at the people passing. The governor has two young ones quite tame & playful at present, wh. he feeds upon vegetable food & milk only. There is a very pleasant Javanese band of music here, wh. is something like a pandean band, & very delightful to hear at a short distance.

Saturday Sep. 16. Mr. Raffles told me that the revenue of the Island is to the amount of 5 or 6 millions of dollars annually, and that the inhabitants hire their land by the year of Government, paying for it about a fourth part of the produce of Rice or maize. The actual cultivator is the person looked to as the renter of the land, and those who are willing commute for an equivalent proportion of money. They have the land as it were by the year, The country is divided into regencies & these into divisions and subdivisions. Every parish or subdivision has a chief who is elected by the parishioners. Very few people hold more than 100 acres of land and some have

[Page 458]

only three or four acres, so that there is much trouble in collecting these rents, there being probably a million of people who pay money into the treasury. In every department is a native called the regent & a european called the resident, who do the business of their respective departments without interfering with each other.

Sunday Sep. 17. Took a long walk by myself towards a volcano that I see smoking about 10 miles off but could not reach it, I travelled along the road wh. is as good as the turnpikes of England but covered in most places with grass; in one place I saw an animal resembling a rackoon, he did not seem to heed me, but walked slowly off the road, I suppose he was 5 feet long. Before breakfast the governor, aid du camp & usual guards with myself took a ride thro an extensive coffee plantation I suppose containing 5 thousand acres.

[Page 459]

Monday Sep. 18. As usual I rode out with the governor before breakfast. The party consists of the Governor, an aid du camp, myself, a footman in a scarlet hunting dress, & two Javanese Guards to

lead the way. After breakfast I went as usual after plants & insects. I really think it is not quite safe to go alone out of the road, this morning I had entered a jungle a little way, & having plucked the plants I saw I returned to the main road, & having reached the opposite side of it I heard a rustling among the bushes I had just left, & a noise like the trot of a large animal moving in different directions till it seemed to stop near the place I had come out, what it was I do not know for I saw nothing and thinking myself near enough for a tiger to make a spring from the Jungle I hastened to a more open part of the road near a bridge.

The Jungles are certainly full of tigers but not so much about this part of the Island. When the Governor

[Page 460]

wants any, he procures as many as he pleases for 4 or 5 dollars each. They are caught in pits, and are used for fighting with bulls & buffaloes, in which case the buffalo generally kills the tiger & mostly recovers himself, so that some have killed above a dozen tigers.

After dinner the Governor, aid du camp & myself walked among some rice grounds and thro' a village. The houses are built of bambo, the sides being woven and the roofs covered with split bambo tiles, the floor is of woven bambo & the sides are open so that there is ample space for the smoke to escape without a chimney. The women had only a small petticoat on, one old toothless woman was bruising her betel nut, she was sitting on a stool not above three inches high & a little petticoat of black scarcely covered her knees. She had an enormous bronchocele (at least as big as her head) which she said was neither painful or inconvenient.

From a distant view of the Crater of

[Page 461]

the volcanoe I observed that there were explosions every few seconds, when a volume of smoke escaped, about as much as is produced by a six pounder.

The living here is free and easy enough, I sleep in a small wooden house apart from the main building, there is a bed, one sheet & two pillows, I have no servant to assist me, & never make any bed; I roll myself up in my sheet & if cold in the night in my bed.

The thermometer is from 70 to 75°.

Monday Sep. 18. Our party at dinner is from eight to ten, the Governor, Capt Travers town major, Capt. Watson aid du camp, Mr. Methuen a subalten, Mr. Assey secretary, Mr. Salek interpreter of Javanese, and generally three or four Javanese. The governor speaks Javanese very well and is collecting facts for a publication of the history of the Island, so that there are generally three or four learned natives about him. These gentlemen are always dressed in the native manner,

[Page 462]

their hair tied up in a handkerchief, a short Jacket of green, or a sort of bed gown of Coloured cotton; their buttons are of Amethysts, or other prescious stones set in gold, & they have a simitar or creese, the sheath of wh. is generally gold & the handle of Ivory or gold, sometimes set with diamonds. They wear no stockings but a remarkable long high heeled shoe pointing upwards at the toe, & they have a piece of cotton round them reaching from their waists to their feet like a petticoat. Being mahometans they drink no wine or spirits, & they are very silent polite people. The Governor Capt. Watson & myself took a walk this evening of six or eight miles, over brooks & ravines & thro' Jungles often up to our knees in mud & water so that the guards could scarcely keep up with us: night came on when we were two or three miles from the house & there was some danger of tigers, but we soon arrived at a village & procured flamboes.

[Page 463]

Tuesday Sep. 19th. The day passes as usual I begin rather to wish to return to Batavia, the novelty goes off; I have not here the society that pleases me; and altho' I do as I please I am left

entirely to myself, no one asking me to do this or do that, yet I cannot help considering myself as a stranger & under some degree of restraint.

Wednesday Sep. 20. I have been anxious to visit the smoking crater that is in sight & wh. does not seem to be above 8 or 10 miles in a strait line from the house, but there are thick forests intervening. I can prevail on none of the visitors here to undertake it, & the governor offered to find me ten or more guides if I wished to go to it. A rich merchant says that it is impracticable or rather says that there is no path; so that the real state of the matter is that altho' so near, no one has had curiosity enough, to visit it. The only danger appears to consist of the danger of being benighted, of falling in with tigers, wh. is very probable & wh. shews of necessity of not venturing alone in the forest.

[Page 464]

We have a set of Javanese musicians called I believe the Gumelong wh. plays almost the whole day, beginning before day light till ten at night, 8 or 10 persons are employed in it. There are gongs in it and a flute & violins both of native make. It is said that a good Gumelong requires nearly an hundred men to play the various instruments. Mr. Raffles told me he has two complete sets one of wh. he intends to send to England, & wh. will require the freight of 10 tons, each set he says is worth 4000 dollars.

Some dancing girls have come to day, they are ugly & two of them small, their faces are white washed & they have gaudily ornamented themselves with Tinsel & red cloth; particularly about the head. Their manner of dancing is something like a minuet, but accompanied with writhing of the hands arms and legs & accompanied with a sort of harsh recitative of song, on

[Page 465]

the whole I never saw any thing more ridiculous; each of them had a fan in her hand with wh. she generally concealed her face.

Thursday Sep. 21st. We rode this morning along a very devious road; thro' many ravines to some Hindo ruins about 8 miles from Ciceroa. They merely consist of some rude stones carved into the faces of men and apes, some being whole figures. One of them had three faces of Brama, I suppose in all there were twenty of them arranged among common stones & covered with moss, they were among high trees & bushes & none of them were so large but that they might easily be removed. In the middle of one group is a square upright stone with a small one at the top being abt. 3 feet high. The governor told me that barren women resorted to this and endeavoured to lift it from the ground by turning their backs to it & grasping it with their hands; & they suppose that being able to lift it from the ground they will become fruitful.

[Page 466]

Before the principal figure, wh. represents an old man in high relief is an area formed by stones abt. ten yards square; there still appears some remains of Idolatrous worship in several bunches of the stalks of rice that were lying before the image, and an old man who lived near the place lighted another bunch and placed it before the Idol. On being asked who it represented he said "the great Father". The governor told me that he supposes these remains were brought here by some party from the eastward, who may have traveled over the mountains.

In my walk to day I killed a small serpent wh. was beautifully spotted. I was very near treading upon it, & when I first saw it, it was darting along by starts considerably from the ground. At night walking with the Governor we killed another. The regent of Buitenzong who was with us said it was poisonous, & that a man a week

[Page 467]

or two ago was bitten by one & died in fourteen hours. On passing the place I was alarmed at four days ago by the rustling of some animal among the Jungle that I had just left, & wh. I supposed to be a tiger, the regent of Buitenzong observed that there were tigers there & that the last he caught for the Governor was taken in the neighbouring coffee ground.

The respect shown by inferiors to superiors in this country is most profound; all the natives we meet in the road if there be opportunity get out of the way and squat down behind a bush or rock, if they cannot get out of the road, they sit down in the gully that runs on each side of the road & turn their faces to the hedge & rock. If on horse back they get off; and if carrying a burthen they set it down and squat behind it. When they speak to a superior they squat down, & if the person is of considerable rank, they clasp their hands together as if praying and use a very mild submissive &

[Page 468]

humble manner of speaking. When they present any thing to a superior particularly a native they do it on their knees.

Saturday Sep. 23rd. It is said we shall leave Ciceroa to morrow morning, at least from the conversation I hear among others it appears so. I seem to be lost, I live here, sit down to a magnificent dinner & breakfast & appear to be considered one of the party, but yet there is I cannot tell what that makes me appear strange.

