

James Williamson
Falmouth Packet Surgeon, 1828-1835.

[Journal One; Voyage Two.]

*Journal of a voyage
to the
Mediterranean*

*Sailed Friday 9 Jan.^{ry} Returned Thurs.^y 19th March
1829*

On Friday 9th January 1829 - the Captain having come on board with the mail, the ***Duke of York*** Packet left Falmouth Harbour at ½ past 11 oClock A.M. with a favourable breeze from the E.N.E. The weather was rather cold, but bracing – and the Sun struggled feebly thro the clouds. The day was peacefully fair

Saturday 10th January - day cloudy winds variable in strength and changeable. At noon, which is considered the termination of the day at sea – Courses steered S 37 W – distance run 131 miles Latitude 48° 12'N. Longitude 7° 11 W. Chronometer

Sunday 11th Jan.^{ry} - most beautiful day – cold much abated & the sun shone with considerable strength. During the whole day the winds were variable and light, and our course was SW by W Distance 102 – Latitude in 46° 39'N. Longitude 8° 16'W. We are now off the Bay of Biscay, where there is always a North Westerly swell from whatever quarter the wind blows, and it is a curious circumstance, that there are two contrary swells, the one into and the other out of the Bay, yet by the one passing over the other, no opposition is made to either.

Monday 12th January – beautiful day wind changeable, but chiefly from the N.E. At 12 oClock noon

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Chronometer
S2° 3'W.	123	44° 55N.	9° 19'W.	9° 22'W.

Tuesday 13th January - day fine and cool, with occasional slight showers. In the morning the Coast of Spain, and Cape Finisterre were seen but at a considerable distance. In our last voyage we were much nearer than now. The wind is strong and quite in our favour being NE.

Noon

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Chronometer
S10° W.	156	42° 20N.	9° 58'W.	9° 29'W.

Wednesday 14 January - a fine and cloudless morning ushered in a day which was equally so – the blue expanse of heaven was unstained by a single vapour. The temperature of the air too was not like that of winter with us – for it was mild and

balmy. At 11 oClock A.M. we were near the Barlings a cluster of bare rocks, about 40 miles from Lisbon.

At Noon

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Chronometer
S2° W.	175	39° 26N.	9° 48'W.	

During the whole afternoon we had the Coast of Portugal in pretty close view. Little however was seen, which we considered particular – such as the palace of the King called Mafra, a large square building, with towers at each corner, and having every advantage of situation to recommend it. At 4 oClock P.M. we were off Cape Rock (*Capo de Roco*) distance 21 miles from the City of Lisbon. The wind strong and N.E. – and also N.E. by N.

Cape St. Vincent – Nunnery & Coast of Portugal

Thursday 15th January - this morning a long line of the Portuguese Coast was in sight, the character of which was rocky and not very elevated. In it were many windings, and patches here and there of green land, which took off from the monotonous ruggedness of the coast. At half past 9 oClock A.M. we were abreast of *Cape S.^t Vincent*, at the very extremity of which is built, a nunnery apparently of very considerable extent. It is now fast falling into ruins, and has been deserted ever since the invasion of Portugal by the French. It is said that the Captain of a British Man-of-War, carried off a Nun from this convent, and, indeed it is not difficult to conceive, that such an undertaking might easily have been accomplished from its close vicinity to the sea. I pity the fate of the poor nuns who were condemned to spend their miserable lives, in a situation so exposed to the winter storms, and where their tender hearts might occasionally have been shocked by the fearful shrieks of the drowning mariner. If I might venture to give an opinion, I suspect that the peculiar situation of the building has afforded facility of death both to those who sought it by their own hands, and also to the abbess or Superior who wished to remove out of the way any one of her community who might happen to be obnoxious to her. All that was required for them to do was to throw themselves or to be thrown from the dreadful precipice which overhangs the roaring ocean. At some yards from the nunnery, we saw a large opening like the entrance to a cave, which gave rise to some speculation, as to whether it might have any communication with the edifice above it. As soon as we had passed round the Cape, we were glad to find, that the wind so favourable to us, still continued so, altho' our present course is almost at right angles to our former one.

The appearance of the coast now changed – and from its being very low, we saw more of the interior of the country. At a distance were undulating hills covered with verdure, called the *Monchique*, and close to the shore were several hamlets of white-washed houses, the situation of which was admirably chosen. As we still coasted along the number of houses increased, so that, for many miles, there seemed to be a continuous line of buildings. When night closed in upon the scene, I felt very sorry as for many hours we had gazed with delight upon the towns – villages – windmills (of which there were great numbers) – the fertile fields, and olive gardens, which beautified the Coast. And whilst employed in viewing those interesting objects, our rapid progress thro the deep was at once easy and pleasant – and tho' the day was cloudy, the air was balmy and mild like the latter days of Autumn. Such were the feelings excited by the fertile land of Portugal, that I would have enjoyed nothing

more than to have landed, and had a nearer inspection of the scenery which had enchanted us so much. About 7 oClock P.M. we were near Cape S.^t Maria, about 60 miles distant from Cadiz

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Chronometer
	176	37° 6N.	8° 43'W.	

