

Letters from all latitudes.

Being some account of a voyage from
England to New Zealand.
Joseph ^{Aug} W. Wheeler.

May 26th 1864. Thursday afternoon.

After due preliminaries embarked
at Gravesend, on board the good ship
"British Empire" over 5000 tons but her
agents Shaw Savill & Co. There are about
630 souls on board 39 cabin passengers
a few second class. do. (3) about 510 emigrants
including 77 children under 2 years of age
and crew & officers about 66. The captain
is a man short in stature & reserved
in disposition, his youngest son Tom
accompanies him, both are decided
of Hibernian extraction & rejoice in the
patronymic of Call^{enard} ~~the~~.

27th (weather fine) all were busy settling
their cabins in order the deck being stowed
by the emigrants. One of the fore canoes
brought on board decidedly crossed
28th the canary that was ill had been
during the night went to London ^{to see the bank of the river}
could obtain no redress, went home.

bid my last farewell, on my return to the vessel found a second canary apparently in the agonies of death, & administered a warm bath. 29th Sunday. on the whole a pleasant one, but missed the comforts of home for the first time. bird no better, gave it the other warm bath, but all was of no avail as it died in the course of the morning. a short service was held in the saloon by one of the missionaries of the British and Foreign Sailors Society, it was very interesting, though the conductor was somewhat uneducated, he took occasion to observe how much weaning there is in the word Gospel. God Offering Salvation Peace & Eternal Life, through the merits of his Son, also that the A.P.C. of the gospel was all have sinned & come short of the glory of God Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ & thou shalt be saved one into me all ye that labour & are heavy laden & I will give you rest

30th after performing sundry necessary operations in the cabin, took a constitutional walk, and in company with two young ladies passengers, arrived much amused by observing the countenances & actions of an interesting couple seated on a bench in front of the Adlon Hotel, Gravesend, they appeared to enjoy each others society, though the gentleman did not frequent of his pocket handkerchief. Mr. P. & one of

seizing hold of him, however one of his legs was
crushed between the steamer & the gangway, by
the heaving of the vessel, and much bruised.
His coming on board was the signal for our
departure we therefore set sail with yards
square, it being a very favorable wind
which continued without intermission
for three days, we had a fine view of Bude
Head about noon, though somewhat hazy,
our speed averaged $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots an hour,
and an hour or two later, I could just manage
to distinguish the house on the race hill at
Brighton, ^{with a powerful glass} and the houses on the Parade appeared
like a dim white belt in the far distance.
Late in the afternoon we passed the Leigh Light
just within visible distance. The motion
of the vessel was very slight, and very few were
ill, in the evening we had rain again.

2nd I partook at breakfast of some curried
dish, which obliged me to keep quiet all day
otherwise, with the exception of some slight
return of the ^{spleen} ~~feeling~~, I have not been ill and
weather hazy, more rain, and land scarcely
in sight, about 10. pm. we had the last
look at Old England, in the shape of the Seaward
Lights. 3rd Weather very warm, read ^{compass} about
on deck 16 to 20 of the Dry Gravels in the morning
4th Still very warm little or no wind, speed ~~and~~
slackened, ~~but~~ in the evening we were not going
more than one or two knots an hour.

5th Sunday. very warm, if possible less wind
in the course of the day we became absolutely
*motionless, in the morning Mr Price read the
service, and a lecture, the emigrants were present.
there was little opportunity for private reading
I read aloud from the Sunday at Home to two
or three ladies. In the evening conversed with
Mr Grierson, about ten o'clock p.m. there was a
report of a shark astern, three hooks were
baited but he would not bite, though we could
see him sniffing at the bait occasionally
till we began to doubt whether it were a shark
or dolphin I watched it for more than an hour
it was a beautiful sight whenever the fish went
it left a trail of phosphorescent light, once or
twice the bait was dropped directly into the fish
when it would dart off with astonishing
swiftness illuminating the water for a long
distance, the same fish was seen on Tuesday
evening. 6th* A breeze had sprung up in the
course of the night, and we were making slight
progress though in the wrong direction, as it was
driving us into land towards Cape Finisterre
in the latitude of which we were, and had
not the wind changed on Wednesday morning
we should have reached Lisbon Thursday
morning, and also probably have lost the
trade winds, however, providentially the wind
did change, and has continued in the right
direction; with the exception of that one contrary
wind we have been sailing without alteration
S.W. by W. (ie. half way between S. & W.) in deed we have
slight mistake, we did not become motionless till early on 6th inst. & breeze did not arrive till 2 afternoon of that day.

been most highly favoured both as to wind and weather, our run down, and out of the channel was extraordinary, we left Deal Wednesday morning (Ames!) and sighted the Ligards Thursday evening, the captain said he had seldom known such a favourable run, and one cannot but regard it as an answer to many prayers offered upon our behalf, moreover there has been very little sickness, not more than six or seven having been really ill. We have all gradually settled into our proper places, and habits and one day is but the counterpart of all, we seem to have divided into two parties, the sober one and the gay one, it is needless to say to which I belong my usual occupation is chess or ~~reading~~ ^{strolling} about to Mr. Semre and the Miss Greasons. I rise generally about seven, have a basin of porridge, and go on deck for an airing before breakfast, with Mr. Greason for a companion, the morning air is deliciously cool and fresh, and the exquisite colour, and broad expanse of the surrounding waters, with the vessel proudly ploughing her way under full sail through the "mighty deep" adds considerably to our enjoyment. Breakfast at half past eight when we have a decoction of Chicory under the name of coffee presented to us, the tea is very passable, but the butter abominably salt, the best feature of the meal is the hot rolls, all the bread being made on board which compensates one ^{in a measure} for the loss of genuine home made. After breakfast

the majority adjourn to the deck, I to my cabin
to attend to my birds &c. &c. then to my writing,
Lunch, at twelve o'clock on deck till dinner, at half
past two o'clock, reading or chess playing. The
last mentioned meal I usually obtain under
decided difficulties, in the first place the favorite
dish is generally placed before me to carve, in
the second, the carving frequently proves a difficult
task, in the third, when I do obtain ^{a slight} respite from my
arduous labours I have to put up with cold vegetables
and the far end of a joint, moreover though there
certainly is variety it is by no means pleasing, the
preserved vegetables are despicable, the potatoes any-
thing but good, and the meat either cooked to a
crisp or ^{as if} raw as if uncooked, and floating
in grease, the ducks are literally burnt to cinders
and are served up in common with the chickens
without sauce or gravy of any description, one
day we had fowls served up in sage & onions, by
this time they are little else than bone, as a sea
voyage does not appear to agree with them, the
pork is not much better, the poor pigs are very
much overcrowded & consequently much bruised
and when killed & hung, present much the appearance
of being grievously afflicted with the measles or
some kindred disorder, ^{however} the mutton is more passable
~~and~~ the preserved beef really good, and the
pastry excellent, with some exceptions, after enjoying
so much it is scarcely necessary to add that
our cook is of Indian extraction, and as broad
as he is long. after dinner we resumed our amusements
and decks till time on deck till ~~half~~ half past six
o'clock.

* The first few dishes only, were so 28/9/62

the passengers, taking out a large number of birds, ^{such as} Goldfinches, larks, thrushes sparrows, hares, various pheasants, partridges, pigeons, & fancy fowls, offered me a hen canary for one of my cocks, which I accepted. - After dinner busy selecting the boxes in my cabin, - there were a large number of visitors, it being the last opportunity they would have, as it was commonly reported we should sail the following morning.

List of passengers, many of whom did not come on board till ~~this day~~ (Monday).
Mr & Mrs Grierson & eleven children ranging in age from 21 yrs to 1, eight daughters, and three sons, the eldest being a son.

Mrs Tennant & six children 4 boys, 2 girls.

Mr & Mrs Delamain three children, boy, & two girls.

Mr D is a retired sheep farmer returning to New Zealand disgusted with England.

Mr & Mrs Delamain (his cousin) Mr Horn, and

Mr Pitman, three young men going out under his auspices. ^(all 17 yrs old) Mr W. W. W. W.

Mr M. had been an engineer in India but was obliged to leave on account of his health.

and finding he was losing money in England determined to emigrate. Mr Prince, mentioned

before, a chimney storekeeper in St. James.

Master Leslie J. Washer, his brother in law, going out in consequence of his health. Mr W. W. W. W. the former, he intended architect for the projected

cathedral in Syddelton. both however fastidious
people, Mr. I should imagine is not more than
four & twenty.* Mr. Macdonnell (20 yrs), Mr. Britton
Mr. Woot (18) all going out on spec! in all 39.
the company however is increased by the presence
of the doctor, a thin spare & middle aged
individual; he has exclusive charge of the
emigrants.

31st Tuesday, left Gravesend in tow by
two steam tugs the "Penguin" & "Enterprise".
about 4 a.m. the tugs performed their work
well, we ~~reached~~ ^{passed} Helne bay about 11 a.m. Ramsgate
2 p.m. & anchored off Deal at 3 p.m. to wait for the
Captain. we did not discover till the following
morning, that it was the last opportunity we
should have of posting letters, many had letters
written, or partially so, myself amongst the
number, which never reached their destinations
we were therefore driven to console ourselves
with the hope that friends would kindly suppose
some such mistake. The evening was wet
and boisterous, nearly all were ill, I enjoyed
a walk up & down the deck, christening
my macintosh.

June 1st The captain came on board in one
of the tugs about 4 a.m. in stepping from the
steamer onto the gangway, he slipped and
nearly fell into the sea but was saved from
an unpleasant dip by some valourous individuals.
* afterwards discovered to be eight & twenty.

when we regale ourselves with the cup "that cheers but
not murthereth" and sweeten our repast with sundry
preserves, as good as can be expected taking all things
into consideration; after tea again to our "divertissements"
when frequently a dance is started, the band consisting
of three violins, a diminutive flute played by a small boy
and a cornopion, while I amuse myself sitting on the
- wheel house, observing the motions of the dancers, or
reading, and reclining in the ever varying tints of a
tropical sunset. The sun sets early in the latitude
in which we are at present, as we are rapidly approach-
ing the region of equal days & equal nights. Supper at
eight, after which card playing usually commences
and I enjoy a game of cribbage with the Griersons.

7th Cloud unfavorable, sailing in an easterly direction
towards land. Miss Grierson's birthday, invited to drink
her health and happiness in a glass of wine.

- 8th Change of wind to the right quarter, sailing at a very
fair speed. S.W. otherwise we should have reached Lisbon
by the morrow.

9th An old man. Aet. 62. died this morning early, he
had been very ill before coming on board, but had
called and fancied the voyage would do him good,
his hopes however proved delusive, and he gradually sank
from the time he came on board. Two of his sons are
married and comfortably settled in Canterbury, and had
sent for their parents offering them a home, one has been
- taken and the other left. I am happy to say he was fully
prepared: the body, down upon sail cloth, was committed to the
deep at six o'clock this evening, the captain reading the service,
besides the widow there are three sons and two daughters
left the youngest being sixteen. Played seven games
of chess of which I lost four, a fifth was drawn after tea.
- Casselas about.