Sunday Sep. 24th. In consequence of the hints I heard yesterday I packed up all my books & luggage, and got up before day light; the carriage was at the door, every thing was ready, the governor, Mr Assey & an aid du camp got in & so did I; & we arrived at the Palace of Buitenzong to breakfast. In the day I walked several miles but found it much too hot it being six or seven degrees hotter here than at Ciceroa. There is a large

[Page 469]

China Bazar here wh. I suppose is a mile long, to this place the natives for twenty miles around bring articles particularly consisting of vegetables fruits &c. for sale. They bring carry it over their shoulders on an elastic stick, a basket being attached to each end of the stick. Some of the people walk about 20 miles with burthens of this kind, often little more than cabbages. They go barefooted & often 8 or 10 together. Along the road at the distance of every mile or two are small open houses where on market days chocolate, Coffee &c. is prepared, & where these poor people rest themselves. These buildings however can hardly be called Inns, as no person lives in them, & there is no enclosed place to keep any thing in for they are open on three sides, & there are a few stones heaped together on wh. the people who are proprietors of the place boil their coffee &c. on certain days of the week.

[Page 470]

The Palace at Buitenzong is very large, there are three principal buildings magnificently furnished, and well lighted at night by upwards of 100 lamps, & wax tapers. There are fine grounds, gardens, baths, offices, houses for the dependants &c., & a fine stud of horses.
1815.

Monday Sep. 25th. It is proposed that we go down to Batavia to morrow. Thus I have spent a fortnight with the Governor of Java, a circumstance as unforeseen as unexpected. It astonishes me that when many persons in England are spending their money about missionaries, & sending them to obscure & savage nations, they should never think of Java, and Island possessing I suppose 4,000,000 of enlightened inhabitants, who formerly professed the Hindo religion, but were converted to Mahometanism wh. they now follow. It must not be ordinary canting methodistical ignorant & illiterate

[Page 471]

missionaries, such as we generally see, that will be able to convert the Javanese to Xristianity; the Javanese are a civilized, learned people, as capable of appreciating the abilities of a man, and his doctrines, as any nation upon earth; in Java at present there is not a single protestant English clergiman on the Island; in the Governor's family outwardly there is not the least notice taken of the Sabath, and there is no English place of worship at Batavia, & only one dutch Clergiman. I believe an English officer makes a job of it, for by reading over the liturgy every sunday to the garrison he receives 250 dollars a month.

Wednesday Sep. 27th. Mr. Assey & I came away from Buitenzong yesterday after dinner, on the way our carriage broke down, we got just thro' and arrived at Batavia in 3½ hours. This morning breakfasted with Capt. Travers town major, & aid du Camp.

Thursday Sep. 28th. The governor & Suite came to Batavia last night; I am become quite an inmate at Government house, where

[Page 472]

the plan is for every one to take care of himself. 1815

Saturday Sep. 30th. The Governor returned to his country palace this morning, Mr. Assey & myself dined at the Town major's, where I am offered a seat every day; but as I am rather tired of this kind of life I intend to go on board the Indefatigable to morrow.

Sunday Oct. 1st. I went on board to day, after loitering about the Town of Batavia & getting wet thro' all the Morning. It is extraordinary that I should not know that it was Sunday by the appearance of the streets of Batavia, for the shops & markets were open, there were no bells chiming for church, I saw no churches open, or any persons dressed more than common, & I really think that there is little or no notice taken of the Sabbath. The Lutheran clergyman died a few month ago, & a calvanist made application for it, & altho' before he had much contended for the doctrines of his particular Sect & reprobated those of the Lutherans, yet he thought so much of the salary

[Page 473]

that he applied for it, & as there was no other, he was appointed to it. 1815

Tuesday Oct. 3rd. I am now on board the Indefatigable, and more quiet than heretofore. It is reported that the ship will be discharged on Sunday next but certainly will not be ready for sea, it appears to me that she will be here at least a fortnight longer; and the men have disagreed with the captain who has sent them to prison on shore, so that I think we shall be detained on that account. The Collection of Insects I made at Ciceroa I was unfortunate with, for bringing them down to the Governor's Palace at Buitenzong the ants gained access to the boxes and destroyed most of them.

Wednesday Oct. 4th. Went on Shore with Mr. & Mrs. Bowles and dined at an Inn called the British hotel.

Went to a Chinese temple wh. is vulgarly called a Joss house. This very much resembles the cloisters of a monastery, on each side of wh. are altars and statues principally of old men sitting

down in the attitude of deep thought. There is before each one a vessel containing Ashes where they burn Incense or tapers. The principal

[Page 474]

temple wh. is in the middle has a number of statues, one colossal and gilt. There were green silk curtain before it, but the people about it seemed to care little about the liberty we took in withdrawing them. At one of the altars was a picture wh. seemed to be an allegory of human life, at the bottom were men riding on an elephant and tiger, these seemed to travel towards a hill, at the top of which was a bridge leading to an opposite mountain, a person in priest's cloathing was stretching out his hand to assist a man over it where there were other priests ready to receive him. I looked upon the bridge to be allegorical of death, and exemplifying that the priests assisted men thro' it & lead them to heaven wh. was represented in this painting as three or four persons at the top of a mountain forming the upper part of the picture. There were several vessels containing water in wh. was growing the ~~Nympha~~ Nelumbo or sacred water Lilly. I observed that the leaves were of this shape.

[Sketch] The attendants (I suppose they were priests) were a merry lot & brought out tea

[Page 475]

and sweetmeats setting them on a table before one of the Altars. 1815
There was also another Chinese custom at another part of the City. A sort of play or mountebank show in wh. chinese play a sort of pantomime. This generally takes place on the occasion of a Wedding, baptism; or rejoicing & the stage is built before the house of the family on the opposite side of the street. I did not stop long to look at this mummery. The actors were gorgeously dressed.

Friday Oct. 7th. I have continued on board this ship all the week; where altho' there is no amusement yet there is not so much annoyance as on shore. Many persons being sick; most of the men belonging to the ship have had fever; but somehow or other I have as yet escaped. It is reported that we shall be ready for sea on Thursday.

Monday Oct. 9th. Went on shore this morning & hearing the Governor was down I called upon him & Mr. Assey. I dined at the Town Majors & slept in the Governor's Bed. This morning I breakfasted at Major Travers's and soon afterwards came on board.

Mr. Assey has given me for publication

[Page 476]

a report of the distant Effects of the late Eruption at Sumbawa:

He has requested me to attend to a family concern respecting his second sister. His agents are Bruce & Peuthen to whom he long ago sent 2000£ the Interest of wh. was to be paid to a Mr. Birchel of Bond Street who was to pay it by several sums to his sister. This Gentleman is lately dead as he sees by the Newspapers, therefore he requests that I may desire Messrs. Bruce & Co. to pay it to his sister herself. There is a son who is put to school & this expense must be deducted from the 100£ a year. Mr. Assey did not know where his sister was, she had left Norwich, has been in distress in London, her husband turned out a worthless fellow, & he had offended Mr. Crowfoot who would not further trouble himself about her.

This morning at Breakfast, one of the gentlemen exclaimed looking out at the window, Travers there is

[Page 477]

the ex-Sultan of Bautam coming to call upon you. I expected to have seen a magnificent person with attendants, but a young good looking native in the costume of the country came in at the door. No one arose from their seats, he shook hands with Mr. Assey & Major Travers, bowed and they

pointed to him to sit down, near the door, paying no more respect to him than if he were a mere plebian; It appears that he had been reigning Sultan some time when Marshall Daendeles was Governor but was taken excessively ill as it was supposed from poison, which much injured his faculties, he was obliged to leave his government, came to want, & was at length allowed 50 rupees a month, wh. he now lives on. What a fall for royalty and what a critique it is upon the human society to see a man who is of the blood Royal & who once possessed the kingly dignity appear as a supplicant at the breakfast table of officers who have ~~little or no~~ only subaltern rank, but who do not even ask him to sit

[Page 478]

down at their table. - It is truly disgusting to see the expensive manner the government officers live in here, in the Town Major's front Room are about 30 Lamps each of wh. I suppose costing 40 dollars, their table is so good indeed superior to a commander in chief's, Claret, Madeira & Hock in Abundance, and who are these that can afford this magnificence [indecipherable] A captain in the Army, three subalterns, an assistant Surgeon, & an officer of the Bengal Marine; What have these young men done that they deserve 2000 dollars a month ?

