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Note: spellings are as originally written by the Author

## **DIARY OF ABIJOU CHARLES GOODE**

February 28<sup>th</sup> 1863.

Left Coventry at nine of the clock and proceeded to chalk arm. We then changed train and went to Stepney. We then changed train and went to Blackwall.

The ship "Beejepaw" was lying in the East India Dock. The agent then took us to the side of the ship and there left us to our fate.

This was about four o'clock in the afternoon. There was about two hundred other emigrants going on board the same afternoon so great confusion prevailed on all parts of the ship. The Agent shewed us across the yard where we were to receive our outfit. I made application and received a suit of clothes for each of us of very middling quality.

I also received four small Blankets and four mattresses four large tin Bottles for holding water, four tin washbasins four tin Drinking cans four knives and four forks four tin plates and nine pounds of soap. I likewise received one pair of boots for each of us of the very worst quality and two pair of sheets.

I returned to the side of the ship where my wife and children were waiting and with the greatest difficulty got them and the things they had given me on board. There were but one pair of narrow steps to reach the vessell's Deck and as men women and children Boxes and every thing had to be taken that way you may plainly see it was no easy task to get women and children (to say nothing of all those things they had given me) along the narrow plank and up the steps very much like a ladder and strait upright.

However, we arrived on Deck all right at last where a very confused seign presented it self. The Deck was strewn with tins, Boxes, Beds, Mattresses, clothes, and in fact every thing that an emigrant is likely to want and a great many more that he would not want for no man can tell what he

shall want till he gets on board to find out. Men were running about in all directions if indeed it could be called running for it was pushing more than anything. Women were shouting and children crying and altogether there was such a meddley of confusion that could not have failed to amuse a painter. At last I succeeded in placeing my wife and children on the Deck by the side of a cannon (there were two on the Deck) and hurried back to the shore for the things I had left tyhere, when I made the very gratifying discovery that I had lost one of the suits of clothes which had been given me nor was I the only one that was a loser that afternoon. One man while proceeding along the plank had the misfortune to drop his Box from his sholder. It fell into the water and was lost. Several others lost tins, soap and other things some lost their Beds others their Blankets in fact there was very few who did not lose some thing or another.

I returned to the Deck feeling sure it was no use to make a bother about them. After some delay the Berth clark was pointed out to me and I applied to be shewn my Berth. He conducted me below along a narrow gallery and at last he pointed to a small place not much larger than a small pantery and told me that me and my family would be allowed to share that with another man and his family, making twelve of us in the whole. I went immediately to examine it and after being in some time and my eyes had become accustomed to the obscurity of the place I could distinguish that there were four shelves on which we were to sleep. Measuring it afterwards I found this to be its utmost size. Nine feet long, by six feet wide, and seven feet high up to the Beams. There were two broad shelves along one side and two along the end, leaving a space of six feet by three feet to hold our Boxes, food, and other nesararys.

One shelf along the side and one along the end I found to be twenty one inches from the floor and the other two was two feet above them, Leaving three feet three inches above the top one.

The Berth clerk told me this was more room than the law allowed but it was allowed by the regulations of this ship and that I must occupy one of the bottom shelves and one of the top and the other man must occupy the other. I hurried back to the Deck and brought my wife and children down to their new dwelling I had three goodsized boxed and my fellow Berthmate had two still larger, so you may see that when we had got these five Boxes and our tins and outfit in our

Berth there was not much room to spare - about six O'clock our luggage was brought to the side of the dock. They were put on the ground and we had to pay to have them taken on board and as many of us was without money it was a serious difficulty however it was over got and they were put below.

Soon after this tea was served out and we all hurried on Deck taking our tins with us. Each man was served according to his family, I received five pieces of Bread about four ounces each and about one quart of tea and it was the worst tea I have ever tasted. The tea it seems was Boiled in the water and was sweetened with the worst kind of sugar I ever had the misfortune to taste.

There was not any butter but there was as many biscuits as we chouse to have. We contrived to get tea but such confusion I had never seen before, hooting, shouting, cursing, swearing crying prevailed on every side some were rushing to and fro others were standing indivouring to quite their wives and children when someone else would run agsint them perhaps up setting them and their tea scalding others and causeing one of the grandest scenes of confusion that any man might wish to see. However every thing must have an end and so tea had an end but the confusion in no way abated.

Darkness came on and the upper deck became more quiet but the uproar below increased rather than lessened. The Matteress were layed on the shelves and some of the children were disposed of - but sleep for them was out of the question so about fifty of them amused us by squeeling at the top of their voices - feeling quiet tired of the up roar many of us went on shore I rambled about the streets, some got a great deal of Drink and returned to the ship at all hours of the night in a state calculated rather to increase than to lessen the excitement however as the clock was striking twelve I scrambled up the ships side and went strait below where I found things somewhat more bearable than when I left. But still a great way from being anything like quiet. Lights were lit at dusk between eecks but they were put out at ten o'clock with the exception of one at each hatchway so that when I got below I found everything in Darkness and it was with some difficulty that I found my new dwelling.

I found that my wife had put the three children to sleep in the top shelf so there were nothing left but for her and me to sleep on the bottom. I said sleep but that was intirely

out of the question, for there were some Lancashire chaps who had arrived too late to get their beds or berths and they had no where to lay, so they were walking about and shouting to each other all the remainder of the night - children being uncomfortable in their new homes were crying in all directions others were shouting from one berth to another to their friends inquiring how they were going on and how their poor feet were - - - we got our clothes off and mounted the shelf when we found it was utterly impossible to sit upright so we were compelled to ly down and in a state between sleep and awake we lay till the light of the mornin began to peep through the ports then I got up.

And this passed the first day and night on shipboard.

MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> 1863

About nine O'clock this morning Breakfast was served out and as before I received five pieces of bread without butter and about a quart of the same sort of tea that we received last night, and the confusion began again but not hardly so bad as last night - after it was over, several of us went on shore and wandered about the streets - we were full of complaints about the fare we had received but we changed out tune at Dinner time for we received one pound of good fresh beef for each of us making five pounds for me and my family besides plenty of good broth and potatoes - after dinner most of us attended to write a letter tour friends at home. Friends we should never see again but as if to increase the confusion we were visited by hundreds of people from Blackwall who were allowed to all parts of the ship - however, there is seldom an evil without some good attending it for amongst the visitors was many known to us and several known to myself. We had the same kind of tea again about five o'clock I went on shore again after it was over. I came back about eight O'clock went below and strait to our berth and this ended the second day.

MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> 1863.

This day was passed very much like the last at Breakfast we received the same as before and at dinner time received the same amount of Beef potatoes and broth that we had received the day before.

The passengers was very busy running backwards and forwards buying those things of which they stood most in need.

The ship's deck was visited by people selling nuts, ginger bread and other things of that kind so that the ship looked like a fair than anything else. At night songs were sung, dancing partys were made up in several parts of the ship and altogether every one seemed happy considering the circumstances.

Several of us Coventry chaps went on shore with some friends but when we reached the Dock fate the guard on duty refused to allow us to pass but when we promised to send him something to drink he allowed us to go - we remained out till about twelve o'clock when we returned in high spirits. I went below to our Bunks as the sailors call them, it being after eight o'clock.

MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> 1863

This morning at an early hour the crew of sailors came on board and I was awakened by hearing a great noise over our heads. I got up and went on deck when I wound they were making preparations for leaving the Dock. The ship had left her moorings and was drifting across the gate but we could not get out till the tide was up and this would not be till about one o'clock. A steam tug was attached to the ship and when the tide had reached its highest pitch the engine on board the steam tug was started and they dragged us out. Everyone of us was on deck and as she left the dock a loud humm burst from every one on board which was returned by at least one thousand people on shore who had come to see us start. Some shed tears, others shouted and laughed others did neither but waved their hats or handkerchiefs and altogether it was an exciting scene - as soon as we had left the dock a little behind we all hurried below to get our dinners of Beef, Broth and Potatoes and about four o'clock we reached Gravesend.

The river at Gravesend is near a mile wide and the anchor was cast very near the middle of the stream so there was no going on shore unless you paid for it, to the great disappointment of many of us. But those who did not go on shore enjoyed themselves right merrily with singing Dancing and capering about to their hearts content till ten o'clock - then we went below.

MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> 1863

This was a Busy day. The dock was crowded with gentlemen belonging to the Blackwall Line of ships after dinner a rope was placed across the ship and we were all ordered to the other side - The Doctor and the emigration officer then took their stand and we had to pass one by one and give our names and answer certain questions - one man (a Lancashire Man) had a child ill of the fever and the Doctor would not pass him so him and his wife and children was put on shore but they promised him if the child recovered within six weeks he should be sent out in another ship. No sooner was this over than the sailors began to get the anchor up. This takes a long time where the steam is deep but the sailors sing always when they are getting up the anchor and there is something interesting in it when you know you have so many thousands of miles to go - to me it seemed very affecting - by the time the anchor was up the steam tug came alongside and was attached to the ship by two very thick ropes and at Duck we started fairly on our journey a journey which some of us should never see the end perhaps. We stayed up long that night watching the different lighthouses as we passe3d them, watching the river as it grew wider and wider every few minutes, and although there was not any wind we could plainly see the spray as the water was dashed aside by our noble ship - and as I stood alone on the deck after most of the passengers had gone below I could not help reflecting it was a cruel destiny which had thus compelled us to leave our native land, our friends and homes, to face we knew not what in a foreign land, for if I could have obtained the commonst necessarys of life at home, I would never have emigrated to have taken a wife and children away from home and kindred if man may be excused for being down hearted and sad it is at a time like this -

It was late when I went below and with a heavy heart I went to my bunk.

MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup> 1863

It was scarce day light this morning when I went on deck and the scene was grand in the extreme. The sea was beautifully calm and on our left no land could be seen, while on our right at about three miles distance we could plainly see the coast of Kent. About eight o'clock we passed Deal and in about half an hour we entered the Straits of Dover and saw the beautiful white cliffs called Dover Cliffs. The day continued beautifully calm and we enjoyed ourselves extremely.

About four o'clock this afternoon seven or eight porpoices was seen at the side of the ship and one of the sailors told me we should have some wind before long. I could not help laughing at the sailors superstition but I find he was right afterwards.

At night we had the usual amount of singing and dancing on Deck and it being beautiful moon light nights at this time, it was very pleasant. (The first issue of provisions was given out today).

MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> 1863.

At four o'clock this morning I found I had no cause to laugh at the sailor - I was suddenly awoke by being very nearly thrown out of bed. I put on my clothes and hurried on deck when I found that a sudden wind had struck the ship throwing her on her side almost. The sea was running very high and the steam tug (which was about fifty yards in front dragging us along by two strong ropes each of these fourteen inches in circumference) was lifted high above our heads (as it seemed into the clouds) one moment and the next was dashed far below us into the trough of the sea. The wind increased and the sea boiled and foamed, the ship rolled and it became impossible to sit or stand on Deck I became very sick and went below where I found everything in the greatest uproar. Every one was fearfully sick and at every roll of the ship children were screaming as loud as they could - Bottled, tins, biscuits, bread, meat, soap and in fact everything we had which was not secured was rolling about the ship. The fittings of the berths were creaking as if the whole ship was coming to pieces. Benches were overturned and as if to increase the confusion the doors of the berths had no fastenings and were Banging Backward and forwards beautifully, Boxes were knocking about and everything else that was moveable, to sit stand or ly with any thing like comfort was out of the question.

And all this when we were all too sick to help one another will give you but a faint idea of an emigrant ship in rough weather.

About four o'clock a great shock was felt in all parts of the ship. I scrambled on deck to ascertain the cause and found that the steam tug was some distance from the ship. The violence of the sea having broken the two lines by which it was attached to the ship. The line in breaking had

carried away a portion of the bow of the ship. After some delay the ships head was turned to the wind and we was again connected with the steam tug and we proceed again in a very short time the line was broken again and the wind increasing the Captain decided on running into the nearest port.

All the time I am speaking of I was lying on my bed in my Berthe, if indeed it could be called lying for as the ship rolled I was in a many different positions in the space of a minet. At one moment I was standing on my feet as the foot of the bed went down. The next moment was standing on my head for the foot had gone up, the next moment was thrown with some slight violence against the wall of the Berthe forming the side of the bed, than in an instant it would require all your strength and energy to prevent being thrown ut on the other side. Everyone was in the same state and you will not wonder that we were all sick and I may have mention that the Docker and several men who had been at sea several times before, were sick.

Matters were in this state when I heard some one cry out that we were close to land. I went on deck and I found we were not far from Weymouth in Dorsetshire and were running into Portland Bay. In about an hour, we were safe behind the Breakwater. The steam tug was stopped and once more we had the pleasure of standing upright on our legs - There were none of us in the best of spirits but we got our tea as comfortable as we could under the circumstances. We were all very pleased that the Captain had run into this place for a little rest but we didn't have any dancing or singing tonight, and I went to bed very glad of the chance of a little quiet.

MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup> 1863

The wind continued to blow fiercely all the two following days and we remained safe at anchor in Portland Bay. But this morning the wind has dropped and the sea is quite calm. About four o'clock the sailors commenced getting up the anchor singing merrily all the time. About seven o'clock the steam tug was attached and we was again dragged out to sea. The day was beautifully fine and the scenery along the coast was delightful. The day passed off very agreeably and towards evening we had a large amount of singing dancing and other games.

MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> 1863



Early this morning the wind rose to a fearful pitch, we were all awoke by the vessel rolling heavily. I went on deck soon after daylight and I found the sea was fearfully rough - the waves were higher than I had ever seen them at present and as the ship rolled they seemed to reach the very clouds and threatened to rush across the ship. The sailors were very busy in all parts of the ship and the voice of the first mate giving orders could be heard above the howling of the wind and the roar of the sea. I became very ill and went below where the scene of the sixth of March was repeated but to a greater extent. A little before twelve o'clock a shock was felt all over the ship. It was the tug lines which had broken again. The captain considered the tug was of very little use in such weather and he determined to send it back to London accordingly the sails were set and the tug was dispatched on its homeward journey. At this time we were about six or seven miles off the landsend.

The weather continued about the same all this and the two following days and the women and children were nearly done over for want of some thing to eat for it was impossible for sick people to eat the hard biscuit and the walt meat which was served out to us and I am sorry to say the cooks was very uncivil disoblidging fellows. However, on the third day the weather became more calm and we became a great deal better. A little before dark we sighted the hills of old Ireland and at ten o'clock at night we could plainly see the lighthouse of the enterance of Queenstown harbour at not more than five miles distance and we all expected that when we awoke in the morning we should find outselves in Queenstown harbour safe.

But in the morning we were all very much disappointed to find ourselves far out at sea again. The wind had become contrary during the night and had driven us out. The wind continued contrary and more or less rough until the morning of the nineteenth when we again sighted land. The sea was smooth and with a light breeze we were making the harbour. Two steam tugs came along side and wanted to make a bargain with the captain to take us in for twenty pounds. The captain offered them twelve and after a great deal of bantering they agreed, to take us in for thirteen pound - In about two hours we were entering the harbour and soon after passing in front of the town, and a more beautiful sight I do not recollect to have seen, the white houses were scattered on the green hills and as they passed before us like a panorama it was a splendid scene. In half an hour time we were anchored in front of the principal part of the

town about one hundred yards from the shore. We all expected to go on shore, but great was our disappointment when the emigration officer came on board and gave the Doctor orders to allow none of us to go on shore.

But we were not to be done in that way. A great many went on shore without leave and the doctor finding it would not do to be too hard, he began to give passes to a few and before we left, there was not one who wished to go who did not go, and some went as much as six or eight times.

MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> 1863

This morning, as soon as I had finished breakfast I applied to the doctor for a pass. It was given me and I went on shore immediately. I was very much surprised to find so much poverty for although the town looked beautiful from the vessels deck, when I was on shore and could take a nearer view they appeared very wretched dwellings but they were all whitewashed or painted and this was the cause of the fine effect from a distance.

