

Second Voyage

to

Rio, Monte Video & Buenos Ayres

in his Majesty's Packet

Duke of York

Lieut. Robert Snell
Commander

Left Falmouth 24th August 1832
Returned to Falm.^o 5th February 1833

*List
of
The Ships Company*

*Rob.¹ Snell R.N.
Commander.*

<i>John Geach</i>	<i>Master</i>	
<i>James Williamson</i>	<i>Surgeon</i>	
<i>Charles Williams</i>	<i>Mate</i>	
<i>James Evenet</i>	<i>Boatswain</i>	
<i>Gustavus Glason</i>	<i>Carpenter</i>	
<i>James Pashbee</i>	<i>Steward</i>	
<i>James Edwards *</i>	<i>Stewards Mate</i>	
<i>James Webber</i>	<i>Cook.</i>	
<i>William Stevens</i>	<i>Sailmaker</i>	
<i>Joseph Stevens</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>James Sedgemore **</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>Philip Waistcott</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>Edward Oke</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>William Watts</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>Alexander Webb</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>Charles Richards (alias Quintal)</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>John Richards</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>Dyer Williams</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>James Hoskin</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>George Kellaway</i>	<i>A.B.</i>	
<i>and a boy John Evenett</i>		

** in the room of James Rowe discharged*

*** in the room of Sam.¹ Waistcott d.^o*

*Notes of a Voyage to Rio, Monte
Video, and Buenos Ayres*

Sailed 24th August 1832

*} absence 23 weeks
and 5 days*

Returned 5th February 1833.

Friday 24th August 1832 - a most beautiful and cloudless morning ushered in this our day of departure, and imparted a feeling of regret that we could not remain on shore to enjoy the promise of pleasure which it held forth. We are always unlucky. We ought to have remained in harbour instead of proceeding to sea to day - if strict justice had been done to us. On our arrival from Mexico we came in for the Brazil Mail, which besides giving us the prospect of a very agreeable voyage, would have required [us] to remain another fortnight in Falmouth. The *Lapwing*¹ was to have gone to Buenos Ayres and for some days after her arrival no word was heard of any objection on her part - but just when she was about to be reported in London for that Mail (which would have fixed irrevocably) the Captain pretended to discover that some repairs were indispensably necessary, which would not be completed previous to the time of sailing of the Buenos Ayres - and unfortunate we, being the next in date, were shoved in for a long & a tedious voyage. But you will say - oh according to the regulations he must go there next month. If indeed he must have gone at all, you may be sure that he would have been ready to go at the first opportunity & not have lost a whole month. But the cunning rogue knew better - that changes were proposed - and willingly gave us the honour of being the last Packet to Buenos Ayres. He was well aware that by next month a man-of-war schooner called the *Cockatrice*² was to take out the Mail thither & be employed in future in conveying the Mail between Rio, Monte Video & Buenos Ayres, thereby rendering it unnecessary for the Falmouth Packets to go further than Rio - and consequently doing away with the monthly mail from that former port to Buenos Ayres.

Thus we were tricked of an excellent voyage & cheated of our stay at home, which I the more regretted on account of my friend M.^r Wilson, who had come to spend a week or two with me.³

At half past ten we left Falmouth with light and foul winds, which continued till evening, when the wind increased, still foul & the weather became cloudy and cold with slight showers of rain.

¹ HM Packet *Lapwing* (6) Brig, Lt. G. B. Foster.

² HM Packet *Cockatrice* (6), Brigantine, newly built at Pembroke Dock, Lt. Lee Rees. - *Navy List* - Sept. 1832.

³ There was considerable rivalry if not jealousy between the commanders of the Civil and Royal Naval packets. The former felt slighted, and thought that under Admiralty management the R.N. commanders and Naval packets received preferential consideration.

Saturday 25th August - strong and foul wind with heavy tumble of a Sea – Very cloudy weather – less wind in the afternoon but much sea.

Sunday 26th - fine weather – Moderate and favourable breeze with heavy NW swell

Monday 27th August - miserable rainy weather Fresh and foul wind.

Tuesday 28th - dull gloomy weather with occasional showers all day. Fresh and nearly favourable breeze, with long heavy swell from NW – passed several sails – In the evening the weather cleared up and the wind drew more aft.

Wednesday 29th - beautiful weather – fresh and favourable breeze – In sight of the coast of Portugal weathered Cape Finisterre at 3 P.M.

Thursday 30th – very fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Friday 31st – very pleasant weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Saturday 1st Sept.^r – beautiful weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Sunday 2^d – very hot weather – calm all day – towards evening light and foul breeze.

Monday 3^d – fine weather – foul wind.

Tuesday 4th – fine weather – foul wind.

Wednesday 5th - saw Madeira and the Desertas this morning Beautiful weather – had calms & variable winds all day. At 8 P.M. we were abreast of the Desertas lay to all night.

Thursday 6th - this morning stark calm - off the town of Funchall. The Captain proposed to land the Mail in our gig, and accordingly at 9 A.M. the Master, M.^r Alfred Snell and Self started for the shore, the distance being about nine miles. The weather was very sultry and our men were soon fatigued. Three weary hours were spent in pulling to the shore, which when we were near, we were met by the health-boat to put the usual questions, Cholera then raging so furiously in Britain. The Master gave satisfactory replies and shewd our clean bill of health from Falmouth. Then commenced a long string of questions relative to Portugal, & the fortunes of the two contenders for the crown - to all of which I gave such replies as I could, having lately read the papers. My answers were translated to a military officer who sat in the boat, and who in turn proposed so many new interrogations that I was heartily tired & professed a greater degree of ignorance than was really the case. Knowing that Madeira was in the interest of Don Miguel I was glad that the latest accounts from Portugal would enable me to please them without telling a lie – but the more favourable I represented their cause, the more voluble and eager they became in questioning & cross-questioning me – and it was not until they had exhausted every topic, that they told us to follow them to the shore. We were not yet permitted to land. It was necessary to speak to the Governor & the Health Officer said that as his Excellency lives close to the beach, he would not detain us more than a few minutes -

meanwhile we might lay upon our oars. To all this we could do nothing but assent & waited patiently the return of the officer with permission to land.

We waited so long that I thought the rascally officer had intended to signify hours instead of minutes. Our patience was very severely tried. Within a very few yards of the beach, we dared not land, as there were several sentinels ready to prevent us. To add to our unpleasant situation, it began to rain and we had no shelter. Often and often we looked towards the city gate, imagining that the next person who should pass thro' would be the (In-) sanity Officer & as often we were disappointed. Our anger was vented in expression not loud but deep, and could we have had our will, 6 dozen would not been ill bestowed on certain persons backs. At last after nearly an hour, we discerned the officer coming at a snail's pace - but when we expected him to hail us to come on shore, he entered to our mortification into his own boat and rowed to us. This was a bad omen & we fully anticipated an entire prohibition against landing. When we were alongside, a letter was handed to the Master, addressed to the Captain. M.^r Geach of course opened it & found it was from M.^r Veitch our Consul, expressing his sorrow that we could not land the Mail immediately in consequence of our Bill of health not having been signed by the Portuguese Consul. We were requested to deliver up all the papers & letters, having first immersed them in vinegar - after which we would be allowed to land. I thought it strange that we should be permitted to land without washings and fumigations, if they had entertained any doubts or fears - but of course I said nothing, being glad to get on shore on any terms. During this my short stay at Madeira I observed nothing new - Houses and men the same. All seemed quiet. The old fortifications have been repaired, and some new ones erected since my first visit. There was only an English brig, strange to say, in the harbour. Three small native craft were anchor for protection behind the insular fort, of which I think I made mention in my former Journal. All here are on the *qui vive* for news from Portugal from different motives. There are Miguelites & Pedroites in plenty. The heads of the former are the priests & the bulk are the ignorant, the fanatic, or priest-ridden, & the holders of civil & military offices. The latter are composed of the enlightened - the liberal & lover of a free constitution - to which add that in secret the English favour their sentiments. At the Consul's office we were met by a priest, who made us a low obeisance, and said something in Portuguese which was translated to us & meant that he thanked us for the good news we had brought.

We spent the time very agreeably - short as it was. We were invited to the Consul's house where we were entertained with various fruits, wines & preserves - & afterwards we walked about until the Mail was ready for us. At 5.30 we left Madeira to go on board and luckily for us our Packet had been able to come within a mile or two of the shore. As soon as we arrived, the boat was hoisted up and we set sail for Rio with very light and favourable breezes - fine weather in the afternoon and evening: When darkness came on we perceived a very brilliant but very partial illumination on shore, which we supposed was caused by our good news - tho' what these good news were I could not imagine. I am glad that we have touched at Madeira, altho' it is only within these two months that the Buenos Ayres has done so, were it merely to see how the place looked.

Friday 7th Sept.^r - fine weather - Moderate & favourable breeze.

Saturday 8th - fine weather - Moderate and favourable breeze.

Sunday 9th - cloudy and pleasant weather - fresh and favourable breeze.

Monday 10th – fresh and favourable breeze – cloudy weather.

Tuesday 11th - moderate & favourable breeze – fine weather.

Wednesday 12th - fine weather – light and favourable breeze.

Thursday 13th – nearly a calm all night – light variable winds all day – fine weather.

Friday 14th - fine weather – very light and favourable breeze – passed within a short distance of Santo Antonio one of the Cape verde Islands.

Saturday 15th September - fine weather – fresh and pretty favourable wind – which would have been entirely so. Had we not wished to cross the line in 18th or 19th West Latitude.

Sunday 16th - fine weather – Very fresh and nearly favourable wind.

Monday 17th - fresh and favourable wind till 11 A.M. when a calm came on. Then a meeting of the winds took place, which made the sea resemble an immense boiling cauldron. In about two hours this ceased & we had our old wind again – variable weather with occasional showers.

Tuesday 18th – variable wind & weather – squally calms & showers. Wind chiefly from Westward.

Wednesday 19th – d.^o d.^o

Thursday 20th – fine weather – calm all day – light breezes & squalls with rain at night.

Friday 21st – fine weather – calms and light airs all day.

Saturday 22^d - fine w.^r – very light and baffling winds from S. & W. – strange wind this in our present position, instead of NE.

Sunday 23^d – fine weather – light and foul wind.

Monday 24th – calms & variable winds. Very wet weather. Caught a shark 9 feet long.

Tuesday 25th – baffling winds, calms and rain.

Wednesday 26th – Sept.^r – cloudy with rain – foul wind.

Thursday 27th – fine weather with occasional showers – foul, foul wind – properly jammed.

Friday 28th – fine weather all day – much rain at night – fresh & foul winds.

Saturday 29th – fine weather with occasional showers – wind a little more favourable.

Sunday 30th – fine weather – fresh and nearly favourable breeze.

Monday 1st October - fine weather – fresh & nearly favourable breeze.

Tuesday 2^d - fine weather – fresh & favourable breeze. **Crossed the line this afternoon.**

Wednesday 3^d - drizzling showers in the fore part of the day – fine afternoon – fresh and favourable breeze.

Thursday 4th - fine weather – fresh and favourable breeze. Thermometer at 76 noon & at 74 P.M. For these some days past, I have felt it so cool as to be able to bear a blanket.

Friday 5th - very fine weather – Very fresh & favourable breeze. Passed under the Sun to day Therm.^r 74 at 8 A.M. & 76 at noon.

Saturday 6th – very fine weather – fresh & favourable breeze. Still very cool.

Sunday 7th – beautiful weather – very fresh and favourable breeze – Heat more moderate.

Monday 8th – very fresh and favourable breeze – fine weather.

Tuesday 9th October – fine weather – light winds & more aft. Rather warm. Therm: at 78, noon.

Wednesday 10th –fine weather – fresh & favourable breeze.

Thursd. 11th – wet disagreeable weather all day – cleared up in the afternoon – foul wind with heavy sea.

Friday 12th – very fine weather – foul wind variable in strength.

Saturday 13th – very fine weather – very light favourable breezes.

Sunday 14th – beautiful weather – moderate & favourable breezes – 2 sails in sight.

Monday 15th - pleasant but cloudy W.^r In expectation all day of discovering the coast of Brazil about Cape Frio. We looked from dewy morn till the shades of night shut out our view – but looked & looked in vain. Our Chronometers must be terribly out.

Tuesday 16th - cloudy pleasant weather – thought we saw the land – light variable winds.

Wednesday 17 - last night at 12, after a long calm, a fresh & favourable breeze sprung up – made Cape Frio this morning which shewed that Arnold's Chronometer (on which we had no dependence) was near the mark by 10 miles whilst Goffe's, which

has been all the go with us was out more than two degrees.⁴ Very thick hazy weather, all day with drizzling rain. We soon lost sight of Cape Frio & with fresh & favourable breeze steered our course for the entrance to Rio. Had the wind held on with equal strength, we should have gained our point & by 4 oClock P.M. to be safe at anchor. But unfortunately the wind failed us & the heavy swell setting us in, we found ourselves on a sudden quite close to a lee shore & still moving in. The danger would not have been great, even if we had bumped ashore as there was a fine sandy beach before us – but the Master endeavouring to take advantage of the little breeze that was up tacked to get away, & as we made very slow progress we soon came opposite a rocky island which would have soon knocked our bottom to pieces, if we had parted our anchor which it was at once the intention of the Master to have dropped. But thanks to divine Providence, we were not reduced to this necessity but favoured by the wind we soon left our dangerous position & awaited for a stronger breeze. The entrance to Rio was now astern, when the haze cleared up exposed to our view, being distant about 10 or 12 miles.

Towards evening the wind again fell away light, whilst the heavy swell hove us in & we were soon likely to be under the necessity of letting go the anchor at all risks with this additional disadvantage to our situation from what it was in the morning, that now every thing was enveloped in patchy darkness & we could not descry the dangers we dreaded. Just as the Master was considering the propriety of coming to anchor (& the anchorage being rocky he was doubtful of the success of such a measure) fortunately for us, a breeze light and wavering blew off the shore & bore us slowly from our perilous position. Thick hazy weather.

Thursday 18th Oct.^r - very wet drizzling forenoon – cloudy but fair in the afternoon, calms & light variable airs all day – Pretty close in shore, altho' we at length got off again with a moderate breeze, but at night we were bothered about Cape Frio, near to which we have shifted. Strong current & light breezes very uneasy at being so near so dangerous a neighbourhood, remembering the recent fate of the *Thetis* frigate,⁵ nothing to be seen but gloomy looks & nothing heard but the words of despondency. Left the decks at eleven & it was long ere I fell asleep.