10th Had a most magnificent sunset, superb beyond description
it was a species of black velvet sky, and the colours were a light puce

or violet, and a crimson or magenta, the hue constantly
varying, occasionally dying away, and then bursting
out with renewed splendour, of all the beauties of nature
there is none so spirit stirring as a glorious sunset, it
seems to carry one away for a season from the world's
vanities, and gives one a foretaste of the glories that shall be
revealed.

11th Ventured this evening after tea to climb the Mizzen
mast, i. e. the one nearest the stern, as far as the top yard
but one and enjoyed the extended view of the horizon
and the birds eye view of the vessel, it gave one a good
idea of its great length. (250 f). I have forgot how to
mention a fact in connection with climbing the mast
for the first time, and will take ^{the opportunity} to do so now. It is
the custom among sailors when any novice attempts to
climb the mast to lash him to the toppe ladders, and leave
him so exposed for a season, or in the case of a passenger
to exact a ransom in the shape of a bottle of whiskey to pay
for their footing as the term goes, and they are free to go
where they like. During the first week it occasioned much
amusement as one unfortunate "land lubber" after another
was caught after various ineffectual attempts to escape;
I was one of the earliest captured, it was the day before we
left Gravesend, I had reached the Mizzen top, i. e. the landing
place one third of the way up the Mizzen mast, and was quietly
surveying the decks below, when I perceived I was an
object of pursuit, so hastened down the opposite side, that
by which my pursuer was mounting, but owing my speed
I was soon in his clutches, but not before I had come down
in a somewhat unceremonious manner on to the shoulders
of a fellow passenger who was also hard and fast in the
friendly embraces of two sailors, he poor fellow was rather
frightened, and my manner of approach did not tend to
allay his fears, I was allowed my freedom for the small sum
of one shilling, and proceeded to my explorations, which
as I afterwards heard my fellow prisoner was let in for 4/6.

On the next occasion of my mounting, the sailors appeared
I have forgotten that I had already paid my footing and
gave chase. I managed to elude their grasp but at the
risk of going overboard, as in my hurry I lost my footing
and came down a ladder in a succession of jumps.
Providentially there was a sail behind me, and I did
not quite lose my hold of the rope ladder, however
just as I reached the bottom my foot caught, and
I came on to the deck on all fours, tearing my trousers
grazing the skin from my leg & bruising my right elbow
and knee; another, while endeavouring to escape
slipped too quickly down a rope, and took the skin off
his hands; I became known amongst the sailors as "the
man with a poultice on his hand" being in the habit of
wearing a gauze scarf around my hat by way of
protection from the sun.

12th Sunday passed Madeira about one and weather
fine and very warm, service as before, at the conclusion
of which the body of an infant 3 mos. old. that had died
during the night was committed to the deep. Dr. Prince
reading the service. In the afternoon read aloud a little
16th Very warm & sultry, though the thermometer in my cabin
did not read higher than 75 deg. F. It was however much
warmer on deck, we were within a day's sail of the Tropics
of Cancer. Mounted to the rigging with the intention
of continuing my journal, but it was in vain
my ideas would not flow, or rather the attractions
of Jacob Faithful proved too strong, overthrew the
prospect was pleasing though destitute of variety
the air also was grateful, and cooler than on deck
under the awning; while there a party were amusing
themselves on the top of the wheel house shooting with pistols
at an empty beer bottle suspended from the flag-
staff. They had finished their sport and were firing caps. Clear the night

when one of them flew into pieces, one piece entering the finger of him who fired it, and another inflicting a small wound on his cheek, while a third entered just below the left corner of the left eye of Dr. Macdonnell, the surgeon feared the piece had remained in the wound, and probed for it for the space of half an hour, but could not find it. The event proved his fears were groundless, fortunately, nevertheless Dr. M. had a very black eye for some days. In the evening one of Mr. Delamain's little boys had a very severe attack of the croup.

18. The weather gets warmer every day and we make very slow progress, however ^{having altered our course & direction} ~~never~~ ^{our} ~~leaving~~ ^{leaving} we were rejoiced by the fact of a breeze springing up, which doubled our speed and brought it up to $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots per hour. A knot is equivalent to a geographical mile, i.e. a little more than an English Statute mile, this latter is to the former as 60 is to 60.8, the term knot arises from the fact of the log or line by which our speed is measured being divided by knots, the act of measuring is called heaving the log. The log consists of a conical bag about 9 in. long and 4 in. broad at the base, attached to a stout string, running on a roller. The manner of using it is to throw this bag in the sea, when it immediately fills with water and remains stationary. While at the same moment a twenty eight second sand glass is turned, and the number of periods or knots on the line that are paid out during the 28 secs. indicate the number of knots or geographical miles we are travelling per hour.



19th Sunday. Still going $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots. The motion was considerable nearly every one feeling uncomfortable (except amongst the children for pro hour or two in the morning) while many were really ill; during the day our speed reached nearly 14 knots, the waves were a beautiful sight and we went along gracefully. One wave broke just under the port hole of the doctor's cabin.

and completely deluged everything on it which
fact ^{caused} a sudden rush on everybody's part to close
their port holes to avoid a like catastrophe.

In the evening enjoyed a little reading with
Mrs J. There is little or no twilight in the tropics
and it is quite dark soon after seven now, the day
will continue ~~to~~ ^{be} ~~shaded~~ till we cross the line. The
moon was beautiful being nearly full, and
far brighter than it could ever appear through a
London atmosphere, it was frequently hidden behind
thick black clouds but would every now & then
appear from out an opening in the dark canopy
and cast its silvery rays on to the troubled waters.
20th The breeze had considerably lessened during the
night and we did not make more than 6 knots an
hour, however it had taken us nearly 400 miles and
the fact of going at such a speed anywhere in the tropics
was something to boast of. Last night the boiler to our
distilling apparatus was allowed to become empty
and the natural consequence ensued, it rose to a red
heat, and had not the captain observed that all was
not right the consequences might have been terrible
beyond description, but thank God we were mercifully
preserved. The vessel is entirely supplied with distilled
water from this apparatus, though in case of accident
we have 40,000 gallons of Thames water in reserve
but it is far from sweet now, however when we reach
colder latitudes it will become drinkable again.
School is held every day on deck in a space railed
off between our portion and that of the emigrants
the school master appears well up to his duties
and the children answer very well especially in
mental arithmetic. One little boy 11 yrs old is going
out all alone! his uncle having sent for him.
21st The breeze getting smaller by degrees & beautifully less,
by midday we were scarcely going one knot an hour.

a shark reported in sight, baited my hook for the purpose of catching his lordship but he did not make his appearance again, shortly after we heard the school children exclaim "there goes a flying fish" (several shoals of which had been seen on the course of the morning) at the same time pointing to one of the sails! it was eventually caught and proved to be a large fly of the hairy species, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long and 5 in. from tip to tip of the wings, which were prettily spotted, after administering a dose of prussic acid that the pleasure of extending it on cork for Mr. Price who caught it be of a somewhat sordid turn of mind his principal idea being how much it would fetch when he reached St. Huron. It gets warmer and warmer every day. the thermometer placed in the sun read 100° and in dry cabin with the door & port hole open 80° . This evening great amusement was occasioned by a game a few joined in, it was played by half a dozen standing one behind another, the foremost one placing his hands on his ears, while those behind him struck his hands one at a time, and he tried to guess who had smitten him if he guessed correctly he vacated his position in favour of the discovered one it caused roars of laughter.

22nd Two or three young men passed the night on deck but obtained little sleep, the night air is charmingly soft and could one by any means obtain anything approaching to absolute quiet on deck it would really be tempting to remain all night, but in the absence of those essential requisites to refreshing slumber I decidedly prefer my cabins. Two infants died in the course of the day and were committed to the deep. 23. making a little more progress. Shoals of porpoises swimming about the bows, another fly caught another infant dead.

in the evening, we were threatened with a squall, but fortunately it did not touch us, however the wind increased a little.

24th This morning before breakfast a shoal of bottle noses (a species of whale) were sporting within 200 yds of our stern. The heat has been most oppressive & scarcely a breath of air stirring, the sky looking very & equally, what wind there was changed in the afternoon & but it was not sufficient to sheer by, we were describing circles, the bows at one time pointing south & another north. Quarrel 2nd occurred this evening, the bone of contention being the bath, high words rose, and blows were threatened. Mr Grierson and family possessing the three cabins nearest to the bath, managed nearly to monopolize it before breakfast which gave great offence to three or four others having obtained the ear of the captain formed themselves into a committee under his authority and framed rules which virtually deprived the gentlemen of the use of the bath; would it be believed? they gave it to the exclusive use of the children, before breakfast the gentlemen were not to bathe till the evening unless they chose to dress or bathe before 6 a.m. this of course caused vehement opposition from the other party, however after the exhibition of a great deal of party feeling an immense amount of squabbling and calling each other hard names &c. it was put to the general vote, the captain having first torn up the rules passed by the committee, much to the chagrin of at least two of the members whose only object was to annoy Mr Grierson, and who seized this as a fitting opportunity whether the gentlemen or the children were to have the use of the bath before breakfast, strange was the ^{were} vote for each side. the casting vote lay with the captain, who was puppy. Mr Grierson gave the gentlemen the preference, and settled the matter. It is strange how little suffices to raise a quarrel, the death of a fowl interfering with digestion of its owner fanned the

emouldering discontent into a flame, and brought about
the committee, and a joking question inadvertently
asked at tea time was the signal for the after explosion.
25. Enjoyed a bath on deck this morning it was fine fine.
Near increasing, no progress, another child deadening
the fifth since leaving England. Saw a real live shark
conducted by two pilot fish one on each side, he had
managed to remove the bait from my hook during
the night, we tempted him with another but without
success. To see today for the first time large shoals
offlying fish chased by bonitas it was an interesting
and very pretty sight, then came so close to the vessel
we could see them ~~swallowed~~ ^(ie the flying fish) now & then, in the
course of the afternoon a bonita was caught with
two flying fish in its stomach. It was a beautiful
purple blue when first taken out of the water, and
striped somewhat similar to a rockfish but the
blue soon vanished, and nothing but a dull brown
remained. The head is very large in proportion to
the body which makes it appear somewhat ungainly.
26th Sunday. Three vessels in sight, and hopes were
entertained that one might prove to be homeward
bound and everyone hastened to prepare letters
but it was too good to be true. There was a little more
wind this morning, during service it began to rain heavily
however, we all kept our seats as the awning was up
but soon the accumulated water came down on our
heads in torrents, there was a general rush for the cabin
stairs as may be imagined, and the service came
to an untimely end. The changes of the weather are
singularly rapid, during the morning ^{we were going} at a fair average
speed, and during the shower much faster but before
dinner the sun came out, and we were becalmed,
about was lowered and some half dozen availed themselves
of the opportunity for a swim, about 4 p.m. the rain came
on again, and brought the wind with it, or vice versa, and
only ceased for an hour in the evening it was a genuine tropical monsoon.

