

JOURNAL OF PETER THOMSON'S VOYAGE
ON BOARD THE SHIP "MATOAKA"
1861 – 1862
CAPTAIN STEVENS FROM LONDON TO CANTERBURY NEW ZEALAND

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WEDNESDAY Nov 13/61. Went on board the Ship then lying in the London Docks, very wet disagreeable day all of us wet to the skin ere our luggage was conveyed from the cab to the Ship.

THURSDAY 14 - Ship taken out of Dock and towed down the river by 2 tugs. 4.15 p.m. arrived off Gravesend, busy all day getting cabin to rights, a good deal of confusion on board from the number of Emigrants stowing away of Stores etc. experienced some difficulty in getting rations in consequence, had to fall back on some extra store provided by a kind friend.

FRIDAY 15 - At anchor off Gravesend all day, about noon Emigration Officer came on board & went over the Ship, inspecting the Crews, Passengers & Stores, in a thorough business manner. Got the joiner to fit up a shelf &c in my cabin, to hold our things, stores &c. & otherwise to add to our comfort. Very cold all day, and plenty of drafts flying about our Berth.

SATURDAY 16 - Anchor raised about 7.30 a.m. & ship taken down the river by tug, hard frost in the morning, decks covered with ice. Cleared up a fine day. To prevent the drafts we found so cold, nailed up cloth all round our Berth & found a great improvement immediately. 5 p.m. cast off tug & came to Anchor in the Downs, off Deal. Appointed Captain of the Mess on our side, the cabin which contain two ladies & two young Gentlemen beside our own family. Beautiful evening, full Moon, Sea smooth.

SUNDAY 17 - Sabbath, but not a day of rest, one completely desecrated in every possible way. Instead of being spent as the [Lord] directs in as decent a manner as possible the Purser kept us in a turmoil all day by serving out the rations for the week, thereby involving [a] very great deal of unnecessary labour & worry on the part of the passengers. Meanwhile the ship had [been] making rapid way down the channel. Our anchor was raised about 9 a.m., a fine fresh breeze blowing from N.W. We very soon passed the South Foreland & then in succession, Dover (of which we had a very fine view), Folkestone &c. & the whole coast on to Dungeness. We then left the shore a little & saw little of the land on account of a Fog which hung over it. The revolving light of Beachy-head was seen high up at 6 p.m. The 'Matoaka' proves a very rapid sailer, having passed every sail remaining in our way which we have seen the whole day, no matter of what rig or build. If she hold on at this rate we shall reach our journey's end under ninety days. As we have been sailing near the land all day with the wind off shore, the ship motion has been very slight, with few cases of sickness. A beautiful moonlight evening.

MONDAY 18 - The fresh breeze of yesterday had fallen off before day light this morning; but we had made good way all night & were off the Bill of Portland. This point remained in sight till the afternoon, & by sun-set Start Point was visible. Full moon taking place to-day, we had the pleasure of seeing the Sun set & the moon rise within a minute or two of each other, the evening being remarkably fine, there being only a few clouds in the far southern sky. We in the second cabin are beginning to feel a little more comfortable, though we have a few things to grumble at. The day being fine and the wind light the crew have been busy setting up royal yards & sails, setting sails &c. & hoisting up the stern sails booms & gearing. Passed several large vessels to day. Most beautiful evening, nearly as light as day, passengers mostly larking on Deck.

TUESDAY 19 - Early this morning we were aroused by the hubbub on deck of wearing the ship & other movements consequent on beating up for Plymouth Sound, when the Anchor was let go at 4 a.m. Went on deck at daylight but could see nothing for a thick fog which enveloped every thing. On its clearing away we had a fine view of the big iron frigate Warrior lying near us in company with some other men of War, but the land round about remained hid till late in the day. As we found a number of things still wanting for the general comfort of the Mess, it was agreed that Mrs. Thomson & I should go on shore & get what was wanted. After some little difficulty in getting down the high side of the ship, in which our chief officer showed a good deal of rudeness to Mrs T. proving himself anything but a Gentleman, we got off in the boat & had a fine sail ashore, myself rowing nearly all the way & beating all the other boats which left before us. We had a tour through the Town, did our shopping, had our dinner in the 'Navy' & then had a walk over the Citadel, a look at the Guns, fortifications &c. a fine look at the beautiful scenery of Mt Edgecumbe & the sound. Returned in the evening, found the ship had taken on board her stock of Poultry, Sheep, pigs & a cow with all the requisite hay &c. The children behaved well all day.

WEDNESDAY 20 - As the ship was not to sail for several hours yet, a party of us agreed to go off in a boat & visit the Great Ship Warrior. We got our breakfast over soon & then got away. The ship lay about a mile further off in the Sound, & we had a good opportunity of seeing and admiring her fine lines & proportions generally, but it was not till we got upon her deck that we formed a proper notion of her vast size. We were allowed to wander at will over her, up stairs & down, even to the shaft tunnel, which is as wide as many of the Edinburgh 'closes'. We also had an inspection of the large Armstrong guns on her upper deck, nearly (sic) nice pieces of workmanship having a quiet innocent look upon them, very different from the heavy bull-dog looking 48 pounders on her maindeck. Her engines came in for a full share of our admiration, their immense size being beyond anything we had ever seen, while the huge double row of furnaces in her ten boilers seemed wonderful. Even her donkey engine was as big as the engine of many a Steamboat. On our getting back to the "Matoaka" every thing looked quite dwarfed in comparison, but we found plenty of bustle & business for a tug had come off bringing the rest of our passengers, their luggage &c. & a large quantity of live stock, poultry, hay, turnip, cabbages &c &c. was also put on board from a large shore boat. Preparation was made for going to Sea immediately after dinner.

Having been on shore yesterday we were able to have a really nice pudding for dinner. The anchor was raised at 1/30 & we were taken in tow by the "Lord Yarborough". The day was beautifully clear & we had a fine view of the scenery of Plymouth Sound as well as a good look of the famous Breakwater, the tide being low when we passed. The wind increased as we left the shore, & we soon ran the tug over & began to drag her, so she cast off. There were several parties on board who had come to see their friends away, depending on getting off by the tug, & great was their astonishment when she went right to shore without them. However she returned & took them all away safely. During the afternoon we made rapid way & by sunset the shores of Old England had almost faded away from our view. The Start light & the Eddystone were both visible after dark. Wind W.S.W. so we had to beat down Channel, tacked at 8 bells, so we may see the Land's End in the morning. Very fine evening again with smooth sea.

THURSDAY 21 - Early this morning the wind changed & became foul, increasing towards noon to a heavy S.S.W. gale. The sea soon got up, & the ship heaved to correspond causing a pretty general average of sickness every where fore & aft.

FRIDAY 22 - The weather to day has been a great deal worse than yesterday, with the heavy wind & sea there has been a constant rain all day long. There have been several singular lulls in the storm to day, lasting for a few minutes each time accompanied with a sudden change of wind, giving the crew a great deal of labour in altering & trimming the sails. Ship nearly all day with close-reefed topsails. Towards evening wind moderate and fair.

SATURDAY 23 - The sea was very heavy all this morning, which was the cause of several accidents on board, the most serious being that of a nice old Gentleman who fell & got his face & head severely cut & bruised. One took place in our immediate vicinity which put us to great inconvenience. This was the breaking of a large stone jar of 'Doctors Stuff' in the hospital from the rolling of the ship & the inundation of our berth with the contents. We had hardly any sleep all night for the noise the things made knocking about, but it was not till mid-day that we discovered the mess we were in. By dint of swabs & brushes we got the horrid mess whiped up, but some of our boxes & rugs got wetted. The day has been fine but rather squally. This has been a very singular week with me, if it had not been for the day by day jottings, I have been kept, I would have positively maintained it was only Friday yet.

SUNDAY 24 - Shortly after bedtime last night it came on to blow hard, a heavy sea was coming on at the same time which lasted all night & caused the ship to rock from side to side with great violence. Several seas also came on board, rushing down the hatchways with great noise setting many things adrift. The noise & the motion together completely prevented sleep. When daylight came in found our cabin in a mess from the water shipped. After breakfast got it mopped up. Had our first plum-pudding to day. This being Sabbath there was Service in the main cabin. Had our own service in the evening after tea. Very pleasant day.

MONDAY 25 - A strong head wind all day & the ship's head pointing quite away from her course running N.N.W. towards evening the wind increased to a gale with a heavy plunging sea.. During the day the anchors have been got on board & the cables stowed away in the lockers, thereby giving great deal more room on the Decks as well as making more tidy. Had our cabin nicely cleaned out this morning only to get them messed shortly after by passengers rumaging in the Store room for missing luggage. During the days operations a stowaway was discovered in the Forecastle, where he had been hidden by some of the crew, a young man said to be a 'fiddler' and to have his instrument with him, so we may look for music & dancing by & bye. Mrs. Thomson baked our mess some very good bread to day & as we have abundance of Flour hope she will be able to do so daily.