Friday 19th - during last night we had several smart and favourable breezes which carried us away from Cape Frio & in the morning we were near the entrance to Rio & the Cape still plainly in sight. Calms during the day or very light airs. At 7 P.M. very near the light house on Round Island.

Saturday 20th - at 10 this morning came to anchor in Rio Harbour - Waited hour after hour for the visit from the health boat & fired a gun or two to hasten their motions, but the rascals were too lazy to come before 4 oClock. As soon as we [were] admitted to pratique I went on shore with the Mail, & afterwards walked out to the Admirals, returning on board at 7 P.M.

⁴ Goffe was a Falmouth watchmaker, and his pocket chronometers were held in great esteem in the Packet Service.

⁵ HM Frigate *Thetis* (36), on the South American station, Capt. A. B. Bingham. *Thetis* was wrecked in calms on this coast on March 5th 1830, with the loss of 16 lives.

On 5th August 1832, the Falmouth Packet *Mutine* landed 17,000 dollard salvaged from the wreck of the *Thetis*, at Falmouth.

Sunday 21st Oct.^r - spent the day on shore with my old friend Da Gama, who had come to Town from his house in the country only the night before our arrival. Sorry to say that I drank too much & was obliged to sleep on shore.

Monday 22nd - came off very early this morning, much fagged. Confined myself to the vessel all day but went on shore in the afternoon. Saw nothing new or worthy of remark. Every thing here in *staus quo antea*.

Tuesday 23rd - by break of day prepared to get under weigh in Company with his Majesty's Packet *Melville*.⁶ The wind being very scant, we were towed out by boats sent to our assistance from the *Warspite*.⁷ Outside the harbour by 10 - then got a fresh & favourable breeze & away we went on our course rejoicing. By the bye, I forgot to mention that we landed a steerage passenger named Ridge at Rio, of whom I know nothing more, not having conversed or interested myself much about him.

Wednesday 24th - beautiful weather - fresh and favourable breeze.

Thursday 25th Oct.^r - rainy morning – fine day – less breeze, still favourable.

Friday 26th – pleasant weather – foul wind. Very cool since leaving Rio.

Sat.^y 27th – very fine weather. Moderate & favourable breeze.

Sunday 28th – fresh and favourable breeze, cloudy weather with much rain.

Monday 29th – wet with moderate and favourable breeze in forenoon – dry with foul wind in afternoon – very squally at night.

Tuesday 30th – fine weather – very cold, a gale of wind & foul.

Wednesday 31st – very fine weather – cold foul wind.

Thursday 1st November – very fine weather. Moderate & nearly favourable breeze all day – very light at night.

Friday 2nd – very fine weather – Moderate & favourable breeze.

Saturday 3rd - variable weather with rain. At 3 P.M. came to anchor off Monte Video & went immediately with the Master on shore. Our orders were that we should remain 12 hours at this port but the Consul M.^r Hood said that as there was no necessity for this, we might start as soon as we pleased - at which declaration I was mightily pleased. Accordingly as soon as we communicated this intelligence to the Captain he took the Consul at his word & with a fresh & favouring breeze, we soon got under weigh, our Master engaging to take the ship without employing, as is the case in 8 instances out of 10, the assistance of a pilot.

Arrive at Buenos Ayres

⁶ HM Packet *Melville*, one of the last civil packets built, like the *Duke of York*, she was commanded by an RN officer – Lt. Charles Webbe.

⁷ H.M.S. *Warspite* (76), Captain Charles Talbot, 25 Nov. 1830, on the South American station.

Sunday 4th Nov.^r - cloudy w.^r Very fresh and favourable breeze all night. Moderate during the day. At 4 P.M. came to anchor close to the Guard Vessel off Buenos Ayres. Hours before this we were all ready to go on shore & it never entered our wise acre heads that the slightest delay would be interposed to the landing of his Britannic Majesty's Mails. A few minutes served to undeceive us. A boat came off from the Guard Boat, in which was a German Surgeon, who having made the usual enquiries at the Captain, requested to see me. I was glad that I could most conscientiously report on the present & past good health of the crew, not doubting but that from all this minuteness & circumstantiality in this interrogative system, being satisfied by a medical person of the sanity of all on board, they would waive all further ceremony, mount over our sides, shake hands, preparatory to the usual felicitations on being out of quarantine & the customary glass or bottle of wine, as the case may be. Conceive then my chagrin & disappointment as well as that of the whole bunch of us when it was carefully enunciated to us in language and distinctness too plain to be misunderstood that *'according to the orders of mine government you are to consider yourselves under quarantine until further orders & to hold no communication with any boat or boats, person or persons, till you are released therefrom, and finally to hoist at your fore, the usual signal of a yellow flag.'* Lest either thro' inadvertence or intentional omission we might not have provided ourselves with the ominous signal of *'Noli me lengere'* and thereby have an excuse for any unavoidable infringement of the sanitary code the Buenos Ayres Government, having foreseen in their wisdom such a circumstance, had providentially laid in a sufficient stock of yellow flags, with one of which (having only one large hole in it, the rest of it being nearly new) we were accordingly furnished. We did not refuse the offer because altho' we had one on board, it was but right that if we were detained in limbo by the Buenos Ayreans that they should soften the hardship of the case by not putting us to tear & wear of our own flags, thereby enabling us to make ours last a little longer.

We were all to be sure a little nettled at the nonchalance with which these restriction on our locomotive powers were announced by rogues, who could go wherever they pleased without let or molestation. But you may be equally certain that we did not let the rascals see our chagrin, which would have heightened their malicious triumph. On the contrary our Captain said in reply to the order of mine Government with an air of the most perfect indifference & even hauteur *'Very well - you may say that I must await the pleasure of your Government.'* An answer, the mildness of which, as I learnt afterwards, was mightily pleasing to the Officers, who had been accustomed in answer to their directions to go into Quarantine, nothing but *Got-damn* & other equally abusive & insulting expressions.

It is curious to observe how, after having looked forward to gain a particular object, & having connected that attainment of that object with the occupation of a certain period of time & a certain portion of pleasure, the mind, when you are unexpectedly disappointed, looses all its elasticity which the purpose in view had called forth & Sinks at once into inanity & listlessness. So we, being thus disappointed walked about the deck the remainder of the day, looking as if we were searching for something we had lost but could not find – sulky – sullen - & dispirited.

Monday 5th Nov.^r - today we had beautiful weather, and all of us were anxious to take advantage of it by going on shore. But vain were our hopes. During the day no boat was seen hastening with eager zeal to release us from *durance vile*. The long extent of the river between us & the shore was unmarked by a single approaching boat. I know

nothing more annoying than to wait, wait for hours all nicely shaved & dressed. First we are in high spirits not doubting our speedy deliverance, then as time wears on, we begin to get anxious, uneasy & fidgety, & at last all our good humour gives way & the most wayward state of impatience succeeds.

About 2 o'clock we beheld a small boat pushing off from the guard ship and steering towards us. The Capt.ⁿ not doubting but this was sent to us to intimate our freedom, ordered our gig to be lowered down & the mail to be brought upon deck – but alas our hopes thus excited were lowered almost as soon as the gig, for the boat only came to provoke us by announcing that we were not yet to go on shore on any account, the Commander of the Guarda apparently being afraid that our impatience would exceed our prudence & thinking it right therefore thus gently to hint that our movements would be well watched. Beasts, asses, dolts, were the mildest terms we bestowed on him for his pains – but after all we were obliged to settle down our minds to resignation – that resignation which being enforced by unavoidable necessity gives no merit to him who exhibits it.

At last however just as we began to despair, about 4 o'clock, the health boat visited us again, not as we confidently expected to tell us that we were to be in quarantine for forty days, but to our great joy that we were now admitted to pratique. Glad tidings to us. All was soon bustle & confusion preparatory to making instant use of our newborn liberty. The Mail was passed along by willing hands. Smiles again beamed on our phizies - our ladies were ready in a crack were hoisted into the boat, & off we set with a fair wind for the shore - myself being perhaps the most interested person of the whole, having never been on shore here. In an hour & a half (so great was the distance) we gained the land.

The approach to it was highly pleasing. The dark of houses with difficulty descried on ship board, came more & more into view distinct & separate. The domes, spires & turrets were seen in less prominent relief because contrasted with the other buildings. We passed thro' a number of ships in the inner harbour, distant about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the beach. As we neared the shore the water became shallower & shallower till at last we stuck fast more than 40 yards from *terra firma*, which had there not been some contrivance for the purpose we could not have reached without being thoroughly wetted. Every country which is destitute of conveniences possessed by others is always sure to contrive a remedy - and it is no bad rule for the young traveller to trust himself in dangerous places to guidance & skill of the natives. So here when we must have been otherwise in a fine mess, we found ourselves well by the contrivance of the peons. Carts of a very simple & unambitious construction (which I shall hereafter describe) drove at rapid speed thro' the water to our reach, each striving to gain us before the other & little caring whether in the race they splashed or capsized us. The latter & by far the worst accident would certainly have befallen us, had we not skilfully avoided the collision of two rivals carts - and by dint of oaths & threatening language, we at last secured one, into which we got & were driven comfortably ashore for about 7 pence in all. We were then landed on a sandy beach in front of the Alameda or public walk & from thence proceeded to mount up to the Town. I shall not here stop to discuss the beach, town &.^c but proceed with the adventures and incidents of others by leaving all my remarks on Buenos Ayres to be given in the bunch.

As I was the most disengaged person I was entrusted with the care & piloting of our lady passengers, three in number, whilst the Master proceeded with the Mail to the Post Office. A rare pilot you will say, I must have been - and you would say right, having never been in the country before, and moreover, altho' I had a tongue in my

head to enable me to ask my way, I could hardly find a soul to understand my lingo, whilst I was equally at a loss to comprehend theirs. However you know, faint heart never won a fair lady - & we never know what our powers are till we are tried. One good thing, I lacked not confidence - I never hesitated for a moment accepting the charge thrust upon me & never doubted for a moment my capability of discharging it to the satisfaction of all parties.

First of all I had got from our two Lima ladies a note in English from a M.^{rs} Johnston who keeps a lodging house in Rio to a M.^{rs} Connel in this Town, requesting her to accommodate these ladies in her house. With this document in my possession I inquired of an Englishman the way to M.^{rs} Connel's & he kindly sent a black Spanish rascal to point it out. Many a street, & square, & plaza we traversed ere we reached our destination - & during all the time I was so engaged in looking after my protégées, that I observed not the churches, public buildings & markets which were in our road - and I was glad when we arrived at our port, not doubting but that I should be free to follow my own will & to keep my appointment with the Master, whom I had agreed to meet on the beach in an hours time. We often reckon beyond our host - we often count our chickens before they are hatched - and I am almost to be at the same opinion as some ancient philosophers, called the doubtless, that there is nothing certain in this sublunary state but - death.

Well we arrived as I have said at M.^{rs} Connel's - the rooms were excellent - the terms were not disputed & the lady seemed a pleasant lady. I chuckled within myself at my success, & prepared to make my final congee, when to an insuperable difficulty occurred - there were no dinners made in the house. Our passengers at being told this were completely nonplussed - they begged & entreated that they might be made an exception - but in vain were their attempts to bend the unbendable M.^{rs} Connel. What was to be done - neither party would yield and at last I was compelled much against the grain to squire the ladies to some more accommodating house. Little did I think that this was but the beginning of troubles & labour & fatigue & that from half past five until nearly ten I should trudge about from street to street & house to house, & all the while be compelled to wear a complacent smile on my face, while a frown & disgust would have been more truly depicted - to utter the accents of soothing compliments, when my real thoughts would have found vent in not the most polite language - to profess myself not at all wearied, when I was dying with fatigue - & to say that they were not at all troublesome, when I considered them the greatest bores in the world. Oh politeness & attention established usages, of the world to what dost not expose thy notaries. Yet I do not exaggerate when I state all this to have been [the] case. 12 or 14 houses of all sizes & accommodations occupied by French, English, Spaniards, Germans & Swedes, & Americans - & to some of them directed by mistake twice were visited by us - but objections were started to all in succession. Some were too small - some too dirty - some wanted this & others had that, till at last I became quite in despair at even getting a place to please these fastidious Senoras. What was curious, which ever they found already engaged, they seemed most anxious to take up their abode there. I suppose from the spirit of contradiction. During the whole of the dreary & tedious time occupied in our researches, I was unable to beguile even a small portion by conversing, for we were mutually unintelligible to each other & whenever they wanted any thing, it required much trouble to make me understand their French & Spanish. How many mistakes did I not make - & the worse was that I was obliged to grin horribly a gashtly grin [sic] at them. At last thank heaven I landed them at a countryman's of the name of M^cGaw in the *Rua del 25 del Mayo*. They were not indeed satisfied with their accommodations there & would

[have] wandered I verily believe as long as people would have opined their houses – but I was determined to fix them for the night. And you must consider that all this time I had forgot number one & had no where yet to lay my head that night. I enquired at M^cGaw & was glad to learn that I could be accommodated – so no farther would I budge. I suddenly forgot all my French & seemed to consider it as a settled matter that they were to remain there. But the old lady was too sharp for me. She told M^cGaw that she wished to see more houses - & so importunate was she, that I offered, in pretence of her being fatigued, to go by myself & bring her back a report. With difficulty she consented to this arrangement & I accordingly went with M^cGaw to four more different houses but knowing pretty well by this time what they wanted, I was sure that none would suit them & I therefore returned to tell them so.; Whither it was that the old dame suspected me, to be like the spies sent to spy out the land of promise, & to have returned with a false report for my own purposes, or whether she really was determined not to stay where she was, I cannot tell – but she would absolutely go with me herself & judge with her own eyes whether I had told her the truth. I submitted with the best grace possible – she soon found that I had not exaggerated - & to my great joy she gave her consent to remain where she was till tomorrow at least. This was joyful news to me –my spirits which had ebbed very low, began to flow back, & I devoured with excellent appetite & gust some cold fowl, roast beef, bread & fresh butter, washed down with several cups of tea. At 11 I turned in to enjoy my well earned sleep & did not awake till far in the morning.

Having thus brought you to my resting place in Buenos Ayres, I have now time & leisure to give you some *[History]* of the *[above ladies]*, as well as of an English *[one, which]* I left in the early part of the Day to the care of *[her friends]*.

