

20th June 1864 Monday.

Today we crossed the line in (28 Long^{er}) Macnaughtan and I ~~was~~ asked the Capt. for a half holiday for the men so got off Taring & Shaving, we made a subscription among the passengers for prizes for games amongst the crew, which commenced after dinner, the first prize was a pound of Tobacco for the best dancer, then a bottle of whiskey for the best at fighting cocks, and many other games such as wheelbarrow, climbing the greased pole, Mr. Browne was performing on his violin during the ~~game~~ ^{evening} at about 8.30 P.M. Neptune hailed the ship and sent letters on board. I had a long letter from him saying that he had taken such a fancy to me that he would not oblige me to go thro' any of the many forms usual for those whose first visit it was to the line.

After a short time Mr. & Mrs. Neptune came on board accompanied by their

— Equator —

Doctor, Barber, and Barber's assistant carrying a long pole painted red white and blue. Then commenced the shaving the culprit was put sitting over a large tub full of salt water, on a stick instead of soap, tar and black paint is used, then he is scraped twice or three times with a razor somewhat resembling a saw, then the stick is suddenly removed, and he falls backwards or rather head first into the tub of water, when he comes out the Dr. examines him says he is well opens his mouth & forces a pill down his throat, then if not better in a short time a scent bottle is held to his nose, there is no occasion for me to go into particulars as to what the pills & scent were composed of as when ignorance is bliss.

I were folly to be wise.

Then commenced the ducking, every one was throwing water on every one