

Diary of H Bottle *Left Eng.*
Jan 1849

Jan 11 ^{th 18} Left London by ship Himala
Captain Spitfield, anchored at Green
Hithe, very cold

12 th & 13 th Left Green Hithe 2 AM, struck
on a chalk bank off Dover, waited
for the tide & got off. Thames pilot
left with letters. Some of people very
sick, myself well, anchored at Deal
wind against us. cold & foggy.

14 th Stopped at Deal all day, rain all
day. Shaw Savills bark foundered off
the Isle of Wight, two people drowned
rest saved. Ladies very sick, 4 ducks
found dead, pigs & sheep doing well.

15 th Still at Deal all day, rain & foggy

16 th Left Deal 10 o'clock with good wind
passed South Foreland Dover in sight
passed the wreck ship where the
collision took place with German frigate

17th Passed Isle of White early in the morning. Pilot left with letters, off the Bill of Portland, some very sick.

18th & 19th = 90 miles S.W. of Lelly. H^{rs} rather rough. lots of water. came over

20th 120 miles S of cape Bledr. fine day heavy swell, ducks got loose had a hunt

Lots of porpoises & gulls in sight. vessel rolled very much. lots of people sick.

21st Vessel rolled very much when at breakfast the whole table was cleared and some things broken, running down coast of Portugal, pigs got loose had a spree.

22nd & 23rd Ships in sight, one with mast carried away, fine day, going well

24th Heavy gale during night could not sleep. Off str of Gibraltar, went on deck & got drenched from head to foot by a sea, about 1ft of water in our cabin

25th Pig died, thrown overboard, saw a shark eat it

26th Service in the morning, passed

a ship, off Canary Isles

27th Weather fine, getting warm, played at quoits, Barque in sight, fine rainbow, got a line & hook & fished seaweed up

28th Heavy rain in night, very warm & thirsty, drank lime juice, splendid sunset

29th 3 sails in sight, hot, played at quoits one of the passengers canary got loose but was caught again

30th Weather very sultry, Whales seen lots of black fish about we are now 1600 miles from Deal no wind sea calm 4 sails in sight

31st Warm weather, rains a little, just getting into trade winds

Feb 1st Very hot, Lat 25 Long 18. Had a concert in evening turned out well

2nd Fine breeze going on fine. Service in the morning. Saw lots of Portuguese men of war about (a sort of jelly fish)

3rd Travelled 205 miles in 24 h^{rs} good wind. Sheep died, threw overboard Lots of flying fish about. Mother

Careys Chickens about (a small bird)

4th Long 18 Lat 21. 205 miles played at quoits. flying fish caught, are good eating boobys seen (large bird)

5th Travelled 209 miles Lat 11.47 Long 21.44 very hot. we are now 3000 miles from London off Sierra Leone, playing quoits & fishing

6th 186 miles, very hot, nothing to do but read, too hot for anything else.

7th Lat 6.24 N Long 22.35 W. 141 miles

100, in the shade, in sun heat above barometer. Fishing for bonnetas. &

Dolphins. Had a salt bath

8th Lat 4 Long ~~22~~ 23 N Heat 96. 97 miles killed a rat in our Cabin, Slept on deck

9th Lat 3 N Long 23 W. & 21 miles.

Heat 110°. We are now in the doldrums had a heavy squall of rain, poured down Lightened all the evening

10th Heat 86, Lat 2.47, 53 miles

Diary Continued

Feb 10th Heat 86° Lat 2-47-53 miles

We spoke to a vessel, but she would not stop to take letters, 2 other sails in sight, rained fast in the evening. I went on deck & had a bath in it

11th & 12th Heat 90° 59 miles, very squally strong lightning, crossed the line

13th Lat 27-47. Long Lat 2.22° Heat 80° rained in the morn. Lots of porpoises in sight & bonnetas & flying fish caught windy, the main sky sail was carried away, a schooner in sight

14th Lat 5-20. Long 29-37 Heat 83°

Several whale birds seen 8th Valentines day, Had a lark sending Val^s to each other

15th Lat 8-52. Long 30. Heat 86° 218 miles, fine breeze, played quoits

16th Lat 11-51 Long 31-22. dist. 186 miles Heat 80° no wind very hot, a fowl got out & fell overboard.