Miss *[Caroline Wiggins]* embarked on board at Falmouth, intending to join her sister at Buenos Ayres. Her sister is married on ^[sic] a M.^r Black a Carpenter, & if I may venture on a conjecture, Miss Caroline has gone out on a matrimonial speculation & is very likely to succeed. Almost every young woman who goes out to Buenos Ayres, even tho' she may possess very moderate attractions is sure of getting married to some respectable tradesman there. Our countrymen do not appear to have any partiality for the ladies of the country - & hence connections with them are very rare & frequently unhappy. And the supply of their own countrymen being very scanty, this may be assigned for the great number of young & well-doing bachelors in the Town. So well aware are our merchants of the desire for wives from home, & of the danger of their being snapped up, that now very few indeed ever think of having female servants from England from the expense of bringing them out & the certainty that they will not enjoy their services long. It would therefore, I think be no bad speculation to ladies, who are dying for lack of husbands at home, sweet home, if they have but a little money, to expend it in coming out here & I'd venture to say that in the space of six months they will *[receive]* substantial offers enough to pick and choose from & these from men sober, wealthy & handsome.

From what then I have just said I think Miss Caroline Wiggins could not have done better than she has done - & I am persuaded that in a very few months she will be settled in a very comfortable establishment.

Miss Wiggins while with us seemed a pleasant enough girl, about 21 years. I suspect she has no good pretensions to being called a girl of more than a tolerable education - having if I mistake not been once a kind of domestic, but when her sister got established, she received a better education. I have often endeavoured to sound the

depths of her understanding & information & I have uniformly found both to be commonplace enough. From her behaviour I evidently saw that she had not been much accustomed to the forms & usages of public society - & hence frequently some contretemps arose. In person she was very plain - & her plainness was heightened by the ravages committed on her face by the small pox. *De matuis nil nisi honum* is a very good maxim - which might also be changed into *De absentibus nil nisi bonum* - so tho' I have much to remark by way of censure in many particulars, I shall decline doing so - and end my account of her with wishing that she be well & speedily married & that the giddiness, imprudence, & improprieties of youth may be exchanged for the prudence, steadiness, and propriety of the matronly character.

At Rio we received two lady passengers in the person of Donna Josepha Maria de Agiala, & Donna Rosa de Agiala, natives of Lima. These two stood in the relation of mother & daughter, the former being about 38, or 40, & the latter D Rosa about 19 years of age. The Mother was still a fine woman & looked much better than the daughter, whom was very thin & sallow with beautifully formed hands & feet. The husband & father being a native of old Spain, & consequently an upholder of the dominion of the old country, was obliged to fly along with his family when the revolutionary party had triumphed in Lima. They resided some time in old Spain & thence went to France, where for eight years the daughter received the best education the country could afford. This long residence in France, together with the time that had spent in Spain, & about six weeks in London occupied a little more than ten years - and when we received them, the mother & daughter were on their way to Lima, their native place, having left the old man in Europe apparently without feeling any regret that he could not be permitted to reside with them. On the passage to Monte Video we saw very little of the mother, she being very unwell - but we had many times the pleasure of the company of the young lady, who was a much better sailor. She appeared to be very nice, modest girl, & by her behaviour completely upset the opinion I had formed of girls educated on the French system. You would have laughed to have seen us bill together. She knew no English & I was the only one there (the Captain being ill in bed) who knew any thing in French. And also the extent of my knowledge in French was very mediocre, so that my communications with her in that language were very slight. To do away with the awkwardness of sitting all moping & silent, I attempted to converse in spite of my consciousness that my pronunciation & idioms were scarcely French - but when she answered me, she spoke so fast, that I could not follow her. By the time we reached Monte Video we were upon a much better footing & could understand each other *possablement bien*. As far as I could judge her education had been solid as well as elegant, & her understanding well informed & refined. Both were excellent eaters and devoured not a moderate quantity of our English fare with no small gusto. They professed (I know not with what truth) a decided [admiration] for the English in manners, mode of living and accomplishments over every other nation, and declared that they admired them principally because they were the most cleanly nation in the world *veritas magna est et provalebit* - as here we have the candid admission of this often claimed & as often denied superiority, from persons whose countrymen are notorious for the very opposite quality.

We expected to have taken our leave of these ladies at Monte Video, as they had a letter from the Admiral requesting the Captain of the *Samarang*⁸ to grant them a

⁸ H.M.S. *Samarang* (28) on the South America station, *Captain* Charles Henry Paget.

passage round the Horn to Valparaiso - and the *Samarang* was at Monte Video when we arrived. But when we told them that we had seen the Captain on shore with his mustachios, great beard, unwashed face, hands dirty as a sweeps, & the dress of a wild Gaucho - they acting on the principle of *ex uno disces omnes* decided upon going on to Buenos Ayres & there awaiting an opportunity of getting by sea to Valparaiso. This resolution of theirs, you are now aware led me the precious long dance which I had with them the first day of our landing at Buenos Ayres. May we never have worse passengers.

Beach - Washerwomen

Having now disposed of our [*Passengers*] I am about to give you my opinion of all the uncos at Buenos Ayres, and in doing so I shall not observe any particular order, but whenever the humour seizes me, jump from grave to gay, from lively to severe.

Along way in front of Buenos Ayres, then is a beach which when the tide is out is very shallow & prevents the approach of boats to some distance from the shore. This circumstance, as I have already mentioned, obliges you to go on shore in a huge lumbering cart, if you do not wish to have your feet & legs wet. For some way along this beach but considerably more elevated, is the Alameda, or public walk. Here many people congregate of a Sunday, and enjoy a tolerable promenade between an avenue of trees, & if they are tired, can rest themselves on seats provided at the public expense.

As soon as you have landed, you are naturally induced to examine more closely what had attracted your attention on coming on Shore, viz. what along the whole beach you saw so much of a white colour & so many black women. You will at the first glance obtain the explanation of the puzzle – for there are an innumerable host of washer-women, busily employed in their occupation, some thrashing away & others spreading their clothes out to be dried. This is indeed a most novel sight to the stranger, who will also observe no small amusement in watching the manoeuvres of the soap-sud army of black Amazons. From morning till night the beach is one scene of bustle & activity & indeed the clothes so washed are very well done & very white. I cannot say that tho' I have often passed by these washerwomen that I have heard much gable – on the contrary, I was struck with astonishment that so many hundreds of women could have congregated together, & yet made so little noise, a circumstance very much to the credit of the B. Ayrean black ladies. But often after a calm a storm arises, so when the heavens threaten rain & then a scene of indescribable hubbub ensues. The noise, the screaming – the eager & impatient cries to make haste – the bundling together the various articles & gathering them under their arms, then trudging off to gain the shelter of their houses close by is most laughable, & well worth leaving your lodgings to see.

Suppose now you have sufficiently examined the objects which present themselves to your view at the place of landing, you wish to see the Town. You have already ascertained that the Town is very long from seeing it extend along the beach, but you cannot yet tell how far it extends back. From the beach then you have to go up a pretty steep but short street, when you will reach the level of the City, & at various times you will take a stroll to different parts, & be able to say how the view impresses you. The Town of B. Ayres is almost entirely composed of streets, four of which form a square. Hence they are all at right angles to each other & you will find but little difficulty in traversing any part & finding your way back, if you only know the bearings by Compass.

Pavement & Houses at Buenos Ayres

The first thing you are called by your own comfort to notice are the streets, whether they are paved or not. Many of them are paved but very inefficiently, while others are innocent of such a convenience. The foot[path] is not flagged except in very few instances & it is elevated considerably above the cart road. Not many years ago B. Ayres was not paved at all – a thing which created no inconvenience to the natives, but was very unpleasant to the more fastidious foreigners. In every street the carriage road is separated from the footpath by wooden posts driven into the earth at very short distances. The first notion I had formed of their use and purpose was a very erroneous one – for from their resemblance to our louping stones, I had fancied that they were intended to assist you in mounting & dismounting – only I thought that their number seemed out of all proportion to the necessity of employing them. Never was I more out in my life. They are never used as louping posts - & their design is merely to separate a path for foot passengers, and protect them from horses, carriages & carts. I consider them as a great eye sore but readily admit their utility & necessity. The foot path thus marked off is very narrow, hardly permitting two persons to walk comfortably together.

From the paving of the streets to the building of the houses, the transition is easy & natural. Almost all the houses consist only of one story & are pretty substantially built. The abodes of the wealthier class, after passing thro' the outer gate, have large courts of a square form & frequently paved with marble in diamonds. A few houses have two courts, around which are various doors leading to different [parts] of the house. I saw one side of a street built by foreigners of two stories, which had a very neat appearance. All the houses have flat roofs, so that you can traverse a whole street from one end to the other, the stone divisions being so low as to prove no obstacle to your progress. This part of the houses is called the Azotea, and is a delightful place for lounging in the cool of the evening. Where the houses are near the river, you will see many people up there during the day looking out for vessels with glasses, which are made to rest in notches cut out of upright pieces of wood for the purpose. The doors and windows are the same as in other Spanish towns. Many of the windows fronting the street have no glass panes, on account of the heat, but all of them are protected by bars of iron, like our area windows at home. As in most cities of warm climates, there [are] no native show windows – tho' I perceive several belonging to foreigners. From the strength of the houses, & their peculiar construction, it is easy to see why the expedition under Whitelock proved unfortunate, since every house was a fortress whence they could send death and destruction upon our countrymen, and at the same time be perfectly secure from their revenge. Tho' Buenos Ayres is like Sparta without walls, seeming to say to the invader come enter, yet let him not be thus seduced, but watching his time & annoying the inhabitants in every possible way from without, it will not be long ere he receive the reward of his prudent forbearance in the free surrender of the City.

Churches of Buenos Ayres

At different points in the Town, your attention is called from the common edifices to the various churches with their Towers, domes, & spires. Of these there are a pretty considerable number, & they are both ornamental and useful. I visited several & was

much gratified with the inspection. They are (I mean those I saw) by no means rich or gaudy in adornments – the architecture of the interior is simple, chaste & from the magnitude, grand in effect. The little adornment that appears relieves the bareness & uniformity of the plain part & you would admit that there existed a good correspondence between the labours of the builder & those who were empowered to adorn. The Cathedral is an immense large building but unfinished in front, where you perceive many pillars of noble proportions of brick, concealed by a ugly mass of scaffolding, and not soon likely to be cased as originally intended, from want of funds. What I have said of the churches in general is particularly applicable to this one – and if the poverty of the people alone prevents them from bestowing a lavish expenditure of good purple & tinsel on the interior, I am glad of it.

Museum at Buenos Ayres

I was likewise much pleased with the Church of Saint Domingo except & excepting one thing viz. the English flags taken from us, which are here most ostentatiously displayed to the great annoyance of all English visitors. Attached to this Church is a Museum, which one day I was induced to visit. It is kept in a long room & the contents form a most heterogeneous mass. Some birds, some serpents, some fish, some monkeys, some insects – two casts of the brain – two *lusus naturae* – a number of scientific & philosophical instruments, on which I observed the names of Leslie & C.^o well known in Europe – an immensely large electrical machine - & several minor indescribable articles – composed the collection. I believe there was no arrangement or classification – no names of the objects given, nor the uses of the instruments explained. Dust & dirt was almost all you could with certainty know the name of in the room. You might with as much advantage visit the bazaar at Constantinople, & look upon objects, the use of which may be unknown to you. I observed no person present who had any charge, or of whom you might have required any explanation. Men, women, & children all crowded the room, laughing & chattering – now giving a casual glance to a bird, now eagerly intent on some gay toy-like instrument – but every soul of them evidently come more for amusement & to while away an hour than from any rational motive. I must however do the Buenos Ayreans the justice to say that they were particularly careful not to injure any thing & that even the very youngest among them never in the mere wantonness of childhood stole broke or dirtied the different articles scattered about. Would that I could say as much for my own countrymen. Well then however little I valued this Museum for the number & value of its contents, & however much I am inclined to find fault with its management, to the natives themselves, it is the *ne plus ultra* of perfection & the envy of all strangers – and nothing at all more to be desired. For my part I should never endeavour to dispossess them of the source of pride, & should conscientiously bestow some praise in finding even a little where I had expected to find nothing – but *entre nous* that is quite a different thing, as among us at home we are accustomed to bestow the need of praise where it is really merited.

There are many public buildings in Buenos Ayres but none very remarkable. The fort on the beach attracts most attention. It is a square form & surrounded by a dry ditch. Within it is the Governor's house & other buildings for the soldiers. In my opinion it is more for shew than use - & gives more the appearance of strength than the reality. The public hospital is a large plain edifice – but I did not see the interior. The barracks are small but good. The market place near to one of them is not particularly commendable. It is rather small & rather dirty, well furnished with crazy

stands, which in the morning appear ready to tumble down under the superincumbent weight.

At night the city is lighted by lanterns with candles in them which yield a dim religious light. Should there be any wind, some of them are sure to go – for accidents will happen such as the breaking of the glass, on one side or another. As honest people have no business to be prowling about the streets during the night, these candles are not intended to last longer than it is proper & decent to be walking the streets – so if you are detained by any circumstance & have to go home late in the morning, if you fall into a pit, or receive unto your body the knife of an assassin, why who is to blame but yourself. For it is plain that if you had [been] home in bed as you ought to have been, such a mischance could not have befallen you. The instance of wise legislation – oh prudent professors of economy & morality, why are your names not blazoned forth in the roll of fame with a radiance as bright at that which hallows the memory of a Lyurgus or a Solon?

Theatre of Buenos Ayres

It is often remarked that among men, they often fly from devotion to amusement, to unbend and as it were relieve the mind. So with me it is – from the church, whose solemn stillness – grandeur of size – and religious associations impress the soul with awe – I have gone to the Theatre, more to recover the mental elasticity & slightness, which saints & images had dispersed – nor without effect. The Theatre in external appearance would not be judged to be such. It is the last house at the end of a street and right opposite one of the churches. When the door is opened, you enter a small lobby at one end of which is a space railed in where you will find a person to issue out the tickets. We will suppose that you wish to go to the pit & you ask for a pit ticket. A great number of slips of paper are presented to you on which certain numbers are marked corresponding to the same number on the backs of the seats. Three dollars is demanded for each (21.^d), & if you know the house you can select a seat in the part that will please you best.

