

III^d Mexican Voyage.

Notitiae

of a

Voyage

*to and from Jamaica, Mexico
and Havannah*

Lieutenant Robert Snell Com.^r.

Sailed 23rd November 1833

} 22 weeks 5 days

Returned 30th April 1834.

List of the 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>Master's Mate</i>
<i>James Edwards</i>	<i>Steward</i>
<i>James Pashbee</i>	<i>Steward's Mate - on our return put before the Mast.</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.</i>
<i>Dyonisius Williams</i>	<i>Able Seaman.</i>
<i>Fra.^s Knight</i>	<i>A.B. in room of C.^s Richards in bad health</i>
<i>Alexander Webb</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>George Kelloway</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>E.^d Oke</i>	<i>A.B. in room of Jn.^o Richards discharged.</i>
<i>Joseph Stevens</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Philip Waistcott</i>	<i>A.B. Acting Steward's Mate</i>
<i>John Sedgeman</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Ja.^s Lewis</i>	<i>A.B. in room of J.^s Hoskin disch.^d the day we sailed.</i>
<i>Henry Sandow</i>	<i>A.B.</i>
<i>Peter James</i>	<i>A.B. (nephew of W.^m Poulson dead) in room of Ja.^s Watts dead.</i>

Also

Two boys – John Evenet & John Sedgeman

Also

[Alfred Snell, Captains Brother]

[written in William's Greco/English characters]

foretold that our period of liberty on shore was expired, and that we must once more submit to confinement and monotony within the narrow crib of a ship for 18 weeks, or more, passing thro' strange scenes, and enduring the rigours of a tropical season.

One hope still was left, a slender one indeed - but we all know that a drowning man will grasp at a straw - and so and in such manner we clung to the attenuous thread as if it had been the cable of a first rate, capable of keeping us safe at our anchorage in spite of every thing. This was that an order for our detention might possibly arrive on the very morning of our sailing day. You will hear how we fared in this our hope. I was dressing myself - very busily - yet with a feeling of nervous expectation, for the time was at hand, when the Mails would arrive. As the moments wore on, without my hearing anything alarming, I found myself already planning many schemes for spending the day, and the succeeding one, when all at once an ominous sound boomed on my ear, marvellously resembling the report of a gun. I was still unconvinced or rather would not be convinced. I said to myself Noh! Tis a mistake - I won't trouble myself to go up to the garden to see if our Packet has got up her signal for departure. A little reassured, I continued my occupation, when a second note of preparation, and then a third, following in quick succession, told me but too intelligible loudly that the time for hope was past - & doubt became certainty. Well then, I had nothing to do but to get down my morning repast - collect my little trifles still on shore, & bundle myself, bag and baggage into a shore boat to be conveyed on board.

If I had felt annoyed at being so unceremoniously obliged to beat a retreat, the very ince of my ill humour was not sweetened by what I saw on board. The decks were crammed & lumbered with the luggage of 10 Miners - 4 Cabin passengers - and a husband, wife & four children. All was hubbub and confusion and to my own especial chagrin, the entrance to my castle or cabin was completely blocked up by boxes, hampers, chests and trunks. In such cases 'tis of no use to grumble or swear - as words break no bones neither would they remove the substantial obstacles in my road in the shape of the abovementioned articles. So I set about it myself and after much personal exertion, partially succeeded in clearing my own territories.

Exactly at noon our anchor was tripped and we sailed majestically from the Harbour with a favourable wind. After we were out the wind was foul for us but we had one comfort that the weather was fine.

Next day and the three succeeding ones we were as miserable and as uncomfortable as our worst enemies could wish. Knocked about like a shuttlecock, at the mercy of a gale of foul wind, which lashed the waves into uncontrollable fury, we could hardly lie or stand, much less walk the decks. To pass from the English to the French, and from the French to the English coast, not progressing, rather retrogressing, was by no means amusing, and by all means dangerous. It was in vain to deplore our hapless condition. The wind blew - the sea rose - and the rains descended till we were quite heartbroken at the prospect of the continuance of such bad weather. If, as I mean we experienced hands found the weather so unpleasant, you may easily fancy that to our numerous passengers the evils we complained of, were aggravated an hundred fold. Those who had been before at sea without having been sick, were sick now - whilst the rest were sick even almost unto death. The state of the weather likewise prevented us from stowing away securely the mass of baggage every where scattered about - the consequence of which was, that, at every lurch the vessel gave, away went boxes, trunks & together sometimes with their owners, with a tremendous crash, which was mingled with cries for assistance & the running to & fro of persons with lights - for all below was dark as the grave. I have said the sea was

high. Well then not infrequently the top of a huge wave would roll over the gunwale in copious abundance, & lay the deck and even the mess cabin under water. In short talk of hurry scurry as much as you like - of accidents both grave and laughable half a dozen - of wry faces with sick stomachs one half of the company - of sounds both vocal and instrumental, as raised and confused as or the tower of Babel & then you will be able to get up an intimation - a very imperfect one I admit - of a small, crowded, & overloaded vessel in a tempest.

At last we got out of [the] Channel, and felt more at ease, now that we had plenty of sea room. Still the wind was foul with a very heavy swell. It shifted every day from NW to SW and vice versa. We consequently made little way, now on this tack, now on that tack, and by the end of the week, we had no present prospect of weathering Cape Finisterre. One consolation however we had - the air was milder, and we could enjoy a promenade

Saturday 30th Nov.^r - cloudy weather but fair - foul winds.

Sunday 1 Dec.^r - weather cloudy but fair - foul wind.

Monday 2nd - variable and light winds, very variable weather, near Cape Finisterre all day, and weathered it at night.

Tuesday 3rd December - soft drizzly misty weather – light and favourable breeze.

Wednesday 4th - drizzling weather very light and fair wind during the morning – after that nearly a calm. In the afternoon moderate & fresh breezes.

Thursday 5th - wind fair but sometimes very light and variable – fine weather.

Friday 6th - fine w.^r variable but favourable breeze.

Saturday 7th - calms alternating with flows of wind. Fine weather.

II. Hebdomadal Period.

Another week has now gone over our heads and its termination has found us in a very different situation from what we were in at its commencement. During the first Hebdomade all the new hands were sick '*ennuyi*.' Their sorrows began with the day – instead of ending with the season of night – the darkness – the stillness – for in lieu of that the many change[s] and unknown sounds which shriek upon their acutely sensitive hearing, only aggravated them, almost beyond the stretch of human endurance. Now the case is completely altered. The season of sickness had passed-away. The stomach which has been so often amplified & felt so disinclined to food, even of that sort which, when well it would have relished extremely, is restored to its wonted state of quietude & repose, undisturbed by the greatest motion, and as a consequence craves for food of the commonest description, which is devoured with a relish indescribably great.

The Feet which had refused to perform their office, or had only supported the body upright, quickly and treacherously to cause it to fall, are now its most firm supporters, and bravely keep their ground in spite of pitching and rolling – or lurching

– or in other words, those among us whose legs are to be so depended upon, are said nautically to have their sea legs aboard.

The face which erst was disfigured by wry involuntary contractions – which expressed in all its several gestures nothing but the most ineffable loathing and abhorrence, is now once more radiant with smiles, & not infrequently expanded into the broadest grins.

The eyes, so lately dull, and of which it might be predicted as in Shakespeare – There is no speculation in those eyes, ‘now dart their cheerful joyous glances on all around – speaking the language of contentment.

The Nose that delicate organ, whose nerves had but a few days before scented the gale of tar & bilge water to the turning of the stomach, has now lost its primitive sensibility, & sniffs with indifference the same fumes, now innoxious or disregarded. In brief all the organs of the body have now passed triumphantly into their various distinctive ordeals & are become adapted to received pleasure from the various impressions made upon them on board.

The mind, it has been justly remarked, sympathises in a wonderful degree with the body, altho’ the series of causations, which produce this effect is unknown. In the common experience of life, and more especially in disease, we observe this curious and mutual dependence. Thus all of our late patients have recovered their natural cheerfulness of temper – nay the mind by its having been unusually depressed, has excited anew its elastic force, and lends a charm to every trifling circumstance.

To particularize. Bustle and life have supplanted their former stillness among the Miners. They are all upon deck. Some have got their traps up, and are overhauling and arranging them. Others are trying their pistols and their guns, of which every one is in possession, and seeing whether they are ready for service should they be required, as will most probably be the case in Mexico, whilst a third set are lounging about meditating about nothing at all, at all. In the evening the laughs and the jokes go round – songs are sung – feats of activity and strength are performed; & loud guffaws succeed the awkward & unfortunate attempts of the weak and inexperienced to follow the lead of the strong and the skilful. No one attempts to pass the boundary of fun and good humour – the tricks and skylarking of the party serve only to produce harmless merriment, not to favour mischief or malice.

M.^r Barlow, wife and children – are very prominent in the picture. The father enjoys himself sedately and quietly – reading or musing, or indulgently watching the gambols of his children, who while they observe towards him a proper respect, yet love him and tell all their little joys & griefs to him in preference to their Madre. Madre is a very quiet and pleasant woman silently pursues her work – while she says nothing, does a great deal. The children consisting of two girls Catherine & Elizabeth - & two boys James & William, are busy all the day. They are very young. Their attention is constantly occupied with some childish amusement, and your heart is frequently cheered by that unusual sound on board ship, the loud laugh – the cheerful & light hearted merriment of the tiny elves, who like their prototype the butterfly, seek for amusement in endless variety – now tired of this – now pursuing that.

If we had to complain of too much wind last week, in general we have had to complain of too little this week. When the breeze has been moderate it has also been foul – when fair it has been a calm or nearly so. Hence we have made but very little progress. On Monday 2 Dec.^r we weathered Cape Finisterre – a great point and

steered for Madeira, which with any thing like a wind we ought to see in three or four days. But at the end of the week we were still a long way off.

With the exception of two days on which we had disagreeable misty weather with drizzling rain, the weather has been very fine – the temperature is pleasant and enables you to enjoy yourself.

Saturday 7 Dec.^r – calms with flows of wind – fine weather.

Sunday 8th – light variable but favourable breeze – fine weather.

Monday 9th – fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Tuesday 10th – fine weather. At 11.30 A.M. saw the island of Porto Santo. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Wednesday 11th – fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze. Madeira in sight this morning.

Thursday 12th – fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Friday 13th – fine weather, fresh and favourable breeze.

Saturday 14th – fine weather – fresh and favourable breeze.

III. Hebdomadal Period

The character of the past week has been quiet and orderly. Every thing and every person have taken their proper places – and both the business of the ship, and the mode of living among our passengers have settled down to regularity and precision. Each knows his own place – his own duty - & his own mess. Sailors and Miners mix sociably together mutually giving and receiving tobacco & grog and amusing themselves occasionally with Cards or Drafts. What with observing the strange humours of the Cornishmen, & the playful manners of the children, the time has slipped away imperceptibly during the day – while at night we manage to beguile the slow pace of old Saturn, at *vingt un*, for a mere trifle, which at once imparts and interest to the game, and is equally remote from gambling.

Man is an active animal & his animal spirits must have some mode of evaporation. This is accomplished by some in the shape of mischief, or of crime; by others in the form of amusements. Now our Miners having nothing to do for some days past have amused themselves at leap frog coming in. That is to say they formed themselves into two equal parties. One of these enacted the Horses, which they did by stooping – but instead of a space intervening between each, as with us, the hands of the second rested on the latter end or legs of the first, the third of the second & so on. The other party then prepared to leap – but previous to doing so the first called out leap frog coming in, & then sprang as far as he could over the bended backs of the first party. He was quickly followed by the second – he by the third, & so on to the last. As soon as all had leaped, they began to count ten as fast as possible, and if when they had finished none of their side had fallen down, they had the right to come off and leap again. If however any of the leapers fell off, that party to which he belonged were obliged to take the place of the other and became horses in their turn. Sometimes

one of the leapers would lose his balance, and in order to prevent himself [falling] off on one side, he would cling with all his energy to the horse he was on - & sometimes he would succeed, at others times he would come to the ground amidst the shouts and laughter of the spectators & of the hooligans also, who were then immediately metamorphosed into horsemen.

Sometimes when all the riders were mounted the horses from the immense weight were hardly able to sustain their burden, as after swaying for a few seconds to & from the whole would come toppling down with a tremendous clash, horses & riders the one on top of the other – Alack for the poor wretches who had to bear the superincumbent pressure. The breath was almost squeezed out of their bodies - & lucky indeed in escaping serious bruises – bumps – and broken bones. This to be sure proved that hard knocks and rough jokes were no jokes at all. Many of the performers told me afterwards that they felt quite sore all over, & especially about the small of the back & the neck, the two weakest points in resisting the load – this game was only sometimes for two or three nights - & then discontinued to give place to others equally amusing & less painful.

We have had no reason to complain of the direction of the wind. At first it was very light, and we were uncertain whether it would lead us into the Trades. On Tuesday 10 Dec.^r we made the Island of Porto Santo and early on the morning of the succeeding day we had Madeira in view, but very indistinctly on account of a thick haze. At this point the breeze still favourable, freshened, and soon bore us within the proper limits of ever propitious winds.

As if to enhance our pleasure, the weather throughout was fine. The temperature of the air was remarkably mild – neither hot nor cold, but really delightful. The Motion of the ship was very trifling, enabling us at all times to promenade the deck without the risk of breaking our legs or our necks by falling down the companion or hatchways.

Saturday 14th Dec.^r – fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Sunday 15th – very fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze all day – fresh at night.

Monday 16th – fine weather – fresh and favourable breeze.

Tuesday 17th – moderate & favourable breeze – fine weather.

Wednesday 18th – light and favourable wind – fine weather.

Thursday 19th – cloudy but pleasant weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Friday 20th December – moderate and fair wind during the day – fresh at night – fine weather.

Saturday 21st – moderate and favourable breeze – fine weather.

IV Hebdomadal Period

Taking the average rate of going within the limits of the Trades, we may be considered as having [gone] very well this week - and should we continue to tell off

the same number of miles every day for 16 days we may reckon upon being at anchor at Port Royal at the end of that time.

You will be rather astonished when I say that the weather has been too fine and that I regret exceedingly that we have not had several heavy showers of rain. How is it possible, you will ask, that any one should wish for rainy in preference to dry weather. I am sure none but farmers and Doctors would ever desire any other. I shall explain the [reason] very shortly and I hope satisfactorily. On shore you enjoy a considerable temperature and have access to as such water as you like - & yet have plenty to spare. But alack, as for us poor mortals, we are now under a broiling sun - we occasionally eat salt beef or salt fish - and yet we have so many hands on board that our Skipper has judged it expedient to put us on short allowance of water. Consider our burning thirst arising from the heat, and its aggravation an hundred fold from salted provisions and you will readily conceive how precious must be the rain drops from the heavens - since they will serve to allay our raging drowth. Of all the evils which I have yet encountered, thirst is the most intolerable - and I venture to assert that no man ever knew the inappreciable value of pure cold water who has never wanted a drop to cool his parched mouth. The Nectar of the Heathen Deities was nothing to this. The practise of D.^r Jangrado of giving (not hot but cold) water, would have superseded every other, had it been possible to have adopted it. To wish yourself in fresh water was not to be thought of for a moment. A contrary opinion was rank heresy or a misprision of treason against the sovereign qualities of that beverage.

The same allowance is issued out to all without exception from Captain to Cook. Half a gallon a day is all we can get - but then when we have had our soup - our fowls boiled - our taties - & our tea, very very little will remain to be drank in its native state. The consequence, we are like persons afflicted with the dropsy, the more we drank, the more desire to drink. Wine and spirits we may have in abundance but who would think of such to quench our thirst - as if perchance, you are tempted by your uncontrollable anxiety for fluids, to imbibe freely of these, the rash act will soon be repented of in added thirst - dry mouth - and a pretty little touch of fever. That such a state of thing may not last much longer is the most anxious hope of all on board - none of whom will for the future, I dare say, ever venture to disparage the value or virtues of Adams wine.

You are not to imagine that because we have been put on short allowance of water, that we have lost our spirits in consequence. Oh no. We still laugh & joke - and endeavour to amuse ourselves in various ways. The principal amusement this week, has been firing at a mark, suspended at the fore yard arm with pistols & fowling pieces. There was a good deal of skill shewn - and indeed I have found that most of the Miners, who have ever gone out with us have been in general good shots - many of them excellent.

Saturday 21st December - moderate and favourable breezes. Fine weather.

Sunday 22nd - fine weather all day with very light and favourable breeze, rain at night followed by a calm.

Monday 23rd - fine weather all day - very light and variable breeze. Heavy showers at night with calm.

Tuesday 24th December - fine weather - light and baffling winds. Christmas Eve.

Wednesday 25th - fine weather – moderate but rather unfavourable breeze all day – foul at night.

Thursday 26th - calms and foul winds all day. Fine weather. Total Eclipse of the Moon, very distinctly seen.

Friday 27th - light and favourable breeze – fine weather.

Saturday 28th - moderate and favourable breeze – very fine weather.

V Week

The result of this week has completely disappointed our expectations. At this season of the year, none of us anticipated calms, much less foul winds – and yet we have had enough of both in all conscience. From Sunday to Sat.^y when the wind has been fair, it has also been very light, but more frequently we had none at all or baffling winds, presenting at the end of our Hebdomade a beggarly account of paltry miles, which some how or another we happened to gain.

Akin to our dissatisfaction at the winds was our disappointment in the weather. Heavy sultry clouds hung pendant in the heavens, threatening yet never fulfilling – enviously excluding the light of the sun, and filling the air with a damp vapour – whilst at night the heavy falling showers would compel us to keep under the shelter of the poop Cabin, where we were all stewed and broiled to no manner of purpose.

This has been a most tiresome week, and complained of as such by all. Various means were taken to kill time but not with much success, as pistol shooting &.^c Sky larking -

A bucket of water was carried up to the foretop and there cannily lashed whilst a rope, being attached to it - conveyed to the deck, one of the men on deck could at any time, by pulling this rope, capsize the bucket on those immediately under the foretop. A proper opportunity was watched for, & when a knot of the Miners were chatting together, the rope was pulled & down came the heavy shower, sousing the whole of the party, who naturally enough looked up to detect the rogue but of course in vain.

Again: one of the Miners being one day rather delicate & pickish bought some currant jam of our steward and gave the Cook a considerable portion of it to be made into a tart for his own particular maw. The tart was still in the oven and nearly ready, when lo two or three pirates, in the absence of the gourmand carried off the tempting dish, and taking up their station in the foretop deliberately devoured the whole, paste [sic] and all, to the richly merited disappointment of the selfish gastronome.

Tuesday 24th - being the day before Christmas, in the evening we had egg flip & grog. The Miners were allowed an extra quantity of rum, and in return entertained us with some Christmas carols, pretty well sung, particularly that which begins “Hark the herald angels sing.” After we had some profane songs, which seemed to be more to the general taste. It is extraordinary how many of the Cornish Miners are acquainted with Church Music, comprehending, I’ll venture to say, every one who has any voice or ear at all.

Wednesday 25th - Christmas day passed off very quietly. No Church service. Plenty of goose & plum pudding for dinner, with an extra quantum of wine. The only thing we

should have preferred was a wanting, namely a merry breeze to make this a merry Christmas to us.

Thursday 26th - a total Eclipse of the Moon took place, of which we [had] a most perfect view - as there was not a cloud in the heavens. It was astonishing how brilliantly the stars shone during her obscuration & to observe how they seemed to fade in the splendour as she gradually emerged from behind the veil and at last shone forth in her most glorious effulgence. Another circumstance also happened this night which I have never seen since I have been to sea. It was a calm. The stilling of the ship harmonised with the quietude of nature. All at once our ears were startled with a loud hissing sound as if air had been forcibly expressed from a huge pair of bellows. The experienced could make nothing of the cause of the same, the more cautious judged it to proceed from the blowing of a whale. All hands were soon engaged in gazing over the sides of the vessel - nor gazed they long before several repetitions of similar sounds were heard & the emitters of them seem to be huge grampuses, who were disporting themselves in the neighbourhood of the vessel, apparently unintimidated by or unacquainted with the unusual object of our ship. For a long time they animated themselves - very often they would come close alongside of us, exposing to our view the whole length of their huge bodies. Their motion was slow and equal nearly horizontal except when they would descend, tail on end and ascend with upturned heads to the surface to blow. Their expiration was sharp and strong & soon over - & some seconds would elapse are they descended, as if they were apparently inhaling a fresh supply of air. They kept playing around us for two hours and as if they knew we were spectators of their gambols, they would for our amusement, float or swim on their backs & sides, by which means [the] whole of their white belly was distinctly visible to us for some time.

Saturday 28th December - moderate and favourable breeze. Fine weather

Sunday 29th - moderate and favourable breeze. Fine weather.

Monday 30th - fine weather – light and baffling winds and calms.

Tuesday 31st - light and baffling breezes alternating with calms. Fine w.^f

1834 Wednesday 1st January - fresh and favourable [breeze] struck up at the commencement of our New Year & continued all day. Cloudy but pleasant weather.

Thursday 2^d January - cloudy weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Friday 3rd - fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze. At 11.30 saw the Island of Deseada. At 5 abreast of Guadeloupe. At 5.30 saw Montserrat a head of us - did not see Antigua at all, as on the former occasions on account of the haze.

Saturday 4th - very fresh and favourable breeze - fine weather.

VI Week

With light and baffling winds, alternating with calms, we saw the old year approach its end and up to its latest hour nothing gave us any indications that the new year

would commence under more favourable auspices. About half past 12 however, the breeze struck up from the right quarter, at first gentle and dying as the expirations of a timid reign, but soon forcible & strong as the voice of the leather-lunged hero giving the word of command to his soldiers amid the uproar of battle. From that time throughout the remainder of the week it blew fresh and fair - and on Saturday 4th exhibited no sign of diminution - on the contrary it seemed to be on the increase.

The weather was all we could wish - fine to a degree and delightfully attempered by our new years gift of a North Easter.

Wednesday 1st Jan.^{ry} 1834 - as New Years day recalled to my recollection scenes of olden times, when hope was young and the cares & harassments of the world were yet unknown, in which my relations and friends were intimately associated with my pleasures and my sorrows. With all my heart and soul I wished them all many happy returns of the season & breathed a prayer that I might yet once more behold their faces & hear their loved voice in my dear native land.

In England this season is comparatively little regarded and beyond an occasional expression of health & happiness to a particular friend, no traces are to be discovered in everyday life that a New period of time has begun its course. As to myself in order to mark out the day, I had some shortbread made according to your receipt, & tho' vastly inferior to yours at home, I eat it with much pleasure in remembrance of Auld Langsyne.

On Friday 3rd - We made the Island of Deseada, which you may remember I mentioned to be the next landfall usually made after leaving Madeira by the Packets bound to S.^t Domingo. We also saw Guadeloupe and Montserrat - but not Antigua owing to the haziness of the atmosphere.

Saturday 4th January – very fresh and favourable breeze. Fine weather.

Sunday 5th - fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Monday 6th - fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze. At 5.30 P.M. saw Alta Vela - at 9.40 P.M. abreast of it.

Tuesday 7th - fine weather - becalmed all day in sight of the entrance to Jacmel. Left Packet at 4 P.M. and landed at 6.40. Returned on board at 10 P.M. and set sail for Jamaica with a very moderate land breeze.

Wednesday 8th - fine weather - moderate and favourable breeze. In sight of S.^t Domingo all day.

Thursday 9th - fine weather - Moderate & favourable breeze. Made the East End of Jamaica at 1 p.m. At 5 P.M. sailing along shore, with the Yallahs point ahead - At 8 lay to till day light.

Friday 10th January - fresh sea breeze all night. At day light made sail. At 8.30 came to anchor at Port Royal - difficult to obtain Pratique. At 2 P.M. admitted to Pratique. Remained on board all day. Found laying here the following ships of war The *Vernon* - The *Tweed* - The *Fly* - The *Larne* - The *Magnificent* - The *Racer*.¹

¹ Units of the Royal Navy West Indies fleet.

Saturday 11th - fine weather – went to Kingston – bother about bill of health.

VII. Hebdomadal Period.

Under the influence of the same fresh and favourable breeze, which we had received as a new years gift, we bowled along most merrily. On Monday 6th at 5.30 P.M. we saw Alta Vela, and if the wind had continued as before, we should have entered Jacqmel early next morning. But the breeze failed us, as I fancy from our near proximity to the island of S.^t Domingo, so that on Tuesday we were becalmed or nearly so in sight of the entrance to Jacqmel. By very slow degrees we got abreast of it and as there was no chance of us getting a strong sea breeze this day, the Captain at 4 ordered the boat to be got ready and the Mail to be put into it, intending to send it ashore while the Packet remained out side. Accordingly this was done & together with the Mate & the two Mess.^{rs} Ball, I set off for the shore from which we were distant about 10 or 12 miles. We had a long and tiresome pull - the sun shone hot & bright upon us, exciting a sensation of scalding in the neck & face, and making us all very drowthy. A Handkerchief knotted over our heads partially abated the first evil and luckily we had two bottles of Madeira with plenty of water to relieve the second. Each man also smoked his cegar, and beguiled the time by spinning yarns. With all these appliances and means in the boat we reached the shore at 6.30 P.M. There we found one of the Clerks of the vice Consul, who was also the partner of M.^r Frith. This person first took us to the house of the Government Interpreter, and immediately afterwards to the Packet Office, a room fitted up for the purpose in M.^r Friths house, since we were here last.

We found that M.^r Frith had left for Port au Prince, but we met with a most kind reception from our Vice Consul. After the Mail had been delivered we were shewn up stairs and in a handsome apartment, we perceived a table laid out with dinner.

In less than half an hour we were all cosily seated before the viands, and tho' we had already dined on board, we managed to devour a pretty considerable quantum of the solids and fluids in token of our good appetite & our satisfaction at their quality. During dinner a mistake of mine gave rise to much mirth. A large round tin cann was brought in from which our Vice Consul scooped out something with a table spoon. I thought it was some sort of pudding, nor was I undeceived by the appearance of the contents of the cann, which resembled curds. Therefore when he handed me the plate, I very quietly set it down before me & made ready to commence operations on I forthwith. To my great surprise, the Consul said he thought I had too much on my plate, & in consequence I returned him nearly the whole of it, not without wondering what he could mean. My blankness on the subject was soon enlightened and the mystery cleared up. I found that what I had mistaken for a pudding was really and truly a Stilton cheese tho' upon my honour I declared it had no more resemblance to cheese than the man in the Moon. I bore the laugh against me as well as I could, & laughed as much or more than any one. The real Lemon Pare coming in soon afterwards, I atoned myself for my error by a double allowance.

Perhaps my dear Mother, it may be interesting to you to know what we had for dinner, as you may naturally imagine, the materials of our repast were very different from what you have at home.

Well then, we had excellent beef soup, with plenty of vegetables but of what description I know not. Next there was some curious sort of a fish stewed very nice indeed. If you preferred it you might have had some very so so roasted mutton - or a fowl - or corned beef. No potatoes were to be seen. Their place was supplied by

boiled yams - boiled Indian corn, really very good - or caravansa beans prepared with butter. And lastly we had a large plate of fried eggs, a dish which most of us preferred from its rarity. To wash down all this, we had claret, sherry, and brandy and water. Immediately after dinner, we had each a cup of superbly prepared Coffee, concluding with a glass of brandy and syrup neat i.e. without the dilution of water.