Sunday Oct. 15th. On Wednesday I went on shore to spend a few days at Mr. Prediger's who is a store keeper here, he is a Dutchman, speaks English, lives about four miles from Batavia, in a good house, keeps three carriages, and a Good table. I every day at daylight walked out and returned to breakfast after walking 5 or 6 miles, between breakfast & Dinner I usually

[Page 479]

went to Batavia, dined at 4 o'clock, rode out, & went to bed at Ten. Last night I went to a regular Dutch party at Mr. Seberg's. This Gentleman was keeping his 77th birth day & had been 50 years in this Island, during 20 of wh. he was Governor General. He lives in a Magnificent house, there were about 100 Gentlemen & Ladies sitting down to supper wh. was very magnificent. The Ladies as is customary keep together in the back apartments, the Gentlemen play cards & smoke in the fore apartments, at supper only they mix indiscriminately. There were only 2 english visitors beside myself so that I was rather stupid, but young Mr. Seberg who speaks English paid me much attention. After Supper much wine was drunk by bumper toasts, given out from a written paper by Young Seberg. The Dutch Ladies have a peculiar way of dressing, generally

[Page 480]

a white bedgown such as nurses wear in England. A small white wreath is on the back of the head, & below the ~~petticoat~~-bed gown can be seen the flounce of the petticoat. Many of them wore large diamonds. I observed that the buttons on the gown of Mrs. Inglehardt were of large single diamonds, & in her ears were large diamonds much larger than peas. I suppose that the diamonds on Mrs Seberg, altho' at a little distance she might be taken for an English Nurse, were worth 5000 or 6000£.

I came on board to day, it was said we were to sail, but Capt. Bowles seems to be loitering, Tuesday is now said to be the day.

A fellow passenger called Mrs. Cribb formerly a Convict, and wife or mistress to a butcher at Sydney, was taken ill yesterday or the day before of the common fever in the country and died this morning.

[Page 481]

It is remarkable that in the ship I sailed from England there was a Mrs. Cribb going out to join her husband at Sydney from whom she had been absent 5 or 6 years, & it appears that the same man is husband to both women. 1815

Tuesday Oct. 17th. Yesterday I went on shore & dined at Mr. Predigers, coming on board this morning. Wrote a letter to Mr. Assey, & sent him a Thermometer.

Wednesday Oct. 18th. We are now ready for sea and I believe are only detained on account of the Captain's private concerns.
Wrote a letter to Sir J. Jamison.

Friday Oct. 20th. The passengers have been all on board these three days and we are still delayed by the captain not having prepared the necessary papers for the clearance of the ship.

Sunday Oct. 22nd. 1815. As it appeared that the ship's manifest was wrong & could not be passed at the custom house, it was impossible to proceed to sea before Tuesday for wh. reason Mr. & Mrs. Hinch & Mr. Loghe went on shore again, there to stay till these things should be settled.

[Page 482]

But in the after noon to day about 5 o'clock, a boy came running violently up the after hatch way crying out fire. He and another man had been to draw off some spirits for the Ship's company & ~~had set~~ it had taken fire, it immediately spread itself on every side, the Capt. gave the Alarm to the others ships, a quantity of water was thrown down, the hatches were closed & it was hoped it would be suffocated by this means. It was then said that the spirit cask was just over the Magazine & that there were 8 barrels of gunpowder in it; it was therefore proposed to open the small scuttle & throw down some water, but on opening it a body of steam & smoke burst up wh. ~~alarmed~~ frightened a young mate near it, who ran up on deck much alarmed & Capt. Welsh who is master of the Claudine when he ordered his men away thinking she would soon blow up, and it appears that Capt. Bowles had given authority to Capt. Welsh to do whatever he thought best, so that he had entire charge; At this time myself, Holden & Kennedy & old B the gunner were ~~in the after~~ ~~cabin~~ throwing water about & I myself did not see any immediate danger as it appeared that there was a three inch

[Page 483]

plank between the deck of the light room & the magazine & this deck was covered with water. I also thought that the fire would absolutely be smothered, I therefore merely took away my government papers & a few dollars, & was ordered by Capt. Welsh to leave the ship, wh. we all did. I therefore went on the Claudine & stayed there some hours. Boats were ordered to row round the ship, & prevent plunder, & it was determined to wait till the morning. I must confess I thought the proceeding very improper seeing there was no immediate danger; I should have advised that water should continually have been thrown down, while all the property upon deck might have been removed. But nothing was done, Capt. Bowles about 9 pm. came on board the Claudine to consult with Capt. Welsh of the proceedings for the night, & it was determined that no person should go on board, but that a strict ward should be kept. Unfortunately Capt. Bowles contrary to this agreement went on board the ship & abused the officers of the guard boat, who came to complain of it to Capt. Welsh & then Capt. Welsh said he would have

[Page 484]

nothing more to do with her. Capt. & Mrs. Bowles at this time were on board the Julianna, & I must observe that When the alarm of fire was first given that Capt. B. was so agitated so pale & confused that he could do or order nothing, immediately making a great noise and setting about removing his private property. It was about twelve o'clock that Capt. Welsh said, on hearing that Capt. Bowles had not stuck to the agreement, that the men belonging to the Indefatigable might go

on board, as he considered himself under no further charge, Holden and I therefore with Kennedy & [indecipherable] went to her & were hailed by the Guard boat, the officer of wh. (Mate of the Devaynes) went on board with us, we found at first but little smoke at the hatch covers, but going lower & feeling the deck, it was very hot & smoke was forcing thro' the crevices of the hatchways. I then concluded that all was lost.

I removed most of my cloathing & the books that were on the shelves; Mr. Holden & Kennedy also took their own and Mr. Wetherby's. We then went

[Page 485]

upon deck & Capt. Bowles hailed us from the Juliana demanding who we were & what we were doing? we answered we had come on board to examine the ship, he returned "you have no business there". We then went into the boat with what things we had saved, & I am must obliged to the mate of the Devaynes for conveying us ashore afterwards. I then saw that the only chance of saving any thing was the sinking of the ship instantly, I reported it to the master of the Claudine who said he should trouble himself no further about her, I told him I thought it a very serious thing to give up every thing in that way, that the rigging might be saved & if the ship did not sink entirely that the things on the main deck might be ~~saved~~ preserved, I told him I would go & report my opinion to Capt. Bowles and endeavour to prevail upon him to do some thing. I therefore with a mate of the Devaynes went on board the Juliana to him, he was ~~sound~~ asleep loudly snoring. When he awakened I told him that there was not the slightest chance of saving the ship without sinking her, advised him immediately to send the carpenters to make

[Page 486]

a very large scuttle, that a single moment's delay might make it too late, bu he could determine upon nothing, he asked the opinion of Mr. Welsh, & I told him that he recommended immediate scuttling, he was so confounded that he could do nothing, he sent for Mr. Wetherby, the Surgeon, & the Carpenter & told him to go on board & bring away all he could, he then sent for the mate of the Juliana who came upon the deck in a most extraordinary state; I told ~~him~~ Capt. Bowles I would tell Capt. Welsh to come & consult with him. Soon afterwards the mates from all the ships present were sent, some to scuttle & others to remove property, it appears however that the hole they made at the bow was not above a foot square, & the smoke began to pout out at the stern, I was told that the noisy Mate of the Juliana was the principal actor in the scene, that they cut thro' the deck and stopped the scuttles with swabbs, that they threw down immense quantities of water

[Page 487]

into the gun room; that he made holes in the captain's cabin & threw water down the at one time they thought they would have overcome the fire, but no, at day light some smoke was seen escaping from the stern, & about six, as if from the deck being burnt thro', volumes of smoke escaped, in an hour she was ablaze abaft; the masts went one after the other, she settled very little in the water from the imperfect scuttling, and by the evening was burnt level with the water's edge. Thus perhaps the most dreadful accident that can befall a sailor has befallen me, I have lost three trunks containing valuable books & other curiosities, a fine collection of Insects from South America, New Holland and this place; the public dispatches of the supreme Judge of New South Wales that he entrusted me with, and also some very fine drawing of different parts of the colony. What am I to do, I have but little money; perhaps Mr. Assey or Mr. Raffles may be willing to assist me, I have taken

[Page 488]

all I could save to a not very respectable Inn & must I suppose remain here for some time. My losses however are but little; Mr. Hinch has lost all that he possesses, so has Mr. Loghe, the former had a small box wh. his servant put into a boat but wh. he cannot find, it contained 6000 dollars, a large quantity of gold dust & diamonds. It really seems like a dream to me, that I should have been tolerably comfortable in a ship yesterday, & looking forward to a passage to England &

now that I should be entirely adrift in the most unhealthy spot almost in the world without a friend to assist me.

Tuesday Oct. 24th. I rather think I shall be able to go home in the Hope, a country ship of about 600 tons; the Master of her is a dark fat man, whose name is Elliot.

I breakfasted with Major Travers who has invited me to live at his house, and has politely lent me a carriage.

Received a polite note from Mr. Assey inviting me to take up residence with the governor at Ciceroa.

[Page 489] 1815

Wednesday Oct. 25th. I went up to Major Travers to breakfast this morning & have employed myself all day in putting what things I had saved from the fire in some order.

My loss principally consists of this; - about forty volumes of books most of them classical and some very valuable, particularly all the ancient latin poets extant in two quarto volumes, printed two centuries ago. My tea & table silver spoons, and silver forks, thirty stockings & trowsers. All my collection of insects from South America, New Holland & this place. Many bundles of papers, memorandums; remarks &c. &c., some shirts, all my silk Handkerchiefs and various other things which I shall in future find the loss of as I may want them.