Cadiz

Friday 16th Jan.^{ry} – this morning was fine and warm – and the first object presented to us was the distant and numerous spires of Cadiz, which appeared, [from] where we were like the masts of ships. Our Captain had intended to have lain off and on in the Bay, until the mail should have been landed, but a pilot came on board, and he was obliged to anchor near the town. This enabled us to have a better view of the Bay, and of a city so ancient and at one time so flourishing.

As Captain Snell, in consequence of a recent attack of Gout could not go ashore with the mail himself, he gave it in charge to our Master M.^r Geach, whom I was allowed to accompany. My visit being extremely limited, I shall not enter into any detailed description, but merely mention what things struck me on y imperfect glance. Even on ship board the appearance of the Town, lofty, substantial, and beautifully white attracted the admiration and attention of all of us. Nor were we, as often is the case, disappointed on a closer inspection, and this is as yet the only instance where the closest view did not detract from the anticipation formed by the distant one. We passed thro' the midst of several boats, and landed on a pathway, broad, clean, and having 3 handsome marble columns with figures at the summit, which was formed outside of the city walls – I say the city walls because the Town is encircled by a lofty solid wall of hewn stone, surmounted with cannon, and kept in excellent repair.

Cadiz - Houses – Costume &c.

Thro' a narrow gateway in this wall, where armed soldiers are constantly on guard, and strictly over haul every thing that passes, we entered the City, in which I was extremely well pleased with ever thing I saw. The nicely clean streets of considerable width – the lofty, substantial dwellings, with not a spot to stain their virgin whiteness, and having their windows adorned with balconies of every variety and shape filled me with astonishment, as I had always been accustomed to hear of Spanish filth, and aversion to cleanliness. The common people too seemed very tidy and respectable – hundreds of persons were dressed in those ample Cloaks which you may have often seen under the name of Spanish at home – They wore also the peculiar and handsome hat which people of this nation are represented on our Stage and in their hands they carry umbrellas, chiefly of a red colour. Nor was the dress of the women less picturesque. We saw no ladies as there was a heavy fall of rain at the time, but many females, as I think, of the lower orders. These had invariably their heads without bonnets or caps. The hair was shaded partially to either side, and half the head was concealed by a black mantilla or shawl, which descended over the shoulders, to the waist. This part of their dress must be very convenient to those engaged in any intrigue, as they can easily draw it over the whole face when they wish to be concealed from those by whom they are averse to be recognised. The lower part of the body was enveloped in a gown differing little from that worn by my own country women – but their legs were invariably covered with white cotton stockings.

Amidst all these objects, we reached the Consuls House in front was a long avenue of walk, having a white marble balustrade and seats running along the whole length. If his house resembles many of the rest the interior of Spanish abodes here must be very fine. After passing thro' one of two anti-rooms we saw a large court, open above to the sky, and paved with pieces of different coloured marble, in the form of diamonds. Around this court were arranged the numerous lower and upper apartments, of which I cannot speak, having never had an opportunity of entering them.

After some time, we returned on board, and were on our voyage to Gibraltar, at 4 oClock P.M. I hope, however, to be better able to speak about Cadiz and its Bay – as on our return we shall likely make 24 hours stay. The first part of this day was rainy, but at afterwards partially cleared up.

Rock of Gibraltar

Saturday 17th - at 6 oClock this morning we came to anchor in the Bay of Gibraltar, having performed the passage from Cadiz in a very short time. As we passed thro' the Straits or gut as it is called, in the night time, I had not the pleasure I had expected of seeing those parts of Europe and Africa, which for it. However, I hope we shall not miss the opportunity, when we return. I got up at 7 oClock, and had a prospect of the celebrated Bay, and the no less celebrated Town, of Gibraltar.

The whole Bay which if not of very great extent is barred in by several chains of lofty mountains except a small portion, to the North of the Rock, which is low, flat, and narrowing all the way up to the Hill, which rises suddenly up to a very considerable height. Part of this level tract is called the neutral ground, and on it were encamped those who had quitted the Town in consequence of the fever – the soldiers in one quarter of it, and the inhabitants in another. Immediately adjoining to this neutral ground is the rock of Gibraltar, justly considered to be one of the most impregnable places in the world. To my eye it seemed very much like a lion couchant, and therefore some what like Arthur's seat, only that the back of Gibraltar is longer than it. At the summit it is perfectly barren, intersected by numerous roads, and having a few houses for observation. There are three or four places, which are more elevated than the rest, from which an extensive view of the surrounding country and the Mediterranean Sea is obtained. The West side, or that fronting the Bay, is rather precipitous – but easily ascended by the various roads.