After due service had been done to the eatables and drinkables, we rose to take our departure. We were accompanied to the landing place by the consul and D.¹ Daly (a Physician established here about 9 months - a rival of the American doctor Lorie - a very pleasant fellow & a clever man), preceded by a black boy carrying a lantern, for it is to be observed that there are no public lamps to dispel the intense darkness of the streets. When we reached the wooden jettie the Consul recommended us to set off a blue light, as probably from its height the signal might be better seen by those on board than if we were to set it off in our boat. His advice was adopted & our blue light shone up for a few seconds like a star of the first magnitude, flaming & flickering and casting over whites & blacks a bluish tinge to the great delight of the assembled of the latter. In a few moments, afar out at sea the answering light was descried - so bidding adieu to those who had so kindly and without ostentation entertained us, we embarked & pulled away in the direction in which we had seen it. It was a beautiful star light night - the water was smooth as a mill pond, and a gentle breeze blew off shore right astern of us facilitating our progress greatly. We were all very comfortable & happy, partly from the novelty of our situation, and partly I must confess under the influence of our late Entertainers Hospitality. We doubted not but that we should shortly come up with our Packet & I am sure no one anticipated any difficulty in doing so. As soon as we came abreast of the point of land forming the Harbour & which before had shut us in from the open sea, we set off another blue light, and patiently awaited some answer. We judged ourselves to be very near our vessel. But in vain we waited - in vain we cast our eyes on all sides around : No signal of any kind was made - our eyes could make out no object amidst the darkness, which encompassed us. What were, now to do was the object of our next consideration. We had still one blue light left, and a musquet with three charges. It was resolved to fire the musquet, reserving the blue light till we were reduced to extremity. We had also a lantern, intended to be hoisted, but unfortunately we had no means with us of relighting it. The musquet was quickly loaded & fired - loaded & fired again - but no sight or sound announced the situation of the Old *Duke*. Our doubts and difficulties increased every moment. We could not explain why our signals had been unanswered, & our supposition was that the Packet had been drifted by the current far to the Westward & beyond our ken. We looked around to see if we could observe any lantern at the mast head - for we fancied that if they had no blue lights on board (which was the case) they would certainly use this means to point themselves out to us. We saw a large fire, but that was on the land behind us & in a situation where it was impossible our vessel could be in. We imagined her to be right ahead of us - & there to be sure we saw a light, which some averred to be a star, & some a light at the mast head. The dispute ran strong and warm - & for my part I thought it to be our signal for it was at one time distinctly seen, at another time invisible a circumstance which I imputed to the surging of the lantern at the mast head, from the rolling of the vessel. But again it appeared far out at sea, & therefore unlikely to be what we wished it to be. However we pulled towards it - but not long had we done so, when (fortunately for us) the man who pulled the starboard bow oar called out that he saw the *Duke* astern of us. His exclamation completely startled and electrified us, for no one ever thought of her being there. We instantly all turned round & sure enough we descried a tall dark object looming majestically

against the sky. “Pull round, men quickly” was the word “load the gun & fire, - keep a good look out for an answer.” This was soon done - the gun was fired & answered by a peoy or black Devil.² We next lighted our remaining blue light to shew where we were, and bore down upon them. We soon saw that she had tacked towards us & almost before you could say Jack Robinson (at 10 P.M.) we got once more alongside of our friends & shipmates, whom we found in great alarm on our account & preparing to fire our nine pounders.

With a moderate land breeze we set sail for Jamaica.

Of course from the lateness of our arrival at Jacquemel, I could make on observations in addition to what I have already made. I believe that no change has taken place in the Town – but I noticed that the fort on the right hand as you pass up the harbour, has been repaired & enlarged. The country is perfectly quiet and healthy.

Next day we had a moderate & favourable breeze, and kept the Island of S.^t Domingo in sight all day. On Thursday 9th Jan.^y - we had a continuance of the same breeze. At 1 P.M. we made the East End of Jamaica. At 5 P.M. we were sailing along the Island, which as far as the Yallahs is most beautiful, particularly at this season of the year, when the sugar crops are still to be seen on the ground. At 8 P.M. we lay-to till day-light, with the sea breeze blowing fresh.

Friday 10th January - Fresh sea breezes all night. At day-light we made sail again, and favoured by the wind came to anchor off Port Royal at 9.15 A.M. Our arrival was the signal for several boats putting off to us – from the different men of war (7 in number) – and also from Kingston and Port Royal. But all were disappointed as we would not allow any one to board us, until the Quarantine boat had come alongside, and either put us in Quarantine, or given us Practique. I must do our Officers the justice to say, that they don’t keep you waiting long, but visit you as soon as circumstances will permit. We soon saw the boat with the yellow flag approaching, having on board D.^t Stewart the Medical Officer, & a man of colour. When he came along side, everything done denoted the greatest caution. He asked the usual questions respecting the state of health on board – whether we had spoken any vessels or not, & where, & whence – and lastly if we had a clean Bill of Health. From all this particularity, we perceived they meant to be strict, but still we thought that our having a clean Bill of health – the crew and passengers having all been uniformly healthy the length of time since we had left Falmouth, that there would have been no hesitation in admitting us to Practique. We were therefore not a little surprised, when we were told to consider ourselves under strict Quarantine – to break open the Mail together with the Governor’s and Admirals Dispatches – and after fumigating them, to hand them over the sides into the boat prepared for them. In this predicament (for such it was, as we had a M.^t Barlow and family to be landed here, our Captain took the only course to procure our liberation. He declared that he would certainly consider himself under Quarantine, but that it [was] more than his Commission was worth to break open the seal of office, without a written order from the Post Master General authorising him so to do. This declaration he persisted in, notwithstanding the repeated assertions of those who came for the Mail, that they would be responsible for this act. The consequence then of our Skipper’s determination was, that D.^t Stewart left us in a huff, taking with him our clean bill of health. As did likewise the person sent for the Mail, *re inpeacha*. On the departure of these gents, our Packet signal was hauled down & the yellow flag hoisted in its place – and we were left to speculate what

² A mixture of gunpowder & vinegar normally used in fumigating the ship.

would be the result of our refusal to deliver up the Mail. We judged (& experience shewed that we judged correctly) that by refusing to break open the seals, which was tantamount to a refusal of the Mail, they would soon release us from *durance vile*, whereas had our Captain acted as they wished him to do, we were certain that they would have kept us in Quarantine all our time – and it would consequently have been impossible to have landed our passengers, but we should have been obliged to have carried them on with us. Two hours or more elapsed and we were still in suspense, when we observed an answering pennant hoisted at the flag staff of the Commercial rooms at Port Royal, and very shortly afterwards we observed the Quarantine boat shove off, accompanied by a host of shore boats. From this latter circumstance we drew a happy omen and were not deceived, for as soon as D.^r Stewart was along side, he informed us that we were at liberty to go wherever we pleased without let or hindrance, or in other and more technical terms, that we were admitted to Practique.

As you may suppose, we lost no time in delivering up the Mail. Some of our passengers hired a large shore boat & proceeded in it to Kingston. For my own part I did not feel inclined to accede to their request that I would accompany them, but preferred remaining on board all day. When we were left to ourselves, I found it so dull that I regretted my determination, but there was no help for it – so I amused myself, as I best could – watching the manners of the negroes – the watering of the ship from the Government tank – and smoking away like a Turk. I had intended in the evening to have gone on shore at Port Royal, but as our gig did not return from Kingston till very late, and there were no shore boats along side, I was obliged to be contented as I was.

Saturday 11th January - this morning I accompanied our Master to Kingston. We had a most delightful passage – indeed the finest I have ever yet made. Immediately on landing, we met one of our Passengers – M.^r Philip Ball, with whom we visited several places – made several purchases of fruit and medicine – and then finally adjourned to Harty's Hotel, where his brother M.^r Dennis, & M.^r & M.^{rs} Ebert were quartered. It was yet rather early – but the table was covered, dinner having been ordered for half past two, in order to enable the Master & self to go for the Mail at half past three. We were immediately asked what we would take & invited to stay and enjoy the coolness of the well ventilated rooms. At 2.20 we sat down to a most Capital dinner, consisting of soup – veal – mutton – fish & vegetables, followed by tarts, with abundance of claret and Madeira, & the option of beer or porter to wash all down. I never enjoyed myself more, or had a better appetite. I felt quite at mine ease, owing to the pleasant manners of our entertainers, than whom I never met any more kind & attentive. We were attended by three blacks whose contretemps – negro dialect & mutual quarrels excited much laughter. If you called for any thing – the answer invariably was '*rectly*,'³ which meant in half an hour, more or less. They were continually committing mistakes and evidently required drilling. Upon making inquiry into the subject, we were told that the proprietrix M.^{rs} Harty was in London – that the person, who kept the concern for her in Kingston was at present in the country – and that the whole management was now left to an inferior person – all which easily accounted for the carelessness of the servants.

Immediately after dinner, the Master and I rose up to go for the Mail, promising to be back for coffee, which tho' Fiddy engaged to get ready '*drectly*,' we now knew would not be too late for us on our return. When we reached the Post Office, we

³ Having the same sense of urgency as the Cornish '*dreckly*' for directly.

found the Mail all ready, & carried it off at once. As we had not gone far on our way back, when we fell in with the Rev.^d M.^r Baker formerly Chaplain of the *Astrea* at Falmouth, now of the Admirals ship *Vernon*. Having brought us up, he entered into a conversation which, but a moment before, I little thought would occasion me so much trouble. He happened, in answer to an inquiry by M.^r Geach to say that he was in good health. The word health struck upon me like an electric shock. All at once I remembered our Bill of health, which had been promised – but not till this moment did I think of ascertaining whether it was so or not. Without saying a word to the Master or M.^r Baker, I hurried off to Smith, and there sure enough I ascertained that no Bill of health had been sent. I told Smith of its importance to us, upon which he accompanied me to the house where the Board of Health held their meetings, thinking it likely we might find it there. But no Bill of health was there – nor did they know where it was. I accompanied M.^r Smith back to his store, when he ordered his black servant John, to shew me the way to D.^r Bancroft's, the Chairman of the Board. I knew no more than the unborn child, where this medico lived, & therefore started off at once with John for my guide, anticipating only a short walk. For some time I trudged along in silence – till we reached the barracks – a pretty considerable way off – at which place I became rather impatient of the length of the journey performed under burning sun, and over very stony roads – I asked John if we were near the Doctors house. John shook his woolly head, and said it was a long way off yet. I asked no more – on on we walked, turning now to the right, now to the left, along long rows of pens or country houses - & still his answer to my question '*not see him house yet Saar.*' At last when we had gone about three miles out of Town, the Black said with a grin, '*that him house dere Massa – D.^r Bancroft's.*' The house pointed out was large and handsome. Passing thro' a gate and a small court, I tapped politely at the door, whereupon a tall upright old man appeared, who replied in the affirmative to my civilly presuming that he was D.^r Bancroft. I was heartily rejoiced to find him at home & still more that he really had our Bill of Health – for it would have been useless to have continued our route without it, as all the Ports would have been shut against us. Just as the old boy was handing it to me I asked him to endorse it, stating that we had been admitted to Practique and that the Island was healthy, to which he agreed and for the purpose retired to another room. Meanwhile he kept me broiling with impatience at his dilatoriness, for West India like, he never hurried himself, but seemed to be writing every word as if he were half asleep. My patience was quickly exhausted, the more so as it was getting late and the Master would be waiting for me with the Mails & I had a long way to travel back. I shuffled with my feet – coughed & hawked and at last was on the point of rising to request the old fellow to give me the paper as it was, when he reappeared with the slow & deliberate steps & solemn air & thereby convey[ed] a tacit report of my impatience & disrespect. If such were his intentions the effect designed was lost on me. I hastily seized the paper & as hastily not to say uncivilly wished him a good afternoon – and in a giffy I was plodding my way back, at a hand gallop – leaving the pool black puffing & panting far behind me. Arrived at Harty's Hotel once more, I was glad to find the Master there waiting for the gig to come on shore. I was hot and thirsty and greedily drank off two cups of strong coffee which greatly refreshed me.

In almost an hour afterwards we took the Mail on board the gig & started off on our return to the Packet. At 7.30 P.M. we were again walking our decks – at 8 P.M. went on shore at Port Royal – found no amusement there & returned tired & sleepy at 9.

I may here remark that I saw nothing new at Kingston. The Island is very quiet at present, but it is thought that in the ensuing _____ [Ayust ?] when the new system will come into operation matters will be in a state of great agitation. From the little time I had left to myself, I had no opportunity of finding out John Drummond.

I must not forget to make mention of the passengers we landed here. If you are still in possession of my first voyage to Mexico you will there find that we carried out to Kingston a person of the name of Barlow. I think I then gave you some particulars of his history. The person we have now landed is the same. I knew him at once when I saw him at Falmouth. He had at that time been only a few months in England from Jamaica, and was now proceeding with his family to the same destination. From sundry conversations I had with him, I gathered that he had been remarkably fortunate in procuring a situation very soon after we had left him last – that he had during almost the whole period of his stay in the Island, with one medical practitioner to whom he acted as an assistant. His place was no sinecure – indeed he bore the greatest share of the fag & trouble, but being a strong healthy man, & happy in being so well off, he lightly regarded the fatigue which he was compelled to undergo.

Not being informed to the contrary, I thought he was on the present occasion, on his way to fill the same or a better situation, and that he intended to make ‘Jamaica’ his permanent abode, since he had brought his wife and family with him. Under this impression I frequently conversed with him respecting his views - and in none of our confabulations did he undeceive me in what I found afterwards to be an erroneous opinion, altho’ he must have seen my mistake. The first thing after he had left us, which told me his true character was a notice in one of the Kingston papers of our arrivals with the Reverend M.^r Barlow & family on board. Another paper said M.^r Barlow Baptist Missionary. I was surprised and could, for my own mind, hardly exempt the Medico-reverend gentleman from a species of indirect duplicity. My curiosity was excited, and in order to gratify it I enquired more particularly when it came out that M.^r Barlow, however eminent he might be in a medical capacity, was considered to be endowed with still greater abilities to be useful in the Baptist Church Mission. How his qualifications were first discovered and appreciated I know not – but the fact is undeniable that they were – and the consequence was that M.^r B. prudently thought, that to abandon the cure of the body and look after the salvation of souls would not be a bad exchange in a worldly point of view. At least such is the interpretation put upon his conduct by those of us in Jamaica, who know that at the Baptist Mission in Amatto Bay he will gain more than as the fag of a medical practitioner or even the principal himself.

It is also said that he suffered imprisonment with the well known Burchell during the late insurrection – but this is mere report and he never admitted such a thing to me. One thing however I know, which during the voyage puzzled me much to account for, altho’ it is now clear as day – and that is, that on every occasion when we talked of slaves and slavery, he took up in *toto* the part of the negroes, and censured the whites. When I alluded to the enactments and the regulations for the amelioration of the slaves, he admitted that they existed de facto as written laws, but contended that in almost [every] case they were evaded or openly violated – and that he was acquainted with numerous instances; substantiating what he had advanced. We never disputed the point – I thought him a warm hearted enthusiast, and actuated by prejudice – and therefore allowed the matter to rest as I found it.

I have often thought since I found out what M.^r B. really is, that many things which I have said, must have greatly annoyed him, tho’ you may believe from my

ignorance of his character, the annoyance was perfectly unintentional on my part. One day I happened to introduce the topic of missionary instruction – Among other things I observed that it was exceedingly to be regretted that men should be sent out in that most important character, who had not received a regular education for the sacred office. I remarked also, that it very wrong to despise mere learning and to suppose that an ignorant or even moderately educated man, with a large portion of religious feeling and enthusiasm, could prove a more powerful engine in the conversion of the heathen, than another who was deeply imbued with all the learning the age, and moreover inflamed with love and zeal for his Saviour's cause. In short I said it was my opinion that all who should act as Missionary should receive an appropriate education in order to be able to explain difficulty & give a reason for the faith that is in them – and that the Holy religion of Christ should not be left to the interpretation of misguided fanatics or interested worldlings, who would thus continue thereby to make again of religion

Now I can see plainly just how sore and galling my observations (frequently repeated) must have be[en] to the earthly mind of the Rev.^d M.^r B. – and I am the rather inclined to give him credit for the exercise of great Christian meekness and charity, because, notwithstanding the offence I could not but have given, he did not grow sour & morose towards me, but continued the same as ever. After all my tirades against improper missionaries, he was silent neither admitting nor controverting the truth of what I advanced. After all I wish him success in his Missionary labours, and I think him better qualified than many others. He is no ultra-enthusiast – he is possessed of good common sense – considerable determination of character - & great command of temper. His views of religion (on which subject we very frequently conversed) were sound and practical - & his whole conduct in words & actions were never for a moment at variance with his concealed official Character. I liked and respected M.^r Barlow – and I believe I had more of his company and conversation than any one else, & therefore am better able to judge of him.

I have already said that M.^r Barlow brought with him his wife and family. The former was a young woman, rather pretty and remarkably quiet and silent in her demeanour. Of her mental attainments therefore I can say nothing – not having heard her speak a hundred words or so during the whole voyage.

The Children were four in number and very young, the eldest not yet 11 – two of them were girls (& they were the eldest) viz. Katherine, and Elizabeth, and two boys James and William. Owing to their having been so long from under their father's control, they were rather spoilt. If their mother had not indulged them, she did not seem to have been strict in overlooking them – and besides from what I learned they had been petted by two aunts & Grandpapa. Before their Father they were quiet and kept good order. Out of his sight they quarrelled – fought and cried twenty times a day. The spirit of Catherine was imperious expecting all others to yield to her, and if not she had recourse to a fit of crying – Betsy was of a mild & more amiable temper – but still inclined to be pettish – seldom passionate – Master James was the least beloved of the whole – and justly so – for his character was marked by ill nature & a tyrannical tendency which he exhibited overall. But Bill Barlow, or Button as we called him was the general pet or favourite. His age was about 5 years. He amused us much by his conceits & remarks - & not one of us but was ready to pleasure him – and to give him what he liked fruit & sweetmeats.

Altogether M.^r Barlow & his family by their presence lightened to me the pressure of many an hour, which would otherwise have been dull – and oftentimes, from my partiality to children, I became the [merest ?] Child among them in telling stories & making this and that for them. I shall always be glad hear of their welfare – if possible, if we stay a week or ten days in Jamaica, at a future period, I may pay them a visit in the country, as they live only 30 miles from Kingston.

VIII Week

Sunday 12th January - fine weather. At daylight we cast off from our moorings and set sail for Honduras by the southern passage, in Company with 2 Sloops of war, the *Tweed* & the *Fly* - & several Merchantmen – having the land breeze blowing moderately. After it had ceased & we had a very short interval of calm, the sea breeze sprung up fresh and carried us along on our favourable course.

Monday 13th - we had still a continuance of our fine weather – and the breeze tho' slacker was moderate and favourable.

Tuesday 14th January - fine weather – Moderate and favourable. Our object was first to make out the Island of Bonaca, from thence Rattan and from thence to stretch over to Half Moon Kay, where we would have a Pilot to Belize. We were well aware that we should feel the influence of currents – but this we little regarded so long as we had observations of the sun, and Chronometers to advertise us of our time position. To day we obtained fine lunars, from the Captain, Mate & Master, the results of which put us into a quandary. They almost all came out three degrees to the Westward of our Chronometers – so that instead of being 180 miles from Bonaca, we ought, if the Lunars were correct, to be within sight & even abreast of it. Now it seemed strange that our Chronometers should in the short space of two days have erred so much – and [not] only that but that both should show the same amount of error. But still here were so many lunars taken by different persons all coming out near to each other - & where could the mistake be – No one could explain & therefore a man was sent to the mast head to look for land, but no land could be seen. What then was to be done – should we sail all night, or lay to – The matter was left undecided until we should have an observation by the Moon & a planet. We had it – and resolved to carry on all night, as we thought the Chronometers were right and we had plenty of distance to run.

Wednesday 15th January - moderate and favourable breeze. Fine weather in the forenoon – heavy showers with dark clouds in the afternoon. To day we obtained 7 lunars, and before working them we fully expected that their result would point out that we had made some galling mistake in working those of yesterday. To our great surprise they all came as before – and puzzled us exceedingly. In this predicament the Captain resolved to go about – to get into the latitude of the Light House & then steer to the Westward _____ we made it. Accordingly we went about and beat to windward for nearly an hour, exchanging the easy motion of the vessel nearly before the wind, for the unpleasant pitching of one close hauled upon the wind. At the time we went about the sky looked dark and lowering thick clouds hung over the horizon & excluded us from the view of anything that lay beyond a mile or two. Fortunately indeed for us, the dense curtain was slowly uplifted, and there stood disclosed to our astonished eyes the Island of Bonacca, and not far from it the Island of Rattan. The minds of our Captain & Master were instantly relieved from intense anxiety – and all

hands quickly obeyed the cheering order to go about again with a fair wind. Thus we found that all the lunars came out egregiously wide of the true mark – yet still so large an amount of error could not be accounted for on any reasonable grounds. The Captain could not rest easy, till he got to the bottom of the mystery. He pored & pored – but for a long time in vain – at last in looking over the Ephemeris of this year he discovered that the Tables shewed Mean Time, whereas he had been working as if they had been headed Apparent Time, according as they had been all along previous to this year. Thus the Mistake was elucidated & the lunars & Chronometers completely reconciled.

Thursday 16th January - during the night the rain fell in torrents, accompanied with strong breezes – and in the morning the weather was cloudy with a moderate & steady wind. At 9.30 A.M. we saw Half Moon Kay and Light House. At 11 A.M. we took a pilot on board (John Young) under whose guidance we had a very fine run to Belize, which we reached at 5 P.M. I have nothing new to say of our passage as I have exhausted in my former voyage, all that can be said of it. The weather during the day was very fine. On our arrival we came to in the Quarantine ground, a long way off from the Town. In half [an hour] afterwards the Health Officer came alongside and upon the production of our clean Bill of Health instantly gave us Practique, upon which we up anchor & moved further in to our old anchorage. I went on shore with the Mate, who had charge of the Mail – and whom should I meet but M.^r Liddel, our old passenger two voyages ago. We had expected to have found him at Havana where he is established – so that his presence at this out of the way place completely startled. He told us that he had left Havana only three weeks before & would be back again soon. He seemed very glad to see us, as indeed we were to see [him]. He said he had heard nothing from Senora Margareta, & that Don Jose Apellaniz had gone to Porto Rico. After leaving him & delivering the Governor's Dispatches, we strolled about. All things were in *status quo* – only we were surprised by the unusual sight of a large private house, brilliantly lighted up & the open verandas hung up with flags. In the centre was an excellent band of music, which struck up 'God Save the King' as preliminary to the opening of the Ball, for such it was. In front of the house a very large assemblage of blacks & brownies gazed upon the scene before them and watched with curiosity every one who passed in. This Ball we found afterwards was given by the Bachelors of Belize to the Maidens – and was in return for a similar from the latter to the former about a month ago. There were about 80 guests male & female. The whole went off with great spirit and good humour – nor did many depart from the festive scene till 6 A.M.

We had no time to notice the proceedings as we had to return on board – so after getting a cup or two of coffee, we hurried off to our vessel. When we started a very strong tide was running, which the united efforts of the gigs crew could hardly stem. As it was we had a very long night & took up four times the time we usually take in pulling off.

Friday 17th Jan.^{ry} - one of our men having been ill all night – I did not go on shore in the morning – but at Noon he being very much better, I went to see M.^r Liddel & with him and another Scotchman I progressed to the house where the Ball had been held last night to eat second breakfast. The room still exhibited the traces of what had been going on – there were the flags – the chalked floor – and the various rooms deprived of their usual furniture. When we arrived there were a great many gentlemen there, most of whom had been at the entertainment last night. I was politely introduced to

several and kindly received. Among others, one of the Stewards apologised to me & said that he was sorry we had arrived so late in the day, as otherwise he would have sent a Card of invitation to the Commander, Officers & passengers – and upon learning that some of us had been on shore in the evening, he said their Stewards would have been most happy had we come without ceremony – and particularly as we would have met the Officers of H.M. Schooner *Skipjack*. I expressed to him in return how much we were obliged to the Stewards for their kind intentions towards us – but hoped that it might be our good fortune to come about the same time & share in their festivities on a similar occasion.

In the centre of one of the rooms a long table was set on which was displayed – a vast variety of different eatables & drinkables – hams & poultry cuts – tarts – custards – beef & .^c together with Porter, Beer – wine of various sorts & spirits of every description. I sat myself down - & did very good justice to the viands – so much so indeed, that when I went to dine with our passengers at 3 o'clock, I could hardly take anything at all.

Here I met M.^r M^cDonald the Teacher, who recognised me at once & with him I had a long *eraat de similus rebus el muiltis ellis*.

Having satisfied our appetites, we left the house and went to a M.^r Johnstone's, where M.^r Liddel was living. After a short stay, I left him there, and went about the Town till dinner time. I noticed no alterations in the buildings – but I was very glad to perceive that they have completed in a very convenient and substantial manner, the bridge over the river, which had been in progress when we were here last. The Town seemed very dull – little business- & few customers. The cause of this was that no communication was allowed with the interior on account of the Cholera – and in order to prevent any such, a cordon of soldiers was drawn, embracing all the points by which Belize is accessible.

At 3 the Master & I dined by invitation with our passengers – and shortly after dinner we went for the Mail & Despatches. At 7 P.M. every thing being ready we bid adieu to the shore & without much difficulty gained our Packet. Fine weather during the day.

Such is the history of our eight[h] week, for perceive that I have added nothing at all to your knowledge of the places we have seen – but in truth if I can not tell something new, I do not wish to give you repetitions. The only other remark I shall make regarding this week is, that during the last three days, we have turned the weather very cool & comfortable.

9th Hebdomade

Saturday 18th January - at day light the Pilot having come on board we began to heave up the anchor – and in a very short time we were once more under weigh. As we came to Belize with a fair wind, the same wind blowing now, was consequently foul for us. So we had to beat up all day – now on this tack now on that – and after all gaining a good deal. The weather was generally fine with occasional showers and squalls. At 4.40 being nearly abreast of Half Moon Kay – but inside of it, the Pilot left us to ourselves.

Sunday 19th - this morning we were about 8 miles from Ambergris Kay. In the forenoon we tacked away to S & E. In the afternoon saw the Great Kay, 3 vessels beating up with ourselves – but we outstripped them very fast – wind fresh & foul –

weather variable – At 7 P.M. our mainsail suddenly was split from top to bottom. This was quickly unbent and in a very short time we were supplied with a new sail without having incurred any danger as might have been.

Monday 20th - squally with heavy sea all night. – split our jib. In the morning we were in sight of the mainland, which appeared very low and sandy, with not a hill or hillock to be seen. To our right was Cozumel, so that by this time we had passed within the Triangles, a very dangerous point, and we now expected to go also within Cozumel. But as night approached & we had not cleared the Island, the Captain was afraid to try this – so we went about to get inside of Cozumel. We saw the Island distinctly – it was long & low, with the sea dashing over the breakers at its extremity, & rising in spray to an immense height. At 6 we were pretty close to it & at 9 we passed it safely by the help of the Moon.

Tuesday 21st January - during the night we made very good speed from the influence of a Northerly current, which has been in our favour since we left Belize. In the morning we still Cozumel. At 2.30 P.M. we were still abreast of Cape False. At 5 P.M. abreast of the low island of Contoy, & besides these various portions of land were seen during the day. At 5.40 we kept away for the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico. Delightfully cool weather – immense flocks of birds, preying for schools of fish.

Wednesday 22nd - fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze. Pretty strong Westerly current. We are still at present on the Banks of Campeachy. Lovely moon light – delightfully cool. Thermometer at 72* instead of 86 or 90* as is usual in Summer.

Thursday 23rd January - fine weather rather cloudy. Fresh and favourable breeze. Now off the banks. Still very cool – but not unpleasantly so.

Friday 24th - fine weather. Light and favourable wind. Saw a lunar rainbow, which however was rather faint.

Saturday 25th - cloudy over the land. At 11 A.M. saw *ri Orizaba*. At 11.30 the *Coffre de Pirota*. Land wind in the morning, fresh and foul – then a calm, followed by the wind from NE. At 6.30 saw the light house of Vera Cruz, but we would not venture in at night, both because there is a very dangerous reef of rocks running out to some distance from the *Castle de San Juan de Ulloa* – and besides it would have been of no use to us to have come to an anchor.

I shall only add in addition to the particulars of each days progress, that we have made the passage in an unusually short time for which we are partly indebted to the assistance of a powerful Northerly current – and partly if not principally to the concurrent skill, carefulness and zeal of our worthy Master. To them then I ascribe no small share of merit in our voyage, for I am persuaded that the different vessels we saw sailing with the same intent as ourselves, viz. to get out of the Bay of Honduras with a foul wind, would occupy four or five days longer in attaining the same point we did before we could regain a fair wind.

About 3 weeks is generally allowed from Jamaica to Vera Cruz by way of Honduras – and we have been only a fortnight.

Northers in the Gulf of Mexico

After we had entered the Gulf of Mexico, we were daily under apprehension of being visited by a Norther – than which if it occurs with violence, nothing is more to persons in our situation having various sand banks – shoals & rocks under our lee. To understand then the cause of our fears, and this more than any other time, I should observe that during the winter months – and indeed immediately upon the cessation of the periodical rains, very frequently, gales come on from the north to N.W. being the direction of North America. These in their accession may be either sudden or gradual – and at their height may be denominated moderate or violent. In general you have some previous intimations, so as to make you to prepare yourself and make all snug before it reaches its terrific climax. But woe be to the hapless vessel, upon whose Commander its indications are lost or despised, for in an instant the whole fury of the tempest sweeps over the deep, uptearing the billows & elevating their harassed tops to the height of mountains – and at the same time roaring with constant force, so that the very sound thereof compels you to stop your ears from fear. Then it is that the barque, that so lately in gallant trim bowled along the smooth waters with a favouring gale, like a thing of life spreading her broad and snowy canvas proudly to be admired – and manned perhaps with as brave and gallant crew as such upheld their country's glory – is at once – in the twinkling of an eye, laid on her beam ends – the mountainous sea breaks over her preventing her from righting again, till at last amidst the unavailing efforts of the hardy tars, she is whelmed in all devouring ocean.

