

2nd Voyage

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to the Leeward islands.

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Sailed 20th October 1834 - *time*
Returned 12th Jan.^{ry} 1835 - *12 weeks*

Lieu.^t William James
Commander.

*List of the Ships
Company*

Lieu.^t William James Commander.

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|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>John Pascoe -</i>                                   | <i>Master</i>                  |
| <i>James Williamson -</i>                              | <i>Surgeon</i>                 |
| <i>James Everret -</i>                                 | <i>Mate</i>                    |
| <i>James Edwards -</i>                                 | <i>Steward</i>                 |
| <i>John Jenkins -</i>                                  | <i>Stew.<sup>ds</sup> Mate</i> |
| <i>James Quintal -</i>                                 | <i>Cook.</i>                   |
| <i>George Kelloway -</i>                               | <i>Boatswain</i>               |
| <i>William Stevens -</i>                               | <i>Sailmaker</i>               |
| <i>John Woon -</i>                                     | <i>Carpenter</i>               |
| <i>Dyer Williams -</i>                                 | <i>A.B.</i>                    |
| <i>Alexander Webb -</i>                                | <i>A.B.</i>                    |
| <i>Philip Westcott -</i>                               | <i>A.B.</i>                    |
| <i>John Sedgmond -</i>                                 | <i>A.B.</i>                    |
| <i>John Bellman -</i>                                  | <i>A.B. *</i>                  |
| <i>William Hawkin -</i>                                | <i>A.B.</i>                    |
| <i>Thomas Treleaven -</i>                              | <i>A.B. #</i>                  |
| <i>W.<sup>m</sup> Coombes -</i>                        | <i>young lad</i>               |
| <i>Thomas Pascoe -</i>                                 | <i>young lad</i>               |
| <i>John Pascoe -</i>                                   | <i>young lad</i>               |
| <i>John Braily = in the room of Harvey discharged.</i> |                                |

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*Notes of a  
Voyage to the  
Leeward Islands*

*Sailed 20<sup>th</sup> October 1834*

*12 weeks*

*Returned 12<sup>th</sup> Jan.<sup>ry</sup> 1835*

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The time I have spent in Harbour (after our last voyage to Halifax) which amounted nearly to 7 weeks, has been marked by a longer period of fine weather than has fallen to my lot to witness since I have known Falmouth. In it was heavenly, and I openly recanted the opinion I had so repeatedly expressed that fine weather was always a stranger here. Of course I have had more enjoyment out of doors, than ever I had before, and never more regretted the termination of our holiday, as our days on shore may be termed.

For three or four days previous to our day of sailing, a change came over the scene, and in place of light breezes and calms the winds blew and the waves rose, just quite the contrary of what could have been wished by us, who had to get all our bedding, cloths &.<sup>c</sup> on board. For my own part I was obliged to get up early on the morning and in such a cockle of a boat to breast the waves, & face the squalls. I got very well, and comparatively dry on board - stowed away my things in my birth - & in half an hour was on my return to shore when a furious blast arose, with slick drizzling rain, and impelled my little barkie most merrily on the top of the billows without any aid from paddles or oars. I was indeed very glad when I put my feet again on shore in safety as I did not at all feel comfortable while exposed to a heavy sea, & an uncertain wind.

On the afternoon of the same day our commander with four of our ships company left the Packet in the gig, in order to go to S.<sup>t</sup> Mawes on the opposite side of the Harbour, to which place M.<sup>t</sup> James belongs & where his friends reside. Very little sail was set (only the mizen on the m.<sup>n</sup> mast) and every thing went on well, until they reached the cross channel. There the tides setting one way and the wind blowing another, such a tumult was thereby produced, that at once in the twinkling of an eye, the gig was capsized, turning bottom up, and of course all on board were thrown into the water. Those in the boat told me that when she was a being capsized they threw themselves clear, lest they should be struck by the gunwale & rendered insensible, & whilst so, sink to the bottom.