27th The rain continued almost without intermission till 12 o'clock, and we were obliged to amuse ourselves to the best of our ability in the saloon, the majority however feeling too poorly to be capable of much enjoyment. Dressed another vessel this afternoon, we made as though we would signal her but she was a foreigner and paid no attention to us. One of the sailors this evening being somewhat under the influence of drink (the sailors are not allowed any grog but in this instance a bottle of spirits had been given to the man by those who went on the boat on Sunday as he accompanied them) behaved in a very mutinous manner to his superior officer, the second mate, and there was a small scene. He came afterwards to complain to the captain, and was very impertinent to him, threatening to have revenge. He denied being intoxicated and said he should not consider himself drunk till he went to the pump to light his pipe!!

28th Several Nautili were seen to day but unfortunately they did not pass sufficiently near to enable one to see much of them. They are very pretty objects, as they sail by with the sun shining on them their sail is of an exquisite pink colour they might easily be caught with a suitable muslin net. A much prized though tailless sackdaw was blown overboard to day much to the grief of Mr. Prince. This evening a somewhat mysterious circumstance occurred, two open tubs were observed floating by our vessel one on each side, and from one a faint cry was heard to issue the doctor who was in his cabin at the time hearing the sound came rushing on deck imagining some one had gone overboard, no explanation was ever obtained.

29th It has been little else but tacking since Monday and at the end of the day so farther on our way than at the commencement the only object gained by sailing being that we prevented ourselves being driven back some two hundred mile or so, when such is the case we usually

sail with what is called a head wind, thus meeting the wind within a very few points, consequently we have the benefit of all the delicious effluvia from the omnivorous hen coops, sheep pens, and pig sty. &c. &c. The last pig has been thrown overboard owing to disease & making about the fifteenth that has met a similar fate; we are rather short of provisions from some cause or another especially fresh meat, we went to have shipped several sheep and pigs at Deal but they were left behind in consequence of the trouble and expense of getting them on board. We are also short of sailors, the Captain promised to get more hands at Deal but for some reason omitted to do so, the vessel came to sea all found in every way and had we experienced stormy weather on first starting we should have been reduced to a strait, then has been nothing but sail making and repairing the rigging, although quite dry since we came to sea.

30th It commenced raining last evening about nine and continued with tremendous violence during the night (sufficient to wake me.) but with occasional intermissions during the day till late this evening. In lack of more important events to chronicle I beg to inform my readers, fair or otherwise, that to day at dinner being Thursday we were regaled with plum pudding and deer in the shape of almonds various figs & barcelonas Sundays & Thursdays in our lunapae being plum pudding & desert days, both however of excellent quality.

1st July. a cloudy day, and no sun, consequently much cooler, more wind but adverse nothing but tacking. A vessel had been in sight all the morning, tacking like ourselves; just as the tart came on the table at dinner some insane body called out, "a homeward bound vessel ~~in sight~~ within a hundred yards of us," when as a matter of course one and all rushed on deck to see the grateful sight; vain delusion. it was

but the vessel we had seen all the morning, crossing our path in one of our tracks, we signalled her and she proved to be the "Star of Peace" from London to Melbourne 23 days out.

2nd a beautiful day and plenty of wind, but still, adverse, during the night we had caught up another vessel, viz the "Patron" 33 days out from Liverpool bound to Singapore. The "Star of Peace" was just visible in the horizon to the south of us she could sail closer to the wind than ourselves consequently made more progress. A newspaper entitled the "British Empire Gazette" has made its first appearance today, the first issue is certainly a decided success, it is conducted by * belongs to Mr. Speechly, Esq^r and contains, a leader, a tale, letters, notices to correspondents, advertisements, such as, things for sale, articles lost or found, notice of an auction, theatricals & births deaths & marriages, a chess problem, commendations a plan of W. Church, the surgeons report statistics of souls ^{on} board, and will for the future contain our daily latitude and progress made, altogether it is very cleverly managed, and nicely finished, it is written on blue wove foolscap, ruled and the heading of each page is in old english. I subjoin some extracts, first the statistics.

Number of souls on board the British Empire leaving England.

Saloon passengers	39	32	Statute adults
Second Cabin do	31	27 1/2	" " "
Emigrants	59	59	" " "
assisted emigrants consisting of married people & families	206 1/2	345	" " "
Anglemen	163 1/2	463 1/2	" " "
& women		7 1/2	officers & crew.
Total statute adults.		535 1/2	

	English	Scottish	Irish	Foreigners	Total
adults	230	106	55	2	393
Children between 1-12 yrs.	101	26	14	-	141
Infants	26	8	6	-	40
Grand Total	357	140	75	2	574

* It appears the doctor has been throughout almost the sole editor Mr. Speechly doing little else than writing it all, he however contributed the account of the plague.

Total number of human beings, 574. which with officers and crew made 646 souls, of which 141 were under 12 years of age, and 40 under one year. Again from the varieties in reference to the boat lowered on Sunday last. "It is not a fact as recorded elsewhere (in the leader) that the British Empire 'licked' everything she met" "on her outward bound voyage certain disagreeable individuals on board had the disagreeable light presented to them of this identical craft being ^{but} good morning to by" "a cockle shell pulled by lamatech's. T.B. we much admired" "Mr. Monck's pulling (off his stockings)*. PUNCH."

* an allusion to the fact that owing to the leaking of the boat shoes & stockings had to be removed. From the leader. "Let our object be to obtain for our ship such a general character for morality ~~and~~ good conduct and cheerfulness that it will be reflected from person to person, and that long after our connection with each other has ceased strangers shall remark as something unusual 'He or she came out by the British Empire in 1884'."

the wind happily changed a few points for the better this evening 3rd Sunday, this day is chiefly remarkable for being the one on which we crossed the line, it was between 3.24 o'clock P.M. that that event took place, and some amusement was caused by one of the mates having put a hair across the object glass of his telescope, and persuading some credulous individuals believe that on looking through they saw the line! Three weeks or a fortnight previously a sweepstakes had been set on foot, as to the day of this week we should cross, fourteen members at 10/- a member dividing the week into half days from midnight to noon (and from noon to midnight, Mr. Wood had Sunday afternoon, but he foolishly sold his chance for 15/- on Saturday evening to the captain.

In the evening Keptome made his appearance (a lighted tar barrel having been thrown overboard to intimate that he had arrived) to inform the captain that he would exact his toll the next day at 1. p.m. and proceed to have each of the crew as had not previously paid him a visit.

4th A day doubtless of unutterable confusion in consequence of men and probably bloodshed in the lower tiers of the vessel. America how should like to know the issue of the contest. Launch fear that Ab. has obtained his reelection by foul means

if not by fair, speculations however are profitless
every different scene was being enacted on board
the British Empire, viz. the process of shaving by
keptome he was admirably personated by the boatman
a large, broad chested muscular man, he made his
appearance at the appointed hour, seated in his car
drawn by the sailor "Tommy" (the captain's son) representing
young Keptome, by his side, and one of the apprentices
the wife behind him; the trio certainly looked right,
royal being remarkably well "got up" - Keptome with
along flowing beard, crowned, breeches and holding
a tident, the son a counterpart of his father with the
exception of the beard. They were preceded by two
musicians, a flageolet & violin playing a lively air
and followed by the secretary, toll collector, doctor, sailor,
and private Barber, &c. &c. while the "first victim" (the mate)
and his wife (one of the assistant stewards) surrounded by
policemen with staves brought up the rear. The
procession made the rounds of the Quarter deck
and came to a halt at the stern where his Imperial
Majesty made known the object of his visit in a
Mentorian voice through a trumpet, deputing his
secretary to read aloud his proclamation (he himself
was suffering from a cold, or said he was) the purport
of which was congratulating us on our hitherto
prosperous voyage, wishing us equal prosperity in
the future and intimating that in passing through
his dominions he expected all to pay toll, those who
have to pay the forfeit of the hair of their heads and face
at the conclusion of this ceremony his Majesty left his
car, shook hands with each of the passengers as were in his
path, and made his way to the forecastle where his throne
had been erected on the bulwarks. Opposite to him on
a raised platform was placed a chair, to hold the poor
unfortunate wights whom it was his good pleasure
to shave. Behind this was suspended a large sail into
which a hose played for the purpose of sucking the
oysters. The first operation was generally to force some
salt into the mouth, then the tar was plentifully applied
to the lower part of the face, and sometimes flung over that

an immense wooden razor, about 18 in. long was next
used then some disgusting stuff such as Castor oil, Machine
oil &c. &c. was forced into the mouth, after that a piece
of rusty iron was employed as a razor, finally by way of a
climax came the ducking, the ship's one kept fast to
the rail only too glad to be out of the hands of his tormentors
he was however forcibly detained for a season while
the hose was played upon him, one young man proved
obstrepous and would not be ducked; such is a fair
description of some of the barbarities connected with sea
life and the miseries incident to those who cross the line
for the first time in the capacity of a sailor. In the evening
the toll ^{was} collected from the passengers and between £5-6.
was obtained, some slight ceremony of presentation was
gone through on the Quarter deck amidst much cheering,
the sailors then formed themselves into a ring, squatting on the
deck with a light in the centre when one and another struck
up a song, the boatwain was the first to favour the company
singing a comic song relative to the miseries of joining
the Channel fleet (he had been in the navy) he looked a worthy
representative of the time even without his paraphernalia
owing to his muscular frame and naturally large beard
altogether it was an interesting scene, a heavy shower however
put an untimely end to the concert. It appears the captain
retains possession of the money collected and the sailors
are to have it out in grog, and one man cannot dispose
of his share to another as it has to be drunk on delivery.
5th The auction was held to day after dinner, Mr. Delamain
acting as auctioneer he made an excellent one and
disposed of most of the things given to him to advantage
he was not able to finish the sale owing to the appearance
of a large bird which caused a general rush for guns &c.
it was a Booby or some such creature, but a fair all
rounders intent.

6th The breeze freshened a little, and there were one or two showers,
the waves were a beautiful sight, and I enjoyed watching
them from the bows, we were meeting them at an angle of
45° and the waves caused by our motion through the
water would meet them again direct, the result being a
dash the spray often striking many feet and occasionally

deluding those who were watching them.

about noon a young man of the name of White from Acety, died. His body was committed to the deep in the afternoon, but very improperly as it floated astern instead of sinking and was very stiff. He was only 19 yrs of age having left a widowed mother at home, who poor creature will not hear of his death for some months. He was going to a broker in N. L. the cause of death was stated by the doctor to be low fever induced by sea sickness, but during the first week of the voyage he has been playing leap frog and fiddling his head, he went below complaining of pain, and did not leave his berth again, very extensive and continuous hemorrhage from the nose supervened, and he gradually sank. He was very taciturn, and little beyond monosyllables could be obtained in answer to inquiries. Toward the last he was delirious, it required six men to hold him down occasionally he tried to throw himself out of the port hole. His property is to be sold by auction as it appears there is a law or custom to that effect. 7th I positively saw the sun rise for the first time in my life! this morning, but as he did not make his appearance till nearly seven, there was no great merit in the matter. It was truly a glorious sight, though not equal to a sunset either in variety or beauty of colour far surpassed it in glory. I have witnessed the phenomenon twice or thrice since, but they did not come up to this first one I saw.