That this is no fancy picture – no creation of a florid imagination, the lamentable experience of an hundred winters has too fully proved. Tis true indeed that our knowledge of the frequent occurrence of the Northers at a certain period of the year has led us to an observation of their indications, and to the adoption of precautionary measures by which their danger is incalculably diminished, but still there is in their occasional excited violence - the prevalence of currents – and the obscure state of the weather which accompanies them, preventing all view of the sun, and of the proximity of rocks & shores enough of danger to the most experienced mariner to make him view them, if not with a stupefying, despairing dread, at least with an intense anxiety.

The duration of these Scourges of the Mexican Gulf is very unequal & uncertain. In the commencement of the season, their occurrence is at pretty distant intervals, but their violence is proportionally great. Towards the end of their period, they come on more frequently but then their occasion is more gradual & gentle & their burst less furious.

In general, the Northers are attended with thick hazy weather – frequent fogs, which wet you to the skin - & a sensation of extreme cold. All their phenomena are, I think easy to be explained. The cold air of the High Northern regions of America rushes with mighty force, to the regions of the South, where from the heat the atmosphere [is] light – and in proportion to the less specific gravity of the southern air is the strength of that vast body which is blown from the North. I fancy also that the cold Northern air, being charged with '*frigoric*' almost to the freezing point and bringing with it a great portion of moisture in a state of icy coldness, the heat of a tropical sun causes the moisture to be evolved - & hence the fog & heavy dew.

Again the Northers seldom last very long – which may be ascribed to the circumstance that the temperature of the air in the Gulf is soon so much reduced, as by equalising it nearly with what additional quantity which may come from the North, there is no vacuum or weak point left, at which the fierce gusts of Boreas may find an entrance to occupy by force of arms. In a very short time this violence is again

destroyed, and the heated attenuated air can afford but little resistance to his overpowering force.

From all that I have said, you will now be able to judge of the reasonableness of our apprehensions, and of our great good fortune in reaching Vera Cruz without meeting a Norther. We Hope in the ensuing weeks to be equally as lucky in escaping them – but I must confess our expectations are not very sanguine or indeed well founded.

10th Hebdomadal Period

Sunday 26th Jan.^{ry} - all last night we lay off and on, till the dawn enabled [us] to see our way, when we steered in for Vera Cruz. Whilst we were yet some way off, it fell a calm, & every thing around plainly announced that we should not have a breeze for some time. To lose no time therefore the Captain dispatched our Master with the Mail, who was also accompanied by two passengers for Vera Cruz – viz. M.^r & M.^{rs} Ebert. They were both natives of Westphalia, and had been married only about 6 months. They seemed much attached to each other – and in particular the Husband manifested the utmost care & anxiety for the *petites maladies de la femme*. But I must be a little more particular with respect to each.

M.^r & M.^{rs} Ebert.

M.^r or Mein Herr Ebert was a gentleman, rather under the ordinary standard of height – with light blue German eyes, pale complexion and black hair, which he wore smoothed down like a Methody Parson. He had resided for a 8 or 9 years at Vera Cruz and is now at the head of one of the first houses there. Tired of his single blessedness I suppose, he went home about a year ago, and there took unto himself a helpmate – whose love for him must have been very great, since she had been induced to leave her native home – her northern climate - & the companions of her youth, to brave the heat & pestilence of the climate of Vera Cruz, where, besides she will have to associate with Mexican females, whose habits (dirty enough in all conscience) & modes of thinking and tastes are so different from her own. M.^r Ebert was no dandy, like many I have seen abroad, but always dressed really well. He had seen much of the world, & like most of his countrymen, his powers of observation had not been neglected nor uselessly employed. He was a pleasant companion to us & notwithstanding his quiet, trim & precise opinion, he occasionally shewed us that he was not destitute of fun or humour – in other words that he could enjoy or give rise to a joke as well as the most lively of our Mess. In his manners M.^r E. was a perfect gentleman – as also in his language. He spoke English remarkably well – only that he could not pronounce the W – which he sounded as V. – and it is a remark which I have often made that by far a greater proportion of Germans speak our lingo than of any other foreigners.

M.^{rs} Ebert next claims our notice – first of all I beg her pardon for my want of politeness in not making mention of her before her husband – but *n'importe* – I know her so well that I am sure she would forgive if she knew it, which she never shall. M.^{rs} Ebert then in her personal appearance wore about her the evident marks of her Northern origin. She had the blue eyes and the fair flaxen tresses of the Saxon race. She was not very pale, but she had very little of the *coulee de Rose*. Her stature was *a la ordinaire* – and she was inclined *tun petit pur* to the *embonpoint*. She professed an

entire ignorance of the English language – but begging her ladyships pardon, I doubt whether she advanced the truth or at least the whole truth in her assertion. I rather think she knew a great deal of it – but not having being in the custom of using it, she felt a great *mauraise herite* which prevented her from attempting to speak it. Now and then she would attempt to address a few words on the weather or voyage in perfectly good English – and besides she understood perfectly what our steward said to her whenever she had occasion for his services. At night too I have heard her often call Steward bring me a light. Nay when we have twenty together & some thing was said laughable or ridiculous I have seen her smile & even laugh heartily. Be my supposition however right or wrong – she at least spoke German & French. The former per__ you I know [visited] some eight years ago for six months and from my own experience, I should have said that I know no language so harsh & unmusical – but then remember, I had never heard it pronounced except by myself or one of my companions. Oh how different was my opinion of it melody, when the rchs – ochs - & uchs proceeded from the vermilion *labra* of a lady, in tones soft and mellifluous as could be emitted by the fair Italian with also the advantage of liquids & a *carte blanche* of vowels.

M.^{rs} Ebert never dined or took any meals at the common table, but always in her own cabin. Her husband said that she was averse to be among us & yet ignorant of our conversation. She spent most of her time on deck latterly altho' for the first 5 or 6 weeks she suffered much from sea sickness and indigestion brought on by a change of life. She appeared very good humoured and laughed much & often heartily. M.^r Ebert said that at home none so lively or so full of spirits. Hence when she & her husband left us, they carried with them our sincere wishes for their future happiness – and our unfeigned regrets at losing their pleasant society.

During the whole of the day we had either a calm or very light winds – of which we took advantage to sail to & fro, up & down the harbour. At 2 P.M. the Master returned with the Mail, when we had advantage of a gentle breeze to leave Vera Cruz. We had not however got out far when it fell a stark calm, & we lay like a log on the water, with our sails flapping idly against the Masts. Fine weather all day.

Monday 27th January - the calm continued all night and up to 1 P.M. of to-day, when a very light & foul breeze sprung up, which compelled us to tack off and on to the shore. However we gained by this means a little way, and at 8 P.M. we were standing in for the land, when lo the water began to swirl, and the wind to whistle among the rigging, filling all our sails, & causing the Old *Duke* to exchange her snail-like sauntering pace for the caracoling & bounding of the war horse. We were all rejoiced at the change. We considered that we had got the land breeze, which would enable us to lay our course - and seeing the bountiful clearness of the sky overhead, & the regular constant blowing of the wind, we were under no apprehension, that this was a Norther, altho' not to neglect any proper precautions, the Captain ordered two reefs to be taken in the Topsails. Fine weather.

Tuesday 28th - during last night I slept very little in consequence of the trembling & tossing – heeling & reeling – pitching and plunging of the vessel. I was aware by this that some alteration had taken place in the weather - & I suspected we were now encountered by a violent Norther. The air was piercing cold, so that I was obliged to look out for a blanket or two – the wind was distinctly heard howling & bellowing – and every now & then a huge sea would wash over our gunwales & by its concussion

cause every timber to tremble and quiver. With all this I arose in the morning wearied & unrefreshed, and harassed not a trifle by the blue devils. These were not likely to be dispelled by the sight on deck of our ship under close-reefed topsails. – of a mountainous sea – of thick cloudy damp weather – of constantly wet decks – of the once comfortable poop cabin, converted into the receptacle of every odd & end which could possibly [be] shove[d] there. Altho' not laying to, we were next door to it – for we were close hauled upon the wind, & from that cause as well, as the heavy seas, we made little or no way – indeed our only hope was to be able to hold our own against the current & sea way. The wind was from the Northward and Westward. This melancholy state of things continued all day – and at night, we retired to our cribs disconsolate and despairing of a speedy change. You must not imagine we thought ourselves in any danger – by no means – but we were utterly uncomfortable, and the prospect we had of soon reaching Tampico was removed to an indefinite period.

Wednesday 29th Jan.^{ry} - this day dawned upon us in unabated discomfort. The same damp foggy – wet penetrating thro' all weather was still present. The sea was still high & the wind from the same quarter, but to our joy evidently inclined to moderate. By night the breeze was considerably lulled as the swell of the sea came longer – more regular – as if it only wanted to subside gradually. We congratulated ourselves that we had so easily & so cheaply undergone the gauntlets of a Norther – and we expressed our conviction that we would be exempt from their recurrence for 8 or 9 days at least.

Thursday 30th - the expectation we had formed yesterday seemed continued to day, for the weather was very fine all day, and the sea smooth as glass. To be sure the wind still from the NNW & foul, but it was very scant – we anticipated a speedy change for the better. We therefore thought but little of the little way we were making. All were in high spirits and of our ten passengers only one remained below.

Friday 31st Jan.^{ry} - but alas it is a common and a true comparison to say 'fickle as the wind,' now here, now there, and constant never – but rejoicing was premature – our anticipations based in error, our hopes built in air - & our calculations only proved how ignorant we were of the winds of this part of the world. At 2 A.M. last night the wind began again to sough & rise and in less than an hour, the tempest burst forth with added force. The vexed sea awful to behold – it seemed to [be] coming with heavy dense vapours of the sky. The view around us hardly exceeded a mile or two, whilst all beyond was wrapped in impenetrable darkness. The only advantage of day light was that we could get up & see at least a portion of our danger instead of, as all night, being left to uncertainty – conjecture & the suggestions of apprehension, which invariably exaggerate the immensity of it. Our sail was less than before, being reefed mizen topsail & reefed foresail, which was still further reduced to M.ⁿ Topsails. Weather damp & foggy, with occasional showers. Very very cold – penetrated to the very bones and marrow. Thermometer at 58* of Fahrenheit. All our passengers today betook themselves to their dormitories & there lay or snoozed, till the welcome summons to dinner enabled them to beguile an hour or two in the pleasant amusement of eating and drinking. And I must do them the justice to say that even in the most intolerable weather, they shewed themselves valiant Knights of the fork & the knife. Sick tho' they be – hardly able to sit or stand, they nevertheless acquit themselves as well as we do, in the capacity of trenchermen - & generally after they had finished,

they retire to bed again. But more of these gents ere they leave us – this notice of them is only by the way.

Saturday 1st February - the 1st of another month. Oh how swiftly is the lapse of time – 10 weeks from England and it seemeth but yesterday that we left Falmouth. But to my Journal of weather & winds, the most interesting topic to me at least. I have already observed in speaking of Northers, that they seldom last long – their duration being generally 24 or 30 hours. This remark, which I have often heard made, was verified in our case. The fury of the tempest is gone tho' the wind is from same quarter, it is comparatively moderate & still becoming less. The weather has by no means improved, being cloudy dull & miserable all day – with drizzling rain at night. We are now anxious for a sight of the sun to take an observation in order to ascertain whereabouts we are – for at present we are as blind men, probing in the dark, not knowing how we have been driven by the current and consequentially undecided what precise course to steer.

Sunday 2nd Feb.^{ry} - Commencement of 11th Week – cloudy but fair weather all day – drizzling drenching rain at night. No divine service was performed to day – which is to us regretted as if prayers ought to be offered on every occasion, much more are they required when we are in doubt – difficulty, or danger. Wind still foul but moderate.

Monday 3^d – variable weather. Moderate and foul wind. Saw the land about Lobos Island.

Tuesday 4th – in the morning hazy weather. I saw the line of coast but could not make out where we were. In the forenoon a thick fog came on with a heavy drizzle, shutting out every thing from our view. In the evening it cleared up partially when we saw a vessel off Tampico. No wind but strong current against us. Caught two fine turtle & several large fish.

Wednesday 5th - a calm nearly all night – further off in the morning than we were last night – Calm all day – several vessels in sight. In the afternoon very light and favourable breeze. As night came on, we lost sight of the vessels at anchor – but we continued to sail in their direction, till 9 P.M. when not seeing them, we came to anchor. Very fine weather.

Thursday 6th Feb.^{ry} - this morning found us nearly off the Bar of Tampico. Master went off with Mail at ½ past 5 A.M. At 10 A.M. a launch came off which took away our passengers from Vera Cruz, bag and baggage. Fine weather.

Friday 7th - very fine weather. At 5 P.M. the Miners left us for the shore.

Saturday 8th - very fine weather – remained on board – very dull – dull – impatient to be off.

XIth Hebdomadal Period :- Remarks on –

Notwithstanding our apprehensions, we were lucky enough to escape the visitation of another [Norther], till we reached Tampico. The wind for a day or two was foul or

else nearly a calm. On Wednesday afternoon we saw the line of coast and descried several vessels at anchor off Tampico. We were at no very great distance from them – say 12 or 14 miles – but darkness was drawing on and the wind tho' fair was light. We continued however in their direction, and kept up a good look out from the packet's bows, while the Master with a night glass continually swept the horizon, endeavouring to discover them. When we thought we ought to have been up with them, nothing was yet to be seen, on the right hand nor on the left, a head or astern. It was now 9 P.M. and a thick mist was rapidly overspreading the sky, when the Captain not daring to proceed further, ordered the anchor to be let go and the sails to be furled, intending next morning to get up the anchor and sail or beat up to our old anchorage, which we were positive could not be far off from where we were now laying. Thus were we once more at peace, which we enjoyed the rather that we now a pleasing contrast with our former situation, under the influence of the Northers.

Arrive at Tampico

Very early on the morning of the next day (Thursday 6th Feb.^{ry}) the Master, accompanied by Don Miguel Prieto & M.^r Denis Ball proceeded in the gig with the Mail to Tampico. I had declined to be one of the party for fear that I might be wanted, when it would be impossible to send for me so far. I was daily and hourly in expectation that some one or other would be sick, for during five or six days a disorder of the bowels & stomach resembling Cholera had prevailed, attacking the greatest part of our Ships Company & nearly all the Miners - and altho' no additional cases had occurred for two days, I distrusted the suspicious calm, and therefore refused to leave the ship on such a distant expedition. To say that I should have not liked exceedingly to have gone on shore with the Master for my Companion would be to assert a falsehood. In sober comment I had anticipated much pleasure in visiting Tampico, where I should have the society of so many I was acquainted with. But duty, imperious duty demanded the relinquishment of my once cherished plan - and at her call I steadily but not unregretfully resolved to stand by my post & there remain to be dull & lonely & *ennuye* in place of society - novelty and pleasure.

Mexican Passengers – Don M. Prieto & his Son Thomas

About 7 A.M. I got up long after the departure of M.^r Geach - and we had come to anchor a little to the Southward of Tampico - indeed so little that our skipper did not think it worth while to weigh anchor, & move further up. The weather was delightful. The sky clear & the temperature of the air remarkably cool. Having now nothing to excite anxiety or awaken our attention we soon began to feel the want of our usual stimulus & curiosity as to wind and weather. At 10 A.M. all was again bustle and activity, among the Mexican portion of our passengers – for a very large fine launch had come alongside to take them and their luggage ashore. Next to going on Terra Firma myself, I was delighted when they left the ship – for I and all of us were most heartily tired of their company. They were ten in number. There was Sen.^r Don Miguel Prieto (or Black) the new Inspector of Customs at this Port – one of the best of them – a fine pleasant old gentleman – had plenty of excellent cigars, of which he made me a present – regarded & looked up to by the rest, who listened with respect & deference to his dogmas, as far as I could judge from their manner & language, a noble Frenchman – not to be despised as a wine bibber – and altogether a very favourable specimen of his country and rank.

Next may come after him his son Thomas a young lad of 15 with an Indian cast of features & marked by a large scar on his lower jaw. I had much to do with him. He was my patient nearly all the time he was on board. The day after he came to us he very foolishly ate nearly a dozen oranges - & in the afternoon he complained of headache – thirst – debility – which symptoms were accompanied with great heat of skin & a rapid pulse. In a day or two more, there seemed to be a considerable determination to the bowels & chest – and it required much attention & care to subdue these unfavourable symptoms. On the day he left us, tho' much debilitated, he was free from fever – having no thirst or heat of skin – no pain any where – and my opinion is that a few days more, he will come round rapidly. I was much puzzled how to act with regard to him. The Spaniards regarding our mode of treatment as little less than an attempt at Murder. I therefore dozed [sic] him with Rhubarb – Cremoo of Tartar & castor oil – applied blisters & counter imitation - & kept him on the strict antiphlogistic regimen – and thus either by my treatment, or the “*vis medicatry naturae*” – he was soon convalescent. My next difficulty was to get him to take his physic – He refused repeatedly, declaring it was ‘*muy amazed that he was sickish*’ – but in the end he was coaxed to gulp it down, which he never accomplished without much *agua* & plenty of ___ga – He was at times very restless and constantly moaning & exclaiming “*Ay Dios – Ay Dios*” – Oh my God, oh my God. His father seemed to pay but little attention to him - & the rest of his countrymen still less – He was left entirely to me, and the assistance – which our stewards cheerfully rendered – and I hope that my attentions to him were not slack because he was a foreigner. There was still another difficulty, and I will admit a subject of annoyance & botheration to me, which was that he knew not one word of English, and my acquaintance with Spanish was too limited to enable me to enquire after his symptoms & understand his complainings. Hence I was constantly obliged to ask the favour of one of the Mexicans, who understood a little, but to little English to interpret for me. After my telling him what I wanted to know he would gaze at me with an unapprehending countenance & confess he knew not what I meant. Then would I use another & plainer words – use broken English as foreigners do – and finally fish up from the innermost penetration of my memory such Spanish words as I thought would convey my meaning. Sometimes I was successful or thought I was, which was not the same, sometimes all my efforts were in vain & I had either to call in the assistance of M.^r Denis Ball, or trust for information to that study of nature herself. Thus you see that on all hands this case caused me much anxiety & uneasiness – but never did I think of neglecting it or paying less attention than I would have done to any of my old shipmates – and at the departure of poor Thomas, I felt almost an interest in him.

The third I shall notice is Dionysio Goz. This gentleman was a distant relation of the President Santa Anna, and had been a Purser in the Mexican Navy. He used to wear an old jacket with a band of gold lace, about one inch wide, on each shoulder – but his buttons were plate & by no means new. He also was a patient of mine, in consequence of a severe attack of *Olitis*, for the removal of which he seemed very grateful to me. Some days after he had been cured, he met with a severe accident from the rolling of the vessel during the second of our Northers. He fell with great violence right [on] his ribs, where they cover the ribs [sic – but ‘heart’ ?]. For some days he complained of the heart, which palpitated strongly & prevented free breathing. I strongly recommended him to be bled, blistered & purged – but no arguments of mine, backed by the consideration of immediate & future danger, would prevail upon him to submit to my treatment. He had a horror of the lancet & of *causties* as he called blisters. He lived [but ‘loved’?] all vitals, imposing no restraint either in regard

to eating or drinking – and in both qualifications he was behind none of his countrymen. The consequence of all this was, that when he left us, he complained greatly - & was labouring under irritative fever. He spoke a little English & was employed by me as interpreter for Thomas. He was a great boaster, both as regards what he had done, & what he could & would yet do – but I believe his achievements had no better foundation than his own brain, & his gasconade of future deeds of gallantry proceeded more from the desire to raise himself in our estimation than from any regard to truth.

Besides these three whom I have mentioned in particular, we had a lawyer a very gentlemanly man, who was accompanied by his wife, a native of Xalapa & no great specimen of beauty –

We had a young man a native of Vera Cruz, whose father was a Biscayan & his Mother a Creole, with the features of a Frenchman, which language he spoke remarkably well, in consequence of having been educated in a *pensionnaire*, where also he had learned the liberal principles, which are at present in vogue both with respect to religion and politics. He seemed not to be in much favour with the rest, and knowing he was ignorant of English, Dionysio called him a damned rascal.

We had likewise three other young men, with whose names or employments I am ignorant but with whose pertness insolence & rudeness, I was perfectly disgusted.

Lastly we carried with us a poor woman & a little girl, 8 months old, named Carolinas. She was a native of Norway & her husband had died four months ago at Vera Cruz. She had no personal attractions – but her features indicated her Northern extraction. She followed the custom of the country in going without any covering of the head - & this custom enabled us to see her fair, light hair, very tastefully done up, & a large tortoise shell in the centre. She spoke English very well, but with a strong foreign accent.

Such is a list of our Mexican passengers individually – and I come now to present you with a few Notabilities respecting their manners – or of those passengers on board.

Manners of the Mexicans.

Well, with the exception of the Portuguese – who are a shade worse, the Mexicans are among the dirtiest people with whom I have ever been in contact. Their manners are disgustingly filthy. They are perpetually expectorating, & they regard neither time nor time [sic – but ‘place’] when they wish to spit. Oh what an abomination did our poor Packet present after they had left. The after cabin in particular was shocking – the deck being covered with fragments of stale bread – putryfying remnants of meat – saliva & perhaps something worse than all. Above & below – everywhere indeed – filth shocked your eyes & your olfactory nerves from pieces of cigars innumerable – great streaks of saliva - & odds & ends of filth and dirt beyond all conception or description.

Only two of the whole were able to be almost always on deck. The rest were stowed away – in their berths, and seldom moved thence, except to obey the joyful summons to breakfast, dinner or tea – in fact to gormandise. At first it might have been a matter of laughter to you to witness their proceedings – but too soon alas disgust – impatience & anger would be the prevailing feelings of your breast towards them. They had not the slightest idea of the etiquette and decency of the table – but they eat & eat, of fish, fowl, soup, & mutton as if the sole end of their existence had been to live to eat, not to eat to live. It would be an unprofitable as well as an

ungrateful hash to put down all that was done *contra to nos ordores*. I shall content myself with selecting a few of their solecisms and improprieties. Very frequently they would reach over the table to help themselves to a dish, which had been placed before you – and then too they shewed a perfect discrimination in selecting the choicest bits. If one or two or three wished to partake of the same dish, a most unseemly stretching and scrambling, from all parts of the table, would ensue, in order to secure the envied *morceaux*. On one occasion, when we had sheep's head, & our Skipper was helping them as fast as he could, one friend Dionysio Goz, very coolly took the knife & fork from the Captain's hands, & proceeded to cut out the whole of the tongue, which he immediately removed to his own plate. But the worst of all to us was, that each used his own knife & fork, with which he had been eating, to cut or serve from the same of which we were partaking. The sight was enough to turn a decent Christian or Protestant's Stomach. Connected with this a very ridiculous scene occurred. Towards the end of dinner, one of the Mexicans was desirous to have [a] piece of sea pie, a dish was placed before our Master. Instead of asking to be helped, he drew the pie towards him & altho' there was already a knife & fork in the dish wherewith to cut it, by way being very decent & cleanly, he first licked both sides of his own knife & fork, & immediately after employed them in apportioning what he wanted out of the general dish. After that none of us would touch it – but his countrymen had no such feelings of squeamish delicacy about them, & one after another took their share in the same way, till the whole was finished. Faugh! Faugh! Faugh!

Again we shall suppose that they have first partaken of fish with oil & vinegar – and that they wish to have some mutton or fowl or pork – instead of handing their plate to the Steward, & receiving a clean one, as we do, they used to shove the self same plate with the fish bones – oil & vinegar, to receive thereupon any of the other articles I have mentioned – nay they very servilely refused when the Captain desired them to change their platter. In this way at the conclusion of dinner – you would see on the same dish – fish bones – bones of mutton - & portions of fowl or duck or geese, with vegetables & biscuits. Truly they delight in dirt – they luxuriate in unpleasantness – they are obstinate in doing that, to do which with us would subject them to exclusion from any decent family.

I have not yet done. Suppose dinner over, they wish to shew you how nice they are. They take a mouthful of water – whomble it about in their mouths & then eject it right into their plates, or else with an elegant & powerful squirt cause it to fall a couple of yards from them.

= *Eheer jam salis* =

It is the custom among Spaniards to drink whatever wine they intend to use during dinner - & should you have any fruit for a desert, it is put down upon the table cloth, after the meat & vegetables have been removed. Of course it is contemporaneous with the cheese & the salad. When they are satisfied - & I must say they soon are, they have a cup of coffee & rise from the table.

From the manners & behaviour of our Company I should *a priori* had decided that they were no gentlemen - but there I believe my judgement would in the common acceptation of the term *En Mexico* lie erroneous. Heaven permit that I may have again to associate with such gents, whose rudeness & disgusting habits annoyed us all and in particular our Skipper & our English passengers who sometimes purposely absented themselves from the table to avoid the annoyance they experienced there. For myself therefore easily conceive with what joy we bid adieu to these our late

messmates - and that the first order, after their departure was to scrub & wash, till all smelled sweet again - an object which it cost much time & labour & innumerable buckets of water to attain.

May we never look upon their like again.

Launch comes for the Miners

The day after their departure (Friday 7 February) we had still delightful weather - clear & nearly a calm. Our remaining passengers having been in expectation all yesterday of a launch coming off for them and having been completely disappointed, made sure that early on this morning it would be off. But hour after hour passed & no boat came near us. We saw them passing to & fro the other vessels, and around us. At 3.30 a boat was at last perceived coming in our direction with all the speed which 8 rowers could communicate to such an unwieldy bulk as their launch was. Then came the tug & the struggle. Boxes - chests - trunks &.^c were piled on the deck to be ready to be transferred into the barge - whilst those who had not yet shaved & shifted did so now. Soon after the launch had been alongside and all their bags & baggage had been stowed away in it, and at last our passengers themselves took farewell of us, and gave us three cheers as they shoved off, which was returned by our crew, amidst the waving of hands & hats.

Very different, then, were the feelings with which we parted from the miners & those we experienced in saying our "adios" to the Mexicans. The former had been our shipmates from Falmouth - knew how to conduct themselves - and had lived during the long period of eleven weeks in the utmost Harmony with the Ship's Company. We all felt pretty sorry when they left us & I believe there were some among them who bade us good bye with the unbidden tear in the eye & the lips quivering with emotion.

Our Passengers

But I must be particular at least in recording the names of our messmates & shipmates, in order to preserve some memorial of them, when days, months & years shall have passed away.

Two then claim our first attention as being cabin passengers & our messmates viz. Mess.^{rs} Philip & Dennis Ball, Brothers and Sons of a gentleman who had been a large banker in Cornwall - but had failed.

M.^r Philip Ball

M.^r Philip Ball. Surely so short a name could never belong to so tall - so stout a personage as the gent just mentioned. Yet it was so. M.^r Philip was a man of 6 feet in height - broad shoulders - expanded chest - full moon face, yet handsome with curling black locks. Altogether he was a very fine looking man - and a most favourable specimen on an "*Inglese*." I assure you his stout, healthy, florid appearance at Jacquemel - Jamaica & Belize - excited no small notice among the people who seldom saw such a sight, except when some Newcomer from England direct visited their shores.

In character M.^r Philip was a pleasant good natured fellow - just such as a one as would render himself agreeable in any society, without exciting envy by any superior attainments. In his conversation he displayed no marks of having studied or

read much, on the contrary I should have judges that his extent of book love, on literary or historical subjects was very limited. I should consider him to be very unfit for a hot climate, from full plethoric habits, which he took no pains to keep down by abstinence or medicine. – Nay the evil seemed to be daily increasing, for whilst with us he became enormously stout – and his appetite & excellence of digestion prompting him, he partook of most extravagant quantities of food of every description & stimulating drinks, at the same time that he took little or no exercise, spending his whole day in eating & sleeping or lounging. He was universally liked for he had no pride about him. He was equally intimate with all the miners as with us. He was as often in their society as in ours. He laughed with them – joked with them and joined with them in many a game of Card. At 12 he was invariably to be found between decks, partaking of their mess of sea pie or pease soup & pork. In short he gained golden opinions from all, from the highest to the lowest. May he succeed to his hearts content in his plans in Mexico whatever they may be, & return with full pockets home to Cornwall - but I much fear if he is attacked with fever he will have but small chance of escaping with his life.

