

1st
Voyage to Leeward Islands

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*NOTES*

*of a*

*VOYAGE*

*to & from*

*The Leeward Islands*

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Sailed 20 July 1833

Returned 12 Oct.^r 1833.

} 12 weeks

List of Ship's Company

Robert Snell Commander.

<i>John Pearce Geach</i>	<i>Master</i>
<i>James Williamson</i>	<i>Surgeon</i>
<i>Charles Williams</i>	<i>Mate</i>
<i>James Pashbee</i>	<i>Steward</i>
<i>James Edwards</i>	<i>Steward's Mate</i>
<i>James Evenet</i>	<i>Boatswain</i>
<i>Gustavus Glason</i>	<i>Carpenter</i>
<i>William Stevens</i>	<i>Sail Maker</i>
<i>William Burton</i>	<i>Cook – in room of R.^d Webber left.</i>
<i>Dyer Williams</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Charles Richards</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>John Richards</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Alexander Webb</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>George Kellaway</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Joseph Stevens</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>James Hoskin</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Philip Waistcot</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>John Sedgeman</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Henry Sandow</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>William Watts</i>	<i>A.B. – Died 27th Sept.^r</i>
<i>John Sedgeman - a Boy of 12 years</i>	

*Notes
of a
Voyage to the Leeward Islands.*

Sailed 20 July 1833

} 12 weeks

Returned 12 October 1833.

When we arrived at Falmouth from Jamaica and Carthagena last voyage, we were told that our next destination would be to Mexico. This news was equally gratifying to our commander, his officers, and men. To the former it held out the certain prospect of a good freight home and the chance of passengers - to his officers Havannah in the distance, with its fragrant and inimitable cegars, seemed an object well worthy of being realized by the endurance of a long and tedious voyage - and the views of the latter would be well answered at the different place[s] of our route. In this agreeable delusion we remained nearly a fortnight, when to our dismay an order was received at the Office here from the proper authorities that no Packet should go two times following to Carthagena or to Mexico - and thus our hopes fell to the ground, like the tasteless fabric of a vision leaving not a wreck behind. By this arrangement we were unceremoniously kicked out of the Mexican trip, and obliged to turn back upon the *Plover*, whose voyage to the Leeward Islands was left open for us, while she not unwillingly, was appointed to proceed to Mexico.¹ It is a good custom to consider that all is for the best. I composed myself for this change, by reflecting that this was a new voyage to me - that it was a very short one, and that it was said to be a very pleasant one. By often turning over in my mind this topic of conversation, I soon reconciled myself to an unavoidable necessity and at the end of a few days, I was even more pleased than if we had gone whither we were originally intended.

Having spent my holiday time in Falmouth in a most agreeable way, I was naturally very anxious to have as much of it as possible. In short I hoped to be detained a few days - and this expectation did not appear to be unfounded, when I considered that the last Packet had been favoured with a weeks grace - and that the state of the West Indies was such that it was not likely our government would be anxious to send out their directions as late as possible. It was well that I left nothing undone under that expectation - for time to the day came the fiat for our departure.

Proceed to Sea with the *Plover*

Sat.^y 20th July - at 8 a.m. I proceeded to go on board, accompanied by F. Fox and Cuthbert Williams. Our Packet had just moved out into the outer roads, and there came to anchor. Of course we had but to follow her - and in no time at all we were

¹ This whole passage is coloured by the rivalry between the Civil and R.N. packets. Despite claims of openhanded treatment, there is more than a hint of preferential treatment being given to the R.N. packets. Their put-down was particularly galling, as in this era, a Mexican voyage gave commanders their best chance of securing a rewarding bullion freight.

padding her deck. Beside us was the *Plover* for Mexico ², with her Packet signal also flying. The day was loursing and the wind variable and puffy. Hour after hour passed away rather tediously, in spite of conversation cigars, and grog - and we were still more impatient to be gone, as the wind blew strong and fair at the time, and we could not tell how soon a foul wind might set in, and keep us for days at sea in sight of land. At last we observed a bustle on board the *Plover*, betokening immediate preparations for sea. Soon the boatswains shrill whistle announced that the mail was on board, and that they were on the point of starting - shame be it said to the Packet Agents that the Men-of-war Packets should invariably receive their Mail before us. Well off she went in gallant style with a shift of breeze and the strangers on board laughingly told us that she could talk Spanish (i.e. sail fast), and that she would soon leave us far out of sight astern.

To these remarks we said nothing, being ignorant of the *Plovers* sailing qualities - and were quite easy at the imputation of our inferiority. Nevertheless, I was nervously impatient to be gone. Twenty minutes or half an hour elapsed ere we received our mail. We had then to hoist in the gig, and get up the anchor, with 24 fathoms chain cable out, so that nearly another half an hour was consumed, ere we filled our sails and followed in the track of the *Plover*.

Trial of sailing with the *Plover*

By this time the wind was rather slack - & she was about 7 miles ahead of us. Not one on board entertained a thought of coming up with her - at least no one talked of it. It was 12 precisely when we set sail, and by three we could easily see that we were overhauling her fast, or hand over hand as we say. Then the greatest anxiety arose - Every minute many eyes were cast upon the Packet ahead, and observations made that we were gaining upon her. The chase was pursued with increasing ardour and interest - nearer and nearer we approached - and exactly as we struck two bells (7 o'clock) we were abreast of the redoubtable *Plover*, & not distant more than a quarter of a mile. All hands were on deck on board both vessels - but it may readily be imagined that we gazed on each [other] with very different feelings. Whilst we were still some way off, the commander of the *Plover* stood on the poop, apparently engaged in attentively watching our progress anon as we came pretty close, he walked up and down in a hurried manner, never looking once directly to the place where we were - and when we had come up to be almost abreast of him, he descended from the poop to the deck, where over the lofty bulwarks we saw him peeping at us. Our men were in ecstasies - and we were not a little pleased, considering that the Master of the *Plover* has in presence of M.^r Geach, laughed at the idea of our touching his Packet, and that the Commander himself had in joke said as much to our skipper, as that he would fire at us, if we should pick him up.

Much snighering [sic] and cachinnation prevailed among the *Dukes* men - and one of them even held up a rope in derision, as if he would have thrown it to the *Plover's* men and taken them in tow. These symptoms however of incivility and bravado were promptly put a stop to by the Master (the Com.^r being in the cabin) and in silence we passed her and soon left her far behind, having fairly beaten her by nearly a mile an hour. ³

During the day the weather was very variable and the wind nearly favourable.

² Falmouth R.N. Packet *Plover* Lt Downey, commander, sailed from Falmouth for Jamaica and Mexico on July 20th, 1833, and returned to Falmouth on November 23rd.

³ Their joy at showing their rival a clean pair of heels is clear.

Sunday 21st July - fine weather - general complaints of feeling cold & chilly. A vessel thought to be the *Plover*, seen about 12 miles to leeward, on our quarter. If it is she, she must during the night have sailed more off the wind than we did, which is perhaps her best point of sailing. Fresh and nearly favourable breeze.

Monday 22^d - thick foggy weather, with drizzling rain. Moderate and foul breeze.

Tuesday 23rd - foggy drizzling weather, which occasionally cleared up, and then shut in. Light foul wind in the forenoon – light and favourable in the afternoon. Wind from NE & NNE. It is called the Portuguese trade Wind follows the coast 9 months out of 12. Hence vessels bound along the coast make good progress – but on their return to England they are obliged to stretch far to the Westward till they fall in with westerly winds.

Wednesday 24th - fine weather – favourable breeze, moderate in the forenoon and fresh in the afternoon.

Thursday 25th July - cloudy weather, fresh and favourable breeze.

Friday 26th - very pleasant but cloudy weather. Moderate and favourable breeze – several vessels in sight on a wind from the coasts of Spain & Portugal.

Saturday 27th - cloudy but pleasant weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Observationes Vagantes de primuo heldomade.

In proceeding on a voyage from England the greatest object of desire at the commencement is to get clear out of the channel. Vessels have often been detained for weeks by a foul wind and if they have been at sea during part or all of that time the men are worn out with fatigue – great damage is done to the spars, and a heavy expense will be incurred to repair the tear and wear of the rigging and sails. Not to mention the state of the crews feelings – being in the situation of persons who look upon their native land, yet are as far removed from its enjoyments, as if they were in the midst of the Atlantic Ocean. It seems as if it were in fact a realization of the punishment of Tantalus – to see but not to touch – to admire but not to enjoy. Many vessels again instead of keeping out to sea, seek shelter in the nearest port, and there the Captains await, in a state of constant suspense, a favourable change of wind – fretting and fuming at their loss of time, and in such a temper that nothing on shore affords them pleasure.

Packets in former days wait.^g for fair wind

We merchant or hired Packets, however belong not to this latter description of vessels. Off to sea we must go – blow high, blow low – foul or fair – will ye, nil ye. At least such is the rule now-a-days – tho' many not *very old* men remember when the case was otherwise – when under the mild and indulgent sway of the Packet Agent, who, a good man, knew about as much of navigation & winds, as the unbreeched child, Packets often lay in Harbour five weeks, after they had received their Mails, waiting for a fair wind. In these halcyon days, if the wind should be fair, in spite of

the wishes of the Captains to the contrary, scandal whispers, that they were in the custom and wont of fastening the weather vane, by which the worthy Agent was guided in ordering the Packets to sea, - to direction, indicating a foul wind. Supposing, however, that they really went on their voyage – when every body imagined that they must be at least a thousand miles, lo back they would come into harbour alleging that there was too heavy a sea up, endangering the safety of the Mail and the Packets – and then and there they would frolic a few weeks longer.

Packets under Post Office – Captain Bull

From this state of things some curious circumstances have arisen. I shall only mention one. Captain Bull commanding H.M. Packet *Marlborough*, was once laying in the outer roads, along with several other Packets, expecting a fair wind. Capt.ⁿ B. perceiving that there was not much sea up, despite the persuasions of his lazy and interested brother Commanders, made the experiment of proceeding out to sea, and when well out, he got such a good slant, that he easily cleared the channel, went to Lisbon, and returned to Falmouth, as the same Packets he had left were making preparations to set sail. He had just come to an anchor, when the Agent's boat came along side with an imperative order to proceed on his voyage – He with an oath refused, but would come on shore with the Mail. Another order from the Agent in person met with a similar reception, creating great astonishment, not unmixed with indignation – for every body believed that Capt.ⁿ Bull in his absence had been knocking about Channel, till at last he had been obliged to put back *re infecta*. At last the *denoument* was brought about by the worthy Capt.ⁿ saying that he must first land the Mail which he had brought from Lisbon!!!⁴

Changes produced by Capt.ⁿ King

As I have already said, things are differently managed now. Captain King R.N. the present Superintendent of the Packets, an excellent seaman, and a strict disciplinarian, insists, that be the wind or weather what it may, every Packet shall make a trial to proceed on her route – and should the gale prevent her, she may then but [not] otherwise dare to return. I well remember the time, when we went to sea with out Mail for Buenos Ayres. The wind blew strong – the sea ran high – but nevertheless out we were obliged to go – and sure enough for ten days we had a pretty Contest of it, knocking about the channel with the comfortable prospect of trying the comparative hardness of our iron bound coast and the strength of our timbers. At one time we were driven up to the Eastward, as far as the Eddystone lighthouse. Hence it is that the foreign Mails are conveyed with wonderful regularity – a circumstance which has given so much satisfaction, that the old boy is allowed a guinea a day from Lloyds – and his present command is now continued about ten years, altho', according to the Naval regulations, its duration should have been restricted to 3 years.

Reasons why I made foregoing remarks

I have been led to make the above desultory rambling remarks, by considering how fortunate we have been in the outset of our voyages. Out of 14 or 15 times, we have not been detained in channel above twice – and then only for a comparatively

⁴ Further evidence of the mistrust held by the Naval Officers at Falmouth, of the motivation and commitment of the civil commanders.

short period. In the present instance also we have soon got out of the net, and sped out way into the open sea, where we had plenty of room for manoeuvring.

After getting clear of the chops of the channel, if you are bound to the Southward, the next great object is to cross the Bay of Biscay – and not be there embayed for weeks, exposed to probable danger, and certain detriment to the gear of your vessel, from the tremendous NW swell, prevailing there. The wind at first bore [us] along on our course at a good rate, which was much impeded by the NW swell – then we had thick foggy weather, with the wind not so favourable, and, as I observed, a great subsidence of the swell. We were much afraid that we should not be able to weather Cape Finisterre, which would have obliged us to tack – but luckily, when we approached the coast, we got hold of the Portuguese Trade wind at NE & NNE, which carried us with flying colours beyond the dreaded cape.

Saturday 27th July – 1, P.M. cloudy but pleasant weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Sunday 28th – beautiful weather, fresh and favourable wind.

Monday 29th – passed Madeira during the night. Beautiful weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

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

Wednesday 31st July – very fine weather, light and favourable breeze. Warmest days since we have been out.

Thursday 1st August – very light and favourable breeze all day – nearly a calm in the evening – very fine weather.

Friday 2^d – very fine weather – wind sometimes fair sometimes foul with intervals of calms alternating with cat-paws or puffs – exactly as we had last voyage for three weeks. At 3 P.M. a light steady wind sprung up from W by N and continued all night.

Saturday 3rd – up to Noon – cloudy weather. Moderate but foul wind.

Observations of 2.^d Week ⁵

Our second week commenced under favourable auspices, I mean with a fair win and delightful weather. The Portuguese Trade bore us along the coast. We had expected to have seen some of Don Pedro's squadron – but we did not being too far off from the land. We met indeed when nearly off Lisbon, many vessels steering away from the land to the Northward & West.^d These had probably first left Portugal and were on their way home to England. We did not speak any of them.

Our course leading us to the South.^d and Westward, we soon lost all traces of homeward bound ships, and were left in solitude to wend our way to the Island of Madeira, which is generally made on a voyage to the West Indies. It is what is called an excellent land fall – that is to say a place, whence having corrected the error of your chronometers since leaving England by an observation giving you the difference

⁵ On this voyage James introduces weekly summaries of their progress, events and observations, and the word 'Hebdomadal.'

of longitude by your time pieces, and the known longitude of the place, you can take a fresh departure with much greater confidence, than if you were not to make it. On Monday 30th July we had expected to have seen Madeira – but were not so fortunate as we passed it in the night, and when day light broke in we were at too great a distance off to make it out, especially as the horizon was very cloudy.

We, now being certain that we had passed this island, steered a direct course for Barbadoes – going 3 points more to the Westward than we had done previous to this. The wind was still most favourable but had become rather light. From being light it soon came to be very light, till on Friday 2.^d August it fell away a calm, which in an hour or two was succeeded by foul variable winds – in puffs or catspaws. At 4 P.M. on the same day the wind settled steady in W by N, which of course was foul for us in some degree, enabling us to go to the S.th as we wished but precluding us from making so much Westing as we desired. The next day, up to Noon (the precise end of this week) was marked by a moderate and foul breeze from the same quarter – but we expect soon better things.

Having said so much of the wind, I cannot pass over, the next most interesting topic, viz. the weather. This has been delightful throughout – neither too hot nor too cold, generally speaking. Indeed I am rather agreeably surprised to find it so, contrary to my fears. Once or twice for an hour or two, I have felt rather warm – but then that was, when I have been out of the influence of the enlivening breeze. In short the gently rippled sea lying before you like a vast extended plain – the steady even motion of the vessel in consequence, hardly inclining to one side more than to another – The deep blue sky, smiling over head with the glorious sun, shedding his rays tempered by the cooling breeze by day – and the silvery moon by night, rising with her broad full orb from the bed ocean, and slowly pursuing her silent course thro' cloudless *empyrium* – all these were circumstances, which were calculated to make us consider the period of the bygone week as one of quiet enjoyment and pleasant reflection.