At the foot of it, quite at the waters edge, the Town is built – and a little distance presents no peculiar appearance. The East side of the rock is almost perpendicular, and requires not the resources and appliances of art to assist it in its defence, since nature herself has interposed such obstacles in the way of an army, as to render this side perfectly impregnable. Not so has she done to the first mentioned or West side – and accordingly man has had recourse to all those means which experience and skill have pointed out as necessary to constitute an inexpugnable place.

At ½ past 8 oClock I went on shore with M.^r Geach, who carried the mail. We found that a solid wall of masonry ran along in front of the Town, with short intervals in the continuity of it, for the reception of cannons. At the different places of landing, which are very few cannons were planted so as to have the complete command of them, and to sweep the whole extent. Within the outer wall was another equally strong and well mounted, separated from the first by a wide ditch and communicating only by mans of a draw-bridge. We landed at a long projecting fortification, or mole, called

the “devils tongue,” from the dreadful execution which the cannon mounted thereon committed among the enemy. Here we found a great number of Spaniards and others, in various dresses, all patiently waiting until they should be allowed to enter. Amongst these, we were obliged to remain for some time, as we could [not] be allowed to pass, without a special permission to that effect.

Fever at Gibraltar

But you will say, why go ashore at all, since you promised not to do so. To explain the why, and the wherefore I ought to have told you (and I shall always consider it as a curious circumstance), that we have arrived at Gibraltar on the very first day on which the gates were opened and clean bills of health ordered to be issued out. I believe we were, the first, who were allowed to enter the Town – and to receive clean Bill of health since the cessation of the fever. Yesterday, (Friday 16th Jan.^{ry}) the churches were opened for the 1st time for public worship – the troops were marched into the town – *Te Deum* was sung. The vessels also in the harbour hoisted their colours in token of joy, and this destructive fever which had raged so long among a crowded population has ultimately ceased after having gorged about 1628 victims. The last fever here in 1813-14 destroyed 5500 persons, and the present diminished mortality is attributed to the attention paid to cleanliness – ventilation – fumigations, and the separation of the healthy from the diseased. It is now thought that the result of this fever, which seems to have resembled the yellow Fever of the West Indies will set at rest the great question so long agitated by medical men of all countries, as to whether this and other fevers are contagious or non-contagious. The medical officers here decide it in the affirmative, and substantiate their opinion by bringing forward the circumstances that those who were completely debarred from the patients were quite free from the fever, whilst the attendants and visitors of the sick, were almost all seized with the fever in their turn. A D.^r Pym who came out here about two months ago, has the merit assigned to him of having first ameliorated, and then stopped the ravages of the dreadful disorder – and some men say, that had he been present at the first attack, he would have put a stop to it immediately.

Houses at Gibraltar

Altho' it has been announced that the fever had ceased, we had to wait until permission had been obtained to enter the Town, which we did thro' two thick and solid gateways at a little distance from each other, armed with strong iron doors and guarded by soldiers. We first found ourselves in a large open place surrounded by bomb-proof barracks of a very handsome appearance. From this place the streets and alleys diverged off in different directions. I visited several parts of the Town, and liked it very much. The architecture of the houses is of a mixed character being partly English and partly Spanish – Few or none of the windows had balconies but almost all had a sort of Venetian blind outside, precisely similar to those which I used to look at with great curiosity when they were first put up in some windows in the Westmost part of Princes Street. If they are still there, you will have a complete idea of the appearance of the windows at Gibraltar.

I saw few large or public buildings, - & those few were very good such as the Governor's (Sir George Dons) residence – the neat Catholic Church – and the

exchange. I can say little alas of the Shops, very many of which were still unopened. Along with M.^r Geach, I entered that of a Spanish Barber, the interior of which differed considerably from those of their fraternity in England. A thousand razors were arranged in regular order around the walls, from which also were suspended basins of China or beautifully polished metal, with a notch in the side of each for the reception of the chin. In the rooms or shop were several odd fashioned chairs – and sundry elegant pictures and mirrors, nearly completed the catalogue of the contents.

Inhabitants of Gibraltar, & Soldiers

The inhabitants of Gibraltar are composed of the most heterogeneous and mixed assemblage of people of all nations, which you can fancy. Here you may see the Stately Turk, the Swarthy Moor – the grave Spaniard, the lively Frenchman – the cunning Italian – the heavy, gin-swilling Dutchman – the Jew and gentle [Gentile] – Christian & Mahometan. But by far the greatest bulk of the dwellers in Gibraltar – consist of, Genoese, Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Spaniards – and the Spanish language is as much spoken as the English.

