

Monday - Saturday July 26-31.

This week has seen us getting well on our voyage, and still much indebted to the old screw. The daily runs are getting better, our best being 238, very long behind what we will soon consider a good day's work, but still an improvement. All Thursday Friday & Saturday we were bothered with very uncertain weather, dodging the screw up & down, as the skipper does not wait long to give the wind a chance of changing its mind; and on Saturday we actually hoisted it twice. Now too that we have reached the end of the month, we may reckon that so far as time goes we have got over the longest half of the voyage, tho' if we look to distance we have the longest half to run. We have passed

several ships, 2 going North not near enough to signal, but 3 going the same way as ourselves, the *Nor* from Gothenburg for Melbourne 74 days out, & from her appearance likely to be 74 days more: the *Amitie* from Marseilles to Melbourne, & the *Jam Maria* from Pernambuco to Mauritius, all which created quite a flusation amongst us. With these we may consider our last chance of sending letters home to have expired as we are now out of the track of homeward bound ships, & there will probably be the last sails we shall see till we sight Australia. Our good sailing powers were exhibited in the ease with which under canvas only we passed some of these: tho' not such a wonder when we saw how they were labouring under