

The testimonial to the Captain is not received with much favour
Deas Grierson, Prince and Monk being the only supporters, the two
latter being apparently mainly grateful for reflected 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 shewn 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 Joseph 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 read 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. Deas
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, spatched
the two spoils and made heads 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 Lyttelton
runners 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 Trenches today.

30th The wind has veered a little towards the North during the night
and we are consequently enabled to make a little more progress.
There was another exanimation of the school children in the saloon
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 shewed 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, time and time to perfection, one had a hymn
I forget the title, the other "Willie we have missed you" was sung
with a great deal of expression by a Scotch lass. The prizes
consisting of money were given by Mr. Prince, he completely stultified
himself, he was the scampier and many of the questions he asked
were very absurd, but he put a climax to this folly by a ridiculous