III Week.

Sat.^y 3rd August P.M. - at 1 the wind aft, still continuing light – the weather cleared up beautifully – and we were in high hopes. In the evening it fell calm – then breezy – then calm and so on.

Sunday 4th – beautiful weather – calm till noon, when sprung up a very light breeze, which continued all day.

Monday 5th – beautiful weather – very light and favourable breeze, just sufficient not to say to curl, but to ripple the water. From the NW a long, regular slow and undulating swell was seen to come all day, shewing that at a distance. Perhaps at a very great distance from us, the wind might be blowing in gales from that quarter.

Tuesday 6th – fine weather – passed a vessel this morning, steering like us to the Westward. Pretty fresh and favourable breeze.

Wednesday 7th – fine weather, fresh and favourable breeze, crossed the tropic today.

Thursday 8th August – cloudy but pleasant weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Friday 9th – beautiful weather, fresh and favourable breeze.

Saturday 10th – up to Noon, very fine weather, pretty fresh and favourable breeze.

III Hebdomadal Period. Sat.^y 10th August the end of our third week leads me to tell you, how we have come on during that period. We were alternately inspired by our hopes and depressed by our fears. We dreaded the continuance of the weather we had last Saturday – now foul - now calm – and we hoped that the *tuedium vitae* which that would inevitably produce, would be averted by the speedy return of the Trade Winds. We were not disappointed. On Monday the breeze began to blow from the right quarter and sighingly at first – but next day & continuing to the present date, it acquired additional vigour, and favoured with a merry dance to a lively tune.

We have been near no land this week – and passed only one vessel steering nearly the same as ourselves – an occurrence very unexpected by us, as during the hurricane months, few merchant men are to be met with.

The heat of the weather has been gradually increasing. Adieu now to delicious coolness, a blessing seldom estimated ay its true value by the inhabitants of temperate regions. Above and below all is hot- hot – hot. The very exertion of writing this is felt exceedingly – at every pore indeed – and I puff and pant, as if to blow myself cool. Sleep will not now come unbidden. You must court it, and court it long, by lying as quiet as a mouse, shutting your eyes - & endeavouring by every possible means you can think of, to throw yourself as it were into the arms of Morpheus. Perhaps in vain are all your endeavours. Time hovers over you with leaden wings – And alas you are too surely reminded how tardily the hours of darkness trail their slow length along, by the regular striking of the bell, at every Naval revolution, and the voice of the officer of the watch calling out to heave the log.

IV Week

Sat.^y 10th August 1 P.M. – very fine weather. Pretty fresh and favourable breeze.

Sunday 11th – fine weather with the exception of a passing shower at 1 P.M. Gresh and favourable breeze.

Monday 12th – variable weather, fine morning cloudy and squally afternoon with passing showers of rain. Fresh and favourable breeze all day, light variable airs at night, with dark gloomy weather and much rain.

Tuesday 13th August – variable weather, wind light and variable but favourable, very hot – hot.

Wednesday 14th – fine weather – very light and favourable breeze.

Thursday 15th – this morning saw a ship steering to the Northward & East.^d Beautiful weather. Light and favourable breezes.

Friday 16th – very fine weather. Light and favourable breeze.

Saturday 17th up to Noon – light and favourable breezes – fine weather.

IV Hebdomadal period.

Our fourth week was ushered in with a fresh and favourable breeze, the continuance of which for a few days promised us a speedy arrival at our wished for Port. Our hopes were high for three days, at the end of which time a change came over the face of the deep. Its rolling billows subsided & its white crested waves were exchanged for the gentle undulations which carry no tops. In plain language the breeze having suddenly shifted in a shower, fell away light, and continued to be so to the end of the present Chapter. Its direction has always been favourable, alto' it has shifted from SSE to NE in various & pretty rapid successions.

The weather has been fine and very hot – much hotter even than last week as the Thermometer table was show you ^[sic].⁶ The mornings and evenings are the only times when you can enjoy a comfortable degree of coolness – and this, be it remembered only on deck and in the open air. Down between decks all know no change – there it is always hot, always melting. Monday was the only exception to this general character of the weather. On that day we had passing showers – and in the evening the sky was enveloped in murky darkness, produced by a mass of clouds, louring & suspicious. The lightning flashed at very short intervals & the vividity of the flashes were such, as to deprive us for a short while of the power of seeing. In addition the atmosphere was sulphurous & the heat almost stifling. All these circumstances looked ominous of an approaching hurricane considering the season of the year – and perhaps, had we not happened to possess a faithful Monitor, it might have been judged necessary to have shortened sail. This friendly Monitor was our Marine barometer. In spite of every suspicious appearance, it stood as high as 30.1 – and accordingly acting upon its indications, we continued to go under the same sails as before.

As during the last week, so during the present, we saw only a solitary vessel, probably come from South America & steering to the North.^d & W.

V Week.

Saturday 17th August – at 1 P.M. very fine weather – light and favourable breeze.

Sunday 18th – during the day fine weather with slight passing showers & light and favourable breeze. At night baffling winds with sudden shifts – large dark clouds which discharged themselves now and then in rain. – much heat. Barometer high.

Monday 19th August – fine weather with passing showers – light and variable airs – foul & fair. At 6 P.M. calm with heavy clouds astern – intense heat – a halo round the moon – puffs of wind from different quarters and a heavy long roll of the sea. At 9 the weather cleared up fine and at 11 sprung up a breeze light and favourable. Barometer high.

Tuesday 20th - fine weather – Moderate breeze from SSE & S by E which was not very favourable for us, as we wished to steer SW in order to run down our latitude as soon as possible and then steer a due West course. This has been deemed advisable in consequence of our longitude by chronometer & repeated lunar observations differing so widely.

⁶ The accompanying navigational tables, copied by James from the ship's log, have not been reproduced with these transcriptions of his journals.

Wednesday 21st - cloudy but pleasant weather. Fresh and favourable breeze. At 1.20 P.M. saw Island of Barbadoes.

Remarks on 5th Week

Having seen no land, since we left England, our thoughts and conversation at the commencement of this week were much occupied with the near prospect of our arrival at Barbadoes, then but a few hundred miles off, a distance so insignificant in the estimation of one who has traversed so many many thousands as to be regarded almost nothing. Our eager expectations were partially frustrated as to the time. Tho' the wind was generally fair, it yet proved remarkably light, and at times seemed likely to fail us altogether. On Sunday and Monday the wind & weather were both particularly uncertain. We had occasionally sudden shifts of wind & from all quarters – then followed a calm, and this again was succeeded by a smart breeze for a brief space of time. The sky looked ominous. Immense masses of deep heavy watery clouds, dark as Erebus, enveloped various parts of the heavens in a musky shroud. The Moon too was watery and encircled with a large ring or halo. The heat was intense and rendered respiration laborious. Now and then flows of wind scudded along the sea, whilst a long heavy roll seemed to indicate that the wind was blowing fresh not far from our neighbourhood. Every moment we should have expected the dreaded scourge of the West Indies, of which the above appearances are said to be the precursors – but here again, upon examining our marine friend, the Mercury stood at 29.9 which is high, the average height of the column within the tropics being 30. Fortunately we may well say, and confidence that it would be so was high from the indications of the Barometer, these symptoms of struggle and danger vanished [sic] harmless, and on Tuesday we had a Moderate and steady with a clear & innocent sky.

Next day with cloudy weather we obtained a fresh and favourable breeze, and were between hope and fear that we should not make out Barbadoes in the afternoon. We were particularly anxious on this point from the great difference of our longitude as given by our Chronometers, and repeated lunar observations – amounting indeed to near a degree. Many ships have been known to have passed the Island during the night & even during the day, from the horizon being obscured, in consequence of the incorrectness of their longitude; and by the time they have found out their error, they have gone so far to leeward as to occupy a week or more in beating up against the Trades to their intended port.

I do not at all mean to say that the Navigators of our vessel were the only anxious persons in ascertaining the point in doubt. On the contrary we were all equally interested, and therefore when at 1.20 P.M. on Wednesday 21st the Island of Barbadoes was clearly descried, the satisfaction of the Master & Skipper was participated in by us all. Upon working the distance & taking the bearings we found that the Chronometer we had trusted to (Arnold's) was out upwards of 58 miles – an amount of error, which in a distance of nearly 5000 miles, out of sight of land, you might consider as trifling, but to the Navigator this appears very considerable. If our Chronometer had gone correctly we should have made our landfall within a mile, or even a fraction of one.

Having now made ourselves sure of our position, nothing remained to be done but to steer for the Island and endeavour to reach our anchorage before night. We were not however so fortunate – for light and baffling winds impeded our progress, and compelled us to shorten sail during the night.

Thursday 22 August - at 6.30 A.M. we came to our old anchorage in Carlisle Bay, opposite Bridge-town, in the Island of Barbadoes. Almost as soon as we came to anchor, boats belonging to the rival houses of Betty Austen & Hannah Lewis came off to see and engage whatever passengers there might be, and to present the compliments of these respective ladies to the Captain. These were soon followed by the arrival of others, with their various articles for sale – or barter – and others with money in their Pockets to purchase potatoes or cheese &.^c Amidst the bustle the clack and laughter of these black Madamas & demoiselles, our men could scarcely pursue the necessary duties of the Ship. When all were disengaged from duty and had time to turn their attention to their guests & Customers, the sound of voices in contention, expostulation, recrimination and cutually [?], was loud and furious – and you might have imagined in the distance that we had a legion of babblers on board, or that the men had mutinied, instead of the innocent clamours of a few black & brown women. Most were engaged with the sailors, but a few of the better dressed and more genteel came aft to bother the officers. I should really fancy that the negroes had some Irish blood in their veins – for ~~they~~ I assure you they have much of their lively tho' not blundering fancy – and are abundantly supplied with the gift of the gab, alias blarney. It is inconceivable how pertinacious they are in their attacks on your purse. If rebuffed on one tack, they go on the other. The acts of flattery – coaxing – ridicule & cajoling are professed by them in perfection – and he must be obdurate indeed who is uninfluenced by some one or other of their various inducements to buy from them. Tell them flatly, you want none of their wares, or that you have not a sliver to spend – and they will immediately up and reply to your first reason for being a non-purchaser that their peppers – preserves – bay rum – castor oil – pickles – cayenne & fruit are the very best in the world and not to be in such excellence any where, & that they are moreover the cheapest – and to your second insuperable objection viz. the want of cash, they artfully insinuate that it must need be that an officer like you – an English Officer too – must be flush of cash - & that indeed, if you had been a French or Spaniard, they would readily have yielded credence to you plea. Thus driven by the discovery, unanswerable on your part, when they have appealed to your British pride and vanity, you have no recourse left but to reward the skill and flattery of your fair opponent by purchasing some thing of her – and I have no doubt but when she receives not your money, she is all the while laughing in her sleeve at your simplicity and gullible vanity. I wish I could convey to you in language the peculiar tone and dialect of the negroes. The tone is a kind of drawl or elongation of the last syllable – so prolonged indeed, as they were too languid or too lazy to bring it out with more rapidity. Their language is a corruption – perversion - & adulteration of the Kings English, with the addition of a considerable number of words, for which you might look in vain in Johnson's dictionary – Both together the accent and the dialect render what they say perfectly unintelligible to a New-Comer, while they afford abundant matter of ridicule and laughter to an old hand. Their observations, when translated shew them not to be destitute of cuteness or intelligence. In all that concerns their own interest – they have as much savvy (their phrase) as the most intelligent buckra i.e. white man in the world.

I have now been pretty well accustomed to them and am tolerably proficient in their lingo – that is to say I understand them when they speak to me in their dialect but always answer them in my own, of which they are all perfectly cognisant. Fancy two or three of the Officers with our passengers standing on the quarter deck conversing together, when they are interrupted by a lady (they all call themselves ladies) who

approaches confidently and with low graceful curtesy to each individual of the party. Having thus fulfilled the duties of politeness and received from each of us in return a proportionably low bow, she advances and recognises each of her old acquaintances with a particular address "*Massa Docta' habby to see you – how do Massa Geach – I hobe I see you really quite too well, since I see you last Massa Williams.*" Here she stopped and was at a loss, looking expressively towards our passengers M.^r Bonrmy, Mess. Deny – Miss Deny M.^r Bowring. A polite bow and curtesy having passed between them she resumed "*I 'tought he was a 'tranger – you neber in Barbadoes before.*" "*No never*" was the reply – "*Well I habby to see you in little England – you must buy something of me,*" said she enumerating the different articles in which she dealt. Meanwhile we were encircled by a whole bevy of black & brown complexions, all pressing, hustling, and all striving to out do each other in vociferous, and over reaching each other. As a natural consequence from hot arguments, they fell to downright quarrelling & abuse. "*High Miss Sally, why for you mash me*" demanded one black damsel of another, the horny substance of whose naked horny hoof had come into too rude contact with that of her neighbour – "*You tief, you 'pose me have no feeling – you botheration woman.*" "*Oh you black nigger,*" responded the other in no very conciliatory tone. "*Why for you 'buse me – I'll let you know that tho' I hab small eye, I am wide awake – leave go my gown or I'll mash you face, you good for nothing girl you are.*" From words to blows the transition is easy, when your temper is up – and it is probable that but for our interference, the dispute would have ended in fisticuffs and the tearing of hair & cloths. The surrounded crowd were highly delighted with the squabble, and left all their goods to the mercy of chance as peace was restored, and the intended combatants reconciled, the trade of selling wheedling & coaxing was renewed with redoubled vigour and not without success. Their very pertinacity gained its own end – for who could stand the united efforts of flattery cajoling & teasing for a whole day without being influenced by them. Hardly one, I am sure, from the Captain to the cook.

Women at Barbadoes – Morals

Such were the general features of the scene, which our own Packet presented during the two days we remained at Barbadoes. To individualise even in a sketchy way would fill my Journal, and afford abundant food for ridicule & laughter. I am persuaded that if double the number of men as there were women were to come on board, and were to offer their articles for sale at half the price demanded of us, that they would not sell a quarter so much, simply because, if we were not inclined to purchase we could rebuff them – with a most peremptory refusal.