Along with these pieces of paper marked *Lunetas*, you receive a slip of paper, which is alone to be delivered to the door-keepers, whilst your ticket will not be demanded of you before the intermission of the Comedy or Tragedy. The first night I visited the Theatre, the representations were to consist of a Tragedy, called '*Ines de Castro*' & a farce called the Invisible Witness. According to my usual custom I arrived early, few persons were in the house, so that I had a better opportunity of scrutinising every place. In front of me was the stage with a very handsome drop scene, representing the period of night with stars. At the very edge of the stage close to the orchestra, & equidistant from the both stage doors is a most awkward thing like a Diogenes tub of this form -



- where the prompter is stationed. Every now and then you perceive his head above his box, and if he is a vain man & proud of his elocution you will hear him

distinctly drawling thro' the play. Nothing is more calculated to annoy & to destroy the illusion to those within hearing. Immediately behind the prompter is the Orchestra which was very good indeed. Next came the pit, with its rows of benches, & each individual seat parted off from those on either side by two arms like an arm chair – numbered on the back & having a bottom cushion covered with crimson velvet. Altogether I was as comfortable in my birth in the pit as I could have been at home.

The other accommodations of the house consisted of two tier of boxes and one gallery. I believe there is no difference between the dresses of the boxes both being dress circles. They appeared to be very so so, unpainted – with bare walls & prison like doors. Here are no benches but instead chairs of all patterns, ages & appearance – the persons who engage the box being obliged to provide chairs. This is a strange & most inconvenient fashion, for which I think no good reason can be assigned - & I hope will be done away with. Right in the centre of the lower circle is a large box for the governor & suite – nothing noticeable about it. The passage to the boxes & pit being the same, it is permitted here & often practices to go round the box lobby, or rather narrow passage, & very rudely & unceremonially obtrude your phiz in at the open doors for the purpose of scrutinising more closely the many lovely girls who fill the boxes. I have been astonished at the impertinence & coolness with which this is done, & could never bring myself to join in it, tho' I believe I was a little over squeamish & gave the B. Ayrean ladies credit for feelings of delicacy & retiring modesty to which they have not the smallest claim of pretension. I could not help remarking the nonchalance with which they bore the most scrutiny of their personal charms, & that they in their turn investigated with a critical eye the persons of those who shewed themselves at the entrances of the boxes.

In the pit no ladies are permitted to be present. In the two dresses boxes the ladies and gentlemen sit together as with us – but in the upper circle of gallery females alone are to be seen, no male being allowed to enter therein. This is as it should be – then men being placed low in the scale of the ladies elevated to the rank of goddesses. To our eyes indeed this arrangement looks strange & unsocial – the protection of beauty – the shield of virtue - & the silence of scandal - & the preventive of those disgraceful scenes which shock the eye & ears of the virtuous female among us. Not even a father – husband – or brother can enter these sacred precincts of the Olympians – but are compelled to await them at the door when the entertainment is over, to conduct them home. One glance at the places occupied by the ladies would be one to induce a second. I had no idea that so many beauties could be collected together – non-expectation was in proportion agreeably disappointed. There was no great display of very elegant dresses – indeed there was rather an affectation of plainness, being mostly such as they would wear at home in the evening. Their heads were neatly arranged & every one wore the immense combs so common here. To be without a fan is a piece of forgetfulness of [which] they are never guilty – having them they are in constant employ. It was a very pretty sight to look along the phalanx of the goddesses & watch the evolution of hundreds of fans, now unfolded, now shut – now fluttered with great rapidity, now moved to & from with a gentle quiet at-my-ease motion.

Having now said so much about the interior arrangements of the Theatre and of the audience, you will probably expect me to say something of the dramatic department. I am sorry to say that my ignorance of the language incapacitated from deciding on this point. The music was very good. The declamation seemed to me unnatural & obstreperous. The characters, if not appropriately, were well & even richly dressed. I was soon tired of looking on & long ere the Tragedy was over wished

myself elsewhere. I could not at all make out the plot, do what I could. At the most pathetic parts my eyes were dry & a smile at sometimes ridiculous contrast was on my lips. Judging of others by myself, I am persuaded either that the Tragedy or the Acting was very bad, because I did not observe but one lady, who was affected to tears – all the rest looking as comfortable & happy as on the most ordinary occasions. I think then this circumstance augured bad for the acting – I say for the acting – because I am most unwilling to charge the lovely natives with a dereliction from all true feminine feeling exhibited in a want of sympathy for the woes of others.

There was no great variety of scenery – rather a scarcity – and you were to fancy at one the scene before you to be the abode of this man & at another of that man perhaps his enemy.

The amusements of the evening always conclude with a piece in one act (they have no farces), at which I was a little more at home than in Tragedy. Indeed after the first night of my attendance, I never came to see the tragedy – but merely to have a laugh at the broad humour of the after-piece. Besides we used to have some person to unriddle to us what was unintelligible & by this means we could enjoy a hearty laugh. The points of wit depended on language – the double entendres – the coarsest jests were of course lost to us – but the comedy of action & pantomime being addressed to the eye & the feelings of nature called forth bursts of laughter. For instance we had the view of a house from one of the windows of which a young lady was looking out, apparently on the watch for some one. Shortly afterwards a jolly priest comes under the window and commences a conversation, the object of which we soon find to be to induce her to admit him into the house. She at first absolutely refuses – then hesitates & at last consents. A basket for the purpose is then let down from the roof, into which the priest with much demurring enters. He is gradually borne aloft in great trepidation – but instead of being allowed to get in at the window, he has the mortification to see it closed & to be left dangling in the air. Finding that his softest persuasions are ineffectual to soften his obdurate mistress, & becoming every instant more and more alarmed, his fear finally get the better of his prudence & he bawls lustily for assistance. By his outcries a parcel of boys are soon collected, who perceiving his ridiculous situation batter him with rotten eggs & other unpleasant missiles. In the midst of the hubbub arrives the Alcalde, at whose instance the poor fellow is lowered down & he is then taken into custody to answer for his misconduct.

I shall only mention one instance more where a stranger could enjoy a laugh. A country man came upon the stage with a jackass, loaded with wood, & carrying besides two fowls which he had bought for his wife. He was anxious to get his wood sold & to return home but he had been for a long time unsuccessful. At last he received an offer for the whole from a barber which he accepted, meaning only to sell the wood for the price offered. As soon as he had agreed, the barber proceeded to remove the wood, & then took possession of the fowls – to the astonishment of the countryman who vehemently denied that these were included in the bargain & refused to part with them. The dispute grew high that the Alcalde was called in, & upon the testimony of two men, who chanced to hear the transaction, he decided that the fowls belonged to the barber. The poor payson was obliged to submit but swore revenge. Some days afterwards he entered the barbers shop in disguise & asked for how much he would undertake to shave him and his *companero*. The barber asked 8 *reals* (7.^d) which was agreed to. The countryman being first operated upon, afterwards went out for his *companero*, & soon returned leading in the individual Jackass that had carried the wood, declaring that this was his only companion. The Shaver remonstrated in

vain – his words were insisted upon & by the decision of the Magistrate who was summoned he was compelled to shave the Jackass. And oh it would have made even a cynic laugh to have witnesses the ludicrous repugnance and awkwardness on the part of the barber & the equal unwillingness and restiveness on the part of the Jackass during the operation. The fun of the thing was completely suited to the meridian of every capacity, gentle or simple, stranger or native, & accordingly was received with roars of laughter.

The performances at the Theatre are generally over at half past ten or eleven. The ceiling is very orderly and quite. No carriages are waiting at the door, but all trudge home on foot. The Theatre in general is open every alternate night - & even on those nights when certain performances are announced, should the weather prove rainy, the Theatre will be shut – most provoking to those whom rainy weather compels to look out abroad for amusement. In general the Theatre is well attended, particularly the pit & gallery – the price of the latter being so very trifling that it is within the compass of the lowest classes. Half an hour after the commencement you can get into the pit for 7.^d but are not entitled to a seat.

Mode of Living

I shall now proceed to give you some account of the manner in which I spent my time. I was 11 days in all on shore and during that period I enjoyed myself as much as possible. I lodged at the house of M^cGaw in the *Calle del 25 de Mayo*, not far from the beach. There I had a bedroom for sleeping & in the day time I sat down in a room common to all the lodgers & the public in general. At 8 oClock we used to have an excellent breakfast consisting of tea & coffee – good milk – excellent fresh butter make by scotch folk – fresh laid eggs – sausages – beef steaks & stewed kidneys. For all this we paid 2 paper dollars or 14^d. At 3 oClock the bell summoned us to dinner in the best room in the house, large and well furnished. From 12 to 18 usually sat down to soup very good of its kind – fish – roast beef – boiled mutton - roast & boiled fowl – very so so potatoes – peas cabbage, with as much red & white wine as you chose to drink. The whole being concluded with some sort of tart. The price was 4 dollars each or 2/4. Those who wished to have tea - & their number was very small – were careful to be at the house at 7 oClock, when they had served out to them by the hands of M.^{rs} M^cGaw as much tea as they could swallow, which was generally proportioned to the quantity of cold roast &.^c the remains of dinner, which they could take in.

The time of rest was various – seldom before eleven, sometimes 1 or 2, according as there were more or less persons in the common room, who kept up most merrily in singing – joking – story telling & relating of their adventures. A great many merchants – captains frequented this house chiefly scotchmen – of different characters & humours but contributing by this very university to the general fund of laughter & amusement. It was very seldom however that I remained beyond eleven out of bed – I was particularly anxious to get away when the mirth & fun grew fast & furious – when drunken jokes & low ribaldry succeeded to decent humour & harmless enjoyment – and by following this prudent course I escaped those headaches, of which the devotees engaged in celebrating the orgies of Bacchus over night, complained so lamentably next morning. I must confess however that it was not always with feelings of pleasure that I sought repose – repose did I say, more correctly my couch – earlier than the rest. The moment of lying down was the commencement of my torments in the shape of numerous fleas, who did me the honour – better honoured in the breach than in the observance – of banqueting on my

blood. Unless I had previously been very tired, some hours generally elapsed ere I closed my eyes in sound repose.

Riding at Buenos Ayres

When I had thus comfortably established myself in quarters, & knew the meal hours, I had much time between whiles to be occupied as I pleased. I have already told you my impression of the town - & I must now tell you what I think of the country. Horse-hire being here tolerably cheap, I was persuaded to go out on horse back several times. At first I was very awkward & fearful of proceeding beyond a walk pace. Soon I tried a trot but found myself so jolted & shaken – my feet continually coming out of the stirrups & my balance in consequence so often unsettled that it depended on the slightest chance whether I should fall to the one side or the other – that I soon gave it up as a bad concern. By great good fortune & extreme care, holding on in case of necessity by the pommel or crupper, regardless in the moment of insecurity of the mirth excited among the beholders by my awkward horse position, I escaped without a single mischance an affection which was more than could be made by some of my acquaintances, who pretended to greater experience & skill than me.

In the course of my rides having unintentionally struck my horse too hard & roused his mettle, off he set at full gallop which terrified me a little – I held on stoutly & to my surprise discovered that it was much easier & more pleasant to canter & gallop than to amble or trot, & every time afterwards I enjoyed the pleasure thus unexpectedly opened to me.

Country around Buenos Ayres

Becoming thus more daring in my horsemanship I extended my rides considerably - & regretted exceedingly that by the laws of the place no one is permitted to gallop thro' the streets or along the beach where the washerwomen are, under penalty of having his horse sold at once. On one occasion I accompanied M.^r Snell & M.^r M^cGaw, to a Quinta or country house belonging to the latter & tenanted by a Captain Anderson, who had been in the 71st reg.^t & had been taken prisoner at Buenos Ayres in Whitlock's time. The distance from town might be about 4 or five miles – but I am told that the appearance of the country for many hundreds of miles is precisely the same as it presented to us on our way to the Quinta. In consequence of the late rains, the roads were very bad, & in many places impassable – to the pedestrian. They were all well marked off by lofty thick hedges, composed of the aloe, the thistle & the prickly pear. We were most kindly received by Captain Anderson, who led us over his grounds. He had a most excellent and well laid out garden, fuller of peas beans &^c but with no fruit trees. All round was a large extent of uncultivated land covered with weeds & thistles galore. After a long walk we returned to the house & sat down to a very comfortable dinner – of which part consisted of excellent scotch kail. After dinner we visited one or two of the scotch farms & witnessed what our countrymen are capable of accomplishing under every disadvantage. From the top of a large tree I had a good view of the vast extent of country. Nothing could be more tiresome from the unvarying sameness of a perfect level, such as I looked upon. It reminded me of the ocean in a calm, with a distant & equal horizon. Here & there the eye rested with something like pleasure on an isolated white house, or on a group of dwellings composing a small village. From the extreme level you could trace far & wide the common roads, by the lofty hedges. An enemy or friend could be equally descried at a

distance. The trees are not at all numerous; & there are none of those lofty & well-shading trees, the ornament & the advantage of other country. Peach & apple trees are the chief boasted – and in the fruit season, there are such a vast quantity of the former, that they are piled mountain high in the market.

If you were to pay for it, you could not get a stone of the smallest size – all the houses are of brick, covered over with plaster.

At five oClock P.M. we rode back to Town, much pleased with our excursion, and with the attention and civility of our host – and in the impression that we would not part with barren mountains & romantic glens for half the world of the richest level country.

Besides this our longest ride into the country, we made several trips to behold the same or nearly the same scenery. We passed many excellent – nay even superb country houses, built on speculation by Englishman. We also visited a sort of public Garden kept by one Tweedie, a north-countryman which are on Sundays much frequented, & there you can have tea, coffee, wine & spirits, with fruits in their season. The appearance of the gardens is not very fine, & far inferior to another which I also visited & goes by the name of Vauxhall. They are however specially convenient as places of resort, where once a week at least you are sure of meeting all your friends. I am told that they do not pay well which is a great pity.