Sunday Oct. 29th. It is now nearly a week since I was burnt out, I live now with the Governor who has paid me great attention, so that altho' my purse is low I live sumptuously.

Monday Oct. 30. Here I am and hardly do I know whether I have a home or

[Page 490]

not. I have a bed in Bungalow at government house, I breakfast dine and some, sometimes I think I am welcome, sometimes not so. To day I dined at Mr. Prediger's as the Governor & suite went to Genl. Nightingale's 30 miles off to dinner.

Wrote letters to Ed, Will Crowfoot, Sir John Jamison, Mr. McLeay, The Transport Office & the Supreme Judge of New South Wales.

Tuesday Oct. 31th. This morning I got up as I thought before daylight so that the dawn might appear about half an hour after I had gone out, but by mistaking the time I walked down to Batavia and had to wait there a full hour before day appeared. I took a long walk to day in the heat of the sun, which I did not indeed find too oppressive, to day I left government house about 8 in the morning, wandered over the chinese burial ground where I found the Nymphaea Indica and the Gloriosa Superba growing wild, after that

[Page 491]

I walked along different roads down to the Sea. On returning I found a note from Capt. Tucker to invite me to dine at four o'clock to meet Sir Miles & Lady Nightingale, but I declined going on the plea that I was too late; I dined then at a small mess but at a large dinner at Government house Sir Thos. Senestre only & myself being of the party. 1815

Wednesday Nov. 1st. Dined at the Town Major's with a large party among whom were Sir Miles Nightingale & his Lady.

Saturday Nov. 4th The Governor came down yesterday. On Thursday I was at a ball and supper given by the town major in honour of Genl. & Lady Nightingale who are about to leave Java, at least 100 present. On Friday I dined at Major Travers's where were the Gov. & Genl.

Tuesday Nov. 7th. We came up to Buitenzorg to day. There are now here the Governor, Sir Miles & Lady Nightingale, Capt. & Mrs. Nixon, Major Johnstone resident at Sello; Mr. Tucker aid du camp to the Genl.

[Page 492]

Lieut. Methuen, Mr. Salek, Mr. Assey & Myself. I pass however an unpleasant time and except at breakfast & dinner speak to no one, I am indeed a solitary animal, & seem to live here without being perceived by any one. The Governor is hypochondriac, Lady Nightingale talkative. It has been proposed to send me two or 300 miles into the country, but I am fearful of difficulties, the rainy season to come on, I cannot speak a word of Malay; Mr. Assey says he will recommend me to Mr. de Wilton who lives about 120 miles from this in the middle of the Island; and I believe I shall go to day or to morrow.

Thursday Nov. 9th. It was said that a Mr. Villeneuve was going from Batavia to Samarang & that I may accompany him to Tanjore wh. is on the high road from this place about 120 miles, & from this place there is a short cut about 40 miles to Mr. de Wilton's, it was proposed that I should go with him but he passed yesterday.

[Page 493]

One of the Sovereigns of Cheribon go to morrow and the other the day after, the governor says I may with them and accompany royalty. The misfortune is I can speak neither Javanese nor Malays, and these Sultans travel in a most extraordinary way, one carriage and four carry them the whole way with their fourteen attendants. What I shall do therefore I cannot tell. The Living here is very extraordinary, it is something like a hotel, I see my hoste only at breakfast and dinner; every one seems to have his own establishment, except that they meet at meals, the present company that sit down to table are, the Governor, Genl. & Lady Nightingale, the two princes of Cheribon, Capt. Tucker aid & Capt. Nixon aid du camp to the General, Mrs. Nixon, Mr. Salek, a Javanese, Mr. a civilian from Madrass, Capt. Watson aid du camp to the Governor

[Page 494]

Mr. Assey the chief Secretary and two others whom I do not know. After dinner I retire to my room and read or write till bed time. There is a card party however in the Governor's apartments, and an excellent band of Music, which I hear only at a distance. For these two or three days I have been delineating such plants as I have found here wh. I could not satisfactorily determine.

Monday Nov. 13th. Sunday is no more noticed here than if there had been no Sabbath at all. Whence can arise this want of attention, the Governor seems to be a good man he never swears or drinks, and seems to be anxious that he should be perfect in all his dealings. Why then does he neglect entirely this important Xristian duty? Sir Miles Nightingale & Lady also and indeed every person here seem to possess the same forgetfulness of the Sabbath.

[Page 495]

Why also does the General and most others present ridicule the Bible society [indecipherable] I cannot see why it should be ridiculed; surely money given for the promulgation of the bible cannot be ill spent. I pass my time agreeably but solitarily, I am like a monk I walk by myself, sit alone all day in my small room, read, draw paint, botanise, I go to breakfast and dinner when the bell rings where there is a company of about 20 or 24; I bathe every morning in a magnificent bath where the water is as clear as Crystal at 80° degrees of heat, I go to bed about 10, get up a daylight, and the days do not seem long enough for me.

At table to day a stranger came in who seemed to be a half cast, Mr. Assey was between me & him; by chance I had a view of his face, he was fat but his features were those of Smith

[Page 496]

who was apprentice with Mr. Davey at Beccles; and on taking another look his hears made me positive of him. How a man's bad actions follow him !! Mr. Davey was obliged to swear the peace against him; he went into the Army, and did something very bad which another person present recollected, Major Travers was told that he was a notorious L...., and thus as he seems to be not a very creditable person, I did not make myself known to him. The Governor told me he received a letter from him asking for something, and that he had letters from Mr. Marsden, the simpleton shewd the Govr. Mr. Marsden's letter, which merely said "that having paid him his fortune he considered himself as having nothing further to do with him." What a letter of credit !!! The Governor & Smith go to Batavia to morrow; I intend to remain

[Page 497]

here or go into the interior which Mr. Assey says he will provide for by permitting one the of Junior Secretaries to accompany me as an interpreter. The most that I fear is the rainy season.
1815

Thursday Nov. 14th. This morning we went to a Javanese fishing party, where we breakfasted. A building was made of bamboos for the breakfast place, wh. was by the side of one of the mountain torrents. Bamboos had been fixed across the stream and there was one place where the torrent must carry the fish, this place is fitted up like a hut with a Slooping bambo floor, the water runs upon it, and thro' the bambo floor, so that the fish are thrown directly at our feet. People up the stream make a bambo dam and stop the fish and on a signal given a number of men beat the water and alarm the fish which are then carried down by the stream to the

[Page 498]

place where they are thrown upon the platform, some of these fish were large, I suppose weighing ten or fourteen pounds, somewhat like a carp, with some worm like processes at their Jaws. As soon as these fish come down the gentry of the party resort to the platform and pick up the fish, making a noise and throwing them at each other, dabbing each others faces, and playing all sorts of Antics. Of this party were the Governor, The General, Lady Nigthingale, Capts. Watson, Tucker, Nixon, myself, Mrs. Nixon, Mrs. Bell, & some other officers, the Sport lasted about three hours. - The Governor however let me into the secret, I wondered how fish could be thus frightened down stream, but it appears that they throw some food wh. is impregnated with Coeulus Indicus into the Stream, so that the fish are in reality half poisoned before they are caught.

[Page 499]

Wednesday Nov. 15th. A Javanese wedding took place to day, The regent of Cheribon's son was married to the Regent of Buitenzorg's daughter & they came in procession to call on the Governor. This was a very curious spectacle, and was accompanied with a great concourse of Javanese singing Epithalamia; first came a horse dressed up as an elephant led by two men. Then came two artificial tigers at least twenty feet long; these came frisking along and were supported by men beneath the spotted cloth that covered them. Then came a number of men with flags and banners of different kinds; women with large ornamented boxes which were the bride's dower, then a man in black with a drawn sword who exhibited an appearance of fury. Then came a figure resembling a huge dragon, covered with scales, on its back a boy covered with feathers; and at each side were men carrying Garlands at the top of poles, & different kinds of Cloth displayed which were supposed to be the workmanship of the Bride; the dragon which was above 20 feet high had reins in its mouth, and was drawn along

[Page 500]

by a great number of men, to it was attached a landeau in which was the bride and bridegroom & their respective mothers; after this was the regent in his own carriage & his family, then two

brothers of the bridegroom on lead horses richly dressed. On arriving at the front of the palace the processions stopped and the Governor ordered the aid du camp to bring the married couple & friends into the drawing room. Lady Nightingale lead her in, she was a small woman fifteen years old, she looked downwards and did not change her features or look at any one. She had on a sort of robe of yellow bespangled silk, on her head a rich coronet of gold studded with diamonds, round her neck a diamond necklace and a breastplate of Gold studded very thick with diamonds. On her wrists rings covered with diamonds and many large diamonds on her fingers. Her ear rings had pendants six inches long formed of various precious stones particularly cats eyes, amey-

[Page 501]

thefts, topasses, aquamarines & diamonds. The bridegroom was a young man about 20 rather good looking, but, (as well he might) he looked rather sheepish at being thus shewn about. On his head was a black cap with gold lace something like a mitre, on its front a large plate of gold studded with five diamonds. His cloaths were of crimson velvet bordered with rich broad gold lace, on his arms, above the elbows and at the wrists were armillae of gold ~~gold~~ as large as the finger beautifully embossed and set with diamonds. On his fingers were diamond rings of great size. His kris had a hilt of curiously cut Ivory & the sheath was of gold studded with diamonds. His shoes also were studded with diamonds; he looked more like a catholic bishop in his pontificals than any thing else, he walked slowly & lead his bride by the hand, neither of them looking off the ground. They stayed with ~~the governor~~ about twenty of their

[Page 502]

different families about half an hour, took tea & fruit, and then went away in the same procession. Before them a small cannon was incessantly fired, and after them a numerous Javanese band called Gumelong. At night we went to the marriage feast, a large building had been erected resembling spacious halls or saloons, these were ornamented with flowers and festoons, and lighted by a great many lamps. In the middle was an apartment better lighted than the rest covered with fine mats: This was the principal place of amusement, which principally consisted of dancing girls. The bride and bridegroom sat at the top and the Guests were arranged on chairs on each side; the men were mostly highly ornamented with Gold lace diamonds &c, the women except the bride plain. There were several Gumelongs at different parts of the building, and the Notch girls danced to a sort of music which resembled screaming, groaning & squeaking, & which was accompanied with rude fiddles and drums.