8th Yesterday evening we saw in the horizon the Brazilian mail on its way home - we longed to be able to send letters on board &c. &c. expected letters by it from Brazil, which was somewhat tantalizing, we had been in the latitude of Bahia in the morning about 300 miles from the coast. The wind changed this morning and we were able to make a little easting which is gratifying after having gone so far west. The

second number of the British Empire Gazette was issued today, it was an improvement upon the first, it is to be made a longish book concern of, and printed when we reach Et. Huron, to enable us all to have copies to send home so I will not burden my friends with any more extracts unless by way of enlightening my dull narration of facts, for instance, things by their right names.

If by their names we things should call
It surely would be proper.

to term a singing piece a 'bawl' (ball).

and a dancing piece a 'hopper' (opera).

10th Sunday, as usual a vesper sight, in the course of the day she came near enough to signal, she was the 'Tribune' 46 days out from Sunderland & fallow. 11th ascended to the engine top to read till the heat sent her down again, the theatricals came off this evening and proved a decided success. I will not enter into full particulars as they will doubtless duly appear in the Gazette, the stage was a temporary erection between the bulkheads and the wheel house, with an awning, suspended above, the scenery consisted of flaps and the footlights of preserved sweet skins, cut down, and filled with carbide floating wicks, the audience were seated on benches on each side of the quarter deck, and every available space from whence a view of the stage could be obtained, such as the bulwarks & rigging & engine mast was crowded, some remarked that they wished their friends could see the animated scene, the weather could not have been more favourable, a bright moonlight night with little or no wind consequently the vessel was all but motionless, some of the actors went through their parts admirably especially the doctor (Dr. Nash) who took the part of Mr. Patrick Ryan and Irish emigrant in the play called 'The Irish Tiger's wife' but an Irishman (which he is) could have acted so well, Dr. Monk as Brother Pilberry was also excellent, there were two plays and in the interval between them we were entertained with some solos, Dr. Burgess (the fourth mate) in female attire was the first to favour the company he was followed by Dr. Monk who sang 'Merry Merry England' with much effect, especially as it possessed a chorus 'The Village Blacksmith' was next effectively delivered by Dr. Speckley (both were cheered) and 'Old Bob Ridley' in character, concluded the portion of the entertainment.

these could play "The great Belle" was very amusing but not
so well acted, with the exception of Denelope (Dr Burgess) who
performed his part to perfection. The Knissus (written the 3rd mate)
was execrable. An Irish song in character, followed by
averse of "God save the Queen" terminated the proceedings,
and considering the materials to be met with and
difficulties to be ~~met~~ expected on board ship there
really was nothing lacking that could be desired and
everybody was thoroughly amused, but I am sorry to
say that not all were so, those who were concerned
in getting up the theatricals were mean enough to give
the sailors spirit by way of rewarding them for their
assistance in erecting the stage, &c. &c. and as might be
expected a drunken brawl ensued of a far more serious
character than the one mentioned before, inasmuch as the
Second Mate! and the boatswain were both considerably the
worse for liquor, and began striking the sailors, and a fight
was the consequence, the affair has caused great discontent
among the emigrants, mercifully it was a calm night or
the consequences might have been fatal, some even among
the cabin passengers found it necessary to take at one
or two o'clock in the morning.

13th This has been the roughest day we have had yet being
the first time I have found it necessary to use my peep
glass. The waves washed right over the bows they were
magnificent, and the sun shining on the spray produced
miniature rainbows. The motion was very unpleasant
as we were sailing with a head wind, and meeting a cross
sea, many were ill, one lady for the first time, the casualties
did not exceed a few cups of tea, and one or two jugs of
water upset, in the evening however someone managed to
knock down one of my bird cages smashing the seed glass, and
frightening the poor bird which is unfortunately and swollen,
for a week one of its legs and the foot have been badly diseased
though I have been particularly careful to clean and oint
every day. Fear I shall not be able to cure it. Some shingle
had been thrown on the deck, round the blacksmiths forge, and
one tremendous pitch of the vessel sent it all sliding to the
leeward, and one or two credulous individuals were induced
to believe it had been washed on board from the sea, or at
least took some handfuls to the captain to apprise him of the
fact. Thinking I supposed strong was believing, he was

considerably entertained (as well he might). Mr. Phillips
things were sold by auction yesterday, and realized £31. 5. 10.
his watch, some trinkets, Bible, church service, and one or two books
were bought in at nominal prices, for his relatives as
keepsakes. His fellow passengers had been most unremitting
in their attention to him, taking it in turn two by two to watch
by his bedside. It appears his death was not in any degree
caused by the blow he received, but was a pure case of typhoid
fever. The doctor admitted that the atmosphere between
decks was sufficient to produce such a malady in
any sensitive subject reduced as he was by sea sickness
and despondency, but he did not consider it advisable to
make known the true nature of his disease at the time,
his state of mind was caused by remorse at having left
his widowed mother.

This afternoon (13th) we passed
the tropic of capricorn, and were consequently out of the tropics.
The thermometer has gradually sunk to 70; where it appears
inclined to remain for the present, and we are glad of some
extra wraps.

21st Fresh morning, but after the lapse of a little time ^{than} ~~about~~
nothing worthy of notice having occurred we have pursued
the even tenor of our way in a S.E. direction since
the 10th inst. and are now a little less ^{than} 1000 miles from
the Cape of Good Hope to which we shall give a wide berth.
On Sunday (17th) we had some rain, and ^{the} wind changed to
direct aft, consequently the yards were squared to the masts
and there was nothing to prevent our rolling, which we did
in right good earnest on the Monday on Tuesday the wind
veered slightly, and we are now making progress at an
average speed of 7 or 8 knots an hour with beautiful weather
and scarcely any perceptible motion. The moon just
now is at its full, and is remarkably bright and beautiful
so much so as to render most of the stars invisible. Could
I see to read by it last night, it really was a lovely sight.
The moon breaking the sea, look like molten silver, and the
rigging of the ship standing out clearly and sharply against
the sky. I longed to have a look at the vessel from a little
distance, to have it as it was presented to me in a living
panorama than I might enjoy it to the full. We have
unfortunately passed out of the region of tropical sunsets
those we have now, seem very tame in comp. a rising.

It has caused much disappointment, that we have not seen
more of the wonders of the deep, all expected to see at least
one shark caught, whereas the majority have not so much as

set their eyes on one, and we are now out of their latitude. However a day seldom passes now but we see some birds such as the pigeons, albatrosses, &c. the former are beautifully variegated with black and white, they afford some amusement to the sportsmen on board, but it is in vain to attempt destruction to shoot them down, for it is a pleasant sight to see them flying about the vessel, and what satisfaction can there be in seeing them drop into the sea. By way of creating a little excitement, and to afford matter for the paper chess and Draughts tournaments have been organized the championship of either game being awarded to the ultimate winner of five games. In draughts I was pitted against the captain and lost in chess, I vanquished my first opponent, but was conquered by the doctor my second. Our distilling apparatus has once or twice been out of order, and jeopardized our supply of good wholesome water, it was put together in a villainous manner, in fact little better than glued together, and had not Mr. Monk who is a practical engineer been on board we should have been in a sorry plight. Fortunately he has been enabled to rectify all deficiencies for the present and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. It was, for two or three days we had to use brackish water, and one day cast water, which latter bore a strong resemblance to diluted ink, and caused our tea to taste as though it were strongly impregnated with snake which decidedly quickened our appreciation of Mr. M.'s services, and sorry to say however he obtained little thanks from the captain, who is not remarkable for his generosity. I may say he is in a measure responsible for our inefficient table but I do not know with how much truth.

25th A dull, damp, cold and dreary day the worst we have had yet, a more comfortless one could scarcely be imagined, a thick sea mist saturating everything. Nevertheless the preparations for the theatricals in the evening went on bravely. At all, however the mist which had turned to rain towards evening cleared away in time for the audience to take their places. The actors (this time) were entirely from among the second class and steerage passengers, and the butlers (or footmen) as pronounced in the course of one of the plays, was decidedly superior to the last occasion. Some of the acting however was fully equal and the majority of the characters especially in the first play (Miriam's home) were admirably

Sustained, the plot is as follows. Mr. Wilson a rich widow
adopts an orphan girl (Miriam West) and brings her up as her own
child, her nephew (Bernard Reynolds) is a young spendthrift who
is waiting for his uncle's death to come into all the property. Miriam
falls passionately in love with him, Bernard's affection however
are placed elsewhere, and he makes a confidante of Miriam
requesting her good offices with his Aunt who vehemently
opposed to the match, and wishes him to marry Creigden
the effect which she leaves all her money to the latter, with the
exception of a small annuity to Bernard. She sickens, and dies,
on her death bed she instructs Miriam where to find some letters telling
her to destroy them, who while doing so finds the will, and a letter
to herself both of which she destroys in order that Bernard, who is
supposed to be the only relative, may inherit all the property, but
a brother of Mr. Wilson who had been transported for forgery
returns and claims the property, as his sister had died intestate
the lady whom Bernard loved hearing of his loss, jilts him,
his combined misfortunes cause a reformation in his
conduct, and he appreciates Miriam, when a previous
will leaving all the property to Bernard is discovered, and
he marries her and they live happily. A drunken
attorney's clerk, who first makes his appearance as a
suitor to Miriam, and is eventually employed by the returned
convict, was imitatably personated, he had a habit of turning
up the white of his eyes and ejaculating "Oe much to be
thankful for" which gesture and sentence he repeated
when recalled after the performance was over. The Opera Belle
was reenacted but proved a failure.

27. Yesterday was a beautiful day though cold, thermometer 59.
In saloon towards evening the wind freshened a little and we
made more progress. During the night our fore mast
sprung and is now supported by heavy chains attached
to the bulwar to on either side. To day there has been a drizzling
mist on and off from noon to eight but not sufficiently
to prevent our being on deck. A Cape pigeon was caught
with a hook and line however they let it go again being
mercifully inclined, several hawks been shot. Our
long pleasant days on deck with chess & book & card
at and out now, and we are obliged to find employment
in the saloon, the long winter evenings drag heavily
with some who find no resource in books & cards. I am
reading Salla Book now to Mrs. ... it is exquisite
poetry, and I could only wish there were more of it. The
following lines struck me for their melancholy sweetness
Oh! ever they from childhood's hour,
I've seen my fondest hopes decay,
I never loved a tree or flower,
But is was the first to fade away.

I never nursed a dear girl,
So glad me with its soft black eye
But when it came to know me well,
And love me, it was sure to die.

30th Bolder and still colder, when the weather permits some of us amuse ourselves with skipping. Mr. Grierson shows himself an adept at it. I managed one day to keep up fifty six turns.