Mode of Killing Cattle - Butchery at Buenos Ayres

I must not omit to mention that in our rides we were fortunate enough to see the mode in which bullocks are slaughtered. Within a large enclosure of Bamboo canes were confined some 90 or 100 cattle. The ground all round presented a most motley and disgusting appearance. Men women & children crowded the scene, looking each after their booty. With them were interminable carts, for the conveyance of beef – horses – oxen dying or dead – the former giving forth their life in copious streams of blood from a gash in the throat, & the latter in various stages of progress to the end of all – skinned – half-skinned – denuded of flesh & the prey of other animals. We had not to wait long enough to become impatient, ere we saw execution performed on some of the poor animals within their prison. Two or three men rode in among them and forced them to move from side to side. Then one of the party fixed upon one in particular & prepared his lasso, for the throw. It appears that unless the object they mean to lasso be moving, they fail entirely – hence they kept the bullocks in motion until a favourable opportunity offered, when they dexterously threw their weapon & caught their horns in it. The wretched victim unconscious of its doom & ignorant that it is held by the horns of fate makes no struggle but quietly and stupidly gazes around. He soon however becomes fearfully awake. The matador puts his horse to full speed, having previously secured the disengaged end of the lasso to his horse – and then in a rage M.^r Bos runs after a stretch, out in a different direction, till he reaches the end of his tether. Meanwhile the horses, trained for the purpose, knows what is coming & firmly fixes himself to receive the shock which he must then experience. Dreadful indeed sometimes is the shock – the horses rears up on his hind legs & stoutly resists the impulse of the ox, who is either at once prostrated on the ground, or recovering himself on the point of falling, set off again in a new direction – but is at last conquered. Should he fall, in an instant one of the assistants, drawing from its sheath a long gutting blade, sharp as a razor, with one swift and dexterous cut hamstring the wretched animal. At other times they watch the opportunity when the bullock is quiet,

get behind him & divide the tendons, presenting a most hideous and disgusting sight, especially when the astonished beast & with rage & agony in his countenance rushes madly on, dragging after him his mangled limbs, till thro' faintness and loss of blood he drops down & submits his neck to the knife of his executioner.

It is incredible to be told how many and in how short a time are dispatched in this manner. 500 or a thousand may be said here to be no extraordinary number in one day & belonging to one man. They are killed principally for their hides & only the very prime pieces are ever taken as food – the rest being left to the fowls of the air – the dogs & other animals who are fond of such diet. How it would make all at home to eye with joyous glance such an abundance of excellent meat to be taken by any one a discretion – but I have already held forth in my last journal on this carnal subject & shall therefore content myself with telling you that we quitted the scene of butchery with great good will & a resolution on my part never after to be a willing spectator at such a miscalled sport.⁹

When not occupied in seeing sights and visiting the country, I frequently accompanied the Master in waiting upon different merchants who had freight to send to England. On some days this was no very pleasant job in the eye of the sun & along the ill-paved streets of Buenos Ayres - but as it was for the Captains interest, we were content to undergo the fatigue consequent upon it. We obtained a good deal of freight, at least more than we had expected & more than any other packet for a long time before us had obtained. This consisted of dollars, a few doubloons, and some large slabs of gold. The two former are now allowed in a very limited quantity to be exported upon then payment of a heavy duty - but the latter is strictly prohibited and must therefore be smuggled off.

In other places in general we have had no trouble whatever in collecting the freight - at Buenos Ayres they (i.e. those connected with the customs) like to give you as much annoyance as possible. No money could be shipped except from the Custom-house - & thither all the money, for which permission had been obtained, must be brought to be counted over - first by the Officers & afterwards by us – & finally to be carried nearly a mile to our gig in a cart. Many a tedious hour has the deleteriousness of the official insolence caused me to spend among a parcel of low rascally ill-omened – ill-visaged – eternally smoking fellows, while no doubt they experienced great pride and satisfaction in having it in their power to make us wait & cool our heels till they pretended to be at leisure – But no let me stop a little, & quitting the strain of an invective which the annoyance I individually suffered has led me into, let me acknowledge that they are most strict and attentive in their duty, & as far as came under my observation very civil, even when they are executing the most unpleasant part of their office. Altho' there is so great an extent of beach & so many vessels in the harbour, it is extremely difficult to smuggle, owing to the vigilance which the officers exercise. At the different stations men are constantly on the look out, provided with excellent telescopes. When any boat leaves a vessel, they watch its progress & direction and should any circumstance excite their suspicion, an officer will be in readiness to overhaul the boat & the persons in it. If the officer does not go down, they never suffer parcels however small to pass without being searched. So in going off to your vessel they employ the same Argus like circumspection, as I believe

⁹ The trade in South American 'hides' was then well established. But, while the processes of salt curing beef were widely practiced, it was not until industrial mechanisation processes were developed that the mass production of canned 'corned beef' became possible in the mid to late 19th C. During the 20th C. Frey Bentos became one of the major centres of corned beef production and created an international a market for this fresh beef - the 'waste' produce of the hide trade.

they will examine without success twenty times than fail to do so when the least suspicion is excited.

You will perhaps wonder within yourself & say ‘To what does all this praise of the vigilance of the officers lead?’ I will tell you that these observations arose partly from a view of doing real justice to these persons after carping much at them & partly because they made a valuable seizure from our men, which I shall mention as an illustration of their duty. In order to export money, or take it from the shore, you must first have a written permission from then proper authorities, and next pay so much per Cent duty. I believe no person can go on board a vessel with more than 10 dollars on him – otherwise the whole is liable to be seized. Now the ignorance of this on the part of our men proved a most serious loss to them. Having disposed of their potatoes,¹⁰ they were paid for them in silver on shore – and not being exactly aware of their danger, they brought off a part one day – and while in the boat an officer came, singled out [*Dyer Williams*] whom he searched & took him with 140 dollars (£28) from him to the custom house, leaving the others untouched, altho’ they were almost equally well loaded – a proof either of their goodness, or of their being in doubt whether it would be safe to lay hands upon all. We happened to be there at the time but of course utterly unconscious of what had occurred. The first intimation which we received was from one of the crew [*Phillip Waistcott*], whom we saw flying full speed & stopped to ask him the reason. Very shortly after, we beheld another [*Charles Richards*], exerting himself in running to his utmost bent & looking the very picture of terror and bewilderment. We called him several times but he never heard us – but at last we arrested his progress & enquired, if he had any money about him. He answered no – but seemed afraid that by merely being in the boat, he would be subject to a long and rigorous imprisonment – and having merely replied to our questions shortly, he started off again.

This business seemed to wear a very ugly aspect. Of course it would not have been advisable, nay it would have been worse than useless for us to have intermeddled in the affair. We were particularly anxious about poor [*Dyer*], of whose fate we were quite uncertain, not being acquainted with the laws of the country relative to such a breach of the custom’s regulations - and we were on the point of going to see, if we could learn any thing about him, when we met him coming towards us & learned that being very well satisfied with their prize, they had set him at liberty. In this state of matters it was deemed most advisable to speak to the Consul, & obtain our Minister’s interference to procure – the restitution - of the money. Application was accordingly made, - and when it was known that the money belonged to 17 different men, a promise was given to use every effort to recover it. This promise was faithfully kept - but owing to the dilatory mode of proceeding usual among Spaniards the day of our departure arrived before the affair could be settled, so that our men were obliged to trust their cause entirely to the Consul, who said that he expected to be able to recover the sum, altho’ he was by no means certain of it. And

¹⁰ Throughout the packet era, potatoes feature strongly amongst the ‘adventures’ of the packet crew’s. If they were indeed only trading in potatoes, they must have been carrying a prodigious quantity to have made so much out of the transaction. But, potatoes being part of the staple diet of the packets’ men, and it being almost impossible to establish what quantity of potatoes were needed to feed a crew of 30 or so men over a six month voyage, it was easy to overstock the packet, and sell the surplus in the foreign parts of call. Native ‘British’ food-stuffs were always popular with British ex-pats – see below. Note William’s previous remark about the ‘so so potatoes’ at McGaw’s.

Never the less, ‘potatoes’ may have been an euphemism covering all kinds of smuggled trade goods.

so the matter rests at present - but in my opinion the money may be considered as good as lost.

One would have thought that this heavy loss would have been a sufficient warning to any of our men not to run any risk again – but no. Not many days afterward, & in the face of what had happened, our [*Steward's Mate*] tried to take off about 50 dollars – but information having been given by a person who had seen him concealing them about his person, the whole was seized and irrevocably lost.

Immense number of British at Buenos Ayres - Scotchmen

There is an immense number of English & Scotch, particularly of the latter in the town of B A, & in the country. Most of the principal merchants belong to our country – and one of them Robertson founded on speculation a Scotch colony at Monte Grande 17 miles from the City – the specific purpose & expectation of which did not answer – but still the labourers, farmers &.^c who had been brought from the native home mostly remained in the country and have introduced many improvements. Oh how pleasant to my ear in a far distant region was the sound of the brogue, rich and pure as it came from its primeval fount. It carried me back in imagination to other days, scenes & persons, all connected in a chain endearing or long regretful recollections. It produced a pleasure to which I had long been a stranger – it expressed the same kindliness and warmth so well known to me before. I felt inclined to embrace in the bond of friendship and good will, all such who came in my way. As might have been expected some of the emigrants have done well, some indifferent & some patiently bad, either from unavoidable circumstances or from their own conduct. The easy access to ardent spirits – the freedom from all moral restraint which living among their own countrymen at home, held over them & the latitude of foreign manners have led many into folly and vice, and their invariable attendants poverty and misery – but I am happy to say that the number of such persons is comparatively small, while the rest by the propriety of their conduct, their probity, industry & success have raised the character of our nation very high among the natives. I cannot help mentioning, as connected with Scotchmen, a circumstance which happened at the House I lodge in. Shortly after the collection of the scotch colony at Monte Grande, some of them had occasion to come into town, & called as was their want at M^cGaws, whose new bar-maid was a pure cockney just imported. As soon as they had entered the house, in a kindly way, one of them said to Sally “Hoo’s a’ wi’ ye, lassie” – to which she replied “I beg your pardon, Sir, but I doesn’t speak no Spanish.”

English & Scotch Church

I believe the English and Scotch at Buenos Ayres agree very well together. They have two separate places of worship – The Kirk & the Episcopal Chapel. The latter is a large and very elegant building indeed, quite an ornament to the Town. The exterior & interior are equally deserving of praise, being in my opinion just the thing. It was built by subscription among the English, & if I mistake not, some of the natives also contributed, whilst the Government handsomely and liberally gave a free grant of the ground. The Presbyterian place of meeting again, is held I believe in a private house, where the accommodation is insufficient for 2 thirds of those who wished to attend. To remedy this inconvenience, the Managers of the English Chapel proposed to give the use of it at certain hours to their Presbyterian brethren, and made then an overture to them to that effect. The proposal was received with many thanks – but afterwards

the managers thought proper to draw-back from their offer, which so nettled the other party, that they have now a subscription in progress for erecting suitable and independent accommodation for themselves. May they succeed! If I were a resident at B. Ayres, I would contribute to the utmost of my means. There is also a very confident expectation that Government at home will agree to give the Minister, an annual sum equal to that which his hearers will allow him.

Wherever the English [settle] they carry with them their peculiar customs. They rarely ever adopt the manners & practices of the country they live in, even when these are most evidently conducive to comfort. The rooms are carpeted – the dishes are the same as at home – their luxuries – their snuggerie remain unaltered as far as possible. Our fair countrywomen, like their husbands and fathers, preserve their nationality in every thing. The fashion of her dress is purely English and in the street they invariably wear a bonnet – a practice totally at variance with the native senoras. They have no cap of bonnet. Their hair is most tastefully arranged & far above the highest curl, a most peerless comb for size, elegance, & costliness, from which the rich wrought veil hangs over the face in graceful folds. For my part I admired the native fashion most but would wish much to know whether the beautiful hair I see is artificial or natural. If natural, all's well – but if artificial, they must be liable to such awkward occurrences as the following, which took place in the Plaza de la Vidonia, while I was at Buenos Ayres.

Ridiculous occurrence to a lady at Buenos Ayres

A lady, of very imposing appearance was walking along the Plaza, and eliciting the admiration of the beholders by her beauty, her hair & the tasteful arrangement of every thing about her. From an opposite direction an officer was advancing rather rapidly and incautiously. His coat was flying open, & was furnished with hooks and eyes, in order to save his button-eyelets. Just as he was passing the above lady, his coat fluttering in the wind, one of the hooks caught the messes of the veil, and before the officer was aware of the mischief likely to be done, he had suddenly given the coat a jerk, which brought away veil, comb, and alas a wig, leaving her ladyship's head as bare as her chin to her utter confusion & the laughter of the spectators. The poor officer thunderstruck at this sad mischance, of which he had unwittingly been the occasion, instead of making an apology dashed off with the rapidity of lightning, & landed himself breathless in a shop round the corner of the square.

Ladies at night

Another particular in which our countrywomen differ from the natives is that they go shopping during the day, whilst the latter invariably go their rounds at night. I was never so much astonished in my life as one night at 8 o'clock to find one of the principal streets actually crowded with fashionable and respectable females, unaccompanied by a single male friend, which is contrary to established etiquette, but having merely a female slave behind them. For this practice they have a great show of reason to assign, as the excessive heat of the weather during the day & the agreeable coolness of the evening enabling them to walk about with comfort.

Murder at Buenos Ayres

The day before we received our mail we were told that an execution was to take place at 10 o'clock. We enquired into the crime and found that a man had murdered his wife and two children. This account excited our curiosity to learn some further particulars. About 2 two years ago the criminal, an Italian by birth, had been a waiter at Smyths, who keeps one of the best Fondas in Buenos Ayres, and while he was there had been remarkable for his quietness & taciturnity. He was married to a Buenos Ayrian woman, who from some cause left her husband and cohabited with another man. To a jealous Italian no offence could be more deadly & fearfully did he avenge it. One night he went to a house where she was, stabbed her several times, and following her as she tried to escape, ripped up her belly when she dropped thro' loss of blood. Not content with this most inhuman deed, the monster next attacked his own children, and succeeded in murdering two – but the third escaped. Meanwhile the people were at first thunderstruck & paralysed, so as not to be able to interfere to prevent these murders – at last they interposed and endeavoured to secure the Italian, who seeing their intention aimed at his own life, tho' in vain as he was seized before he could do more than wound himself slightly.

These dreadful events created a sensation even in a place, where assassination is common, as to excite no surprise or notice. A trial took place in an incredibly short space of time for Spaniards – the murders were clearly brought home to the prisoner at the bar, and he received sentence to be shot – then his body to be dragged by a horse on a hide to a gallows prepared for the purpose, on the spot where his wife fell – there to remain suspended for 8 hours. Now I have heard it alleged that all this speed in the leaden pace of law – all this laudable anxiety to punish such horrible crimes and satisfy the loud claims of outraged justice arose from a motive far from pure. If he had been rich, they say, justice might have slept, & the learned judges would have spared themselves the farce of passing so ignominious a sentence against a wealthy sinner, much less would have inflicted it. Not a few instances were related to me in proof of the practice of blood-money being well known & followed in B. Ayres, and I am rather inclined to credit the assertions repeated to me from so many and so respectable quarters. This Italian then did not suffer death, because he had committed a crime worthy of death, an inference which every Englishman would instantly make – but, alas for poor human nature, his real crime was, poverty – or not being possessed of a sum sufficiently large to soften the flinty hearts of his judges – to blunt the edge of the sword of justice – or to satisfy the hunger after gold of the lions, the executors of the law.