TUESDAY 26 - After a very rough night, the wind has now come round in our favour & we are now running our course. During the night several heavy seas came on board. About daylight we were not very far from Cape Clear. Yesterday we found an addition to our numbers, to day we lost one. Two or three days ago a pot of hot tea was upset on a fine little child of three years old. It gradually got worse & to day the little fellow died. The funeral took place at three o'clock, the service being read by one of the passengers. A plank was placed across the bulwarks & on it the little coffin. At that part of the service "We commit this body to the deep" the plank was elevated & the body slid over & fell into the Sea with a sudden plunge which everyone present seemed to feel. It was an affecting & most impressive scene.

I think 'second cabin' an entire mistake. All day our little place has been in a turmoil from the serving out of passengers stores, which is stowed underneath, access being got by a hatch in the floor. There are so many different things & so many different people to serve that the place is regularly besieged all day by a mob, & the floor, tables &c. littered with diet of all sorts. While in the third cabin there is no such thing as this, they have only to draw their stores & enjoy them without bothering their neighbours.

WEDNESDAY 27 - After writing the preceding paragraph last night the ship began to rock from side to side in a heavy leisurely sort of way, which was productive of numerous amusing accidents to various parties. The motion continued long after bed-time, so that we were literally "Rocked in the cradle of the deep". To day has gone in a quiet sort of way with a fine fresh breeze, course from S .to S.S.E. the ship running nearly all the time at about 11 Knots.

THURSDAY 28 - At daylight this morning the coast of Spain was visible, Cape Finisterre, very raw, wet disagreeable day with a foul wind which has caused us to lose a large portion of our yesterday's run. Pig killed to day.

FRIDAY 29 - A rather quiet day, wind only partially fair, & our progress towards New Zealand trifling. Cape Finisterre again in sight. Sun bright & day warm.

SATURDAY 30 - Weather much the same as yesterday. Wind light & still adverse. Our position at noon to day was in Lat 42.15 N. long. 127 W. bearing nearly due east. Another week gone.

DECEMBER 1 SUNDAY – Another yet Another! How the time flies. Dear me it seems only half a week since last Sabbath. This one was spent a little more properly than the other two that have passed since we came on board. There was a service in the Saloon at 11 a.m. which was pretty well attended. Apparently very little unnecessary work done about the decks. Had service in our own cabin in the evening. The day has gone over very quietly, the wind still foul, the nearest we can lie to our course being W. by N. Wind increased towards evening to half a gale. Very fine Rainbow this afternoon, perfect colours very bright & distinct. Sea steady with a fine long roll which was very pleasant to look at, the alternate ridges & furrows being very well defined, height from fifteen to twenty five feet from trough to ridge. Sailors very sanguine this gale will end in a fair wind. It is very wearisome to be thus knocking about from tack to tack & making such small speed after all. The distance we have gone on our course during the past week, has only been about twenty miles per day.

MONDAY 2 - The gale of last night terminated early this morning in very heavy rain, quite a deluge, but did not bring the much wished for fair wind. The rain coupled with it being stores day, has kept our cabin in a thorough miserable state, damp & dirty. This mess spills a little flour, that one a little sugar, or third a few peas & another a lump of butter, untill the floor is half inch thick with all manner of nastiness & dangerous to walk on. This is another of the grievances we second cabiners have to put up with & there seems to be no cure for it. On taking the stores for our mess to day, I cant help remarking how badly the quantities of some of the articles are arranged, of bread stuffs the supply is far too liberal, rice, oatmeal, barley, peas, biscuit & flour in large quantities; but no yeast is supplied that the flour may be properly made ready - this should be done. Again, seeing that fresh meats can be had so easily & cheaply, why not extinguish altogether the ration of salt meat which is issued weakly. (sic) but which no one can eat. And again, why, where an alternative exists in the Diet scale such as fresh or preserved Potatoes, has always denied the passengers any choice. If the value of the one is equal to the other, he ought to have his choice. A considerable reform might be made in the scale at no more expense to the owner, but at much convenience & comfort to the passengers, great toil & trouble in cooking would also be saved. The present system entails an oroneous (sic) amount of worry & vexation on the part of the passengers, which might all be saved by making a few simple arrangements before the ship sailed, instead of leaving everything to be done during the first week of sailing, to the dismay of some & the disgust of many. --- During the day the ship has done very little but roll along with her head away from her course, but about dark the weather has cleared up a little with a slight change of wind, so that now 8 p.m. we are running South with a fine clear starry sky.

TUESDAY 3 - Fair wind at last, we have all day been bowling along at a great speed with all sails set, including Sternsails which the crew have been busy rigging up all the morning. Numbers of Porpoiass have been seen near the Ship to day, this has afforded great amusement to the passengers most of whom had never seen them before. Attempts were made to secure one by means of a harpoon but the operators had not skill enough. Several were shot at who had Fire-arms including myself (struck two) but the cruelty of this being apparent it was soon abandoned, there being no means of securing the prey. In the evening which was fine & clear several meteors were seen, one of which was very bright bursting like a Rocket, & leaving a long train of light behind it which remained visible about half a minute after the explosion. The Wind being nearly right aft, the Ship rolled about very much during the evening making locomotion difficult.

WEDNESDAY 4 - The fair wind of yesterday still holds as fresh as ever. The [ship] has now about all her sails spread, she can carry Royals on each of the three masts & Stansails on the fore & main mast. The crew have to day rigged out the flying jib boom, & otherwise made

preparation for the Trades now getting near. Passed a fine Brig this morning under close reefed topsails, while we carried every thing that would draw. Distance run during the past 24 hours 262 miles. Our cabin in confusion to day from the boxes taken out of the baggage room. Weather to day rather colder & decks wet from the sea breaking over as the ship rolls, which she has done heavily all day the cause of many a tumble

THURSDAY 5 - A beautiful day during which our ship has been running at high speed with all sail set. Off Madeira about noon, but too far off to see the land. Would have liked much to spend a day there to see those who were so kind to us lately. Threw a bottle overboard with a paper inside, containing ship's name, date &c. which may come ashore on the Island somewhere. The air was very clear this afternoon at 4 o'clock, the Sun, the moon & Venus, were all visible at once. I pointed them out to those around me & was much amused at the various remarks called forth by the phenomenon. Wind still aft & ship rolling a good deal, position at noon, 33.38 N. lat. 19.56 W. long. Distance run in last 24 hours, 248 miles.

FRIDAY 6 - Another fine day. We are now fairly in the Trade Winds & the Ship goes along finely. Took advantage of the weather & had all our beds up on deck & well aired, & gave our cabin a thorough clean out. It is surprising where the dust comes from. Fine clear evening, found great alteration in the heights of the stars, some new ones have appeared, while the Great Bear has sunk below the horizon. The Zodiacal constellation are right over head. At noon to day we were in 29.42 N. lat. & 21.45 W. long. Distance run since yesterday 257 miles.

SATURDAY 7 - Saturday night again, has been a very short week, one in which every body has been cheery, & pleased with the rapid progress the Ship has made. We have made 201 miles since noon yesterday, our position to day being in 26.40 North, & 23.19 West. This has been a day of bright sunshine, & very warm; shade is now a desideratum. The Sea has been smooth, the breeze having fallen slightly, our progress is slower, though all sail is set on fore main & mizzen masts with studding sails aloft & aloft. Ship seems to day as if in the centre of a circular hollow some 15 miles across the horizon being very well defined all round, & appearing to rise above the level of the Ship.

SUNDAY 8 - Another week begun. This has been a fine day still & quiet, even the Sea seems to know it was Sunday, as it has been very smooth & calm, & the Ship slipping along gently with a light breeze. The much wanted shade has been supplied to day, an awning having been spread over the deck between the Main & Mizzen Masts. The usual service was held in the Saloon to day & in our own Cabin in the evening. The Wind having been so gentle our run has been shorter, we have only made 111 miles, our position being 24.59 N. & 25.19 West.

MONDAY Dec 9 - Stores day. Hardly so much worry this time, however we are getting more used to it & things are done more sharply. The weather being so fine has helped the matter. Main Staysail set to day. The Schoolmaster has begun his duties, & I have sent my two lads, that they may not forget all they have learnt. Mrs. Thomson has not been so well these 2 or 3 days back, her cough having been very troublesome. I am much disappointed in the effect of the warm weather on her complaint. It does not seem to ease her cough a bit. I hope a few days more will do her good in the way we want, & relieve her chest & lungs. She is [in?] common with nearly every body on board, has no confidence in the Doctor. We have come since yesterday 136 miles & are in 22.57 N. lat. & 25, 12, West longitude. The sunrise this morning was very gorgeous. A few words as to how a day is spent on board may not be out of place here. As Captain of the Mess I have to get up shortly after 6 in the morning for the purpose of drawing the water for the Mess which is issued at daylight - half our allowance (3 quarts a day) being given to the cook. After that I get breakfast ready, coffee, ham or fish, then the dinner has to be seen to. This & odd jobs about the Cabin or Berth, drawing stores, &c. generally occupies most of the Forenoon, leaving a little time for reading or a look out on the deck at the sea or a yarn on the Forecastle. Then comes dinner, which I have to take to the Cook & fetch down again when ready. The afternoon I generally spend in reading, helping the Sailors or any thing handy. Tea is about five generally & after that I have a walk on deck till about 8 Bells when I go below with my log, have a talk, a bite of supper & then to Bed.