In the midst of the heavy rolling waves which surrounded them it was difficult for our Commander to keep afloat. Besides as the weather was rather chilly, with rain and the water splashing over the sides, all were provided against these in consequence by thick cloathes and sea boots. Hence their difficulties were increased incalculably, when their cloathes became soaked & their boots filled so much that when after being 20 minutes in the water, the Com.<sup>r</sup> and three of the gigs crew were picked up by the boats of the *Pike* Schooner, and *Nightingale* Packet, they were nearly exhausted, and could not have held out for many minutes longer - indeed one of them (Aleck Webb) when picked up was already under water & insensible. I have said three only of the

crew were saved, and sorry am I to be obliged to add that poor Charles Richards or Quintrall met a watery grave. He was heavily cloathed, and sunk after remaining 5 minutes on the surface. I am inclined to think, from my knowledge of his character, that he must have taken fright, and losing all presence of mind, have sunk without a possibility of again rising - which he never did, as the boats watched for some time.

The survivors were at once carried on board the *Pike*, and threatened with the utmost kindness. Hot grog and dry cloathing were instantly furnished, and after four or five hours rest, our men were able to come to Falmouth and our Com.<sup>r</sup> to proceed to S.<sup>t</sup> Mawes.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.<sup>r</sup> - this is our sailing day, but fortunately, after our late melancholy accident, we are detained, till to-morrow.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - this morning our gun was fired & our signal hoisted. By 8 a.m. I was on board in time to go out in the *Duke* from the Inner Harbour, to the Roads.

At 11.15, all being ready, we started in company with the *Stanmer*.<sup>1</sup> The weather was suspicious & every appearance threatened a gale from the SW. We determined however to try, and it was agreed between M.<sup>r</sup> James and M.<sup>r</sup> Sutton, that if nothing could be done, to return together. At 3 p.m., after a rain struggle to make head way, we went about, and returned to Falmouth, where we again came to anchor in the Roads, for the first time since I have joined the service. It blew a gale soon afterwards, with as thick mist, which entirely reconciled us to our enforced return.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October - at 6 a.m. the Captain landed with the Mail bags, to receive any additional letters that might have arrived since yesterday. At 9.30 he returned, and at 10 we left with a foul wind but moderate and fine weather.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - variable weather, fresh and favourable breeze. Much sea.

Wednesday 22<sup>d</sup> - cloudy weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Thursday 23<sup>d</sup> - fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - cloudy weather. Fresh and favourable wind.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - fine weather during the day. Cloudy with slight showers at night. Fresh and favourable breeze.

1<sup>st</sup> Hebdomade. Most fortunate have we been at our commencement and this too to our agreeable surprise. With the exception of our first day, the wind has been fresh and favourable, and at the end of this week we might almost fancy our selves in the trades already, for here have we been rolling from side to side with the wind and the sea following after us. We crossed the Bay of Biscay at its outer edges, and I never remember to have seen less of the too celebrated swell any time I have crossed it, than at this.

The weather also has been very fair, so that we cannot complain thereof. We are in expectation of carrying our N Easter to within the strict limits of the Trades, when we may [be] assured of its continuance and of our speedy arrival at Barbadoes.

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<sup>1</sup> Another of the 'civil packets' still engaged in the Falmouth Packet service.

## II Week

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October – fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> - fine weather. Moderate and favourable wind.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> – light and foul wind during morning and forenoon, with slight rain. In the afternoon fine weather with very light and favourable breeze.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October - fine weather. Very light and favourable breeze, variable in direction.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> - fine weather all day – slight passing showers at night. Moderate and favourable breeze, that is to say we make Southing and a little Westing, all good – whereas our more direct course would be to steer more to the Westward. Slight showers at night.

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> November - fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze, enabling us to go to South.<sup>d</sup> – Within the boundaries of the Trades but have not found them yet.

II Hebdomade. Our friend the NE carried us only as far as the commencement of the Variables, and these left us to make the best of our way through the Horse latitudes, which lie between 28 and 30 degrees. At this departure we entered the region of Variables, and there we experienced that it was so famed with justice and reason. Then we had the wind very light and from very different quarters – but fortunately of one day. So one way or another, we shoved thro' the unwelcome space, expecting to meet with our steady friends the Trades. In this hope, up to the end of this week we have been disappointed. Instead of an Easterly wind, we have the WNW – which enables us to go to the Southward, where we may soon reasonably hope to pick up the Absentees, without leave.

The weather hitherto has been delightful – warm, yet not too warm, because the farther South we proceed, we gradually peel off, that is, lay aside sundries articles of warm clothing, now superfluous. We have not had one rainy day. With the exception of a few slight showers, all has been fair and favourable.

## III Week

Sunday 2<sup>d</sup> December – beautiful weather. Very light and favourable winds – No Trades yet.