If such indeed be the truth and justice is sold, and heaven masked for gold, how laughable, nay rather how disgusting is it to read the hypocritical professions made by the officials of their lone of justice – of their haste to pronounce sentence on a monster of nature & their promptness to execute. This assumption of self-praise – this magniloquent bragadario, the more glaring because they are conscious that their real character & main spring of action are suspected is enough to make a man forswear all intercourse [with] such avaricious, & heartless wretches. But I must stop this strain of invective – otherwise I shall not overtake the account of the execution at all – only premising that I am glad, be their motives what they may, that in the present instance Justice has had her due course.

Execution at Buenos Ayres

I have said that I was told that the execution was to take place the day before we received the mail – but upon more particular inquiry this was discovered to be false as

in reality the sentence was to be carried into execution the next day. Many motives induced me to wish to be present. The satisfaction of seeing due punishment meted out to so atrocious a criminal – a curiosity to be a spectator of a mode of execution of which I often heard – and lastly a desire to judge for myself of the feelings and behaviours of the crowd of natives which such a spectacular case as it was would naturally collect together. I am far from pretending that any of these motives may appear sufficiently powerful to many persons to excuse me in their judgement from the charge of folly, brutality & I know no what – but all I can say, I am content to submit to the censure of such – am well pleased with myself, that I did what I did.,

Tuesday 20 November - this is our last day in Buenos Ayres i.e. the last we shall ever spend there because after us no more Packets will be sent from Falmouth, but two man-of-war schooners, the *Cockatrice* & the *Hornet*¹¹ will be employed in carrying the Mail from Rio to Buenos Ayres & back. I do not regret this arrangement. The voyage to Buenos Ayres is so long and what you see & find there is so little worth the trouble, that indeed I rather rejoice that our travels thither are finally put an end to.

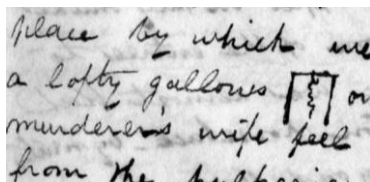
Early in the morning we started from the Packet to be in time to settle all our affairs on shore & witness the execution. Before ten o'clock, we were completely at leisure, and set off in different parties in the direction of the *Plaza de Lorea*, the scene of the Tragedy. This plaza or square lies a long way from the beach, and the road is in general very bad. On however we went peck, pecking, under a hot sun from which we could get no shelter or shade, whilst a strong breeze whirled up the stour and dashed it in our faces, filling nose, eyes, throat & ears with an impalpable powder. If the number of those in the same predicament with ourselves could have been any comfort or alleviation to us, our progress would have been bearable enough – for as far as eye could reach in a long extended line, were to be seen men, women, children, horses & dogs all coursing along to the common place of rendezvous – the common centre of magnetic attraction. A stranger now ran no risk of losing his way. He had only to follow in the wake of those who were before him, and to stop where they stopped. 'Tis rare at B. Ayres to see so many people braving the ordeal of the Sun's heat, and the annoyance of the dust.

All however seemed to bear these inconveniences very patiently, nay cheerfully. There was an air in every one, as if he were going to some highly agreeable and gratifying spectacle – an air more marked than I think I have ever seen it in Scotland. I will not pretend to say but that I felt something like the excitement – nor stopped in my onward course, till we reached one of the entrances to the square. Here the way was almost blocked by gentlemen & peons on horseback – by mules donkeys & bipeds. Beyond them I could not see, till forcing my way, by the dexterous use & application of shoulders & elbows, thro' the dense mass, I found myself in a very large unpaved square, & forming one of an immense multitude there assembled. It was some time ere I could obtain a little space and leisure to examine into the details of different objects around me. I gained the centre of the Plaza & posted myself on a little eminence of mud, from whence I had a tolerable view.

The four sides of the square were formed by low houses, 1 story high, & of rather a mean appearance, indicating this part of the Town to be the quarter of the lower sort of inhabitants. Where two sides would otherwise be joined if continued, there was an opening – making four inlets in all. Two of these [were] barricaded near

¹¹ HM Packet *Hornet* (6) Brigantine, *Lieut. Com.* Francis Rogers Coghlan.

where the criminal was to suffer – the other two were left free for the ingress & egress of the public. The flat tops of the houses were literally crammed with a most heterogeneous mixture, in which however I am very sorry to say that the fair and tender sex largely predominated. Thro' out the Plaza very little room was left unoccupied. Two objects principally attracted your attention. To the right of the place by which we entered was erected a lofty gallows –



A Lofty Gallows : literally a fingernail sketch.

- on the spot where the murderer's wife fell & but a very few yards from the *pulperie* or grog shop, where he first attacked. To the left of us again was a small square formed by soldiers & close to the walls of the houses on that side was the scene of the execution. I have already told you of the numerous curl posts to be seen in the streets. To one of these was fixed a small piece of wood, so as to form a seat, having the post for a back. This was the seat of punishment – and close beside it was a true rosinante of a horse with a hide behind for the body, & a rascally looking fellow to ride.

The intermediate space between the gallows & the place where the man was to be shot was filled up with a motley group, in which I mingled. Respectably dressed persons – as for instance our party – were there not a few. Ragamuffins – dark-looking, scowling faces of the canaille stared you where ever you turn your eye – peons and gauchos with their picturesque dresses, with countenances expressive of curiosity and wonder gave a complete air of romance to us. The whole picture – I had almost said – was enlivened of such a vast number of females, all chattering, laughing, & coquetting, while the preparations for the execution were going on.

Such was the disposition of things in the *Plaza de Lorea*, when I had leisure to survey it. Now I sought out the best place, whence I could witness what was going on. Now here now there – jostling and jostled – now in contact with whites, now receiving a scent from the odiferous persons of the strong scented blacks. Had I been dropped at once into the centre of the mob, I should have fancied myself in the midst of an fair where all was mirth and jollity. I was a long time ere I could settle myself to my satisfaction. Finding it impossible to gain the tops of the houses, the best places, I took up my final station behind the soldiers & in full view of the fatal chair. In this situation I was roasting & stewing both for a good half an hour as I was afterwards told, but in my apprehension, double that time.

At last the music sounded – the drums beat & the whole mass, the most remote from me were moving to and fro like waves of the sea. I could not as yet see any thing – but I waited patiently & not long, until the procession came in view. I cannot pretend to describe it. There were first soldiers – then a military band playing some doleful tune – then a line of persons in plain clothes and behind them the criminal pinioned & with his eyes bandaged, followed at a very slow & staggering pace, stumbling across with nervous twitches, apparently devoutly attentive to the exhortations of the Padre, who kept constantly whispering in his ear. A halt was made – the sentence of the court was read aloud - & the procession advanced, till they arrived at the chair. On it the Italian seated himself – the crowd of persons

surrounding him retired to a respectful distance – the Padre hastily repeating the last words of consolation to be heard in this world gradually withdrew to one side – and six soldiers, approaching within a few feet, four of them discharged their musquets right into the breast of the unhappy man. The instant he received the balls he gave a spring up then suddenly fell to one side to the ground, still exhibiting signs of life and suffering. Then one of the two, who had reserved their fire went up close to him, and placing the muzzle of his piece in the mouth, fired upwards thro' the head, by which means the scull was blown to pieces and the whole of the brain bespattered the wall. Immediately afterwards the body was placed according to the sentence, on a hide, & dragged to the gallows, from which it was finally suspended by the arm-pits, there not being sufficient left to suspend it by the neck. The sight now was most horrible & disgusting - & indeed seemed to be so considered by the mass of spectators, so that in a very few hours – one or two - hardly any would be found gazing upon the gallows.¹²

For my own part I wended back my way in a more solemn, serious and moralising humour than I was when I first came. Finding the main street most inconveniently crowded I diverged into some of the collateral streets and reached very comfortably my old quarters. There at 3 P.M. I met the Master with the Mail & by four, we all bid a final adieu to Buenos Ayres & took a kind farewell of those from whom we met with civility and attention on shore. At 5 we regained the Pacquet, & in half an hour, we got under weigh for Monte Video.

I had got thus far in my Journal, thinking that I had mentioned every thing I had noticed at Buenos Ayres – but reflecting afterwards I found that I had forgotten some particulars which I shall notice very briefly.

Carts in Buenos Ayres

I have spoken of the convenience of carts in landing & promised to make more particular observations of them.

Their construction was extremely rude and their appearance most inelegant. The body of was formed by a few beams of wood crossing each other transversely, unpolished, multangular, and with large interstices between. This rested on a stout axletree, at each end of which was an immense large wheel high & broad – being I suppose double the height & double the breadth of our own. The sides were raised to a considerable elevation by tall bamboe canes stick perpendicularly, to which were fastened crossways bamboes also. The ends were open. From the front of the body, projected a stout pole, intended to confine a horse on either side of it, whilst a third was secured at the very extremity, being the leader. The driver of this elegant machine rode on the horses, and managed his car as handsomely & cleverly as ere a one in England or Ireland to boot. These carts are employed in every thing as well as in the conveyance of goods – the vending of beef – the transference of your person from your boat to the shore - &.^c Some of them are covered over with like our wagons with hides especially for long journeys & for keeping goods dry. I observed a good many carts of English Manufacture – and was not a little amused at the air of superiority assumed when their drivers were passing one less elegant but perhaps more useful vehicle of the natives, considering the nature of the country, as where you have such immensely deep ruts after rain, that ordinary carts & ordinary wheels if once in them would never emerge from them in the unassisted efforts of the horses.

¹² Public execution was still commonplace around the world, and the last public hanging in England occurred in May 1868 – Michael Barrett, Fenian bomber.

Names of the Streets at Buenos Ayres.

In Buenos Ayres the names of the streets have undergone a total change, since the natives have thrown off the yoke. Of course I do not know the former names of the streets, but the present names plainly indicate a revolution in name as well as in reality as *Calle (Street) de la Victoria – Calle de la reconquista – calle de la Independencia – Calle del 25 de Mayo*, the day of their independence. Then you have streets & squares called after the different battles in which they were successful – and also not a few which are honoured with the names of confederate republics, similarly circumstanced with themselves – as *Calle de Peru – de Chile – de Mexico*. This is indeed quite a Novel plan of aiding the Memory in History and Chronology – and should have no doubt but it might be advantageously followed at home to a much greater extent than is done. As for instance we might have *15th of June Street – Reform Square – Grey & Russell Courts* with many others too numerous to mention. The only rule which I should see followed would be that the name should bear some correspondence to the place & the place to the name. As that a very fine Street, square, crescent of Circus should be known by the name of eminent benefactors to his species, or some event of importance by which the destiny of a nation has been affected – and that meaner streets should recall by their names some events of less importance & dignity – But this is mere speculation on my part.

Running notes on B. Ayres

Postscript running notes - Great numbers of women are to be seen in the streets – ladies well dressed, with their faces muffled up with handkerchiefs – on account of colds – English ladies might do the same but would not [be seen] walking about with indifference in the public streets – Theatre & Churches, in such a queer attire.

I have seen combs worn at B. Ayres, of a semi-circular shape, which, if extended into a straight would be half a yard or more long.

Tea is not much drank here – and chiefly by the English residents. The natives prefer an herb called Mate which is common in South America – but that which is grown in Paraguay is esteemed the best. In using it they have regular pots of tin, cocoa nut or silver of this shape either plain or highly ornamented.



The ladies use it as a luxury – not drinking it but sucking it from the cup thro' a tube of this form pierced at the bottom with holes.



When using it, you would fancy that they were in the attitude of smoking and before I was let into the secret, I actually imagined that they were so engaged, tho' I could not account to myself whither the smoke went as I saw none issuing from their mouths.

I saw at Buenos Ayres for the first time dogs without any hair at all on their hides. The colour of their skin was black. One felt a sort of repugnance and disgust to them, which custom alone would overcome. I believe they do not bark, nor do I know of what utility they are. They are said to be of Chinese breed.

In my last journal I mentioned the verification of an old proverb about beggars and horses – so I have now to take notice of another expression that we ought not to put the cart before the horse. This I actually saw one day and an excellent it was. A cart was about to be taken down a slope & as they have nothing to check the wheel, horse & cart would by their own impetus have made but one slip from top to bottom because the cart would press too much on the behind of the horse. At least so thought the carter, who chose rather to put the cart first, by which means it rolled down slowly being kept in check by the instinctive efforts of the horse which came after it.

Barque *Beagle* nicknamed the Bearded Ship

While we were laying before Buenos Ayres we were in company with H.M. Barque *Beagle* Captain Fitzroy.¹³ Most of the men and officers wore enormous beards, as if they had been the genuine descendants of Fathers Abraham, Isaac & Jacob. On their first arrival, the barbers were in great glee, anticipating a rich harvest of rials, never doubting but that being Englishmen they were Christian, & that being Christians they would not fail to remove the marks of an Hebrew origin. But day after day passed by without any change and at last they were reluctantly compelled to forgo all their golden hopes. Tis strange, tis passing strange, that Englishmen abroad allow themselves many liberties and a much greater latitude of acting and speaking than they would assume, or even dream of at home. What can be the cause of this anomaly? It proceeds I imagine from the strong feeling of superiority over all foreigners which we fancy ourselves to possess, and in right of which we scruple not to over step the bounds of good sense, decency and politeness. Hence it is that in many parts of the world an Englishman is respected / feared but never loved – his character is that of a supercilious, overbearing Islander – and all his advances to friendship & good fellowship are received with suspicion, as if there was danger of a gloom darkening under an apparent sunshine.