Fetching the dinner, tea &c. &c. along the Deck when the Sea is heavy is no easy job at times, & accidents sometimes happens. I have been lucky as yet, have only had one tumble in which I got my face burned a little with hot coffee & had to thank my long beard that it was not a great deal worse. But all things considered we manage pretty well & get our meals pretty regular, & pretty fairly cooked. Our only difficulty in the way of bread of which though Mrs. Thomson has done her best, we have not yet had any satisfactory specimen, our attempts at making yeast having so far failed.

TUESDAY 10 – We have run since Noon yesterday 223 miles. our position being 19,39 N. lat. & 27,01 West long. The Ship has been running all day at a great speed before a spanking breeze. Several flying fishes & Stormy Petrels have been seen to day. The moon appeared to be high over our mast head during the evening. Our Cabin has again been the theatre of a complete nuisance. In addition to giving out of the Stores, some of the Passengers had their luggage out. & to get. The Bulkhead had to be taken down & of all times in the day, they actually chose the time when we were at dinner!!! which put any thing like comfort out of the question.

WEDNESDAY 11 – Another fine day & very warm, latitude at noon 15,48. N, long 27,19 W. Distance 240 miles. The Crew have been busy during the past day or two in setting up the rigging, taughtening the stays, & during one of the consequent operations one of the Sailors got hurt to day by the breaking of a block just as he was leading off the pull by a song. These songs by the way, some are rather curious, not so much for the words - which are mostly of a childish nature, but for the tunes or the chaunts to which they are sung, the object being to ensure their pulling together at one time of all those at the rope. One which is often given is something like "Haul the bowline". "Hear the Mate a growling". "Haul the bowline, the bowline, HAWL. At the last word every one pulls with all his might. The second line being altered. ad. lib. Another one runs: --- Hey - ey - ey - ey. Who will pay Paddy Goyle for his BOOTS. Who Paddy Goyle was I cant tell, but at the word Boots every one pulls like Mad! Another one details, the adventure of a certain Johnny Walker, who came to sea, & was advised immediately to "Come away my Johnny Walker, & Haul". This is continued through a long rigmarole story, every other line being as above with the emphasis & power put on at haul. There is another one with rather better tune & words, but more seldom used, the chorus to which is Hang, boys, hang! One of the crew is generally a singing man & he leads off, the rest falling in at the right place with sometimes quite a startling effect, & with so much power as to snap a pretty thick rope. On ordinary occasions the simple "Hey-oy, ohoy" is reckoned sufficient. Just before sunset to night it came on a sudden squall, with heavy rain of which we took advantage by getting our Tank filled, fresh water being always wanted, & never enough to be had. The Eastern sky was brilliantly lighted up for some times afterward, by frequent flashes of lightning. Distance run 191 miles. Lat.12,37 North, Long 26,28.

THURSDAY 12 - The weather has been rather dull to day, but close & warm. The Flying fish have been very abundant this afternoon, many shoals of them having been seen, the Fishes are mostly of small size, a big one here & there. The monotony of our view was broken in upon this afternoon by the appearance of a sail for a short time, but was too distant to make out what she was. Another Death on board to day. A child named Baker which had been in a declining state of health for some time ceased from its troubles & is now at rest. There has been a rather large amount of sickness on board since we sailed; three or four are always in the hands of the Doctor. I had him down to see Mrs. T. to day, & am much grieved at the report he gave of the state she is in. One of her lungs is deeply injured by the trouble & the continual hard cough under which she suffers. But he in common with all the Medical men who have been consulted, maintains that she will reap great benefit from the Voyage & a residence in a milder climate. I trust & pray that it may be so, for what could I do without her to counsel, advise & help me. She suffers very much at times from her cough. Poor lass it makes me quite sad to hear her during the night.

FRIDAY 13 - The child that died yesterday was buried last night at 9 o'clock with the usual solemnities. This has been another fine day, with a haze on the sky just thick enough to keep the Sun from scorching all our beauty. The fine weather has brought out the musical talents of the passengers, & we have quite a concert on deck to night. Distance to day 214 miles. lat. 9,14 N. Long. 25,19 W. plenty of lightning to night in the Southern Sky.

SATURDAY 14 - Another week gone. Thunder & lightning nearly all day with heavy rain, squally now & then. The heat increasing, & is to night almost unbearable, the consequence I suppose of the excited state of the Electricity in the Atmosphere; three distinct thunder storms are going on in our immediate vicinity, east, west, & south, but all too far off for us to do more than hear a distant rumbling from some of the brighter flashes. Great Stir was caused by the visit of a large Grampus this forenoon, it swam slowly round the Ship, coming up to breath with a loud snort every now & again & eyeing us curiously all the while. Three Dragon flies have been soaring about the rigging all day but defied every effort to catch them. A large Clipper Ship sailed slowly past us this afternoon about five miles off bound home apparently. Position at noon 6,38 N. & 24,31 W. 165 miles from yesterday's observation. Since noon to-day we have been nearly becalmed, the wind having gradually gone down, so that the ship just moves on her way & that is all. Am sorry to report that Mrs. T's complaint is worse. She has been spitting blood to day. Had the Doctor but he dont say much about her.

SUNDAY 15 - A very hot day, very little wind, every body peaking. A sail, an American Barque was in sight a head of us at day break this morning, at Sunset she was hull down astern after trying all she could to keep up with us. So far, the 'Matoaka' has had the heels of every other ship we have met. We have only made 54 miles to day, being at noon in long. 24,43 West & lat. 5,46 north. Saw a large brown Butterfly passing the ship in the evening.

MONDAY 16 - Last night being very warm & the weather settled, like many of the passengers took their Mattresses on deck & made their beds here, there & every where. All found it very comfortable till about half past one morning, when a sudden squall came on accompanied with a torrent of rain, sending them below helter skelter, to pass the rest of the morning as they best could in their wet bedding, giving rise to many funny scene & much merriment. This being the weekly stores day we had the usual amount of discomfit in our Cabin, but to make amends the day had been splendid, fine bright sunshine. & we have spent most of the time on deck, a fine cool breeze blowing all the day. The ship was nearly becalmed some hours, so we have only come 80 miles since yesterday. Lat. being 4,40 N. & long. 23,58 West. A number of Portuguese Man of War (nautili) have passed the ship to day, but none have been caught.

TUESDAY 17 - We have made rather a better run to day having sailed 111 miles, to lat. 2,52 north & long. 24,23 West. Very hot to day quite melting. Clothes feel quite a burden, one feels mightily inclined to drop overboard & cool the hot skin in the fine blue water. The usual tranquility of the Ship was disturbed for some time to day by a fight between the passenger's Cook & the Butcher, in consequence of the latter gentleman having filched some water from the stock in charge of the former (a great crime at Sea.) The Butcher was ordered off, & replied with some abuse which led to the Cook threatening to knock him down, which brought more life from the butcher which made the Cook fulfill his threat, which had to be put down by the Captain who making investigation found the Butcher had called the Cook a (Irish) ----- which was a complete misapplication, for on the Captain making the query, the Cook turned out to be "a gude Scot" (a native of Auld Reekie, born in the Fishmarket Close.) Tranquility was soon restored & things assumed their usual humdrum way, which is getting rather wearisome now. Talking of water what has been issued to the passengers for the past few days has been very bad. The heat has turned it all, & it smells abominably besides being positively dirty. On shore one would turn from it with loathing; but the heat & thirst makes it welcome, bad & nauseous as it is.

WEDNESDAY 18 - We are now in the South East Trades & have had a fine fresh breeze all day. We crossed the Equator to day between 3 & 4 o'clock in the afternoon, in a smart squall of wind & rain. The ceremonies consequent on the crossing the Head quarter of Neptunes

Dominions have been dispensed with by order of the Captain, who was afraid of a disturbance there being rather a rough lot on board. At noon we were in lat. 0,22 north & 27,12 West longitude; & in the 24 hours have run 222 miles, rather a good days work for this locality were calms are often prevalent.

THURSDAY 19 - A fine strong breeze all day. Ship running at great speed. Sea heavy all the morning. A queer sail has been set to day called the water-sail or lee guy sail - placed low down under the bowsprit. 229 miles have been run to day. 2,31 S lat. & 29,09 West longitude. very fine clear evening, the Stars shining brightly, many new ones among them, the Mageltan clouds are conspicuous.

FRIDAY 20 - A glorious day all through & the Ship rolling gently along with a nice breeze. but our enjoyment considerably marred by the passengers luggage being turned out for change of boxes &c. Our cabin was in consequence rendered quite untenable for the best half of the day. It is no use grumbling, it has to be done & more than once again too. We have made another very good day's run of 211 miles. & at noon were in 5,34 South lat. 30,54 West long. Fine clear Starlight evening.