Another peculiarity here is, that every where in all corners, you meet with soldiers, as indeed might have been expected, when we consider the necessity of always securely guarding a place of so much importance. At present there are 6 regiments in garrison, amongst whom I was delighted to recognise my brave countrymen, the 42 Highlanders. These poor fellows along with their other comrades have suffered severely from the fever, having most of the stoutest and ablest men of their corps. It was however, expected that the full complement of each regiment would soon be made up, as there were reinforcements sent from England, lying now in the Bay. It says much for our military countrymen that an excellent understanding subsists between them and the inhabitants, whose good will and good wishes they seem entirely to have gained. The strictest discipline is enforced, and many regulations have been made calculated to remove out [of] their way those temptations which so often [divert] the British soldier to the neglect of discipline and the commission of crime – I mean those presented by the too easy procuring of Spirits, and the too free indulgence in their intoxicating delights.

Women – Barbary Jews in Gibraltar

In Gibraltar the mixture of females is as peculiar as that of the males – and here the English and Spanish predominate. Nor is it difficult to distinguish between them – for the former wear bonnets, as at home, while the heads of the latter are covered simply with a black veil often of the most costly material. I observed also that here many of those women of the lower orders, wore very generally a scarlet coloured cloak, with a hood for the head, and trimmed all along with a broad edging of black velvet.

As I passed along the Street, I mistook several men, who were standing on the Street for women, and it was only when I saw their dark faces, and bearded chins that I discovered my mistake. These were Barbary Jews, who [wore] a sort of wide gown, generally of a brown colour, and loose white Trousers. In the head, they appear to entertain notions of propriety and beauty the reverse of our – for their hair was shaved off and their beards permitted to grow. They wore no hats, - but a wide sort of night cap, made of some black stuff. Their legs were almost universally bare, and their feet

pushed into old shoes. The only part of their dress, in which they affected any kind of attention, was a kind of waistcoat, with numerous buttons and much braiding. These perhaps were their Sabbath clothes, as I discovered them, when they had just come out of the Synagogue.

Public Walks at Gibraltar

Sunday 18th January - I went on Shore, along with M.^r Geach, and E. Oke, for the purpose of seeing the place, and ascending the rock. We traversed several streets now familiar to us and at last came to the public walks and gardens at the South End of the rock - With these we were quite delighted on account of their pleasantness and beauty. They are very tastefully laid out, and an attempt has been made to combine and appearance of the waywardness of nature with the strictness of art. Almost all the plants, flowers, and trees were unknown to me - several emitted a most delicate fragrance, and lovely flowers of varied hues glanced now and then, from their concealment among the green leaves.

At two different stations of these gardens were built elegant green summer houses, with excellent seats. To these the public had free access, without let or molestation - and they were so placed as to afford several fine views of the surrounding scenery. Near to them were mounted sentinels who patrolled backwards & forwards to prevent depredations and the wanton spoliation of mischievous vagrants - and hitherto this attention has not failed to produce the desired effect, as I observed, that everything was in the highest order and state of preservation. In to conduct you from one part of the garden to another, over hollows, and precipices, rustic bridges were formed, which, in my opinion heightened the enchantment of the scene.

The last [?] ornaments of these walks, if ornaments they may be called, were two statues, the one of the governor of the Rock during the siege, and the other of Neptune, piercing a dolphin with his trident. They are both of colossal size, and of no great merit, as to the talent displayed. The former was made from the mainmast of the *Victory* at the Battle of Trafalgar, and the other from the wood of the "*San Juan*," the ship I believe of the Spanish Admiral. Near to these is a column of marble surmounted with a bust of the Duke of Wellington, with an inscription commemorating his victories in Spain, and announcing, that these had been put up in token of gratitude for having freed that country from her worst enemies.

These public walks and gardens, the pleasant resort of the inhabitants, and one of the greatest ornaments of the Hill, were begun and completed by the proceeds of lotteries - and, if lotteries are ever to be excused it is where they are conducive, as in this case, to the public pleasure, and advantage. These grounds, on which they are laid out was formerly a burial ground - and the tomb stones are still to be seen amid the umbrageous trees & plants, reminding in a striking manner that in the midst of pleasure there is death.

St. Michael's Cave at Gibraltar

Leaving this Eden, we proceeded to ascend the rock, which we did at the expense of much time, and labour. On our way to the top, we paid a visit to a cave, called S.^t Michael's cave, which is deemed a curiosity. The entrance to it is of considerable

width - and the interior present one of the numerous vagaries of dame nature, who disdains to observe the methodical rules of the Schools. Nearly in the centre is a sizeable pillar, from the roof to the floor, and beautifully cut into fantastic shapes, in glorious confusion. The sides of this Chapel, as it were, were also of the same Grotesque & irregular architecture of nature - and the Rock might here have free scope to his imagination in endeavouring to form into significance & shape, the incongruous groupings, which every where met his eye. - and the Architect, be he ever so skilful would have found himself baffled in the attempt to assign to each part the various orders of Architecture. From the outer excavation, several other s branched off, I am told to a great extent, but as we had not expected to me[et] with such a curiosity, we had come unprovided with torches, and a guide.