[Page 503] 1815

It is the custom here for respectable women never to dance, but the principal men come forward and dance a sort of minuet with one of the Girls; this dance is very slow and accompanied with great gesticulation of the hands. The regents son, magnificently dressed first exhibited in this way, then the regent himself, and several other men of rank. Between the dances the governor's band played tunes. Supper was ready at about 10 o'clock; the principal Javanese supped at a table fitted up for the governor, at this table sat down about 50 persons. When the company had placed themselves, the bride and bridegroom between the governor and general, I observed that a large silver salver was placed before them, which was filled with some preparation of rice; the bridegroom then took a small quantity of it in his fingers and gave it to the bride over the right shoulder, putting his arm behind her neck, she received it in her right hand, I was told he generally gave her the number of pellets that he wished to have children, & this man gave her seven:

[Page 504]

after the meat was removed, there was a very fine desert of fruit and sweetmeats; which being over some appropriate toasts were drunk and we retired. On coming away we passed the table where the Javanese were sitting, I suppose three or four hundred persons were sitting down at it, and it was covered with a least as many dishes of different kinds of food. 1815

Saturday Nov. 18th. I know of nothing more unpleasant then staying at a place were a person thinks himself not perfectly welcome. At Buitenzorg I am certain the Governor is fully satisfied with my making his palace my home, but I cannot say that of the rest, for besides my not being able to speak a word of malay, I certainly am of a very taciturn, morose, reserved and proud disposition. The Governor Sir Miles & Lady Nightingale and Suite went to Batavia on Thursday, Mr. Assey recommended me to go a few days into the regencies, and he gave me an introduction to a Mr. De Wilde who is a dutchman,

[Page 505]

a medical man and the principal cultivator on the Island, he lives at a place called Soca Boomee which is about 60 miles from Buitenzorg; Mr. Assey promised me that there should be no trouble on the way the the regents of the different districts would find me horses, and that I might take one of the gentlemen of his office as interpreter & companion. I therefore as directed went to a Mr. Dornork who is deputy resident at Buitenzorg who immediately ordered me relays of horses on the road, but where could be found a carriage [indecipherable] here was a difficulty that could not be surmounted. I therefore was completely at a loss, the Governor & Mr. Assey were gone to Batavia, and a Mr. Methuen who is an officer in the Army & Javanese secretary was the only person to assist me; various applications were made for a carriage but without effect, and I then determined to proceed on horseback. The Regent was applied to therefore to have relays of riding horses on the road, which

[Page 506]

was immediately done. But how was I to proceed so far in the country without my being able to speak a Word of the language of the country? it certainly was a very unpleasant business, but I determined to proceed; instructions were given to the Guide the regent gave me, and we set off together on Friday morning. At Ceceroa I changed horses and as I had been here before & there is a dutch steward there I made him understand that I was hungry, when he gave me some boiled Eggs rice, & a hotch potch of bacon, kidney beans, Potatoes &c. on wh. I made a good breakfast. I then proceeded for Chipannos a distance of 15 miles further, along a road over a lofty mountain thro' the thick forest, after Getting wet thro' twice I arrived at Cheppanos, the road all the way being very good except across the mountain where it is very steep and rocky. The coun-

[Page 507]

try is most delightful along this Road, Most romantic glens with numerous torrents, lofty and almost perpendicular mountains covered with trees of vast magnitude, & here and there patches of paddy fields. Cheppanos is a Government garden & house where vegetables and fruits grow for Government table at Buitenzorg, and it really appears too great a trouble to take for such a purpose, but vegetables and fruit are sent by five men every day from the place to Buitenzorg a distance of 30 miles & sometimes to Batavia a distance of 70 miles, merely to supply the Governors table. At this place, which is a pleasant spot there is a garden of 6 or 8 acres; a Gardener lives here who is a Dutchman & who speaks a language so near the English that I could make myself understood. There was also an Englishman here a Capt. Pool of a Lascar Regiment who was staying here on account of ill health, I

[Page 508]

therefore dined with him and determined to stay all night. Chepannos is so called from some hot springs that are here, Che in Javanese means water & pannos hot, and I saw three or four of these springs, one of them which was like a well with the water on a level with the Ground was much too hot to bear the hand in. I got up this morning at daylight my Guide had my horse at the Gate, & I proceeded to Chanjore, a large native town 20 miles from Chepannos with a most delightful road all the way. - Chanjore contains about 5000 inhabitants, notice had been sent by the regent of Buitenzorg to the regent of Chanjore to have

horses ready for me; and Mr. Methuen gave a letter to Mr Vresy who is deputy resident here. I arrived at the residents house, but could not find him; I could understand no one, many persons came to

[Page 509]

me and spoke to me but I could not understand whether Mr. Vresy was in town or not, I was hungry and tired, & what could I do? at last a man came & pointed to the principal house in the town, I supposed that he intended I should proceed there, I accordingly went, it was a large building or rather a collection of buildings connected together by spacious halls and there were canals or rather large square reservoirs of water here and there, many slaves & servants were collected in different places, & I proceeded to what appeared the principal apartment. Here I found Mr. Vresy, he was a young thin man dressed in a light Green Jacket and blue pantaloons. He was sitting at a table placed towards the top of a large magnificent hall, on one side of him was the regent and the mahometan priest, at

[Page 510]

the bottom of the hall, sitting on the floor were a number of natives, two of whom were bound with cords which were held by two others. This therefore was a criminal court, I stopped here until the examination was over, I observed that when a native took an oath a person read a sentence from a small Koran, the man who took the oath then touched the book three times and his head three times. What the crime was I cannot tell, but when it was over the cords were taken off the prisoners & they were set at liberty.

I took breakfast here with the regent; the table was covered with dishes I suppose there were twenty, principally consisting of roast & Grilled fowles, ducks; curry, minced meats, rice & different kinds of Sauces. There was also tea, and before & after breakfast Slaves brought

[Page 511]

large silver basons and Jugs, to pour water over our hands, the towel being handed on a large silver waiter.

As soon as breakfast was over, I set off for Mr. De Wilde's at Soca Boome a distance of 20 miles. The road here is very good planted all the way with mulberry bushes; and on one side was a Young coffee garden extending I suppose 10 miles. I saw nothing very extraordinary along the road, at one place I saw a large bird on the road which was either a large wild peacock, or a Cassowary, and at another place I saw large monkeys sitting on a tree near the Road. I arrived at Soca Bomee about 1 o'clock. It is the only good house I suppose within 40 miles & is now quite new. Mr. De Wilde received me tolerably well but puts himself too much out of the way for me, he dines every day at 12 o'clock, & I therefore had ano-

[Page 512]

ther dinner cooked for me at five, he is a large cultivator; his estate reaches 40 miles & he requires 400 horses to do the necessary work upon it.