Barbadoes, almost ever since it came to be a place of great trade, has been noted for the immorality of its inhabitants. Happening to look into an old book of voyages, I stumbled upon the place where mention is made of Barbadoes and I found the author winding up his account of it with the assertion, that in his day and according to his own experience it was notorious among all the other Islands for the laxity of morals prevalent there. So that a young man coming out there must be possessed of great steadiness of principals and equal resolution of mind, to withstand the numerous temptations to aberrate from them which present themselves every day. And yet such is the perverse blindness of the human mind, that persons, especially of colour, who indulge themselves in unbounded licentiousness, are unconscious of the great sin they commit, and are as religious in the conversation as confident in their hopes of salvation as the most pious, charitable, temperate follower of the doctrine of the holy

Jesus, who has denounced all the sins of the flesh, as condemnatory to those who practice them. Almost all the Barbadians would not for a great deal of neglect attendance upon divine service & prayer meetings. I spoke on the subject to two or three. They answered me as if with an air of the greatest complaisance, that they knew they were great sinners but that God was merciful, most merciful and that they became old, that is when they were incapacitated from sinning outrageously, they would turn unto the Lord, and live a life of righteousness. Unless therefore the obligations of morality are more strictly enforced, and the virtues of temperance and chastity most rigorously required to be attended to, the inhabitants of this fertile Island might just as well have been without the light of Christianity, which is at present to them nothing but *vox et practerea nilibus*. And the worst of the case is that where the practice of vice is so general, the odium and hatred in which it ought to be held lost altogether. Connections unsanctioned by religion are universally prevalent – and a very false idea is abroad, that when two persons live together, if they keep faithful to each other no sin is incurred – nay under that such a connection has this advantage, that where either of the parties are tired of each other they may with equal virtue & prudence separate, and form other connections. That this state of things does not originate in inherent depravity & vicious principles I would fain hope – and I look upon it with less abhorrence, when I fancy to myself, that the root of the evil takes its commencement from the nefarious *_alrey* [?] and pride of the whites who for their own gratification have upheld a condition of things, which is so favourable to their depraved minds. I hope ere long, the march of intellect & let me add of purer religion will do away with this deformed mass of vice and that when men shall be all on the same footing in regard to their civil privilege, the sacred institution of marriage will be more regarded and unlawful indulgences scouted and detested as much as it is in our own happy, moral, & religious Island. Amen so be it.

Dignity Ball

I went on shore, as a matter of course, and traversed several parts of the city, which I had not yet seen, but I found nothing new to note down for your information. In the evening we (i.e. the Master, Mate, Alfred Snell & our passenger M.^f Bowring) were attracted by the sound of the violin, and the appearance of many figures gliding like ghosts thro' a well lighted room. We stopped at the door for a little time, when we were politely requested to walk up stairs. This offer we accepted as it held out some prospect of amusement. Up stairs then we went, and were ushered into a room, where were assembled a pretty considerable number of persons, male & female, tripping it away on the light fantastic toe. We thought at first, that we had been introduced to witness a ball. No such thing. This was only a Dignity or Hop. The difference between a dignity and ball we were told was this – that at a ball all were expected to appear in full dress – to be on their P's & Q's, that there must be a full band of music – and an abundant supply of wines & other refreshments – whereas at a dignity you might come in any dress - & you were not to expect to have supper – this being solely for amusement & not for display. In short I should compare dignities to rehearsals, and balls to the night of performance.

On this occasion upwards of 30 were assembled – they had a very excellent band of music – and mirth & dancing were the order of the night. The dancing as really very superior. I would not say that heaven was in all their eyes – but perhaps with truth, that grace was in all their motions. The lowest slave exhibited herself to as much advantage as her free companions – and probably had paid money to receive

lessons from celebrated *professeurs*. The passion for this exercise is beyond all belief – so that you might describe the coloured or black person by the generic term of a dancing animal. Quadrilles – waltzes & some slow Spanish dances seemed to be the favourites. Hour after hour passes away and finds them still untired, still unsatiated. In vain do poor human bodies announce that they are exhausted – in vain do they shed tears of sweat – the mind predominant over matter, sustained by excitement, disregards all intimation of bodily languor, and forces the tired limbs to perform the motions of the dances. At home the fan is in constant requisition – but the fan alone – but here the handkerchief is essential if not more so than the fan, to wipe away the fast falling perspiration to be replaced next by a more copious supply. The ladies might be compared to the Nereids, when they uplift themselves above the ocean waves dripping with the brine – and oh how unromantic & unlovely it is to gaze upon the bounteous features of your partner & behold the unbidden drop trickle slowly down nose and cheek, in constant succession, like the small running streams in the features of a landscape. What alas would be the effects if such things were so in England. Adieu, a long adieu then to Cosmetics, which would preserve their bloom, no longer than till they entered the melting atmosphere of the ball room.

We were all much delighted with the moving scene before us, but would not in spite of the repeated invitations of the dames & demoiselles join in threading the mazes of the entrancing dance ... We had melting moments even as we sat, and had no fancy to add to the already superabundant moisture, by any unnecessary display of our salutatory powers and capabilities. We left with regret the assembly hours before they would break up, being obliged to go on board – but not before we had contributed our mite towards paying the musicians and the expense of lights.

The weather during the day was squally but the afternoon was fine.

Friday 23rd August - the scene on board our Packet to day was but a counterpart of that of yesterday. If possible there was more hurry and bustle, because their time was drawing short. The weather being very fine, I was on shore all day and enjoyed myself considerably. At 4 P.M. I returned on board with the Master, who had received the Mail and at 4.40, having cleared the ship out & out of its late noisy occupiers, we set sail for S.^t Lucie, the next Island in our route.

Saturday 24th - it is always customary to leave Barbadoes in the afternoon, in order to be able to make S.^t Lucia early in the morning. This with any breeze at all, you are certain of accomplishing – nor were [we] an exception to this general remark. When I turned out and came upon deck, I found fine weather, and that we were sailing along the above mentioned Island with the Island of Martinique in view. In the following rough and ready sketch, which I propose to give of S.^t Lucia, and the other places we touched at, you are to consider what I say not as an account of the Island in general, but being true of those parts of them, which successively came under my observation. In some points there may be errors, which a more intimate acquaintance with the localities would have enabled me to avoid – all that I pledge myself to is this, that my remarks are a faithful transcript of the impressions I received thro' the medium of my own senses.

Appearance of S.^t Lucia

Having made this to me necessary qualification, let us proceed in order. S.^t Lucia, in that portion presented to us, is like most of the other West India Islands I have seen is

exceedingly broken and irregular, with at no patches of level ground, or appearance of cultivation – but exhibiting nothing but forests or barren ground. Numerous peaks appeared their woody summits in the back ground, while in the fore were many creeks and indentations. As we advanced to the NW end, signs of cultivation began to be visible, with houses. These cultivated spots were situated on level country in valleys between two hills – or more frequently along the slopes, and declivities of the mountains. The hills themselves were covered to their highest elevation with trees and brushwood. Their number seemed almost countless, and the eye rested first on one and then on another so frequently till the powers of observation were perfectly perplexed and confounded. Truly it might be said that ‘hills peer over hills tho’ Alps do not over Alps arise. The variety of form was likewise an other source in preventing distinct definite impressions of the Island from being conveyed to the mind which was consequently in a complete chaos from which it would be utterly impossible to extract any thing, like a connected whole. Every mile we proceeded also changed our view, and presented what we had already seen under a very different aspect. At the NW end is a very small Island, called Pigeon Island – barren & partly covered with stunted trees. Hereon is a fort, flag staff for conveying intelligence to the Town – and excellent barracks of brick whose numerous arched apertures for light and air communicate a very pleasing effect.

After passing this a greater number of cultivated spots, with their usual accompaniments of large houses & negro huts – and I remarked one pretty features in particular, formed by a large cluster of dwelling houses built on a most beautiful knoll, and encircled on every side with distant & separate hills. Close almost to the waters edge numerous conical shaped hills arise, having very little slope, with valleys between. On, on we go for a few miles, when we find that the shore sometimes makes a fine sweep or curve, in many parts of which the white clean sands contrast beautifully with the darker colours of the barren rock or wooded slope. Here and there a rocky islet, of a very [few] yards in circumference raises its modest & unattractive head to shew the mariner the danger which too near an approach would produce. We were still within sight of Pigeon Island, when we descried another flag staff, and extensive barracks on the top of a hill, which I believe had been levelled in order to build upon it. This almost overlooked the Town, which was as yet hidden from our view – but not long, for in twenty minutes we had opened up the small Bay, in which it is situated.

Town of Castries S.^t Lucia

At 10.30 I accompanied the Master on shore with the Mail. The name of the Town (the Capital & indeed the only town on the Island) is Castries. It is situated at the bottom of a small but pretty bay & at the foot of considerably high hills, which render the atmosphere very hot. The Bay is one of the best among the Windward Islands – the land is very bold, and men of war might ride there in safety even during a hurricane.

We had abundant time to contemplate the Bay in all its parts as we had pulled ashore the whole way, it being impossible for the Packet to enter from the wind being foul up the Harbour. On board our vessel outside, the Town did not look very well, and a nearer view did not tend to remove our first impressions. We landed at an excellent wharf, opposite to a row of houses, in one of which was the Post Office, or at least the store, where the Mail was required to be delivered. This was our first object to visit, and when we had done so, we took a stroll to spy out the nakedness of

the land. You are to remember that this Island of S.^t Lucie formerly belonged to the French – that the Town was built by them – and tho' the whole was ceded to us in 1814 the French inhabitants still remained & enjoyed the protection of our government. The town is of very small extent, but differs considerably from the construction of our English towns in the West Indies.

It consisted of two or three very long streets, which are cut at right angles by others in a transverse direction. These are most excellent. They are of considerable width, the whole admirably paved with whinstone, with the exception of a wide footpath of brick. I was never better pleased with any thing I had yet seen here – and I was very sorry to notice that the grass was growing in the excellent Streets.

In the course of our perambulations we fell in with two large open spaces of ground, in the form of squares in which some lofty trees spread a pleasant shade, under which on public seats placed there you could enjoy yourself much to your comfort and satisfaction. With the exception of the Government Offices - a few private dwellings – a small theatre, the houses are built of wood, & their sides are formed of the same material cut into small pieces to look like slates. I saw not a single balcony – nor any plan afford pedestrians the blessing of a shade. From the height and close proximity of the surrounding hills, the atmosphere is insufferably close to a stranger – But the inhabitants heed it not – for they sit in their houses or in their stores all day, and only creep out like owls, when the suns burning rays are about to be quenched in the Western waves.

Very few people were to be met with in the street – and even in the Markets only about a score of women exposed a few bananas – yams – charcoal & limes for sale. The language commonly spoken is French – particularly among the negroes. There is no peculiarity of dress – but I fancied that I could recognise the French features.

Theatre – Education at Castries

I observed no buildings which I should consider to have been a church – but I know from others, that there are both Catholic and Protestant places of worship. By mere accident we found out the Theatre. It was very small – not much larger than many private rooms I have seen – but very well arranged for boxes, pit & gallery. The performance of this evening was to be by amateurs, and in the French language. This is the first time I have been behind the scenes or on stage, which was indeed the case, owing to the civility of a French gentleman we met there.

I was glad to find that education was not neglected here – or if unattended before was now about to receive its just share of regard. I saw a notice announcing that under the patronage of the Bishop of Barbadoes a school was to be immediately established for all. Indeed a new impulse seems to have [been] given by his Lordship, to revive and invigorate the various institutions for the spread of education, & its concomitant blessings morality & happiness. Where no such institutions existed before his Lordship has exerted his interest with the gentlemen of property – and liberally contributed from his own funds, towards an object so important to the present & future welfare of our colonies.

I shall take leave with only two additional remarks in Castries. When under the French Government, the streets were known by French appellations – but since we have had it, we have made a very slight change – as for instance I notices '*Bourbon Street* = Grande street' &.^c

In passing one of the streets I met with an odd combination of a trade & a profession – for one J. Grimes, designated himself, in large staring letters as “*Mathematician and Sail-Maker.*” Explain this who can – I am sure I can’t – for I don’t see the connection between them.

Exactly at noon we left the town to return on board – and gladly for we were tired & thirsty, not having found any one charitable enough to invite us to a seat or a draught. This proves that, what is every body’s business, is no man’s business – and I am persuaded that if we had had a letter of introduction to one particular individual we should have been received most hospitably. However I think the Post Master might have shown us a little attention – but presto, but let that pass – let that flea stick to the wall – and behold us rejoicing to pace one more “*our ain decks*” & procuring with delight the refreshment we so much required.

Soon after we got on board, the command was given to hoist up the gig on the quarter, and all hands heave up the anchor. The winches were manned with resolute spirits & strong arms – and under their united influence, the weighty anchor uprose out of the water – Next the sails were loosened, & our course steered for Martinique, distant about 45 miles across. The wind was fair, but rather light so that we rose the island but slowly. Its appearance at a distance is almost the same as I have described most of the other West Indian Islands to present. It is of considerable extent and along with Guadeloupe, constitutes the only possessions of the French in this Quarter. While afar off its hills and mountains are mingled together and their rough distinctive features softened down to an, apparent unbroken continuation of high land. Every mile however you gain upon it, brings out each hill & broken mountain into prominent relief. While I am writing from the South end to a very bold bluff point, rising up to a lofty and well defined mountain, the coast forms a very extensive sweep, or curved Bay – and near to this Bluff headland a very remarkable, bare, barren and almost perpendicular rock rises from the sea, called the diamond rock.



During the war with France, our brave seamen hoisted two pieces of cannon on the summit, an undertaking believed to be unpracticable greatly to the astonishment, but more to the danger and annoyance of our no less enterprising enemies.

Martinique

Passing the bluff point I have just mentioned, we are sailing near the land, and can now distinguish its features more particularly. The coast then winds along, formed of hills, of a pretty considerable height – and this is its character for a few miles – when it turns inland to form one side of a Bay, whilst the other is constituted by land

considerably more level, richly cultivated, and as it retires back, rising gradually till it terminates in one large high hill. This very fine Bay is called Fort Royal Bay. Here the Mail used to be landed but now, stretching across the entrance of this splendid recess, we continued our course along the coast, the Town of S.^t Pierre being distant about 15 miles. We were now exceedingly anxious to increase our speed, in order to land our Mail before night – but the wind was perversely light, as if determined to let us gaze our fill at the shore, and disappoint us in seeing the Town. From the Bay of Fort Royal to the cape round which we go to the capital of the Island (distant from it about three or four miles) the country is composed of long ridges, the slopes of which are cultivated. The great amount of wood is here much neglected in consequence of its being necessary to clear the ground previous to cultivation. All along here, and also which I forgot to mention, in the Fort Royal Bay, there are to be seen large clusters of houses, scattered very picturesquely here and there, at the sea shore, and at the summit of the hills – and around these are detached patches of cultivated ground, with large plantations.

Darkness now coming on rapidly and with very light winds, the captain determined to send the gig with the Mail. At my request I was allowed to accompany the Master, as was also M.^r Alfred Snell. The night was lovely – the Moon shone high and bright in the heavens, and the mellow soft light cast an air of softness and beauty of the land near which we were. We were upwards of three miles from our landing place – a distance very considerable to be accomplished by rowing. This however we did not mind – as there was novelty and excitement to counterbalance all. The laugh, the jest went round – the length of the way was beguiled by spinning long yarns – while I and other lovers of the smoky weed puffed and puffed away contentedly, only now and then removing the beloved cigar from the fond compulsive grasp of the drawn lips, to interpose a word or two by way of explanation, correction, or improvement. Truly I should always recommend a person to become a smoker, particularly if he is solitary and impatient – it soothes the troubled spirits – it is a companion in solitude – a social member of a company – an alleviator of grief and an enhancer of joy.

In this way we proceeded very comfortably, till we recognized very faintly in the moonlight, the white buildings of S.^{te} Pierre. We were now rowing so close to the shore, that we could hear the gabble of the women, and the boisterous mirth of the men, and even distinguish their dark figures as they moved along the white beach. Our ears also were saluted by constant, unvarying, and annoying chirp of the numerous lizards which were among the grass & wood. This was certainly the least pleasant of the two _____ [sounds ?].