SATURDAY 21 - Another fine day, but with a repetition of yesterdays treatment of our Cabin - it is nearly too bad - four days this week. Passed two Vessels to day; one a large ship running the same way as ourselves, with every sail set, was out of sight, astern in less than seven hours. Bravo the Matoaka. Our run comes to 196 miles; Lat. 8,37 South, long 32,04 West

SUNDAY - 22 - Shortest day at home while we have had the Sun shining brilliantly from before 6 till half past 6 in the evening. The heat has been very great, & were it not for the fine breeze would have been quite insupportable. The Sea has been remarkably blue to day, more so than usual & I enjoyed very much a long seat on the Forecastle, watching the fishes & other creatures gliding past the Bows. Several Vessels have past us on the other tack to day bound North. The usual services were held on board & well attended. Mrs. T. is not getting any better yet, poor body the voyage does not seem to thrive with her somehow. Her appetite is very slight & requires attention, as she is not able to eat the meat we are supplied with, so some fresh meat from the Saloon Table has been got for her. I hope it will help to restore her strength again. The Doctor thinks that the Voyage will not cure her cough, & that she will be some months in the Colony ere she will receive the full benefit of the change. Meanwhile the Boys, Sarah & myself are all pretty well, though none of us have any thing to boast of in the way of appetite, but that I opine is from the heat. I had a fine shower Bath this morning at the Head of the Ship. Our distance to day is 210 miles, lat. 12,02, South, long. 32,49 West.

MONDAY 23 - A most beautiful day, Sun without a cloud; very warm, but fine cool breeze, clothes quite a burden. Sale by auction of Property to day, Miscellaneous goods, some of which brought fabulous prices. Singing class in cabin for service on X'tms day; chaunt, hymn & Anthem, musical talent limited. passed two vessels one homeward bound this forenoon; the one was spoken, & the word 'All Well' sent with it. Our position at noon to day was in 15,27 South, & 32,27 West; our run 207 miles.

TUESDAY 22 - Great has been the bustle & preparation to day. Each mess seems quite determined that its plumb Duff for to morrow shall excell every other. I have some idea that the one for No 3 will not be very far behind, it being my own manufacture under the supervision of Mrs. T. A double allowance of currants & raisons was by order of the Captain served out in the afternoon to each mess for the express purpose. Great has been the demand for spices &c. happy the mess which has provided a supply before hand. Another fine day. Giving out weeks stores, got through early & our Cabin thoroughly cleaned out before dark. Our run amounts to 200 miles. Lat. 18,46 South. long. 32,14 West.

WEDNESDAY 25 - Christmas day. The excitement of last night culminates in a row at bed time, but more in fun than cause. This morning opened beautifully with a fine clear sunrise. Shortly after a bark passed us about seven miles east, bound North. Had a fine shower (or

rather dash) bath at the Ship's head, before water time. Then got the plumb pudding mixed up, put in a bag & off to the Cook by seven a.m.! So that it may have at least five hours to boil. During breakfast our ears were regaled with a regular squall between two Wives in the Steerage about the merits of their respective husbands; & they were fool enough to interfere & as usual got the worst of it. "Because the reddis Strake" is an old proverb & a true one. The melee became general & the combatants wished each other a Merry Christmas with a vengeance. The riot was ultimately quelled without bloodshed. A service was held in the Saloon at eleven when the pieces of music we had been practising the past night or two went off very well. An Anthem, 2 Chaunts & 2 hymns. The wind fell off considerably during the afternoon, but the Sea began to rise. About five we were quite becalmed, with heavy rain falling, but ere ten (sic) was over the breeze freshened up considerably & we are bowling along as fast as ever. The Ship is pitching a good deal which makes writing rather a difficult job. Some of the Waves are very high, I should say over 20 feet perpendicular. After the Saloon dinner was over, a number of the Cabin Gentlemen provided themselves with a Stock of nuts &c. & created great amusement by gathering all the children together & scattering the nuts liberally among them. The crew have had an allowance of Grog & discipline is dignity relaxed so there had been a fine time of skylarking going on for some time. By the way our dinner came off well, our pudding a stunner. Drunk a bumper to "absent friends at home". Our run to day amounts to 166 miles; Lat. 21,30 South. Long 32,34 West. The Captain seems inclined to run down the 32 parallel much further than there is any occasion for; it is high time some casting were made, however he knows best. We were at noon in the position of the Man in the German Story, who had no shadow, Sun being exactly perpendicular, & what little shadow we had, falling directly under our feet.

THURSDAY - 26 - The fun & frolic was kept up last night till the latest minute, even infringing on this morning a bit. We had quite a comfortable family party in our Cabin, some supper, liquors & lots of singing. This has been another fine day, fine breeze, high sea, Sun very hot. Read John Brown's Horae Subsecieva to day - a great treat. 200 miles have been run since last observation. lat. 24,49 South. long 32,21 West. We have therefore run through the Tropics & may look forward to cooler weather immediately, if we continue to run South as fast as we have been doing for some time.

FRIDAY 27 - This has been a raw & dull day with no sunshine. The Wind has been light but steady. A number of new Sails have been bent to day preparatory for the Strong winds we expect to meet with South of the Cape. Several birds known as Cape Hens, have been flying about the wake of the ship all day, their mode of flight is very elegant, sweeping round in very wide circles with little motion of the wings, colour dark Brown, several unsuccessful efforts were made to capture a specimen. A large Cask was passed this afternoon with both ends in perhaps a deck water cask of some outward bound ship. Our water has again become very bad, yesterday in particular it was most abominable both in taste & smell producing disgust on all who tried to drink it. Sorry to have to notice that Mrs. T. is not getting better, she still remains very weak & feeble, for her sake I wish the Voyage well over & a settlement made in a mild part of the Colony. Lat. to day 28,03 South, long. 31,22 West, a degree to the east of yesterday. distance 201 M.

SATURDAY 28 - Saturday night, & the last Saturday in what has been to me a very eventful year. At the beginning we were comfortably settled in St. Andrew with, to all appearance little probability of any change, in the middle of a large circle of friends & acquaintance. At its close we are in the middle of the South Atlantic, far from every friend, on our way to a new field of labour, & in search of that of which we only know the true value when we lose it. I mean Mrs. T's health. And then to think what we have gone through in the meantime; verily God has been kind to us more than we deserve. - We have now run through the South east Trades & into the Southern belt of calms & variable winds. During the heat of the day we have been running at a high rate of speed before a strong breeze; but at nightfall we were suddenly becalmed & the wind has since been light & baffling. Rain fell lightly all day till 4 p.m. when it came down in torrents washing the decks & sending us all below. Took the usual advantage & replenished our Tank with fine clear water. It has never faired since & is

now 9 p.m. raining as hard as ever. Two large porpoises were seen this morning close to the Ship. We have made 224 miles since noon yesterday & are now in 31,27 South lat. 29,35 West long.

SUNDAY 29 - This has been a rough tumbling sort of a day, a strong wind blowing right aft & making the Ship roll a good deal in the heavy Sea, it has also been very cold considering the lat. making us shiver & think of top coats & blankets again. Just before Sunset to night we saw our first Albatross. It seems a noble bird on the wing. Hope to make a nearer acquaintance with it yet. Several other birds have been flying about us to day. The small Petrel, the Cape Hen. & another bird of the same size but of different colours. Attended the usual service in the Saloon. Some breaches of decorum were caused by the motion of the Vessel. Cannot report any improvement in Mrs. T's health, cough still very bad, appetite trifling & weak; ordered Port Wine with Quinine twice daily in order to strengthen the stomach. Considering the Wind we have had our run is not so great being only 214 miles for the 24 hours; our long. 26,13 West. lat. 33/39 South.

MONDAY 30 - The wind blew very strong all last night, so much so that sail has to be reduced this morning but not before the Fore top gallant Stunsail boom had snapped through. The wind fell a little after Breakfast & it has since a fine day, sea high & Ship rolling uncomfortably. Stores day with all the usual disagreeables. Great excitement was occasioned this afternoon by the Ship running into a shoal of Whales, They surrounded the Ship in considerable numbers & several came quite close to her side; were apparently from 3 to 4 feet long, came to the surface every now & then throwing a small cloud of spray like the jet from a Steam Engine. The Albatross has been quite frequent to day; generally half a dozen or more about the wake of a ship. Their beautiful manner of flight is every ones admiration, & wonder how it is done is expressed by all; no matter how the wind blows, or how it wishes, to fly up, down, right, left, the wings never flap, but remain extended, & the bird tilts itself a little towards the side it wishes to turn, & away it goes apparently as light as the air & with very great speed. The Ship is running too fast for us to catch a specimen. I very much wish a head, foot & wing. At noon we were in lat. 36,05 South. long. 22,05 West. having made since yesterday the long run of 255 miles on our course. We suppose the Voyage to be half over now.