Sunday Nov. 19th. This morning I took a ride to a hot spring about 6 miles off. It is beside a rapid torrent and comes out of several holes in the rock, a house has been built over it which is used as a bath so that by stopping a small Sluice a considerable apartment may be filled with boiling water six feet deep, & there are pipes from this boiling reservoir which convey the water into another more extensive apartment by which time it is sufficiently cooled to be borne and becomes an admirable hot bath. - As it comes out of the holes in the rock it is boiling hot, and there is considerable ebullition. It tastes somewhat brackish and like sulphurated hydrogen, there is also some

[Page 513]

sulphur about the spring. - Mr. de Wilde advises me to proceed to a famous volcano near Bandong which is about 70 miles from this place thro' Tjiandjoir and Biarbang, the volcano is called Tankobanprau; at the bottom of the crater it appears by Mr De Wilde's account there are two reservoirs of water divided from each other by a ridge, one of which is very cold, the other boiling hot. I have got letters to the Regents of Chanjore, Biarbang and Bandong, how I shall get on I do not know but I intend to set off to morrow morning on this expedition. 1815

Monday Nov. 20th. I got up this morning at daylight and after taking coffee at Mr. de Wilde's, I proceeded on my projected Journey. I cannot say I was perfectly satisfied with it, as it seemed likely to be attended with little pleasure, and perhaps some difficulties might arise. In the first place I cannot speak a single word of the language of the country; and in the second place the`

[Page 514]

rainy season being set in, I must expect to be wet thro' three or four times a day & must have my cloaths dry on me, wh. is known to be the most frequent cause of fevers in Java, & when once a Java fever begins, a few hours generally terminates the scene. Mr. de Wilde is going to have a large party to morrow consisting of the principal Dutch settlers and Regents of the surrounding districts, and my being a visitor there at the time, must have been very inconvenient to him, as I must have taken up one of his apartments. I attribute this circumstance more than any thing else, to his being so desirous of my going to Mount Tankobanprau. Mr. de Wilde sent me part of the way in his carriage, and the trouble of such a visiter as myself must appear from this, that tho' I was to go in the carriage only 13 miles, yet it required three changes of four horses, and two buffaloes, beside about 12 men; this being necessary on account of the heaviness and steepness of the roads. I got on horseback for the last thirteen miles & arrived at Chanjore about 10 o'clock,

[Page 515]

where I breakfasted at Mr. Vresy's the deputy resident's. The magnitude of Mr. de Wilde's feast here fully appeared, several Dutch men were there and soon arrived the regent of Bandong, a man of very high rank & superior to ordinary regents. He was attended by above 100 horsemen in livery, and some young men, (I suppose his sons) who like himself were magnificently dressed, with numerous ornaments of gold & embroidered cloaths, their poniards being set with diamonds, & in a sheath of highly embossed gold. On the road I met several cavalcades of natives of rank going to the same place, many of them attended by above 100 horse men in orange coloured or scarlet liveries, and some bearing pikes. There were also at least 1000 slaves bearing burthens, going to the same place. The women were in carriages drawn by four or six horses, and some in large portable apartments carried by men. As I might expect, it rained soon after I left Tjiandjoir, so that I was im-

[Page 516]

mediately wet through and continued so all the way. I arrived at Biarbang, I suppose at about two o'clock, as wet as if I had swum thro' a river. Like all the Javanese towns it consists of bamboo houses, & very pleasantly situated on the banks of a stream, which has lofty steep banks; our guide took me to a house wh. I suppose is the regents, it is extensive and made of Bamboo entirely; I was glad to see a table with a cloth on, and refreshments, wh. I hoped, (as it proved to be) was for my accommodation; A servant was standing by the table & as soon as I came into the room, he removed the covering from a large tray of different sorts of fine sweetmeats; he then brought me tea; excellent chicken soup, rice, fowls, & dressed in various ways, and omelets: Wet and covered with mud I sat down to this excellent repast; the room was open on all sides, the wind high & cold & the rain descending in torrents, but I hoped to avoid the effects of

[Page 517]

wet cloaths & exposure, by eating heartily, wh. I accordingly did; and soon after my cloaths came up, so that I soon changed my wet, for dry things, and am now as comfortable as possible. The house I sit in is on the edge of the bank of the Torrent, that divides the district of Biarbang from Bandung; the road passes by a ferry just underneath the house, the opposite banks are delightfully wooded, steep, & boldly romantic; there being a town at the top of the cliff consisting of houses similar to that I am now in. If every regent should receive me in this way, I certainly shall have no difficulty and my reception shows that the messengers sent ahead to prepare for my reception have been of great service. I do not see any body however in the house except servants, and I suppose the regent may be gone to Soco Boomee with the other regents, or perhaps this house may be a public building as there is one of that description in every considerable town; ~~for~~ There is but

[Page 518]

one chair in it, and one table, which I have taken possession of. To morrow I proceed to Bangong which is about 33 miles, & is a very large town; I must expect however another wetting, what a truly delightful trip I should have had if it had not been for the rain.

I have made enquires respecting the Tigers on Java. Mr. de Wilde says they are very numerous, & he has not a doubt but that every month they destroy on the Island a hundred men, which is enormous. The Javanese however are predestinarians, and scarcely endeavour to avoid them and they have the strange Idea that if a man be born to be destroyed by a tiger, it must be so; the only precaution they take at night, is to carry a torch, and sometimes they even venture long Journeys without this precaution and thus are sometimes destroyed. Mr. de Wilde says that they never make it an excuse for not going a journey at night; that they are fearful of tigers. Not long ago one was seen near Mr. de Wilde's house and tracked

[Page 519]

across the paddy fields, he had killed a buffaloe, and partly devoured it, the natives found the place he resorted to, dug a deep hole near it and fixed shape spikes in it with a bait of the buffaloe; he fell into the pit but wounded himself much in the struggle to get out; he was seen several time afterwards, & was in about a week, found dead, of his wounds.

On Mr. de Wilde's estate was a very fierce buffaloe, so dangerous that he could not be tamed and Mr. de Wilde thought of cutting him to take away his ferocity; his men however entreated that it should not be done, they said that he was the Guardian of the rest of the other buffaloes; & that when a tiger came near he only went out of the house, to drive him away. About a month after this near the buffaloe house, this animal and an immense tiger were found both dead; it is supposed they must have fought for some hours. A torch is not always a safeguard

[Page 520]

from the attack of tigers. Mr. de Wilde sent a man with a message to a distant coffee ground in the evening, he took a torch and carried it light over his shoulder. On the next day some blood was seen on the road, & the track of the man & the tiger for two or three miles, it is supposed that the tiger followed him up close for that distance, not daring to attack him, till at last he made the fatal spring. A part of the man's scalp & his half burnt torch were found among the bushes near the road, thro' which the tigre had carried him.

About six months ago a little boy that had been attending buffaloes was found lying near a tiger and both of them dead, though not cold; the tiger it is supposed had made a spring at the boy, and had almost torn his shoulder off, but this lad had presence of mind enough to draw his cresse and give the tiger a wound of which he died. A man who was cutting grass was seized upon by a tiger; The instrument

[Page 521]

the Javanese cut grass with is made of Iron, and shaped like a hook; such as they cut wood with in England. The animal held him with his paw by the shoulder which he wounded dreadfully and pinned him to the ground, while the man with the grass hook, wounded the tiger about the head and face, they continued this kind of contest for a considerable time, when the tiger let go his hold, and the man escaped although badly wounded. He is still alive, and the tiger was found dead a few days later of his wounds.

A woman was sitting in her cottage one evening, it was on the estate of Mynheer Engelhardt at Ponte de day between Buitenzonog and Ciceroa; The door was shut, but not fastened; the woman had a child in her arms & was sitting at one corner of the room, an old man (I believe her father) was sitting at the other corner. - An immense tiger pushed the door open and walked in, the woman threw the infant aside

[Page 522]

and the tiger made a blow at her with his paw, he tore away part of her scalp, her Ear, part of her shoulder, her breast, side, thigh and leg; she gave a loud scream & the tigre left her, seizing the old man in his mouth & ran off into the woods with him; The woman is still alive but much disfigured by the wound.

A Javanese was hardy enough to hunt the Rhinoceros alone, for the sake of their horns and teeth, a set ~~both~~ of which are highly valued by the Javanese. The teeth are made into buttons, beads, hilts of Dirks &c. And the horns are generally made into drinking cups, which the Javanese believe are antidotes to all kinds of poison. This is a very remarkable property by different people attributed to the horn of the Rhinoceros, I believe the Greeks and Romans had the same opinion, and it is related that one or two famous tyrants who were fearful of being poisoned, drank out of nothing but cups made of these horns; I am not certain if this

[Page 523]

was not the case with Alexander the great. The Javanese who dared to attack the Rhinoceros killed seven or eight; He used to go into the thickets which they frequent, and when he found one, his plan was to run along side of it, and hold fast on by the animal's ear, and with his right hand he continued to wound ~~the animal~~ it in the softest parts as quickly as possible till it fell. He had killed six or seven in this way & had gone on another expedition, & having seen one he seized it by the ear, but as it had been wallowing in soft mud the ear was slippery, he gave it several wounds, but as last the ear slipped out of his fingers and he fell. The Rhinoceros setting its hind foot on one of his hips dreadfully injured him; he was able at length to return home, but has never more ventured on his dangerous employment. The man is still alive. Mr. de Wilde told me this story.