As the progress of time will bring about events however remote – so was it with us, when we at 7 landed on the beach, having in vain looked out for the guard boat, to which according to our instructions, our first visit should have been paid. Very few vessels were in the harbour – but these seemed to be of a large class. The beach where we disembarked had no recommendations of convenience or cleanliness – along it, as far as I could see, & not far up, a range of houses extended, apparently of an humbler description than the rest.

Under the guidance of a black-guard, we passed up a short lane and came into the principal street. From what I could perceive of it by several lamps, hung in the centre of the street, from a cord passing from one side to the other, I was highly delighted with the result, and fully disposed to agree with those who call S.^t Pierre the Metropolis of the West India Islands. The streets are admirably paved, with an excellent footpath, and abundance of fresh water, running thro'. I was no less pleased

with the houses. They are I think of two or three stories, excellently built of stone. Below on the ground floor are the substantial & handsome stores, shut in at night, by strong iron cased doors, of an arched form. On the second floor, handsome balconies project beyond many of the windows – and the rooms appear by the elegance of some I saw thro' the open windows, to be for the reception of company. I can only speak of one house in particular, and that was where the Mail was delivered. I there saw a lofty hall paved with marble, and also a very large room also paved the same material. I am exceedingly sorry that we have arrived here at night. There is no place I have yet seen in West India to which I would for a moment compare it – not I mean in regard of extent for of that I know nothing – but merely of appearance. The French assuredly far outstrip us in this – and I have heard a reason assigned, which I consider to be a very plausible one. It is said that when a Frenchman leaves his native country to settle abroad, his resolution is taken to spend his life there, without picturing to himself the hope of return to natal land. The consequence of such a resolution is obvious. When he builds – or plants – or engages in any undertaking necessary for his comfort or convenience, he does so effectually. In regard to his house, he builds it substantially and enters into a heavy expence to render it commodious and elegant – as it is to be his abiding abode, and the inheritance of his children and grandchildren. On the contrary very few Englishmen ever go abroad with the express view of making any foreign place their permanent residence. However long they may be away, they fondly look forward to the day, when, having served a competence, they may return to spend the remainder of their life – and after that lay their bones in the land of their fathers. Hence it is, that their houses abroad are not so good – substantial or elegant, as they would think it indispensable to be, were they resolved that they & their descendants were to occupy them permanently.

Whether this mode of accounting for the difference between S.^t Pierre, and the English Towns in the West Indies be true or not - yet the fact is undoubted that there is a great superiority in the outward dwellings of our gallic neighbours.

I have heard much from our passengers respecting S.^t Pierre, and all have joined in praising it. Among other circumstances related respecting it is that Duelling prevails there to a very great extent – to an extent indeed as to render the place notorious. The English at present are in particular bad odour here at present and no occasion is left unsought for a quarrel & its sequent duel. Not more than a month or two ago, the Protector of Slaves at S.^t Lucia paid a visit to this Island. On the very day of his arrival, a French planter, purposely insulted him, which led to a duel, in which the rascally Frenchman, dangerously wounded his antagonist.

Martinique has been long celebrated for its liqueurs – its noyan [?] in particular, but I must take this reputation on trust, as I did [not] trie them myself.

Having concluded our duty with the Post Master, or rather letter receiver, we left S.^t Pierre at 10 P.M., and fortunately the moonlight still favouring us, and the breeze being light, we soon pulled off to our vessel, which had tacked towards the shore. As soon [as] we were on board, the gig being hoisted up, all sail was made for our next Port in the Island of Dominique or Dominica.

Dominique

Sunday 25th August – when I got up on deck this morning, we were pretty close to Dominique or Dominica. Martinique was still in sight, the distance between these two

islands being only about 35 miles. In consequence of being rather late in turning out, I of course [saw] nothing of the appearances presented by the island in approaching it. That part of it now before me, & which is not far from the Town, called Roseau, is remarkably bold & mountainous, more so than I have yet seen this voyage – at least so close to the sea shore. We remained knocking about with variable & light winds, till near 10 A.M. when a fresh breeze springing up, we were enabled to come to an anchor not far from the Town. In half an hour afterwards the Master, passengers and self were on our way to the shore with the Mail. The weather was oppressively hot, and I anticipated little pleasure from our trip – nor were my fears vain. Our first annoyance was to find an abominable pebbly beach, with a considerable surf, where we were obliged to land – in doing which we got a little ducking and struck our legs & shins rather too hard to be altogether. Then the moment we touched the ground, it felt so hot that we walked rather trippingly like a Spanish maiden, and what was worse we saw no appearance of a shade. Before us were several houses in a state of complete ruin. These had been burned down in 1805, and have never been rebuilt, such is the poverty of the people. Those with some other finished & inhabited houses, fronted the beach. Ascending from thence up a little lane, we got into the main street, if I may so call, at the end of which is the market place – passing which we entered upon a wide street with straggling or self contained houses. In one of these, of a good size and comfortable appearance, we deposited our Mail bags – and next according to orders called upon the Governor Sir C. M. Stromberg, to make the Capt'n's excuse of ill health, for not waiting upon him in person. It was no difficult matter to find his abode. Striking off from the Post Masters house, on the right hand, we ascended a gentle acclivity - & when we arrived at the top, there stood the plain, large & commodious house of the Governor – not exactly suitable to my ideas, but resembling that of a respectable private gentleman. No sentinel kept guard at the gate, for his excellency liked not unnecessary parade – but his secretary coming to the door, we were called in. In a few minutes we were joined by Sir C – whom we found to be a free & frank spoken personage, without stuffiness or hauteur – very inquisitive about news, and if we may judge from some expressions he let fall, thoroughly disgusted with his present situation. He seemed much disappointed that our Commander was prevented by indisposition from coming on shore – for Sir C. & he had been shipmates on board the *Minotaur*, more than twenty years before and had not seen each other since they had lasted [sic] parted from the vessel.

Dominique Market

In half an hour we departed much delighted with the affability of the Governor and not knowing what better to do, took a stroll to see the Town. This occupied but a very short time. It is of very small extent – and miserable in external appearance. The houses are built some of wood, & some of stone – but the quarter part of stone. I don't think that Roseau is so good as the Town of S.¹ Lucia. The streets as I have found always to be the case, in places originally built by the French, were exceedingly well paved – but alas there grew up between the stones plenty of grass – which tho' it looked green & pretty said but little for the extent of the population or trade. I have said already that we passed the Market place on our way to the Post Office. It formed a small square, with trees growing round the borders, leaving the centre bare, with the exception of a very small enclosed space, in which was a pole, where many a black head has been exposed to the public gaze, *in terorem* against all murdeier [sic] of their Masters – depredators or rebels. As we passed, the whole area was filled with a

numerous assemblage of black men and women, endeavouring to dispose of their articles. All was bustle & alertness – for their time was short, as it is a rule of the Island to allow nothing to be sold during the hours of divine service, and after the bell has begun to toll, Those who sell any thing are amerced in a heavy fine. So you may easily conceive, that when we were in the market, the clack and bustle was at its height – for it wanted only a few minutes to the prescribed time. I have been in many markets in the West Indies, but that of Dominique beat all that ever came under my notice for noise. It was enough to stun us and we at one period [were] compelled to shift our ears & get away as quickly as possible. Oh the calls – the wrangling – the shoutings - the denials – the point blank giving of a lie, & the squally hearty & loud return of the compliment – with which the various modulation of screaming at the bent of their voice, of crying and of laughing – all made such a discordant compound, that no human being could analyse.

The market (I mean the articles brought for sale) was really excellent. Plenty of fruit and most excellent vegetables, with other things, which the industry or ingenuity of the negroes had enabled them to exhibit.

As soon as the bell commenced its solemn tones, the crowd began rapidly to disperse and in very short time a few only were left, who preferred remaining idle & chatting to attending any place of public worship. Of course they dared not dispose of any thing. Most of those who had gone, I have no doubt went to Church or Meeting – for they were clean and dressed in their best. As soon as service was over, the Market was again a scene of bustle & clamour.

Here a very serious question might be started, and various opinion on it might be expressed. Is it right or proper to allow markets to be held on a Sunday or not? Some will hold that it is since they make it out to be a matter of necessity and urge it home upon you, that there is no interference with the hours of worship & that those slaves so inclined may attend. Others again, & self among the number, highly reprobate the practice altogether, as an open violation of an express commandment to keep the Sabbath holy – a commandment the violation of which no plea of such a nature as is in the present instance advanced, can justify. Besides let us consider, that even if those engaged in buying or selling should go to church, how very probable it is that their thoughts will be preoccupied & wander far from the consideration of their Redeemer's love for them, or the moral and Christian duties, which the Preacher is endeavouring to inculcate, to far other and more worldly considerations such as the hope of making a good thing of their fruits & vegetables after church – or the pleasing contemplation of their morning's successful traffic – or perchance the distracting idea, that they are likely to go home to the country without their object.

I hope and trust that under the new order of things about to be established under the superintendence of Government, that the Sabbath will not be thus desecrated, but devoted entirely to the true design of its institution.

Dominica

Having stopped so long at the market, let us step into some house, where we can find shelter from the scorching sun, and something to moisten our parched lips. Here you boy, can you tell us where there is a Hotel - no answer, for he did not understand the term – a Inn then – still no answer, for all the names we used seemed equally unintelligible. At last, can you tell us, where we get something to drink – some wine or brandy. Oh yes massa replied he with alacrity, for we had touched the right chord –

of yes masse, me shew you – dis away, leading towards a shop thro' which we passed, up stairs into a very decent and comfortable apartment. Brandy & lemonade were severally called for and brought – and there we sat for near an hour, inhaling the cooling breeze at the open window, and pitying those, who were standing or walking in the eye of the sun. When we thought it time to proceed for the Mail, we sallied forth to melt & faint – to puff and pant, in the direction of the Post Master's. There we had to remain for a quarter of an hour, nor murmured we at the delay – for altho' short was the distance we had traversed, we were again [glad] to seat ourselves and take our rest. As soon as the Mail was ready, we gladly turned our steps towards the beach, and from thence went immediately on board, with a firm resolution to visit the town of Roseau no more that day. I was never more sensible of the comfort & coolness of our old *Duke* than on this day – which I think to my feelings has felt the hottest I have yet experienced.

All hands were busy on board in hoisting in the water casks, which were filled by blacks from a small river quite close to us. Water with us is an object of the first necessity & importance – and in this island it is that the Packets generally water.

We came on board at half past one P.M. and [did] not again visit the shore. I had abundance of time to contemplate the features of the country before us.

The town of Roseau is situated in a small indentation. Immediately behind it, and all around, are hills or rather mountains of very considerable height. To your right extremity, as you face the Town, is something that look like a rocky Island – but is in reality a point on high land, on which is a flag staff. It is called Scott's head. To your left is a line of mountains high & abrupt - & covered with wood.

The chief production of Dominique is coffee, and indeed nothing could be more lovely than the extensive coffee plantations on the dexter side & behind the town. In comparison a large sugar plantation right opposite our anchorage sinks into insignificance. The beautiful colour of the coffee plant & the mode in which the fields are divided – quite enchanted me. We were told that if no hurricane or gale occurred for three or four weeks, the quantity of coffee would be astonishingly great.

At 5 P.M. we finished watering – and the poor blacks (who spoke French and English) were glad of the end of their labours. At 7 P.M. we weighed anchor; & set all sail for Guadeloupe. The wind however was exceedingly light and we made but little way during the night.

Sharks – Guadeloupe

Monday 26 August – nearly a calm all last night. We are still close to Dominique. The Island of Guadeloupe is in sight but indistinctly seen. The weather was lovely, with a cloudless sky and clear blue waves. The land of Dominique, as we see it now is as irregular as the other parts we have seen, but its masses of elevated land appear to be here of greater altitude.

During the whole morning we made but very little progress, and became impatient for a more stirring breeze. At 2.30 P.M. the wind sprung up fresh and favourable, and on we bounded thro' the smooth water, in which several sharks were seen, attracted by the vessel, and perhaps the smell of meat. The monotony of our progress was greatly broken by the sport afforded us. Three of them we caught – huge monsters they were, whose agonies & flappings when on deck were matters of laughter & amusement to us all. One of them, the largest in point of size, was so

voracious, that altho' he escaped three times after being hooked, he yet a fourth time swallowed the bait & was captured.

Approach Guadeloupe

At 3 when I looked around, I saw very plainly Martinique – Dominique – and Guadeloupe. As we approached closer to the latter, the first object which attracted our attention was a cluster of Islands called *Les Saintes* or the Saints, because they were discovered on Saint day. Close to these, but a little beyond is the Island of Guadeloupe. The Saints are an assemblage of small Islands, of different shapes and altitudes, with one in particular higher than the rest, round which the others appear like hummocks. They are inhabited, but they are very unproductive.

The Island of Guadeloupe, at the end we are nearing does not appear so rugged, broken or precipitous as the others we have seen. Large patches of level and highly cultivated land, and longer slopes were visible. The extreme point on the right is low, then gradually shooting up into a conical shape hill, which standing apart becomes a remarkable object to look at. Nearer and nearer we approached – passed the Saints and saw the passage between them and Guadeloupe. When opposite this passage, we saw the low Island of Marie Galante, so that we had in view at the same time Dominique, the Saints, Mari Galante & Guadeloupe.

We are now sailing along Guadeloupe silently and pleasantly, under the influence of a gentle breeze. Near us is a succession of long unequal ridges, resembling the undulating waves of the sea. Behind these there appears to be a broad and deep valley, the opposite side of which is formed by another ridge of greater altitude and boldness. Many pretty patches of cultivated lane are on the lowlands near the shore, on the slopes of the first mentioned ridges – nor are there wanting the Great houses of the Planter, & the humble buildings of the field negroes. As you gradually approach the Town of Basse Terre the scene is, if possible more beautiful. Houses and land cultivated high up the hills occupy every point of the prospect, till at last you come opposite the Town.

Nothing vexed me more than we should have been so unfortunate as to arrive at night-fall. We had just enough [light] to perceive that the Town was situated close to the water's edge, that the houses indeed were erected so close to it, that [there] was no beach. The scene above the Town was eminently beautiful. Apparently a vast extent of level ground, highly cultivated was hemmed in by mountains, whose woody tops & irregular forms were an additional beauty in the picture.

At 6.40 P.M. I accompanied the Master, passenger & A. Snell with the Mail. By the time we landed an envious darkness shrouded every thing from our view. All that we could say was, that Basse Terre is greatly inferior to S.^t Pierre – that its streets are excellently paved – that streams of crystal water poured down its streets – that it possesses a long promenade, in an avenue of trees – that some of the shops we saw open were handsomely tricked out – that its gendamerie were very strict – and having said this much, I have told you all that I know of Basse Terre. At 7.30 we proceeded on our return – and on our way set of [off] a blue light to guide our vessel to the place where we were. This light produced a brilliant & beautiful effect. By this saw the Town behind us - & our ship ahead, whilst the faces of one and all of us looked very blue in the glare.

As usual when we reached the old *Duke*, no time was lost in setting sail for our next Port in Antigua – littler wind.