Monday 3<sup>d</sup> – delightful weather, very hot tho' with cloudless sky. Nearly a calm all day. Caught 2 Dolphins.

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> – very fine weather. Very light and favourable breeze. Trade Winds.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> - very fine weather. Moderate and favourable wind – fresh at night.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> - fine weather. Fresh Trades.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> – wind favourable but variable in strength. Weather cloudy – with two smart passing showers during day.

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November - fine weather. Moderate and favourable wind – fresh at night.

III Hebdomade. After the second day of this week, we hailed with pleasure the appearance of the Trade Winds, considering ourselves now safe from all chance of a foul wind, until we reach S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas. Their accession was at first very light and gentle, but they gradually freshened, and tempered the ardent heat we are now beginning to be subjected to, The History then of our Trades furnishes little variety in description when they blow, as they have done since their commencement, moderately & regularly – and so we calculate upon reaching our first Port in 10 days – in dependence on these winds.

We have had only two showers, smart yet of short duration, during the past 7 days. With these exceptions the weather has been very fine. It begins now to feel rather warm, and at night one does not sleep so comfortably, so soundly, nor so long as we would wish – a sure sign of your being within the Tropics. Now I say give me temperate or cold (not too cold however) weather, and I will willingly concede the choice of the hot – perspiration exciting weather to whomsoever it may be pleased to be preferred.

Our Hebdomade has passed long in dull uniformity and monotony. Day succeeds day as wave succeeds wave, and leaves no sign behind. No vessel has cheered our sight, altho' we are right in the track of vessels bound out to the West Indies, and no event of greater interest have I to mention than that one day we caught two dolphins – watched with admiration the changing hues of their skin, as they lay in the agonies of death – and finally luxuriated on a mess of fresh fish furnished by them.

#### IV Week

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November – very fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> – fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> – looked gloomy to windward but we had fair weather all day. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – light and foul wind, variable in direction. Weather cloudy with much rain followed by calms.

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> – weather fair but showery all round. Calm all day till 4.30 P.M. when we had a slight shower, succeeded immediately by a fresh and favourable breeze. Several heavy showers at night.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> – very fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> - beautiful weather. Moderate and favourable wind during the day – fresh at night.

IV Hebdomade. It is rather unusual to have the Wind at SE at this season of the year. As the Sun is travelling to the Southward, and rarifying the air in his progress, it would be expected that the colder air from the Northward would be found to rush forward to supply the place of the warmer atmosphere, and hence that we should have a prevalence of NE winds. Such experience has shewn to be in general the case but there are exceptions, as we ourselves do know for as yet we have had only SE winds, and we were very doubtful of their freshness and continuance. And our doubts proved too true. On Wednesday 12 Nov. we had the wind light & foul as foul could be, flying about from S to NW. Then came calms and light airs, which lasted some time, so that we were afraid of being becalmed for a week or two – no enviable prospect ay any time, but rendered doubly to be depreciated by persons in our situation so far to the S.<sup>d</sup> When we least of all expected it and while we were panting with heat a slight refreshing shower fell, and as soon as it was over the breeze sprung up fresh and favourable from the NE, the proper quarter, and continued with us to the end of this week, not uniformly fresh – but blowing hard at night and subsiding considerably during the day. However we made tolerable way, one day with another. We are now only 470 miles from Barbadoes.

The weather in general has been very fine and fair with the exceptions of two or three smart showers, which lasted but a short time.

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Week

Sunday 16 November - moderate and favourable wind during the day – fresh at night. Very fine weather.

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – very fine weather - fresh and favourable breeze all day – very fresh at night.

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> – yesterday at noon we were by our account 161 miles from Barbadoes and did not expect to make the land before daylight to day. But the wind coming to blow very fresh and as we found being considerably ahead of our reckoning, at 2.30 A.M. by the light of the Moon, the land was plainly descried, & we hove too for some hours. At daybreak we made all sail & at 9 A.M. we came to anchor in Carlisle Bay, when the Commander started [ashore] with the Mail. Weather squally with occasional showers of rain during the day.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – all is quiet here and in fact I noticed no difference from what I have always seen. I have now been here so often that I have left myself nothing par[ticular] to say. Weather rather squally with light rain. At 5 P.M. went to sea – wind very light & foul – but in a few hours it became fair, but we had very little of it all night.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> – fine weather. Wind light and favourable – saw S.<sup>†</sup> Lucie but could not succeed in reaching it to day. Weather squally with showers at night.