But there were some really handsome dwellings scattered about on the hill out side the town. The city of Cork is about sixteen miles from Queenstown but the fare by the steam boat is very low and feeling very much inclined to see Cork, took the boat. We proceeded about ten miles up the river and passed some very pretty villas along the banks, we then landed and were taken by rail the remainder of the journey. The railway station is about half a mile from the centre of the town it is a very fine town but poverty is every where apparent, amongst its inhabitants and ignorance is very common even amongst its shop keepers and in one instance it required the united efforts of the whole male assistance of a large chemists shop to ascertain how much six ounces at two pence half penny per ounce amounted to and what change I required out of half a crown, and I found the same ignorance prevail in all shops where I had occasion to call.

We passed the day very agreeably in wandering about the town which we could not help admiring. About six o'clock I returned to the railway station and proceeded to the place where we had landed in the morning. We found the steam boat waiting. We went on board and were soon at Queenstown. In passing up the river to the landing place we had to pass by our ship and we noticed there were great confusion on deck.

About eight o'clock we went on board and soon found the cause of all the confusion. Four hundred and fifty Irish emigrants had been put on board during our absence and when we got on board one could scarcely push our way down to our berths and the confusion we had seen in London was exceeded if possible. Some were crying some were drinking whiskey and others were singing, while others were chattering in a gibberish that the devil himself could not understand and while some were on their knees where a space large enough could be found, others were cursing and swearing right heartily. This was continued till ten o'clock they were ordered to their beds and the lights were put out.

MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> 1863

This morning we had an uproar such as is seldom seen. I have heard that the devil admires confusion and if that is the truth he would be highly delight to be here. Women and children are sitting and lying about the deck in all directions. Women bare leged and bare headed are lying about more like cattle than anything else. We have the dandy Irishman from Dublin and Cork and we have the rough uncouth Irishman from the mountains.

But the most amuseing part of the affair is to see the various kinds of vessels they have taken to receive their food in, and while I am writing I can see several who are getting their teas from their tin chamber pots and in front of me there is a man hard at work eating from a frying pan while his wife is doing the same out of a saucepan.

But it is impossible for a man of very ordinary abilitys like myself, to write a hundredth part or to convey the faintest idea of what it is.

MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> 1863

At an early hour this morning the sailors commenced raising the anchors and we all knew we were about to sail.

Two females who had gone on shore yesterday returned at an early hour this morning, but the docker refused to allow them to come on board because they were three parts drunk. Their boxes were put on shore. They applied to the police the police came on board and the doctor was compelled to take them.

About nine o'clock two steam tugs came along side and soon after the anchors was got up and we once more proceeded on our journey. The hills and the streets of the town were crowded with people many of whom had come to see the last of their friends and as soon as we began to move, a real Irish howl was sent forth from the ship. It was quickly answered from the shore and for half an hour the howling and yelling was continued.

Hats and handkerchiefs were waved on the shore, while on the deck they yelled and capered about in a manner that would have done credit to a lot savages. No sooner were we fairly started than it was discovered that three men were on shore. They were three who had come round from London. They had gone on shore without leave and now everyone of us who knew them was full of wonder to know how they would get on board.

When we were rather more than a mile from shore, we perceived a boat put off from the shore. We could see six men in it four of whom were rowing with all their might. For some time they gained on the vessel but after a bit they came in front of the wind and they lost ground considerably. The men offered the rowers more money and they continued to follow the ship and when we were some miles from where we started from, the Captain caused the steam tug to be stopped and soon they were alongside, when it was found that one man was missing. He had a wife and one child on board, who were compelled to make the voyage without him, but when the pilot left us the Captain sent him a new contract ticket that he might proceed in the next ship going to Queensland.

The weather was beautiful and the ship was very steady but we had not gone many miles before a great deal of sickness began to show itself amongst the Irish. They were lying about the deck in grand stile and we all expected to see some fine sport when the weather became rough.

APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Nothing of any consequence has occord since we left Ireland, but as this may be read by some who are about to emigrate, it may be well to mention some things, which would other wise be of no note and I will here state the amount of provisions which are received on this voyage. But it must be boure in mind that according to act of parliament the same amount are not received on a shorter voyage thus in a voyage to America not near the same amount would be received, for if the voyage is supposed to extend to more

than 84 days, the same quantity are given out that we receive but not in a shorter voyage.

Each man or woman receives,

Biscuit	3 ½ pounds
Meat	3 ¼ pounds
Potatoes	2 pounds
Flour	2 pounds
Oatmeal	1 pound
Sugar	1 pound
Rice	½ pound
Peas	1 pound
Butter	4 ounces
Raisins	8 ounces
Pepper	¼ ounce
Mustard	½ ounce
Pickles	¼ pint
Lime juice	6 ounces
Water	21 quarts

This is one weeks rations. Children under twelve months old receive nothing but all children over one and under twelve years receive half the allowance for a man or woman but if they are over twelve they receive the rations in full.

Since we left Queenstown everything has gone on very smoothly with the exception of a few petty disturbances caused by the weak mindedness of the docter and the inability of the purser, for a more weak minded fool than the docter has seldom lived and the purser is but a boy without any thing like management about him. They have made themselves laughing stocks all over the ship but the docter was frightened almost out of what little sence he possesses the other night for a letter was thrown into his cabin, threatening to shoot him.

He was so frightened that he has had men to guard his cabin every night since and this morning he has called a meeting of the passengers on deck and declared his intention to hold the office of docter no longer, a man may ly and die but he will not help him. We are in very warm weather and sickness may be expected and if he keeps his word, some dreadfull things will be seen for there are many on board who are dreadfully dirty.

But the Captain seems a sensible man and no doubt he will take things in hand.

The weather has been beautiful and we enjoy ourselves extremely with all kinds of games and amusements, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March one of the passengers laid a wager that he would go aloft to the top of the fore mast. He reached the top all right, followed by two sailors But no sooner did he wish to return than they bound him fast to the rigging nor would they lett him go until he had promised to give them a potion of the wager, it is a custom amongst them, it seems.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> March as I was looking over the ships side, I saw a large fish come to the top of the water. I did not known what it was but the first mate put about a pound of pork on a very strong hook and threw it out and in less than a minute he had it safe on the hook. It was pulled on deck when it turned out to be a shirk (shark) he showed us some fine antics when he was on deck until he was secured. It was cut open in a few minutes after being on deck and its inside taken out. It was then loosened and it suprised us all by capering about in an increditable manner, it measured five feet seven inches and half, many fish of different kinds have been seen but the largest fish I have ever seen on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, we did not see its whole length but its body was quite as large as the body of a horse.

APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> 1863

The docter has taken office again this morning but I do not know that we are much better off for he is not up to much either as a docter or a passenger. This morning an Irishman who had been ill ever since he had been on board died about half past nine. He has a numerous family and the ship rang with their crys and lamentations. Soon after dinner his body was sewn up in a piece of sail, weights and his bed were then all sewn together in his blankets and about four o'clock it was carried by six sailors from the hospital to the upper deck. It was placed across the vessels side on some boards, it was a solemn and impressive sight. There stood the priest in his white gown his white hair shining in the bright blazing sunshine, the family of the corpses at its head, whos crys resounded through the whole ship, the priest wished to commence the service but could not be heard for the crys of the bereaved family.

At last in a stern voice he told them he would not pray for the body unless they were silent. In an instant all were still not a sound was heard except the rattle of the water at the ships side for we were speeding through the water at

a brisk rate, the service were in latin and we could not understand it. In a few minutes the priests voice ceased, the boards on which the body was lying were raised, the body slipped forward, a splash was heard, the vessel sped on her way and we had one passenger the less, loud and long were the scream of anguish which burst from the friends of the deceased and then all was over. Every one of us was on deck and every elevated position in the ship was mounted. Some on the cook house some on the poop while the rigging looked more like trees crowded with crows than anything else.

APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> 1863

We are near the line and we are infernally hot. Men and woman are in all kinds of costumes and some are almost without any costume at all. Some have made trousers out of their sheets and have nothing on but them, and their shirts. Between decks the boat is almost unbearable and at night it is almost impossible to be in the berths and many of us have not been in bed for a week and we are not likely for a week to come for there is scarcely any wind and we are proceeding very slowly.

Early this morning a vessel hove in sight and the first mate told the passengers that if they wanted to send letters, now was the time for the captain was going on the vessel. When it was about three miles distance from our ship, a boat was lowered. No sooner had the mate told them, than a very animated scene presented itself. Every one commenced to write letters. Some were writing on their knees, others were on their beds, some on the hatch way steps and every one seemed anxious to lett their friends know that they were alive.