Antigua

Tuesday 27 August – this morning when I made my appearance for the first time on deck, my attention was attracted to several points. On our left was Montserrat far to Leeward – the small Island called *Redonda* or Round - S.^t Nevis and S.^t Kitts or Christopher also to leeward – and right ahead was Antigua, whilst behind was clearly visible the Island we had last left. At a little distance off, Antigua appeared to be a long Island, traversed by a ridge of hills, with here and here cultivated valleys. Down by the shore the country was much more level, and at one period we saw a fine large sandy beach, which recalled certain pleasing recollection of the delights of bathing in good bathing ground. As we approached that extremity where the Town of S.^t John is situated, the hills became more irregular & separate – their forms more defined and diversified. At the extreme point visible to us is a cluster of very small Islands, called the Five Islands – and near to them a tolerably good harbour called Five Islands Harbour, which is semi-circular, with conical hills apart from each other at its entrance, and well cultivated slopes, with only sufficient wood to prove ornamental, shewing themselves in the back ground. A few miles beyond this, we descried a small insubstantial spot, with a mere latch of trees on the surface, and nearly opposite it on the main Island, you behind something that bears a striking resemblance to the stern of a line-of-battle ships. This has accordingly received the appropriate name of Stern Point. Still farther on again than these two objects, is to be descried another small Island apart so that you see the approach to Antigua by night is not at all safe. From 5 Islands Harbour to Stern Point the country is ridgy and of small height, with wood at the summit, and cases of cultivation in the inferior portions.

When you [come] opposite Sandy Island, and to Windward of it, you see at a short distance from you the entrance to S.^t John's Harbour. It is of considerable depth and forms a beautiful Bay. Looking at it from the outside on board, you would discover that the entrance on the right is hilly and woody. Over the Town at the bottom of the Bay the land is not so high but finely sloping and cultivated. Going round the Harbour to the left side of the entrance, the country presents one beautiful slope, rich with sugar and coffee plantations in every part. I know not how it happened – but so it was that the picture before me recalled to my mind such rural scenes as I have met with at home. The fields were neatly divided and there was land turned up – and land in full bearing of every different shade of colour. I had almost forgot to mention that at the entrance on the right a fort and flag staff on a pretty considerably large rocky hill, forms a very pretty object.

Land at S.^t John's Antigua – S.^t John's Harbour

At 1 P.M. we came to anchor at the mouth of the Harbour, as we should otherwise have taken too much time to beat up the wind being right out. Without any difficulty I obtained the Commander's permission to accompany the Master & our passenger on shore, which gave a better opportunity of noting this fine Harbour.

Pulling up the Harbour on the right and left, were hillocks & interstices of cultivated spots, with numerous houses & huts. A good way up, on the left hand, is a large battery, and on the opposite side a hill larger than its neighbour, which form the limits of what appeared to be an outer Harbour. From each of these two points, may be said to commence an Inner Harbour, which is constituted by a magnificent sweep of hill and dale – with villages & plantations - & presenting in different parts every tint of colour, natural or artificial. A fine sandy beach occurred in several parts, and

contrasted well with the adjacent verdure. Here and there the picturesque Cocoa, tall & graceful, with smooth, rounded stem till the near summit, from which hung down the dropping branches, concealing partially from your longing gaze its rich & juicy fruit, adorned the landscape. Nor was there wanting the fruitful banana, with its long, broad, & feathery leaves, and bearing its soft, sweet, and palatable fruit, at once affording nourishment and contributing to the pleasure of the gourmand. Right in the centre of the inner Harbour, a black & barren Island with flag staff, fort & a few ruinous houses upreared its head, and behind it on the mainland, various verdant lawns & flowery meads delighted the eye. A great number of small craft – shore boats – draggers &.^c are perceived lying near the shore in a state of peaceful repose, and adding to the beauty of the whole scene. Behind this Island, or rather to one side of it, lay the Town of S.^t John's. The Town is apparently but not so in reality of very small extent, and above it to the right, is a conspicuous object, standing by itself apart in the shape of a large Church and extensive surrounding burial ground.

S.^t John's Antigua

The roofs of the houses are of a dark colour and probably covered with slabs of wood. To the left of the Town Proper, and close to it is a number of houses, enveloped among cocoa trees and the broad leafed bananas & plantains. In the rear of the Town the land rises gently to a tolerable elevation, on which are perched several genteel and detached houses.

All these observations I made as when we were some little distance from the Town – and but a short time elapsed ere we were close to it, and enabled to see the details and how far they detracted from [or] added to the opinion we had formed of the place from the general view.

The houses are built close to the water and consist principally of warehouses & stores – with large back yards. These were of large size and of excellent construction. For the convenience of landing or discharging goods, most of these warehouses had large substantial wharfs attached to them, raised on piles of stakes driven firm into the mud, & then covered over with boards.

S.^t John's is a place of great trade & its exports and imports are proportionately extensive. Hence we see these stores so large & convenient, and every resource had recourse to to facilitate the interests of trade. These wharfs project out very unequally and hence the approach of the shore is also unequal. At one of them we landed, belonging to the Post Master, and from thence passed up a large yard, when we reached the Office, and there deposited our Mails. This done we were at liberty to take a stroll for an hour or two, of which we gladly availed ourselves. We passed up this street, and down that – turned off to the right, then to the left, until in this way we had seen a considerable portion of the Town. It [sic] know not how to describe it, so as to give you any thing like a correct notion of it. It is extremely irregular. Every man in building has followed his own fancy and his own notions of elegance and convenience. Very many of the houses are detached from each other, only connected by an ugly wooden boarding behind which is a garden or yard. That [there] are some, nay many large & elegant dwellings, I do not deny, but the effect of the whole is patchy & mean. Remember I speak comparatively, having in my minds eye, our ain touns – I must not forget to mention most particularly the Court House. It is a very handsome & elegant erection, of hewn stone, and would be an ornament in any Capital in Europe. The style of Architecture of extremely simple & fine, and the execution, for aught I know to the contrary, faultless.

Church at Antigua

The streets, as is usual in purely English Towns in the West Indies deserves that little should be said in their praise. They are very quiet – and this being the idle period, there is no appearance of bustle or business. I am told, however, that in the sugar months the whole town presents a very different aspect – that every person is fully occupied, and the streets full of liveliness and bustle.

When we were walking up the acclivity of the main street; we came close upon the church I have alluded to as seen conspicuously from the Harbour. This we determined to inspect more closely. To do this, we were to leap over the wall, the gates being locked, and this I felt no hesitation in doing, as we were no body snatchers, but on the contrary were influenced by the most laudable motives. The feat besides was not a difficult one, as the wall was low. We entered, at the back of the church, between which and the wall, but a narrow space intervened. In order to get a good notion of it, we circumnavigated the whole. It is of considerable size and built in the shape of a cross. The material is brick of a dull red, and the general aspect is venerable if not imposing. In front is a large door to which you ascend by a broad flight of steps – and from these steps to the iron gate by which you enter, is a beautifully clean, broad, & compact foot path also of bricks.

Reflections on Church Yard at Antigua

All around numerous simple and elegant monuments of marble & stone record the past existence of their various occupants of their various occupants. Poetry & prose are equally rife as with us. The language of panagoric, often inflated and bombastical is to be read by the side of simple names & dates, and the short but sincere and impressive record of regret and affection paid to departed worth. I know not how it was, but my mind was deeply impressed with awe, as I gazed around me, and considered how frail & uncertain is the life of man in all climates. I have entered many burial grounds at home without having reflection or retrospection aroused – but here I believe, that the consideration of my being in a foreign clime, and gazing on such a mournful scene, while all nature smiled around me, and the sun was careering thro' a cloudless sky, stirred up a train of thought at once pleasing & sad. I fancied to myself, how many of those who reposed around me, till the awful trump shall rouse them from their slumber, had perhaps drawn first breath in my native land – how many had left their homes in the gladsome days of youth, and come out here full of health and happy in the hope, never, never to be realized, that at no very distant period they would return rich, to spend their remainder of their days in the bosom of their relations, and have their eyes by the kind hand of affection. How many, thought, I have hopes & thoughts thus and have been cut off in the prime of their days – and how many having found their hopes delusive of the speedy acquirement of wealth have dried broken hearted – and how many have been so long in obtaining a competency, that death has cut them down in their harvest of their life, whilst they were proposing after another year, or month, or week to consummate their long cherished wishes. Alas for the uncertainty of this temporary existence. An inspection of many of the inscriptions on the stones led me that many, indeed by far the greatest proportion had quitted the stages, when hope was still young, and youth promised them many pleasures yet to come. Absorbed in reflection, I pictured to myself all these several cases – and my heart saddened at the view – till the reflection came to

my comfort, that all is for the best, and a man is no farther distant from the Kingdom of Heaven here, than at home. Religion alone can dispel the gloom which deepens ere a death-bed away from native hills, and dearest ties – and points out that place, where the spirits of friends & relatives, if found worthy, should be reunited – never again to the separated.

While we were in the sacred place, few words passed between us – the influence of the scene being more or less felt by us all. I cannot but say however, that we all observed with expressions of regret that several pigs and poultry were here and there seeking a livelihood wherever they could find it. The pigs turning up the ground, and the poultry picking eagerly up, whatever came into view.

Half an hour or more was spent by us, not unprofitably I hope, when having satisfied our curiosity, we bid adieu to the solemnising scene, and made our exit by the same we had entered. Our departure was followed by the lightening of the loads which depressed our spirits – and it was resolved *nem. con.* that we should visit the works of a sugar plantation situated on a considerable eminence, from which also, we could have the most extensive views of the Town and surrounding scenery.

Walks about S.^t John's

Taking our way thro' a lane, on each side of which were many separate houses belonging to whites and blacks, when we reached the top, we had a fine view of a fine level country with hills in the background, and partly cultivated, partly not & intersected with numerous & excellent roads. At this point also, we found ourselves at the foot of the eminence, on which the works were built. By a tolerable road, we wound round it, at every moment remarking on the smooth verdant grass – the straggling sheep & wandering goats, & ox – claiming, how like this is to our country. At last without much fatigue, we reached the level on which were the houses & works.

Visit to the plantation in Antigua

I can compare them in their appearance with nothing but a farmstead in Scotland, only baring that we saw no haystacks or ploughs. The attorneys house, large & comfortable might represent the Master's dwelling, while all around, in the form of a square were houses applied to different purpose – offices, dwellings for the house servants & store-rooms. At a very short distance from these was the crushing house, rising in the shape of a cone, and in the crop season, having wings at the top moved by the wind, in short a wind-mill.



At present these wings were taken off and were lying on the ground. Entering in the interior we saw several blacks engaged in making some repairs. They were very civil to us – pointed out the iron rollers which crushed the cane, & pointed out also the pipes which conveyed the juice from the crush house to the boiling houses, which were some depth below. These boiling houses, which were very large, and were furnished with immensely high chimney, thro' which at the busy season, clouds of black smoke issue into the air. Having satisfied our curiosity, and paid our fee for information, we had a long chat with the negroes. They shewed much shrewdness in their remarks, & many traits of original thinking. One of them, the principal spokesman, knowing by our uniform that we belonged to the Packet, anxiously inquired, if we had brought them any good news – alluding of course to the Emancipation Bill – and they all seemed much disappointed that the matter was not yet finally settled, and that the period of their freedom was not yet so near as they had fondly imagined. From what I could gather from their conversations, their ideas of the blessed state they are about to enter upon are quite Utopian – but more on this subject anon when we reach the end of this week.

After leaving the man and the works, ~~we took a view~~ our attention was directed to the prospect around us. It was indeed beautiful. The town, the Harbours the varied scenery, extensive & diversified, all & each came successively in for a share of our admiration. Now it was, that we could accurately note the size of the Town which appeared to be four or five times larger than I had at first supposed. At least the area over which it was spread would answer to this account tho' perhaps the number of houses might not be so great – for many of them had vacant pieces of ground around them planted with trees. In my opinion this is the prettiest view you can have of a West Indian town – to look down upon it from a height, and not continuous succession of houses but apparently separated by lofty and ever verdant trees.

Negro Huts &.^c

Our next object was to pay a visit to the negroe huts, which lay on the slope of the eminence on which we were. They were here all built of stone substantial – their roofs thatched with the Palmetto straw. All the houses were shut up & the windows closed [which] disappointed & still exciting our curiosity to see their interior of one. At last we fell in with a very dark old black, who very politely at our request opened the door of his dwelling to us. It was divided into two parts, the kitchen & bedroom. In the former was one chair, and a large well made wooden sofa, or bench with a back to it – a good table – sufficient crockery - & in short every thing wanted to contribute to the old mans comfort. I was much pleased with the air of smugness and neatness, which reigned throughout. I was told that the huts were built by the negroes themselves, but that the Materials were furnished by the Masters. Behind most of them was a small plot of ground, which they cultivated for their own at leisure hours.

Leave Antigua

The distance we had walked to day would be accounted as nothing to brag of at home, but the whole case is changed when you are pacing it along under a broiling sun, and many would make it their boast that they could walk so far. We were now weary – thirsty – and wet thro' with perspiration – so that the very first proposal to set out on our return met with not a single differential voice. Our rout back was by a different way than that by which we had come, viz. down the slope, & thro' the fields, till we

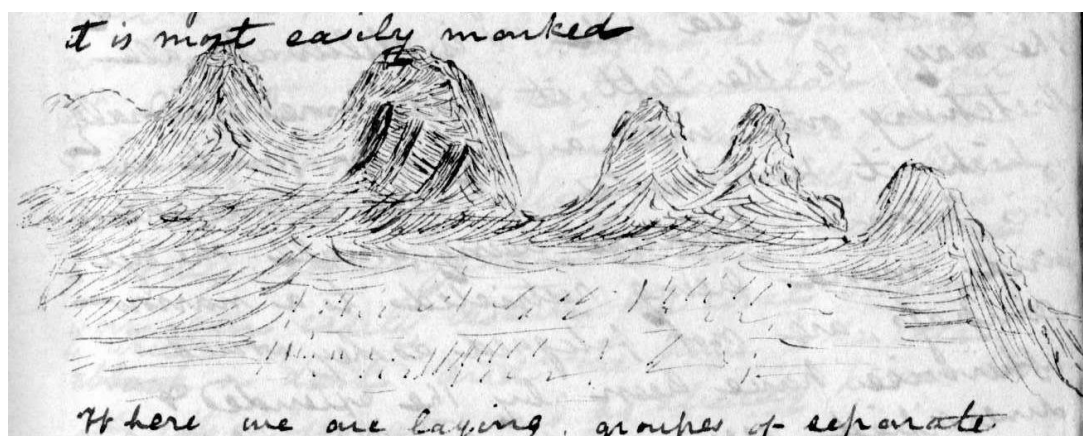
got into the main road leading to the Town. If the country was felt to be oppressive – still it was comparative luxury to the close streets. Thro' we hastened on with speed, hardly looking to the right or left – and the only deviation I made was that we passed many decent & well stored shops, in which were blacks and mulattoes.

Tho' we had been so long away, the Mail was not ready for us – and we had to wait another half hour. At 5.30 P.M. we left the shore to return on board, and after a long & severe pull, we came alongside, just before the approach of a heavy squall, which would have drenched us completely.

As usual we made immediate preparations for departure – weighed anchor – set & sail for Montserrat with a light favourable breeze. The distance being only thirty two [miles] or thereabouts, we shortened sail during the night, not wishing to arrive before next morning.