I am happy to say my bird has quite recovered the use of its legs. I tried various remedies. I commenced with spermaceti ointment but it produced no effect. Next tried warm water and alcohol, then arsenic, then poultices composed of bread water and olive oil, and lastly solution of caustic. The poultices I think, were most effectual, but whether the foot was cured through the instrumentality of the caustic or in spite of it I cannot say, at any rate it rapidly healed after its application three or four times. I cannot imagine the cause of the swelling, it appeared to be some sort of profuse affection, the foot was three times its ordinary size, much inflamed, and covered with a loose scab which extended up the leg and over the lower part of the body, from which the feathers all came off before it recovered. The other foot became slightly affected but the caustic stopped all further progress. I consider the bird now a living evidence of my medical skill (I was strongly advised to kill it and put an end to its misery, as no one expected it to recover) and hope to take it out safely, the other two are molting and have consequently lost their voices however I trust they are in good health.

31st Sunday. For the first time we were unable to hold service on deck, owing to the weather, consequently it was held in the saloon, an excellent sermon of Dr. Guthrie's was read on "Neglected warnings." The wind had been high all day, and a storm (on the building sail) was carried away twice towards evening it increased slightly and became rather squally. For the weather has decidedly settled fine weather is now the exception and wind and rain the rule, but we have little cause to complain, on the contrary much cause for thankfulness for two months we have had the fairest weather imaginable our port holes seldom closed even at night scarcely a shower and no squall worth mentioning, the only fault being the lack of sufficient and favourable wind during the whole time we have not once seen a sail which explains our delay.

August 3rd The best days run we have made yet, one part of the day we were going more than fifteen knots an hour, we travelled a distance of 310^{*} miles ^{in the four or twenty four hours} seven and a half degrees of East longitude, a degree in the latitude in which there are being only about forty two miles. * We have since done 380 miles in twenty four hours Aug 19-18.

4th The wind changed and we were compelled to go considerably north of our course with a head wind, in the course of the day however the wind returned to its right quarter, and we returned to our course. The number of birds flying about our stern has vastly increased the last few days, there are now large flocks of them there is some doubt as to what the majority of them really are some call them boobies, some molly mawks, others a species of albatross, the larger

and finer sorts of albatross are few and far between, some of them measured ten or twelve feet from tip to tip of the wings but I must refer my readers to ornithological works for particular descriptions. There are also skate birds, Cape hens, they follow the vessel for the sake of the refuse thrown overboard, sleeping on the wing at night.

5th Blowing hard all day in the evening the wind rose to a stiff gale, two staysails and one or two jibs gave way, we did not carry more than two sails on each mast, about 10 p.m. the ropes attaching one of the staysails snapped and the sail flapped about with tremendous violence, we all heard the noise in the saloon and could not imagine what had occurred. Dr. Grierson ventured to the bows and was knocked down by a wave. At one time for about a quarter of an hour they were unable to keep the binacle light burning owing to the wind, the captain afterwards informed us we were in danger of going down during that time. The motion was nothing compared to what one was led to expect, but the size of the vessel fully accounts for her sea going qualities, the companion doors were not even closed, in any ordinary vessel we should ^{have been} shut up, and have had to "hold on", on the saloon would have been flooded probably a foot deep whereas we were not inconvenienced in any way but the motion had free access to the deck, and only had the water in exposed qualities through our port-holes to windward, they are now caulked up, and we shall have no more open ports till we reach New Zealand.

7th Sunday. Yesterday morning we were almost becalmed, a perfect lull after the storm of the previous evening, the wind however gradually rose again and by this afternoon was as violent or more so than on Friday evening, we carried but one sail on each mast besides the spritsail and one or two others, all the rest was close reefed, for some hours in the morning we were again driven northward about two degrees, the variation in the wind was caused by the near vicinity of land, we being in the neighbour hood of the Desert or Foul Point Islands, the worst possible for a ship to be near in rough weather.

8th The wind still continues very high and the sea is much agitated. I enjoyed a draught bath at the bows, clad in my Mackintosh somewhat to the amusement of the men, by the morning a dead whale was seen floating by, a large number of Cape pigeons have been caught today (about 200), and there is a whole lot of skinning and stuffing going on, much to the edification

of the children, they are caught by letting a long string float
at the stern, when they get it entangled in their wrings, and
are drawn on deck. When caught they speedily become sea sick,
bringing up an oily matter, which if due care is not taken
irreparably soils their breasts which are pure white. They
cannot rise from the deck any height, when killed they
emit a strong smoky odour, one of the second class passengers
eat one and pronounced it palatable but somewhat peculiar
in flavour. They have not succeeded in catching more
than one of the other sorts of birds. It was remarked a
short time ago in the "Paper" that our good ship did
not know how to roll, the experience of today has falsified
such an idea, I have before said that one day we rolled in
right earnest, but it was mere child's play, compared
to the rolling of to day, our plates, and their contents,
not to mention the knives and forks, &c. seemed endowed
with life, and showed very decided tendencies to start
on voyages of discovery, at times it was necessary to make
a sudden grasp at a sliding dish, or fallen bottle, or truant
knife, at the same time maintaining ones own balance,
it was a case of meals "under difficulties", the frame work
kept constantly on the table (much to the inconvenience of readers & writers)
was scarcely sufficient protection, the exertion of the
stewards to bring the various comestibles their several
destinations were entertaining, one a black fellow (named
Silva) came to grief with a furcen of sauce in his hands.
with all our experience it was difficult to maintain ones
own equilibrium when on ones legs, when moving about
the saloon it was usual to make an immense rush at the
cabin doors, as though with an evident intention to burst
them open, at dinner one little girl suddenly disappeared
under the table with her knife and fork in her hand
to the merriment of her companions. We
had the first wave of any consequence over the quarter
deck today. The Captain has been unable to take an
observation with any degree of certainty for three or four
days in consequence of the roll.

9th During the night the rolling was tremendous few slept
I was awake about two a.m. both unpleasant consciousness
of the fact that my water cask was rolling from one end of
my cabin to the other having been dislodged by a deeper roll
than ordinary, three chairs got loose in the saloon, and by
some means decreased the bulk of the. In one cabin there was a
mixture of sweet pickle, pickles, and water &c. &c. rolling about the
floor much to the disgust, as well as amusement of the occupants.

(a baby a year or so) ^{delamun's subject} ^{and laughed heartily}
in another berth gave away in fact there were few who
escaped some snore or other. In the evening one poor man
had a bout of treacle-spitting his bed! My berth being
athwart ships the motion to me is somewhat similar to
lying on a sea saw, and is anything but pleasant and
by no means conducive to peaceful slumber, however
the rolling is not continuous, there are times strange
to say when it almost ceases and the quiet and absence
of creaking strikes gratefully upon the feelings, the excessive
rolling occurs periodically and lasts for a minute or two.

I was employed all the morning repairing the damages
of last night to give an idea of the extent of our rolling, our
port holes occasionally dipped into the water. I am very busy
just now drawing track charts on which to mark our course, I
have nearly completed three and contemplate commencing a
fourth, it forms a pleasant employment for the long winter months.
I am also assisting to copy the "Paper" for the printer which
with my journal pretty well occupies my time.

10th A lovely day, and quite warm in comparison to what we have
of late experienced the sun actually shined his face (the first
time for a week) for the best part of the day, and the captain
was enabled to take a reliable observation, the rolling has almost
ceased and we are spinning along with a fair wind slightly on
the quarter at about 12 knots an hour, two or three of the boys were
amusing themselves this morning by throwing empty bottles over
the side of the vessel and seeing if they could run as fast as they
floated away. It is beginning to look like a close of the voyage
as the empty ~~bottles~~ boxes for repacking have been taken from
the hold to day. The voyage seems to have been vastly prolonged
since the advent of the cold weather, for while the warm weather
lasted the monotony of each day after the first novelty wore off
made it seem but as the other day that we left home and
graveyard. It was a beautiful moonlight evening and I lay
a walk on deck after supper.

15th The fair weather continues but it is still cold. Yesterday service
was held in the saloon for those who liked to attend. It is a strange
inconsistency on the part of most people, practically they ignore
the existence of a God, yet they seem to think there is some sort of
respect due to the Lord's day and accordingly abstain from their
ordinary amusements to a certain degree, but they have nothing
in their place consequently the day drags heavily with them they
have not the courage to carry their practice out to its full extent
and make no difference between the days; it is sad to see so much
indifference to religion and an eternal state, indeed it would be
amazing, did one not know the cause, that any thinking being
at all convinced of a hereafter should be easy without knowing
something about ^{an hereafter} for a certainty, but so it is they are content to go

on from day to day, from year to year thinking or hoping that all will come right in the end. I have had the mortification to spoil two of my charts one completed the other nearly so, and having a third slightly soiled for a baze pigeon, which I skinned myself, the line that had caught so many broke yesterday so I tried to day with some very strong waxed thread, and succeeded in catching a pigeon their feathers are exceedingly pretty the back and breast make lovely hat feathers. Two molly men were caught on Saturday they are a fine bird with a brownish grey back and white breast those captured measured four feet across the wings.

17th I caught four birds yesterday three pigeons and a molly man. I have been engaged all this afternoon and evening in skinning them. I am getting quite expert now and to like the operation. It has been a beautiful day a good wind a fine sea, and sun shining, and we are scudding along at a glorious rate which produces quite an exhilarating feeling especially as for the last two or three days we have been creeping along at a snail's pace.

18th It was a rough night last night, our upper main top sail was blown away to day we have had a magnificent sea there was a cloudless sky for the first part of the day, and the sea was a beautiful blue, and covered with foam, and true atlantic waves were rolling splendidly on the top of them, as we were going with them, in fact they almost calmed the sails now and then, they rose astern and seemed as if they must overwhelm the vessel, when she rose on them like a piece of cork, had we been going against such a sea with a head wind we should have been battered awfully as it was we only rolled a little. About noon it clouded over and we had occasional snow storms for the rest of the day there was a small amount of snow falling. It was bitterly cold, in the cabin the thermometer stood at 43°. About two p.m. a sea broke astern and smashed in one of the windows in the fore cabin, ^{and flooded it, and the galley slightly} he had not taken the precaution to have his lead light down which Mr. Grierson who occupied the other stern cabin.

19th It was a beautiful moonlight night last evening, about half past ten p.m. two pigeons were caught one after the other. The sea has gone down today but we are still making good progress and materially shortening our distance. In the evening a meeting was held in the saloon to discuss the arrangements for printing the paper. It is proposed to print one thousand copies of the series and supply them at a shilling each appointing a treasurer to receive the money which is to be subscribed beforehand, they said to deliver the paper to the various subscribers or return their subscriptions in case of not being able to go to press the copies were subscribed for. It is calculated to cost fifty pounds in the printing so there remains twelve pounds to be made up by sale on shore if possible otherwise it would be a loss to the proprietors which it is to be hoped will not be the case.

27th For the past week we have been sailing with a wind varying from North to North East a very different one to that from the same direction in the northern hemisphere, being a mild and pleasant one.