About dinner time the vessel came along side. We could plainly see the crew watching us from the deck of their own ship. Some thing was the matter with them for our doctor was sent for and we lay near each other for more than three hours. We were all on deck and when he came near three very hearty cheers was sent up by the English passengers and a real Irish yell by the Irish. This morning a very gratifying discovery was made. That a great many of the passengers had the itch, seventeen females were placed in the hospital and a general inspection has taken place. A great number was found to be infected. The vessel proved to be the "City of Mobile" from Brisbane bound to London.

APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> 1863

This morning soon after eight o'clock another vessel came in sight. A boat came along side the vessel proved to be the "Sir John Lawrence" from Australia to London. All letters that could be written while the boat was alongside was sent at the rate of six pence each and in all probability, they will reach England before those which were sent yesterday, for she was a much finer vessel.

APRIL 19<sup>TH</sup> 1863

The weather is dreadfully hot and it seems to have heated the blood of a great many passengers particularly the Irish. They are beginning to be very quarrelsome. Today at dinner time a dispute arose between an Irish man and an Englishman. A fight issued in which the Captain and the first mate were struck. After some time the Irishman was dragged to the Captains cabin, the Irish gathered in groups all over the deck threatening the English most dreadfully. I hears some swearing and threatening to raise of a sudde, and murder the whole of the English passengers but if they had they would not have found us unprepared for I believe every Englishman was ready and at night many of us lay outside our berths fully prepared for the encounter. However, the night passed away very quiet. I had forgot to state that a child died yesterday, at an early hour in the morning.

I was standing on deck about half past seven when I saw a man come up the hatchway steps carrying a bundle in his arms. He walked to the side of the vessel. I noticed that the doctor was behind him with an open book in his hand. They stood about two minutes and then the man threw the bundle overboard. I was very much surprised to see him throw the bundle away and I enquired what it was that he had thrown away. I asked several but no one seemed to know. At last I was told it was a funeral. There were one hundred people at least on deck but scarcely one knew that it was a funeral. This will give some idea of the manner in which protestants bury children at sea.

APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> 1863

On the night of the 17<sup>th</sup>, we passed the line. Sailors and several of the petty officers got a great deal of drink and in fact the drinking has been continued amongst the petty officers ever since yesterday. It was carried to a fearfull pitch almost all the officers were drinking and at night they quarreled and very strange things occurred. The third



mate and another officer and one sailor were put in irons, the Captain and the doctor were walking the deck through the night armed with pistols threatening to shoot the first man who attempted any disturbance.

On the night of the 20<sup>th</sup> another child died. It died about APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> 1863 at 8 o'clock at night and about five minutes past ten I was lying on the floor between decks when I saw a man pass with a large bundle, in less than a minute I followed, but the nights at this time were very dark and I could not see anything of the funeral. There were a few people on deck, but no one knew that a child was about to be buried. I had not been on deck more than two minutes when I heard a dull splash in the water, and I knew it was the body of the child, but there were neither priest nor mourners to be seen. (the child was fifteen months old).

APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Since I last added anything to this brief account of our voyage death has been very busy amongst us. On the morning of the 24<sup>th</sup> a man who had been very ill from his first being on board died. His body was carried on deck and placed in the port galleyway. A sail was hung at the entrance so that none should see it and in fact since the first body was thrown overboard, everything has been done to render the proceedings as quiet and as secret as possible. No one was allowed on the other side of the sail except the sail maker to sew the body up in blankets. His relations (the relations of the deceased I mean) and the doctor to read prayers, five or six of the passengers assended the rigging and they were the only persons who knew the exact moment when the body was thrown over board and there were scored of people on the deck who did not know that any thing of the kind was taking place.

On the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> a child eleven days old died. About an hour after, we were all sitting at breakfast when we saw the sail-maker pass with a large bundle in his arms. It was taken on deck and thrown over board, without even the parents being made acquainted with what they were about to do.

A few minutes past twelve o'clock this morning death again came amongst us. This time it was a married woman who had caught the measles which at this time are very common amongst the children. In less than an hour the body was thrown overboard. None of the passengers knew until we were

told by the men who are appointed to watch the doctors cabin. I mentioned on the eleventh of April that owing to a threatening letter being thrown into the doctors cabin, men had been appointed to watch, for he was weak minded enough to be afraid for his life.

Soon after day light this morning some thing like a small cloud appeared in the distant horizon and for more than two hours there were great difference of opinion amongst the passengers as to weather it was cloud or land. At length its unchanging form convinced us that it was land. It proved to be the island of Trinidad. It is a small island but bold, rockt, and barren without inhabitants and many hundreds of miles from the main land. About two o'clock we passed within six or seven miles of it and as it is the first land we had seen sence we left Queenstown, every one was on deck to see it.

MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> 1863

This was a very bad day. The wind rose very high. The sea ran in tremendous waves knocking our noble ship unmercifully. The thunder rolled and it lightened heavily while the ran came down in perfect torrents. There are about seven hundred and twenty of us and when we are all crowded between decks, it is to be seen that it is anything but comfortable. About ten o'clock in the morning a shock was felt which caused some dismay amongst the passengers and scores rushed on to see what was the matter. It proved to be one of the gib ropes which had been broken by the violence of the tempest. One of the rails was thrown slack in the wind causing a noise like thunder. At night the scene was beautifully grand, the thunder had ceased but the wind rushed through the rigging with a noise equal to it, and the lightening lit up the sky making it as blue and as clear as it is in summer time at midday, and although between the flashes it was so dark that we could not tell one from another, when the flashes did occur, we could have seen a pin lying on the deck.

MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 1863

We are off the Cape of Good Hope and the wind is very strong. It has been very strong since the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> and we are driving through the water at a rate which has never been attained before on this voyage. We are doing three hundred miles in the day of 24 hours.

A child died about four o'clock this afternoon and was thrown overboard about six. The weather has become very cold and it is not daylight till near eight in the morning. At dusk tonight the wind increased and some of the sails were taken in and we all expected a rough night.

At ten we went to berths but we had not been in bed long before a great shock was felt, which caused the ship to tremble from end to end. Many of us jumped out of bed and rushed on deck to ascertain what it was. We found that one of the stunsail booms (a large spar three feet in circumference) had been broken by the violence of the wind. We found there was no danger and very soon we were snug in our berths again.

MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Today the weather is very rough but another stunsail boom was hoisted to the yard arm.

MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Weather still very stormy. About 12 noon today the new stunsail boom broke short in two and we are rolling about very uncomfortably.

MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> 1863

The weather continues very rough. A child died this morning about six and was thrown over board about seven. There is not much ceremony here.

MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Weather very bad. Another child died last night but as it belonged to cabin passenger, it was not thrown over board until about eight this morning.

MAY 19<sup>TH</sup> 1863

At an early hour this morning the wind reached a fearful pitch and before the sails could be taken in the mainstay sail was torn to ribbons with a noise like thunder. It is very cold and foggy snow has fallen and we cannot see many yards from the ships side. The ship is rolling very unpleasantly causing us to run against each other in a laughable manner.

MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> 1863

This morning a child died. It died of the measles which are very bad amongst the children and the doctor is of no more use than an old washerwoman in fact, the captain comes round every morning to see who is ill and he seems to know more than the doctor, for he gives him directions and states to him what he is to administer in each case and the captain says he could have done much better for us, if we had had no doctor. In about an hour after the child died I saw the sailmaker go into the hospital where the child lay with all the clothes it had died in on, he spread an old biscuit bag on the floor and taking the child from the bed, he rolled it up, clothes and all, with two pieces of coal to sink it. Over this he rolled another piece of bagging and tyed all right with some old rope.

As soon as this was done, he picked up the bundle and went straight on deck. I followed and saw him proceed along the deck till he reached the poop. No sooner did he reach the poop than he threw the body over the rail into the sea. The Captain and one sailor were the only persons I could see on the poop at the time and there were neither prayers nor right of any kind performed,. So you see it will not do to go to sea to have a fuss made with you.

Today the weather has been worst than we have seen it since we left Queenstown. The wind has been very strong and cold. It has been very foggy and we could not see far from the ship.