In an assumption of our national superiority the officers and men of the *Beagle* chose to go about the town in a way which attracted unusual notice & I may [say] contempt and ridicule. Had they passed in the same disguise thro' Plymouth or Portsmouth, they would have had a mob at their heels and make but a scurvy figure with uprooted beards after a severe mauling. This they knew very well & never tried

¹³ HMS *Beagle* (10) Sloop, *Captain* Robert Fitzroy. Naturally Williamson does not mention Darwin, who was at this time still an anonymous naturalist. Darwin writes of the *Beagle's* call at Buenos Ayres in much the same terms as Williamson. He remarks on their anxiety for news from home. Off Monte Video on October 26th he writes 'My letters from Shrewsbury are dated May 12th & June 28th. Receiving letters unfits one for any occupation; so that I have done nothing but read ...' From *The Journal of a Voyage of the Beagle*, Charles Darwin (facsimile) Genesis Publications, 1979. Darwin makes no mention of the *Duke of York*, but given the dates of postage in England his letters may well have been brought out in her.

the experiment, but with the cowardly foreigner, why should they deserve any measure of affectation of conformity to the proprieties of the society to be found there. The forbearance of the B. Ayreans they doubtless attributed to fear – but those who knew them well alleged there were some of politeness & good breeding common to the lowest, as the true reason. Our countrymen were therefore allowed in peace to wear their beards after their own fashion – and [the] natives contented themselves with giving the *Beagle* the cognomen of the Bearded Ship.

Moustachioed & Whiskered Ships.

Last year the men and officers [of] H.M.S. *Rattlesnake*¹⁴ excited as much notice at Buenos Ayres, as the *Beagle* did now. From their appearance you could easily see that Moustachios with them were all the go – and in compliment to them the *Rattlesnake* was termed the *Moustachioed Ship*.

Four years ago H.M.S. *Ranger*¹⁵ was laying in the River & afforded in her crew an illustration of the proverb ‘*Many men, many minds.*’ Regarding a long shaggy beard as too Israeleitish for Englishmen, and thick and overhanging moustaches as too fierce & we may add too disgusting for any but soldiers, they looked upon nothing as so genteel and proper, as the nourishment, & cultivation of whiskers, which in their full perfection at once form a protection to the face on both planes & at the same time are highly ornamental to those on board the *Ranger*, & as they thought they practiced. Hence their vessel was nicknamed the ‘Whiskered Ship.’

It will be long ere the circumstances connected with the above three vessels are buried in oblivion at B. Ayres. Among the natives themselves, the[y] form a standing joke, which with all my heart, I would be content to allow them – since not being equal to us in great things at would be hard to deprive them of any merit over us in trifles.

Tis a bad plan to be writing notes on a place after you have left it never to revisit it – and I fully coincide with the observation that a few lines written on the spot is worth a whole cart load of recollections. But I don’t know how it is, but there is always one thing or t’other in the way to prevent your writing on the spot – and I often find that the more leeway I have to make up, the more disinclined I am to set about, thro’ dread of the labour before me. I conclude with these observations, which I have just shoved in by way of apology for taking you away from Buenos Ayres & leaving you right smack in the middle of the river on your route to Monte Video, whilst I have been spinning a long yarn & all about nothing.

To take up the thread of the story, we left B. Ayres on Tuesday 20th Nov.^r and with fine w.^r and a tolerable breeze set sail for our return. At 8 P.M. we had strong breezes from ESE with gloomy w.^r so that it was judged necessary to anchor.

Wednesday 21st - squally unsettled weather – foul wind – Beating down the river. At 5 P.M. came to anchor.

Thursday 22^d - at 6 up anchor & made all sail – fine weather – beating down the River.

¹⁴ H.M.S. *Rattlesnake* (28), Captain Charles Graham, in the South American station.

¹⁵ H.M.S. *Ranger* (28), Captain William Walpole, then notionally on the West Indie station.

Friday 23^d - fine weather – foul wind. At 5.30 P.M. saw the Mount. At 10.30 P.M. came to anchor in consequence of a strong current & wind of shore.

Saturday 24th - at 5 A.M. up anchor and made all sail for the Harbour, fine weather and variable winds. At 11 A.M. came to anchor in our old quarters off Monte Video. Immediately afterwards landed along with the Master & spent the afternoon in strolling about. I did not remark any new object worth mentioning. Things here are in *status quo* and likely to remain long so. At 4 P.M. I was glad to get on board again.

Sunday 25th - spent the day on shore peering about to spy the beauty or the nakedness of the land. Dined in the afternoon at the house of the merchants here – with M.^r McFarlane our passenger, and after dinner the *Master* and [I] went out on horseback by way of exercise. Our excursion extended to about six miles out into the country. I prefer the country here far to that around B. Ayres. It is better cultivated – and more varied in appearance. You have not before you a dead level as at B. Ayres – but high and low ground agreeably intermingled. We found the roads better for us here, and consequently received more pleasure from the exercise. At dusk we returned to the Town – where I remained till 9 P.M. & then went on board to my dormitory there.

Leave Monte Video

Monday 25th Nov.^r - on shore during the first part of the day. At 3 P.M. received the Mail on board and set sail in company with his M.^{ys} Surveying Barque *Beagle*. Beautiful weather – light and favourable breezes with current in our favour. At 6 the current changed and kept us some time off Flores, so that we could not advance.

Tuesday 27th - Pampero last night. Moderate and nearly favourable breeze with drizzling rain till 1 P.M. when a calm came on which lasted only a short time & was succeeded by cloudy but fair Weather & pretty favourable fresh breeze. As we could not weather the Island of Globos, we passed to leeward, between it and Maldonado on the Mainland, & got on afterwards at a good pace. Another vessel after us trying to do the same, failed and was obliged to tack about again.

Wednesday 28th - fresh and favourable breeze – cloudy but fair weather.

Thursday 29th - very fine weather. Light and favourable breezes.

Friday 30th Nov.^r - very fine weather. Fresh and foul wind from NE.

Saturday 1st December - fine weather. Fresh and foul breezes.

Sunday 2^d - fine weather – wind fresh & foul from NE.

Monday 3^d - fresh and foul wind – cloudy weather.

Tuesday 4th - cloudy weather. Wind more favourable.

Wednesday 5th - fine weather. Moderate & favourable breeze.

Thursday 6th - fresh and favourable breeze. Fine weather.

Friday 7th - fine weather. Fresh and nearly favourable breeze.

Saturday 8th - made land this morning. Wind not quite favourable, not enabling us to get to windward of our Port. Cloudy forenoon - fine afternoon.

Sunday 9th - fine weather. Variable winds – now calms – now light – now fresh – favourable and foul. Not far from Rio, expecting to arrive there in a few hours but cannot succeed. At 8 P.M. had the prospect of entering to night. Moderate and favourable breeze with tide against us. Just as we were opposite Round Island, & it fell away a calm. It was necessary to tow the vessel off with our boats so near were we to going on shore. Luckily the land breeze set in.

Sen.^r Torres alias Saldahna

At Buenos Ayres we took on board as passengers for Rio a young gentleman - & two servants a black boy and a black man. In his passport he was designated as Senor Manuel Torres – but from what he said during the voyage we have reason to believe that this was merely a *nom de plaiser* and that he had more reasons than one for making a mystery of his real name. He was a tall, thin, pale faced young man, with an eye that appeared particularly intellectual when he was animated in speaking. He had on a surtout liberally covered with silk trimmings & barrel shaped buttons – and carried a handsome clouded cane with a glass head. His fingers were crowded with jewelled rings – his shirt was secured by diamond buttons, & a magnificent breast pin with a single large brilliant shone on his breast. In short I imagine he aimed to be considered a dandy of the first water. From such a gorgeous display which he exhibited when I first saw him – and particularly from this entertaining me with a sight of his deceased wife's jewels which were really very splendid, I imagined that he must be some rich nabob in his own country. But he soon undeceived me – by telling me that these were his sole property & had been extremely useful to him from their value and portability.

Senor Torres knew little more than a word or two of English – and but little more latin which latter language – notwithstanding we held some converse together, with which I believe we were mutually pleased. On subjects relating to literature, the arts and sciences he was lamentably ignorant – but once start a political question, and on he would gallop, until he stopped speaking thro' want of breath, not of argument. No topics engendered so much bitterness as those connected with politics – so knowing that this was explosive and dangerous ground I carefully avoided it, seeking for something more agreeable to be invariably found in conversing with a foreigner well informed in the history, manners and customs of his own country.

When we arrived at Monte Video Sen.^r Torres black [boy] took himself off, being tired probably of slavery, finding a favourable opportunity of escaping – or what is much more likely, because he knew that it would soon be discovered that he had stolen 10 dollars, the Captains property. Sen.^r Torres met with another misfortune here in the loss of one of his most valuable diamonds, while dancing at a public ball held at the Theatre.

The black man again one dark night, going forward to the galley was thrown by a lurch of the vessel down the cockpit pit & fractured two of his ribs. When we entered Rio, the inflammation had subsided and it would only require two or three weeks rest to complete the cure, without any other aid than the binder.

On our arrival at Rio the health boat did not visit us & consequently our passengers passports were not overhauled, at which Sen.^f Torres, or as he might more properly be called Senor Saldahna expressed much pleasure. We now found that he had taken a very active part in some recent political movements in Brazil, which had rendered a journey to Buenos Ayres necessary for his personal safety - & that he was now returning when he found that the party in power were not bloody-minded – but on the contrary disposed to forget & forgive.

He landed late at night in disguise near to Porto Fogo, where his brother was residing & where he proposed lying perdue for a time.

[Remarks on Freight]

Monday 10th - anchored near the Sugar loaf, calms and tide against us. At 3 P.M. we reach our old birth in front of the City of S.^t Sebastian or Rio. From the 10th to the 18th we lay at anchor, having been detained by M.^r Aston our Charge d' Affaires. I have already said so much of Rio that I have left myself nothing more to add. My time was spent in going with or without a definite object thro' the streets. I say with or without a definite object because the Captain being unwell on board, the Master was obliged to go on shore on duty in his room and I accompanied him. For want then of some thing *[better]*, I shall give you *[some account]* of the way in which *[we]* were *[employed]*. The two first days after our arrival, were occupied in calling upon the different merchants, who are in the custom of shipping money for England, & telling them from the Capt.ⁿ that he would be *[happy]* to take *[charge of]* any *[freight]* which they might *[care]* to *[send]*. In the execution of this duty we had exercise enough, and what was more than we wished, the rain poured down in unintermitting showers – and as if this was not sufficient to give you a regular soaking, innumerable spouts from the tops of the houses discharged their contents on the luckless passer-by like so many fountains. All this might have been endured with tolerable patience – if any success had rewarded our labour – but no – not one merchant *[upon]* whom we waited happened just at this precise time to have any remittances to make to England.

[The next two pages have the appearance of a rough first draft. Whereas in the foregoing the italicised words within square brackets were written in Greek characters, on the next page the whole text was first written in English, and then key words heavily over-scored and obliterated, with the Greco/English superscripted. An example of one of these pages appears below]

[Embarking or getting Freight at Rio]

Our Captain then naturally concluded that he would receive but little benefit in the way of freight from Rio - & certain it is that he would not, if he had not been detained. For the *Swallow* Packet ¹⁶ had been out from Falmouth upwards of 10 weeks and was daily expected – the [rate of] exchange also was likely to be shortly affected in favour of England, and therefore some of the principal merchants petitioned for our detention and with success.

¹⁶ HM Packet *Swallow* (6) Brig, Lieut. Com. Smyth Griffith.

merchants. To understand this you ought to be aware that the *[exportation]* of *[coin]* from *[Rio]* is strictly and under *[heavy penalties prohibited]* by the *[Government]*. It is plain then from this that some plan must be adopted to *[evade this law]* & to enable our merchants to *[transmit money]* to their correspondents in England. Various means might be had recourse to as *[Bribery night work]* &.^c but what is almost always pursued is the *[use of belts]*.

These *belts* go round *[the body]* and are calculated to contain about *[five hundred]* dollars each. When they are neatly made and properly supported, it is hardly possible to discover them under the loose *[shirts]* which *[seamen]* wear – and unless suspicion were excited by some other cause, this alone would defy detection.

In this mode then we proceeded to *[get]* our *[freight in safety]* on board. We first *[called]* at the house of the Shipper by ourselves – and in a short time afterwards were *[followed]* by some of our *[crew]* whom we proceeded immediately to *[load]* with their *[cargo]*. We had generally four at a *[time]* who *[carried off]* 2000. After they had *[left]*, we *[followed]* & saw *[them safely]* off. These were *[succeeded]* by *[others]*, and by the time the *[second had]* gone *[on board]*, the *[first]* were ready *[for us]* again.

In two or three days, *[by pursuing]* this *[plan]*, we *[got off]* a very considerable *[amount of dollars]*. Often, very often, we were in *[great anxiety]* and *[perplexity]*. We were *[afraid]* that the *[frequent]* coming & *[going]* of *[our men]* would *[excite suspicion]* – and therefore we sent *[them first]* to one place & *[then to another]* – and thus we certainly *[avoided]* one *[source of danger]* – but there was another which we *[dreaded]* and most justly *[still more]*. Several *[of our men were]* very *[drunk]* and not *[fit]* to be *[trusted]*. Notwithstanding, however all these circumstances *[no accident happened]*. All *[the money]* was *[carried safely on board – there counted]* – and if all was *[right, the bills of lading were signed]*.

[Night expedition to collect Freight]

The *[process]* above mentioned was *[a very tedious]* one. After many *[journeyings]* backwards and forwards, *[the amount of money]* was comparatively small. To *[expedite then our shipments]*, we undertook a *[more compendious, tho more dangerous way]* – which I can best *[explain]* by *[giving]* you *[some account]* of it, *[when]* I *[formed one of the party]*. We had *[arranged to, go to Port, o, Fogo]* two or three miles *[off]*. We prepared ourselves *[accordingly]*. A *[pistol and cutlass for each]* were put *[on board, the master alone taking a musquet]*. About *[six o'Clock]* while it was yet *[broad day light off]* we started *[with our pennant flying right]* in sight of the *[Guard boat]*, and *[one of the party]*, as if we were going to the admirals. The evening was lovely and the water smooth as glass. We laughed and chatted gaily as we moved swiftly along, and were continually called *[calling]* to each other to observe the beautiful scenery around, which at every bound by altering our position, perpetually opened up some new charm to our view. Altogether I had never been so much pleased with any excursion, and my only regret was that want of time & the pressing circumstances in which we were about to engage prevented us from contemplating the objects around us at greater leisure. At 7 oClock we arrived at our destination but *[it was still too light]* and *[there were too many persons on the beach to render it safe to put the money on board the boat]*. We therefore *[entered the house]* had some brandy and water and smoked several prime Havanah Cegars. When *[the time]* was, *[fitting, nineteen thousand dollars were carried]* from the *[House to*

the boat] – as soon as they were [*safely stowed*] away, we [*embarked*] and set out on our return.