Delighted as we were with seeing what we had so little expected, we proceeded the remainder of our way to the Signal Station on one of the summit's of the Rock, with renewed alacrity - and when arrived there, we had a wide extended prospect of the mountains of Spain, and Barbary, and of the Mediterranean Sea, which lay stretched far below us, like a mirror of molten silver. What a pleasure it was to me, to stand in such a position, and on such a place looking at those objects, of which I had read so much, and imagined more.

Gibraltar Rock & Stone

From the Serjeant of Artillery stationed we purchased several ornaments, made of Gibraltar stone, or "Gibraltar Water," as it is called, from the quantity of that fluid it is said to contain. This stone is very porous and takes on a high polish. On some occasional pieces are met with, representing trees, houses, &c., but they are difficult to be procured except at an extravagant rate. Ornaments of all sorts, as seals, hearts, cannon, inkstands, &c are made of it - and the sale of these adds materially to the little pittance of the soldiers.

After some time we descended to the Town, and dined at the Commercial Hotel, kept by M.^r Brown from Ayr, where two of his sons are at present. Indeed I met with my countrymen every where here, and particularly with M.^r Walker, from Dunbar, who has been about 20, or 30 years and yet as broad Scotch, as if he had quitted his "*ain, his Native hame.*"

At sunset just as the gates were about to be shut, we repaired on board, much gratified with what we had seen today. And only regretting that we had found it impossible to get admittance to the excavations, as they are called. These extend a long way thro' the rock, and port holes have been opened in them, to allow artillery to be placed in them. When we return we shall make a further effort to see these. The greatest curiosity in Gibraltar.

M.^r Michael Power - Passenger

Monday 19th January. We had only one passenger from Falmouth, a M.^r Michael Power, whom we left at Gibraltar. He was a man, who had no peculiarity of appearance or manners to distinguish him particularly. He was a merchant, and had resided in Spain for 23 years - he seemed to be a gentleman of good plain common sense - possessed of much general information and yet strangely bigoted to certain

ideas of his own, respecting religion, &c., which I suspect from his lavish praises of him, he has imbibed from Cabbott. "*al hoc omne genus.*" Apart from these opinions, his conversation was pleasing and interesting – and he used to boast much of an infallible remedy which he had discovered for the cure of the fever, which had raged so long at Gibraltar. And a simple enough remedy it was, being nothing else, than the third of a tumbler of Salad oil, which produced vomiting and removed the disease at once. This happy consequence M.^r Power attributed not so much to the unloading of the stomach, as to the oil possessing a peculiar power of expelling "*vz et amius,*" the whole poison of the fever, which lay in the system.

Leave Gibraltar

At twelve oClock, having received the Mail on board, we left Gibraltar, with a fresh breeze, nearly in our favour – Weather cloudy but fair.

Tuesday 20th January – wind foul – we beat about all day from Spanish to African coast, and vice versa.

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
N.62° E.	26	36° 12'N.	4° 51'W.

The island of Abboran distant 89 miles. Day disagreeable and wet

Wednesday 21st Jan.^{ry} - rained almost all day - fine breeze & favourable

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
S.71° E.	19	36° 10'N.	4° 42'W.

Thursday 22nd - beautiful day favourable and fine breezes

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
N.86.30° E.	193	36° 20'N.	0° 42'W.

Friday 23rd Jan.^{ry} - morning cloudy - day rainy - evening fair

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
N.69° E.	153	37° 18'N.	2° 26' E.

Saturday 24th - day very disagreeable, rainy and cold

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
N.71° E.	143	38° 2'N.	5° 19'E.

Evening fair, light winds.

Sunday 25th - morning fair, but nearly a calm - the breeze soon freshened, and was in our favour.

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
N.70° E.	79	38° 31'N.	6° 51'E.

Monday 26th - most beautiful morning & day - nearly a calm. Off Toro a small rock, close to the Southern extremity of Sardinia, which is pretty distinctly seen, the country is mountainous rocky, but no towns were visible. Saw a [ruSTAE ?] about in the sea, for the first time. The breeze up at twelve oClock, and brought with it in a short time clouds and rain.

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
S.26° W.	24	38° 41'N.	8° 10'E.

Tuesday 27th - sky cloudy all day - weather alternately fair and rainy. At 2 oClock we were nearly off the island of Marclimo situated at the extremity of Sicily - fine breeze

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
S.74° E.	149	38° 1'N.	11° 9'E.