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – this morning at 6, the commander left with the Mail and returned at 12. Nearly a calm while he was away. Very dull and very hot. Martinique seemed close at hand but being very high, it is really a good distance off. As soon as the Mail was on board, we made sail for S.<sup>†</sup> Pierre. Having very light airs we made very little way. At 2 P.M. a moderate fresh breeze sprung up but strange to say from the Westward –

consequently foul for us. Fine weather. As night came on the wind became more & more foul, which prevented us from reaching S.<sup>t</sup> Pierre to night.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> – got up at 6 this morning in order to accompany M.<sup>r</sup> Lamb (our passenger) and the captain on shore. I was particularly anxious to view S.<sup>t</sup> Pierre by day light and to compare the impression produced by moon light with that of day. You may remember I spoke very highly of it and wished for a better opportunity of seeing it.

We were a long way off, and from the great distance and from the Town being cast into the shade by the hills and mountains surrounding it, we could but very faintly make out its appearance. We soon however approached nearer, and at the same time the sun mounting high in the heavens, we plainly had unfolded to our sight its situation and aspect. It seemed to be built in a small curvature of the coast and in the line of buildings it followed that curvature. On either side and behind it, the country rose to a considerable height, the Town itself being close to the sea side. The hills on the left, as you enter, are pretty high and close to the Town, while those on the right are farther off and not so elevated. Behind and a little to the right of the Town they country is highly cultivated nearly to their summit. On viewing the Town with the naked eye and at some distance off, the whole presents but a so so appearance with its red roofed houses. Two buildings alone attract your attention by their size, the one near the beach & the other at the left extremity.

According to regulations, the Commanders of Packets are required to wait upon the Naval Officer in command of S.<sup>t</sup> Pierre, as a compliment to the French Government. Accordingly M.<sup>r</sup> James went on board the *L'Astree* the only vessel of war here and which was laying a short distance off the Town. This duty performed we pulled in for the shore, and passed on our way among a few merchantmen. We were at first in some doubt where to land, as all we saw was beach, beach, and not a single point of elective preference. Not a single wharf or jetty did we espy and at last we landed just opposite where we happened to be. Faugh, faugh, said I to myself as soon as I set foot on land. "What a horrible stench," enough to knock you down as the saying is. Nor were [we] long at a loss to account for the perfume, which proceeded from nothing more or less than the filthy custom prevalent here of making the beach act the part of general *Maison d'Aisance* to the great offence of decency and [in] more senses than one. All along the beach, the houses looked mean & paltry & seemed to be inhabited by the lower classes who alone indeed could bear with indifference & impunity the evils of which I complain. As soon as the gig had been hauled well up on shore, we gladly went on our way with the Mail. We crossed one long & decent street, adjoining the beach ere we got to the main street, which was the one whose appearance last voyage, when seen by moonlight, had impressed me so favourably. Then all was still and silent, now all was life, bustle and activity. It is without doubt a fine street and built solidly of stone. The street is rather narrow. The *trottoir* is rather small & the rest is paved with large rough stones. Thro' the centre flows a stream of fresh water, rushing and gurgling in its passage. It is brought from the high ground above & must be a great blessing to the inhabitants, promoting comfort and cleanliness. Across the streets at reasonable intervals iron chains pass from house to house, having a large lantern suspended in the centre, by which the town is pretty well lighted. I have said the streets were crowded & so they were – more so than in the English Islands. There was an abundance of blacks, mulattoes, mustees with a sprinkling of whites.





They were all very decently dressed. The coloured ladies had their heads and shoulders bare. Their heads were decked, in their opinion, but I would say disfigured by a handkerchief rolled up and stuck on one side in a very jaunty manner. And worse than all they wore gowns of bright Patterns with very short waists and tremendously long bodies and some attempt at a train, that is to say, they were longer behind than before, which rendered it necessary to trice up the tail and carry it over their arm in the streets. To my eyes such a costume looked frightful *sed de gustibus non dispectand.*

Their legs were guiltless of stockings tho' their feet were shod in very neat shoes. Such was the general dress of the coloured ladies. We met several white ladies, dressed in no ways different from those at home, with the exception of two or three in the shops, who appeared in loose ugly abominable wrappers. I suppose the excuse is they are so cool – if so this is the first time that I have heard of a French woman sacrificing appearance to comfort.