TUESDAY 31 - Another good run to day 243 miles. A fine breeze has been blowing all day driving the Ship before it. She is carrying no fewer than 31 sails all of which seem to have done their work well & so quietly; how very different from the rattle & the rumble of a Steam Engine. The temperature has changed very much during the last 2 or 3 days, the wind was positively cold to day rendering additional clothes necessary. The Albatross abundant, The Cape Pigeon has been in our Company to day. We are running too quick to attempt the capture of any of these birds which is said to be easy. No improvement in Mrs. T's health, her cough has been very bad. The Doctor does not seem to have much hope of her mending much as long as she is on board Ship. I hope the Colony will prove more propitious & that a short residence there will enable her to go about again as usual. This cause makes what would otherwise have been a jolly season feel rather dull & sombre. When I think how happy all the folks at home will be to night, I feel inclined to be a little miserable; but yet, why should I! Let me hope for the best. Let me put my trust in Providence & keep my powder dry & knowing well that God will help him who helps himself. Let me pray to him for a blessing on me & mine in the year which is about to begin. lat. 37,59 S long. 17,35 West. Several Whales were seen to day of the same sort as those seen yesterday.

JANry 1 - 1862 - Fine morning wished the Mess a happy 'New Year' &c on going on deck for my water got a bit of news, to the effect that one of the lady passengers in the house on deck had presented her lord with a handsome New Years present in the shape of a fine thumping girl, having got over it very quietly & easily. Both are doing well. A large ship hove in sight shortly after daybreak this morning; by ten she was near enough for a long-range talk by the means of Marryat's signals; she was the South Carolina from Liverpool to Bombay with a cargo of fine goods 53 days out all well. The usual civilities of the Season were interchanged &c &c. The Captains had a talk about their respective longitudes in which

there was a difference equal to 12 miles. The whole process was quite interesting. After the Catechism had been gone through the South Carolina altered her course slightly & in a few hours was out of sight astern. This is the only Vessel which has come near enough for us to see the people on her decks. She was considerably larger than our Vessel, but we sailed 3 miles for her 2. During the evening a very spirited game of Hunt the Slipper was being carried on when a high sea broke on board & swamped them all washing some of the players & looker's on into the lee scuppers amidst roars of laughter from all sides. From Gay to grave Mrs. T. has been very ill all day, had a severe fit of coughing in the morning & as suffered great pain ever since. The Doctor does not like it at all. The weather has got so cold all at once that she will now have to be confined to the Cabin unless for a short time in the first part of the day. We have made another good run of 231 miles. lat. 37,59 South & 13,02 West long.

THURSDAY 2 - Knowing last night that we should be off Goughs Island early this morning, I got the Second Mate to give me a call in time. So I was up early enjoying the sight of the first land I have seen since leaving the Lizard. The island is very high & bold can be seen a long way off. Uninhabited, but the abode of immense numbers of birds which covered the Sea all round. A heavy sea had been running all night it was very pleasant while under the lee of the island to watch the huge smooth waves rolling majestically forward to the Ship as if they meant to turn it over, but gliding gently away underneath. Large patches of Sea-weed something like our own tangle but of a light brown colour mixed with the bladder-wrack went floating past us during the morning which was beautiful & clear. The day continued fine but piercing cold. Top coats must be got out again at once. Mrs. T. is I am happy to say a little better to day. lat at noon 40,11 South. long. 8,53 West. Distance run 201 miles.

FRIDAY 3 - A fine cold day. Ship running like a racer all day long before a fine steady breeze. Towards dusk came in sight of another ship running the same way as ourselves but too far off to make out her name &c. Mrs. T. continues well & has a better appetite. position at noon 41,03 South lat. 3,19 West long. 262 miles have been run off during the 24 hours.

SATURDAY 4 - A most thorough uncomfortable day, the wind blowing half a Gale, the Sea high & heavy, the Ship rolling about like a Grampus & the day wet & piercing cold combined with the continually flooded state of the Decks, have all tended to our great discomfort. The jumping motion of the Ship for some time made it a very sickly job, getting our meals to & from the Gally with a dry jacket & whole limbs. The Sea has looked very grand, all day. A great many Petral flying about us all day well meriting their title of "Stormy". We are now in the Eastward of Greenwich. our long. at noon being 1,32 East. lat. 42,04 South. Distance run 229 miles.

SUNDAY 5 - Weather rather better to day but still very cold, as we expect it will be now till near the end of the voyage. We have made an excellent run of 263 miles & all sorts of guesses & calculations as to the length of time which will yet be occupied ere we get to Stewarts Island are rife & range from 35 to 43 days. I only hope we will not have to go any further South as it is cold enough already. Icebergs are beginning to be talked off but it is not likely we shall see any. lat. 42,44 South. long. 7,13 East.

MONDAY 6 - Another cold day with a strong fair wind & heavy rolling Seas the occasion of many a close shave as the waves came smashing on board, drenching all who were not smart enough to spring out of their reach. It is strange that we should experience such cold with the sun very nearly verticle so as to be still midsummer in this latitude, if it be so now, what will it be in Winter? Stores day, wet morning dull cloudy day. Moon rose at night for a short time. Our run for the 24 hours answers to the long distance of 270 miles in the general course of E.S.E. lat. 43,40 South. long. 13,02 East.

TUESDAY 7 - Heavy Sea all the morning, frequent Shipments made. Still a high tumbling Sea, the weather still very cold, though during the middle day the Sun shone out for some

time, there was a little warmth. The strong breezes we have had so long died away this evening & our speed is less. The sky is clearer, but no Stars seen. From the working of the Ship in the heavy sea great leakage has taken place in the sides of our Berth, & when I got up this morning every thing about me was wet, shirt bedding & mattresses. Reported the matter & have had the Carpenter putting a board between the beds & the side of the Ship, so that any water may run away to the floor clear of the bed. The continual damp does great harm to Mrs. T. whose complaint is thereby much aggravated. & her recovery delayed. She has not been so well to day as for several days back. lat. at noon 43,40 South. long. 19,24 east, & the big run of 278 miles.

WEDNESDAY 8 - A very fine day, Wind light but fair. The first day for some time that we have had the decks dry. The voyage is getting wearisome from its uniformity, nothing new from day to day - the same thing to be seen in looking over the side, the same faces all round us inside. Always a little excitement & speculation at noon when the reckoning is made up, plenty of guesses as to the No of miles. Mrs. T. spitting blood again to night. The cold is too much for her. The night looks just like one in Winter at home when a sharp frost is coming on, the sky clear & the young moon & the Stars shining pale. Distance to day 197 miles. lat. 44,36 South. long. 24,00 East.

THURSDAY 9 - Fine cold day. Ship bowling along easily before a light breeze. Evening beautiful, the sky clear of clouds. Southern hemisphere very sparingly studded with asterisks. The famed Southern Cross quite a disappointment to me & others. I had been led to something fine & grand but felt quite sold at the realization of my ideas, it nearly requires some fancy to make a cross of it. Mrs T. a little better to day though far from well. For some time back I have been making pretty fair bread light & fine, the material I use for making it rise being common soda powder which we brought on board for drinking purposes, & of which I wish we had brought double the quantity as it is just done & a month of the voyage to go yet. Will pull back a washing Soda of which we have a pound or so. lat. to day 45,01 South, long. 28,14 East. Distance run 182 miles.

FRIIDAY 10 - This has been a most beautiful day, from early morn till the sun set there was not a cloud in the sky, & the Ship bounding merrily before the breeze over a smooth Sea. This fine day had qualifier however in my case. My poor wife has suffered heavily all the day from Diareuth & sickness. No meat has remained on her stomach longer than a few minutes & she is very weak indeed. Had to dose her with Brandy & laudernum instead of meat. Some shoals of fish were seen to day, & a number of Porpoises played round the ship shortly before sunset showing that we may expect more wind to morrow, during the previous 24 hours we have run 222 miles. lat. 24,53 South. long. 33,27 East.

SATURDAY 11 - Mrs. T. some better this morning & improved during the day: So hope she will be all right in the morning, the day opened dull & cold with a light breeze which fell off towards noon in heavy rain & a calm. At same time we were surrounded by numerous birds (Albatross &c) & immediate advantage was taken to attempt their capture by line & hook with pork bait. In a short time six specimens were caught of which two were liberated & 4 killed. I had the anatomizing of one which measured 12 feet from wing to wing & had very fine plumage. I got the skin off & have attempted to preserve some of the party, but am afraid I won't succeed for want of the proper stuff. The body I cut up & cleaned, cut down a few onions & with pepper & salt had it well stewed. It ate very well, part of it will make into a pie to morrow. My example has been followed by others. The Albatross is not able to rise off the deck, on account of the length of wing; its legs are also very weak, so that it never stands any time but lies down on its breast. When first laid down they struggled up again & vomited part of the contents of the stomach from fear I suppose, as they looked scared. This I found to

be mostly the beaks of cuttle fish, & some small fish bones, I found the same sort of thing in the stomach afterwards. They are noble looking birds & the capture occasioned immense excitement among the passengers. Two birds were brought together when they seemed to forget their danger & immediately began fighting, making a strange noise & trying to bite each other. The head, bill & eyes are remarkably beautiful, the plumage very thick & close set. This may be termed "Albatross day" in our calender ----- Days lat. 45,5 South. long. 36,2. east- distance 116 miles.

SUNDAY 12 - A piercing cold day, the coldest we have had with a strong NNW breeze & frequent squalls of hail, snow & rain, carrying away the Stern sails, breaking the spars &c. & giving the Sailors plenty to do. A number of Porpoises played round the Ship shortly before morning service. Albatross pie to dinner - first rate stuff, wish we could catch one every day. Mrs. T. a little better to day. distance run 206 miles. lat. 45,13 5.South. long. 41,11 East.