Dr. Dr. Bennett has been ill the last few days. For some time a very mild form of scarlet fever has been prevalent among the crew.

and passengers forward, two of her children are now ill with it, and a vessel is not the best possible place to nurse very stricken patients in, and if we do not get rid of it before we reach Canterbury we shall have to be put into quarantine. One of Dr. Greason's little girls is also ill with it. The birds are gradually leaving us, very few being caught now, those that remain being chiefly of the large kinds, such as Muddy nawks and Albatrosses they are, a pretty sight sailing majestically in the air over and around the vessel, occasionally dropping down on and into the water after some refuse, apparently enjoying life to the full on a fine day with the sun shining, and brightly blue sea relieved here and there with the white crests of a wave, and the ship under full sail clearing her way through the water at a rate of four or five miles an hour, it is pleasant to stand on the wheel house and watch the movements of the birds enjoying at the same time the sense of motion through the waters. On Monday last (22nd) the wind increased a little, and on Tuesday it blew a stiff gale which lasted through the night, obliging us to sail with closed doors to protect the poor people forward got very wet, we had the sea nearly on our beam i.e. broadside consequently it washed over us from stern to stern. Wednesday evening (24th) the evening passengers gave by permission of the Captain a vocal concert on the quarter deck consisting of a series of comic and sentimental songs it was a rather vulgar affair, according to a accounts as I did not honour it with my presence. The following evening the school children were examined in the various branches of their education in the saloon and shewed to good advantage there was some absurd juggling in the way of mental arithmetic exhibited, the master (Mr. Keane) commenced by giving the children slowly three small numbers, which proceeded with great rapidity to give them various directions how they were to treat these said numbers in the way of squaring, dividing doubling adding to and subtracting from them for the space of one or two minutes he then asked them children for the result when the majority of them would instantly exclaim, say, 6 p.!! the masters utterance was too rapid for any one present to follow, yet he asserts all is straightforward and offers to prove it by doing it again!!! After the examination some prizes were presented by the Captain (supplied by the Canterbury Government) to those who had obtained the greatest number of marks, a bible or testament was then given to each. Some of the children were decidedly clever especially one little Scotch girl who won two prizes. In the course of the evening three pieces of poetry were recited by the children, two of them really well one particularly so, on an incident in the life of Bruce. Last evening a magic lantern was exhibited in the saloon for the benefit of the school children, as well as ours, the views were principally from the Crimean war, with a few comic ones, on the whole it was very fair, though there was no arrangement whatever the children were allowed to place themselves as they chose, the weakest went to the wall of course, and the crushing was anything but pleasant. The lantern belonged to a Mr. Westropp a second class passenger. To day the Captain was able to take the first reliable observation since Monday. We are now rapidly drawing to the close of the voyage being 500 E. of Baginima and in the full anticipation of arriving at our destination.

towards the close of the next week. There have been sundry "breezes"
between the passengers as a matter of course, a few "cuttings" &c. &c.,
happily I have been able to keep out of them as a rule, it would be
tedious to my readers and require a volume to enter into the details
of them all I will just glance at one or two. Mr. Prince a short man
with an immense heart is always getting into hot water with some
one or another but generally manages to get out again quickly
as other wise he might possibly lose a good customer, he is funny,
meddling, and conceited, in technical phraseology "too cheeky," he first
worked his way out to New Zealand as school master on board an
emigrant vessel about six or seven years ago. This morning at
breakfast I had a "wiggling" from him for some fancied insult
I received it with silent contempt and was bored out in my conduct
by all to whom I spoke upon the subject, he is not generally liked.
The wounds caused by the dispute about the bath have more entirely
healed the principal disputants are still at loggerheads, Mr.
Grierson a large man with a very little mind who took off his
coat and offered to fight Mr. Delamain at that time. I am com-
plains that the articles in the "paper" are not shown to him before it is
written, is always fancying he is being slighted or insulted by one
or another, a passage in the first paper he considered as alluding
to him, to make matters worse, Mr. Wood having partially overheard
a conversation between Mr. Delamain and Mr. Morris about a
proposed testimonial to the Captain (who by the by does not deserve it)
sanctioned by Mr. Grierson, tells the latter that Mr. D. will not sign
the testimonial because Mr. G. was the prime mover, ergo Mr. G.
when applied to will not sign a testimonial to the doctor set
on foot by Mr. D. (who thoroughly deserves it, having laid himself out
for the benefit and amusement of all) though one of his children
and his wife had been seriously ill and attended by the doctor
and two children ill at the time. He and Mr. G. lead a cat and dog
life almost, he is selfishness, and small mindedness personified, however
we manage to jolly along very well. They pretend to be very gentle
but are just the contrary, he is a Cardiff shopkeeper, the children
are a general nuisance, rude and unruly to a degree & rarely
any restraint being exercised over them. Mrs. G. and her own confession
disliking children, one little girl, however a cripple is a great favorite
of mine, I generally read to her every Sunday afternoon, I trust
there is some good thing in her in spite of bad training. I was
nearly cut by the whole family for being suspected of going into
a neighbouring cabin for the purpose of listening to Mr. G. correcting
his son! arising from a quarrel over a game of chess the close of
which had watched. I taught Mr. G. and his two eldest daughters
chess and have generally laid myself out for their amusement
besides calling them every morning. The eldest son, one and twenty,
is a tall, well made young man quiet and reserved, but inherits
his fathers bad qualities, then follow three daughters supposed to
be like the have received a good education, completed in Germany

for governesses, the second, eighteen, is decidedly good looking, with
very pretty hands, but none of them are better than they ought to be.
The fifth child is a rude uncouth boy of fifteen though not without
his good qualities, after him come four girls from ten to five years
old; then a boy of four a stout little fellow in knickerbockers nick-
named "Victrinus", every inch his father, and as fond of climbing
as ~~his father~~ a monkey, one day he was nearly over the vessel's side.

Mr. & Mrs. Speckley have improved upon acquaintance certainly
when they came on board their conduct was the subject of general
remark but they have decidedly sobered down ~~down~~ Mr. S. is very
pretty, a great deal too much so for a man with dark curly hair he
and his wife are the joint authors of the allegory "Gabriel" (in the paper).
At the commencement of the voyage he was always up to some "tom
foolery" but lately he has kept himself pretty much to himself,
being occupied with the paper and his own designs.

Dr. Delamain, about thirty, is a kind generous openhearted kindhearted
fellow but somewhat spoilt by a lengthened residence in the New
Zealand bush, Mr. D. is a pretty lady like person, as kind as her husband,
with dark hair and eyes and three nice little children, the youngest
a year old, a pretty bright dark eyed little girl, and precocious.

Mr. Monk is a short thick set individual of Jewish extraction, harmless
and quiet as a rule, though stormy now and then, a great draught
player, his wife we seldom see, she has her meals in her cabin and
spends most of her time with her brother and sisters who are among
the steeple passengers, during her husband's absence in India she
kept a small truckstership.

The three young gentlemen
with Dr. Delamain are little else than school boys, Mr. Delamain
one of them however is a very gentlemanly, pleasant young fellow
and would make a very handsome young lady, he is the son
of a certain Lieut. Col. Delamain who distinguished himself
in India.

Mr. Wood though only eighteen looks forty & twenty
and is six foot two, he keeps himself pretty much to himself
though lately he has been rather thick with the Grecians being
apparently enamoured with the charms of Miss B. or she with
him rather, but a day or two ago was cut by Mr. G. because he
signed the testimonial to the doctor!

Mr. M. Donnelly
is a gentlemanly young man with finely cut features, the
son of a clergyman he possesses a fine organ & accordion
which he is constantly performing on, he plays with decided taste
he is good natured but intensely lazy.

Mr. Britton is an out
and out farmers son, good natured and easy, a regular John Bull
who one evening when the moon was new asked if it was a full
moon!

There has been very little drunkenness, though some
have been noisy once or twice after champagne supper. The light airs,
the Doctor, Mr. Delamain and Mr. Speckley play whist nearly every
evening, for trifling sums, otherwise there has been scarcely any
game but on the whole we have been a very sober well conducted
happy company.

The testimony to the Captain is not received with much favour
Messrs. Grierson, Prince and Monk being the only supporters, the two
latter being apparently mainly grateful for expected favours
having been guilty of the large amount of "boarding" lately.
His qualities are chiefly negative he has done nothing but his bare
duty, and as a sailor well for which we have already paid, but
by no means has he shown himself courteous and civil frequently
the contrary indeed he has managed to offend the majority
though to do him justice he has generally lent a ready ear to complaints
and if possible rectified them. He is a short stout well made but
uneducated man with a round head, and grey hair (the hair on
his face), beard, whisker and moustache, cut short, he is between
fifty and sixty years old.

28th Sunday, A man of the name of Fox had been gradually
sinking since we left England, died this afternoon about three on a
hopeless state, he would not hear a word of religion; his body was
committed to the deep in less than three hours after he leaves
a widow and three children, the eldest a girl of seventeen. Our
day was considerably shortened this evening. The clock is only
altered about once a week, and we are occasionally deceived
by having tea an hour or so after dinner, when we discover the clock
has been put on about an hour and a half. It is light now soon
after six a.m. and till nearly five p.m. we are between ten and
eleven hours in advance of English time now.

29th Mr. Grierson has had the good sense to shake hands with Mr. D.
and apologise for his conduct. Considerably more albatrosses
than usual have been seen today, and many of them ruthlessly
murdered. I have completed my fifth and last chart of the
the two spoils and made them available. The chains supporting
our fore mast have proved insufficient, it gave way irremediably
last night and they were busy all this morning lowering the upper
part, called the fore top gallant mast, so we shall enter by the fore
winners half a mast, though the weather we have experienced has not
justified any such calamity. The N. E. wind still continues and will
if it lasts materially interfere with our reaching Canterbury, we
passed some little distance south of the Meres today.

30th The wind has veered a little towards the North during the night
and we are consequently enabled to make a little more northing.
There was another examination of the school children in the school
this evening to please Mr. Prince being entirely at his request,
but enough to the disgust of all the other cabin passengers.