Amidst all these sights & objects we passed a long way up the main street, till we reached the Post Office, where we delivered our Mail, and while they were getting ready for us, we took a stroll by the West End, having entered by the East. The same appearances presented themselves – good houses & streets, same dresses & people. After half an hour we returned, received our Mail, and shortly after left the shore for the Old *Duke*, on board of which we arrived at 12 o'clock. No time was lost in making sail for Dominique, which is about 40 miles distant – but owing to light, foul, and baffling winds, we had only reached as far as the nearest extremity of the island by night. Fine weather.

#### VI Hebdomade

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.<sup>r</sup> – during all last night airs & calms which continued also all day. Tho' not more than 16 miles off, we lay hour after hour becalmed. At 2 we had a moderate NE which lasted till half past three, then calms and baffling winds. The town is plainly in sight but we in the situation of Tantalus.

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – this morning being calm, we were towed in by our boats and came to anchor at 8 A.M. We were employed all day in taking in water. Remained on board myself – fine weather with the exception of one or two heavy showers from the hills. At 9 P.M. up anchor – very little wind.

### Basse Terre in Guadeloupe

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – little wind till towards this morning, when the sea breeze struck in and carried us quickly over to Guadeloupe. We passed the Saints in fine style but no sooner had we come abreast of the first high land in Guadeloupe than our fair wind failed us & we were left to the mercy of light baffling airs & calms, at the same time that we saw the fresh sea breeze blowing not more than a mile from us all around. At 12 I went on shore with the Mail the Commander feeling rather indisposed, and at ½ past one returned.

I think the view of Basse Terre and the surrounding country forms as lovely a picture as I have ever seen, nearly hemmed in by a semicircle of hills, which far retired back, leave a great deal of slope which descends to the Town and is every inch cultivated. All the fields are well defined by hedges and in their various shades compose a splendid picture. The purple tops of the sugar contrast beautifully with the dark green of the coffee plant, while here and there are visible neat whitewashed houses, which remind me very much of the farm houses of England. Several excellent roads are seen to traverse the country for the accommodation of travellers & the easy transportation of the produce of the estates.

The town itself is of considerable length. On the extreme right is an old fort for the protection of Basse Terre, and a little to the left of that, and above the town are two handsome ranges of Barracks, with projecting galleries in front and surrounded by a stone wall.

Underneath these the Town extends, a mass of stone buildings, intermixed with the green foliage of numerous trees. The buildings present a great variety of aspects. They are not so magnificent as those of Martinique, but still superior to similar erections in the English Islands. Several houses of greater extent and pretensions than others are seen here & there, but I know not what they are – public I believe. At the extreme left and a little out of Town is the burying ground, marked out by numerous tombstones. There is only one landing place – very small & very bad.

From the time the Mail was on board until 5 P.M. we were knocking about off Basse Terre, rather losing than gaining ground to another, & the men were much fatigued with hauling round the yards times without number. At 5 the land breeze struck in but light & fitful, enabling us to sail along the coast. When I left the deck at 9 we were not more than a few miles from the Town. Beautiful weather all day.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.<sup>r</sup> – this morning, when I turned out, found we were nearly midway between Guadeloupe & Antigua. At 4 P.M. we came to anchor off S.<sup>t</sup> Johns. I did not go on shore at all. At 8 the Captain returned with the Mail when we set sail for Montserrat with a light and favourable breeze all day.

### Montserrat

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> – light winds during the night. At 9 A.M. landed the Mail at Montserrat & left again at 10.30. Tho' the distance between Montserrat & Nevis is short, we did not succeed in reaching the latter Island to day as we had expected, in consequence of foul wind. Strange to be said, we had it SW & due North instead of NE or ENE the usual wind. Passed round Island, fine weather.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – at 7.30 A.M. I landed the Mail at Nevis, where I had the pleasure of seeing our old passenger M.<sup>r</sup> Ferrier, who is Post Master here. After waiting an hour I received the Mail & left when we stretched over to S.<sup>t</sup> Kitts which we reached at Noon. There I landed with Capt.<sup>n</sup> and returned at 2 oClock – fine weather. Very strong breeze in the afternoon with heavy sea.

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> – this morning strong breezes & heavy sea. Nearly [at] the Virgin Islands. Finding we could not weather a rock island at the entrance to Tortola, bore away at once for St. Thomas, which we reached at 1 P.M. & from whence we dispatched our mate, in a small sloop, with the Mail for Tortola.