Reach Montserrat

Wednesday 28th August – at 6 this morning we were opposite the Town, called Plymouth, in Montserrat. The Master went on shore with the Mail, but being too lazy and consequently too late, I had not the pleasure of seeing the Town. I don't think however, there was much to regret. It appeared from on board to be of such inconsiderable extent, that I should never have recognised, without being told, the existence of a place, having pretensions to the name of a town. A few houses, small & straggling, peering out from among the trees are alone to be seen – *sed sedfue sub judice lis est*. The town of Montserrat on its derivation, signifies a mountain serrated like a saw – and the fancied resemblance is not inappropriately recognised as some say. Many men, many minds i.e. different notions are entertained by different persons. If I had been asked what was the most natural resemblance I should have been puzzled what to say. I might have suggested something very different, but when once any one had started the idea of a saw, I should have agreed with him. In certain positions, when I have seen it in passing it before, I fancied the likeness was very considerable – but when you are pretty close to it, fronting the Town, it is most easily marked.



The saw-tooth hills of Montserrat

Where we are laying, groups of separate hills, irregular in form, yet pretty regular in succession stretch from one end of the island to the other – and from their perfect distinctness, form a scene quite novel to us & totally different from

indiscriminate mass of those of the other islands. The slopes behind & above the Town, (which is close to water's edge) well cultivated.

The Island of Nevis

At 7.30 A.M. we left Montserrat for the next port in Nevis. The breeze was Moderate and favourable – and the distance to be run not great. Between the two islands is a small desert island, barren & uninhabited, of a round shape, resembling very much a haycock – a stack. This is called Redonda or Round. It attracted only a passing glance, all our thought being directed to Nevis. On approaching it it seemed to rise up in one large conical shaped hill, with one or two smaller ones near it – but at a distance, and seen in a different position, as when we saw it in passing from Guadeloupe to Antigua. It bore the resemblance of a saddle. From this central conical hill, the land to the right sloped rapidly down to the sea side & is alitterated [?] all the way. To the left it slopes more gradually, stretching out into a long low point, in which it terminates. I liked to contemplate this island, because being small, the eye and mind being restricted to a narrow compass, are not fatigued, as they would otherwise have been by the extended & diversified scenery of the larger islands – which defy all the powers of description to give any thing like an adequate idea of the original. The capabilities of the painters art alone can prove efficient to depict the nature, appearances & peculiarities of such irregular scenery. Another circumstance so much against me is the very limited time which our regulations allow for the contemplation of the beauties of nature - & besides so many other objects distract our attention, either of business or pleasure, that really it is not to be wondered at, if our perceptions are blunted or confused. But all this is a digression – to return.

Beyond this low point I have just mentioned, the land again rises high, running along of an equal height to a considerable extent. A stranger, such as I was, might fancy that this was a continuation or another portion of Nevis – for he sees no division – but the experienced Navigator knows this to be in reality another island, viz. that of S.^t Kitts, which is only a few miles distant from Nevis. Another deception still takes place in judging of the objects within your ken. Beyond, as you fancy, S.^t Kitts, two hills of very dissimilar height arise, supposed by you to be two islands – but in fact they belong to S.^t Kitts. Near to Nevis, looking over the sides of the vessel, you can easily discern the coral bottom, white or dark, and the same is the case off Montserrat, and as [you] already know at Bermuda.

Sailing pleasantly along the azure deep, invigorated by a fine breeze & beautiful [weather], and enchanted with the objects around us – we gradually neared the said low point or tongue of land, a short distance from which is Charlestown the Capital of Nevis. Now S.^t Kitts comes more & more into view. It seems a long & narrow island, full of irregular hills, with two or three pre-eminent above the rest. At last as we were abreast of the low point, you saw plainly the channel between Nevis & S.^t Kitts, called the Narrows and Charlestown. The town is situated at the very foot of a conical hill, along the sea beach. It is small, mean & paltry looking – but remember I had no time to correct this probably erroneous judgement, formed from a very superficial view, from the Vessel, outside. To the right extremity of it is a pretty clump of trees, arranged in a circle. At the left end began a narrow line of trees which is continued for a considerable distance.

Immediately behind the town are trees also. These are ornaments to be commemorated, when little else presents itself deserving of admiration. From half

way up the hill, down to the waters edge, you have houses & plantations in abundance.

Land at Nevis - M.^r Bawrin

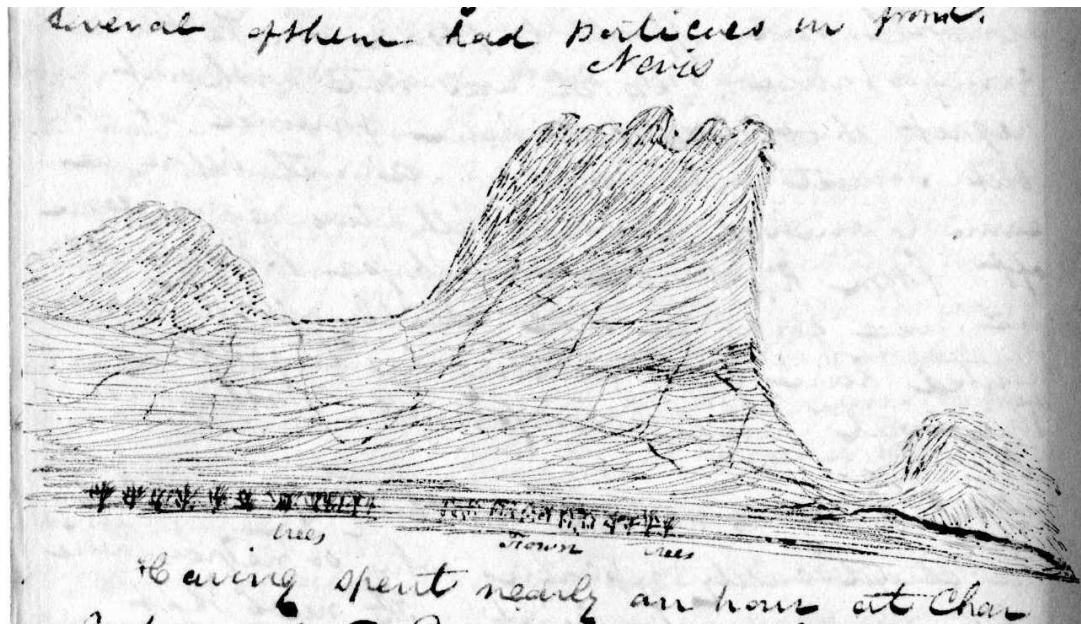
We looked on the scene with contentment and calmness – not so one of our party, who designed to land here. This was our only passenger from England. His name M.^r Peter Bawrin. He was a young man about 19 to 20 years of age – tall, pale & rather delicate. His father had at his death left him a considerable property in Nevis, which had been managed by an Agent, who gave so little satisfaction, that it was deemed advisable that the young man himself should come out & look after his own interest. From all I heard I should think he would [find] it a difficult matter to arrange affairs – but not so difficult as for another – for he had served nearly three years as a lawyer at Portsmouth, where he usually resided. His is one of the many instances, in which is exemplified the depreciation of colonial property – for if he should offer his estate for sale, he either would not find a purchaser, or only on such terms as would amount to an actual throwing away of his property.

M.^r Bawrin, is of very respectable family – his grandfather is a Capt.ⁿ Gorley⁷ at Portsmouth, and he has an uncle called Butler [Buller ?] at Nevis a very old planter. He spent several years at the schools in France, chiefly in Tours. We were all much pleased with him, and during the whole voyage, he was like one of us. His manners were gentlemanly and mild – his conversation plain & unaffected, without pretension to learning or pedantry. He seemed equally pleased with us, and abundantly contented with our efforts to please & make him comfortable. So it was not without regret that we bid him farewell at Nevis, but I must [not] anticipate. Almost before we came to anchor a boat with two negroes came off from his uncle for Massa Bawring. As we were going on shore shortly, M.^r B. contented him with sending his luggage by this boat, and accompanied us ashore in our gig.

Land at & leaves Nevis and S.^t Kitts

Knowing as we did something of M.^r B's history, we could easily explain, why so many negroes were assembled on the beach. The news that a young Massa was coming for first time to Nevis spread abroad & great numbers were collected, some from curiosity & others from the wish to gain favour. As soon as we touched the ground with our gig, all the negroes emulously hauled her up on the beach, while one or two thought themselves highly fortunate in assisting M.^r Bawrin out. There was plenty of noise & clatter – remarks were lauded about, and questions asked at us if he was a good Massa. In the midst of the hubbub an old Gentleman approached, & uncle & nephew introduced themselves to each other, never having met before. We accompanied them to the house of the former, & had a glass of good old rum, after which we said farewell to M.^r Bawrin, and went for the Mail. I saw but little of Charleston, and saw nothing to make me alter my former opinion of it. There were large houses & small houses & houses of every description, but the number was not great. To most of the dwellings you had to ascend by an outside stair - & several of them had porticoes in front.

⁷ Capt. John Gourly ?



Having spent nearly an hour at Charleston, at 6 P.M. we returned on board and set sail over to S.^t Kitts, intending to land the Mail tonight. The breeze was moderate and favourable, but owing to the darkness, I am unable to tell you any thing with certainty. In less than two hours we lay too & I accompanied the Master with the Mails. Two gentlemen, whose names I know not, & whom we took on board at Nevis, went with us. We seemed to pull up an excellent harbour, and landed on a sandy beach. The Mail being delivered, by the aid of moonlight we traversed the streets. The town seemed to be large & populous – but I had better say nothing than too little & that perhaps erroneous. At 10 P.M. we returned on board and immediately got under weigh for Tortola.

Progress from S.^t Kitts to Tortola

Thursday 29th August – light winds all night. In sight this morning of Nevis – S.^t Kitts – Montserrat – Eustatia – and in the distance are visible the islands of Saba - S.^t Bartholemew & S.^t Martins. When I came upon deck, we were abreast of Eustatia, a Dutch island. This at first glance I mistook for Nevis – but I soon perceived a difference. The island is divided into two unequal portions of very different characters. One portion resembles Nevis in this that it has one large conical hill, which to our left slopes down to the lowlands – but has this difference that the right does not slope as at Nevis. This is the cultivated portion and right under it is the Town. The other part is nothing but a collection of rocks & hills with no evident declivity & I should fancy barren.

Our present position also enables us to see the NW end of S.^t Kitts. The appearance is beautiful. From the high hill I mentioned to be at its extremity, a fine bold slope terminates in lowland on the sea shore. We cannot at this distance see any plantations – but I was told that it was highly cultivated.

Our course next led us to pass pretty close to Saba. It is very small and rocky with a high hill in the centre.

The weather all day was very fine and the breeze favourable but light. We had expected to have reached Tortola today, but owing to want of wind we were unable to accomplish our intended purpose.

Virgin Islands

Friday 30th August – this morning the first objects which presented themselves to my view were the Virgin Islands. Their forms and appearances were as diversified as their numbers, which was great. Some were of considerable extent and high – others were small, mere rocks, and almost level with the water. Among them is one, more remarkable than the rest; and serves as an excellent mark for the Navigator. At a distance it resembles a city in ruins, but when you are close upon it you perceive that it consists of nothing but stones on stones irregularly piled. This is called Jerusalem in Ruins.

Again being so close, when I came upon deck, to the islands I did not see the separations or channels between the different islands – so that the whole seemed an extensive mainland. Numerous indentations are formed by the curvature of the various islands and islets. Some of the Virgins are cultivated and inhabited, tho' but a very few, - the rest are barren and deserted. Immense numbers of sea birds hover around them. As we proceeded onwards we passed between two islands, which formed one entrance to the circle, and when beyond these, we found ourselves in a very extensive and secure basin, formed by these islands. Among these we had no difficulty in recognising the one to which we [were] bound from its superior magnitude & height. In less than an hour, we came to anchor off the Town & at some distance. The Town is called [?] Road Town and is situated a little to the left of a small Bay, formed by a semi-circle of rather high hills, thereby covered with wood up to their summits. The town is built at the very foot of the hills, which rise immediately and abruptly up behind it. The very small portion there is of level ground, all around the Bay, is studded with houses small & great – and likewise at different points up the hill houses & negro huts are perched, which with their small plots of cultivated land impart a very pretty effect to the scenery. Along the sides of the various hills are plantations.

Land at Tortola

Such were the objects & such the impressions we received when we came to anchor. At 10 A.M. the Master went on shore with the Mails & I as usual accompanied him. Having delivered our despatches, we went about to spy the nakedness of the land. *Road Town* is the most miserable concern I have yet seen any where. It consists of a very limited number of houses – very few of them of respectable appearance, while the majority are low mean wooden sheds hardly worthy of the name of town dwellings. Indeed this part of the Bay is dignified with the name of Town [*Bay_rchin*] simply because there are here more & better houses than in any other part of the Bay. And yet this as well as all other towns has its President, law courts & most of the paraphernalia of office which might more exclusively belong to larger communities. If I mistake [not], it is a dependency of S.^t Kitts, whose House of Assembly legislates for Tortola as well as for themselves.

Leave Tortola – Arrive at S.^t Thomas

At 11.35 A.M. we returned on board, and immediately set sail for the island of S.^t Thomas, the *Ultima Thule* of our expedition. Our exit from the circle of islands was

by a very narrow channel between two of them, almost opposite to the Bay of Tortola, where the land terminated to our left, but we had a continuation of the islands to our right for some way farther. Far to leeward, several small islands are visible.

During our progress we experienced several severe squalls with rain & dense atmosphere so that we could not see S.^t Thomas, till all at once the atmosphere being cleared by a squall of unusual violence, we saw ourselves close to S.^t Thomas.

At 4.30 P.M. we came to anchor near the town, and looked forward to the enjoyment of 7 or 8 days here, or perhaps more. That you may better understand my expectations, I should tell you that the Packet never leave S.^t Thomas for England, until the Mail boat from Barbadoes, which would set out thence, eight days after us, arrive with the answers to the letters we brought. According then to the length of her passage to S.^t Thomas is our stay there. If she has fresh breezes, she will be here soon, if light our sojourn here will consequently be longer.

As soon as we were safely anchored, the Master and I went on shore, and there saw, as the Welchman says, what we did see. I propose shortly to speak more particularly respecting S.^t Thomas – and therefore for the present shall be silent.

Saturday 31st August – very squally weather with occasional heavy showers. Did not go to town to consequence [sic] in consequence of the weather but land on an island near us.

End of VIth week

VI Hebdomadal Period - This has been a very busy week with us, and as you perceive we have done a good deal. I know not when the same space of time has passed so rapidly. Expectation and curiosity were always lively – for something new awaited us every day. When however I ask myself the question, am I quite satisfied with what I have seen? I am forced to answer no. And why? Because you have no time allowed you to enjoy the beauties of nature – to visit the country or enjoy the pleasures of society in the town. We have been like persons in the situation of Tantalus, the cup of pleasure has been held close to our lips, but when we try to quaff it, the appointed time of our departure is come, & we must leave it untested. In short nothing can be more unsatisfactory than our glance at the islands – and the matter is rendered the more provoking, when we learn that such & such a place is beautiful – and that such & such an object of curiosity is to be seen, *only* a few miles out of town. We had several invitations but could not accept them – and hopes were expressed (I suppose ironically) that the next time we came we would have more leisure, vain hopes of leisure never to be realised.

I was delighted with the various islands, and used to compare & contrast them together. I considered the ruggedness & abruptness of some with the comparative evenness of others. Thus Barbadoes – Tortola & others differed altogether [from] Lucie, Martinique & Guadeloupe. I am inclined to think that there exists some good reasons for the difference. Query is this to be found in the nature of their formation, whether volcanic or coraline. Those of volcanic origin, as may naturally be fancied would be rough & irregular as these islands I have mentioned – in all of which there are craters of volcanoes, either now extinct, or still in activity. There again those whose structure is of coral are more even & smooth, with abundant appearances of that substance – as Montserrat - Nevis - &.^c

It would be useless to speculate on this subject when one has so little information or so few data on which to ground conclusions respecting it – therefore I shall drop it & proceed to something else.