The children again showed to good advantage, in grammar
they answered particularly well, there was one good piece
of recitation, and three or four good songs, two solos were
admirably sung, some and some to perfection, one had a song
I forget the title, the other "Willie we have missed you" was sung
with a great deal of expression by a Scotch laddie. The prizes
consisting of money were given by Mr. Prince, he completely stultified
himself, he was the cause of many of the questions he asked
were very absurd, but he put a climax to this folly by a ridiculous

a fulsome speech he made after the examination it was soft sand
from beginning to end. After saying how gratified he was to see so
much intelligence on its way to Antebury, promising shillings
and other things less substantial right and left to all who would
call on him in W. Church on their birthdays! if such gifts were to be
indefinitely increased each birthday did they continue for ever
and saying he would educate three boys free of expense at the college
in W. Church, and give them a start in life, moreover hinting if he had
the means he would present a foundation to the college for their special
benefit, he proceeded first to regret that so few in the cabin took
the interest he did in education, then to eulogize to a most extra-
ordinary degree all whom he thought deserved it, first on the list
came the worthy chairman the Captain, a braver kinder more
considerate, courageous, skilful & estimable man in every way
never trod the deck of vessel, and he was sure every eye would
bear him out in his opinion &c. &c. "Our worthy auctioneer" Mr. Dain
next came in for his share of flattery, succeeded by "our renowned
architect Mr. Speckly" whom he wished all to know about, (here he elevated
his voice) that Mr. S. who was in the opposite cabin might hear, then
followed "a man who ought almost to be adored, our worthy doctor."
"we must have him in W. Church in the midst of us by all means,"
he'd help him, oh yes he'd help him for one (with a knowing inclination
of the head and a wrinkle of the left eye) the poor individual appeared to
be covered with blushes was compelled to conceal his physiognomy
behind a characteristic well known cap. Mr. Monk, a clever skilful
engineer was not forgotten, and the school master and ship's officers
had their share. Besides he knew of no one worthy of remark but
an inestimable man on his right a worthy father of a large family
and worshipful Master of the order of ^{Mr. Grimson} Freemasons. ^{Mr. Grimson} He felt them
had the good sense to acknowledge it as all flattery, his speech
was short but to the purpose, and sailorlike in its bluntness he said
he had never travelled with a more pleasant trier, and well conducted
look of passengers, he was not proud and hoped if any met
him in New Zealand they would make themselves at home, he should
always be pleased to see them. &c. The doctor also replied in a few
appropriate humorous words, the others had not graced the meeting
with their presence. A Mr. Taylor on behalf of the second cabin
and steerage passengers then rose and presented an empty testimonial
to Mr. Prince thanking him for his great and constant kindness
to them during the voyage in lecturing to them and giving them
information about the colony they were proceeding to, and hints
what to do when they reached it. Of course gave Mr. Prince
another opportunity to display his generosity, he began by saying
if he felt proud before he felt ten fold more so now, and then put
off into wholesale promises of what he would do and what he would
if he could, there was a large amount of applause, he then proposed
three cheers and one more for the captain, the same for his wife! and
ditto for his brother officers. So terminated the most absurd meeting
I ever attended, the whole proceedings were ridiculous and impertinent

from the beginning to the end, and it does not speak much for the Captain's discrimination and good sense that he should have permitted them. Mr. Prince's style of speaking amused me it was a mock patriotic, declaratory one, he is ambitious and aspires to a seat in the legislative assembly of Canterbury and he gave me the idea that he was practicing for such a posturing exercise. It appears there is something in the mental arithmetic question previously referred to, they were repeated this evening and the children gave their answers aloud to each step, and certainly their quickness was amazing.

31st The good people of last evening left their mark behind them, the paint of the cabin doors had been washed yesterday morning, this morning a black ring round the cuddy gave unmistakable evidence of the late proximity of dirty heads and backs. Unfortunately the wind does not change, we have passed the longitude of New Zealand and are now retracing our steps, going South west by West. Little Willie Tennant has sickened this morning, Isabella and Douglas are slowly recovering, the doctor thinks we are inevitably in for quarantines as the fever is on the increase forward both in severity and the number of patients, going through the tropics the hatchways were constantly open day and night therefore the effects of overcrowding were not so severely felt now that they are obliged to be closed owing to the cold, ventilation is defective and fever is no consequence. Another poor man, Pefferell by name, died this morning of pulmonary consumption he also had been ill ever since embarking, he was an atheist, he leaves a widow and six young children! This makes the fourteenth death since leaving England, ten of which were infants. I hope it may be the last ^{body} two women, one the mother of six children, are in a somewhat critical state. After dinner today the various testimonials were presented, first in order came one to the Captain from the first and second cabin passengers amounting to £13, then one to the doctor from the first cabin only, £22, another to the doctor from the second cabin and steerage passengers £10, another to the Captain from the steerage passengers expressed merely in words, and lastly a similar one to the doctor from those among the emigrants who could not afford to contribute to the other, considerable merriment was caused by a mock presentation of a hat by Mr. Speechley to the doctor being the latter that had been put up for sale at the last auction, as I mentioned that by way of a joke, it was an ancient one and of peculiar con-
struction, a sort of large beaver wide awyer. The Captain repaid by returning the compliment, in much the same terms as he used the previous evening, but adding he should take care to inform the authorities of our good conduct. The doctor returned thanks in a very good speech complimenting everybody in general and some in particular, and intimating that in consequence of

the universal kindness he had met with on board the British Empire
he would remain in St. George (tremendous applause). Those compliments
then replied and the ceremonies terminated, had the captain been
anything but a shabby he would have stood champagne all round.
Sept. 1st Partridge shooting commenced; with us it has been a
magnificent day the best we have had for many a long one though
it was a very rough night last night, and we scarcely carried a
kitch of canvas. It was possessed some power almost enough
to enable us to set still on deck in the middle of the day, the air too
seemed changed and to bode the proximity of land, however
the Captain was in a towering rage in the afternoon wearing
at thence in general and the compasses in particular which
were not as correct as he would like, he expected to see land
early in the afternoon but had not seen it, and much to his
discomfiture and everybody's amusement it was still
broad daylight at six o'clock, though yesterday it was dark
at five, the clock had however been put on slightly in the
evening, ⁱⁿ fact he was not sure where we were he ordered
the soundings to be taken, and took a seat with the second mate
on the summit of the truncated fore mast to look out for
land, the soundings yielded eighty fathoms over a sandy
bottom and he took out. — Land, yes actually land, St. George's
Island slightly to the North West of us, which of course put
the Captain into an uproarious & good humour and
everybody else into a state of excitement, in fact the Captain
said if we could only get in the next day, he would not mind
— standing — something — good, it was a long time coming
out, his mind was evidently considerably relieved, which you
doubt caused this unwelcome burst of generosity, but he
knew he was safe. It appeared we had gone some
little distance further North than he had calculated, he
had not once sighted land along his whole course (which
by the way he pronounces cursed) to prove his compasses nor
had he had an opportunity to compare chronometers and
when he did not see land according to calculation, naturally
became a little uneasy. In the course of the afternoon
the wind which had been gradually freshening since the early
morning left us almost entirely, and the sea was almost as
smooth as glass, the breath that was left taking us happily
due North, had we gone much further West we should have
passed New Zealand, and been unable to return while
the right wind to take us to Syttelfon remained, but happily
we are on the right side of N.Z. with the right wind, another
remarkable circumstance in connection with this day of
was the superb and glorious sunset, almost equal to the finest
I have seen even in the tropics, if it was a specimen of what we may
expect in N.Z. its climate has certainly not been overrated. To crown the

whole a barque passed us soon after supper, opened as a matter of course there was a general rush from the cabin to see the welcome sight.

2nd It was quite a return of older times to day, the sea with scarcely a ripple, sparkling in the sunlight, the vessel almost motionless, and a pigeon or albatross occasionally sweeping by. I much enjoyed sitting on deck for two hours in the morning, breading to Mr. Bennett after lunch I mounted to the cross trees of the main mast and basked in the sun my frame of mind that of happy content what a contrast to my life at the Bank there peering listlessly over a cash book in a crowded office in the heart of the city, now perched on a mast of a vessel quietly enjoying the pure atmosphere under the clear vaulted heavens in the Southern Hemisphere, who could have imagined at a year ago, surely "the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." I can scarce believe it or realize that I am so many thousands of miles from home; but it will not last long, I shall soon have to be in harness again somewhere, and buckle up to the real business of life, though I trust invigorated both in mind and body by my lengthened freedom. I am certainly better in health but I fear not much stronger, though I have gained a little flesh. I hope the change again to land air may effect a still greater improvement but for descent to facts I occasionally took a bird's eye view of the busy scene below, there a contrast met my bodily vision almost as great as the one that struck upon my mental faculties, between the quarter deck and the remainder of the vessel and their respective occupants, our portion is kept scrupulously clean, whereas forward the decks, boats, houses, spars, and the lower sail are positively black with soot caused by the smoke from the galley fire, I present anything but a clean aspect from aft to any where else in fact if possible it is even worse than it looks indeed the greasy filth of the decks could scare be imagined and the lower deck where the emigrants spend most of their time is far worse, and the stench is abominable, how anyone could exist there for any length of time is a mystery to me it must call for the effluvia of a large amount of "vis vite", and must be seen to be believed, no wonder then is vetrim fever &c, and that consumptive and aged people die. An old woman over sixty died this morning, passing through the tropics she had suffered considerably but had rallied again, she was coming out with two sons and a daughter who had been struggling farmers, she would not remain behind with a married son who wished to keep her. The one solitary pig that had survived the disease that carried off his fellow pigs was deprived of life yesterday.

and cooked for today dinner, but few parts of it, there is one sheep left but no poultry, by strict economy and one day per week (Saturday) of salt horse they have managed to keep our fresh provisions till now. After dinner I remounted to the main cross trees and experienced the blissful sensation of seeing land for the first time for three months. viz. the south of the fast land, the sun had prevented my seeing it in the morning, it was tantalizing to see it and not be able to move a step towards it with sick people and short provisions on board. I am happy to say Willie Tennent was only temporarily indisposed, the other two, Isabella & Douglas came on deck today for the first time since their illness, looking very delicate. Mrs. Tennent's turn has come she has been very poorly the last two days quite worn out in fact, Oh! for a fair wind. a stiff breeze from the right quarter and four or twenty hours ^{would} put an end to our troubles, or perhaps commence them, who knows? My relations with the Griersons have unpleasantly sustained a severe shock, I am not regarded with the same favour as heretofore, notwithstanding I gave direct explanations, though I considered them unnecessary, they wind varies considerably now it is a heavy shawl of the hands, though Miss G. was heard to say my conduct was so rude and ungentlemanly she could never shake hands with me again! Then a cold bow and good night across the table and occasionally no notice at all, it seems to afford them amusement and to relieve the dull routine of life on ship board, too, be it so. I made Miss Lucy G. a chair.

3rd While in my cabin this morning preparing for breakfast I heard the clatter of many feet on the deck above, and could not imagine the cause, presently heard the sound as of a boat being lowered and on looking through my port hole discovered such to be the case, the faces of the men in it were pale and eager, I hurried on my coat and cap and rushed on deck feeling instinctively that a man was overboard and on my way learned that Mr. Henry our chief steward had thrown himself out of his port hole in a fit of delirious tremors, providentially two young women looking over the vessel's side saw him fall into the water and gave the alarm, a coil of rope was thrown to him but he would not take hold of it nevertheless he floated, and never sank at all, happily we were not moving when he jumped in but he had not been in the water ten minutes ere a slight breeze sprang up, he was however soon picked up and brought on board, and got to bed, his groans were awful to listen to, and it required force to keep him down. He was an inveterate drinker, being

seldom really sober, he drank nothing but beer and wine, never touching spirits, he has a wife and family in England. His conduct has been strange throughout the voyage, swearing, roaring and bullying nearly all day, he had had no control whatever over his underlings, nevertheless he was good natured through it all. We are still scarcely moving, making but one or two knots an hour, with land in sight. A subscription has been made for the poor widow Jefferill, about £13. has been collected, to give her a little ready money on her arrival, the government will have to look after her. Mr. Prince at the commencement of the voyage wished to purchase my three canaries, I asked £2.10. and he consented, promising me the money when we reached Strathchurch. I was to take charge of them during the voyage, however he backed out of the engagement shortly after when he found his own birds were dying so, but the day he wanted to know whether I would adhere to my agreement I told him, certainly, but he should not have ~~been~~ under two guineas each now, whereat he wrined and declined doing business, he manifestly envious me the possession of them.