#### VII Hebdomade.

From Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.<sup>r</sup> to Sat.<sup>y</sup> 6 December. This week has been spent in Harbour and fortunately we have enjoyed much finer weather, than when we were here last. I went on shore pretty frequently and saw more in one day than formerly during the whole of my stay. The Commander, Master and self took a long walk, peered about us, and examined wherever we could get. On the whole we were much pleased. We saw numerous marks of the ravages of the fire which destroyed a great part of the Town some years ago in the appearances of the houses without doors windows or roofs. My observations then enabled me to correct my previous judgement of the Town. I had thought all the houses were erected of stone – vide my last Journal. Not so. At the west End and in the hollows between the hillocks on which the town is built, the houses are almost all of wood & occupied by the lower classes. We passed thro' many back streets, lanes, wynds, which contrasted in their narrowness, meanness, want of pavement &.<sup>c</sup> with the opposite qualities as exhibited by the main street. After all I still like S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas very well.

One day the Commander & self went to take a walk a little out of Town. We followed the course of a small stream, which descended in scanty measure from the mountain. We had not proceeded far, before we perceived a very useful purpose to which it was applied, viz to assist in the cleansing of clothes. From the origin almost to the termination of the stream groups of blacks & brown with a few whites, at short intervals were busily occupied in washing & thumping the clothes with a flat board, which saved them a slight trouble in getting rid of the dirt in the shirts &.<sup>c</sup> but at the same time did a great deal of injury to their texture & buttons.

The work seemed to be carried on cheerfully & merrily. The laugh & the joke were bandied about, occasioned I suspect at the intruder, while here and there some gay & lively songstress would strike up her wild notes & cause the place to sound with the Tones of the Coromantie or Mandingo country.

S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas is entirely depend.<sup>t</sup> on the fall of rain for its supply of water. For the collection of this precious fluid strong tanks are built, and carefully attended to. No expence is spared on them. Every respectable house has one and more importance is attached to its condition than to that of any other part of the house. Sometimes when the drowth has been long continued, water is sold at a high price and vessels are dispatched to Santa Cruz for supplies of it.

S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas is not the seat of Government. It is only the residence of a Deputy Governor. It is subordinate to the Government of Santa Cruz, an Island at no great distance off & which distinctly seen from this place, and where the Governor General resides.

During our stay at S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas the weather during the day has been very fine. At night occasionally we have had heavy squalls with heavy showers of rain.

#### VIII Hebdomade

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.<sup>r</sup> – having received all our Mails on board, we this morning got our anchor up, and without regret bid adieu to S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas. Strong breezes – fine weather during the day – heavy squalls with rain at night.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – strong and foul wind – fine weather.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – moderate and unfavourable wind, fine weather.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – beautiful weather. In the morning & forenoon light variable breezes – afternoon calm – at night light & foul.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – rainy morning – very fine day – Moderate and foul wind.

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – beautiful weather. Fresh and favourable breeze, which we had early this morning, having just passed the region of the Trades /entered on that of the variables.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – fresh and favourable breeze. Unsettled weather – occasional heavy showers & squalls with intervals of fine weather.

VIII Hebdomade. At the commencement of this [week] being heartily tired of our sojourn at S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas, which had been somewhat longer than we had expected in consequence of the non-arrival of the Southern Mail Boat, before yesterday night – we gladly set our faces once more towards the Northward. Of course, as we had to cross the Trades which had been so favourable to us on our voyage hitherward, we laid our account with meeting a foul wind till we were beyond their range. And we were right in our judgement, up until we reached the latitude of 28\* we had to contend against foul winds, making our Northing at the expence of our Easting. Then we entered upon the Domains of the Variables and most fortunately of Friday 12 Dec.<sup>r</sup> we fell in with very fresh and favourable breezes which are still blowing, as I now write at the end of this week.

The weather has been generally speaking very fine. We are every day changing the temperature & shortening the length of our days – darkness coming on at ½ past 5 oClock. We hope, if it please God, to be in Falmouth three weeks hence.

#### IX Week

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> Dec.<sup>r</sup> – very fine weather. Very fresh and favourable breeze.

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> – unsettled weather. Strong squalls with heavy rain at times.

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> – light and foul wind from the Eastward, with very heavy swell from NW. Fine weather all day. Slight showers at night.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> – calm till noon, when we had a light & foul breeze. Fine weather.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> – fine weather. Very light and foul wind.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> – moderate and foul wind. Fine weather.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – fresh and foul wind with heavy sea. Pleasant weather.