Gozo – Camino – Malta – St. Paul's Bay

Wednesday 28th Jan.^{ry} - weather very variable from rainy to fair, from cloudy to sunshine – fine and favourable breezes. At 12 oClock we were nearly abreast of Gozo, one of the Maltese islands and next in size to Malta itself. It was rather difficult from the haziness of the atmosphere to see the features of the island – but we observed this much, that it was very irregular and unequal – very barren – having numerous houses scattered up and down – and there seemed to be a tolerably large Town, together with a good castle. At 1 oClock we descried Camino and Malta at a very short distance from each other – and indeed all the three from a distant view might almost be supposed to form one great whole. Camino is of very small size and very unimportant as to its value. In a few minutes after passing it, we were sailing along the barren coast of Malta – which however possesses great interest to those who know anything of its History from the many associations both sacred and profane. Amongst others *mia cara Madre* I saw the Bay, which is said to be the place, where the Apostle Paul was shipwrecked, in his voyage to Rome as is fully narrated in the Acts of the Apostles. To this day it is called S.^t Paul's Bay – and might well be imagined to have been the scene of a ship-wreck. From this circumstance, then, of having seen this place, I think, that I shall ever after peruse the interesting narrative, of this event in Sacred History with additional pleasure and delight.

Arrive at Valetta Capital of Malta

The appearance of the island of Malta is rocky and barren and even nearly as far as Valetta, the capital of Malta, which we came in view of at ½ past 2 oClock P.M. In the suburbs were several very fine houses, built with a beautiful stone, said to be the best to be found in all the countries around. The Side of the town which presents itself to us first, disappointed me sadly in respect of elegance and beauty, as I had been led to expect something very fine from the laudatory accounts, which I had received. To be sure the weather was not very clear, and I may have seen the place under great disadvantages. When, however, we turned round the Fort, and light house of S.^t Elmo, which had concealed the principal portion of Valetta from our sight – and when we had anchored (as we did at ½ past 3 P.M.) in the Coradino or great Harbour, the spectacle, which thus burst all at once upon us was both fine and picturesque.

Opinion of Valetta – put into Quarantine

On all sides of us were to be seen fortifications of the best construction – houses of peculiar forms – churches – and all the usual objects, which present themselves in foreign Harbour. What I admired most was the extreme irregularity of the buildings – the mixture of different orders of architecture, and the incongruous ornaments of the houses. Here I for the first time remarkable that almost all the roofs of the houses were flat which would enable the inhabitants to dry their cloths there – to retire when they pleased to solitude and coolness – and moreover enjoy a fine prospect of the town and country.

The Town is built on very elevated ground and is consequently seen to great advantage from the Harbour, which is completely overlooked. From the place of our moorings we could also discover some very fine buildings quite a la mode Anglaise, by the help of a tolerable glass – by which also I may almost venture to say that Valetta is one of the most romantic and finest cities I have yet seen. I prefer it even to Cadiz, which as I have already mentioned, had pleased me so much. I have just said that I might form, this opinion of Valetta, by the assistance of a glass – and this was very true, for we were immediately upon our arrival, put into strict Quarantine. None of the Ships Company were permitted to land – and in order to insure the strict observance of this regulation two Quarantine officers came on board and one of them always accompanied our boat, when it was necessary to take the mail ashore, or bring it on board. The same precautions were taken to prevent the too close approach of boats from the shore – for a small boat, with a flag of a white colour, and having two men in her, took up her station close to our ship, and remained there night and day. In addition to all this, we were obliged to hoist a yellow flag at the foremast head, as a public signal that we were tabooed, as the *Oteheitans* call it, or in other words, as much as to say that we had the yellow fever on board.

Quarantine at Malta

How laughable was it to us, who were all in good health, and had touched at no place where any contagious disorder then raged, to witness the timidity, with which they held out to us the printed Quarantine Regulations, at the end of an immensely long cane, split at one extremity – and when they received the necessary papers from us, they would not venture to touch or smell them, but held up, at arms length, a Wood box to hold them – and doubtless they would undergo a thorough fumigation before they were read. And tho' laughable – yet how provoking were these precautionary measures – and you may be sure, that we did not at all recognise the propriety - much less the necessity of them in our own individual case. Till now I had always thought it just and right to be rather over prudent in regard to contagious fevers – but the rigid surveillance, in which we were held, altered the character of my opinions not a little. And, yet, of what use was the clean Bill of health, which we brought with us from Gibraltar, and in which, it was expressly stated, that there was no fever, plague – or contagious disease prevalent there? Of none in the world – they did not even look at it, or ask to see it, and the Quarantine officer declared – in effect, that it was of no more consequence than a piece of wall paper.

All this I thought was strange – but I was told by our Captain that it was because we had touched at Cadiz that we were refused Product (pratique) at Malta – and that, if Cadiz would admit vessels coming from Malta at once, without putting them into quarantine, the Maltese would do the same to vessels arrived from Cadiz – but the matter has not been yet thus accommodated – and consequently we suffer thereby.

I am afraid too, that we shall have no chance of seeing more of Malta, during our 48 hours stay upon our return, as we shall not be permitted to have free intercourse with the shore (or Product as it is ~~called~~ pronounced) until – 10 days after returning from Corfu, a voyage which is generally performed in from three to four days. Had the fever been still raging at Gibraltar, while we were there, I would not have felt so severely the disappointment but, considering, that our clean bill of health as could be a sort of passport to enable us to enter the town and see the “*uncos*” of the place, all our bright prospects were damped at once by the treatment we experienced. Oh the vanity of human expectations. I had looked forward to enjoying a sight of the celebrated Church of S.¹ John, which contains the beloved disciples head, surrounded with jewels – the Grand Master’s palace, and all the other relicts, which still remain, of the ancient grandeur of Malta, while it was under the sway of its valorous Knights, who made Europe and Africa resound with their fame. The only place we were indulged with visiting was the Quarantine Office, and the Lazzaretto House – where every one ran from us, as if we really [had] been infected and infecting persons.