Slaves – Emancipation

It was expected, throughout the whole of the islands, that we would have brought the intelligence of the measures resolved on by parliament as to emancipation of slaves & the indemnification to the Masters. Hence wherever we landed, we were eagerly questioned by both descriptions of characters. The Masters were anxious now only to know how much they might expect for their property in slaves - & whether Government had decided to pay them the value per capita generally, or to each island in proportion to its imports & exports.

The poor slave again regarded none of these things – but [that] he asked questions as much as the others shewed, how he looked solely after his own interest. It was with them have you brought us “The Good News,” and when I asked them to explain to me in what respect they would be benefit[ed] by the alteration, I received many different responses. Very few indeed whom I saw & spoke with seemed to be aware of the dignity of freedom, or the disgrace of slavery – but some there were. The rest were clamorous for freedom, because they connected with the enjoyment of it, the power of pursuing their own inclinations uncontrolled – of living in idleness – of dancing & of enjoying. Their narrow minds cannot admit the idea, that tho’ freed from their Masters, they must work for the Government – that they must be as orderly and obedient as they are now, or subject themselves to punishment. Nor is this to be wondered at since a similar infatuation respecting the objects of liberty has pervaded the minds of more enlightened whites. The cry of liberty has been raised by those who could not tell what they meant by it – and to obtain it, the most outrageous acts of cruelty have been committed.

Some of the slaves I entered into conversation with were perfectly indifferent to the alternative of freedom or slavery – persons indolent & inactive in their disposition & perceptive faculties – who hated the trouble of thinking & were contented to do as they were bid by others.

Another class of slaves yet remain to be mentioned. These are those who refuse to be emancipated, and prefer the mild paternal government of a good master, who provides for them in health & sickness – in youth & in old age. The number of these is I believe comparatively small but still their conduct is very peculiar.

Now, my dear Mother, since matters respecting emancipation have proceeded so far, that the act must be carried into execution, I am sincerely glad, that the name of slave will be forever abolished by us. This acknowledgement I make, lest from the tenor of some of my previous epistles you should imagine, that I was a bigoted advocate for slavery – whereas my sentiments only went so far as to question the propriety of immediate emancipation, tho’ never of a gradual & ultimate emancipation.. How the system will work no man can positively say – but in this we all unanimously join in praying, for, that we may never have occasion to repent or to pursue a war of extermination on those who are by our country & Christian Philosophy, presented with the gift of freedom & the means of advancing in intelligence & civilization.

Sunday 1st Sept.^r – very squally weather with occasional showers. On board all day.

Monday 2^d – variable weather – went on shore – got drenched with rain – felt unwell.

Tuesday 3^d - confined from indisposition; constant rain – squally weather.

Wednesday 4th – still unwell – constant rain – squally weather.

Thursday 5th – better to day – went on shore for a short time – frequent showers with squalls.

Friday 6th – rain all day – little wind – anxiously looking for the Mail boat – but no appearance of her.

Harbour of S.^t Thomas

Saturday 7th – this being the last day of our stay at S.^t Thomas for the Mail Boat has at length arrived, it becomes in pursuance of the rule I have laid down for myself, to say something of the town & the surrounding objects. I am sorry that my indisposition and the dreadful state of the weather will prevent me from giving you so many particulars as I would otherwise have done.

I shall begin with the Harbour as of primary importance as containing in its bosom the town.

The Harbour of S.^t Thomas is a remarkably fine one. Rio on a very small scale. Enter with us – pass thro' a narrow access commanded by forts on either side, and you find yourself in a pretty large basin, of a shape approaching to the circular – and you that [see] the deviations from the circle, are gentle sweeps, curves, or recedings of the line of shore, forming snug births for vessels anchoring during the hurricane months.

Right opposite you as you enter stands the clean and picturesque town of S.^t Thomas, but before saying any thing of the town, I shall take you round the Harbour. On your right is a conical shaped mountain of considerable height, on one of the lower slopes of which is a house & flag-staff. This (the house) attracts your attention because it stands by itself. Then this mountain at its horizontal boundary runs down into a hollow, when the lands again ascends, and constitutes a regular chain, or rather an almost unbroken line of pretty high hill, which encircles [a] good two thirds of the Harbour. The rest of the Harbour, coming round to the left entrance is formed by an island of much less elevated ground than the rest, which curving considerably, affords excellent anchorage during the hurricane season. Most of the hills are abundantly covered with wood. I should rather say brushwood, for I saw no large timber. In the curve of the small island forming the left side of harbour, is what is called the Dock, where the ships of war belonging to his Danish Majesty are repaired. It is perfectly insignificant in appearance & extent, & seldom if ever used. Here the Packets also are permitted to anchor, but none of the merchantmen - & here then we lay for 8 days, very close in [to] the shore of the little island. Twice I went on shore – which occupied only five minutes in doing – and found only narrow footpaths amongst trees, shrubs & creeping plants. I enjoyed myself much there – rambled about with the eager curiosity of a child let loose from school – here pulled a beautiful flower – there cut down a branch of some unknown tree - & occasionally plucked some unknown fruit. With these occupations I spent on shore an hour or two, forgetful of the lapse of time. My hands during that time full & empty several times - for every step I took I saw some flower more beautiful than any I had yet seen, or some plant more, & in order to

secure the more valuable, I threw away those, which had now no longer any charm in my eyes. As you may easily guess, I ended at last in bringing back nothing.

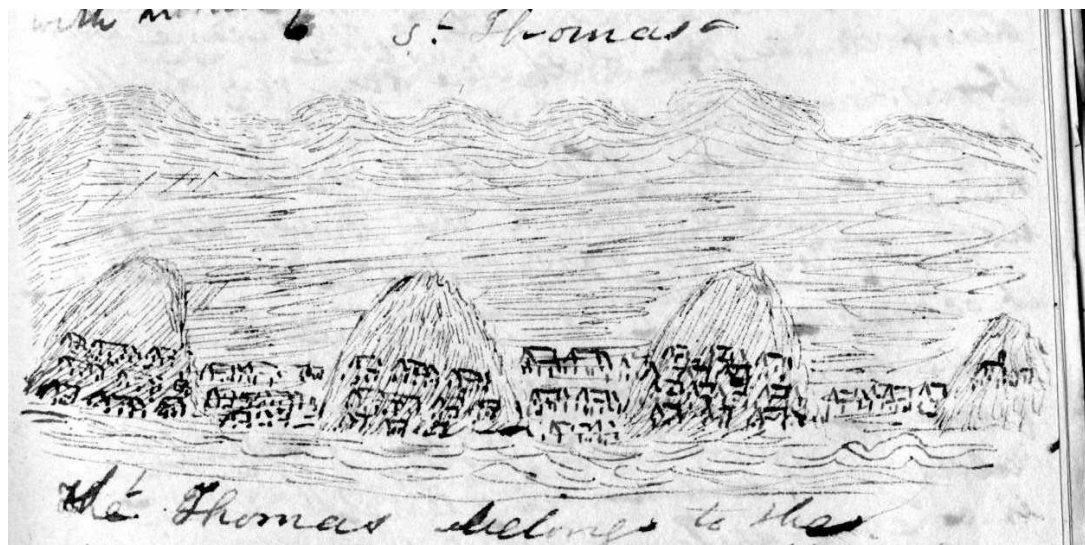
S.^t Thomas

But I am forgetting the description of the town, the remembrance of which will not so soon be forgotten. From the continuous range of hill I have mentioned, on the lower part, of it, there descends four prominences or excrescences, a short distance apart from each other, with considerable hollows between. On the one to the extreme right, as you face the town, there is a large house, with a tower, and flagstaff. On the other, three, part of the town is built. The hollows between these excrescences is also occupied with houses, & connected there on the hillocks into one uniform appearance. The houses are clean looking & white at a distance with red coloured roofs, which resemble tiles. At the top of the middle of the three little hills, one house is conspicuous for size & elegance - & at first I imagined it might be the Governor's palace, but I was told it belonged to the Chief Justice.

I was on shore several times. We landed at a large open space with every facility. Close to this was a large fort, well garrisoned [sic] & mounted with many cannon. From this open space, the main street diverged to the right and to the left, and first attracted our notice. We walked along its whole length, which is considerable, & peered about with great curiosity. It was full of stores, wholesale and retail. These, in general were very large, very substantial & the material was stone. The whole presented a great appearance of wealth in a comparative small space - but we [did] not wonder at this. S.^t Thomas formerly was a place of very great trade, being the entrepot of the West Indies - but now since we have opened up our islands to the Yankees, business here has fallen off very much.

After visiting the principal street, we walked thro' many others, and were much pleased indeed with every thing. In my own mind I ranked S.^t Thomas only after Martinique & superior to any of our towns. The (not so) whole of the houses seem to be of stone & very comfortable. The streets were pretty fair - not equal to those of Martinique or Guadeloupe.

The situation of the town is the prettiest which I have yet witnessed - I have met with nothing similar.



S.^t Thomas

S.^t Thomas belongs to the King of Denmark. It is a free Port, and during the war wealth was continually flowing in from all quarters. Strange to say, I heard the Danish spoken only once or twice – at every other time only the English by black & white. I forgot that I was in a foreign town, and entered any of the shops as confidently as at home, asking for what I wanted in my own tongue, not doubting but that I should be understood.

Saturday 7th Sept.^r – nearly a calm all day – much rain at times.

Remarks on 7th Week

VIIth Hebdomadal period. Little requires to be said at this period, for you already know how we have been employed. I have seldom passed a week more uncomfortably – for during the whole voyage, we had not so much bad weather as during our stay at S.^t Thomas. Rain, rain every day – heat excessive – wind oftentimes blowing a gale. Frequently we were under apprehensions, that a hurricane was about to blow – and were even very doubtful, tho' notwithstanding the indications to the contrary which the great height of the mercurial column in the Barometer gave us. By day all this was bad enough when it occurred – but by night all the horrors of the storm & the suggestions of fear were increased a hundred fold – for thick darkness shrouded every shore from our view – the ship rocked to & fro, like a drunken man – and on one night in particular we expected to have been driven on shore, for the men, having forgotten to put a stopper on the chain cable, to prevent any more from running out – on the night in question the cable ran out with a tremendous noise, and before it could be stopped, we were not more than three [times] the length of the ship from the shore. Hence all of us were kept in a state of great anxiety & suspense – particularly the Captain & Master, whom I often heard talking of the measures necessary to be taken in case of extremity, should a hurricane, or furious gale come to blow. Our apprehensions were, you may be assured not lessened by our knowledge of the circumstance that not more than a fortnight ago, a large Dutchman had been totally lost not far from our anchorage.

Besides the danger of getting on shore, of dragging our anchor, or loosing our masts, if not our lives, our health was very likely to suffer from the influence of the weather. The frequent rains chilling the air, & the succeeding broiling heat – alternating with each other many times a day, was likely to prove extremely injurious to the constitution – and I look upon [it] as a great instance of the mercy of Providence that none of us had an attack of fever there. I was the only one, who was attacked with indisposition, which being slight, and confined to the bowels, I was enabled, under the blessing of heaven, to conquer in very few days by proper remedies.

Sat.^y 7th September – at 4 P.M. the breeze sprung up, and fine weather setting in we got under weigh, and set sail from S.^t Thomas for England. When outside we perceived that the island of S.^t Thomas, formed a long line of nearly unbroken hills, which we passed rapidly in our course. In three hours, we got clear of all the islands, and stretched out into the open ocean, making a pretty fair course. We do not of course expect a favourable wind, until we get beyond the trades – and therefore we are very well content as we are.

Sunday 8th – squally weather – wind variable but pretty favourable. Several showers of rain.

Monday 9th – fine weather – light and foul wind. Spoke the American Brig *Diomede*, from Portland, bound to S.^t Domingo.

Tuesday 10th – fine weather – nearly a calm during greater part of the day – light and foul wind the remainder of the day.

Wednesday 11th – fine weather – light and variable breezes.

Thursday 12th – light variable winds in the morning – calm part of the day, then a breeze. Fine weather, with occasional showers.

Friday 13th – fine weather – light and variable breeze in the morning – calm all day.

Saturday 14th September – up to 1 P.M. calm fine weather.

Remarks on 8th Week

VII Hebdomade - The commencement of this our 8th week, had been anxiously looked forward to, and when it arrived, was hailed with delight, because we bid adieu to S.^t Thomas, and all its penances & pleasures, which latter by the bye, we could not regret, as in consequence of the bad weather, we never had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with them.

The Mail boat, which had followed us from Barbadoes eight days after we left that place (hence called the eight day boat) in contradistinction to the other Mail boats who sailed at any time) by the same route with the answers to the letters we had dropped, came to anchor at S.^t Thomas early in the morning. Another Mail Boat also from La Guayra, was arrived, so that we had nothing to detain us. The weather however would not suffer us to proceed so soon as we wished – since this day - & remember not one of the others of our stay was so – was remarkable for a calm, as the other 8 had been for fresh breezes.

At 4 P.M. when our patience was almost exhausted, and our Captain was beginning to be uneasy at the prospect of laying at anchor all night when we were right in the channel of the entrance (for we had warped out from our former snug birth in the morning, in order to take advantage of the breeze) the wind gradually sprung up, leading us out of the Harbour, and enabling us ere daylight closed in, to get out from among the islands into the open sea.

In doing this, we saw the whole length of S.^t Thomas, which seemed to me a line of hill, with scarcely any perceptible undulations. We saw also several other islands, of very inferior magnitude, and very uninteresting – with the exception of one very small rocky islet, which at a distance, or when near to it at the close of day, [bore a] striking resemblance to a large vessel under full sail. This appearance rendered it remarkable enough but it becomes doubly interesting from a story connected with it. During the war, a French frigate made this Rock, and fancied that it was a British frigate. The Capt.ⁿ being a man of mettle determined to come to an engagement. At night fall he was pretty close but being resolved to get as near as possible he reserved his fire, and when sufficiently near kept up a heavy fire during the night, without

discovering his mistake – for his proximity to the rock made the balls which rebounded from it fall upon his decks, killing many men, and keeping up the delusion. Very early in the morning, when the darkness was beginning to be dispelled by the bright orb of day, the fire of the French ceased as if by magic – his sails were all set for departure & the Captain was almost unable to show his face from Chagrin when he found that he had spent his time – his ammunition and the lives of his brave in a contest with an enemy of stone.

Now freed from all fear from all danger of land, we sped on our way with a pretty fair and favourable breeze, which held on tolerably for three days, when we had light and variable breezes with calms, which continued to the end of our present Hebdomadal period. We have now reached the borders of the variables (which lie in 28 to 30 degrees of N.th Latitude), and are in instant hopes of a fresh and favourable breeze.

The weather during this week has in general been very fine. A few slight showers, & one or two down-pourings have been the only disagreeable interruptions – if such they can be called; seeing they served to cool the air so much. The heat has been great – indeed excessive during the calms, but we live in the agreeable expectation that in a few days, when we shall [be] a few degrees to the Northward, we shall experience a more pleasant temperature. Besides we dont complain as we are bound home.

Saturday 14 Sept.^r – 1 P.M. calm all day – fine weather. At eight squally with occasional showers.