M.^r Dennis Ball

M.^r Dennis Ball the younger Brother of M.^r Philip Ball was a person of a very different stamp, both in body and in mind. He is far surpassed his brother in mental as Philip did him in bodily qualifications. In size he was of the ordinary standard. His features were not so good or so handsome as Philip's – and when annoyed, hellish or angry there was an indescribable something in the curl of his under lip which displeased you, and detracted much from the otherwise favourable opinion you would have formed of him. I have said he far surpassed Philip in mental calibre. He was very well read indeed in history & general knowledge - & during six years sojourn in Mexico at Real del Monte & Bolannos Mines, he had acquired a knowledge of the world which rendered him tho younger in years, [to] be [a] fit guide & instructor to his brother in the scenes in which they are about to mingle. M.^r Dennis had one great drawback against him. He had long suffered from illness - & was still occasionally subject to attacks of Chronic *nephritis*, which had soured his temper, and darkened his soul. In these moods he was sullen - snappish and surly - and I apprehend should his attacks of illness continue (which is very probable) that his mind will sink under them & lead him to insanity or suicide. He is in truth a terrible hypochondriac - and when at the worst, he talks most strangely, expressing his indifference in living, of throwing off at once the wearisome burden of existence by an act of volition. I fear much for him - as he is either a Deist in principles, or rather has none at all - at least none that will stand the shock of illness or hypochondriasm, when his mind is weakened. At another times, when he is well, M.^r Dennis is a very pleasant companion with whom you could pass many an hour in entertaining & instructive conversation. He had some very peculiar notions of his disease - and when labouring under cold – his idea was that bumpers of brandy, or of port wine were the best remedies. Under this persuasion he would swill away to an immoderate extent & continue the practice, till after a few days, finding himself no better but rather worse, he would knock off all at once from eatables & drinkables and thus starve out his disease – which by the bye of the two plans was much the better one – altho' I must confess it was carried to too great an extent.

What were the objects of the Mess.^{rs} Ball in coming to Mexico, we could never learn - It was a secret to every one on board & they kept it close - never offering

any reply to our innuendoes & hints as to it. They were well stocked with every thing & every thing was the best & most complete of it kind - Clothes in abundance. Swords - pistols - fowling pieces - carabines - every thing in fact conducive to their comfort, convenience & protection they had from the most approved makers in London. I query whether many of the articles they had with them were not intended for sale in Mexico - as they seemed to have far more than they could possibly require.

Having thus made you somewhat intimate with our two cabin passengers, order now requires me to say a few words respecting the ten Miners. We brought with us from Falmouth. There were two distinct parties of them - that is some were destined for the Real del Monte Mines - & the rest for the Bolanos Mines. This will form an approximate division in attending to each.

For the Real del Monte there were four viz.

1st Titus Geach, Pattern Maker - a man of rather soft mild countenance with light hair, smoothed down, like a Baptist, as he was. This gave him an air of gravure which made him look 10 years older than he really was. He was from S.^t Austell, and was uncle to the Agent there for sending out Miners to Mexico. His Mother ran an Inn there. His manners were quiet & unassuming - yet had a little leaven of pride mixed with his professed humility, for he rarely associated with his companions & rather courted our society. In his religious opinions he was a strict Baptist - but I am afraid sadly wanting in Christian Charity towards his fellow men, for he not infrequently remarked to me the inconsistent conduct of the Methodists his fellow passengers - & complacently contrasted his own life with theirs. I certainly agreed with him when he lamented how much it was to be regretted, that those who had made a profession of following out the severest doctrines of religion, should yet act so inconsistently with their profession as to get drunk - swear all manner of oaths - profane the Holy name of God - and play at Cards all day long - but my assent to the truth of his remarks was mingled with displeasure at the unchristian pride that lay concealed under his strictness. For, said he, I never swear - never play at Cards - read my Bible - & while with my family at home, all my household look as regularly for prayers & psalm singing, amorning - noon & evening, as they do for their meals - M.^r T. Geach was really a quiet unpretentious sort of a personage & I certainly never saw or heard him in any of those practices which he condemned - & therefore I gave him credit for his power of combining consistency with profession - But alas for poor human nature - how cruelly it deceives itself & rests satisfied in fancied security. How often did I think of the advice of the Apostle Paul to the neophyte Christians, to take heed lest they fall - And it would have been well for Titus, had he borne this administration in mind - & kept the strictest guard over himself - that he might be enabled with the divine assistance to overcome temptation & not gone forth as he did in his own strength, which, as might be surmised was too feeble to resist the overwhelming influence of temptation. This said Titus, then - this severe censor mourn in others - this that was to be a light to our truth, and an example, whereby we should walk - fell alas - and fell most lamentably. I have heard that previous to his regeneration & Baptism, Titus Geach had been addicted to the immoderate use of ardent spirits - but that since that important event, he had given up his evil habit, and walked consistently before Man & God. He thought perhaps that he had overcome this habit - & was confident in himself. Hence his fall. The two days we lay at Jamaica he was beastly drunk - and in his drunken folly, he read a letter which he intended to send home & in

which he mentioned that the hurry [?] he came out had been drunkenness - quarrelling & swearing all the way out. The day we went to sea, he looked unutterable things - for he was justly suffering under the effects of his debauch. He seemed penitent - & took all the raillery with which I & the rest liberally assailed him in Christian meekness - readily confessing that he had erred - & promising to keep a more careful watch over himself for the future - His words were less those of confidence then before & his companions occasionally howitted the imminutate with his sin. After all, however I was inclined to regard his falling away with a lenient eye - attributing it to the heat of the weather producing thirst & to his having unguardedly endeavoured to quench his thirst, without reflecting how much he had quaffed. At least you will admit that my judgement of him was a charitable one - & I would have bid adieu to him with a first favourable opinion - but for after circumstances,

At Belize he drank more than he ought, altho' not so much as at Jamaica. From that time till we reached Tampico, he was never out of the way - and I bad[e] him good bye with some feeling of respect for him as a sincere Christian. On the return of our Master from Tampico with the Mail, I was surprised and grieved to learn that Titus had again fallen away - that he had been outrageously drunk & that it had been necessary to restrain him & prevent him from doing injury to himself and others. The rest of them I was told had behaved remarkably well, and of course were rejoiced that their mentor had made such a complete fool of himself. On the morning the Master left as early as six o'clock he saw his namesake in a very so so state - who was not ashamed to tell him that he had already drunk three glasses of grog. This augers ill for his future health - peace of mind - religion - & lastly for his continuance in the Company's employ - Besides his friends at home will be much grieved - for some of the Miners intend, when they write home to allude to his misconduct.

I have been thus particular respecting Titus Geach both because I had much intercourse with him on religious matters - & because he was [a] practical illustration, coming under my very eye, of the observation that religion suffers more from the evil practices of its strictest professors, than from the most remonstrate attacks of philosophers - sceptics & Infidels.

The 2nd of the Real del Monte party is George Sweetlove - a young good looking man - a Carpenter by trade. He seemed a very unsettled youth - has been in various parts of England - & even in Sierra Leone for 3 years. When I say he seems unsettled I observed from his conversation, that he frequently changed his places of employment not because he could not get work but because he was tired of the place & was of a roving disposition. He frankly acknowledged that if he could have made up his mind to have continued at Sierra Leone he might soon have accumulated a decent competency, especially as he was seasoned to the climate, & therefore had little to fear. He regretted exceedingly having left the colony - and as it was he was obliged to be smuggled on board and outward ship - strict orders having been issued that he should [not] be allowed to leave the country. He as well as M.^r Titus was married and messed in the pantry, not with the other Miners.

3rd M.^r Thomas Waram,⁴ Mason - a middle aged quiet, steady man, whom I liked very much indeed. He was also a Baptist but by no means so strict in his profession as Geach - but therefore when he erred a little, no offence was taken & no reflections cast up to him.

⁴ Waren/Warren ?

4th Edwin Williams Smith a stout black haired - black whiskered nice fellow, with no pretensions either one way or another - in short an ordinary man of the world. He was an old stager in Mexico, having served three years with the Bolanos Company. I was much pleased with him and gained some little knowledge by conversing with him on his trades.

These four then belonged to the Real del Monte party - & the other six were bound for Bolanos - viz.

1st Richard Ham - was not a very young, yet not an old man. He was strongly marked with the small pox - of a stout make - with light hair. He has been a great traveller - having travelled in the United States - and formed one of the Mining party that were at Buenos Ayres during the blockade of that place by the Brazilians. There he acted as Steward to the rest on account of his carefulness and sobriety - qualities I assume as highly valued as they are rare among that description of men. Richard was a very good fellow & lived in good fellowship both with our men & his own companions. He had a laugh & a joke for every one - and was always busy as a Bee. I took much delight in conversing with him, and as for subjects we found plenty in talking of Buenos Ayres & the different persons we knew by name & celebrity - He told me that while there they lived well & did nothing - & were handsomely paid - and that their only regret was, that they had not remained a year or two longer. He entertained me with many anecdotes - for he was an observant fellow. Among others he mentioned a circumstance, which happened to himself, and which shews the state of the country of Buenos Ayres at that time.

One night one of his messmates was unwell and Richard was dispatched on horseback into the City (for they lived in the suburbs) to purchase some medicine which he chanced not to have. Now Ham was always very ready & willing on such occasions - and he rode post haste - purchased what he wanted - & was returning with equal speed, when he thought he heard someone halloing to him. However he thought it best to disregard this being fearful that some one had a design of robbing or murdering him (no groundless apprehension there, where such things were of daily - I mean of nightly occurrence) and accordingly slackened neither rein nor bridle when to whiz flew a musket ball over his head, and brought him to in a jiffey. He was then passing the fort, and he immediately knew that the leaden messenger had been dispatched after him by the sentinel on duty - so he suddenly turned round rode up to the sentry. This self important rascal ordered him to dismount - and having conducted him to his box he commenced a thorough search of his person, and appropriated to himself all he could find not excepting the physic. In this way he got possession of 4 dollars - a little handkerchief with various sundries & minor considerations. Being at last satisfied that he had got all poor Dick's valuables, he suffered him to depart - with a word of caution - to say nothing of the matter for fear of worse consequences. If he had had to deal with a Spaniard he might have been perfectly safe - for fear would have completely obfuscated the poor wretches intellects & taken away his memory. But Richard was a man of different stamp - he had all his wits about, and by the light of an adjoining lamp, whilst the soldier was rifling his person, he took very particular notice of his features, that he might be able to identify him again.

Being as I have said at length dismissed, he wended on his way with redoubled haste to his quarters. On his arrival he roused the Doctor impatient at his protracted stay - and to his demand for the physic he related what had befallen him. The medico

was astonished and deliberated what was to be done. After some reflection he took Ham to the Agency - to whom Dick gave a full account of his mischance, & further assured him that he should be able to recognise the robber among a thousand. In a very short time comparatively speaking, all three were on their way to the Fort - at which when they arrived, the Agent requested to see the Officer on guard. In a few minutes he was introduced to the Officer and told his story. The officer heard attentively the whole & then ordered the sentries to be brought to the Guard House to see if he could identify the rascal. When Richard was introduced, he cast a look all around and being then satisfied he laid his hands upon one whom he affirmed to be the man. All were surprised and the officer admitted that he was the very one who had been on guard at the time stated & that he had since been relieved. He then ordered him to be taken into custody & his room to be searched. The search was perfectly successful, even to the Physic, which together with the money was discovered under his bed. The Handkerchief was concealed elsewhere. All the articles were restored and promise made that the offender would speedily meet his merited punishment - And meet it he did - for that very morning he was tried by marshal law - & at 8 A.M. was shot in the Plaza, in front of the Fort, & nothing more was said about the matter.

2nd James Rowe - a decent middle aged man with a pure Cornish brogue - Nothing peculiar otherwise gave no offence - was apparently a pious, well disposed person.

3rd Benjamin Penularick - A fine stout young man - perhaps the strongest of the party - Very quiet and inoffensive - said little - & was good friends with everybody.

4th John Martin - was a very fat & stout fellow - hardly more than twenty - rather a green horn and the butt of our men & his own companions. He argued always with our men, but why I know not. Not much sense or savvy about - but extremely good natured. The slave of passion in a proportionate degree to the small qualities he possessed of principle or sense - But perhaps his youth may be the cause, why he acted & spoke so foolishly.

5th Samuel Renfrew - one of our droll ones - laughing with & the cause of laughter to others - a short awkward figure, with red whiskers and a furry expression of face. He had also been a rover & resided for some time in America, where it was expected to find many rich mines of gold & silver - but which all [proved] a hoax - Sammy had a long tongue & loved to have the last word. He said that he was the best fellow breathing, when nobody put him into a passion! Hah! Hah! His peculiarities, & the continual play which was made upon them by all communicated some little life to our monotonous & dullness. If Samby had a failing it was pride. He never saw himself but in the most self-satisfied light - and the very day he left us, he strutted up & down the deck dressed in M.^r Balls laced jacket & having his waist encircled with a sword belt, from which was appended a handsome sword with a steel scabbard - & his bearing reminded me of the fable of the jackdaw & the peacock. We laughed at him but he heeded us not. He presumed an air of gravity & importance worthy of his habiliments - & replied to our remarks, as if he despised us all & considered us to be actuated by envy & jealousy of his superior accoutrements. He hardly deigned to say good bye, but marched over the gunwale into the launch with a most ridiculous assumption of fancied dignity.

6th John Richards - a very young man - of manners and address rather superior to the others, a little bit of a fop - but otherwise a pleasant enough fellow.

Thus I have given, *mia cara Madre*, a full, true, & particular account of all and each of our Miners - and have only to add that we have seldom had a party with whom our men agreed so well and that their expressions of regret and wishes for their welfare & prosperity. The only fault I found if fault it could be called, was that when they could get it, they made too free an application to the grog bottle - & that when under its baneful influence, they were not so peaceful, or so amenable to discipline as at another times. But these causes of complaint were few & far between, occurring only when we were in harbour. I was surprised also to see how well - nay how delightfully they all were attired previous to their going on shore at any port & I assure you their behaviour in their novel character of gentlemen, was scarcely believed by their actions. This particularly when we lay in Jamaica, three or four of them together, went to one of the most topping Board Houses there, and spent their money freely like gentlemen, eating & drinking of the best this House afforded at a most extravagant cost.

Long ere the Miners left us, I was become quite an adept in their dialect & tone which indeed I studied so much, that I could hardly avoid imitating them in my own conversation. They spoke quickly & with a singing drawl - which I had at first some difficulty in following them - but a little attention & practice soon familiarised it to my ear.

When with three cheers on either side, we bid a final farewell to my old shipmates, the contrast presented by my ship was most melancholy - Left alone now to ourselves the silence seemed profound & ominous. The before well filled spaces were empty - the sound of the merry voices had ceased & the accents of expostulation, argumentation and assumption were now no longer heard. We knew not what to do with ourselves - Like fish out of water, we looked around and asked each other if all was reality.

The fineness of the weather was undisturbed [?], the fishing lines left unattended & in short what to do or what to say we knew not. So at a very early hour I retired to rest, hoping to awake sensitive of less regret and with a new train of thoughts to occupy & divert my mind.

Disappointed in getting Mail - Ticklish situation

Saturday 8 Feb.^y - the weather today was delightful, the sea smooth - the Bar just in the best state to be passed with ease and comfort. From morn till night we were on the *qui vive*, wondering how the Cargo agent had not sent for the 9 tons of quick-silver we had brought from England for the Mines - and also whether the Mail & our freight of 568000 dollars would be oft or not. In the afternoon a launch came off for the quicksilver - but owing to the small depth of water over the Bar, would only take one half of the bottles (125) promising, however that another launch would come that evening for the remainder. No launch however - made its appearance, nor did we [see] any signs of the Mail or freight, altho' we kept a good look out with our glasses, till darkness descended over the scene. Our Captain was very angry that the American Consul (M.^r Robertson) who was also acting for our government in consequence of the absence of the proper English Consul M.^r Crawford in England & the recent death of the young Hocking whom he had left in his stead. He was also exceedingly anxious lest a Norther should strike in, in which case we should be obliged to slip our cable

(which could be unshackled in a moment) & run out to sea, when it would be impossible to say how soon we should be able to beat back - get up our anchor & take on board our Mail & freight. He considered that our remaining beyond our time appointed (viz. 8 o'clock this morning) was a tempting of a Norther. However there was no help for it, & every thing was done for the safety of our vessel in the event of a gale. M.^r Williams, the Mate being also ordered to keep watch at night, in order to take measures for our safety betimes. After issuing his commands the Skipper retired to his cot, & the Mate, A. Snell & self sat down to a game of cards to while away the time till the hour of repose.

XII Hebdomadal Period

Sunday 9th February - no Mail to day - wind from NW - Weather alternately thick foggy & cloudy - Air very damp.

Monday 10th - fine weather all day. Early in the morning, money & mail came off. Sent on shore the remaining 125 bottles of quicksilver. At 3.30 up anchor & set sail with a moderate & foul wind. At 7 tacked off the land, when we had very light breezes.

Tuesday 11th - nearly a calm all night, light & unfavourable breeze in the morning which, died away nearly to a calm. At 1.40 p.m. came up a moderate wind from East - fresh & favourable breeze at night - More lovely weather.

Wednesday 12th - moderate & favourable breeze all day - very light at night. Most delightful weather - cool & clear.

Thursday 13th - little wind all night - land breeze in the morning & foul, - At 11.40, the *Ariadne* frigate - laying to sent a boat with her letters for England. She left Vera Cruz yesterday morning & was bound for Tampico - land in clear view *avanti Punta Delgarda*. Fresh but foul breeze from S.^d all day which obliged us to tack occasionally. At 5 P.M. tacked off the Southward to E & N. Weather very cool

Friday 14th Febr.^{ry} - strong land breeze all night and amorning, which was against us. At 11 A.M. it died away and was succeeded by a favourable sea breeze. We were now only a few miles from our Port, and expected to have got in very soon, but the wind was light & it was past 4 P.M. ere we anchored off the *Castle de San Juan de Ulloa*. As soon as the anchor was dropped, the Master & self went on shore with the Mail, but returned in an hour, in order that M.^r Geach might secure the vessel to night in the event of a Norther. This operation occupied much time & proved very fatiguing to our men. Our ship was warped ahead a little, having first tripped the anchor we had dropped, then it was let go again & after that a chain cable was carried to the Castle Walls and secured to an immensely large iron ring, there inserted - and lastly another anchor was let go, so that we were held fast on every side, and could have some confidence in our security. However in case of extremities, we had another anchor & cable all ready should it be deemed necessary. Fine weather.

Saturday 15th Febr.^{ry} - beautiful clear weather - little wind in the morning - At 11 A.M. went on shore. In the afternoon had a Norther, which rendered it necessary to

remain on shore – Dined at M.^f Eberts, who promised a bed to Master, A Snell & self. At night went to a masquerade & afterwards slept at M.^f Eberts.

The XII Hebdomad

On Sunday 9th none of us entertained a doubt but that we should receive our Mail and money on board to day, and accordingly every thing was prepared to take them in as quickly as possible. The weather at first was very thick and hazy, and to this circumstance, we attributed the non-arrival of the anxiously expected – but when the weather cleared up and no sight or sign was seen we were much puzzled what to make of it. We fancied that the merchants on shore were afraid of a Norther, and would not permit their money to be sent off – or else that no launches could be got to go off, as it was Sunday. Many an anxious eye was turned all day towards the Bar – and twice our hopes were raised – by seeing launches coming over the Bar - & twice were disappointed – for they went on board some merchantman. Throughout the day & afternoon the weather was alternately clear & foggy & the atmosphere – loaded with moisture – so that we had a good [deal] of discomfort to add to our anxieties. Towards evening, the wind which had been before very light began to freshen – the sea was troubled - & a dense fog hung over the horizon not far from us. The wind too was from the N W. All these things were to say the east very suspicious – and the Capt.ⁿ ordered the fore topsail to be loosened, but not hoisted, to be in readiness – whilst our Carpenter was prepared to unshackle our chain cable at a moments notice. No farther steps were taken – and we awaited in considerable anxiety to see whether or not it would [come] on to blow hard. The other vessels around us were more timid apparently than we, for they slipped their cables & set sail. In a short time the wind, instead of increasing sensibly lulled & ultimately died away to our very great satisfaction.

Next day very early, two launches came off with our money – followed by our Gig with the Mails. We found from the accounts of M.^f Geach that yesterday they had got all the money down from the town to the Bar – but that they could not procure any of the large boats to take it off – but were compelled to remain there all night & keep watch for the safety of the freight. We were all heartily glad to see our shipmates off once more. The weather fortunately was very fine & our men setting to with a will soon emptied the barges of the silver, and put on board of them the remaining bottles of quicksilver to be delivered to the Agent for the Mines.

The best part of the day was occupied in overlooking, arranging, comparing, & stowing away the money in the different parts of the ship so as to equalise the weight and prevent her from having a list to the Starboard or larboard sides, or from being much by the head or the stern.

At last we had done, and at 3.30 P.M. we weighed anchor, and set sail for Vera Cruz with a moderate but foul wind. For the next three days we had the wind sometimes fair, sometimes foul – but never from the N & W. The weather in general was most delightful, very cool but pleasant, with most lovely moon light nights, with hardly a cloud to hide the brilliance of the numerous stars, which sparkled in the blue canopy over our heads.

On Friday 14th Feb,^y altho' in the morning the land breeze being strong & against us, we had hardly any hopes of gaining our port (from which we were distant not more

than 15 or 20 miles), to our great delight we obtained at 11 a favourable tho' light breeze, and at 4.20 we came to anchor off the Castle de San Juan de Ulloa.

Saturday 15th The Master having occasion to go on shore on duty, I accompanied him. When we landed I took notice of the pier, at which we landed. It has been originally built very strong – as else it could never have stood so well the ravages of so many years. But it is on the road to decay and whereas a little care & trouble now would make [it] something like what it has been the Mexican Government are either – too poor, too lazy – or too indifferent – to do the little needed, and probably will think nothing of the matter, until sheer necessity shall compel them to rebuild it *de novo*. Passing up this, we [went] thro' the gate on the right, which all who enter the city are obliged to pass, that on the left being intended for those leaving the city, we were once more in the streets of Vera Cruz. I have nothing new to observe of it – except perhaps to remark the excellence of the streets & of the houses. *Au reste* it is as dull, lifeless, & poor as ever with abundance of pride among its inhabitants – to make them hold up their heads as high as their most wealthy allies.

After a call at our Vice Consul Francis Giffards, Esq.^{re} we repaired to M.^r Eberts where we were most kindly received asked to take grog of wine an excellent Havanah and finally invited to dine at 2 o'clock. All these courteous offers we unhesitatingly accepted, because we knew them to be sincere from the character of the man, whereas we as unhesitatingly declined the dry frigid conditional – not intended to be accepted invitation of his High Mightiness the V. Consul. The day being very hot, we stayed in ____ Hen. Eberts Counting-house, smoking & chatting till the hour of dining, when we were shewn up stairs and again had the pleasure of seeing M.^{rs} Eberts, whom we found looking quite charming and completely recovered from all the fatigues of her voyage. By the bye I should have mentioned that M.^r Eberts house is immensely large – a palace in extent – with a complete labyrinth of passages – stairs & rooms – but then the furniture was not such as we would have in England, either as regards quantity or quality. A few rooms only had any pretensions to the possession of elegant furniture & these were the reception & dining rooms – a chair or two with a bed & eke a small table comprised the riches of the others.

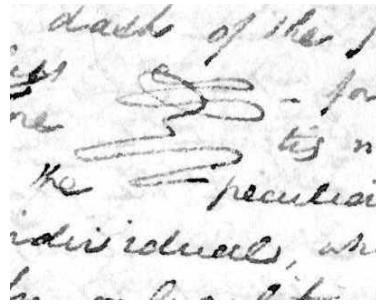
But this is by the way. At 2 precisely we three (Master, A. Snell & self) sat down to table with about 8 others, among whom were M.^{rs} Ebert & a female companion lately come from Germany. The Dishes were excellent & plain – in quantity neither too much nor too little – in arrangement neat & comfortable. I was much pleased with every thing I saw – and was as much at my ease as I would have been on board a [dielanglier ?] which is to be put down as a Compliment to our Host & Hostess by every one who had felt (as I have sometimes done) the bore & misery of a tremendous – courteous & fussy dinner.

A Norther – Can't get on board.

All foreigners never sit long at table. We were aware of that custom and therefore at a decent time we took our departure, proposing to go on board for the day. Now it had so happened that the Master & self had declined an offer made to us by M.^r Ebert of tickets to a Masquerade Ball, and of a bed when it was over. We declined it on the ground that we should be obliged to be on board to night - the Master – to take care of the Ship, and I to take care of the Captain, who was then ill of his old enemy the Gout. Our excuses were very kindly admitted & we had given up all thoughts of the matter. Nor was it till we got down to the pier, saw the sight before us

there that we had reason to wish that we had not been so very hasty in our refusal, at least of one of his offers, viz. of a bed. During our absence in the Town, a strong Norther had set in. The sea was all of a foam, and in particular the long rolling waves burst in fury over the jettee, threatening destruction to any boat which should attempt to pass thro' it. Indeed, no boat could possibly live in it. About a fortnight ago the Captain of a Hamburger, when half slued, had the hardihood in spite of all admonition to endeavour to pull off to his vessel – when the consequence was that his boat was capsized – he himself drowned, and the boats [crew], after escaping the eminent danger of sharks, were thrown on the beach by the waves more dead than alive.

We had been told in the morning that a Norther might be expected, from the peculiar state of the atmosphere – which was very clear – and also because Orizabor was distinctly seen without his usual cap of clouds. This intimation would have prevented us from coming on shore, if our object had been pleasure – but as there was some business to be performed, we took advantage of the weather while it was moderate to land & execute our duty, taking the risk of a Norther. We were indeed very fairly nicked - & I don't know but that I was very glad to have been where I was on terra firma, than on board our Packet, which was pitching like fury, as if striving to break loose from the chains & cables which confined her. After looking at every thing for some time, it was *nem: cont:* determined that it was impossible to get off and that our best plan would be to return to M.^r Eberts & let him Ebert know how we were situated. We did so & then the gentleman told us that he had expected such would be the case, & had accordingly prepared rooms & beds for us in his house. To this agreeable communication we could only reply by thanking him sincerely – but not content with this highly acceptable favour – for where could you get accommodation in a large & unknown city – he again pressed as to accept tickets to the Masquerade. For our own parts we were willingly enough to go, but knew not how to get over some difficulties. We pleaded that we had no masquerade dress, nor could we hire, as all were made to order for each individual at his sole expense. M.^r Ebert replied that we might go in plain clothes, or in our uniform, as we were. No sooner was this difficulty removed than another was started. When we left the ship we had white Trousers on & having worn them all day, they were but so so & certainly rather unfit for a public ball - & besides M.^r Geach had got on a short jacket, & it was impossible to procure a change (no alteration. Oh said M.^r Ebert, never mind, your trousers will do – all are not very particular & as to the Master he shall [wear] my blue dress coat & waistcoat – so now you will go. Our inclination Seconding M.^r E's arguments, we agreed to take a view at least of the fun – if we could not join in it. As it wanted some time ere it would be quite the thing to start, & as M.^r Eberts was busy, we were conducted into our own particular apartments, where we [found] an abundant supply of Havanas & Cogniac – with newspapers &.^c to while away the time. At an hour appointed a friend of M.^r Eberts (for neither he nor M.^{rs} E went) called upon us to keep us company. We passed several streets, & I soon recognised the house of the Masquerade by the lights, & two soldiers at the door as sentinels. I was surprised to see as very few people outside, watching the masques – who entered – the number hardly exceeding a dozen or two. We passed the sentries and proceeded up a tolerable staircase, on the first landing place of which was another soldier and a person to receive our tickets, which were merely small pieces of paper, with *Baile de Mascara, 15 Febrero*, printed on the one side, & on the other the dash of the person who issued [it], as thus -



Dash of the person

– for as I have told you before, 'tis not the handhard writing but the peculiar flourish adopted by the individual, which constitutes the authenticity or legality of any written instrument, as Bills, Orders &c. Having delivered our tickets we now ascended another short flight of stairs where we [came] into a square gallery – at one side of which was a bar where you have wine, spirits &c. and at another the large room where the Ball was to be held. Besides these there were other rooms where you could call for (& mind you pay) some supper. This was then you perceive no private Ball, but one got up by Subscription and chiefly thro' the instrumentality & liberality of the foreigners resident here. The Mexicans would never have thought of it themselves – for heretofore they had passed thro' this life without once thinking of Balls, Clubs, or Masquerades – now *tout cela est change* – query is it for the best.

Hardly any masks were to be seen when we arrived, so to pass the time we left our caps in a room where they were put on pegs with a number underneath, & you received a corresponding number, upon presenting which you received the article so numbered – and then wandered into the Ball Room. This was pretty large – but hardly so [large] as I have seen many in England. There were very few ornaments in the room – indeed it was remarkably bare. At one end was a very good military band, and down the sides were chairs & benches for the accommodation of the ladies and gentlemen. Our curiosity in regard to the saloon was very soon satisfied, and we [were] glad to have our attention called to the arrivals of Masquers. It would be impossible to mention every masque we saw – and it is also unnecessary since they [were] nearly all of them commonplace and tame, dressed it is true in the customs of a particular character or nation, but without making the slightest effort to restrain it with propriety. I shall only make a few brief notices. The greater number were habited *a la Turque*. Some of them very splendidly – but deuce a word of Turkish [they] did not know, nor did they observe that gravity of demeanour which characterises that singular nation, who consider it an offence against the dignity of man to relax the *cachennatry* muscles, and as a point of philosophy to preserve their gravity in all circumstances. Now I heard many of the false Turks laughing most obstreperously & moreover making use of their legs with great agility – whereas it is notorious that their original never runs or jumps.