MAY 21<sup>ST</sup> 1863

The mariner who first discovered the Cape of Good Hope called it the Cape of Storms and well he might, for we have had nothing else since we have been near it. It has been thought amongst the passengers that when the wind changed it would be warmer and calmer, but it changed in the night and we are sorely mistaken for the wind is much stronger and colder. The air is clear but the sea is in the wildest commotion. About eight o'clock this morning another child died, entirely through the neglect of the doctor, it being the second belonging to the same parents. It was rolled and sewn up on the floor between decks and thrown overboard within an hour of it's death, but this time prayers were read by the doctor who is neither more or less than a respectable blackguard.

MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 1863

This morning the wind is not so strong and the sea calmes. There is a clear frosty air and the sun is shining beautifully. Death, the King of Terrors, paid us another visit this morning, this time taking two children belonging to my fellow berth mate and I could safely swear that it was intirely through the neglect of the doctor. He never having given it any thing of any kind. The bodys were thrown over in about an hour and no prayers were read, the doctor being too lazy to leave his cabin.

MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Yesterday the weather was calm tho it was very cold, but this morning the storm king has come again and it is so rough that prayers cannot be read, nor mass held on deck, it being Sunday and I may here mention that it has never been neglected before.

May 25<sup>th</sup> 1863

This morning we have the storm King around us arrayed in all its terrors. The sea is in the wildest commotion every few minutes the waves are dashing over the ship, half drowning those who are unfortunate enough to be on deck at the time. We are all crowded below and are nearly starved to death for there is not any room for exercise if the rolling would allow it, but it is impossible.

Tons of water were dashed down the hatchways by the violence of sea, making the between decks as uncomfortably as the upper deck. We were all glad to go to our berth at an early hour but there were no sleep for we could scarcely keep ourselves from being thrown out of bed by the rolling of the ship.

About 12 o'clock in the night we were all alarmed by a heavy sea breaking over the vessel and my fellow berth mate and two of his children were half drowned in their beds by the water breaking through the ventilator, which was just over their bed, not being properly fastened. A pleasant thing to walk about between decks in cold weather with your clothes dripping wet.

MAY 28<sup>TH</sup> 1863

The weather has been fearfully stormy till about two o'clock this morning, when the wind dropped and although it is not smooth it is a great deal better.

Two other children died this morning. They were thrown over in a short time and no prayers were read this time, for the doctor was not up. He first murders them by neglecting them and then he refuses to read prayer because it is too much trouble.

MAY 29<sup>TH</sup> 1863

This morning a petition was sent to the Captain demanding the dismissal of the cooks and the baker. The provisions have been cooked in a very bad manner and they have never failed to insult the passengers when they have had the chance.

The Captain would not discharge them as they promised to behave better in future.

Another child died tonight and was thrown over in about twenty minutes, before the body was cold and no prayer this time.

JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 1863

This morning the wind was not so strong but there is a very heavy swell on the sea, which caused a fatal accident to one of the passengers.

The vessel was rolling heavily and it was almost impossible to stand on deck. One of the passengers was thrown by the heaving of the vessel across a rope, which was slack at that time, although it was attached to one of the sails. At the moment he fell the wind suddenly filled the sail and the rope was jerked tight and he was thrown with great violence over the ships side into the foaming sea. A cry was raised on the instant, but before the ship could stop and the life boat could be lowered, we had proceeded more than half a mile and a quarter of an hour had elapsed. This was caused by every thing being found out of order on the first outcry.

One of the sailors ran to the life buoys but they were fastened so tight that he could not get one off, till it was

too late and when the sailors attempted to lower the boat, it was found to be out of order too, for it was lashed to a spar and the blocks had never been greased since we left London, so that by the time the boat touched the water, the man was not to be seen. Eight brave fellows were in her, and it was an exciting thing to see the beautiful manner in which that little boat rode the waves. One moment, it was perched on top of a mighty wave, and the next men and boat was lost to view as they sank over the wave into the valley of waters behind.

Every praise was due to the seamen who were in the boat but no trace of the drowning man could be found and they were compelled to return without him. He was a young man about 24 years of age. He had a brother and sister on board and he was very much respected.

While crossing the line, a boy was sunstruck but he had lingered on in great misery until about eleven o'clock tonight, when he died. The body was thrown over in about an hour.

JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> 1863

Another stunsail boom was broken by the strength of the wind today making the third since we left Queenstown.

About four o'clock this afternoon, another child died and was thrown over soon after. No prayers this time.

JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Today death has been very busy amongst us and four children have died. Their bodies were thrown over soon after death taking place and no prayers.

JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Death is making sad havoc amongst the children and I am sorry to record that three others children have died to day. Otherwise nothing worthy of note has occurred.

JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Two other children have died today. It is a fearful thing to record the deaths of so many human beings.

JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> 1863

About eight o'clock this morning, two other children died, making thirty two deaths in all and I am very sorry to write that several others are not expected to reach land.

About seven o'clock tonight as we were all amusing ourselves as best we could a cry was raised which caused every heart to leap. The cry of "Fire" caused everyone to spring to their feet and we could plainly see the light streaming through the hatch from below.

In an instant everything was in the wildest confusion. Women and children were screaming in all directions, while there was a general rush from all parts of the ship to the place where the fire existed. The whole of the crew were turned out and the fire engine was brought forward, when it was found to be like everything else on board, completely out of order, though thank God its services were not required, for the fire was found to proceed from a very slight cause and it was very soon put out. In about an hour, everything was over and we were as quiet as usual.

JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Weather beautiful. We are in the South Pacific and it is warmer and the sea is quite calm. Two other children died today, making thirty four deaths in all.

June 14<sup>th</sup> 1863

Weather very rough. Another child died today.

JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Great preparations are being made for landing. The sailors are very busy raising the chain cable and getting the anchors ready. The upper deck is being scoured in all directions, ready for the Commissioners Inspection. Another child died tonight.

JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup> 1863

A tea and convivial party was got up in the married department tonight. The healths of the Captain the officers and crew were drank and the evening past off very agreeably.



JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> 1863

At an early hour this morning, one of the lamps which burn at the hatchways caught fire. In a few minutes the greatest uproar prevailed and a rather singular scene presented itself. Scores rushed from their berths in a state of perfect nudity. Others commenced to kick the fire in all directions, while some were shouting, running about more like mad men than anything else, however, no damage was done.

About one o'clock we sighted land. It proved to be Wide Bay and Sandy Island lying off the coast of Queensland. At dusk we could plainly see a cluster of islands, called Sandy Cliffs. A little before dark while lying about twenty miles from the land, a beautiful Australian butterfly was caught on deck.

JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> 1863

Everyone was up early this morning anxiously looking for land but the land we saw yesterday was left far behind, but another island was in sight lying off Harvey Bay.

JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Soon after daylight, this morning, we again sighted the Queensland coast and we sailed along shore at about twenty miles distance through the whole of the day.

We passed a great many islands and about eight o'clock at night the Captain finding the water very shallow, he decided to cast anchor and we remained at anchor during the night.

Another child died today.

JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup> 1863

About two o'clock this morning, another child died and was thrown over soon after. At four, the sailors began to get up the anchor and about six, we proceeded again.

We passed several rugged looking islands and about one o'clock the anchors was cast in Keppell Bay. We expect the government steamer to come down the river to take us to the

depot. We are lying within half a mile of the land and it looks fine, but there is no life to be seen.

JUNE 26<sup>TH</sup> 1863

We were all on deck at an early hour this morning. Several large sharks were seen in the bay, but nothing alive could be seen on shore, except some birds.

We remained the whole day anxiously looking for the steamer, but we received no tidings of it until about midnight, when the Commissioner and other officers came alongside and the whole ship was in an uproar. Many sat up the whole night,.

JUNE 27<sup>TH</sup> 1863

About seven o'clock this morning the steamer came alongside and we all had to pass before the Commissioner. By three o'clock in the afternoon, every thing was ready and after giving three very hearty cheers to our friends, whom we left on the ship and who were going to Brisbane, the steamer started up the river Fitzroy on its way to Rockhampton.

The scenery along the banks of the river was very fine. The trees were growing into the water on both sides up the hill sides and as far as the eye could reach, nothing but trees met the view. Nothing with life could be seen. Everything was still except the noise we made and which appeared to astonish some birds which flew very near the steamer.