Sunday 15th – at 8 A.M. sprung up a fresh and favourable breeze – and continued all day. Cloudy but pleasant weather. Rain at night.

Monday 16th – very fresh and favourable breezes - cloudy weather with occasional showers.

Tuesday 17th – cloudy weather. Fresh and favourable breeze, until evening when it drew forward a little.

Wednesday 18th – fine weather – fresh but foul wind.

Thursday 19th - fine weather – Moderate & foul wind.

Friday 20th – fine weather – Moderate and nearly favourable breeze.

Saturday 21st to 1 P.M. – very fine weather. Moderate & favourable breeze.

Remarks concerning the 9th Week

IX Hebdomadal period – Our hopes for a continued fair wind and a quick passage, seemed likely at the commencement of this week, to be fully realized. We had already passed the part we most dreaded, viz. from 28 to 30 degrees, where you are frequently met with by calms and variable winds. And to which we were yet congratulating each other on our pleasant prospects, as if to vex and disappoint us, the wind shifted and blew strong right in our teeth. As our joy had been causelessly excited, so our fears were as causelessly great and unfounded. For three days we were depressed by a foul

wind, which was however far from remaining steady at one point – which led us to think, that it would soon come round again to its former & favourable quarter. The end of the third day also saw an end of our foul breeze. A moderate & favourable one succeeded, and kept us company till the termination of this Hebdomade.

At the beginning of this week the thermometer shot pretty high, indeed as high as during the hottest part of last week, but as we advanced to the Northward it gradually declined – having by Saturday sunk 10 degrees. We now begin to feel the blessed influence of a colder climate which enables us to take our promenade, without soaking us in perspiration a heretofore.

Taking all together – the weather was very fine – sometimes cloudy without rain, and now & then we had passing showers.

Saturday 21st September – very fine weather. Moderate & favourable breeze.

Sunday 22^d - beautiful weather. Moderate & favourable breeze.

Monday 23^d – very fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Tuesday 24th – beautiful weather – pleasant & cool. Light variable but favourable breeze.

Wednesday 25th – cloudy but pleasant weather. Very fresh & favourable breeze.

Thursday 26th - cloudy weather, rain at night very fresh & favourable breeze.

Friday 27th - moderate & favourable breeze with fine weather in the forenoon, then heavy rain with a diminution of the wind, which draw forwards for two or three hours, after which it came aft again, & blew more strongly - variable weather.

This evening at 8 William Watts departed this mortal life. He had been about two years in our Packet, and had conducted him[self] well in his duty & his conduct. On Monday the 16th Sept.^r he first applied to me complaining of headache, weakness, and pain of the limbs. He was put to bed immediately, and proper remedies administered. The fever continued very strong until Wednesday 25th when the bowels having been copiously opened & a more natural appearance, with an outbreaking of severe perspiration, he experienced considerable relief. That night he passed remarkably well, and next day also. The fever having left him, the tongue clean & bowels almost natural - skin cool - no thirsts - and the patient himself expressing him quite comfortable, but weak. The next night he passed tolerable well, - slept during the morning watches, and all the morning of Friday. He appeared however very weak - partook heavily of arrow root mixed with brine & again composed himself to sleep. At 2 P.M. oppression of breathing came on - then low amuttering delirium and afterwards picking of the clothes - these unfavourable symptoms continued with increased severity, till shortly before 8 the breathing became more laborious and convulsive. At 8 P.M. he expired.

Buried W.^m Watts

Saturday 28th Sept.^r - at 10.30 the body of William Watts was committed to the deep. The captain and myself performed the funeral service. All seemed deeply affected, and tears were seen trembling in the eyes of his rougher messmates - a tribute of

feeling, which delighted and surprised me. I am afraid however that the event will have an unfavourable effect, for all seemed depressed and apprehensive. God grant that all the rest of us may be carried in health and safely may arrive in Falmouth.

Cloudy weather fresh and favourable breeze.

Remarks at the end of Xth Week

X Hebdomadal period – This week has been one of great anxiety [for] me from my mind having a load upon it, in the form of indisposition among our men. Many a thought have I had to sadden my spirits – many a prayer did I breathe to the Lord of All, that he would be pleased to bring us out of trouble, and send help an[d] assistance to the afflicted – bestowing his efficacious blessing on the remedies administered.

The wind during this period of trouble has been constantly favourable. One half of the week of moderate strength – and strong the remainder fresh and favourable. If nothing had intervened to cloud our souls, we should have rejoiced at the speedy prospect afforded us of seeing England – but alas this favourable circumstance has been passed almost unheeded.

The weather for three or four days was very fine – then it changed to cloudy with occasional showers of rain. The temperature also has decreased to our great comfort at least – bodily – if not mental.

I cannot forebear mentioning here, how attentive and willing those in health were to render their utmost services to the sick. By night & by day, they were equally kind. No one unacquainted with seamen can form any idea, how excellent they are as nurses. None are more careful or feeling, under a rough exterior they conceal the possession of the finest feelings of humanity – feelings which would a-grace and an honour to the most sensitive and refined.

Saturday 28th September – cloudy W.^r very fresh and favourable breeze.

Sunday 29th – cloudy weather with occasional showers – strong gales and favourable, which moderated with a change of wind in the afternoon – still favourable.

Monday 30th – fresh and favourable breeze – fine bracing weather.

Tuesday 1st Sept.^r [sic - but October] – moderate and variable breezes, more or less favourable during the day. At evening the wind drew well aft – fine weather.

Wednesday 2^d – moderate and variable breeze, generally favourable – cloudy weather with occasional showers of slight rain.

Thursday 3^d – gale of foul wind all day from N & Eastward – heavy sea running, which now & then struck against the side, and communicated an impulsive motion to the little loose articles which chanced to be lying about – very cloudy weather.

Friday 4th – strong gales & foul – passed a very fine French Ship steering to the S & E. Towards evening the wind moderated but its direction became still more foul .
Cloudy w.^r

Saturday 5th Sept.^r [sic - but October] up to 1 P.M. – fresh and foul wind – cloudy w.^r

XIth Hebdomadal Period

XIth Hebdomadal period – the week now elapsed has been a very dull one to us all. The impression produced by the recent fatal event, altho' by this time somewhat weakened, still remains – and I had one instance where fear operated so strongly upon one man, that he was seriously ill. In him the mind was diseased & with it the body sympathised. All I could say, in reason or out of reason, failed to convince him but that he had the fever & would die as poor Watts had done. Under this persuasion he was most miserable. Conscience pricked him to the heart, and he was alarmed at the thought of dying, for which he felt himself quite unprepared. The slightest symptoms were magnified – his mental perception was prevented - & the consequence naturally was, that the mere fear of the dreadful event seemed likely to produce the realization of it.

At the end of this week he is seeming much better, as also are my two other patients Dyer Williams & Alex Webb, who were attacked about the same time with Watts. By these my mind has been kept in a state of great anxiety – for indeed the period of convalescence often demands all our care and attention, lest by errors in diet – exposure to cold or irregularity of bowels should render all past exertions fruitless. I hope then with the blessing of God, that they will soon be restored to confirmed health, and that their future conduct will show how much they have profited by their afflictions.

Of all the evils of a foul wind, there are none felt so much, as when you encounter [one] on your return home, especially should you be near to your wished for port. I don't much mind a foul wind on the outward bound passage. I soon become reconciled to it, and patiently wait for a change. But not so, when we are within a few hundred miles of England - & if my mind were not occupied with other & more pressing thoughts, I should feel quite ennuye & impatient, as are the rest of my fellow voyagers. All things went well, till the 1st October when the breeze became very moderate & variable, and on the 3.^d we had a gale of foul wind which still continues, and looks likely to continue for some time longer.

The weather has been throughout with two exception[s], cloudy. We have also had some showers of rain – but slight. The cold also has increased much – blankets are once more in request – our faces & chins look blue – a little hot toddy (whiskey) is found to be a *sine qua non*, after dinner, and before turning in. So we remain at present.

Saturday 5 Oct.^r 1 P.M. – pleasant weather. Moderate and foul breeze – dead on end.

Sunday 6th – light and foul winds – fine pleasant weather.

Monday 7th – light and foul breeze all the morning. At 2 calm. At 8 P.M. very light and favourable breeze – fine weather.

Tuesday 8th – in the morning light & favourable wind. At 11 A.M. the breeze freshened & drew forward, becoming foul. Fine weather – clear during the first part of the day – cloudy during the remainder.

Wednesday 9th – fine weather – fresh and favourable breeze.

Thursday 10th – fresh and favourable breeze. Cloudy weather.

Friday 11th – beautiful weather. Moderate and favourable breeze all day. Anxiously looking out for land – wondered [why] we did not see it, supposing ourselves to be very near to it. Spoke a brig, who put us in [the] right way from which we found that both of our Chronometers were terribly out – 9 minutes since leaving S.^t Thomas. At 9 P.M. saw the lighthouse of S.^t Agnes and saw Island of Scilly. Spoke during the day two Scilly pilot boats from whom we procured fresh fish & veggs.

Arrive at Falmouth

Saturday 12 October - at 6 a.m. we arrived at Falmouth and came to in the roads, to be in readiness to move up to [the] Quarantine pool, should it be judged necessary. In a short time the custom House boat came alongside to make the usual inquiries, and upon learning that we had [lost] a man by fever, went on shore again for D.^t Fox. The time they were absent was spent by us in doubt & impatience - in doubt as to whether we should be obliged to ride Quarantine or not - in impatience at the tardy movements of the old Fox. At last the Physician arrived, and being satisfied with the answers I gave to his interrogatories, he very kindly & considerately admitted us to Practique. No time was then lost before we moved up to our old anchorage in the Harbour - and for my part as soon as my Cabin & appurt[en]ance[s] had been overhauled, I went on shore to see if all my acquaintances were alive, of which I had some doubts, because the Cholera had been raging in Falmouth for the last three weeks, & had committed great ravages. With one exception (M.^{rs} Collins) I found all well.⁸

M.^t Power passenger

As soon as we were free to go on wherever we pleased, our two passengers, M.^t George Power, and M.^t Robert Ferrier, left us for Pearce's Hotel. It had been the intention of these gentlemen to have remained at Falmouth for two or three days - but no sooner did they learn that the dreaded Cholera was there in all its fury, than they resolved to quit by the Evening Mail. In the afternoon I had the pleasure of dining with them, and the sorrow of bidding adieu to two very pleasant companions at half past six o'clock. According to custom I shall speak of these gentlemen individually, and tell you what impression I received of them from their manners & conversation.

M.^t George Power was a young man (roughly 30), a native of the emerald Isles, and a Merchant in the Island of S.^t Vincent. From his conversation I learned that he, was of very good family, and that his eldest brother would inherit 4000 a year. One of his brothers was an archdeacon & two were in the army. His uncle was Sir George Hill, now Governor of Trinidad. M.^t Power was one who, having been intended for the Church, had received a most liberal education at Trinity College, Dublin. He was an [sic] Latinist and a superior Grecian. His knowledge of Spanish and Italian was most respectable. He spoke French and was no mean proficient in the Hebrew. Possessed, however, as he was of all these accomplishments, he never shewed them, but hid them under a bushel. To accident alone, at the latter end of our voyage, was I indebted for the knowledge of his multifarious acquirements - and then I exceedingly regretted that I had not sooner enjoyed the pleasure of conversing with a competent person on

⁸ By *Barclay Fox's Journal*, edited by R. L. Brett, we learn that cholera struck down its first victim in Falmouth on April 25th, 1833. It prevailed across Cornwall throughout the summer, and it was not until November 28th that Barclay was able to note – ‘A day of thanksgiving for not being visited by the cholera.’

classical subjects - a pleasure doubly great from the infrequency of the opportunities which accrue for gratifying it. I was delighted with his momentary enthusiasm and absolutely transported beyond myself when he began to recite from various authors passages with which I had once been familiar, but which had slipped from my memory - and he no doubt was no less delighted to find one who could understand him & sympathise with [him] in his tastes and ideas - But yet alas this classical furor had only a temporary influence on him - find he soon became alive only to share copies which engrossed his mind viz. profit & loss. I soon found that he had greater pleasure in conversing with M.^r Ferrier on mercantile affairs, than on the most inspiring strains of Roman parts, or the eloquised sentiments of Roman orators & Historians. Still however we found in M.^r Power a very agreeable and gentlemanly messmate whose company we were sorry to lose, when we arrived at our journey's end.

M.^r Robert Ferrier

M.^r Robert Ferrier was a merchant in the Island of Nevis - indeed one of the first and the wealthiest there. He was either born or had been educated at Dumbarton - afterwards lived at Glasgow and finally came out to the West Indies. He seemed near 40 - rather plain in his appearance - with a pretty considerable deal of the brogue. His manners were plain & unpretending - never vulgar. His conversation was marked [with] quite good sense, and considerable extent of information on general topics. Most men have some peculiarity, more or less striking in their dress, manners or language. Now M.^r Ferrier was rather a little remarkable for repeating the fag end of his sentences five or six times over - as "Napoleon was a very remarkable man - a very remarkable man - a very remarkable man - and the circumstances of the times alone would have [forth his heaven _____ - called forth &.^c three or four times. But enough. M.^r R Ferrier delighted us all.

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Pay from 29 June 1833 to Saturday 26 Oct.<sup>r</sup> 1833 (17) weeks      £34 00 00

Vide Statements of Accounts between Capt.<sup>n</sup> Snell & Myself.

Falmouth

22 Nov.<sup>r</sup> 1833

|                                        |                 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Received from Capt. <sup>n</sup> Snell | £25 00 00       |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> Received              | <u>10 00 00</u> |
|                                        | £35 00 00       |

Account of Expenses

During a voyage to Leeward Islands

1833

    Barbadoes

August 23<sup>rd</sup>

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Cegars -                  | £00 2 00 |
| Medecine -                | 00 2 00  |
| Refreshments & Sundries - | 00 14 00 |
| Braces -                  | 00 1 00  |

24<sup>th</sup>, Martinique

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| 2 Boxes Eau de Cologne - | 00 4 00 |
|--------------------------|---------|

    S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas

Sept.<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 2 lbs gunpowder tea - | 00 8 00        |
| 6 krugs of gin -      | 00 4 00        |
| 1 Box cegars (1000) - | 01 4 00        |
| 300 d. <sup>o</sup> - | 00 4 00        |
| 200 d. <sup>o</sup> - | 00 2 00        |
| 2 Gallons rum -       | 00 4 00        |
| 1½ Gallon Brandy -    | <u>00 6 00</u> |
| Carry Over            | £3 15 00       |

    S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas

|                                                     |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 5 lbs negro head tobacco -                          | 00 2 00        |
| Abercrombie on the Intellect. <sup>l</sup> Powers - | 00 3 00        |
| Medecine -                                          | 00 1 00        |
| 3 Gallons Rum -                                     | <u>00 4 00</u> |
|                                                     | £4 5 00        |

    Dominique

25<sup>th</sup> Augus.<sup>t</sup>

|                                           |         |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| To my share of water. <sup>g</sup> ship - | 00 2 00 |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|

28<sup>th</sup> August

|                                                    |               |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| At Nevis - a sea hedge hog -                       | 00 1 00       |
| At S. <sup>t</sup> Kitts - one bottle castor oil - | <u>00 1 6</u> |
| Total of Exp. <sup>ses</sup>                       | £4 9 6        |

S