Palazzo of Napoleon at Malta

Thursday 29 Jan.^{ry} This is the dullest day which I have yet spent having nothing else to do, but pace the deck, and gaze, gaze eternally upon – the same objects, which yet are so curious and peculiar, as to excite in my mind a wish to see them more closely, great in proportion to the impossibility of gratifying it. I really consider Valetta, as one of the finest tho not the largest cities I have yet visited, out of Britain.

Almost behind us and close to the Water’s edge is a handsome but unfinished palace (called the *Bighiparte*) which Bonaparte had commenced, no doubt in the expectation, that he would have the power of inhabiting it. It is allowed to stand in the state in which he left it, and as far as I can learn there is no intention of completing it, altho’ nearly so already.

The Harbour, in which we are now lying is excellently adapted for its purpose. It is of no very considerable extent – but there is a sufficient depth of water, even for ships of the line, close to the houses, and in every part of it. However hard the wind may be blowing outside all is smooth and calm inside – so that you may ride in ease and safety, while, but a moment before, you were struggling with a heavy gale. Numerous small boats (these are said to be 15th C) of various colours, and rather handsomely built are seen gliding swiftly along from one point to another – and when any vessel enters, crowds of these boats hasten to tow her into her Moorings. This day was fine, sunny and warm.

Leave Malta – 4 Pirates in Chains

Friday 30th January - most beautiful day. Early this morning the following Vessels of war left the harbour. I believe for the purpose of exercising the seamen, viz. the *Asia*, Vice Admiral Sir Pultney Malcolm K.C.B.,¹ *Ocean*, *Revenge*, *Spartiate*, *Windsor*

¹ Commander in Chief, Mediterranean - a few years later Admiral Sir Pultney Malcolm was to conduct an inquiry into the relative costs of Naval packets against Civil packets, employed in the Falmouth Packet Service.

*Castle, Blonde, Infernal, Rattlesnake, Musquitto & Camelion.*² It was a beautiful sight to witness, so many ships of the line, frigates, brigs of war etc. All sailing majestically and yet regularly out of the harbour. It makes one's passions warm with patriotism and national pride, when we have before us such specimens of the Wooden Walls of Old England, manned as they are, by the most gallant tars in the world. Besides our ships of war there were several belonging to Russia, France, etc. in the harbour.

At ½ past 1 of the Clock we gladly unfurled our sails to the wind, which, as if to favour us, blew strong and fresh.

One of the first objects which struck us on getting round a fort, opposite to S.[†] Elmo was four men, hanging in chains, who had, 7 years ago been executed for Piracy on the high seas. This is the first thing of the kind which I have ever seen – and I was proportionably shocked at the sight for there they hung mere skeletons, dangling in the air, and shaking to and fro on the lofty gallows, at every gust of the wind – a dreadful memento of justice.

Saturday 31st Jan.^{ry} - beautiful day - breeze fresh and still in our favour

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Chronom:
N.49° E.	176	47° 48' N.	17° 16' E.	17° ,12' ,45" E

Approach Corfu

Sunday 1 February 1829 - saw this morning the island of Corfu, the ancient Coreyra, but at a considerable distance, As the day advanced and the weather cleared up, we were soon enabled to recognise the island of Paxos, the ancient Ercruisa situated near 8 miles from Cape Bianco, the S.E. extremity of Corfu - and to the N.W. we descried the small island called Fano. The island of Paxos is small and unimportant - the inhabitants are few in number, and so scanty is the produce of the island in every thing, but olives, that they are obliged to be supplied with the means of subsistence from the adjacent and more productive places. Before Corfu the lofty mountains of Albania, most of them covered with eternal snow were now distinctly visible.

On our nearer approach to Corfu, we perceived it to be very irregular and mountainous - partly bare and barren, partly fertile & covered with olive trees, the dark green of which presented in their various patches, a strong but pleasing contrast to the white rocky appearance of the surrounding spots.

At ½ past 4 o'clock, we were between the island of Fano and Cape Bianco, and altho' the wind was very light, and darkness was fast approaching, the Captain determined not to stand off all night, but to beat up to the Harbour of Corfu, the passage to which even with the advantage of day light is not without difficulty. By this resolution I was prevented from observing the appearance of the country on the way up - but I believe they are not very peculiar.