About six, we came in sight of a steamer which was wrecked on some sand banks which we had to pass and the tide not being high enough, we had to wait until there were water enough for the steamer to pass with safety. By this time it had become quite dark. We had not been proceeding long before we were all startled by two cannons being fired on deck and at the same instant, two rockets were sent into the air. We were told that this was a signal to let the people know at Rockhampton, that the steamer was near.

In a very short time, we were in front of the town. The Town we had come so many thousands of miles to see. It would be impossible for me to describe it exactly as it appeared to us that night.

We could see on the bank of the river, about a score of tents made of calico the highest portion of which was not seven feet from the ground. On the outside of each tent, at

some little distance was a wood fire, by the light of which we could see the people passing from one tent to another. A little further on we came in sight of some wooden huts.

The moon shone out brightly about this time, and we could plainly see three or four large wooden buildings, which bore the appearance of public houses and one butchers shope. About four hundred of the inhabitants of the place assembled on the bank of the stream and gave us a noisy welcome. Some were shouting to us to enquire if there were any men from such and such a country. Others were inquiring if such and such a man was with us.

At this time we were lying in the middle of the stream and we were very much surprised when the anchor was let to and we were told that we should not be allowed on shore that night and that we must pass the night on deck without beds or covering of any kind.

This was very pleasant, considering that a thick fog was settling over the river and that many of us could not get at our boxes to get our blankets. In about two hours we were served with plenty of good fresh beef and bread and tea which was a great treat to us after being without so long.

By this time, the people on the shore had left us for the fog had become so thick that they could not even see the vessel. We passed that night very miserably for it was very cold and the vessel was too crowded for us to walk about. Everything must have an end and so the night had an end. Daylight came at length.

The sun shone out brightly and in a very few minutes the fog was gone and soon we were as much too hot as we had been too cold.

After we had partaken of a hearty breakfast, the Commissioner came on board and we were allowed to go on shore and directed to go to the depot which was about a mile from the place where we landed.

We left our luggage behind, which was sent up to the depot free of any expense.

About two hundred of the men of the place, (for I cannot bring myself to call it a town yet) came to see us land and no doubt they thought we were a poor looking lot, for some of us had been without sleep for four or five nights and we

were all very dirty from knocking about the steamer during the night.

However, they did not seem to despise us , for they were very friendly towards us and several carpenters amongst us had work offered to them before we had been on shore half an hour.

We straggled on a few at a time in to what they called the town. We found that most of the dwellings were calico ones about seven feet high. Along what they call the streets, we found some more substantial buildings of wood, covered with zinc. These were at intervals of sixty or eighty yards apart and there were a few brick buildings, which were too storey high and which is a novelty here. We reached the depot at length, where we found every one husstleing about looking after their luggage which had begun to arrive. We found the depot to consist of two large wooden sheds, one of which was fitted up with berths to accommodate one hundred emigrants, the other was parted off into several large rooms, there were also a number of calico tents about seven feet square and not more than six feet high in the highest part.

There were no beds of any kind in the depot and as the whole of us had thrown our beds overboard before we left the ship, we were without, but I heard no complaints. Everyone seemed happy to be on shore, even without a bed, and as many of us had lain on the boards for the last two months before we left the ship, it was nothing new to be without a bed.

We found our luggage alright and in about two hours we were served with plenty of good beef, potatoes and bread, and tea and sugar. Frying pans were sent up to us and very soon we were enacting the first scene in the drama of bush life. It would have done you good to have seen us at that time, with at least a hundred fires burning amongst the trees, on the top of each fire a frying pan fissing away beautifully, and the sides of the fire surrounded with kettles containing potatoes, tea and co.

In the after part of the day the depot was visited by all the people of the place who were in want of servants and by the time it was dark, about fifty of the emigrants had been engaged. This was considered very good especily as it was Sunday.

JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> 1863

This morning I took a stroll into the town such as it is. I found there was but one street that could be considered as such. This I found to be properly macadamized and was filled with some very tidy looking shops, but the thing that surprised me most, was that so much had been done in so short a time. Five years ago the place was scarcely known. I found there four places of worship, but I found there were more public houses than anything else and a fine business it is here, for drunkenness is very common.

As I was walking along, a chance offered and I earned my first shilling in the Colony.

JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup> 1863

About one hundred of the emigrants were engaged yesterday and today a great many more are engaging. As I was standing at one of the fires a gentleman came to me and inquired if I was engaged. I replied that I was not, but that I wished to be. He then made me an offer which I accepted. The station to which he belonged was four hundred miles from Rockhampton, two hundred of which we were to go by water, the other two hundred we were to walk with bullock drays for guides.

The vessel which was to take us away was not yet arrived but was expected in within a week, during which time he was to keep us at a boarding house for all parties are turned out of the depot as soon as they are engaged.

JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1863

Today we have left the depot and have gone to the boarding house where we are more comfortable.

JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> 1863

The week spoken of at the beginning of our engagement has expired and the vessel has not arrived.

JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Another week has expired and no tidings of the vessel, that is to take us away.

JULY 22<sup>ND</sup> 1863

Another week and no vessel. This is more annoying as our wages are not to commence until we reach the station.

JULY 29<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Another week and the vessel has not arrived but news has reached the agent that she is fast upon some sand banks and that another vessel has been laid on to run in her place. We are very anxious to get away for it is very tiresome waiting here. There is no amusement here except going to see the native black. There is a tribe of about four hundred about half a mile out of the town and to see them sitting and capering around the first (all quite naked) with their ugly faces wooley hair and grinning teeth is a very queer sight to say the least of it.

The police of the town do not allow them to come into the town unless they have some clothes on, but it is not uncommon to see a grown woman with nothing on except a shirt scarcely large enough for a boy of eight.

AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> 1863

The vessel arrived yesterday and today we went on board. It is a steamer and we expect to reach our destination in forty eight hours. We left Rockhampton at ten o'clock at night.

AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> 1863

Today we are rolling about on the ocean again and what was very surprising we were all very sick. We found the provisions of the ship first rate but the accommodations were very bad with regard to berths. The price of our fare was three pounds ten shillings for each of us.

AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup> 1863

About two o'clock today the anchor was cast and we were told that we had about eight miles to go, but there was not enough water for the vessel to go any farther and that we must go in the small boats. In about an hour the boats left the ship and we were rowed by the sailors across the bay and up the Pioneer River.

A little before sunset we came along side a large wooden building and we were told that this was the place where we were to land. We had a letter from the agent in Rockhampton and we made an application and produced the letter.

We were sent, for that night, to a public house, not far from where we landed and were told that we must see the agent again in the morning.

AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup> 1863

We have seen the agent and he has provided us with a temporary dwelling until there are bullock drays going to the Station to which we are engaged.

The place where we are is a new one it was not known more than six months ago. There are ten or twelve dwellings four of which are empty.

AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> 1863

I have had a good look around today and I find the settlement where we now are, contains 18 dwellings in all instead of ten or twelve as I stated before. There are no less than five public houses while there are but one bake house and one butchers shop which is quite enough for so small a settlement.

There are five stores where things are sold at prices that would frighten an English customer and there are one blacksmith shop. The rest are calico tents scarce big enough for a man to lay down in.

The settlement is called "Port McKay" in honour of the man who first discovered the river on the bank of which the settlement stands. It is only a port at present for embarking the produce of western Queensland.

AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup> 1863

Today the two men who were engaged at the same time as myself are leaving us. Our masters drays not being forthcoming, the agent has decided to send us by some drays that are going within about eighty miles of our destination. But at the last moment, some dispute occurred between the agent and the driver of the bullock drays about the price to be paid for the conveyance of my wife and family. They could not agree and we are left behind until our masters drays arrive.

AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> 1863

In a small place like this, one soon becomes known to every body and I could have had several situations, but I could not make any engagement without running the risk of being sent to prison for violating my former one. But today I have taken work on condition that I can leave it at an hour's notice when the drays of my master arrive.

AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup> 1863

The work I have taken is what of all work in the world I least expect to please in the performance of, but the wages are good for a beginner in the Colony, and there are plenty of grog two very good arguments in favour of any situation and so I commenced my dutys this morning and in so doing I have become head Cook at the Royal Hotel, Port McKey, Pioneer River !!!