18th Lat 17. Vessel came in sight, we signalled to them to ask if they would take letters home. Said yes. Lowered a boat went to them, it was an Italian vessel from Buenos Ayres bound to Antwerp, sent two letters home

19th Lat $18\frac{1}{2}$ Long 31.25 Heat 90° , signalled to a ship, it was from San Francisco to Liverpool with grain. Squally

20th Lat 20.2 Long 30.43 Dis 90^m heat 100° . Squall of rain in morning passed a vessel that started from London 3 weeks before us, it had had bad weather in the Channel. plenty of boatswain birds about

21st Lat 21.54 Long 30.14 Dis 115 miles heat 95° Very hot, reading & fishing

22nd Lat 23.32 Long 29.39 Dis 103^m heat 85° Very warm

23rd Lat 24.26 Long 29.44 Dis 54^m Heat 110° A dead calm all day
The heat was intense, hottest day yet.

Plenty of pilot fish about, saw a large shark quite close to us. very fine sunset. New moon

24th Lat 25 Long 29.26 Dis 67^m Heat 80° Fine weather & slight breeze squally & rain in the evening.

25th Lat 26.18 Long 28.25 Dis 67^m heat 75° Fine breeze Drizzling rain black fish seen

26th Lat 27.28 Long 28.20 Dis 87^m heat 80° a barge homeward bound on the starboard bow

27th Lat 28.30 Long 27.2 Dis 106^{ms} Heat 80° Ship in sight going same way as us. Spoke to a barge from Canterbury she had been 40 days out. Very hot all day

28th Lat 29.35 Long 25.31 Dis 103^{ms} Heat 75° Heavy squall of wind & rain main royal fell on deck, topsail runner carried away & the yard came down a ship in sight steering our course

Dear Nellie

Winnate

The mail is going to day so
I must not stay to write
I am just going on to Comaru
to see Mr Sam Islip & then
perhaps on to Duneaten to
work. There is plenty of work
there. I wrote to Papa yesterday

so I expect you will get
these letters both at once
I shall write a long letter
next mail, I am quite well
& happy Love to all

I am your
Loving brother
Harry

Diary Continued

March 1st Lat. no sun Long. no sun

Dis 133 m^{ls} Heat 75° flying fish seen

2nd No Sun. Dis by dead reckoning

84 miles A ship about 10 miles off

It poured in torrents of rain all day

A splendid rainbow & sun set never

saw such a sight. A large shark seen

3rd Lat 33.1 Long 20.47 Dis 103. Heat 70

Heat is gradually decreasing. The ship

that we saw yesterday sent a boat

over to us at 7 in the morning 3 men

& their 1st mate they had broken their

Chronometer (a very serious loss for them)

they are from New York to Shanghai

but we had not one to spare. They

will have to put in some port if they

to not get one. The ship sailed so close

that we called out to each other &

asked questions about where they

were bound for &c

4th Lat No sun dis 153 mls 2 sails
in sight. Carpenter busy condensing
water they can condense 700 gals a
day & consume 1 cwt coal Molly Hawks
seen (small birds)

5th Lat 36.56 Long 15.21 Dis 201 mls
very windy, fore royal split, raining
fast all day Plenty of Ice birds &
several Albatrosses seen. Cape Pigeons
& ships ahead.

6th Lat 38-59 Long 10-46 W Dist 240 mls
raining in the morning we are now going
on fine if this wind lasts it will soon take
us there, the sea is rather heavy & comes
over a bit, if you dont look out you get wet
7th Lat 39-36 S Long 5-27 W Dist 253 mls
a school of porpoises about Weather colder
Saw a large sun fish

8th Lat 40-45 Long 31 m W Dist 239
Drizzling rain Fine moon light night

9th Lat 42-22 S Long 3-22 E Dist 198 mls
several whale birds, molly hawks & a
sea hawk seen Vessel rolling very heavy

Mon 10th Lat 42-28 Long 7-51 E, Dis 204

A very large whale seen quite close
supposed to be about 40 ft in length
Plenty of porpoises about

Tues 11th Lat 42-16 S Long 12-18 E Dis 187
a large tree seen floating in the water
very cold, a calm in the afternoon

Wed 12th Lat 43.30 Long 45-18 Dis 132 m
Heat 44°. In the night we had a heavy
gale the Mizzen top sail by sail split
it was very rough & the ship rolled
very much, it carried some of the sails
away & brought others down, the seas
came over & we had two ft. of water in
cabin, did not sleep all night.

Thurs 13th Lat 43.51 Long 20-45 Dis 236
The vessel is still rolling very much
the dog kennel was swimming about the
deck with the dog in it, raining fast
Frid 14th Lat 44-3 Long 25-55 Heat 40°
Dist 223 mls the sea is still very rough
& we can get no rest at night
some sick, shall not be sick at all now

Sat 15th Lat 44-29 S Long 32-10. Heat 40°
Dist 271 mls Sun very bright going on
well, 271 miles is the most we have
done in a day yet.