Then there were several Indians, very prettily dressed – I say prettily because I am sure they were not naturally habited. For instance – their bows and arrows, and tomahawks were highly gilt, as was also their quivers – their moccassins were covered with spangles – and their walk any thing but what I conceived of the free independent bearing of an Indian. As David said of Saul armour so might they have said, we have not proved them – they walk as it were in fetters – an attitudes of motion are constrained. But they had this advantage that the colour of the masque &

all the tight fittings skin was natural, whereas in every other case the masques were coloured to resemble the natives of Europe, while they were worn by persons who approached nearer the Mulatto than the whites – and hence there was no correspondence whatever between the white face and the brown neck & arms.

I was pleased with one character which struck me as being well sustained. It was apparently one who was supposed to be in the army & to have lately received his commission, of which he was excessively vain. He paraded himself everywhere, with a slow mincing step, holding in his hand a gold cord at the end of which was a tassel, which he waved to & fro with the most ridiculous affectation. As he walked he cast frequent glances at the enormously large epaulet on his right shoulder – and altogether this character was an admirable *charcuse* of the Mexican Officer.

Whilst I was promenading, I was addressed by several masques in Spanish – but I was always ready with my *no entiendo* – I don't understand. I shook hands with others, took a good care to let them know what a gude Scotch gripe was – so that they did not repeat their civility a second time. Some spoke to me in French & received the same answer as also the affected Deutchmen. There were two however who addressed me in English – the one a *gran-medico aj adivino de Pares* (as a board on his back designated him) & the other in a nondescript dress. I could not find them out – tho' they knew me very well – but was afterwards told that the one was M.^r Welch, & the other M.^r Johns his partner.

From some of the characters you might form some judgement of the opinions of the people. There were several caricatures of monks & nuns – who were accused openly of professing to follow after holiness & yet living the practice of sin. This is a very curious sign of the times – Had the Most Holy Inquisition been in operation such audacity & profanity would never have been perpetrated – or would have been most signally punished.

A great many ladies and gentlemen were present in full dress, without masques. Many of the *Senoritas* were fine figures but could hardly be called pretty. A unusual number of the *Senoras* were ugly old women, who were more fit to attend to the concerns of the next world, than mixing in the vanities of this subliminary one. There was a good deal of dancing – but the crowd was too great either for comfort or the display of great excellence in that art.

After saying for a few hours, and having fully satisfied my curiosity, the Master, self, & M.^r Ebert's friend, M.^r Philip left to return home. There was hardly a person to be seen on the streets – as all decent people keep within their own doors after ten – and here & there we met a few *serenos* watchmen, at the corners of streets with lanterns in their hands and occasionally calling the hour & the state of the weather. Arrived at M.^r Ebert's we knocked & presently the door was opened by a domestic at the top of the house, exactly as we do in Gardeners Crescent. As we were all heartily tired we retired to bed. You must not imagine that I mean a bed such as we always use – by no means. We had only a sheet – no matrass, but merely the piece of canvas on which we place the matrass – with mosquito curtains all round. I did not much fancy this mode – but weariness rendered me indifferent at first. The novelty however of my situation prevented me from sleeping for an hour or two – very early in the morning I was awakened by the cold, and obliged to be stirring to warm myself.

XIII. Week

By 8 A.M. on Sunday we were all dressed – had our coffee & repaired to the key to observe the weather. The Norther had ceased & the sea was smooth with the

exception of an occasional swell or two which did not prevent us from going on board, where we found all right. At 11 we again went on shore to go to the Consuls – who asked us to deliver a letter at the Castle for the commandant. We gladly promised as we expected to have a favourable opportunity of seeing this celebrated castle which the Mexicans had been unable to take by force & could only starve a surrender.

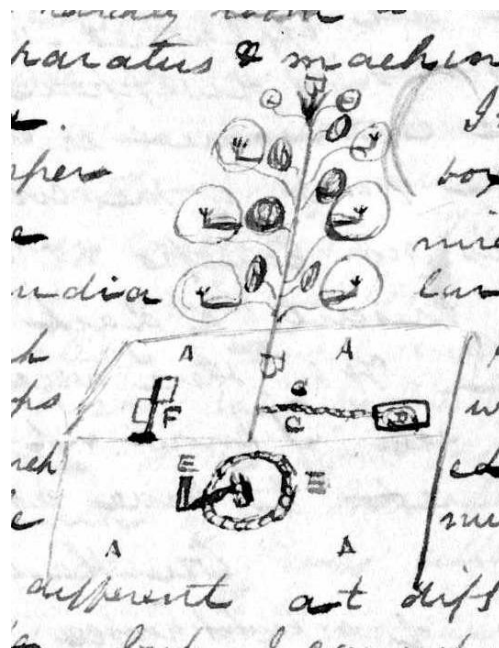
When we approached the Castle an soldier standing on a lone gallery which encircled the light-house pulled a string twice, which was attached to the clapper of the bell & caused it to sound the same number of times. This we understood to be a signal to those whose duty it was to look out for some one coming. We stopped not however, but pulling in close to the walls, we passing a narrow entrance, not far from which on a small landing place built at the foot, was a sentry to whom we presented the letter saying '*por el commandante.*' The sentry pointed to another soldier, who was coming from the interior of the castle & whom we found was to conduct us to the presence of the doughty hero. It was no easy matter to find out where he was. We passed under several arched gateways, where sentinels were posted, and called at several houses where it was likely the Colonel would be but for long time *re no puntize*. At last we found him – in a very mean room – up two pair of dark stairs – quite in dishabille no stockings – no shoes - & the rest of his equipment any thing but decent and clean. We made our bows & presented the letter. He apologised for the condition we found him in – but in a manner that shewed him to be perfectly easy how we might receive his excuses or what opinion we might form of him in his then state. It is a very good rule to take time by the forelock, or to seize the advantage of the tide, so we on the point of departing in a sort of *lingu franca*, a medley of English & French & Spanish asked permission to be permitted to view the Castle. The desired permission was graciously accorded – after which we took a most familiar adieu - & set out on our expedition under the guidance of the same soldier who by the bye as we were descending the stairs did not omit, to beg of us some *dineiros* – not as you may ignorantly suppose from the sound dinner – but hard cash. When we had forked out a trifle, he very politely walked in advance of us, and enabled us to pass without question the various sentinels. We visited all the parts of the Castle above ground only, having no time to descend to see the loathsome damp prisons underneath, a week in which is worse than death. It would be impossible to enter into a minute description of all that we saw – for our view was hasty & brief. I shall therefore take a very cursory glance & make mention of such each particular as struck me most.

In its construction the Castle appears to be as strong as stone & mortar can make it. I believe it has been built with all the precision & perfection which a knowledge of engineering & the art of rearing fortified places could make – there being guns of heavy calibre planted in excellent embrasures, where ever circumstances might require them. The guns themselves are very long brass ones & if kept in order would look very well – but they are not so – the accommodation of the soldiers there are excellent barracks arranged like streets - & the whole presents a town in miniature in the form of squares – There are abundant capabilities under ground for storing many months provision & ammunition, placed out of the reach of bombs and balls. There are also large tanks of water, rendering the place entirely independent of all external supplies - these we saw with much pleasure. I saw no fine houses for the officers – all seemed much on a par – & perhaps this is not a circumstance to be regretted. At one corner of the Castle the light house is situated. It is a circular tower. I know not of what height, half way up is a stone gallery all round. The ground work is red, with numerous white pilasters, which when new must have presented a very pretty appearance, tho' now the whole looks mean & decayed. This tower is crowned with a

sort of sky-light, polygonal & of glass. To protect this glass as well as to support it, there are strong iron rods, between which is wire, like a net. At the summit of all is a weather vane.

Light House of San Juan de Ulloa

You enter the *Pharol* by an old dilapidated door at the foot of the Tower. You then ascend by two flights of stairs running spirally - and you must be cautious how you proceed, as the iron balustrade placed to prevent you falling over is very rickety & rather a temptation to danger than a preventive of it, if you should trust to it for support. The last step places you next on a level with the glass part of the building - which in fact forms a very small room where you have hardly room to move & contains all the apparatus & machinery of the light-house.



Apparatus & Machinery of the Light House

In the centre was a copper box marked **A**, from the middle of which a long perpendicular rod **B**, from which again the various lamps with their reflectors branched, forming a circle. The number of lamps was different at different parts of the circle - but I cannot specify them. Right in the focus of the metal reflectors the light was placed so that not till they were right opposite you could you have the full glare of the light. The light is a revolving one, & displays at certain intervals - & all this was accomplished by a very simple apparatus. A rope **C**, is attached to the [rod] **B** & passes thro' a hole in the box **A** - over a pulley **D** & descends pretty low, having a heavy weight fixed to the end. When it is wished to set the machinery agoing, the man winds up at **E** where there is a wheel & handle - and as he winds, the rope coils round a wooden box inside the copper box **A** & requires some time to be unwound moving the light and reflectors as its operation is sustained. To the left of the rod **B** is a piece of brass connected somehow or another with the rest, **F** by which the watchman is enabled to check or stop the revolution of the lights while he trims the lamps. There is still one thing I have not explained - viz. how the light appears & disappears at certain intervals. The contrivance is exceedingly simple. One part of the circle of reflectors

has no lamps at all & consequently presents a dark surface to the observer. Why there were any blind reflectors at all I know not - perhaps they were required to serve as a balance to the rest.

On the whole then this concern of a lighthouse was pretty fair considering - All the apparatus was brought from North America, the Mexicans had nothing to do with it and therefore can claim no merit. And in the management also they are entitled to a very limited modicum of praise. At one [instance] indeed the light ceased to blaze & ships were left without a guide, because forsooth the stock of oil was exhausted & no individuals were philanthropic or patriotic enough to furnish an additional supply. By dint of arguments & representations the government were shamed into a very rare instance of generosity & advanced the necessary direct to purchase more oil.

Again we were often much amused in watching the proceedings of the lighting man. Sometimes he would fall asleep - the weight would run down - the lights ceased to revolve - and as chance would have it the Navigator would either have a fixed light or no light at all, according as the bright or dark side was to him. Sometimes the light would dim & dreary for lack of oil - & yet the watchful keeper would never perceive it for his eyes would be shut. At other times when they were more looked after, they shewed an unusual alertness & over carefulness. They trimmed the lamps frequently & took a long time on the operation - consequently in order to accomplish this he had to check the revolution of the lights so that very often a quarter of an hour would elapse ere the machinery was setting agoing again - things very inexplicable & puzzling to one who should come for the first time - & might perhaps make him overshoot his port and give him three or four days occupation and amusement in beating back.

Having gratified our curiosity in seeing all that was to be seen in the light-house, [we] proceeded, preceded always by our guide, to walk round the ramparts, from which we had a most delightful view of the town - sea - and country. But the best view of all was from the summit of a square tower placed at the corner of the fortification, opposite the *Pharol*. There we had an extensive view all around. The whole of the Castle, with its numerous gateways - drawbridges - courts - & canals as it were, lay below us - & the contemplation heightened our admiration. To sea ward we observed an immense reef of rocks with not more than a few feet of water - & more than a mile or two in extent - completely precluding all danger from that quarter & of course rendering the placing of guns to command it useless. A little out side of this reef were two or three broken up hulks of what had once been Mexican frigates, & next to them lay the merchant vessels now in port. To landward we saw the City of Vera Cruz a gentle and undulating hill, swelling up behind it. In seeing all these objects more clearly, we were assisted by a most excellent London made glass - with which we were most politely accommodated by the half-naked lookout for vessels, whose station was in this tower.

As we had occasion to go once more to the Town to day, & it was getting late we were obliged to hurry off, without waiting to see any more of the wonders of this Pride of the Mexicans. We accordingly quickly retraced our steps - and stopped not till we reached our boat, regardless of observing the various humans of the place - the lounging soldiers, with their wives or doxies - others playing at pitch & toss - others drinking - or eating a sleeping - & even the very guards inactive resting on their arms. Once away from the Castle we pulled hard for the town - executed our business - and returned on board just before the setting in of a Norther.

Monday 17th February - it had been arranged yesterday that we should get our Mail & our Freight from Vera Cruz to day at 9 oClock - but during the night it blew strong from the Northward, and continued with nearly equal violence all day, so that it was impossible for us to go on shore. The weather was fine & the temperature very chilly.

Tuesday 18th - this morning we had a calm and accordingly we went for our Mail. What with the Mail - Freight - & many passengers, we were not ready to start till 2 P.M., altho' long ere that time we had cast our chain loose from the ring in the Castle & taken up one of our anchors. At the hour abovementioned we were all right, & were glad to have the advantage of a Southerly wind, which was directly in our favour. The weather was delightful & the sea smooth, so that our numerous passengers enjoyed them [selves] for a little on deck.

Wednesday 19th Feb.^{ry} -in the morning – moderate and favourable breeze during the day – not so favourable at night.

Thursday 20th - very fine weather – light winds and foul in the morning – during the afternoon more favourable.

Friday 21st - very fine weather – wind moderate and barely favourable.

Saturday 22nd - fine weather – Moderate but not quite favourable wind – making us go too much to the Northward.

Additional remarks on the XIII Week. After leaving Vera Cruz, till the end of this Hebdomadal Period, the weather has been uniformly most delightful – as cool as we have it in the pleasant months of September and October - & as clear & Sun shiny. This is the natural result of the fresh breezes, with which we have been favoured. These have been neither altogether favourable nor the contrary. We have been enabled to make a good deal of Easting (good) at the expense of our Southing – for we have had nothing but ESE & SE winds. Now just before our departure from Vera Cruz, ever since we left Jamaica, we had constantly NE winds – would that we had them at present, is all the cry. But after all we have made good progress considering – nor has the time passed so monotonously as usual, on account of the number of our passengers, consisting of a father & mother - 3 daughters - 2 girls belonging to their friends - 2 sons - 3 servants - & 3 gentleman passengers -

At first all were very sick, and the sight was unpleasant enough - but they in general soon [came] round - the sooner I believe from remaining so much on deck in the open air - *Nunquam vidi tan-multos necessarios - ex argento - stanno et luto fino compositos, qui saepe in ordine ____ in puppum dispositi sine pudore, - tranquam more solito.*

XIV Week

Sunday 23^d February – very fine weather. Moderate and foul winds.

Monday 24th – cloudy weather. Moderate and foul winds.

Tuesday 25th – calms and light winds. Fine weather.

Wednesday 26th – cloudy weather, fresh and favourable breeze. 6 vessels in sight, steering the same way as ourselves – all of which we beat hollow – chiefly Americans.

Thursday 27th – at 8 A.M. the wind came to the North.^d obliging us to go to the South.^d At 11.30 A.M. saw the Island of Cuba. Light and more favourable winds, in the afternoon pretty close in shore, where we could perceive several large fires burning – Not yet in sight of the light-house of Habana. Fine weather.

Friday 28 Feb.^y - very fine weather. Early this morning we were but a little distance from the Morro Castle which as you now know is situated at the entrance of the Harbour of Habana - but the wind blowing strong off the shore, we could not enter, & were compelled to lay off & on till some favourable change should take place. At 11 we were abreast of the Morro, whence we were hailed to know who we were, and after this ceremonial we were permitted to pass on. After proceeding but a very little way we came to anchor & furled our sails. Then carrying out our kedge anchor to some distance we dropped it & warped our vessel up to our station. As soon as this was accomplished the Master & self set off in our gig to wait upon the gentleman who had been appointed the first British Consul at Habana. On our way to his house, we called upon our old passenger M.^f Liddle who we learnt had only arrived the day before from Belize. We found him in good health and we mutually expressed our pleasure at this unexpectedly meeting each other again. Having [made] our Commanders excuses and compliments to the Consul, we took our leave, and during the rest of the day perambulated the city, & renewing our recollections of former scenes. Every thing appeared as usual - only I complained more than before of the extreme badness of the streets. When we were tired we repaired to the store of our old friend S.^f Tribarren where our Skipper purchased what he wanted in the way of provisions &.^c

Saturday 1st March - at day light this morning the Master, M.^f Meyer a German & self landed at the Dock Yard purposing to visit the market. Even at that early hour, when we arrived, the place was crowded and wholly filled with vegetables, fowls – fish & meat. Great order [sic] prevailed throughout & there was less noise heard than in our own markets. The supply also of every thing was good & abundant - and the prices reasonable enough in a country where dollars are as common as chuckie stanes. There were turnips cabbages - & indeed almost every vegetable we have galore – besides many peculiar to warm climates. The beef was cheap & excellent. The poultry rather dear but good of its kind. By half past 7 the market was empty – for then the sun was very powerful and the people could not stand it exposed as they were to its unrestricted influence.

By this time also our party were pretty well tired of perambulating the narrow pathways of the market, jostling & jolted every moment by rank-smelling blacks – smoking Spaniards & lousy Creoles. Our early rising & our walk had likewise sharpened our appetite, the cravings of which were now very importunate. To satisfy these, we retired *nem: con:* to a neighbouring *Fonda q Posada*, where we partook to repletion of very excellent *Café au lait*, and buttered baps. After this we were ready to repair on board & shift ourselves, for be it observed, we had come ashore unshaved, unwashed & with our jackets on. When we arrived onboard the Old *Duke*, we found they had not yet breakfasted, as we had expected - but we cared not - since for a sufficient reason, we had no appetite for the good things set before us on the table.

Apothecaries Hall at Habana

At noon we again landed in full fig, and during the whole day, gave no rest to the soles of our feet, walking here & there, not merely for pleasure but on business. We called at the Manufactories of Cabana & Silva to procure our supply of cegars (amounting in all to 40,000) - and witnessing more than 50 people employed solely in the making of cegars every day, & all day long. Then I went to an apothecary's shop, which was one of the finest I had ever seen. That part where they dispensed the Medicines was of immense size & height - made altogether of mahogany highly polished - with an arched roof, beautifully divided into compartments, also formed of mahogany. As a whole the effect of the *coup d'oeuil* was most splendid, & far surprised any thing of the kind I had ever seen in Europe. The floor was of marble, of a diamond pattern. Through the gentleman who accompanied me, I was conducted thro' 8 or 10 storerooms, very large & well filled. There was to be found every medicine & every surgical instrument used in Europe - and all in the highest condition. The medicines were obtained principally from the United States - and I found them in general to be twice as cheap as I could obtain them in England.

To complete this establishment, there was a very large - well appointed - & well kept Library of Medical, Philosophical, & Scientific books, disposed in very handsome glass cases. - & these books were in English, French, & Spanish, & among them I recognised several very old acquaintances.

I was exceedingly pleased with all I saw and sincerely thanked the gentleman of the establishment for the gratification I had received & their politeness - & was glad that I could say with truth that for elegance, completeness, & the *toute ensemble* I had seen nothing equal to this.

Sunday 2nd March - according to our regulations we ought to have set sail by daylight this morning, having received our Mail at 8 o'clock last night - but we were prevented from doing so by the North wind blowing, which rendered it both dangerous and impracticable for us to pass thro the Gulf of Florida. If others were, I at least was not sorry at our detention & so the weather being fine I went on shore in the forenoon, accompanied by the Master & M.^r Mayer our passenger. Had I not known that this day was what we call & what we observe as Sunday, I should never have known it from the external appearance of things. Almost all the shops were open & business was carried. What was less in the way of employment was made up in the way of amusement. During the day all the Churches are shut & those who wish to pay their devotions might seize the opportunity very early in the morning, or if they are then too lazy to get up, must wait till the evening, after sunset. We perambulated the street, in all directions making such remarks as the objects & the moment suggested. By two o'clock we were somewhat hungry & in order to satisfy the cravings of appetite, we very gladly adjourned to a large American *Table d'Hote*, where we enjoyed a most delicious coolness, whilst we were waiting for the signal of the bell, in a large, airy, but very scantily furnished room. At a quarter to three our party, as well as a dozen Yankees were all seated at table, where we [were served] soup, roast mutton, a turkey - pigs feet - green peas - hash - yams - new potatoes - and a bottle of claret between two persons. I ought not to forget to mention that we had plenty of ice, which is to be had at Hot Habana all the year round, being contracted to be supplied from the United States. We were all very comfortable - but I eat the less on this account - that I occupied myself in noticing the behaviour of the Yankees, of which I had heard very

much – I saw little for my pains. The conversation was unusually languid – no mutual civilities of the table were interchanged. If any of the Jonathans wished to have a portion of any dish which he could not reach, instead of sending his plate to be helped, he sent for the dish & carved for himself. After the solid comestibles had been removed, oranges, preserves, & various sweetmeats were put down, of which each partook according to his pleasure, and immediately rose up and went his way in silence. We all did the same – and after paying our score we went to the store of M.^r Trilarren, and waited there till the arrival of that gent. With two *volantes* which he had hired for us. These were two very handsome – gigs, capable of holding two persons each, open in front, except when you wished to put a piece of cloth to exclude the wind, rain, or dust - & having a black fellow in front riding, in immense jack-boots. These *volantes* were remarkably well hung, & had very little jerk. Away then we went thro' the streets in grand style, and passing thro' one of the city gates one came upon the Alameda, or *pressio*, or promenade, which we did not however stop to examine, purposing to return at a fitter opportunity, when we should see all the wealth. Fashion and beauty of the place congregated together more for shew than health. Our time being very limited, we stopped not to admire the excellent Botanical gardens immediately adjoining.

Orphan Hospital at Habana

Our purpose was to pay a visit to the madness House, which I had heard much commended – and I was the more pleased to do this, because it was quite in my line. The way to it was long, about three miles – and the route to it led thro' the suburbs and past several other establishments equally creditable to the humanity & the heart of the Habanese. I shall only mention one in particular viz. the Orphan Hospital, a very large building in which are accommodated upwards of 100 fatherless human beings, who but for this admirable institution would have been left to steal or starve, as might best be. For the support of the Hospital abundant funds are derived from various sources. - as from the charitable donations of private individuals – from a certain sum paid on every barrel of flour imported in addition to the King's duty - & from the confiscation of the meal of those in the Market who were light weights.

There the poor orphans are fed, clothed, & instructed in the common branches of knowledge. As their inclination leads them, they are taught the different handicrafts & when they are launched forth into the world, they receive a certain sum to set them agoing in the path of life. As I passed I received much pleasure in noticing the numerous young girls, looking out at the windows, with cheerful countenances and cleanly and decently attired.

Suburbs of Habana – A Spanish Bedlam

I said we passed thro' the suburbs. These were bad enough – in general low, mean & filthy – with here and there a very respectable house. They seemed to be constructed chiefly of wood, covered with plaster – and I was given to understand that this was only the case here, since no houses but of stone were permitted to be erected in the city. As we see in our own country, in our country villages near towns & to which the townsmen resort, there were almost as many tippling – cegar - & eating houses as those of any other description. The same curiosity to see who were passing prevailed & hardly a house could be perceived, which had not its inmates at the doors or windows.

We had plenty of time to make these observations, since the roads were but so so, precluding all fast driving – but scarcely lessening the probability of a capsize & the chance of a broken leg or neck.

At last we reached our proposed destination & alighted. The Spanish Bedlam was a long, one storied house, with a handsome front, supported on pillars & accessible thro' a small plot of ground, railed in & planted with flowers. At the end of this plot, you began to ascend a handsome & short flight of steps which brought you under the portico, where your attention was immediately attracted to an inscription over the principal entrance in Spanish, implying that building had been erected to Promote the interests of humanity & to lessen if not remove one of the maladies to which that humanity was incident and ending with that often quoted passage *Mens Sana in corpore sano*. Having read this inscription, and paid a tribute of fellow sympathy with those to whose care it referred, you entered a very lofty anteroom, where many men & women were assembled to see their friends who were among the patients. To the right & to the left were doors, leading into the interior of the building & separating in the middle, the visitors from the visited, was a large space, with immensely strong iron bars from the roof to the floor, with interstices between, to enable persons on each side of them to see & converse with each other. I had expected that our progress would have ended here – but no, our guide being acquainted with some of the officials, we were permitted to enter by the door on the left hand, which led us to a small room filled with various apparatus used in the establishment – and having another door at the opposite end, secured with a strong iron bolt & lock. This door being opened for us, we found ourselves in a large open square paved throughout with stone, & having a few palm trees & almond trees in the centre. All around this square a covered piazza ran, supported on very handsome pillars, where the patients could take a walk, out of the influence of the sun's rays. Here also were the doors leading to the apartments of the insane – large & strong - & their apartments generally contained a bed – table - & several chairs. The effect of the *toute* was most soothing and delightful – and far surpassed my previous conceptions. Besides the whole was cleanliness itself – no a slur – no a particle of dirt was visible.

At the farthest end of this square was a stone partition, & at the left hand side of it a small door way, by which you entered another & similar square – equally nice & clean – but not so very fine. The pillars were small & of wood – the apartments were intended to contain numerous occupants & these of the poorer class. To the eye the difference was very perceptible & clearly pointed out two distinct classes of patients – the rich and the poor.

We had now gone the whole length of the building, and had reached the gardens, which we entered. These were pretty extensive, with many neat walks & abounding in flowers & vegetables, reared & tended by the patients themselves. Every thing was in the most beautiful order – and the thought occurred to me how strange it is that men, who cannot manage their own thoughts, should yet be able to observe so much method in the disposition of plants & flowers in regular beds. I understand the patients are obliged to work in the garden and that the most beneficial consequences have resulted from the healthful exercise of the body & more cures accomplished than under the old system of seclusion & idleness. What is the most extraordinary thing of all is that the principal gardener is a maniac, whom we saw perambulating about with an air of immense importance & satisfaction, decked out in a regimental coat with various ribbons disposed her & there according to his wayward fancy. This man, so long as he is employed about the gardens (for he has a gardener) is quite peacable, and sufficiently competent to perform all the duties of a gardener – but no sooner is he

removed from this station, than he becomes quire furious & continues so, till he is returned to his beloved flowers & plants.

After seeing all the garden, we took notice of several other places. We visited the baths – these are excavations in a room set apart (& containing three similar baths) lined with brick, & so large that when full, you can enjoy a good swim. You descend to the bottom by a flight of steps. In each are two stop-cocks for admitting either hot or cold water at pleasure. Sometimes instead of filling up the baths, the patient is secured fast immediately under the cocks, when the water is permitted to fall in a continued stream on his naked head.

We inspected also the rooms where some undergo solitary confinement - & where others are condemned to suffer punishment. These rooms I was told are seldom required, the number of furious maniacs being so very small. I believe not more than four at present – I mean among the men, for we saw none of the females. This proportion is indeed remarkably small, being about one in 40 – but then all those persons are here confined who are idiots – perfectly harmless - & whom in our country we permit to go at large.

Besides working in the garden, many of the poor patients, as well as some of the richer, are employed in doing various light tasks as sorting & packing coffee &^c and they are permitted to receive a certain portion of their earnings, which enables them to enjoy the luxury of cigars, of which they are passionately fond.

Having seen every thing which is generally shown to visitors we retired the same way we had entered, repeating with sincerity our “mucho gratias” to the officials & before leaving put a peso in the box, placed at the entrance to receive the contributions of the compassionate & charitable.

Burial Ground at Habana

By this time our thoughts & feelings harmonised with the nature & intention of the place – nor did we seek to lessen but rather to increase their sombreness & melancholy by directing our steps to the burial ground which was close at hand. If I were to try to convey to you some idea of a burial ground (remember I do not say a Church Yard, for there was no church shell) by any comparison with one at home, I should in vain tax my memory & your knowledge for one similar to that at Havana. I must therefore endeavour to describe it as far as words imperfectly can. At the entrance was a very handsome gateway of hewn stone, in the centre of which was an inscription, intimating that the place was dedicated to the memory & destined to be the last resting place of the inhabitants of the town & suburbs. Before it were several handsome *volantes*, amongst which I beg you will remember ours cut no contemptible figure – and also several very respectably dressed ladies, who were on the point of entering with us. From this gateway, a pathway, beautifully paved with flags stones – broad enough to enable three people to walk abreast; was carried longitudinally to the end of the grounds. This pathway was separated from the burial ground, by very handsome & elegantly designed railings of iron, which were further adorned here & there at regular intervals by being richly gilt. On either side was another similar footpath, embracing the breadth as the other did the length of the place. At the termination of the longitudinal walk, was a ~~small~~ Chapel, all solely for performing the funeral service. It was of small size and its appearance appropriate, & solemn. Over the large iron gate, leading into it (& thro’ the intervening spaces you could see the interior) was the text from scripture “*Felices mortui, qui in Domino mori-unters.*” The centre was occupied by an altar, & a platform of marble for receiving the coffin

during the performance of service. Over the altar was the figure of our blessed Lord on the cross - & behind that again painted in a rude fashion on the walls, was a representation of the Archangel with his trumpet & the dead about to arise from their graves, at the awful voice which cried aloud "*Exurgite mortui et venite ad judicorum.*" The rest of the chapel was arranged in strict accordance with the design of the place.