Perhaps you will smile at this, but I must explain that I was compelled to be head cook, simply because there was no other cook but myself.

SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> 1863

About a week has past since I entered my new situation and I find in addition to being head cook, I am head groom besides being head chamber maid and errand boy to boot.

I said chamber maid but I must explain that the establishment contained no such things as a chamber. The Hotel was an erection of rough boards covered with zinc and as you looked at it it seemed to say it was put up after dark and in a very great hurry.

There were four separate apartments consisting of the bar, bar parlour, dining room and a place to sleep in. The furniture of the dining room consisted of three very rude benches made fast by having the leggs driven into the ground (none of the apartments have any flooring) while the table was erected on the same substantial principles, four rude stakes being driven in the ground a very rude top nailed to these and covered over all with oil cloth, these with a small empty cask to sit on to be used when the Hotel was full of company, formed the whole appointments of the dining room.

The sleeping apartment contained accommodation for three. The bed steads were on the same firm principle as the dining table and benches. Four rough stakes with forks at the end



being driven into the ground. Two strong sticks laid in the forks and an old flour sack sewn to these, formed the bedstead, this with a pair of blankets and a pillow filled with sawdust, formed the accommodation for travelers at the Royal Hotel Port McKay.

But bad as this seems I must say that the landlord very often fared worst having to sleep on the ground and that without a blanket when the Hotel was full of company.

But how shall I describe the cooking Kitchen and the cooking utensells. I cann9ot tell you the exact size as it was not confined within walls and the only thing it had in the shape of a roof was the sky, in fact it is in the open air and the cooking utensells comprised an iron bucket to boil meat in, an iron bucket to boil water for making tea and a camp oven to bake, boil and to roast in, this with an iron saucepan comprised the lot and in this place I reigned supreme to the satisfaction of my master I believe.

But there were also a female connected with the Hotel, a delicate creature who could not be less than 20 stones weight and whole delicate constution would not allow her to take anything stronger than brandy. This female not content with the honours I already enjoyed, wished to make me head washerwoman also, this I stoutly refused and it was a battle that was never decided for if she were defeated today, she would return as fresh as ever tomorrow, but in justice to my master, I must6 say that he was very good to me and the only thing I annoyed in, was at the weeks end when I required my wages. He seemed to think that too much paying made people poor and therefore he had an objection to it.

September 24th 1863

I am still at the royal Hotel today I have witnessed a sight that I have long wished to behold.

It was the meeting for the first time on one aide at least of the two races of the human family.

I stated before that the settlement was situated on the bank of the Pioneer river which at this place is about half a mile wide.

The opposite bank is covered with a very dense wood.

It is known to be filled with blacks but no white man has ever landed for they are reported to be very fierce armed with spears & clubs & as wild as their native forrests, this being sunday the most of the people were at the settlement when some one gave the alarm that the blacks were to be seen on other side of the river.

The report soon spread & in a place where there are but eighteen dwellings it does not take long, to get the most of the people together, however we were soon on the bank of the river & sure enough there stood six or seven stalward fellows armed with spears & clubs.

Their bushy hair standing out on all sides making their heads appear many times larger than they really were.

The whites shouted to them & invited tham to come across the river to our side for which invitation they treated us to some of their most hideous yells.

At length two of the most corageous threw down their spears and holding up their hands high above their heads to show us that they were without arms of any kind they dashed into the water which at this time would not take a man higher than his waist (the tide being out) when they had got some little distance from the shore the yells of their black bretheren seemed to remind them that they were running into danger and I believe they would have gone back had not the whites gone into the water to meet them after a great deal of caution the two partys met about the middle of the river on meeting the whites hold out both hands which the blacks seemed to understand as a sign of friendship for they seised the hands and commenced a very curious dance.

This dance would have been very amusing on shore but In the water It was doubly so the whites danced too as well as they were able & being english of course they shouted hurra as loud as their lungs would allow them while the blacks laughed & grined & shouted a great many things which It would pussle me to discribe.

Meat bread & rum was given to them the blacks on the opposite shore had by this time augmented to the number of about fifty, no sooner did they see their bretheren kindly treated than they rushed into the water & came across pell mell to our side.

No sooner did they set their feet on shore than they commenced to dance & to yell beautifully.

they wore all men & they were all intirely naked.

A great many of them made signs to be allowed to go into the settlement but this could not be allowed unless they had some clothes on.

After a little delay a pair of trousers was found for one a shirt for another a coat for another & soon about a dozen of them was lead into the settlement where everything they saw created a long consultation amonst themselves.

Everything was new to them but their wonderment reached its highest pitch when they saw a cart moving - they could not make out the wheels.

The wheels going round was a mystery they could not solve.

They remained in the settlement till near dark & by this time they loaded themselves with all the triffls they could find - one had picked up an old red powder flask another an old horse shoe come one thing and some another.

By this time the people of the place had become tired of their company & some had been apposed to their coming at all.

Three or four of these now came out of their tents and discharged their guns in the air.

This had the desired effect for In a few minutes about a hundred of them was to be seen rushing across the river as if for very life & we saw no more of them for that night.

September 28th 1863

I believe I was the first person astir in the settlement this morning it was about half an hour before sunrise & I proceeding to my work when I fancied I saw something moving along the bank of the river.

I went nearer & sure enough there were about fifty blacks all loaded with as much as they could well carry they had plundered the settlement during the night & were making off now for daylight was coming.

I ran back as fast as I could to the Hotel.

I knew a loaded revolver was kept In the bar the door was fast but I knew how to open it.

I took the revolver & ran back toward the river & I discharged the six shots in quick succession in the air this had the desired effect in two.

First It caused the blacks to dash down everything they had & rush headlong into the river & it likewise caused every person In the place to rush out of their dwellings.

Some were half naked most of the men had took up their guns on the first alarm & they began firing so rapid that one would have thought that a battle was being fought but the shots were fired In the air it were only to hasten the flight of the blacks who could be seen scrambling up the beach on the other side of the river in the greatest confusion.

About dinner time I was told that my masters bullock teams was on the plain outside the settlement & they will be in in about two hours.

About three oclock a long train of teams came into the place.

Each team consisted of a large load of wool drawn by ten or twelve bullocks.

A little later I was introduced to a man who proved to be my masters brother.

In the evening the whole of the bullock drivers came to the hotel to supper & a more ruffainly uncultivated set of fellows I never had the misfortune to fall amonst.

October 4th 1863

I have had notice that the drays will leave early tomorrow & that I must be ready early.

Within the last few days I have made a grand discovery - that the whole of the money that I have earned is of no use to me.

There are very little real coin here - it is nearly all paper checks drawn upon this man or that man all perfect strangers to a man like me newly arrived in the colony.

Now every person in trade has a few of these paper things he wishes heartily to get rid of & when a "green hand" comes, as they call all new comers, he tries his best to put them upon him.

The blacks paid us another visit this afternoon but this time they were all females & as naked as they were born they came into the middle of the settlement & treated us to a very rude kind of dance & by signs & gestures tried their very best to excite a certain desire in the white males of the settlement.

They had been sent by their black husbands to lessen if possible the breach which they had made by the attempt to rob the settlement.

October 5th 1863

Early this morning I was told that I must make ready for a start & that the sooner I got my swag (as they called my things) on the dray the better.

I got them to the side of the dray & after putting up with some very gross insults from the bullock driver I succeeded in having two boxes not large ones put upon the dray.

I had another box which I wished to take but this they would not take the law says two boxes shall be taken for a family & nothing I could say or do would induce them to take the third.

About two o'clock I was told to put my wife & children on the top of the dray.

I was agreeably surprised to find that the kindest civilist man of the whole lot was to be the driver of that dray.

No sooner were my wife & children on the dray than the whole string of teams made a start.

We reached a small station about seven miles from the port.

The sun was near going down by this time so the bullocks were let loose for the night.

A tar pauling which covered the dray on which my family had rode was thrown down & reached the ground on all sides.

We were told that we could sleep under that dray if we choose for the whole journey, an offer which I very gladly accepted.

Now the bare ground for a bed with no other covering but a cart would seem hard lines to many people.