IX [HEBDOMADE]. At this season of the year, when you get well to the Northward, experience leads you to expect a prevalence of Westerly winds. And certainly at our first setting off we had every prospect of them, and of accomplishing a speedy return, when lo, on Tuesday 16 Dec.<sup>r</sup> we saw the disappointment of our hopes. An Easterly wind set in light, variable & treacherous in its calms & changes. Every one felt vexed at this and for my part I was not behind any one in expressing my regret. With various alternations of hope & disappointment the remainder of the week passed on, leaving us to console ourselves with the expectation that perhaps the next change of the Moon will bring back our Westerly breeze.

The weather has been very fine with the exception of a few showers.

#### X Week

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Dec.<sup>r</sup> – cloudy weather with occasional showers. Very fresh and favourable breeze.

Monday 22<sup>d</sup> – morning - constant rain and foul wind – afternoon cloudy damp weather, and nearly a calm. Most miserable day we have yet had.

Tuesday 23<sup>d</sup> – heavy rain with calm all night. Fine weather all day. The calm continued till 1 P.M. when breeze sprung up from S & East.<sup>d</sup> being nearly favourable.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> – wind here, there and every where – nothing settled – blowing strong at times with heavy cross sea – gloomy weather with tons of rain. At 6 P.M. wind more steady and fresh.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> – a very dull Christmas. Strange variable winds & weather – Cloudy with frequent showers,.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – cloudy weather. Fresh and favourable breeze, & very heavy swell from Eastward.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> – wind light, variable & fair in the morning – after heavy shower drew forward & foul. Weather in general fine.

X<sup>th</sup> Hebdomade. Much was expected this week from the last quarter of the Moon – but we were all disappointed. We have had nothing but Easterly wind – calms – and when the wind has been Westerly, its duration has been very short. Our calculations from day to day have been false, and our Master an old seaman declared that he never remembered to have witnessed such weather. We have had heavy swells from all directions which have come to nothing. We have had fresh and favourable winds and these have vanished or disappeared in calm in less than half an hour. In short there seems to be a concurrence of two winds, the one from the West and the other from the

East, neither of which have attained the decided mastery. We earnestly hope that Victory will be decided in favour of the West.

When foul wind and foul weather prevail together, it requires all the Philosophy you can muster to make head against the tide of ill humour & repining, which then flows in upon you. We have had our share of bad weather with rain & gloom & clouds – and even when the weather has been fine, the air is so keen & cold, that it penetrates thro & thro' you, to your great discomfort.

### 11<sup>th</sup> Week

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Dec.<sup>r</sup> – very fine weather. Light and favourable breeze.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> – dull gloomy weather with rain in the morning. Fresh and foul winds.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> – miserable and cold weather. Gale of foul wind.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> – tolerable weather. Gale of foul wind.

~ 1835 ~

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January – cloudy but fair weather. Fresh and foul Easterly wind.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> – wind variable in strength but foul till 5 P.M., when we had thick rain, followed by a calm. When the rain had ceased, a light wind sprung up from the Southward. Variable weather during the day.

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> – constant rain during the day – fair in the evening. Wind in puffs & flaws - & fluctuating, looking inclinable to Easterly again. Kept our course however – but have very heavy swell from SE.

XI Hebdomade. Unfortunately for us the contest between opposing winds was decided, at the change of the Moon (being then New) against us. Then the Easterly winds asserted their ascendancy and blew for two or three days a perfect Gale, and even when the tempest abated, the direction of the wind altered not but blew steadily from the Eastward till Friday when a constant heavy shower of rain brought it round to Southward which was nearly favourable for us. How long it may there continue, it remains for next week to decide, tho' even now it seems inclinable to revert back to the East. Should as we hope the wind come round to SW & NW, we may still be in Falmouth within our prescribed time viz. Sat.<sup>y</sup> 10 Jan.<sup>ty</sup>

The weather this week has been so so – rather dull and particularly miserable. Rain & foul wind – Gloomy skies & rolling seas heaving you to leeward like winking are any thing but agreeable subjects of contemplation - & the less we have of them the better.

### 12<sup>th</sup> WEEK

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January – variable and foul wind – weather thick with drizzling rain & short intervals of clear weather.