MONDAY 13 - Another cold day, weather much the same as yesterday. Strong breeze with hail squalls; numerous birds about all day, some new ones. Children much troubled with chilblains to night. Lat. 45,21 South. long. 47,08 east. Distance 253 miles.

TUESDAY 14 - Very cold wet day, Crozets Island visible at 2 a.m. Great many birds about. Cape Pigeons for the first time; usually met a long way to the north of them. Very pretty bird this. Spent some time trying to catch one, but driven below for the cold. Seen a large Whale close to the Ship in the morning. Also a Ship sailing West, supposed to be a Whaler. Large patches of sea-weed have been seen several times but none near enough to lay hold. Mrs. T. very little better yet still very feeble & no appetite. lat. 45,43 South. long 52,24 East. distance 229 miles.

WEDNESDAY 15 - Mrs. T. a little better. Sarah complaining a little. Cold wet day with strong W.N.W breezes, Ship staggering along under a press of sail. lat. at noon 46,21 South. long. 57,43 east. distance 232.M.

THURSDAY 16 - Yesterdays breeze fell, calm at 3 this morning, but at 6 a strong Southerly gale sprung up which soon compelled us to reduce sail till only the top sails were left. The gale lasted till 4 p.m. when more sail was made. A high tumbling Sea all day. Mrs. T. much about to day. Sarah a little better, the damp state of our Berth very much against both, it being immediately under the main chains, there is a great strain on the Bulwarks & topsides, the water comes in freely in spite of every thing we have tried. lat. at noon 46,32 South. long. 63,17 east. Distance 240 miles.

FRIDAY 17 - A fine cold day, with the 3 requisites which makes a Ship comfortable in these latitudes --- a clear sky, a smooth Sea & a dry deck. In consequence of the pent up of the past few days, has manifested itself in a series of. games & sports which have lasted all day. The evening so fine with the full moon covering the Sea with silver. Plenty of birds to day, Kerguelea Island being in our vicinity. Mrs. T. & Sarah a shade better. Lat. 46,24 South. long. 69,0 east. Distance 242 miles.

SATURDAY 18 - It blows so hard to night I can hardly write, The gale from South East came on after dinner & we have now a reef in our topsails & plunging away 4 points out of our course. The wind is very cold. Since yesterday we have made 188 miles. lat. 46,29 South. long. 73,25 East. Mrs. T. has taken a turn for the worse & has been very ill all day, but a little easier at present: 10 p.m.

SUNDAY 19 - This has been a terrible day, yesterday's gale is still blowing with great fury, the ship lying close-reefed topsails rolling & plunging about awfully. The sea is very heavy, some of the waves as high as a three storied house or 35 to 40 feet. We have had 3 mishaps in the degrees of position. The first happened to to days water which I had just carried safe down to its usual place & went on Deck for a moment when the ship gave a heavy lurch, before I

could get down my can of water was over, the half of it out and running over the floor. I got that dried up & my breakfast over, a plumb pudding made & taken to the cook, the table tidy & some other job done, when another crash took place, another lurch upset every thing in my place which was loose, plates, cups, spoons, & knives rolled off the table; a large box in which I kept flour broke loose & slid along the deck & my slop pail capsized. I had just succeeded in getting all this dried up & every thing put right & the box nailed down again, when the Sea struck the Ship with a report like a big gun, when crash it came down our hatchway in Tons. The water of course made for its lowest level away down under our Berths & boxes, where for some time it was knee deep. This was a dreadful business but to work we set, (I had some help this time) & for more than an hour kept sending on deck bucketsful. Oh such a Sunday forenoon, at the very time we were in the thick of it the bell was ringing for prayers in the Saloon. By dint of hard work & willing hands we got rid of the water & the floor dried as well as we could, but of course it will be some days ere things are as dry as they should be. The worst of it is that all our boxes are damp & will have to be unpacked-& the contents dried. I hope the damage is less than it looks like. While I write the wind is still very high, the Sea getting worse so we shall have another night of it. The Ship is making great leeway, has run 155 miles. lat.44,38 S long 78,58 E.

MONDAY 20 – The gale gave way about 4 p.m. when some more Sail was made. The Sea has been very high all day & the old Ship has got several tremendous hammerings, the topgallant forecassle being quite buried at times. The Sea has also played plenty of pranks with the passengers, wet jackets have been common, very little however has come down our hatch. One of the lady passengers was safely delivered of a Son in the infirmary at 2 a.m. & both are doing well. On account of the storm the Officers have not been able to take the reckoning for want of the Sun. Mrs. T. a little better to day & feels easier.

TUESDAY 21 - A glimpse of the Sun was got as he set last night, sufficient to enable the Captain to work out the reconing as follows lat. 44,26 S. long. 76,10 E. distance 48 miles. To day we have been running fast before a fair wind but with high beam Sea, making the Ship roll heavily & ship water every now & then to the great amusement of those who did not happen to be drenched by the spray, but much to the discomfort of those who did. We have run 180 miles since yesterday & hope the wind we have now got will last us to the end of the voyage. Mrs T. continues a little better. lat. 44,03.S. long 80,56 E.

WEDNESDAY 22 - This has been a droll sort of day. The Ship has been rolling & tumbling about most uncomfortably producing all sorts of mishaps tragical & comical. Were it not for the fair wind which is driving us along at great speed this sort of thing would be very wearisome from the many inconveniences it occasions. The Decks are wet from the constant shipping of seas, you are in constant danger in walking about on the customary culinary operations & you cannot sit at table without constant watching lest you find your meat on your lap instead of your plate. However it will soon be over, our run to day shows the large figure of 280 miles. lat. 44,58.S. long 87,25.E. Birds of various kinds have been very numerous all day. Which is remarkable as we are far from land: several patches of sea- weed were also passed, also 2 Whales & a few Porpoises. Weather has been damp & cold which has affected Mrs. T.'s recovery a little bringing on the cough again.

THURSDAY 23 - Had a very ugly fall this morning while just at the top of the steps, &- raising my foot to step over the front board laden with a tea-pot, 2 Coffee Pots, a plate of Ham &- a tin with a nice egg in it, the ship gave a lurch which sent me smack forward on my face to the deck & scattering my pots &c; all on board, but strange to say without spilling any of the various contents or even breaking the Egg. I was helped up & felt stunned & funny for a minute, but was none the worse, so gathered all my things & proceeded to the Gully. Our Cabin has been taken up nearly all day by the passengers luggage the day having come round again. Fine day but very cold. Mrs. T. much about it to day. Wanted wine for her but could not get none, the Medical Store being quite exhausted. Has been spitting blood again a little.

We have made 249 miles to day. lat. 46,07,S. long. 93,01, E. Sea very heavy all day. Good many birds about us.

FRIDAY 24 - Fine mild morning, but breaking up afternoon to wet & mists, in the evening heavy rain with a W.N.W. wind which has brought back the cold again. Sea smooth with an occasional heavy swell. Saw a black Albatross to day. Had some lessons in bread making from a fellow passenger to night, means leaving my stock of Soda being used up, for some days I have been using Washing Soda. It makes good sweet bread but dark. Mrs. T. has been very poorly since last night severe diareaha; is now a little better but far from well & not able to get out of bed. It is a blessing that Sarah & the boys keep well. We have done a good days work of 214 miles. lat. 46.52, S. long.97,46,E.

SATURDAY 25 - The bread a success, Early this morning a strong Westerly breeze came on which increased till shortly before noon when it blew the upper main topsail into bits, The Captain then thought it high time to shorten sail. We had been running all morning at a speed of 13 knots. Sea heavy, & Ship rolling to correspond, now & then flooding the decks. We had a bright sunshine till 4 p.m. when it came on cold again. Several pairs of Mutton birds have been seen to day, a strong flying bird not unlike a Crow in shape & colour. It is so called from the flavour of the young birds. Mrs. T. a good deal better to day, I hope this may continue till she is quite well again. We have 3 figures in our longitude now, we being at noon in 103,23 east & 47,34 S. lat. I hope we will not go any further South it being so cold already. Distance run 248 miles. Another week over then -- Ho for 'Lyttleton'

SUNDAY 26 - A very fine but a very cold day with a strong Westerly wind, occasional spirits of hail. Ship running very fast & rolling a good deal in the heavy Sea which is ever & anon breaking on board, keeping the decks wet & slippery, & drenching whoever may have been unlucky enough to be in the way. Attended the usual service in the Saloon in forenoon; nearly full. I am sorry to note that Mrs. T's amendment did not last very long; she was a great deal worse this morning & has been very bad all day. The Doctor thinks she will not mend much till we have been 2 or 3 days on shore. Towards that desirable result we have run 257 miles during the last day. lat. 47,52, S. long. 109, 44,E.