When we had sufficiently satisfied our curiosity, we turned our attention to the graves or resting places of the dead. The aspect of these was very different from those with us. No numerous hillocks studded the ground, causing, those inequalities so common with us. On the contrary I could hardly believe I was in a burial ground, from looking for these in vain. The whole surface seemed almost level, - I say almost level because upon looking very attentively I could perceive some degree of rising - but then this rising was continuous & not broken as it would be, if each individual had had a separate home. Upon enquiring I was told that the blacks, & if I mistake not also the whites were interred in trenches - that quicklime was put on them & their remains trampled down to occupy as little room as possible. I did notice indeed some few separate birth[s], belonging to persons *qui* could purchase such an indulgence, as not to mix their more precious dust with the mass of common mould. Close to the church, the ground was hollowed out in family vaults which were solidly cased with stone, and shut in with marble covers - These were chiefly for the great men of the earth - the Condes - Ducs - Marquises of old Spain & Habana. On the coverings were sculptured (in North America) the arms & titles of the illustrious family - with the names of such of the their houses as lay interred there. Others belonged to mere men, as if (ha! ha! ha!) their descendant would not squander their riches & become so poor that to bury them in such a splendid monument would [be] a libel on poor humanity.

Of similar strength, elegance & construction were many vaults for the Clergy - 1st for the Archbishops of whom only one had died in that land from its first discovery - they being appointed only for a few years - & he died here, because when his time was up, he was so much beloved, that the people declared they would have no other - a most glorious testimony to Christian worth, as great as it was rare. Then came deacons - & priests - curates & those who had deserved well of the Church.

I was sorry that no funeral took place while we were there, as I should like to have witnessed the ceremonies, usual on such occasions. But nevertheless we spent a considerable time there, walking up and down, making our remarks & comparisons. You will hardly believe when I tell you that there were many well dressed & young & beautiful women promenading about, as if it were quite fashionable to repair to those scenes which are eagerly shunned by our fair countrywomen. Whence arises this difference. I think it lies in the neglect of our Church yards - in suffering weeds & noxious plants to luxuriate unchecked - and in consequence a horror & disgust, which prevents them from visiting the last abodes of their deceased friends. If then our Church Yards were so neatly kept & as tastefully arranged - as open & as fresh as those of Habana, are should then find that these places would be resorted too for the purpose of pleasing meditation & that we should leave them better men & women then when we entered them.

When it was time, we again embarked on board our *Volante's*, and got under weigh for the country. We could not go far as darkness was at hand, but what we did see filled us with admiration. The finely diversified view of hill & dale - of castles & houses all around - of the trees - high cultivation - & prospect of ornamental

landscape – elicited from all of us an expression of pleasure & delight – the more intense at the cause which gave rise to it, was quite unexpected.

Almeda at Habana

Soon we directed our Volantes City-Ward and arrived at the Almeda just as the fashionables had begun to assemble for their promenade. Here we dismissed our Volantes, and walked in one of the long avenues for foot-passengers, which are on either side of the centre path which is only for the equipages. The whole concern was conducted with great gravity & decorum. I never in all my life saw so many gigs together (for there were no other vehicles), the number I am told, and I readily believe it, to nearly 400. I could hardly help considering the whole as a pace. The Volantes were compelled to go down one side of the immensely long promenade, & to return by the other. There was no driving allowed. The pace was as solemn & slow, as if had been assisting at a funeral. The one followed in the wake of the others - & none were permitted to leave the lane of march. Dragoons were stationed at regular intervals, with a red flag on the end of a long staff, its [to] remove obstacles & preserve order – which services were in frequent requisition. All at once there would be a sudden halt, which like a shock of electricity, operated upon all behind the cause of the halt – and after 5 or ten [?], they would [go] on again.

From what I said you may easily conceive that we had abundance of time & opportunity to criticize the brave gents & the beautiful ladies who filled these gigs. I believe indeed we saw all the sites of Habana – nor did she blush to enter into comparison with any other city for beauty. The ladies were all brunettes & wore white gowns, leaving the shoulders and bosom bare. I saw no display of ribbons or jewels & perfectly at the time concurred with Thompson that beauty unadorned adorns the most. The senoras sat quite unconcerned at the ardent gazes of the spectators & outstared to as great perfection as our fashionables in London. We could not help laughing at some of the groupes of very fat women & lank lean cavaliers seated together with one or two peccaninies to make up the party. Altogether I was highly gratified & pleased with this the Hyde Park of Habana.

We had now loitered so long that it was become totally dark & we therefore thought of returning. But first being thirsty we had some coffee in a Coffee-house which was very crowded, and had two billiard rooms in active use. With the last of our coffee we departed, reached M.^r Trilarren in the town, where having collected all our men – passengers & party, we started off in our gig for our Packet, which lay but a very short distance off, heartily wishing that next day might rise upon us with the pleasant prospect of a charge of wind, to enable us to leave Habana.

Monday 3rd March - my first object on getting up this morning was to ascertain the direction of the wind, when to my great regret, I found that it blew as hard and as previously from the same quarter as ever. I was so annoyed at this that altho' our boat visited the shore several times, I had no spirits to take advantage of the opportunity and mentally resolved not to go to the Town any more. I believe my sentiments were participated in by all & by none I am sure more so than by our Mexican General & his family, to whom our protracted stay must have been very tiresome for the following reason. He never went ashore, nor his wife & family with the exception of two very young daughters, because he was apprehensive, that if he did so, his enemies at home would gladly seize upon this as a pretext to confiscate his immense wealth in Mexico and allege that from resentment at being banished, he had been plotting with the

Spanish authorities at Habana, to restore the Spanish Domination in Mexico. But if the General did restrain himself from participating in the pleasures & honours which might have awaited him on shore – he could not complain of want of company on board – for officers & civilians – ladies & gentlemen crowded our small vessel to see him & from morning till night, we had always some strangers with us, who by the bye did not disdain to breakfast & dine with such humble persons as we were. Notwithstanding all this the Marquis frequently expressed his impatience to be off, and repeatedly make the most anxious [enquiries] as to the time when it was likely we could set sail.

Suspicious of two Schooners

About one o'clock the wind altered several points, in our favour & the Captain resolved to start. We only awaited for one gentleman, who was going with us from Habana to England, but where he was we could not tell. We had fired three guns for him before he was perceived, he was coming & in the mean time had prepared every thing for starting the moment he should come on board.

At three o'clock he arrived - the anchor was weighed - the sails were set - and away we went out of the Harbour in gallant style. As yet we had very little motion, being under the lee of the land, but no sooner had we passed the castle than we pitched and rolled at no rate whatever - & all but we old stagers were too much occupied with themselves to be able to pay any attention to the other vessels who had sailed with us.

Not so regardless were we - for having so much money on board we were rather suspicious. To windward & ahead of us was a very fine schooner, which as it sailed a little before us, we had noticed to have plenty of men & large long brass piece amidships. Instead of making all sail she could, and going two miles for our mile she had very little sail set, and her topsails, tho' loosed were lowered down to the cap. Behind us again was another & similar schooner, also well to windward of us, which had left after us. She had [all] sail set which she could carry & was very rapidly overhauling us - & the schooner ahead. I should likewise [say] that behind us was a large American ship bound thro' the gulf - but of her we took no particular notice. The movements of the two schooners alone we carefully noted. The first, when the second was almost abreast of her, hoisted her topsails - and they both sailed in Company for some little time, shewing that if they pleased they could easily keep to windward of us. After a little while the first edged away off the wind, crossing our bows to leeward, & when we expected that she intended to go large before the wind in order to get into the gulf of Mexico, lo & behold as soon as she was under our lee, he hauled upon his wind & kept jogging along so as to keep pace with us - as did the second one to windward under shortened sail.

The consequence then of this manoeuvre was that we were thus sailing between both & liable to be attack[ed] on both sides at once. If these people had been honest, they must have been also fools - for otherwise their proceedings were quite inexplicable. But if they had piratical designs, their plan was well conceived, & might have been effectual, had they not excited our suspicions. We saw they could weather and outstrip us whenever they pleased - then why did one lose his advantage ground by running to leeward - for every sailor knows how desirable it is to get as much to windward as possible. Then also why did the one to leeward haul upon his wind immediately after - the question was utterly inexplicable on this supposition that they were honest & sensible people - but clear as noon day, if [they] had any designs of

attacking and boarding us. This latter belief was the one which our Commander [held] & he proceeded to act with the energy which the circumstances required.

It was now gradually becoming darker & darker but we could still descry the two superior vessels - & perceive that they were gradually narrowing the ground between us and them. All hands were then called on deck, and each man took his station in order to put the ship about towards the land. Put down the helm - gently there, not too fast - helms a lee - tacks and sheets - mainsail haul - pull round the yards quick men - work smartly - haul aft the main sheet - with many other necessary orders were loudly given & promptly obeyed - for all were aware of the cause of this manoeuvre. As soon as we were fully about the guns were ordered to be loaded - the boarders pikes & tomahawks to be handed on deck - the musquets - pistols & cutlasses to be all prepared for instant use - and a sufficient quantity of ammunition to be taken from the Magazine. After this had been all done, the men were called to quarters & we awaited with some trepidation - for the event was somewhat unexpected - to see what would follow.

There was now too little light to enable us to observe the effect produced on the schooners by our proceeding - but no doubt, if our suspicions of their character were correct they must have been very much astonished & mollified at our escape - for escape it certainly was, since we were still in sight of Habana, and no firing could have taken place without exciting notice of those on shore, when immediately a French Corvette lying there would have come to our assistance. I have no doubt also but our jokers, concerned we had discovered their true character and that we had gone back again to our former anchorage. If they thought so, they were much mistaken, for after standing on for three hours we again tacked to pursue the same course as before, with this certainty that if our old companions were honest people we should never see them again, being too far ahead of us - and if we did see them, we should know for a certainty by what epithet to call them, & act accordingly. It also luckily so happened, that we could not clear so high as before, & could only make a North course whereas the Schooners must have made a good deal of Easting - thereby lessening the chance of meeting them. As a measure however of necessary precaution, all hands were on deck during the night, with arms and ammunition all at hand in case of need.

Altogether this was a most dismal afternoon & night - a heavy sea & louring sky - fresh breezes & occasional squalls - all our passengers sick & terrified - the necessity of haste & the uncertainty in which we were - all combined to fluster us and make us desponding. From these ~~causes~~ effects I was not free - & did not retire till very late, having my peculiar preparations to make as well as the others. I entirely agreed with our Master & Mate when they observed how wrong it was to have had all our money intended for Habana spread on deck, to be seen by all who came on board & which was capable of exciting the cupidity of the numerous boatmen & perhaps disguised spies who came with gentlemen or as bumboatmen.

For four days this scene had been daily exhibited - & any one in Habana might from this carelessness have known we had plenty of money. Is it to be thought then that such a tempting display would have been without effect in a place formerly so famous for the host of pirates that sailed from it - and that there were not many people, who would [not] be willing to risk their lives for so rich a prize, seeing what dangers they will encounter for a few slaves whose value is variable & which they may lose. No the supposition - is most improbable - and to admit it would be to admit that there existed in Habana more morality & less regard for money than experience has ever shewn it to possess from its first discovery until now. Besides we should not forget, that it must have been generally known how weakly armed & manned we were

(with only two pop guns & 21 men) - which would hold out the inducement of a speedy and easy conquest, a prospect inspiriting to the veriest coward.

All this however is mere speculation, and perhaps the real truth as to our suspicions, will never be known till the day of final judgement when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed.

Tuesday 4th March - to day the objects of our suspicions were no where visible - but we were in sight of our American friend. The weather was cloudy and the breeze fresh and foul. The sea ran high, with short jumping waves which caused the Old *Duke* to bob & roll without intermission to our great annoyance. It was not the wind alone - which occasioned all this bobbery - but it was it & the current combined. For the current was running in our direction very strongly, whilst the waves were impelled in the opposite one producing a constant battle between the two opposing forces. Of course we made very little way.

Wednesday 5th - fine weather. Heavy sea. Fresh but foul wind. Several vessels in sight - none of them suspicious.

Thursday 6th - very fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze. Still some sea, but much less.

Friday 7th - fine weather. Moderate and favourable wind.

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

XVI Heldomade

Sunday 9th - fine weather all day. Moderate and favourable. At 3 calm nearly. At 5 the wind changed, & without previous warning came strong into the NW with much rain, being thus contrary to us.

Monday 10th - gloomy weather. Fresh but foul breeze with much sea.

Tuesday 11th - very fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Wednesday 12th - fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Thursday 13th - fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Friday 14th - fine weather. Moderate but foul breeze.

Saturday 15th - cloudy weather. Fresh & nearly favourable breeze.

XVI Week. The weather throughout this week has been generally very fine - but we have found it very cold, not so much from the actual low temperature, as from the direction of the wind, & the comparative difference between our present climate & that which we have left. Having now left the Gulf of Florida, we have been steering as much to the Eastward as possible & rather to the Southward than the Northward. The Captain wishing to make as good weather as possible, & in order also to avoid falling in with the icebergs, and furious gales, which prevail to the Northward, and

accordingly on Friday 14th we passed the Bermudas, about 120 miles to the South.^d Fortunately for the plan of our Skipper, the wind has, with only two exceptions, favoured us, so as to enable us to make almost a due east course. The wind has been all round the compass, never continuing long in one direction – at one time to our regret, at another to our great joy. In consequence of this sudden & violent changes, we have had much pitching & rolling, making our way against the heavy seas, which the wind, which had blown from the quarter we were steering, had caused to rise. On the whole we have been very comfortable – I mean in particular our passengers – as for us old hands, it makes little difference in our feelings which way the wind blows or what sort of weather we may have.

XVII Hebdomadal Period

Sunday 16th March – moderate and favourable breeze but variable in its direction – variable weather - frequent showers.

Monday 17th – dull gloomy w.^f with rain & heavy sea – strong and foul NE wind.

Tuesday 18th – strong NE wind – foul – high sea – fine weather.

Wednesday 19th – fresh gales with heavy squalls – with occasional showers, the weather being otherwise fair. Wind favourable, did the high swell permit the vessel to steer her course.

Thursday 20th – variable weather, with frequent showers – frequent squalls from NW with very heavy sea.

Friday 21st March – cloudy, gloomy w.^f attended with much rain. Fresher breezes from SW.

Sat.^y 22nd – variable weather – generally fine – fresh and favourable breeze.

XVII Week. The sum total of the whole (vide Hume on popular arithmetic) week is in our favour – I mean in regard to the winds we have had, and the progress we have made. On Sunday 16 March the wind was moderate & favourable and we were beginning to found our home arrival calculations on its continuance. But lo for the next three days we had a regular NE – which was almost the point we wish to steer to – and by it we were compelled in order to make Easting to run to the Southward so far that we were once more within the limits of the Trades. We were almost in despair & our only consolation was to look forward to what the Equinox would bring us.

Thursday 20th was ushered in with strong squalls from the NW – a fine wind _ & the day succeeding, being that on which the sun passed the Equator, we were equally fortunate in having a S Wester. With this aid we soon made up for leeway - & bagged, to use a sporting phrase, a good round number of additional miles. We were very well content to have met with these the Equinoxial gales – notwithstanding the inconveniences we had to submit to. What mattered it to me that I was nearly drowned at night by a half dozen leaks over my bed, thro' which, it every sea which struck the side, the drops fell fast & furious, pop, popping now on my eyes – now on my nose - & ever & anon into my mouth; filling it with a most nauseous taste, worse than Glauber's salts - & at the same time practically reminding me that I ought not to

lye with my potato trap open to every visitor. What saved me, if we could not walk – or sit comfortably – or sleep at all – or be dry anywhere – or enjoy a moments bodily comfort, so long as we hastening to put a speedier period to our long peregrination. Roll on my old ship, said the Skipper one day at dinner, who cares – when lo away goes a trunk & hit him on the leg – an event which changed his temper & his tune. You are in a very bad hoacha observed the German to a Spaniard at the head of the table, while he fancied himself to be quite secure, when whack a hump of a sea struck the side – separated that part of the table against which my German friend rested & away went he & all his accompaniments to Jericho – Twas 2 no use to put on a clean table cloth – for in less than 10 minutes, what thro' carelessness or unavoidable accident a very complex map of some unknown land would be drawn, without much attention to accurate outlines - & the various countries very well defined by here a mark of oil – there of peas soup – at this end by vinegar & at the other by mustard.

But all these and a thousand others were petty evils not to be compared to the pleasure of a fine dashing breeze – and therefore born with in a very different spirit from the very same, when we experienced them in a strong & foul N Easter.

Throughout this week the weather with only one or two exceptions most dolorous. Seldom has the sun shewn his face – clouds ever obscured his glories, & frequently descended from their elevation in slight showers or heavy pourings. But *N'Imparta*, give us still our fair winds - & let the weather be ever so bad, we shall not repine, being thankful that while we are labouring under very great bodily discomfort, we have a consolation to our mind sufficient to counterbalance it.

XVIII Hebdomade

Sunday 23^d March – very fine weather. Moderate & favourable breeze.

Monday 24th - change of wind from WSW to N by W up soon after to NNE – at night nearly a calm – fine weather, very cold.

Tuesday 25th – calm all day – very light & foul winds at night – fine w.^r rather coolish.

Wednesday 26th – very fine weather – very light & variable breeze – nearly a calm.

Thursday 27th – very fine weather – light & favourable breeze.

Friday 28th – very fine weather. Moderate & favourable wind.

Sat.^y 29th – rainy weather with a moderate & favourable breeze from the Westward, until 11 A.M. when a heavy shower descending, the wind shifted to N & E – foul for us - & was attended with dry w.^r

XVIII Hebdomade. We have been sadly out in our calculation of the expected result of this weeks progress – Instead of being 2 or 300 miles beyond the Azores, which we had confidently anticipated, we are in sad reality more than that distance from them. Either the wind has been strong & foul, or very light & favourable – in fact nearly a calm. And thus by going so much to the Southward, we have certainly obtained very fine weather almost every day, but then again we have got involved among winds by no means calculated to send us to our Port very speedily. I an persuaded that if we had

taken the Northern passage, altho' we might have experienced, cold, fogs, & rain, we should have had no want of wind & that favourable & perhaps by this time we should have been riding at anchor in Falmouth Harbour.

XIX Week

Sunday 30th March – fine weather – fresh and foul wind – very much sea – at 5 P.M. wind nearly favourable.

Monday 31st – fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Tuesday 1st April – fresh and favourable breeze – very fine & very cold weather.

Wednesday 2nd – wind light and favourable in the forenoon. At 11 A.M. it drew forward to East – moderate, with considerable swell.

Thursday 3rd – fine weather – foul wind at E by South.

Friday 4th – foul, foul wind – fine weather during the day – cloudy with slight rain at night.

Saturday 5th – cloudy weather with foul wind till 4 P.M. when the wind changed to our favour but seemed inclinable to calm. At 8 light breezes & nearly favourable.

Summary of XIX Hebdomade. The balance of the winds this week has been greatly against us. Those in our favour have been few, and insignificant in force, whilst those contrary to us have been frequent & strong, with the additional disadvantage of a heavy head swell, which drove us to leeward, & impeded very considerably our advance forwards.

In the present advanced stage of our voyage, these circumstances have been most sensibly felt & acknowledged by us all. We belonging to the Ship are anxious to the determination of a long period of absence – our passengers, lovers of & accustomed to *terra firma*, long to put an end to the ennuye, which so much harasses them. In this point we both agree, that a speedy arrival in our destined port is greatly to be desiderated. What gives additional point to our chagrin is, that we have been so deceived in our reasonable expectations of meeting with Westerly Winds – instead of which we have had nothing but SE – SSE & Easterly Winds, with a steady cold sky, as if it would last for a month or 6 weeks. There is still another cause of disquiet to us & more especially top our Skipper, viz the low condition of our live stock, we having at the end of this week, but 3 sheep – 1 pig & 30 poultry to supply about 22 mouths, who daily receive fresh provisions. All these will scarcely suffice for 9 or 10 days - & after that, if we are still at sea, our 3 goats & a large Newfoundland dog, must go - & all be put upon short allowance of salt beef, pork & peas – Unless we fall in with some vessels outward bound & procure a replenishment. We therefore very naturally are anxious for a fair wind, by the ad of which we may still hope to reach Falmouth in a week or 10 days.

Situated as we have been, we have not sufficiently enjoyed the fine weather we have had – because we have connected it with the foul wind - & we often longed for the worst weather, if accompanied by a favourable change of wind. The cold has been severely felt by all. Altho' the Thermometer is at 56 or 58 which is temperate in

England, we are glad to have resort to great coats & cloaks to keep out the chilly atmosphere. For my own part, I am obliged for the first time these 4 months to shut my cabin window - & notwithstanding this, I am sometimes awakened by the cold, in spite of two thick blankets, & a large counterpane. You will readily judge that this cold is not actual but relative to the state of our bodies & the very different temperature of the climate we have so lately left. If we had been leaving England, we should have said that the air was delightfully temperate, neither too cold nor too warm - but as it is - our opinion of it is very different.

Sunday 6th April - cloudy weather - Foul wind, not steady during the day - a trifle more favourable at night.

Monday 7th - cloudy weather with occasional slight rain. Fresh & foul wind

Tuesday 8th - cloudy weather - foul & fresh wind, which obliges us to go to the Northward.

Wednesday 9th - variable weather - generally fine. Still foul, foul wind & heavy sea.

Thursday 10th - fine weather - & light foul wind, till 3 P.M. when it came cloudy - the sea rose high - & the wind blew strong and foul.

Friday 11th - very fresh and foul wind. Cloudy weather. Spoke the *Eliza* of Greenock, out 4 days, bound for Picton.

Saturday 12th - cloudy weather & very fresh & foul wind.

Observations on XXth Hebdomade. This beyond all comparison has been the most trying week to us. At its termination, we were farther away from Falmouth, than at its commencement. The wind has been unremittingly foul, generally at SSE - and altho' we have been steering by the Compass due East, still with[in] two points and a half of variation against - with a strong NW current - and by the heavy sea driving us bodily to leeward - we have made each [day] - much Northing which we did not want, & little Easting which we were anxious to have. It is a general rule amongst Navigators, steering for the English Channel, not to pass to the Northward beyond 48 or 49 degrees - in order to be enabled to take advantage of any change of wind - But not only did we exceed this accustomed degree, but we went to the Northward of Cape Clear in Ireland, next to the Northward of all Ireland & if we had continued to go on the same tack we could hardly have fetched Iceland itself, from which we were only 8 degrees or 480 miles distant. To this we have been drawn gradually on by the wind. As we got to the Northward, it drew more and more to the Southward, thereby rendering it advisable for us to go upon the [other] tack, than to continue on the one we are on at present.

It is said that it never rains but it pours - So it is with us. The foul wind we have experienced is one calamity - & in its train it brings many others. As if in correspondence with our feelings, the weather throughout has been cloudy & dull - or murky - with a feeling of great cold. Seldom has the sun shown his face but kept it veiled, as if in sorrow for us - Dampness & we have been well acquainted & comfort has been quite a stranger, so that we shall hardly know her as an old friend - when again we meet her.

All these however are petty evils, unworthy to be complained of by a philosopher - & even by us they might have been borne without much murmuring, altho' we are no philosophers - but then our Stock was getting dreadfully low, low, whilst there was no prospect of a change of wind, or likelihood of procuring an immediate supply, since the wind would not permit us to reach any Christian place within any reasonable distance. On Saturday our last sheep submitted to the knife - No pigs have we besides - & only 6 or 8 of poultry. The three goats & the dog I mentioned are still to the fore, as a stand by, & and with regard to these, the Skipper on expressing our repugnance to, or prejudice against eating them, has been these three or four days, endeavouring to prove to us that their flesh is equal to the finest venison - *Credat Sulaeus* - If venison were no better than that, I should not care if I never tried it in my lifetime. I never knew before an occasion, on which I could thank God I had little or no appetite. But this is one where inappetite is a blessing - and a pretty considerable share of that blessing I have at present. All the officers of the ship have made it a rule not to partake of the fresh meat, in order that our passengers (most of whom, heaven bless the mark, have glorious appetites sharpened most probably by the cold) may enjoy it, as they have paid for it. Hence I have never yet eat ^[sic] so many pies, made with potatoes & ship's beef soaked in water to take out the salt, since I have lived afloat. I don't think much of the matter - & I console myself with this that if I *mangey* a wee bit of the good meat, I have a right to a double share of the still preferable plum pudding which regularly appears on the table every other day. All things are for the best & so I rest me contented.

This week we have passed several vessels steering with a fair wind to the Westward. One of these only we spoke. We found her to be the *Eliza* of Greenock, out 4 days from that port & bound to Picton. It was rather annoying to witness so many wending their way so merrily, & making good progress - and one day the Skipper, by way of joke [said] - Hang these Scotchmen; they have a fair wind - to which I said - Hurrah - hurrah - for the Scotsmen, they have a fair wind - they have the weather gage, or the laughing side of the Englishmen - huzza - huzza. Scotland for ever ! ! ! !

Comment of XXI Week

Sunday 13th April - cloudy weather - very fresh and foul wind - passed a Brig, steering to S & Westward - envied her very much as she had a fair wind.

Monday 14th - cloudy weather with a gale of foul wind, attended with slight rain, till 1 P.M. when the wind changed in our favour, & the sky cleared finely. At night it became cloudy but wind nearly the same. Great & sudden change of temperature accompanied the alteration of the wind. Made little way, in consequence of the high sea, occasioned by our former foul winds.

Tuesday 15th - cloudy weather. Foul wind. At night thick drizzling rain.

Wednesday 16th - dull gloomy weather - foul, foul, foul wind.

Thursday 17th - cloudy weather - foul wind - all very melancholy.

Friday 18th - very variable weather - generally fine - foul wind.

Saturday 19th – variable weather – generally fine – foul wind. At 1 spoke an American Brig, the *Clarissa Anne* from Mobil, out 52 days, bound for Liverpool. Got from her a small cask of salt Beef & some biscuits.

Remarks on XXIst Hebdomade. Worser and worser, instead of better and better, as the Cockneys say. We might be compared to the Wandering Jew or the Flying Dutchman, who is constantly sailing about the Cape of Good Hope and yet can never hope to reach his Port. So has it been with us. We have gone to the Northward and then returned to the Southward. We have gained something of Easting and as quickly have lost ground by being obliged to make Westing. The old saying of the fickle wind is become a dead letter, an empty parade of words without meaning – for as if to spite us, the fickle wind has continued steady at SSE. If there is any consolation in the certainty that many a vessel is in the same predicament, we should be abundantly consoled, but I differ entirely from those who assert that in a community of suffering, the burden of our own miseries is considerably lightened – altho' I admit that to a noble mind, in the full possession of happiness and prosperity the prospect of many enjoying the same full measure of joy, may enhance his own. We have sorrow enough of our own to be able to bestow our sympathy upon our brothers in misfortune which we see every where around us.

It is now a common bye word with us, when any one is asked how the wind is – “Just the same” – and even all our foreign passengers use & know the meaning of this expression, even those among them who know not another word of English. It is really most tiresome to hear - & one day on repeating it, the Captain said “Do Doctor alter the form of the words – for to me it seems most ominous.”

In the midst of all this we have sometimes even jested, tho' God knows, we have very little reason to make a laugh of so serious a subject. It was generally said that we had some Jonah on board and various suppositions were made as to the person. Others again alleged that if one should throw overboard a small red & round Cap with certain cabalistic figures on it worn by S.^{ra} Santa Maria – whilst a third party said that if we should change our blue top vane (of buntin) for one of the same colour as we had before viz. red, a favourable wind would be sure to blow. All this in jest – but I am not sure if some of our men were not of opinion that some peculiar cause existed in the vessel or in the persons on board, which produced this heart-breaking S & E.^{ly} wind.

Several times during this week our hopes were raised, that a change was about to take place. These were founded on our observation of atmospheric changes of temperature as indicative of a South West wind accompanied with moisture – on the approach of heavy showers – or the lifting up of clouds on the horizon from a favourable quarter - & lastly on the dying away of the wind which was likely to end in a calm, which must infallibly occasioned a change of wind – it being an old saying at sea that when you have had for a long time a foul wind, a calm is half a fair wind. But on one & all such occasions our hopes proves delusive. The favourable appearance disappeared & gave place to the dull steady aspect of a leading & settled wind.

At length we have ceased altogether to pay any attention to the above mentioned circumstances, & are trying to possess our soul in patience according to the advice of San Pablo, saying to each other we shant believe in a fair wind till we have it.