In England still at this time I was very glad of such accommodation for myself & family.

After telling me where I should find plenty to eat the men mounted their horses & galloped back to the port leaving me in full possession of the camp.

We made a fire boiled some water for tea & I found some meat & bread so that we got a good supper.

A log of wood served us for seats for a table.

After supper we began to think about sleep.

We crept under the dray & found it was long grass & quite wet... we tossed out blankets down as best we could in the dark... we huddled together till morning... some time during the night I was alarmed by hearing horses hoofs trampling all around us.

I found it was the men returned from the port.

A little before sunrise I crept from under the dray & was a little surprised to find the fellows all lying in the long wet grass their hair & their blankets shining with the dawn.

I made a fire & soon had breakfast ready.

We remained all that day in the same camp for they could not find two of the bullocks.

October 7th 1863

About midday the two lost bullocks were found & soon after we made another start.

We past over some very wild & rugged country & at sun down we encamped in some very thickly wooded country.

October 8th 1863

Today we past some very woody country & a little before sundown we reached a bush Hotel & we were told that we should proceed no further that night.

We encamped by the side of the Hotel & I should very much like to give you a discription of that Hotel but it is past my art, however I will make a very faint attempt.

Two stout sticks were stuck in the ground with forks at the end about seven feet high from the ground... another stick was laid in the forks.

This formed the whole frame work of the building

Broad sheets of bark were stripped from the trees these sheets of bark were about nine feet broad these were set in the ground & their upper ends allowed to fall against the rail (the rail which lay in the forks)

Another sheet of bark which was curled by the sun was laid along the top to prevent the rain from running in.

At the top the end was stopt up by an old blanket being hung at the back the other aide was left open... within the enclosure were two bush bedsteads raised about six inches from the ground.

There were a space of about three feet between these bedsteads which formed the whole furniture of the Hotel.

There was niether chairs tables or stools one glass was all the Hotel could boast & a small box furnished all the drinkables.

Many of the shoots of bark had curled by the heat of the sun so much so that there were gaps between them large enough for a child to run in & out.

Some of these gaps were stopt by a piece of an old coat or a piece of a womans frock.

There were another building but it was of a far worst discription & to discribe it-would be simply impossible.

At this hotel terms were very moderate you could have a thimble full of brandy or rum for the small sum of one shilling & a small bottle ale or porter about a pint you had to pay the small sum of four shillings & this very much inferior to any ale or porter sold in England.

October 9th 1863

We made an early start this morning & about noon we reached a beautiful valley enclosed by hills on every side whose sides rose like a wall all around us

The only thing remarkable today was the number of blacks fires which we could see all along the mountain side & at night we could plainly see the blacks moving around them.

Many of the fires were not more than half a mile from us they must have seen us but they did not come near us.

October 10th 1863

About midday we reached the foot of a very high range of mountains & to have looked at the very steep sides one would have thought that it was impossible for bullocks to pull a load up there.

However, where there is a will there is a way & so it proved in this case.

The bullocks were taken from one load & put to another so that there were about twenty bullocks to a load & then by dint of the whip the bullocks were made to mount the side of the mountain which very much resembled a wall.

One load wore taken at a time attended by six drivers who wore in no wise sparing of the whip as the bleeding backs & sides of the bullocks told too plainly.

Many of these drivers can crack a whip louder than the report of a rifle & to have heard these fellows cracking away together with the echos & shouts of the men one would surely have believed that a battle was being fought.

The last load was up at length & we proceeded three or four miles than camped.

November 6th 1863



It would be tedious to relate every little thing that occurred during the remainder of this journey.

Suffice it to say that after ascending mountains crossing valleys & through marshes across the dry bode of rivers gulleys & creeks frequently without road or track of any kind with nothing but the sun for a guide we reached our destination.

We had been travelling for several days upon land occupied by our master whos extent of country exceeds six hundred square miles & last night the fifth of november we camped in front of an outstation occupied by the stockmen.

When darkness overtook us tonight we found ourselves about four miles from the home station.

We also found ourselves wet to the skin for we had encountered a very heavy storm.

All partys were very anxious to reach the station that night & as the drivers knew the direction of the place we proceeded.

At length we perceived a light in front of us & soon after the bullocks halted about a hundred yards from the light which proved to be a fire.

My wife & children alighted from the dray & at this time I felt myself in a very awkward position.

There stood I with my family around me wet, hungry & miserable - my wife in a high state of fever from repeatedly getting wet in the land of the stranger with no one to wellcome us with no one to direct me for the drivers were too busy to notice me.

At length a man came towards us from the direction of the fire & told me to send the woman & children down to the house.

For this I was very thankful.

He conducted them to the house as he called it & I stayed behind to look after our blankets which I had no sooner put in safety than one of the wildist storms broke over us that I ever seen.

I was told to go down to the house & I needed no second bidding.

When I entered the house I found my wife seated on the corner of a box & the children standing around her for they had not been asked to sit down.

Neither were I when I entered I also found that if we were sent there to shelter from the storm it was a great mistake for the house was a very wrecked building neither wind nor water proof.

It was a small one storyed hut built of rough slabs which did not meet each other by an inch & roofed with sheets of zink which did not fit very closely for the rain came through in streams.

I took a hasty look around the place & found the furniture to consist of a very rude kind of table & two or three still ruder benches the walls were ornamented with hobbles for horses whips carterage pouches two guns & several revolvers were lying about round the sides were fixed three bush bedsteads these were fixed to the floor which was of natures own laying, for there is no other flooring thought of in the bush.

Upon each of these bedsteads were laid a pair of scarlet blankets & upon one of these blankets reclined the form of my august master.

I had seen him on three different occasions before coming to the station, & I had fancied him the most free & affable gentlemen I had ever met with but on this occasion he was extremely reserved he scarcely deemed me worthy of notice.

I know not if he was annoyed at being found in so humble an abode or if he wished to impress me with the awful responsibility of being in the presence of a squatter the proprietore of six hundred square miles of country.

After a very scanty & miserable meal, miserable for two reasons first because we seemed to be intruders & secondly because of the storm for the wind rushed through the building, nearly putting out the light & the rain came through the roof in streams.

We were told that we could go to where we were to sleep.

I was very pleased to hear this for I wished to get away.

We were then conducted to a place some few yards away which was to be our dwelling for the time we were to remain on the station.

With regard to this dwelling, I must say that the meanest hovel or the worst stable I ever saw in my life, was a perfect palace in comparison to this.

In England a man would be ashamed to put his donkey in such a place.

It was about 12 feet square & was roofed with sheets of zink.

There were no kind of furniture except a board fixed to one side which served for a table.

In one corner was thrown a very filthy tarpauling over which ants & spiders ran in beautiful confusion, we were very generously told that we could use that tarpauling, for that night.

Filthy as it was I was glad of the use of it for the floor by this time was two or three inches deep in water as the ground inside this den was a foot lower than the outside & there being no doorsill the water ran in in a stream.

This place was not only without a doorsill but It was without a door & a sheet of zink was given to me to prop up in place of a door to keep out a lot of lambs which were outside seeking a shelter where they could.

This then, was the home for which I had travelled some eighteen thousand miles to find.

The children being overpowered with sleep & the rain running through the roof in all directions we had no help for it but to spread our blankets on the tarpauling & lay the children down, but soon the blankets which covered them were as wet as If they were out in the storm.

It was fortunate for us that we had the tarpauling for it raised our blanket a few inches from the floor which by

this time was one sheet of water & I was afraid it would rise over our blankets so I began to look out to see if I could do anything to prevent any more water from coming in.

At the doorway I scraped with my fingers a lot of mud for the floor was all mud by this time & so prevented any more water coming that way, but how to prevent the rain from coming through the roof was a puzzler.

I had taken off my clothes rolled them in a blanket I might have dry things to put on in the morning & I can assure you that my situation was anything but a comfortable one there was I naked with the rain running off my flesh half way to my knees in mud, my wife straightened on the filthy tarpauling in a very high state of fever mourning, & I thank heaven she was totally insensible to the misery around her, the rain running through the roof like a water spout & to add to our misery the tarpauling was swarming with ants which did not leave an inch of our bodies unbiten so that when morning arrived we were in a very strange plight.

End of Second Diary

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