[Night expedition to bring off Freight]

A deep [*darkness*] now prevailed – nothing was heard but the [*strokes of our oars*], which were pulled [*with as little noise as possible*]. An anxious and [*watchful eye was kept all around*] in order [*to descry the first appearance of anyone. The master loaded his musquet – and each of us his pistol & cutlass all ready*]. Not a [*word was spoken, for our*] thoughts were too much occupied on other matters to enable us to enter upon indifferent conversation, and besides it would not have been advisable. As soon as we turned round a point of land, numerous lights were seen, the position of which enabled us to judge correctly of the route to be pursued in order to reach our vessel. We passed first one light & then another, [*without discovering any thing to create alarm*] – but the most [*ticklish part of our voyage*] was to [*come*] – viz. to [*escape the notice of the Fort and Guard Boat*], which was [*lying close to us*]. Had all around us been as [*dark as the place we Had left, this*] would [*have*] been a matter of tolerable ease, but most [*unfortunately*] as we [*thought, for us, the church of Nossa Senora De Gloria, right opposite our Packet*] happened to be this [*night illuminated*], and from its illumination close to the [*waters-edge*], a mass of brilliant light was sent across the water, pointing out distinctly the smallest object within its [*radiance*]. What a [*contre-temps*] for us. Either we must pass thro' the midst [*of the glare*], & by being right between the [*light*] and [*the*] objects [*of our dread*], be at once [*revealed to their view*], or by going a long – round about way [*to get to the dark side of the fort & Guard boat*], at once [*excite suspicion & run the risk of being overhauled. After an*] attentive consideration of which of these two modes should be adopted we decided upon the former as after all being the most likely to [*afford safety*]. Accordingly we boldly struck out is a [*direct line for the ship, expecting ourselves*] to being [*easily seen*] but hoping [*that the very*] circumstance of our proceeding thus openly [*would lull suspicion and lead those on watch to conclude, that our g[ig] was a man of wars boat on its way from the admirals to the flag ship*]. Whether we were right in our anticipations a [*of leading them astray*] or whether in reality they were very lazy [*or asleep we cannot tell – but all remained quiet*]. You may be sure that [*we did not feel altogether comfortable*], whilst [*we were*] going thro' the ordeal. As] we approached [*nearer & nearer to our vessel, the lead which oppressed*] & weighed heavy [*upon our hearts*] begun to be gradually lightened & was altogether removed when with joyful feelings we once more [*put feet in safety on the deck of our main habitation*]. No time was lost - & in a quarter of an hour [*all the money was taken out of the boat – all the arms put in the armchest – and the boat itself hoisted into its place on the larboard quarter*].

Such is the History [*of*] one of our [*nocturnal expeditions, of*] which we made [*three in*] all, & we equal success - & thus you can judge that what we [*got in this manner, and our smuggling in the day; our amount total*] would be considerable, in fact [*upwards of one hundred thousand dollars*].¹⁸

Having finished what I proposed to give you some idea of, I have nothing more to add respecting Rio – and I therefore beg you to let me pass over the minute trifling

¹⁸ Given the extent of this clandestine nature of this trade, and despite all attempts to keep it quiet, it seem impossible for it to have survived without some measure of connivance with the local Coastguards.

incidents of each day & to bring you to the evening of the 17th Dec.^r, when we received our Mail & were appointed to sail next morning.

Tuesday 18th Dec.^r - by day light this morning we got up our anchor and set sail for England. The wind being light, & the tide against us, when evening arrived, we were just a little outside of the harbour. Rainy & variable weather. Passed the *Swallow* going into Rio.

Wednesday 19th - miserable wet weather – foul wind

Thursday 20th - very variable weather – fresh and favourable breeze.

[NB. The next two pages (21st Dec – 6th Jan) were missed in the NMM microfilm.]

Friday 21st Dec.^r – fine weather, fresh and favourable breeze all day. At 10 P.M. became foul.

Saturday 22^d – fine weather – fresh but foul wind.

Sunday 23^d – fine weather, fresh and more favourable breeze.

Monday 24th – fine weather. Wind same as yesterday, enabling us at least to make our easting.

Tuesday 25th – fine weather, fresh wind inclinable to draw forward.

Wednesday 26th – fine weather – fresh wind from NNE.

Thursday 27th – fine weather. Wind still obliging us to make our East course.

Friday 28th – fine weather. Moderate & more favourable breeze, enabling us to go to the Northward. Saw the island of Martin Bass, 12 miles to leeward at 5 P.M.

Saturday 29th – fine weather. Moderate & favourable breeze.

Sunday 30th – fine weather. Moderate & favourable breeze.

Monday 31st – variable weather, fresh & favourable breeze.

Tuesday 1st January 1833 – rainy & squally morning. Weather fine with fresh and favourable breeze during the day.

Wednesday 2^d – fine weather – fresh and favourable breeze.

Thursday 3^d Jan.^{ry} – cloudy but fair weather, very fresh and favourable wind.

Friday 4th – fine weather, fresh and favourable breeze.

Saturday 5th – squally in the forenoon with showers of rain, fine afternoon with moderate & favourable breeze. At 5 P.M. crossed the EQUATOR.

Sunday 6th – fine weather. Moderate & favourable. At 3 P.M. saw a large vessel right ahead bound to S&W, - very taunt with boats on her quarter. At ½ past 4 pretty close to her & hoisted our colours and pennants, shortly after which she fired a gun to windward, which marks a friend & hoisted the Brazilian flag & a pennant. Instead of advancing to meet us, she backed her topsails & awaited our coming up. When she was right abreast of us, we observed 14 guns of a side all run out & the tompions removed, as if ready for action – a pretty compliment to our warlike or piratical appearance. The decks were crowded with men, & thro' the open port holes were seen Plenty of black faces gazing at us. The regular forms of hailing & answering were gone thro' in English. We we[re] told that this was the *Isabella* & we let them know what we were. He then asked the news of Rio, & after giving & receiving our respective longitudes, both parties braced up their yards & went on their way rejoicing. We could not help laughing at the very lubberly way in which the Brazilians manoeuvred but were nevertheless very glad to get rid of her company.

Monday 7th Jan.^{ry} - cloudy weather and light & favourable breezes in the forenoon. Calm at noon - & at half past 12, the wind arose variably with frequent squalls & rain, becoming fixed at last in the regular NE trades at 5 P.M. very wet & squally at night.

Tuesd.^y 8 - cloudy but fair w.^f fresh breeze from N & E.

Wednesday 9th – fine weather – fresh and foul wind, much sea.

Thursday 10th – fine weather – fresh but foul wind.

Friday 11th – cloudy weather – fresh & foul wind.

Saturday 12th – fine weather – fresh and foul wind.

Sunday 13th – fine weather – moderate & foul wind, inclinable to fall off in the afternoon.

Monday 14th – beautiful weather, very light and foul wind, inclinable to calm.

Tuesday 15th – very variable winds and weather.

Wednesday 16th – fine weather & moderate & foul breezes – afternoon squally with rain & very variable winds.

Thursday 17th - calms, squalls, light & variable winds, with occasional showers of rain. Two vessels steering to West?

Friday 18th - a vessel seen this morning steering to West.^d fine weather, calms & very light airs all morning. At 1 P.M. sprung up a wind from N & E fresh.

Saturday 19th – fine weather – fresh and unfavourable breeze.

Sunday 20th Jan.^{ry} – fine weather. Moderate & foul wind – squally and variable at night.

Monday 21st – fine weather. Moderate & foul breeze in forenoon, at one P.M. became more favourable & at 8 P.M. we were going our course. The wind SE.

Tuesday 22^d – fine weather – light and favourable winds.

Wednesday 23^d – very fine weather. Very light wind, but favourable & variable. At night nearly calm & then a breeze.

Thursday 24th – light variable winds & Calms. Beautiful weather.

Friday 25th – delightful w.^r Moderate and favourable breeze.

Saturday 26th – fresh and favourable breeze in the morning with cloudy weather. At 8 A.M. much rain which changed the wind, tho' still favourable, and much less. After the rain cloudy w.^r & light favourable w.^{ds} at night the wind freshened.

Sunday 27th – dark gloomy weather, with occasional rain and sunshine, fresh & favourable breeze.

Monday 28th – fine weather – fresh and favourable breeze, till 11 A.M. when wind changed against us. At 9 P.M. it again became favourable.

Tuesday 29th – variable weather – fresh and favourable breeze.

Wednesday 30th – fine weather – fresh & favourable wind.

Thursday 31st – fine weather – fresh & favourable breezes.

Friday 1st Feb.^{ry} – cloudy but fair weather. Very strong & favourable breezes with a high sea.

Saturday 2^d – dark gloomy weather, with thick mist and occasional showers of small rain, fresh and favourable breezes.

Sunday 3^d – very thick cloudy weather – fresh and favourable breeze, occasional slight showers of rain.

Monday 4th February - cloudy weather – fresh and favourable breeze.

Tuesday 5th - at 2 A.M. made the Lizard lights and at 6 A.M. came to our old anchorage in Falmouth Harbour.

We have landed our different passengers of whom I shall make a slight memorandum –

We took on board at Buenos Ayres a M.^r McFarlane merchant there, of the firm Rennie, McFarlane & C.^o I knew before he came to us that he had been once at Dumbarton for a year or two. Thinking one day of olden times, I ask him if he remembered the circumstance of a soldiers wife having committed suicide at the College Bar, and he said yes – for that he had skipped from school to go & see her.

And so did I – said I – I was there with M.^r Findlay, continued he – and so was I was my reply. So we came to understand that he had been both at the same school and at the same time. I do not remember him – because I suppose he was not then one of my particular cronies. Nor did he recollect me exactly – altho he remembered my father very well. He knew however several with whom I had been very intimate and many a long night about the days of yore, when both were young & both were strangers to care. After leaving Dumbarton he went to Greenock & afterwards to Glasgow, where he served his apprenticeship. After his time was expired, he sailed from Liverpool to come to Buenos Ayres, where he has resided for the last eight years, & by his diligence & attention has obtained a share in a flourishing house there.

M.^r McFarlane is only a year older than myself. I liked him very much – and indeed his manners were so pleasing that every body spoke well of him. He had no nonsense or sentimentality about him, and he was equally far removed from the narrow contracted mien & principle of the mere merchant, who has often no eyes or care for any thing but his Ledger and the news immediately affecting his own peculiar pursuits.

Olavo Magno de Mello Mathos joined us at Rio de Janeiro. He was a fine looking Brazilian, about 22, and a native of Bahia. He could [speak] nothing when he first came on board but Portuguese and a very little French. During the passage home our Skipper became in a certain sort his instructor – for he taught him many expressions and phrases, to which he gave poor Mello a very different explanation from the real one, which caused the oddest & most laughable blunders. I used to converse with him as far as my French & his latin would enable me. He told me that he had come to this country to study for a surgeon & Physician – that he did not yet know whether he should go to Edinburgh or Paris – and that after passing he would return to his own country and there settle. He told me also that his brother was the Brazilian Minister at the Court of London & had occupied that situation for four years. M.^r Mello was really a very pleasant fellow – and gave evidence by his complicity and innocence that he had been much accustomed to live in a situation where he must look about him sharply & be ready to take his own part. I had always met with such persons as M.^r Franco Pecanha & Mello, I should be inclined to entertain a more favourable opportunity of the Portuguese than I have at present. But first impressions & a considerable acquaintance with that nation have given rise to prepositions against them, which nothing will alter.

Besides these two cabin passengers, we had three half passengers. These were

John Wells
Robert Vanden
John Cannon

Miners. Each had been out in Brazil a considerable time - & were returning home. I am afraid not much the better of having been absent from England – I mean in respect of pecuniary matters. They were all grumbling and complaining of many grievances. If their – reports are true John Bull is beautifully humbugged about those mines & instead of receiving an immense profit on his outlay he will have at last to put up with the loss of the whole.

The last and least of our shipmates for home were William Read a pale sickly looking man, lazy & idle, but no objection to the rewards of industry in the shape of grog - & Samuel Hunter an old weather-beaten tar of the old school - & yet ten times more active & willing than his brother Jack. These two men were sent home at the

2/11 Buenos Ayres : Aug.1832- Feb.33

expense of our Government – and it is a standing regulation that we shall if required by our Consul carry home two distressed subjects at a certain sum per diem.

~~ Finis ~~

Account of Expenses at Rio, Monte Video & Buenos Ayres

Buenos Ayres

From 5th Nov.^r 1832To 18th d.^o

	Doll. ^{rs}	Rials
First Bill -	47	00
Washing -	14	05
Horses -	20	00
Refreshments -	5	00
Theatre -	5	00
100 Cegars -	7	00
Large Cegars -	5	00
Grog to our men -	6	00
Second Bill at M ^c Gaws -	<u>57</u>	<u>00</u>
	169	00
Glass to watch -	2	00
Punk -	1	00
Sundry expenses -	<u>9</u>	<u>00</u>
	181	00
Supper for three -	9	00
Tea Gardens -	3	00
Servant -	<u>3</u>	<u>00</u>
	196	00
100 American cegars -	2	00
7 Silk Handkerchiefs -	32	00
1 p. ^r Black silk stockings -	<u>9</u>	<u>00</u>
	239	
The Paper dollars was	<u>7</u>	
worth 7. ^d sterling	12)1673	
	20)139 - 7	
	<u>£6 19 7</u>	Expences
		at B.Ayres

Monte Video

25th November 1832

Horse -	£00	4	00
26 th Refreshments -	00	4	00
1 lb. Mate (an herb used as tea) -	<u>00</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>9</u>
	£00	8	9

Dec.^r 1832 Expenses at Rio

1 Gallon Rum -	£00	4	00
1 d. ^o Gin -	00	4	00
2 Gallons Rum -	00	6	00
2 Gallons Rum -	00	4	00
1 Gallon Brandy -	00	5	00
Sugar 18 lbs. -	00	4	00
Coffee 9 lbs. -	00	4	00
Chocolate 3 lbs. -	00	2	6
Cegars 1000 -	00	12	00
Wet sweetmeats 6 lbs. - 8 oz. -	00	6	00

4 bottles cordial -	00	5	00
1 Pot Pottanga jelly 1 lbs. -	00	1	2
Refreshments during the week -	00	5	00
Boat hire -	00	4	00
Looking Glass -	00	2	00
2 lbs. tobacco -	00	2	00
	<u>£3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>
Expences at Buenos Ayres	6	19	7
d. ^o at Monte Video -	00	8	9
d. ^o at Rio de Janeiro -	3	10	6
Total during voy. ^e -	<u>£10</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>10</u>