From what I have told you at the end of last week of the low condition of our *vivers*, you may readily imagine, that at the termination of this, we were [a] very

considerable deal worse off. We are short of every thing. We have potatoes & rice for two or three days more. Our salt beef & pork are almost a nonentity - our peas are a deficit – our flour may last a week – our last leg of mutton was eat [sic] on Saturday & we have only 1 Turkey & four fowls left to furnish fresh meat, unless we kill the goats. God be praised we have still water sufficient for three weeks – without which we could not exist. Our whole anxiety now is to fall in with some vessels outward bound & procure supplies from them. For several days we looked in vain, when we descried one we were too far off, or the sea too high to have a communication with them. At last on Saturday, every thing being favourable for want of a better, we boarded an American brig, bound to England. We expected little good from her - & indeed we only received a small cask of salt beef & some biscuit. She proved to be the *Clarissa Anne* from Mobil, out 52 days & bound to Liverpool. Great praise is due from us to her Captain who out of his necessity gave us what we got – as he himself couldn't tell how long he might be kept at sea by the same foul wind.

Throughout the whole of this week we have had not our usual good weather to counterbalance in some trifling degree the misfortune of having a foul wind. Great variations took place – rain changed to fine - & fine to thick, misty weather. In short we have no comfort in life in the weather.

Commencement of XXII Hebdomade

Sunday 20th April – in the morning and forenoon dull gloomy weather. At noon it cleared up fine – Foul wind. Several vessels in sight in the same predicament as ourselves.

Monday 21st – fine weather, and example of the truth of an old West Country saying, that a Southerly wind & fog brings home an Easterly wind snog (ie 'snug') – for our Southerly wind has come round to the East.^d, which in our present situation is as bad as before. Had we been where we were a week ago, viz to the Northward of Ireland, it would then have been a fair wind. But there was no such lucky chance in store for us - & we were so to say it, doomed to wander in search of a favouring breeze. For being as we are only 40 miles to the Southward of Scilly, we can make but little better than a South course, as the leeway made in consequence of the heavy sea will almost counterbalance the variation of the Compass, which is in our favour. We are constantly on the watch to catch some outward bound vessels, in order to procure some fresh provisions, as we are quite out of all Christian's meat, having been obliged to kill a goat today.

Tuesday 22^d April – very fine weather. Still foul wind. Spoke an English Brig *Viatic* from Exmouth, bound to Quebec. Procured sundry trifles from her, but no live stock.

Wednesday 23^d – fine weather. Foul wind. Boarded a ship, called the *Hobnob*, from Quebec, bound to Canada, with 17 passengers, chiefly French. Obtained a mere dribbling but no live stock.

Thursday 24th – beautiful weather. Light & foul wind. Made 50 miles to day & 60 yesterday – good.

Friday 25th – fine weather. Small consolation tho' as we have still a foul, very foul wind.

Saturday 26th - cloudy weather. Foul wind. Spoke the Barque *British Merchant*, of Newcastle, last from Dublin, out 4 days – bound to Miramichi, with 20 poor miserable Scotch Emigrants – also a schooner *William IV*, from Barbadoes, out 40 days, bound to London. Procured from the first mentioned vessel some small supplies – but nothing from the other.

Remarks on XXII Hebdomade. The most hard hearted & most heart breaking wind, wilt thou never cease to blow. If prayers and intreaties could avail to soften you, we would offer them night & day. But alas thou art deaf to our distress, and blowest where thou likest, regardless of all our sufferings. Well then blow on – crack your cheeks with ____ - for well we know you must have an end - & should it please Providence to preserve us till that happy period, we shall chant, with heartfelt sincerity, thy funeral dirge. This apostrophe to the wind needs no diviner to show that during the past week we have not been more fortunate than the preceding. It's oer time a tale. We had indeed a change of wind to the Eastward, but unluckily we were still so far to the Southward, that we made little or nothing. Had all been aw we were sometime ago, half way to Scotland, the alteration would have been in our favour entirely.

As soon as the wind changed, the weather changed also – and during nearly the whole week, we enjoyed much delightful weather – clear, fine, but rather cold & piercing. But was nothing in our estimation, & we often expressed to each other, how much rather we would prefer the worst possible weather, provided only we had a fair wind. This favourable circumstance in the weather – only served then to encrease our chagrin when we chanced to see, as we often did, great lubberly Merchantmen, bowling along before the wind, with the additional blessing of fine weather.

The main circumstance, which concerned most nearly was the low condition of our provisions. We had killed & eat two goats, whose flesh by the bye was not as the captain had alleged equal to venison, or indeed to any thing like it. We had now only salt meat left, and of that not a superb instance - for it had been resolved to reserve our old & favourite Nanny who had been with us for five years – and also our great pet Timour the Tartar, to be devoured at the last extremity.

All days & each day therefore a good look out was kept to espy whatever vessels might luckily be coming our way. We were not unsuccessful so far as regards our observation of them – but most unlucky & disappointed in the nature of our supplies. We spoke & boarded four – all about 4 days from England - & yet we were unable to procure any live stock. They were all bound to Canada or Miramichi & without any exception had a few unfortunate emigrants on board – Scotch, Irish, and French. The quantity of our supplies from the whole tot was very meagre. From two we procured two glorious rounds of corned beef – most excellent stuff. One found us also in a superb piece of good beef for roasting - & above all we obtained a sufficiency of excellent praties [sic], to the immediate deprecation of which we had already looked forward to with most melancholy thoughts – for to me & to most of us, a dinner without potatoes is considered no dinner at all, at all. These were the most precious *morceaus* we contrived to pick up – but besides we obtained a sufficiency of salt Pork, salt beef – rice – butter & several other uncocs to keep away the demon of starvation for a month to come. So far then we were easy & we tried to be as contented with our inevitable destiny as we could. We are daily looking forward with hope to a change of wind, which may God grant us soon. Amen. So say we all with one accord.

Commencement of XXIII Week

Sunday 27th April – dull gloomy weather – most miserable thick hazy & drizzling – Fresh & foul wind with high seas – very cold.

Monday 28th – from appearances yesterday expected a gale to day – agreeably disappointed – calm in the morning with thick fog. At 1 the wind came to N & E, with clear weather & during the afternoon it became in our present situation nearly favourable – being to the Northward of Scilly.

Tuesday 29th – fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze. Spoke a French and an English vessel.

Wednesday 30th - fine weather. Moderate & favourable breeze. At 1 P.M. came to out old anchorage in Falmouth Harbour.

No sooner were they permitted than all our passengers availed themselves of Pearce's boat to go on shore, being heartily tired of being pent up so long in a small Packet, & anxious no doubt as speedily as possible, to partake of the luxury of fresh provisions, from which they had been so long debarred.

It now them becomes my duty to give you a notification *particu-particulation et scriatins* of those with whose Company we have been honoured since we left Vera Cruz.

There were received on board the Marquis de Vimanco,⁵ the Marchioness - 3 daughters - 2 sons - the daughter of a friend - a Senor Santa Maria, a particular friend of the Marquis - 2 Indian servants, native of Xalapa & a young man, a native of Mexico & confidential Servant of the Marquis - an old Spaniard, called Senor Jose del Pino - & a young German called Fritz or Frederick Meyers.

General Moran - alias Marquis of Vivanco

General Jose Moran, or as he was usually called by courtesy, in right of his wife, the Marquis of Vivanco, was a Creole of Mexico. At the early age of 14 he entered the old Spanish Service and is almost the only instance of a native Mexican attaining the rank which he did of Colonel in the Spanish army. General Moran more particularly belonged to the cavalry. When his native country withstood [?] her energies to throw off the yoke of the Mother country, general Moran feeling his duty to his native land to be paramount to the ties of gratitude which seemed to bind him to the interest of his old Masters, took an active share in the revolution which followed & which ended in securing the independence of Mexico as a separate country. Still however, notwithstanding his Real & substantial services in the cause of freedom, the circumstance that he owed so large a debt of gratitude to the old Spaniards, for their partiality to him, tended to hold a shade of suspicion around him, which not all he could [do] or say to give the contrary could disperse. Hence his conduct was carefully watched, & misconstructions put on his most innocent actions. No positive proof however could be brought against him, & he was suffered to live in place & even to take a share in the administration of government. In his capacity of Minister of war, he effected many notable reforms & by his excellent system of economy saved many

⁵ Vimanco/Vivanco - as with other proper names James's writing is none too clear. And even when it is clear he often spells them in different ways.

millions of dollars to the republic. At least so said his friend Santa Maria whose assertions were partially corroborated from other less questionable quarters.

When the reins of government fell into the hands of Santa Anna, as President, who professed a violent or ultra antipathy to every thing connected with old Spain. General Moran was an object of such suspicion & dread that the Dictator could not rest satisfied, until he had him prosecuted & banished, for the term of six years, but was satisfied with that, & left him in possession of his very large revenues, amounting it is said to £40,000 per annum. The term of Moran's stay in Mexico being limited and imperative, it was our good fortune to be at Vera Cruz in time to take him with us, and when there was no other opportunity for him to have complied with the order to leave the country with in the prescribed time. The Captain being unwell, the Master & I waited upon the general in order to arrange matters, & take his commands relative to any thing which might contribute to his special comfort or that of his family. We found in him an old man, about 60 with a mild countenance, yet strongly marked by the lines of care. His manners were very pleasing & his dress plain & indicative of nothing like pomp or ostentation. By our representations he was induced to come on board & see for himself the accommodation which our vessel offered. This he did next day & was pleased to express himself highly satisfied with the result of his inspection. As to terms he never made a single enquiry - but at once paid down in dollars the amount of passage demanded, & not only that but he paid the export duty on the amount, thereby giving our Commander the full amount free of all charges or deductions.

Throughout the whole of our tedious voyage we had every reason to be well pleased with the Marquis. His manners were invariably polite & gentle & he always acknowledged with a smile - an acknowledgement of thanks, the trifling services which we had it in our power to perform for himself or his family. He spoke no language but Spanish. I have reason to think he was acquainted with French - as he possessed several French works, particularly Dupuis' great work on the mercantile, naval, & military establishments of Great Britain - but on this point I am not quite certain as I never heard him speak.

I cannot help noticing here the conduct he pursued, while we lay at Havannah. Altho' we lay there four days, he never landed, nor allowed any of his family to land, excepting his servant Torres, & his second daughter, a girl of about 10 years of age. The reason of this rigid self denial (for such it was) he assigned to be the fear, lest, if he should land, & mix with many of his old companions in arms, who were there, a charge might be raised against him, of conspiring with the enemies of his country - and thereupon a pretence seized for confiscating all his property in Mexico. He deeply regretted the necessity which compelled him to such a course, but he was inflexible in observing it, in spite of the entreaties of his eldest son to be permitted to visit the city. But, if he confined himself to the Packet, numerous friends on shore, came daily & hourly off to see him & with them he was constantly engaged [in what] appeared very interesting conversations. He was habited in plain clothes & never at any time wore any thing approaching regimentals.

On our passage home from Habana, the Marquis came under my care. He had been twice attacked with apoplexy & the last attack had been followed by partial paralysis. One should premise that he was a very hearty eater - as well as an indiscriminate one. Besides he took very little exercise, than which, after the regular & hard exercise he had lately been accustomed to take in the course of his military duties, nothing could more effectually have predisposed him to be seized with his old complaint. Accordingly one night I was called to him, & thro' an interpreter, learned

that he was labouring under all the symptoms, which threatened a speedy attack of apoplexy. To avert the apprehended evil, I strongly recommended immediate vivisections, but strange to say, altho' the necessity was admitted, the general, like all Mexicans, had such an antipathy to that remedy, that he would not then submit to it, but promised should he not feel better next day to comply with my request. Any thing but bleeding he was content to do & I therefore blistered him, physicked him well - & put him [sic] feet in very hot water. By these means, & pursuing the strict *anti-phloquatic* regimen, the threatened evil was averted, and in a few days he was restored to his usual state of health - and was carefully cautioned to be more moderate in his diet, & take more exercise - a caution which [he] attended to for some time, but forgot in a great measure a few days previous to our reaching Falmouth.

Marchioness of Vivanco

The lady of General Moran was the Marchioness of Vivanco in her own right, and, as I understood also brought to her husband a large fortune which he enjoyed. It is curious to observe the fondness for aristocratical titles, which the new made republicans affect in spite of the self evident fact that the retention or assumption of these arms [lies] at the very root of their principles of equality. They may make themselves hoarse with bawling out, in conjunction with the canaille *Viva la republic, et los sterechos dos hombres* (i.e. rights of men), but still they must be addressed either personally or by letter, according to their several titles of Conde, Marquis, Duke &.^c but let this pass. I return to the lady. In person she was rather tall & stout - but during the time she was on board, wearing no stays; her gait and figure were slovenly and ungraceful - the latter resembling a skin of lard tied in the middle.

She spoke Spanish & a little French - and as [I] know very little of these languages, I cannot say any thing as to her mental qualifications. I thought, however, that her temper was rather hasty & her disposition none of the meekest - but I may be mistaken, seeing I formed my judgement solely from the lines of her physiognomy as expounded by Lavater. There was a sharpness of visage & a contraction frequently of the brows, which very nearly expressed discontent. And ill humour. She was accustomed to sit all day in an easy chair on deck surrounded by her family, with nothing on her head, & dressed rather in dishabille. In general she was satisfied with resting in listless inertness - while 5 or 6 times she was [seen with] a little embroidery in hand. She seemed to be a most affectionate Mother - rather if at all overindulgent. This maternal affection was the most delightful trait in her character & might well cover a multitude of other failings. Whenever any one of them complained she was miserable until they were well - & during their illness and convalescence her attendance upon them was unremitting. In these cases I saw more of her character a than any of the other officers & most cheerfully contributed my assistance to do what I could for their relief. This brought me into pretty close contact & confidence with her ladyship - and I soon found out that she was the lady Bountiful of her neighbourhood, not only in administering to the bodily wants but in prescribing for the diseases of those on her estates. She had with a great variety of Medicines commonly used in Mexico - besides a very excellent case of English remedies. [Like] So many of the former class, she ascribed virtues, which if founded in experience, were extremely valuable, very little short of being miraculous. Of course I said nothing to throw discredit on their alleged efficacy - but contented myself with saying to myself "fudge, fudge" while fortunately my inability to speak fluently in her language, precluded me from saying any thing more than "*Bueno, very Bueno.*"

Besides her admirable qualities as a Mother affectionate to her children, and a Mistress kind to her dependents, she was a strict attender to the duties of religion. Every night she and all her family & servants, excepting Torres, assembled themselves in the after cabin, where she officiated in reading the service. The utmost solemnity and decorum prevailed - all were on their knees listening to the missa, whilst ever and anon, their hands would be uplifted to heaven, or busily employed in crossing themselves - which they did with a rapidity that seemed rather indecorous & raised other ideas in the mind of a Protestant, than those of devotion, if not approaching the ludicrous.

Children of the Marquis - Theodosia

I shall next proceed to speak of the children of this worthy couple, and in [so] doing, as a point of politeness due to them, I shall first introduce to your notice the female portion and among these I beg leave to include the young daughter of an intimate friend of the Marquis, of whom he had undertaken the charge of educating with his own children.

The names then of the young ladies were Theodosia aged 14 or 15 - Monica aged 12 - Emilia, the friend's daughter about 10 - and Ignatia the youngest of all aged 7 years.

Theodosia was a fine girl, not certainly beautiful, but possessing those voluptuous tho nameless graces so peculiar to the natives of a warm climate. This characteristic imparts a charm even to mediocrity and is often found to possess greater attractions to men from a Northern climate, than all the natural beauties of face & form, which the ladies of a colder region do conspicuously display. In the dark coloured beauties born under tropics, their native sun imparts a portion of his heat to their constitution. Their sparkling eyes betray the hidden fires within. Their passions while under constraint, are like the slumbering volcano, whose summit is covered with snow - and when they burst out into a blaze, they resemble the same volcanoes when roused into activity and sweeping all things before it in its impetuous and irresistible career. Their love and their hatred are always in extremes, and while on the one hand they would go to death for the objects of their affection, on the other hand woe to him who has neglected or slighted them, for they will sacrifice all & every thing to satisfy their revenge. No calculations of cold prudence, or sterner virtue ever comes across their minds to stop their mad career - or if they do, they are spurned at with anger, as unworthy of the least attention.

But to return to Theodosia - Not that I mean to apply the remarks just made specially to her - by no means, for from any thing I know of her, she was as cold & as prudent as the most virtuous of her sex. The remarks I have just made arose at the moment in my mind - and at the same time the recollection of many observations made to me & the result of what has been within my own knowledge irresistibly led me to write what I have written.

Theodosia as I have said was not a pretty girl. Some of her features were individually good, as her eyes & brow, but the tout ensemble was bad, if not unpleasing. Her lips in particular were too large & protuberant - approaching to the negroes. Her figure was small & full - aye full as the woman of 20 with us. Her manners to us were very concerned & cold, probably owing in a great measure to our being unable to converse with her or to draw her forth. That this was the case, we might judge from the animation & smiling countenance she exhibited when conversing with her friends. In addition to her own language she spoke French,

having been several years in France. Besides her own friends, she used to converse with our Skipper & I remember one day upon entering the Poop Cabin, I found him laughing heartily. Upon asking him the reason he told me that Theodosia has just been complaining that she had lately been very much annoyed by "*les petites animaux*" in her head, alias the "*poulies*" - oh violation of delicacy, the very idea of which would cause the face of our country women to be suffused with shame. Theodosia had nothing childish in her deportment. She employed herself in nothing that indicated anything unworthy of a woman. She was as discreet - as womanly - as her mother herself - & regarded the childish amusements of her sisters with the staid deportment of an indulgent patient, than with the eager delight, which a childish mind would have showed.

Monica resembled her sister much in appearance - especially in the faults of thick lips. In other respects she was superior. Blubber lips apart, she would have been a most lovely girl. Like her sister her figure indicated more years than really belonged to her - say 15 or 16 - but her manners & amusements were altogether childish. Her temper, from several displays of it, appeared too hasty and hellish - and she was alternately fond of and angry with her young associates.

Emelia was a very little girl, with very light hair & bluish eyes. Her figure was really petite, and symmetry itself. She was like a little sylph, moving here & there about the vessel, with a step so elastic that she seemed hardly to touch the deck. We all liked her very much. She was more grave & thoughtful than her companions - & by no means so free in her ways. Sometimes you could not refrain from laughing to witness her affected dignity & stateling - and perhaps you would be apt to despise her, were you not also a witness to her truly affectionate & loving disposition, manifested in numberless occasions. We used to call her the Queen of France & each of us pretended to be anxious to obtain a post at her Court. I myself was promised to be appointed Surgeon in Ordinary to her Most Christian Majesty, for which I of course returned my thanks for the intended honour.

Ignatia the young[est] of all & the petted of all. Father, Mother, brothers & Sisters - together with the Captain & Officers made much of their little Mexican doll. Like Emelia, & in complete contrast to her sisters and brothers Ignatia had fair flaxen hair & blue eyes. Her features were totally dissimilar to those of her family - but it was said resembled those of her Mother's sister, who was married at 14 to our Minister in Mexico. Like all children she was amusing in what she did & I must say this for her that she behaved remarkably well during the voyage, and was not foolish more than once or twice, which is saying a great deal.

Besides the children I have mentioned General Mooran had two Sons, Antonino and Joaquin.

Antonino was the eldest and his fathers hope. He might be about 17 years and was a fine gentle tho' not very handsome young man. He as well as his eldest sister had his father's peculiarity of countenance viz. the eyebrows met and intermingled with each other at the ridge of the nose. He was a great favourite with us - much more so than his brother. He delighted to keep company with us - was fond of listening into our jokes & amusements - and in a very short time he made himself master of a great many words of English. Indeed his English was a source of daily laughter to us. He learned all the orders necessary to put the ship about - he had also picked up some general phrases as beautiful - splendid - go forward - be off with you, and which he shewed himself to be able to understand by his correct application of them. From all

this we were sorry to part with him when the time came - it will be long ere the memory of him will be lost by us.

Joaquin (pronounced Hoakeen) was a boy about 9, with enormously large unmemoring eyes. He seemed a very stupid boy & did not acquire a single word of English all the time he was with us. He was very selfish and a great gourmandie. Every frie day (these occurred four times a week) Master Joaquin would furnish himself with a plate & silver - go forwards between decks among the men in one particular mess, seat himself quietly till 8 bells struck, when the men went to dinner & helped him as well as themselves. There then he was silent and entirely engaged in the high delights of devouring a pound or two of sea pie. If he wanted more he held out his plate, if he were satisfied he as quietly marched aft as he had come without saying a word. It is astonishing to observe how fond some of our men became of this silent boy & how they would go without meat themselves than suffer him to want. I cannot forebear however to notice an honourable trait in the character of the boy, which would redeem many faults. Towards the end of the voyage, our men were [out] of potatoes and consequently could no longer make their sea pies. When Joaquin was somehow or another made acquainted with this misfortune; he appeared very much grieved, but whether on his own account or on that of his messmates it was hard at first to say. But this was no longer uncertain at our dinner table, when the boy was discovered concealing several potatoes from his own share, in order to give then to his friend between decks - No public notice was taken of the apparent theft, and great indeed was the exultation of the poor boy, when he produced his hoarded potatoes, and offered them in all the simplicity of conscious well doing to those who had befriended him in their time of plenty. From this simple but touching act of Joaquin, we may augur that more lies deep within him, than he is pleased to show in his general conduct, & that he will one day shine forth a good, if not a splendid character. Amen so be it.

Thus have I enumerated seriatim the different members of the Marquis' family. Their names I believe I have given correctly, but I'm not quite sure, if the Orthoefry is right. I dare say you will be as much struck as I was myself with the strangeness of the names - and may be inclined to think them of page or heathen origin. You may say, why being Christians, do they not give their children Christian like names - Well so they do - tho' it little you can know of the matter. The truth is that all the names I have recorded have belonged to some real or reputed saint of the Romish Calendar - nay what is more, that they are known by every one to be what they are, provided the birth day of the person has been previously ascertained - and vice versa, give me the name of any individual & upon inspection of the calendar, I shall tell you his birth day - tho' not the year. To explain this apparently paradoxical assertion, you must know that in Mexico, and I believe in several other countries, the printed calendar has a saint or saintess for every day in the year - & so sure as you are born on one particular day, so sure are you that your name will be the same as that of the saint, who is appointed to preside over that day. This is an admirable plan in many respects, in as much as it prevents disputes between mother & father - removes many serious difficulties - avoids all show of undue familiarity - and above all places the new born babe under the special protection of a powerful saint, who of course will do his utmost to assist his peculiar protégée thro' life. The consequence of this excellent provision is that your acquaintances know exactly your birth day, and without any invitation or announcement on your part come in shoals to offer their congratulations & felicitations on the occasion, wishing you many many returns of the same answering

in health, wealth & happiness. It is not expected that all should wait upon you to offer to you verbally the expression of their good wishes - but it is accounted a very great insult, if you do not call at the porters lodge, and insert your name in a book kept for that purpose, as an evidence that you had not forgotten your friend. With this explanation you will readily understand to us the real variety of names, of strange sound but importing nothing, which must occur in a large family. I must say however that I am very partial to most of the names which I have heard. They seem to me to be very soft and Musical - so I repeat Thoedisia - Monica - Emelia - Ignatia - Antoninino - Margarita - Macaria - and a long string of others equally pretty and euphonious.

Mexicans Great Eaters

Before leaving this interesting family, I think it best here to put down a few general remarks, which at different times I mem'd down.

All without exception were great and even gross eaters. I am sure no British Marquis or Marchioness or their children exists, who would not within themselves envy our nobility the keenness of their appetite and the zest with which the[y] partook of their various meals. From the time they got up to the time they went to rest, they were almost constantly at it. And first breakfast. Both father & Mother & sons eat soup & meat with beans & oil, tea, coffee, bread & butter for breakfast – then at 12 a pretty solid lunch – next at three a very large dinner, comprehending in general a tasting of every dish at table, fish., soup, poultry & beef, followed by a variety of preserves - fruit - plum pudding & liqueurs. Very little account was made of tea, but to make up for that there was a solid supper at 8, after prayers, which was always concluded with *dolces* (sweets) or presents. No wonder then that occasionally the stomach got disordered, and physic required to be taken. It is inconceivable the vast quantity of sweetmeats which was consumed among so small a party. Often a 4 lb Jar has hardly sufficed for one day, helped out though it were by 3 or 4 boxes of marmalade with *biscchos* (biscuits) & liqueurs. From this cause I suppose as much as any thing else, the teeth of all the ladies were bad, which greatly disfigured their countenances.

I have already remarked the voracity of the Mexicans at table, when speaking of those we carried but far be it from me to give you the impression that our present party were at all like these nasty disgusting animals. On the contrary they were remarkably clean & particular in changing their plate, and in no company would they forfeit the characters of being considered in England well bred people, well acquainted with all the *biensances* of good society.

The Mexicans are certainly very indolent in all ranks of society. Seldom did our gents promenade the deck – and as to our ladies they seemed to be fixtures as much as the chairs they occupied, & which were lashed to prevent their falling away. Nor did they ever amuse themselves with work, but were content to rest in complete inactivity, either absorbed in their own thoughts, or thinking upon nothing at all at all. They wore no caps or bonnets but generally had a silk handkerchief wrapped round their heads after a very neat fashion. They told us they could not bear to have their hair so confined & chose to run the risk of taking cold, to prevent it by adopting such restraints.

All the gents were otherwise very much averse to the use of hats or caps. The old Marquis generally wore a white flannel “night cap.” His friend Santa Maria, a

similar one of red figured stuff, the two boys, if we would let them would have preferred their white cotton *caps de nuit* to their new white hats.

Making every possible allowance, and indulgence, still it is impossible to witness the notation of delicacy, as established among us, which the Mexican ladies so frequently exhibit. What modest English woman, for instance, under the influence of sea sickness, would allow a *pot de chambre* to be brought to her in presence of all & everyone for the same purpose which a wash hand basin would answer perfectly well, if not better. Yet this - and even more than this - the Mexican ladies would do, not I verily believe from a contempt for our vulgar prejudice & false notions, but in reality because they do not connect with the above mentioned indispensable utensil those ideas of shame which we attach to the public exhibition & use of it in any shape. Frequently no less than 6 or 7 were in requisition at the same time - and it was really laughable to observe the pretended wry faces, which Jack made when called upon to bring or remove the utensils. To us it matters not whether they be made of china, earthenware or silver - still the idea of immodesty is inseparable from their view. If the excellence of the material indeed could have altered the character of the exhibition, then would those of our party never have raised a blush on the cheek of our modest females. For believe it, ye lovers of gold & silver, most of them were made of solid silver plain & unadorned, & rudely formed to the well known shape. Two of them were indeed of silver [plate] - but these were for the use of the servants. To make such utensils of so precious a material does at first sight appear to be most preposterous, as an abuse of what we would be pleased to call its legitimate object was a debasement of its high value by applying it to a purpose so mean. But in reality neither was the case. In a country where a china or earthenware [utensil] is not manufactured but imported, articles of that kind are so excessively dear, that when you take into consideration their extreme liability to be broken & the heavy expense of replacing them, you will at once see that to be possessed of silver utensils will ultimately prove the cheapest mode. Besides should any cause occur to render it necessary to raise the wind what can be better for that purpose than to sell such articles for silver [is] a metal whose intrinsic value, according to weight, never varies.

Mexican Children

Whether the plan was adopted for a time on board, or whether it was their general custom, but I observed that the Mexican children were not kept under the same restraint or at the same distance as ours are. Those belonging to our party in every thing were on an equal footing with us all. They breakfasted & dined at the same table. They were asked what they would have, and received what they asked for. There was no stint or correction at all. In conversation they joined as freely as their elders - and never were silent for half an hour together. To this cause then I must look for account for the circumstance which struck me so much at first - that in their behaviour & manners, they seemed to act the part of little women to admiration. In fact they were perfect miniature copies of their seniors. They spoke, they questioned, they twirled their fans, and did every thing in exact imitation of their mothers and their friends. To look at them attentively, you would fancy that you saw before you a number of those dwarfish women, who are exhibited at home for money! Not that they [are] always so grave and sedate and despised of the childish amusements of European girls. Far from it. Apart from their studied behaviour, they were [the] merriest children on the face of the earth - laughing, talking & romping with all the glee in the world. No wonder then that girls of 14 enter the holy state of matrimony,

seeing from their very childhood their whole study has been to ape the airs & demeanour of womanhood. But, notwithstanding, no tuition & no imitation will ever be sufficient to communicate to a girl of that early age the feelings, the principles, & the sedate habits of consideration which are inseparable from the due support of the character of a matron – the mother of a family – the guide & the instructress of her children.