MONDAY 27 - Even in this out of the way part of the world Death has found us & taken away another child belonging to a family named Henderson from Scotland near Kinross, it had been long suffering from a sort of Bronchitis & died this afternoon & was buried at Sunset. Another lesson to us. The fine breeze of yesterday died off after breakfast to day & we have since been running along very slowly for the patience of most of us. But it has been a fine cheery day. Even Mrs. T. has felt its influence for she has rallied considerably to day & is some better. lat. 48,20,S. long. 116,28 east. Distance 273 miles.

TUESDAY 28 - This has been a beautiful day, the finest we have .had for several weeks. The Sun shines blight & warm, the Decks dry & level. Mrs. T. still continuing convalescent. I got her induced to come on Deck for a short time & sit her down in the Sun on the side of the house; however the effort was nearly too much for her strength, she almost fainted ere I got her down again. I hope it may do her some good. The wind has been very light all day, & blowing from the very quarter we want to go, so we have had to tack & run off to N.E. Towards dark it came more fair. Few birds to day only the Soot Petrel attending us, on the look out for scraps of fat, for which they have a very sharp eye. Our voyage has only been shortened by 114 miles to day. lat. 48,06,S. long. 119,18,E.

WEDNESDAY 29 - Light & baffling winds during which the ship made very little headway, lasted till 7 this morning, when a brisk breeze from N.N.E. sprung up. Since then the Ship has been going along nicely with very easy motion about 10, or 11 Knots an hour. The day has been dull & wet, a thick small rain falling, the horizen being limited to about half a mile each way. The damp day has affected Mrs. T. & she is not so well again but none the worse

of being up yesterday. Confinement on Ship board is getting very irksome, though I have a great deal to do myself being Cook, Housemaid, baker, Nurse, Steward, Chamber Maid & general hewer of wood & drawer of water for the Mess, I feel half dead with N.U.E at times & wish heartily it were well over & safe ashore at Lyttelton with my family, goods & chattels. This a serious business for a man with any family to undertake such a Voyage. The sun has not been seen to day, so the reckoning has only been calculated from the log. lat. 48,4,S. long. 128,25, East. Distance 168 miles.

THURSDAY 30 - A rough day, High wind & sea with frequent squalls. Rain nearly all day. Evening fair & sky clearer. Ship tumbling about a good deal & shipping large quantities of water, decks wet & things generally uncomfortable. Mrs. T. very ill again severe Diareuhe, a little easier towards evening. good run again 264 miles, a week of this kind would bring us close in with the land, now about 1500 miles of. lat. 48,0,S. long. 130,01, east.

FRIDAY 31 - Last night was one of the most uncomfortable we have yet passed on board the Ship, she rolled about like a barrel, the Sea washing over the decks continually; the noise & the motion together putting sleep nearly out of the question, indeed my bones were quite sore when I rose this morning, to day has been very much like yesterday, same sunshine with frequent squalls of a heavy blinding sleet. Sea running very high all day long. Good many birds at times. Towards evening wind increased to half a Gale & we are now skimming the wave under single reefed topsails. at about 11 knots an hour. Mrs. T. on the whole a little better but from the damp state of our berth on account of leakage her cough has been very troublesome & she feels quite wore out. lat noon 48,11. long 136,27. distance noon.258 M.

FEB. 1 SATURDAY - The gale of yesterday blew itself out about noon to day when it cleared up & became fine, the Sun shining brightly till he set in a glorious golden sky, very beautiful indeed. We had a very rough night, the ship rolling deeply & the Sea making so much noise that very little sleep was got. Another week done, another month began. We are all sanguine that next Saturday will see us in Harbour, some of the more go-ahead of our fellow passengers are betting rather freely on the subject. But betting will not bring us an hour sooner. O the misery of writing by the light of a lamp which is swinging to & fro with a broad mettlesome bottom casting a wide shadow over my paper, it will not stand still a moment. Mrs. T. had rather a bad night but it partly owing by Sarah whose bowels were out of order a little. Both are considerably better to night. We are now to the South of Tasmania, observation to day making our lat. to be 48,26, long. 143,01, distance 264 miles.

SUNDAY 2 - A very fine day with a nice steady breeze blowing, the Ship going easily through the water about 10 knots an hour, giving a heavy roll now & then, as if to let us know that yesterdays sea was not quite down yet. Albatross abundant all day, now & then a black one. My attempt to preserve part of the one we caught & ate have nearly all failed, some were lost in the process of towing overboard to clean, & others spoiled, so that I have only a piece of the skin with the feathers & down attached, which I have cleaned & dried. Attended the usual service in the Saloon in the morning. Got Mrs. T. on deck for some time in the sunshine which she enjoyed very much, though poor dear it was, as much as she could do to get up the ladder. I meanwhile got the damp bedding out & spread in the sun to air & dry a little. If the weather continues fine, we will have her up daily, as a preparation for life on shore. We have taken 243 miles off the distance to day & were in lat. 48,44,S & long. 149,03. being now 10 hours in advance of the Folks at home, who are just now, 8,30 p.m. about to toddle soberly off to Church & God bless them all.

MONDAY 3 - This morning was very dull & heavy, & rain fell till noon when it gradually cleared up & became fine. The temperature has been considerably higher, we are evidently getting into a milder climate the W.N.W. wind that is blowing coming from the warm

continent of Australia & not yet had time to cool down. It has been like Spring weather to us. Stores day with its usual bother & bustle. In the expectation of being speedily rid of all this commotion the process of packing & stowing away our loose things. Mrs. T. not so well, has experienced great difficulty in her breathing. Got some stuff from the Dr for it. The wind has been light all day so we have only run 200 miles; the Sea very smooth & blue. Some Albatross about the Ship as well as Porpoises played some time after dinner. lat. 48,36, long.154,02

TUESDAY 4 - The light breeze of yesterday gradually died away till about 10 this morning, when it fell a dead calm, the Ship's head boxing the compass. Birds being plentiful, lines were immediately over the side, & in a very short time 2 fine Albatross's were caught. They were killed &- anatomized for specimens in various ways. I again secured the body of one for the pot & some of the bones to clean & keep as curiosities. The Captain also tried the experiment of sinking a bottle of beer to a depth of 900 feet that it might be filled with salt water without starting the Cork. It was tried twice unsuccessfully, but the third time it nearly did force in the Cork & the beer was salter in the extreme. A small bottle with glass stopper filled with oil was also sunk, it came up with bubbles of water in it which had been forced through between the stopper & the bottle. The day has been one of bright sunshine & most oppressively warm. Some clouds came up towards afternoon obscuring the sky & bringing the breeze again so that we are again in motion with our head to New Zealand. Got Mrs. T. on deck after dinner, she enjoyed the fresh air very much & feels the better for it; hope she will have lots of fine days yet. Saw the Sun set in a very beautiful manner through a small slit in the clouds, from the main top gallant crosstrees, it not being visible at all from the deck. Our run is only 130 miles this time. lat 48,34,S. long. 157,20 east.

WEDNESDAY 5 - Yesterdays breeze lasted till towards noon having carried us on 167 miles, when it again fell calm. The morning was fine & bright, but with the calm came on a thick fog preventing us seeing half a mile at first & latterly not a hundred yards. I was persuading Mrs. T. to go on deck for a short time but she began to feel so ill that she had to go to bed. It was the Fog though neither of us knew it. I had been busy below for some time after it came on. She got a little better toward evening, just at the darkening the fog began to lift & a ship was seen on our Port quarter about 7 miles off. The phosphorescence is very bright to night displaying itself in large flaming patches while the wake of the ship seems all on fire with bright bits here & there. Albatross soup to day - most excellent feeding. Strange prejudice exists against it on board quite unfounded, wish I had another to begin to morrow. position at noon - lat. 48,26,S. long. 161,26 east. The breeze is now driving us along at about 5 knots an hour.

THURSDAY 6 - This morning opened brightly, & the day has been one of great beauty & mildness with a gentle breeze wafting the Ship steadily along though not very swiftly. Albatrosses very plentiful seldom fewer than a dozen or twenty flying about the water. Some of those pretty birds the Cape Pigeon have also attended us during the day. This & the colour of the water having changed from a dark blue to a greenish Grey tells us we are near land. The Ships head & the Foremast have been very much frequented during the afternoon by crowds of Passengers all anxious to get the first look of the shore. Shortly after Sun-set something was actually seen on the eastern Horizon & the shout of 'Land' 'land'; set every body on the qui-vive; but whatever it was the distance was too great to make it out, though I in common with several others & a good glass went to the foremast head to have a better chance. A fine schooner on the opposite tack passed about 5 miles off during the afternoon probably from some New Zealand Port to Sydney. Busy nearly all day emptying boxes & airing the damp contents considerable damage done here & there to various articles of Mrs. T's. Dresses made & unmade which with our still damp bedding I got up in the Sun & well aired. Mrs. T. pretty lively to day. Was up on deck a good while, & is not yet in bed. A

week or two on shore with good weather will put her all right again. Only 127 were run during the last 24 hours. lat 47,55,S long. 164,34.