[Page 524]

Tuesday Nov. 21st. 1815. I set off from Biarbang this morning at daylight after taking coffee ~~and~~ Accompanied with my guide and his two attendants we proceeded on our way, the morning was fine till about 12 o'clock when I became wet thro'; after this I dried again, and soon after became wet thro' a second time, and it continued to pour a torrent for the last two or three hours of my way, indeed for the increase of my comforts the pony I was supplied with from Biarbang would only go a walking pace. The Journey is certainly a very long one, I think it must be at least 40 miles, the road is winding and over numerous hills, & when the torrent of Rain came it was very bad. The country is very little cultivated, immense spaces covered with a course kind of reed five or six feet high. And in the plains are very thick trees. At one place a wild peacock sat on a rail till we were within a few yards of it when it flew away; and

[Page 525]

a large monkey was jumping about a tree making astonishing leaps.

The approach to Bandung is along a plain road with coffee grounds and Banana trees, the entrance has a bambo arch something like a triumphal arch, and these are at different intervals along the street making rather a handsome appearance. When I arrived I was quite covered with mud and very wet, they shewed me to the gate of a very large house, & I was led to a building to one side of it, a table cloth was laid with sweetmeats & tea, I changed my wet cloaths for dry ones and sat myself down, Two chiefs had called, but I could not understand them, at least I suppose they were chiefs, for they had Krises sheathed in gold. The servants & every body near came to look a me, so great a wonder is an Englishman at Bandung. At length came a black

[Page 526]

fellow who spoke a few words in English, he said he was a Portuguese from Cochin, on my telling him I wished to go to the mountain, he said that it was too far off, that it was dangerous, & that it would take three days; he said he would not go it was too far for him, & he had plenty of money. Soon after this came a genuine portuguese, to whom Mr. de Wilde gave me a note, he seemed to be an independant fellow, did not fall on his knees to the chiefs as every one else did, he spoke english well; explained what I wanted & said he would attend me to morrow morning at day light.

Wednesday Nov. 22. 1815. I got up very early this morning to proceed to the Gunong Taneabanprau. It was a fine morning and I had the portuguese from Mr. de Wilde for an Interpreter. Many men on horse back attended me, I suppose to the number of 30, one of them was a chief and two of them were soldiers. We proceeded on our way and when we came to the last village

[Page 527]

I found a neat breakfast provided for me consisting of about a dozen dishes in the Javanese cookery. Having therefore made a good breakfast we ~~proceeded on~~ continued our way. The mountain was then in sight about 10 miles off, it is not lofty, I suppose not more than 3000 feet above the Plain of Bandung, and from its base I suppose not more than 1000 feet, it is covered with trees to the very top. The road lead thro' some extensive coffee grounds, but having passed them some steep ravines have to be passed, and these being overcome we entered a Jungle so thick as to be impenetrable consisting of Banana trees & reeds above twenty feet high. I observed that people had been sent ahead to clear the way & mend such places as were bad and indeed the Whole way the track had been marked by leaves being left on the way or trees cut. The Jungle of canes and Bananas by degrees terminate in a thick forest of immense trees many of them loaded with parasitic plants particularly of the Fern genus, which are of enormous magni-

[Page 528]

tude and others are covered with twining vegetables of wonderful extent, among the trees the banian is one of the most common with its descending appendages. I saw many plants quite unknown to me, & have but little doubt but there are many nondescripts among them; The road thro' this immense forest is in many places scarcely discernable but for the notches in the trees that the guides had made, and from many enormous trees being fallen across it is almost impassable; it is also in many parts very steep & intersected with the reticulated roots of trees. We rode as far as we could & then dismounted; when we walked about a mile, but the steep ascent was very short, perhaps not above 200 feet, and having ascended this, which is still covered with large trees, and thick vegetation of ferns, we suddenly came to the brink of the immense crater, I suppose round the edge it may be about two miles, but the south side is much the highest, it seems to be about 800 feet deep and circular

[Page 529]

but less regular on the west side, these sides are formed of cinders & burnt stones and at the bottom appears a small lake, I suppose about 100 yards across of boiling water from which a volume of steam arises. We walked along the brink of the crater about half round

& having found a place that might be descended, I and two or three men went down. The boiling lake is surrounded by sulphur most of which is bluish, but nearer the lake it is yellow & from the heat cracked; the blue sulphur from the late quantity of rain was soft like mud so that I could not advance nearer to the lake than about 10 or 12 yards. It was boiling gently; bluish I attribute to the large quantities of Rain cooling it in some degree, for I was told that it often boiled violently. On the south west side is a gully where a torrent of water comes down when it rains, & by this we ascended going to the East

[Page 530]

up a mound of difficult ascent which may be about 700 or 800 feet high & which towards the top is covered with a scrub bearing scarlet trumpet shaped flowers, and when we had gained the top of this mound of cinders, another crater appears of nearly equal magnitude, but more equally circular, being much like an immense basin, about two miles in circumference. The north side & east side of this crater is bare cinders but on the other sides vegetation comes to nearly the bottom. The descent is easy, for from the mound that divides it from the hot crater there is not a descent of more than 500 feet. The bottom of this crater also has a lake, but the water is perfectly cold and very acid tasting like diluted sulphuric acid; it is not as completely surrounded with sulphur as the other lake, but in many places are huge rocks of this mineral. I walked round this lake and sup-

[Page 531]

pose it may be $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. Thus this mountain which at a distance appears inconsiderable amongst its vast neighbours has two immense craters. I see no marks of its having exploded or thrown out ashes for many ages; the mound or bridge of cinders is certainly very remarkable and in fact divides what would otherwise be a tremendous elliptical crater into two circular ones. It is also remarkable that the two should resemble each other in having a lake at the bottom, & that one should be boiling & the other perfectly cold, which indeed seems to shew that they had little or no connexion with each other, but that both had its period of conflagration. When in the cold crater it rained very hard so that we all became wet to the skin, and as we passed along the margin of the hot crater it still continued to rain in torrents, so that down the different gullies of the sides

[Page 532]

of the crater torrents of Water poured down wh. could not fail of cooling the boiling water, but even then I could see that in many places there was considerable ebullition. Thus wet to the skin and cold we descended thro' the Jungle which was truly fatiguing; and I really was so tired with the journey, & the length of time I had my wet cloaths on, that when I got off my horse at the Regents I could scarcely walk. When I arrived there I found to my great surprise Major Johnston Resident with the Sosahonan, he left Buitenzong on Tuesday morning; he brought with him a Mr. Hodgson an assistant surgeon; whom I knew at Edinburgh, Major Johnston told me he had been taken with cholera yesterday, & was very unwell all night; that this morning in coming from Chanjore he became mad in the carriage, that he continued so most of the way here. I therefore went to see him, his pulse was

[Page 533]

very feeble, his hands & feet cold, he continually muttered to himself, I immediately saw all chance was over for him. I fomented his feet & his abdomen, & endeavoured to make him swallow some brandy & water, but the power of deglutition was past, he was often slightly convulsed and died between ten & eleven o'clock. I and a Javanese Chief were sitting by him when he died, & we laid him out. - I intend to set off for Bandong to morrow morning when we have buried poor Hodgson.

Thursday Nov. 23rd. 1815. Mr. Hodgson whom I met so strangely yesterday at Bandong I recollect when at the University of Edinburgh. He was clerk to Dr. Inglis the surgeon if I remember right. When there he was rather an Idle fellow, & I recollect meeting him afterwards in

[Page 534]

St. Paul's churchyard when he told me he was going immediately to India; - the next time I met him was to close his eyes in an obscure town in the interior of Java. He had been a very fortunate young man tho' only an assistant surgeon he was for sometime in the receipt of 1700 rupees a month. He was a bon vivant however, drank hard, gambled and kept much company & I suppose he leaves nothing. I got up at day light this morning, the Javanese had washed the body, sewed it up in a sheet & a mat; some slaves brought a bier made of bamboo on which we laid him, covering the bier with Palampoos. A gong sounded at the gate slowly, the slaves carried him away to the burial Ground; some spear men in scarlet preceded Major Johnston & I followed; and after us

[Page 537] 1815

about 50 Javanese, most of which I believe belonged to the household of the Regent. a grave about five feet deep was ready with a step about half way down on one side & an excavation along the other, they placed the body on its side on one side of the grave (which was very broad) and laid thick planks across resting them on the step and opposite excavation, they then covered up the grave, & the major & I returned to the regent's. The expenses for this funeral were 25 rupees for the grave, ten for washing the body, & ten for the attendants of state. We immediately set off (7am) Major J. for the court of the Emperor of Sooloo in his carriage, and I for Biarbang on my way to Buitenzong. I pushed on rather fast and arrived without being caught in the rain wh. is the first

[Page 538]

day I have escaped being wet thro' since I left Buitenzong, & which yesterday indeed overcame me almost. I am now at a house on the Bandong side of the ferry at Biarbang; my apartment is open on all sides something like a cattle house in England; & built entirely of Bamboo, I am sorry to find they give me only a mat to sleep on.