Sun 16th Lat 44-46 Long 36-15 Dis 174 mls
Several pie balled porpoises about
Caught some stormy Petrels Isobirds ^{about}

Mon 17th Lat 45-3 S Long 38-53 Dis 113
raining all day, a large whale seen

Tues 18th Lat 45-5 Long 42-5 E Wind W
Dist 137 Heavy swell & seas coming over,
no sleep at night.

Wed 19th Lat 45-9 Long 45-53 Dist 161
Several very large pieces of seaweed
passed us, but we could not catch
them with our hooks, vessel rolling heavily

Thurs 20th Lat 45-26 Long 48-21 Dis 106

It is now 30 days since we sent our
letters home, raining, Lots of birds about

Frid 21st Lat 45-4 Long 53-47 Dis 223

A full rigged ship passed us she
was from Glasgow to Melbourne
a very fine ship.

Diary Continued

March 22nd Lat 45-5 Long 58-54

Dist 224 Ship rolled very heavily

23rd Lat 45-4 Long 64-45 Dist 249

Fine breeze & sun shining very bright

Mon 24th Lat 45-48 Long 68-1 Dis 139

very cold & raining. Sea rough

Tues 25th Lat 45-16 Long 71-47 E

Dist 159 mls wet & cold

Wed 26th Lat 46-2 Long 76-30 Dis 205

weather very foggy. Men are busy

cleaning the vessel ready for pointing

Thurs 27th Lat 46-51 Long 81-39 Dis 220

The wind blew very hard during the night & poured with rain seas came over & we had the water in our cabin

Frid 28th Lat 47-56 S Long 87-21 E

Dis 242 mls Very heavy gale of wind

took nearly all sail in. The sea very rough, things in cabin rolling about

A Cape Hen caught. Vessel rolling bad.

Sat 29th Lat 48-11 Long 91-23 Dis 169 mls

No sleep vessel rolling too much.

Sun 30th - Lat 48-27 Long 96-52 Dis 201
Weather fine with good wind

Mon 31st - Lat 48-45 Long 101-45 Dis 206
Weather cold Vessel rolling heavily

April 1st Lat 48-41 Long 106-16 Dis 181

Had some fun being the 1st of April
Caught some birds, plenty about

Wed 2nd Lat 48-41 Long 111-47 Dis 217 mls
Vessel rolling & seas coming over, busy

cutting our names & drawing about
the boards of our cabin as we are

getting near the end of our journey
Thurs 3rd Lat 48-28 Long 117-37 Dis 235

The men busy cleaning & painting ship

Friday 4th - Lat 48-28 Long 121-20 Dis 149

Weather very cold, but good wind

Sat 5th - Lat 49-18 Long 127-25 Dis 245

Sund 6th Lat 48-42 Long 132-17 Dis 195 mls

Very fine weather, but not much wind

Mon 7th Lat 48-8 Long 139-39 Dis 101 mls

a calm in the morning. A Cape Hen
caught, it measured $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft from the
tip of one wing to the other

Tues 8th Lat 48-15 Long 139-45 Dis 209 mls

Wed 9th Lat 48-21 Long 146-15 Dis 256

The men are busy hauling the cable
up & getting the anchor ready

Thurs 10th - Lat 48-18 Long 151-8 Dis 198

Fine breeze & going on fine

Friday 11th - Lat 48-19 Long 156-4 Dis 198

Good Friday the sailors had a holiday
a calm, a nasty roll, lots of birds about

Sat 12th - Lat 48-16 Long 157-22 Dis 52 mls

We had a very heavy gale, about
40 ft of bulwarks carried away

the fore upper topsail & a lot of the
upper sails carried away, both watches

on deck & the Captain all night
at 4 o'clock the main royal mast &

shipsail were carried away the water
came over in tons & we had 2 ft of

water in our cabin, the saloon was
flooded & they had to bale it out

the anchor slipped over the side &
they had hard work to get it back
all the sheep & pigs rolling about the deck

Sun 13th Lat 47-19 Long 159. 56 Dis 103
The wind still blowing very hard
all things rolling about

Mon 14th Lat 47-16 Long 160-40 Dis 53
very high wind water coming over
all thing rolling on deck. no sleep

Tues 15th Lat 48-27 Long 165-56 Dis 212
Fine breeze. at 1100 we sighted
the snares (a lot of rocks) met
a barque going to Melbourne
only about 200 miles from Littleton.