FRIDAY 7 - The land seen last night proved to be the "Snares Rocks" some 40 miles South of "Stewarts Island" & was passed close to at 11,30. The Ship's head was then turned to the N. & on going on deck this morning New Zealand was seen on the Port side about 15 miles off, a long tract of blue hills. We were then running about 10 knots & it was soon out of sight. but after breakfast another headland appeared & soon a long stretch of the Otago Coast was seen. The wind after this fell very light & we lay quite still for some time, a large Ship which had come into view some time before being in the same predicament. Our hopes were high that we would be at Anchor at Lyttleton in another couple of days. But they were doomed to a sad disappointment for a wind springing up right in our teeth which sent us away into the coast till we could see the trees & rocks with the Sea breaking on them & then away out to sea again till at Sun-set the hills had nearly sunk out of view. The Otago coast line is very pretty having fine bold hills close to the sea with plenty of Wood & water. Some of the hills are of very peculiar shape while the whole scene reminds me very much of some parts of dear old Scotland. The crew have been getting the Anchor over the side & all ready for port. Lots of birds about; Old Albatrosses feeding the young, Cape Pigeons &c & rarer still a small dark Butterfly flew past the Ship. Mrs. T. pretty well as the day has been fine & warm; busy sorting & stowing away various things. Passed a large schooner in the evening. Run to day 206 miles to lat. 47,06,S. long. 169,22E.

SATURDAY 8 - The breeze that came on yesterday increased till at midnight it blew a Gale, & our Sail was reduced till we were under close reefed. topsails & springing through the water about 12 knots. The Ship was put about at 8 this morning, & it was not till 5 p.m. that we again made the coast, Cape Saunders, near Dunedin, land very mountainous. Two Ships have been in company with us all day nearly; but we have gradually increased our distance from them till one is out of sight, even from the mast head; the other half down on our Port quarter. They are both large Vessels, likely bound for the same Port as ourselves. A Ship passed us bound South during the evening. This day has been very rough & stormy, Sundry heavy seas were shipped greatly to the surprise & disgust of several passengers who were looking over the side at the time. About 6 p.m. the wind fell very light & the Sun shone out clear & warm, the coast at the same time standing boldly on the Western horizon about 15 miles off. Several Whales were seen spouting during the evening, but mostly too far off to see more than the head. Mrs. T. very poorly all day but a little better at evening. For all the hard work the Ship had done she had only made 44 miles good, the rest all lost way. lat. 46,42,S. long. 170,10,E.

SUNDAY 9 - The Ship was blown off shore again last night, & on going on deck this morning I found her going smartly to the north with a gentle breeze & fine bright sunshine. About noon however while we were in the Saloon at prayers, one of those peculiar winds of New Zealand called S.Westerly bursten, came on us & set all hands to shorten sail. Service was just over when the Foresail was torn to ribbons with a great crack, followed immediately by the breaking loose of the maintop staysail, causing a terrible row for the time, which was further increased by the giving way of the Main-tack, which caused the mainsail to flap in the air with a noise like thunder, then the jib split & the fore top sail halyards gave way. All the time the wind was howling & roaring through the rigging & the Ship driving through the short heavy sea; in short this is the hardest blow we have had since starting. It is good there were so many passengers on board, or some of the spars would have been lost, we all lent willing hands at pulling the ropes. About 3 p.m. land was seen which turned to be Banks Peninsula near our Port. The wind was not entirely an ill wind, for we were able to bring the Ship's head round a bit when we made towards the land with great speed. It came a heavy rain & we did

not again see it for some time, but shortly after tea it cleared up & we found ourselves close to the land, along which we sailed with the speed of a Steamer, passing some fine Bays & points with high bold Cliffs. The land is very hilly & mostly covered with trees, large tracts of grass land being near, the Sea in some spots, on one of which we saw some Cattle & a house. In two of the bays were vessels at Anchor, having run in to escape the storm. Altogether the coast is very picturesque & my first impressions are rather favourable. The view seemed like a Panorama as we rapidly glided past. On getting under the lee of the land the wind & sea both fell & just before dark we made out a Ship ahead of us, which sent up several rockets to which we replied, & at 9,45 p.m. the Anchor was dropt on New Zealand ground off Port Cooper the inlet on which Lyttleton is situated to which we are to work up to morrow.

MONDAY 10 - The sea breeze began shortly after breakfast when the Anchor was raised & sail made when the Ship glided gently up the Bay till within a mile of Lyttleton; the Anchor was again let go & our long journey terminated. Lyttleton is situated on the North side of a deep Bay 12 or 14 miles long & 2 to 4 wide, it is a straggling little Town at the foot of a rocky hill about 1300 feet high, no level ground, the houses being built along the slope. There is anchorage in the Bay for a large fleet, at present there are seven large ships, 3 Steamers, & a number of small coasting craft. There is a good Jetty where Steamers &c. land goods. Shortly after the Anchor was down I went on shore to see about me a little, look for Lodgings, call at the Port Officer &c. Found the town a queer little place, very unfinished looking, houses all wood. Things very dear. Lodgings & board particularly. Was asked £7,4 per week for Self & family at one house. At another £5 for a poor little room with a shake down for the boys in the corner, a very poor look out this. Found no letter at the Post Office. Bills of exchange all right, agents drew to account. Got dinner, 2/ mutton chop 1/ Went to Times Office & got tempory employment. Went on board again to prepare for leaving the Ship in the morning; boat hire 3/ each there & back. Found Mrs. T. very anxious & quite dismayed her with my report. She has been rather poorly again which makes me feel very anxious about her getting a comfortable place on shore. Got my packing forwarded a bit & went to bed a very wearied man.

TUESDAY 11 - Started early this morning- &- got the boxes all turned out & the things got together for stowing away immediately after breakfast. The great amount of impediments accumulated about me, fairly frighten me when I begin to see it altogether, bags, boxes baskets, buckets, big little & small nearly a score of separate parcels.

O happy is that man & blest, who travels without pain,
Who has no box to trouble him or bag to cross his grain,
But miserable is the man & pitiful his lot,
Whose baggage is so very great he scarce can leave the spot.

At least so I found it. I quite envied some of my fellow passengers who had only one or two, they could march off at once while I had to engage a horse & cart to get my traps removed, partly to a store & partly to the temporary lodging engaged during the forenoon when ashore for the purpose. A small steamer came alongside & after our things had been as I thought all put on board, we followed & were all safely landed on the Jetty bidding adieu to the 'Matoaka' with three cheers. After sending Mrs. T. & the boys with Sarah up to the house; I proceeded to get the luggage overhauled when I found to my disgust that there had been left behind, having been pushed back into the hold when I was on shore. Went after them & with some difficulty got them out over into the boat & landed.

Then sent our necessaries on to the house in a cart, paid the charge, got the rest stored safely till wanted & then went up the hill completely wore out both in body & mind. Found Mrs. T. had walked up all the way & was very tired. Had a late dinner or rather supper & then to bed.

This finishes my journal each day stands for itself, on only one occasion did I miss writing on the evening of the day represented, & then I wrote the morning after, the time they were generally written was between 8 & 9 p.m. when my work was over for the day & I felt at times to think a little. Many of the paragraphs may be thought trifling & wonder may be expressed at my taking the trouble to put them on paper, they are a faithful account & I felt quite a pleasure in seeing the book gradually filling up & in thinking it would give my friends a good idea of what life at sea really is, when stript of its gilding & varnish. Some of the days may perhaps contradict each other but life at sea is full of contrary's & I very seldom read over to night what I had written last night which may account for repetition; they were all written by a miserable swinging lamp, all sorts of interruptions & annoyances, at a table whose top was perpetually inclining to all angles with the horizen; so I hope my friends will excuse me for blunders in grammar & bad penmanship. Some of the remarks were written in circumstances of considerable difficulty when the Ship was rolling & pitching heavily taxing ones courage & energies to hold on steadily to the seat, let alone trying to put your thoughts on paper. Above all hope my notes may have some effect in exposing what is called. 'Second Cabin'. It is a complete do. You pay a lot more Money for a mere trifle. Come first class if you can afford it, if not come third you know what you have to expect. In first class you look for every thing, in third for what you can get, with a very little care & management quite sufficient for an ordinary appetite. In all cases it is advisable to take a few comforts, such as jams, arrowroot, sago, some spices for puddings, some sweeties &c. Carbonate Soda & Tartar acid should also be taken. When the water gets bad, first rate lemonade can be made with a little lime juice & used sparingly fine sweet bread can be made with it. All emigrants should be cautious in believing what the Sharks about the Port tell them they will require on the voyage; take off at least 75 per cent from all they say, & 50 per cent from all they ask. Go to respectable houses for all you want & you will have much more satisfaction in all they give you. Hook pots for instance are pressed on you, there is nothing more useless. A common carry with a swing handle & a close fit lid is worth two of them. We found a 6 pint goblet a most useful thing; many a nice drop of soup we made out of our stores which other Messes could only envy but not attempt though they had the same materials to work with.

But I must bring my long story to a close. The Ship 'Mystery' which we several times thought we had overhauled, we found in port having beaten us by 4 days, 78 days from Gravesend, while we were 82 from Plymouth. They are both capital runs & among the quickest yet made. In the hope that these remarks may be interesting to many of my friends, I now conclude & subscribe

P. Thomson.

Lyttleton, Feb. 12/62.