Saturday Nov. 25th. 1815. I set off from Biarbang at day light and in due time arrived at Chanjore where I breakfasted with Mr. Vresie. On my way I met cavalcades of native returning from the feast at Mr. de Wilde's; I think there could not be less than a thousand persons. The regent himself travelled like a prince; he came on full gallop in his carriage, preceded by about thirty men with spears, and cloathed in scarlet or orange colour

[Page 539]

having on caps faced with bright brass plates; these guards also surrounded & followed him. At different places on the road also I met various persons of his family brothers and sons, many of whom recognised me. A great number of handsome horses with highly ornamented saddles & bridles were led by slaves and women also were some riding on horse back and some in Palanquins. I arrived at Chepannos about twelve, and dined with Capt. Poole. I slept there during the night & next morning a day light I set off for Buitenzong where I arrived about 12 o'clock. Thus I have made a short tour in Java under rather extraordinary circumstances, unable to speak a word of the Language, I have traveled above 25 (250 ?) miles on horse back among a people who have long been considered as a cruel & treacherous race, but who on the contrary treated

[Page 540]

me with the greatest respect and attention. Their manner of living also differs widely from what would be supposed in England who look upon the Javanese as savages, the breakfast & dinner they set before you is as good as in England & even more profuse as to the number of dishes, their breakfasts consist of tea, and a variety of cakes made of Rice & sweetmeats; this indeed may be called the first breakfast & is set before you on first getting up. A few hours afterwards there is a second breakfast consisting of roast ducks & fowles, currie, fish, eggs, various kinds of minced meats, grilled & steamed chickens, sweetmeats, rice, tea, coffee & roast venison, &c, &c. and their dinner consists of nearly the same with the addition of Soup made of fowles & various kinds of vegetables. Their

[Page 541]

drink is water only, or sometimes tea. At supper nearly the same dishes are brought, but not in so great a number, Soup; grilled fowles; and Omelet are very common.

Monday Nov. 28th. I have remained at Biutenzong since my return from my excursion, I have received a letter from Mr. Elliot to say the Hope will be cleared about the 2nd. so that I shall go down to morrow.

Thursday Nov. 30. I came down to Batavia this morning & dined with Major Travers.

Friday Dec. 1. Last night went to a large Party at a Mr. Cranston's, who is first in Consul here, and who lives in a very magnificent house. There was a superb supper. This morning went on board the Hope there being many sick on board.

Saturday Dec 2nd. Went on board the Hope before breakfast to see the sick and dined at Mr. Prediger's.

[Page 542]

I was walking about the town all the morning buying what I thought I might require for the Voyage. The weather being very hot, it seemed to astonish many persons that I should thus walk about in the hot sun; as they look upon it as very dangerous & the most common cause of fevers, but I on the contrary who walk most everyday have not had a single day's illness. It must be confessed however that the mortality is very great here, and that some of the travellers that have been here have not exaggerated.

When the Indefatigable was on fire the two mates, both hale & strong men pulled me on board, by wh. I saved my cloathing. These men are now both dead.

A passenger who went on shore to see the City came on board & died in 24 hours. A man

[Page 543]

who promised to attend me thro' the regencies is dead. An old College mate the other day left this place in good health to amuse himself in the country, and this career was stopped in two days by death. Seven of us came together from new Holland in the Indefatigable, three of the party are dead. A man who was waiting behind my chair three days ago, a fine handsome Bengalese I miss to day, on enquiry I am told he is dead. A surgeon a week

ago in good health, cut off a man's arm, before it requires dressing he is dead. 1815.

Sunday Dec. 3. I went on board the Hope this morning to see the Sick, & returning on shore walked to Riswick, wh. I am greatly blamed for, every one says I shall kill myself by exposure to the Sun. Dined at Mr. Macdonald's, & rode out with Sir. Thos. Svestre.

[Page 544]

Who took me to see some of his patients.

Dec. 5. Yesterday dined at Mr. Macdonald's, to day with Capt. Dalgavins. - Recovered my silver forks &c. which I had lost during the confusion of the burning of the Indefatigable.

Dec. 6. Wednesday. The Governor unexpectedly came to Batavia to day, so that I took my accustomed place at his table.

There is some commotion in the Island which however is known to very few; it arises from the dissatisfaction the native princes have at the Island being given up to the Dutch; & it appears that they have been treating with the Sepoy regiments & have rendered them dissatisfied, telling them that they also were to be given up to the Dutch. It is even said that a conspiracy has been discovered among the Sepoys & that they intended to murder their officers, & take part with the native princes. There are not above 1800 soldiers on the Island,

[Page 545]

so that it would be very easy to make a revolt, & I suppose fearful of this a vessel has been sent to Calcutta seeking further military force.

For my part I do not wonder at the natives fearing the government of their old oppressors the Dutch, I myself would certainly sooner trust to the integrity of a Javanese than a Dutchman.

Thursday Dec. 7th. Dined at Mr. Macdonald's and spent the evening at Mr. Cranston's where was a splendid supper.

Monday Dec. 11th. I have gone on board the Hope Every morning, yesterday it blew a gale & I could not go on shore; it is said we may sail to morrow.

Tuesday Dec. 13th. We got under weigh this morning at day light, but the wind is foul so that we are to night no further than Unroost. Wrote a farewell letter to Mr. Assey, & sent him my Thermometer & a blue Topaz. Wrote also a farewell note to Major Travers.

[Page 546]

I hear of another sad instance of Mortality among my late shipmates. When the Indefatigable was on fire, and Mr. Welsh of the Claudine had ordered all the men to leave her fearing she would soon blow up, the first mate, the second Mate, the Gunner and myself were the last persons in the cabin & were throwing water down the after hatch near which was the fire, I only of these four persons am now alive.

Sunday Dec. 17th. We are now thro' the Strait of Sunda, and between Cracatoa and Tamarind Islands. The weather is fine, I am perhaps more curiously situated than ever, I am now nothing more or less than Surgeon of a country ship, manned with Lascars, I suppose one of the worst situations a medical man can hold insomuch that many of these ships cannot procure surgeons at all. This ship called the Hope is about 550 tons burthen, her crew consist of Lascars and there are three Englishmen; There are among them Musselmen, Indos, and Portuguese Christians, each one holding the other in detestation. The ship is loaded with Coffee and is very deep, the worst sailer I ever

[Page 547]

was in. My cabin is tolerably good but will hardly hold my trunks, and as I have no servant, and keep a Cockatoo & two Parrots in it it is very disagreeable & offensive. The ship's company are now in a very sickly state there being about 25 ill of the Batavia fever, some of whom it seems are likely to die. These poor wretches called Lascars, may truly be considered as the most miserable of the human race, they outwardly refrain from wine & other things forbidden, refuse to drink from the same vessel that others do, they live upon very little or I believe have very little supplied to them, Rice, Ghee, salt fish, I believe they have no bread or spirits. A miserable situation they have no hammocks or beds, some have a blanket, and most of them very few cloaths generally appearing almost naked. The place allotted to them is between the fore & main masts I suppose about 15 feet by 30 being the breadth of the ship, here they eat drink sleep and there being but one hatchway, and their being very sensible to cold occasions them to stop up even this so that the place becomes hot, suffocating, and dreadfully offensive. I have had much difficulty in having

[Page 548]

the hatches kept off and a windsail set, also I represented to the Master the danger of the men sleeping down there. About a week ago an English sailor called Nicholas was had just escaped from a fever I found nearly suffocated from the foul air, and yesterday another man called Peters was discovered in a similar state who seems likely to die. These lascars are a most dirty people, they have few cloaths and can scarcely be brought to wash themselves, they are the most helpless animals I ever beheld, feeble, lazy; unfeeling; Placed in this miserable situation on board ship, with a scanty allowance of food, with no bedding to rest upon; with almost continual duty to perform upon deck; they seem to be placed in the most miserable situation that human beings can exist in, if it were worse nature must be overcome. How pitiable then must be their situations when overcome with fevers, no place to rest in, no attendance, no bed, the between decks dangerous from bad air. They lie therefore about the deck almost naked, and if it rains, miserable indeed. Every man however, altho' most miserable wishes to have something to call his own, altho' he has nothing to put into it he buys a chest; the place allotted to them therefore is almost filled with them, I advised that some of these should be removed or broken up, on account of the room they took up and the filth they collected and contained, it was a hard measure to oppress the oppressed

[Page 549]

and miserable, to take away the only thing these miserable beings possessed of, some of these chests were brought upon the deck and their contents examined. Some of them had in them merely a few Chilies, yams, and salt fish, & from being accessible to cockroachs they were most offensive, on opening some of them these disgusting animals poured out like bees from a hive. These men also have no one to look up to as a friend; they are even not hired by the Master of the Ship, he hires a Serang or Boatswain only who hires the desired number of men, from whom he receives about 8 rupees a month. This therefore he lives by, but as he supplies them with cloathing &c. he makes something in that way; by cheating them, so that instead of a friend they even find an oppressor in the Serang. Tis true some charitable persons have assisted them, as the masters of these ships are now obliged to carry different articles of provision for them such as they are accustomed to, such as Chilies, onions; tamarinds &c. Much however now remains to be done.

[Transcribed by Jacqueline Lamprecht for the State Library of NSW]