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – foul wind – Dull cloudy weather.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – foul, foul wind variable in direction – Weather cold & cloudy but fair with the exception of several slight showers.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> – fresh and foul wind – fine weather with sundry slight showers.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> – foul and fresh winds. Cloudy but fair weather.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – fine weather – Fresh and favourable breeze.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – fine weather – unusually so for the season. Very fresh and favourable breeze.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> – fine weather. Fresh and favourable breeze. At 6.30 P.M. made S.<sup>t</sup> Agnes light.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January – at 6 A.M. came to anchor in Falmouth Harbour, exactly twelve weeks after leaving it.

~ Finis ~

#### Passengers

J. Gaskin came on board at Falmouth, bound to Barbadoes. M.<sup>r</sup> G. was a very small, gentle looking man and for the last three years had been at Oxford. Of course I expected to find in him a well informed messmate & good classic – but no – I found out afterwards that it had been to little purpose that he had been so long at College, - that he had misspent his time & spent his fathers money – that he knew less of Greek, Latin &.<sup>c</sup> than a boy with us in his third year. I was greatly disappointed in this respect – as well as in every other, for Gaskin was no better than an ignorant planter's son, who had imbibed more of the races than of the learning of the Mother country. From what he said I understood that his father was highly indignant with him, and had sent for him in a hurry to prevent him from playing the fool any longer. I used to plague him a pretty considerable deed by quoting passages in Latin & asking his opinion – so that he told our Master that he wished I would leave him in peace. When he left us he forgot to give any thing to the Steward & Cook – which was of a piece with the rest of his conduct.

M.<sup>r</sup> Lamb, whom we also took on board at Falmouth was a person of a very different stamp. He was a considerable Merchant of S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas & a Scotchman by birth. He was a very pleasant companion and was very kind to us all while we lay in S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas. Between him & M.<sup>r</sup> Gaskin there was little love lost, for they disliked each other most cordially.

From S.<sup>t</sup> Kitts to S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas we had a M.<sup>r</sup> Adamson a Scotchman and long resident at Helensburg, near Dumbarton . He possessed some property in S.<sup>t</sup> Kitts. Of him I can say nothing as he was with us not more than 30 or 40 hours.

At Domingo we received on board a Lady Muskerry, the widow of a Lieut. Radford, H.P. 17<sup>th</sup> Reg.<sup>t</sup> & Chief Stipendiary Magistrate – who had died a few weeks before

our arrival. While we lay at S.<sup>t</sup> Thomas she remained on board & never went out of the ship until we landed her at Falmouth. Lady Muskerry derived her title from her First husband (she has had three) an Irish Lord. She was a very pleasant woman, although were I inclined to be censorious, I might have found fault. I used to think what a pity it was that she had not more money to support the dignity of a Title.

Our last passenger was a M.<sup>r</sup> Ullathorne, a considerable planter in the Island of S.<sup>t</sup> Vincent and a very pleasant young fellow.



Account  
of EXPENCES –  
during the Leeward Island Voyage

|                                                      |          |            |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Barbadoes                                            |          |            |
| Nov. <sup>r</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> 1834              |          |            |
| Bottle of Cayene pepper -                            | £0       | 2 0        |
| 7 lbs Arrowroot -                                    | 0        | 4 0        |
| Refreshments -                                       | 0        | 2 0        |
|                                                      |          |            |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> Nevis – John Pasco                  | 0        | 3 0        |
| St. Thomas                                           |          |            |
| 1 to 6 Dec. <sup>r</sup>                             |          |            |
| Cegars 500 @ 4 dollars & 250 at 8 dollars per 1000 - | 0        | 16 0       |
| Rum – 2 gallons -                                    | 0        | 4 0        |
| Eau de cologne (6 bottles)                           | 0        | 4 0        |
| 2 lbs Gunpowder tea -                                | 0        | 9 0        |
| Stick -                                              | 0        | 1 0        |
| Court & Camp of Napoleon -                           | 0        | 2 0        |
| Scott on Demonology -                                | 0        | 2 0        |
| Palestine by Russel -                                | <u>0</u> | <u>2 0</u> |
|                                                      | £2       | 11 00      |
| To my share of watering at Dominique -               | <u>0</u> | <u>2 0</u> |
|                                                      |          | 2 13 00    |

Falmouth 17<sup>th</sup> January 1835.

Received from Lieut. James as my pay from Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>  
November to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January 1835 (8 weeks) The sum of £16.