(I afterwards offered them to him for five guineas including all etceteras, he again declined, and said he could not give more than three; I landed them safely, and he then offered ^{to give} me what I had proposed, but I declined having already sold one privately to a hair dresser in the town for two guineas with cage and feed extra, he then closed with me for four guineas for what I had left! so I pocketed £4.9. by the transaction, and had the other two lived I should have made £8.10, the poor man completely overreached himself. It is quite true that a canary fetched £15. at an auction, but the bidders were two drunken fellows who had each made up their minds to have it. The Australian love birds are very generally kept here, and very pretty little things they are. 12/9/65)

4th Sunday. Our usual Sunday good fortune attended us, a stiff breeze sprang up about four o'clock this morning from the East, sending us N.E. at a rate of ten or twelve knots an hour, which was decidedly gratifying after the inaction of the previous three days, speculations were rife, as to when we should ^{reach} Banks Peninsula, we all retired with the fond anticipation of anchoring at least in the early afternoon of the following day. The doctor stuck champagne for dinner. 5th Every one was up betimes this morning eagerly looking for the desired haven, which had been expected some midnight.

As the morning mist cleared away, the peninsular became faintly visible, slightly to the south west of us, and we steered direct for it, it appeared we had stood too far out to sea and overshot the mark, but with a stiff breeze and a lee shore the captain did not like to approach to close especially in the night. The wind however was gradually backing, it was a fine morning but cold, and in the afternoon very damp and almost as cold as we had ever had it.

All the morning every one was busy routing out their cabins many in the expectation of landing in the evening but they were doomed to be disappointed, the Captain had not been to New Zealand before and knew nothing of the coast it looked particularly wild rocky & desolate the heights were well wooded, and the highest points covered with snow some said they reminded them of the Jersey hills, others the hills in the north of Scotland, others again were carried in imagination to North Wales, and Switzerland was not forgotten. I am not prepared to say which they most resembled, possibly they possessed one or more of the characteristics of each.

The chart was studied, soundings constantly taken, a sharp look-out kept, guns fired for a pilot and questions asked of those who had made the voyage before, but none could tell which was the entrance to North Locket (not a landmark of any description being erected to guide the mariner,) till it was passed about half past five p.m. just as the sun had set, and too late to attempt the comparatively narrow opening with so large a vessel half an hour's more day light would have been sufficient, but much to our disappointment directly opposite and within two miles of the entrance we had to witness the operation of wearing round, and turning the vessel's head to sea again to wait for daylight and a favorable wind. Has the world come to an end? or is there a

Has the world come to an end? or is there a
vacancy for an eighth wonder? amazing extravaganza!
the fagotins positively supplied champagne for supper,
such as it was and consequently one or two were merry
Mr. Monk who is somewhat given to dry drollery, cantered
out rather strong, and caused some amusement. I sincerely
hope Captain Collman may sleep well to night after his ^{escape} escape.

6th When we rose this morning not a breath of air was blowing, it was very warm and pleasant, but exceedingly trying to be able to move. I was unfortunately racked with tooth ache but had the offending tooth extracted in the eve of the morning. Shortly after breakfast the Captain permitted Messrs. Delamain and Prince to go to Port in one of his boats to obtain a Pilot or Steam tug, provided they would pay the penalty of £100. in case it was incurred, they carried the yellow flag to hoist if they

me, any one, however they met the pilot before they had pro-
ceeded half way, the distance being about fifteen miles, and returned
with him. As they were returning, about 3 o'clock, a slight breeze
sprang up, and sent us slowly on our way; we entered the creek
and anchored in the Quarantine grounds, about three miles up
at four o'clock, when the pilot sent his boat for the health
officer (Dr. Donald), the emigration commissioner, and five
other solemn looking individuals; they arrived about six
and after a short consultation with the doctor gave us permission
to land, four gentlemen availed themselves of the privilege
at once. The Captain (himself all over), wanted to know what
he were compelled to give us fresh meat while we remained.
Mrs. Tennent made herself known to Dr. Donald, who
after tea kindly took her and myself on shore in the
pilot boat, introduced us to his wife, and gave us some
bread and cheese, (which we enjoyed immensely, after our
long experience of sour bread and soap cheese on board ship).
The row up the harbour was delightful, the water was as smooth
as glass, the moon shining and the stars brilliant
then as we came round the point behind which Lyttelton
lay the lights of the town extending half way up the hill
were picturesque in the extreme; Dr. Donald's house was situated
some short distance up the hill, and on our way down from
the house to the hotel we were charmed with the prospect of the
town immediately beneath us and the harbour stretched
out before us with the lights of the shipping reflected on
its mirror like surface. We were comfortably entertained
at the Queen's Hotel, the best in the town, the charge, beds 4/6 each
breakfast consisting of eggs and toast 2/- each. Upon enquiry
we found ~~that~~ there was an open car going twice a day to
St. George at nine in the morning, and three in the afternoon
we went by the first it took us along a road called the Summit
road cut zigzag fashion on the face of the hill, it was full
of sharp turns and a false step on the part of the horses
would have precipitated us into the waters of the creek.
The other side the road was a gradual descent, and when
once down the character of the road completely changed,
the country round being flat, marshy, and uninteresting
in the extreme; at Sumner, about half way, we had to change
conveyances and were put into a covered van in which
we were severely jolted for an hour, and we arrived at St. George
shortly after eleven. I cannot say I was exactly pleased though
I was not disappointed, for I had not formed any very exact
idea of it, I simply took it as I found it, it is certainly
picturesque for there is such endless variety no two spots are

alike each new corner improves, or otherwise upon his predecessors
there is little else than wood used for building, however now they
are commencing bricks but more frequently stone erections.
It seems to be of a transition state; some of the
wooden buildings are very pretentious, among which I mention
particularly the "Sydney Times" office, and the City Hotel, con-
spicuous objects in Cathedral square, this latter is a large open
space in the centre of the town enclosed in railings, being
the site for the proposed Cathedral which is to be built across
the ~~former~~ chief thoroughfare in Colombo street causing it to
diverge on each side; the design is Scott Russell's, respectfully
is merely to carry it out. In the drapers shops there is
as good a display as in the English provincial towns, and
other things in proportion on the whole its appearance
is decidedly pleasing and likely to improve upon acquaintance
it is not however so healthy as Sydney, and is fearfully dusty.
Business now is very dull, and there have been a large
number of bankruptcies lately according to all accounts
and letters of introduction have produced nothing but civilities
situations are scarce. But to return to my narration,
it was a magnificent day and very warm though but
the early spring or end of winter, the mornings & evenings
however are very cold. The first gentleman we called upon
was out we then went to where I expected to find my brother
but to my great disappointment I found he was away
acting as pursuer upon one of his employer's coasting steamers
and would not be back for a month. We then proceeded with
a letter of introduction to the Rev. J. Fraser, the minister of the
Scottish free church, who together with his wife has been most
kind ^{helping me} laying out the greater part of his time in assisting
us to find a house &c, he kindly took Mr. Tennant & I
the night while I went back to the vessel to bring the
children off the next day, which I accomplished very
comfortably in company with the Griersons, though
coming over the land in the car from Sumner the driver
while lighting his pipe allowed the horses to go a little
too far out and our right wheels suddenly sunk up to
the axle trees in the mud, we all had to get out, fortunately
another trap was passing at the time, the occupants
of which kindly gave assistance, and by unharnessing
the horses and putting on "shoulders to the wheel" in a skilful
manner we managed to drag it out, it served as a
little experience of colonial life.
9th we are now settled ^{very much} as comfortably as can be expected.

in a board dug house on the outskirts of a church, the walls
of which, which the way is as big as a prize bullock and whose
husband died of consumption, is constantly impressing
upon our minds, when we venture to make any modesty
that we are in the colonies, and people cannot expect to have
things as comfortable as at home. She has the conscience
to charge us £12.2. per week for board and lodging for
ourselves and a servant, which according to her account
is a considerable reduction upon her usual charges,
which she says are £6.6. for a married couple £2.3 for a single
gentleman and £1.10. each for children, however with
Newcastle coal at £4.10. per ton, and eggs 4/- a dozen
bread fourteen pence per four pound loaf, and rents ex-
orbitant one cannot well be surprised. We have
managed to secure a house large enough to hold us
for six months at the rate of £150 a year, during which
time Mr. Tennent hopes to build one, the use to let are re-
scarce articles, and being built of wood do not last long
so that those that are to let are generally used up concerns.
House, is the name of the one we have secured, the room
annexed in front, it is a long house consisting of a body
and two wings, one of which Mr. Tennent intends letting
it is just within the town, and close to Mr. Fraser's.

All the single women, with one or two exceptions
that came out with us that wanted situations have
found them, but emigration is to be stopped
for the present having been rather overdone lately.

There has been a bad state of things amongst
the sailors of the "British Empire" they struck for good the
day after casting anchor, and threatened to do so again
the next day, but were pacified by having fresh meat
died out to them, the boatswain however behaved in a
rather mutinous manner, and with another sailor
ran away from the vessel, having shaved himself clean
to avoid recognition. Mr. Henry recovered but had
left the vessel as a matter of course, he however expressed
great sorrow, and his determination to become a
temperance man, remaining here and sending for
his family. Of those who came out as first and second
class passengers one after another drops into a situation
and I hope will soon all be disposed of. A trust my
will come soon, one young man who worked his way
out as assistant purser has had a situation given him
by the Government in the land work at £200 a year.

rief justice knowing his father. We were all much
amused when introduced to Mr. Brown whom we had heard
so much of, she is a large and somewhat masculine
woman; poor Mr. Prince looked very small and much
by her side, it was only too evident she had that beam in
hand, it was all thanks to this and Charles do that man
imperious manner, she caused quite a sensation on
board when Mr. Prince took the ship's diary after he landed
we were scarcely good enough to speak to, poor Brown
had found his keeper.

Such is a full true and particular account of all
that has occurred to me during the last three months
containing the whole truth and nothing but the truth
I do not know that I can exactly say it has been
the happiest time I have known, but I can say I have
not in any acclimation experienced such a continuous
season of happiness, there is no road without a thorn
and no water, one exempt from trials, but in this
case with me the thorn was small and the trials
comparatively slight, on looking back upon the voyage
I am happy to say I have little to regret, and much to
much to be very thankful for, mercies both temporal
and spiritual have been through the goodness and
lovingkindness of God plentifully vouchsafed unto me
and I have experienced the truth of the promise
Commit thy way unto the Lord, and he shall bring
it to pass. May he grant me grace to shew forth
his praises not only by my lips but in my life.

J. W. Wheeler