I shall now take leave of the Marquis and his children & turn me now to some of our other passengers

Senor Santa Maria

Senor Santa Maria was the intimate friend of General Moran. He was also the *cavaliere serviente* of the Marchioness in the strictest sense of the Italian phraseology. He was at her service night & day. Never did she apply to her husband but always to Santa Maria. This might be all very well, according to Mexican notions, which considered that since these gentlemen were like two brothers, it was but a sign of fraternal regard for the one to pay what attention was in his power to the wife of the other - but to our ideas, there was something extremely improper in the exclusiveness of Santa Maria to the lady. But let that pass.

Senor Santa Maria was as I believe a Mexican – at least from what he told me himself, he had been one of the Ministers of government - & had advocated in that capacity certain measures which were not quite agreeable to the President and his partisans. He had also been the Mexican Minister to the republic of Columbia and seemed well acquainted with that country. Santa Maria spoke English very well indeed – and French like a native. He had spent several years in England and in France, whether for his own pleasure or because his enemies civilly desired his absence, where his presence was so dangerous, I know not, for he himself completely abstained from saying any thing on the subject. That his present trip was involuntary I well know from hearing him say so – but I question whether he had use[d] the ceremony of asking permission to travel, because he came on board of us in a quiet way, and under a fictitious name.

I do not wonder that the political enemies of Santa Maria should wish him at Jerusalem or Jericho – in short any where than where he could employ his great talents to their discomfiture. He was really a very superior character. His education had been of a general nature, and the opportunities of instruction had not been let slip unimproved. He was a true devotee of the classics – and would quote freely & to the purpose. He was intimately acquainted with English, French, Italian & Spanish literature. He always travelled with a choice collection of books, among which by the bye I observed many on political economy & the sciences of government, shewing that he had studied the important subject, and drawn [on] the subjects for the display of his own legislative powers from the most approved authors in various languages.

He and I often used to converse & to reciprocate our ideas on various subjects. We travelled over a considerable extent of the literary field, and made our remarks on our different writers with a unanimity of opinion that was highly pleasing to me. Whilst on the subject of *Logic & Belles Lettres* we had occasion to mention Blair's lectures. This led him to mention that he had translated & published for the benefit of the Mexicans, Blair's Sermons, which he considered equally applicable to the Protestant & the Catholic – and moreover he had already disposed of several impressions. He showed me at the same [time] 6 of the sermons, very nicely printed

& on good paper. Of their accuracy I am not qualified to judge, but from [what] I saw of Santa Maria, I should consider him to be a very competent hand.

Senor Santa Maria was a complete contrast to his countrymen in his habits and modes of thinking. He knew and observed as well as we did all the civilities & delicacies of the table. Our customs were perfectly familiar and seemed to be preferred by him. He was a very modest eater – and like the rest of his countrymen very temperate in his drinking. The manners of the gentleman such as [we] picture to belong to that character – sat as easy and natural upon him as if he had been all his life accustomed to no other. His address was pleasing – his language choice & polite – indeed more choice than you generally find to be used by most Englishmen – a circumstance which has probably arisen from his having been obliged to study the language with great care and attention, and his constant customs of reading our best authors.

The conversation sometimes turned on the topic of religion, when M.^r Santa Maria would point out to us his opinions. These were at best rather lax. He professed to be a Catholic – but not a bigoted one. He believed all good Christians, of whatever sect or denomination, would go to heaven. He denied the infallibility of the Pope, and refused to acknowledge him in any other light than as the Spiritual Head of the Church, to the complete exclusion of his interferences with temporal & political concerns of any other country, over which he is entitled to exercise a temporal power, viz. his own peculiar territories. Santa Maria, in conjunction with other Ministers strenuously exerted themselves to prevent the induction of a Bishop, appointed solely by the Holy Father himself – and they eventually succeeded, declaring that if the Court of Rome would not consent to be satisfied with fixing upon one out of 3 or 4 names which the Mexicans would themselves recommend, that then & in that case they would separate *in toto* from that Church, and set up one in their country. The reason assigned for this unparalleled audacity and resistance to papal claims seems to be perfectly satisfactory to us Protestants. Granting that the Pope should be allowed to appoint a Bishop, it is almost certain that he would choose some Italian or Spaniard ignorant of the country – a stranger to manners, customs – opinions and prejudices of the people to be committed to his pastoral charge - & whose only claim to the high & sacred Office is grounded upon personal friendship or interest or money. And what would be the consequence. The Bishop would [be] useless, nay worse than useless – as to any benefit to be derived from his sacerdotal duties - & then continual jealousies & heart burnings would as certainly follow between him and the native ministers of religion whom he might despise or try to rule with the rod of a despot. Whereas according to Santa Maria's plan, one man of the number proposed by the Mexican government, being selected, he would be best adapted to discharge the duties of his station and to supply the wants of his flock, knowing as he should what those wants are.

The Pope having been foiled in his endeavour to appoint as well as to consecrate the Bishop for Mexico, cunningly in order to probe the temper of the Government, sent to Mexico an Italian with the title of General Superintendent of Convents and other religious establishments. This ruse failed likewise – and it was determined to crush his hopes at once by firmly refusing to admit under any title or appellation whatever, any person who should be sent direct from him, & without the privity or consent of the Government – even tho' the ostensible duties of that person were purely religious. The Mexicans looked to the principle of the act, not to the act itself. They considered that in one instance to acknowledge His Holiness's power of his authority to appoint Men to act in a religious capacity would be virtually to

acknowledge his right to appoint in the more important matters, involving even their civil polity and internal administration.

I was much pleased one day with conversation which was held one day. The subject was improvement of the people in learning & knowledge – the gradual ~~abolition~~ abatement of religious prejudices, and the happy signs of a spirit of elevation among all ranks. Santa Maria mentioned that within the last 20 or 30 years, a most wonderful alteration had been witnesses by himself among his countrymen. Previous to that, the most absurd notions were universal, respecting the English. They were said to be heretics – not believing in Christ – nor in the Father or Holy Ghost - & last not least in the Saints. They were held out as appointed to eternal damnation, and that a free intercourse with them would be prejudicial to their own souls & bodies. Nay the common people were so ignorant as to believe the tales made current by the priests that Englishmen like the monkeys were furnished with tails. Hence, when our countrymen first came to the country in pursuit of commercial speculation, their lives were often endangered by the prejudices of the people - & not a few were assassinated. Now a-days, after a long residence & intimate connection with the Mexicans, the scale of opinion has been turned to the opposite side – in their favour. The falsity of the reports respecting their religion and their manners has been proved & what remained to conciliate good will & a more liberal feeling, was accomplished by the benefits conferred by the manufactures & commerce – their upright character as merchants – their excellent conduct in private life, and by a more true confiding intercourse in all the relations of social life. And thus there is great room to hope that in the progress of time, information & general knowledge will be so spread abroad, that the baneful influence of national & religious prejudices will disappear, and each nation strive with the other in acts of friendship, & in political harmony.

Frederick Meyers

Thus I have discussed all the members of the Marquis's family, and given you some account of the intimate friend of that family. When I say I liked them all, I speak the truth – but the next person I am going to mention was received by me & my brother officers with a feeling far beyond mere liking – with decided partiality. This was Fritz or Frederick Meyers, a native of Hamburg. He was a young man, about 20, of the ordinary standard of height, with a face rather handsome, and which, when we came near England, was set forth to great advantage by a fine roseal bloom. I never met yet with a passenger whom we all loved so much as Fritz. His disposition was most animated and affectionate – his manners were most pleasing and gentle - & in short you could not be long in his company without feeling for him the attachment of a Brother or of a dear friend. He associated constantly with us & took a pride in doing so. When he came on board he could speak a little English and at his own request I took upon myself the charge of instructor. Never had Master a more attentive or docile pupil, and never did such harmony prevail between teacher and scholar. By constantly conversation on all subjects & by careful correction of the mistakes he was most apt to commit without either grammar or other books, long ere the voyage was concluded, Frederick could understand us all perfectly and could also express himself pretty fluently and correctly. We were thus mutually pleased at the same effect – I with my pupils proficiency & he also at his own progress. As an instance of his improvement I have now in my possession a letter which he wrote me from London & which was the first one in English he had penned – and I am sure when you see it, you will admit it to be most creditable to the Instructor and Instructed.

Frederick had been in Mexico about 2 years and a half. He spoke not the Spanish well – but understood perfectly what was said to him by the Mexicans. He did not at all like the Mexicans and abused them right and left. Were it not that he has a brother in the Capital, well established in business, and that [there] is the chance there of making much money, he would never return. But as it is, his intention is to remain 8 or 9 months with his family & then resume his duties in his Brothers warehouse in the hope of being take in as partner in the course of two or three years more. For money is the Germans Divinity as much as it is said to be the Scotchmans. Frederick did not belie this characteristic of his countrymen. He knew perfectly the value of pounds, shillings and pence, and the truth of the old saying that pence make shillings and shillings make pounds. There was another trait quite germane to the Germans, in which our friend was proficient. He was a noble hand at the trencher – I mean more as to quantity than to quality. He often very jocularly inclined to this, after he had discussed two men’s allowance, a was about to be helped to more. He said he really was quite ashamed but that we must pardon him, as he had inherited a capacious stomach from his countrymen, who could take this amiss – we did not – but on the contrary, delighted to watch his rapid demolition of various solid viands and the hardly diminished rapidity [with] which a second supply disappeared – till at last the face would become flushed, the eyes protuberant and the jaws refuse to perform their functions.

I think the character of the Germans assimilate much to that of the Scotchman. They know how to turn the penny to most advantage. They are highly national or clannish in their feelings, and this standard of their morality is very high. Our Protégée was an excellent example. He was extremely moderate in drinking, and in his ideas of morality strict and severe. The influence of lax morality – of false virtue – the temptations held out to youth in Mexico – and the persuasions of false friends male and female had been in vain. He was still the same in correct and virtuous feeling as [when] he had left his native home, and he expressed the most pointed abhorrence of the immorality so prevalent in Mexico.

I need hardly add to this, that his affection to his family was unbounded. He seldom spoke of those at home without tears in his eyes – and he told me that the idea of seeing them soon would come with such an overpowering force of joy over his mind that he was moved as it were out of himself and hardly knew what he was doing or saying.

When we got to Falmouth, he was induced to remain three days with us and you may be sure we did all that lay in our power to gratify and please him. On the night he bade us adieu, he could hardly speak. The tears stood in his eyes, and he was obliged hastily to wring our hands and run away – *Ut Deus optimus Maximus amico caripimo nollis semper benedicat semper precarium nos onnes.*

In speaking of these passengers we took on board at Vera Cruz for England I have still to make mention of a man servant and two female servants, attached to the Marquis’s family. I do not know the full name of the General’s confidential servant – but he was called by us Torres. Senor Torres was a tall, thin gentell [sic] looking fellow – very handsome with dark complexion, eyes and hair. He spoke English almost as well as a native, and much more correctly and grammatically than the lower order of natives speak it. I used to wonder at this and at first supposed that he had many years in England. No he had never been out of Mexico. In his early years he had associated much with the English Miners & for a very considerable time he had been servant to M.^r Auld, one of the Commissioners of the Mines. He seemed a very intelligent

young man - & his manners and language were far above his ostensible station – and here I may remark that in Mexico servants are treated almost as children members of the family & address their master and mistress as if they were their friends – but always in a tone of confiding respect. Torres was very fond of being praised for his English – and no compliment could be more gratifying than to say that had you not known to the contrary, you would have taken him for an Englishman. He delighted also in reading English works and those of the best kind. Whenever he met with a word which he did not understand the meaning of, or could not pronounce, he was accustomed to apply to me to satisfy – and hence arose a greater degree of confidence than might otherwise have been the case. This led him to speak of his early life – of his preference of the English, and his hearty contempt for his own countrymen. Not such always, he admitted, were his opinions. When first it was said that the English were coming into the country to work the Mines, numerous absurd reports were circulated respecting them. To some of these I have already alluded. Torres then a boy, fully believed every thing. When he actually saw [them] he was dreadfully alarmed. For several months after their arrival he would never go near them, and should they shew a disposition to approach him he screamed aloud, & ran away as fast as he could. He could not be persuaded but that they had tails like monkeys, and he believed that the long coats the Miners wore were intended to conceal this appendage to their stern post. The progress of time, however, soon altered the case, and shewed the falsity of the tales propagated against our countrymen. Then the feelings of Torres took a quite contrary direction; he admired & imitated the English, as much [as] he had despised & detested them – and his preference of us was fully confirmed by the close connections he formed with them in attaching himself to their Commissioner.

I used to remark, that when the family went to prayers every night, Torres never formed one of the number. One night I asked him the reason, and he said he was always apt to get drowsy, and that on one occasion in particular he had fallen asleep, and consequently neglected the necessary responses and crossings – which coming to the observation of his lady, from that time he had been allowed to dispense with his attendance. At this he was much rejoiced, as he had no taste for such things – and candidly admitted that he thought such exercises to be of little use. I asked him if he were a Roman Catholic – he answered yes, with an air of great hesitation and immediately added, that he was no bigot and loved a good Protestant as much if not more so than a good Catholic. Speaking to him of the duty and necessity of Auricular Confession, as inculcated by his Church, I said I hoped he attended to it punctually and that I wished to know how often he performed that duty. To my surprise he told me that he had not been at Confession, since he was a boy at School – and that a circumstance which had occurred the very last time he went to the Confessional had made him form a resolution never to do so again. It seems at the school he was at, the usual practice for the boys was to go to Confessional once a month – and this was strictly enforced. One unfortunate month, Torres neglected to do this – but went punctually on the next occasion. His reception from the priest was frowning & severe. He was lectured for half an hour on the enormity of the sin of his omission, and before he could expect to receive the pardon of heaven, or in other words before he could allay the anger against him which flamed in the breast of the priest for his open contempt, he was enjoined as a penance to repair to the Church Yard at the dead hour of night – to go to that part of it where the dry bones of those long dead was piled up to make way in the earth for more recent occupants - & to take therefrom a human scull, which, kneeling down & fervently repeating his *Ave Marias*, & *Pater Nosters*,

he was to kiss a certain number of times. This was a bitter and a dreadful penance to the poor boy – and he could not bring himself to perform it. When he came home he opened up the matter to his Mother & father, expressing at the same time his horror at the task & his earnest wish to shrink it. But his parents would not listen to such a thing. They were pious & bigoted & believed that the soul of their child would be doomed to eternal perdition, unless all the terms of the Padres injunctions were fulfilled to the utmost iota. They therefore insisted that Torres should set about his penance that very night, and that he should perform it alone. What could the poor boy do but obey. Not long before midnight he started, shaky and trembling in every limb. His terrified mind conjured up images of horror unutterable - & his heart several times failed him completely. On on he went, till he reached the Golgotha, the place of skulls. Here for a little his senses and memory almost failed him, but recovering a little, he pattered over his prescribed task as rapidly as he could, and taking in his hand a skull, attempted to kiss it – In vain. His mind became confused and filled with the most horrible imaginings – the dry bones of the dead screamed as if with one consent to bestir themselves against him. The skull which he held seemed to grin in fiendish mirth at his woeful state & above all he fancied that the fiends of hell were let loose against him and were about to seize upon him to convey him to their dreary place of punishments. Under these horrible circumstances reason tottered on her throne, till at last some noise striking upon his ear, which he contrived to be the approach of the arch-fiend himself, he sunk down insensible, and there lay, for some hours, when he was discovered by his father and some friends, who had become alarmed by his protracted absence. He was conveyed home only to awake in the paroxysms of brain fever, raving and raging – talking of bones and devils and speaking in terms of the utmost abhorrence against the Padre. When he recovered he determined never to confess again, & from that day to this, he has kept his vow.

Margarita and Macaria

It now only remains that I should say a few words respecting the female domestics. These were two in number, Margarita the eldest & Macaria the youngest. They were sisters and natives of Xalapa. Their colour was brown or rather copper. Their features were those of Indians - & like them they had long black hair reaching almost down to their heels. Their presence on board was of very little service to their Mistresses – they were either very sick or very indolent, and required more attendance than those, whom they came to wait upon. The oldest was a stout built woman – rather homely in appearance – and by far the most useful of the two, if the trifling services she did render could be said to be of much use. The younger one Macaria was rather good looking – tall & slight. She suffered more than her sister from sea sickness. Her duty was to attend principally on the children – and little enough in all conscience did she do for them. She was also a hysterical subject and was twice subject to attacks of that nature. On the first attack I did all I could for her by Salts, water &.^c but after remaining four hours in a state of immobility, she recovered, and spoke & act[ed] as if nothing had been the matter with her. On the second occasion I was more fortunate, and that in a way in which I had not calculated. It was thus. She was lying before me with her eyes shut and perfectly immoveable. When I threw water smartly on her face, she would wince but still continued insensible. I next procured some liquor ammoniac and whilst I was in the act of holding the bottle to her nostrils that the effluvia might be inhaled, the vessel gave a sudden lurch, by which means the bottle being held a little inclined, a small portion of the fluid passed into the nostrils and in an instant, my

eye, what a change. The previously immoveable figure, like a statue of bronze, at once started into life; her voice so long silent, at once gave utterance to her feelings, and sitting bolt upright she cried or rather squalled out “*Agua, agua por amor de dios,*” i.e. “Water, water for the love of God.” Having thus successfully driven out one devil, called the devil of an hysterical diseased imagination, I had a good deal to do to day [with] the second devil which I myself had unwittingly conjured up. By the aid of copious ablutions with water, together with the *ag. Calcis*, the pain and inflammation was got under, and in the end I congratulated myself in the discovering that I had an infallible means in my power to recover her instantaneously out of any future attacks, and I only longed to witness a third attack to put to the proof the efficacy of my nostrum. But alas she never afforded another opportunity of trying and thus [never] afforded me an incontestable evidence that her attack depended on the mind, and could be encouraged or prevented by herself at pleasure. I plainly gave her to understand that if she were seized in the same manner again, I would try the same remedy – and I dare say, whenever she felt inclined to give way to the same feeling, she bethought of the painful remedy and successfully struggled against the threatening hysterical seizure.

On our arrival at Falmouth, our dark coloured beauties and their peculiar attire were special objects of attention. They themselves were no less struck with wonder at what they saw. Every thing was strange to their eyes – even the rig of the females here. As they could not go out in their native habiliments with[out] drawing rather unpleasant notice upon themselves, they procured a dress more assimilating to those worn here - & among other articles they purchased and wore fine dashing bonnets with fine pink ribbons & lining – for the first time in their lives. The mani[pulation] of these concerns sadly puzzled them. They did not know what to do with them – how to untie or tie them. They were always either too far forward, or too far back, and appear[ed] to sit as awkwardly upon their crania, as a soldiers accoutrements on a Blue Jacket.

I understand they were to receive £60 each, besides having their passage money paid out & home. This is a very handsome sum and will make them be looked upon a great catches to other bachelors of their native place, when they return. Neither of them could speak a word of English, after three months stay with us – a proof either of mental incapacity or the most stupid indolence.

These two conclude the list of our passengers from Vera Cruz to England.

Senor Las Casas

From Havanna to Falmouth we brought one gentleman, an old Spaniard, a native of Bilboa in old Spain. His name was Senor Las Casas. He was a young man very much pock-marked. He possessed two *Tiendas* or shops in Habana, and was there flourishing like a green tree. His object in returning to Europe, was to make large purchases, for the Habana market at our large manufacturing towns in England, and that done to visit his parents at Bilboa, previous to his return to the place [from] where he had come. Senor Las Casas spoke no language but Spanish and consequently we could hold little or no intercourse with him. When our friend Meyer asked him why he did not try to learn English, he looked at him with an air of supreme contempt and slowly ejaculated “English” as if that were an object never once to be thought of. I wonder then how he would come in England from his total ignorance of the language. Lucky it was for him that Fritz was going the same way with him, as far as London,

where he would meet with some of his countrymen. Otherwise as he confessed, he expected to be cheated on all hands and probably to find himself at John O'Groats house when he expected to be in the City. Las Casas and Meyer started together and safely arrived at their destination.

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*Finis*

P.S.<sup>6</sup> I have forgotten to mention that we carried as passenger from Vera Cruz to Havanna a Senor del Pino, a native of Cadiz – on his way to his native country, after an absence of nearly two years. Also that some months after our return home, I saw an account of the capture of an armed Schooner, the Capt.<sup>n</sup> of which had stated that he left Havana in company with P. Office Packet – but that she, not liking his appearance, had returned to port. So he thought, but we knew better tho'.

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Twenty-five pounds of Tea

Little did we, in our joyful anticipation of soon once more revisiting our native land, and of once more seeing our friends and relations, expect the appearance of a storm which was to spread havoc and desolation over our fairest prospect. I speak metaphorically. I mean by a storm not a commotion of nature – but a moral tempest, or in other words an overwhelming misfortune.

I will venture to say that when we entered Falmouth Harbour it was with feelings of unmingled joy, undampened by a fancied fear of coming events which sometimes cast their shadow before. Not a suspicion existed in our minds that any thing was amiss with regard to us, and in this circumstance we had a proof, how wisely the Almighty Creator of the universe has concealed the future within an impenetrable veil, thereby enabling us, in our ignorance, to enjoy the passing good, instead of rendering the blessings of the present a curse, as would be the case, could we see into futurity.

Not long did we remain in blissful security. The very day I landed, I heard the ill-omened sounds of some impending evil. It was whispered that our Commander had been called to account for some smuggling transaction, which had taken place on our return from the Leeward Island voyage, and it was said to be likely that the Packet would be put out of commission. The lapse of a few days fully proved that the report was true - but still the result was uncertain. The first circumstance which tended to create alarm was the arrival of an order from head quarters, to prevent the Old *Duke* from taking her Mail, which she was to have done, to Halifax, a fortnight after she came into Harbour. This looked very suspicious. But still nothing was known for certain, and I did not like, from a feeling of delicacy, to ask our Captain about the matter. At last on the Wednesday, after the packet should have sailed, I was sent for to M.^r Snell, who had been attacked with Gout in the Stomach. I made all haste but found him very ill indeed. He continued in a very precarious state, from 11 a.m. to midnight. Every means were tried to determine the Gout from the Stomach to the extremities - but for a long time without effect. At last when the feet became very sore, from the Cataplasms, the stomach was partially relieved - but we were

⁶ This paragraph clearly added at a later date.

compelled to administer almost a drachm of laudanum to preserve relief in sleep. Now M.^r Snell had been under my care for the same complaint four or five times previously - and then the usual remedies were attended with speedy success. In this instance, however, they were useless - nor was it difficult to imagine the cause. In the first cases indigestion had excited the Stomachic Gout - but in this the mind was the agent, & as we could not minister to a mind diseased, our mere attempt to relieve the bodily symptoms was unavailing. Fortunately by next morning, the Captain awoke free from the Gout in the Prince of Organs, and we were rather glad than otherwise, that it showed itself in a very lively form in the inferior extremities.

During my attendance upon M.^r Snell I learned that immediately on his arrival he had received a letter from the Admiralty calling upon him to explain how 25 lbs of tea had been concealed in his vessel without his finding it out. To this in reply the Captain professed total ignorance of the transaction. By return of post another letter came down, saying that their Lordships were not satisfied with his explanation, & imperatively requiring some explicit explanation of him. What could M.^r Snell do. He again professed his ignorance. Now I, and indeed all of us were but of one opinion viz. that M.^r Snell was perfectly innocent and ignorant that there had been any smuggling at all. None one ^[sic] on board had ever heard the charge before our arrival this time, and we were five weeks in harbour after it had happened without any thing being said about it, and we had gone to sea on another voyage. That such a seizure had been made was true, but neither I nor the Captain knew anything more of its being made. The regular practice, when such goods are seized [was] to seize the ship also by applying the broad arrow in conspicuous places - But this had not been [done] by the Custom House officers & one therefore thought all was right. The explanation of this apparent anomaly was alas too easily given. At the time of the seizure M.^r Hocking the sifter in the Boat, of course seized the tea, but considered the quantity as too trifling to justify him in seizing the vessel - and consequently told the Master to report the ship all clear to the captain, who made his report accordingly to the Admiralty. If the matter had rested alone with the Customs all would have gone on well - but unfortunately it was then the custom to hand over the excisable articles to the Excise, which was done in this case. Now at Falmouth there exists a great jealousy between these two services - and the Excise seized hold of this as a handle to annoy the Customs. They wrote to their own board stating that the Customs had not as in duty bound made capture of that packet. The Commissioners of the Board of Excise wrote for explanation from their brethren of the Board of Customs. These again wrote for information to their subordinates & the consequence was that M.^r Hocking nearly lost his situation and the case was transmitted to the Admiralty, who as we [have seen] wrote to our Captain.

In answer to M.^r Snell's second letter, an order came down to put the packet out of commission for smuggling. Meantime as a justification of himself M.^r Snell endeavoured to find out who were the guilty parties - and for that purpose lawyer Tresider came on board to swear the men. Four only would take the oath - one man, the Carpenter, a noble fellow came forward and declared his participation in the transaction but refused to betray the others - but twelve refused to swear on the grounds that it was against their conscience to take an oath. The Captain & all the officers at another time took the oath and signed their names to an affidavit.

An account of all this was dispatched to the Lords of the Admiralty and at the same time a petition was sent up from the Town in behalf of M.^r Snell - and to render things more done, a letter was written to the M.P. for the town. All however was in vain - and on 26 May an order was received to reinstate the Packet - but nothing was

said of the Commander. On the 1st June word came, that a M.^r William James Lieutenant R.N. of S.^t Mawes was appointed Commander in the room of M.^r Snell. However, Captain King, the Superintendent of the Packets would not deliver his commission to M.^r James, until the owners had settled with M.^r Snell for the value of the top of the vessel. The arranging of this lasted another week - so that it was till Sunday the 8th June, that M.^r James received his Commission, and commenced the full exercise of his functions as Lieut. Commander of H. M. Hired Packet *Duke of York*.

Unfortunately on that very day M.^r Geach our old Master was seized with the severe attack of influenza, which confined him to the home. I say unfortunately because the Ship having to be coppered, & to undergo very material repairs, M.^r Geach was unable to attend, it was decided that M.^r Geach should be superseded. M.^r Pasko an old master in the Navy was appointed in his room. This was a hard case for poor Geach but there was no help for it.

A very few days afterwards M.^r Williams our Mate, instead of coming down to his duty at 6 A.M. did not make his appearance till 9 A.M. For this he was discharged & M.^r Evenet our old Boatswain was raised to his place. From these changes taking place so rapidly, I was apprehensive that it was the intention of the Com.^r to dispense with my services. But my fears were soon quieted on that head. Our Carpenter shipped on board the *Flamer* steamer⁷ - Henry Sandow & Peter James shipped on board a Merchantman & James Lewis was discharged.

⁷ HM Steam Vessel *Flamer*; wood paddle vessel; 496 t-bm; built by Fletcher, Limehouse; launched 11/8/1831. Wrecked W. Africa 22/11/1850 – J J Colledge *Ships of the Royal Navy*. Tony Pawlyn, *Falmouth Packet Service, 1831-c.1835*.

Account
of
Expences incurred in the voyage to
Jamaica & Mexico
in
1833-1834

Jamaica	Medicine -	£0	4	6
	Fruit -	0	1	6
	Sundries -	0	2	0
	Washing -	0	4	0
	Cegars -	0	2	6
Tampico				
10 th Feb. ^y	To S. ^r Edwards for 7- g. ^{ls} Brandy -	0	10	6
	To d. ^o for attendance -	0	10	6
Vera Cruz				
	Refreshments -	0	2	0
	Cegars -	0	2	6
	To viewing the Castle -	0	2	0
Habana				
1 st to 3. ^d March				
	Silva Cegars – 1000 -	2	8	0
	Cabanas – 250 -	0	12	6
	Large Cegars – 250 -	0	8	0
	Passing Cegars thro' Custom House -	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>
	Carry Over	£5	15	6
	½ Case Schiedam (6 bottles) -	0	7	0
	12½ lbs loaf sugar -	0	5	0
	8 lbs Coffee -	0	4	0
	4 Gallons rum (of Hanava) -	0	8	0
	½ lb Black tea -	0	2	0
	½ lb Green tea -	0	3	6
	4 bottles (Champagne) Honey -	0	4	0
	Punk or Tesca -	0	1	0
	Guava jelly (8 small boxes) -	0	3	3
	Pines (13) -	0	4	0
	<i>Volante</i> (or hire of gig) -	0	8	0
	Refreshments & boat hire -	0	5	0
	2 Gallons Jamaica rum -	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>
	Amount of Expen. ^{ces}	£8	18	3
Habana				
	Magnesia 4 ounces -	0	1	0
	Small bottle of Henry's d. ^o -	0	1	6
	Rhubarb 2 ounces -	0	1	6
	Cegars at different times -	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
		9	4	9

31st March to J.^{as} Edwards for
2 Gallons Rum -

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