² Even in time of peace the Royal Navy maintained a significant presence in the Mediterranean. *Asia*, 84 gun 2nd Rate Ship, Capt. William James Henry Johnstone; *Ocean*, 80 gun 2nd Rate Ship, Capt. Patrick Campbell; *Revenge*, 76 gun 3rd Rate Ship, Capt. Norborne Thompson; *Spartiate*, 76 gun 3rd Rate Ship, Capt. Frederick Warren; *Windsor Castle*, 76 gun 3rd Rate Ship, Capt. Hon. Duncombe Pleydell Bouviere; *Blonde*, 46 gun 5th Rate Ship, Capt. Edmund Lyons; *Infernal*, Bomb, Com. Brunswick Popham; *Rattlesnake*, 28 gun 6th Rate Ship, Com. Hon. Charles Orlando Bridgeman; *Musquitto*, 10 gun Sloop, Com. Charles Bentham; *Camelion*, 10 gun Sloop, Com. Sir Thomas Pasley. – *Navy List*, Apr. 1829.

At ½ past 1 oClock A.M. we came to anchor, but not before that time I had turned in to my snug and comfortable birth.

Arrival at Corfu - Associations connected with Corfu

Monday 2nd Febr.^y - this morning we were saluted with a violent shower of hail, as our welcome to Greece, the land of the brave and free. The “*pratique*” boat came early along side of us - and upon satisfying themselves by a few questions as to the health of all on board, they without difficulty, permitted us free intercourse with the shore. You may be sure that I hailed this permission with feelings of no ordinary pleasure, as it enabled me to see more closely the portion of that country which is so intimately connected with earliest associations and school-boy recollections. Before me, were the self same mountains, & valleys, which had been visited by many of the ancient worthies, and whom had formed the theme of many a poet’s lay –

Above all had not the mighty Homer, immortalised Coreyra, by making it the scene of some interesting adventures, which happened to his hero Ulysses. Nay the very spot, according to tradition is pointed out, where Ulysses swam ashore, as described in Odys: VB and still bears the name of Ulysses rock. (Ship?) And may not the fervid imagination of him, in whose mind the History of that hero’s wanderings, had excited no slight degree of interest, not easily conceive that the only river Polanio, which runs into the Bay of Corfu must be the Free flowing river, which received him, and where he was discovered by Nausiccia. All these ideas, presenting themselves to the mind, and to cast an interest and beauty, over places, which compared with other spots more favoured by nature but less celebrated in poetry, are far inferior. Not that I mean that Corfu is destitute of natural beauty not possesses attractions within itself, independent of its past glory, to satisfy the judgement of him who is pleased with countries only as they beautiful or the reverse Very far from it as I shall mention hereafter, but at present I shall continue my narrative.

Appearances at Corfu – Houses

Our anchorage, it seems, was not the best which could have been selected owing to the late hour, at which we had arrived. And, therefore, we moved farther up. I did not at first much admire the appearance of the buildings, opposite to us, as they were dirty looking and mean, except one fine & very large edifice, which might well be called a palace. This proved to be the residence of the Governor Sir Frederick Adams, and was built by Government, 7 years ago, with stone partly brought from Malta, and partly from England. But the aspect of nature was here, as almost everywhere else, superior to the highest efforts of human Art - We had before us two lofty eminences, upon which fortifications had been erected, commanding the Harbour and Town. The water around us was perfectly still and smooth, from its being shut in on every side by mountains - and reminded me of my native locks. The high land of Corfu and snow capped mountains of Albania, formed as it were [a] basin, in which was placed by nature a small and fortified island called “Vido,” which is opposite to and serves to protect the City.

Improvements introduced by English into Corfu

I went on shore to day - but the weather being constantly rainy I had few opportunities of seeing much or to advantage. From what however was visible I think Corfu may be ranked in the mediocre class of Towns from the general mean appearance of the houses. The streets were tolerably, by no means very clean - and for even this degree of freedom from dirt the *Corfuites* are wholly indebted to the residence of the English amongst them. Formerly the atmosphere was so much loaded with putrid exhalations from all sorts of dirt and filth which the inhabitants *couldna be fashed* to remove, that the Town, for a considerable part of the year was very unhealthy. But since we have undertaken the charge of the Ionian Isles the attention and efforts of the governor have been directed to the removal of this nuisance, and source of deadly disease - and in a great measure they have succeeded so that Corfu has greatly been improved in the salubrity of its atmosphere. It is said, moreover, that so great an alteration for the better has been effected, that the city is hardly to be recognised by those who knew it only before it received the English for its protectors. And much remains to be done in the way of promoting cleanliness and other measures for the health and comfort of the *Corfuites* - and it may be reasonably be thought hat many years must elapse before they can reach the acme of improvement nor is it only in regard to the cleanliness of the streets and the removal of the huge masses of filth, which used to pollute and encumber them, that Corfu is solely indebted to us - but in other respects likewise. By the system of police, which has been adopted, the public peace and safety have been fully secured - and assassinations in which this place was once so rife, are now seldom or never heard of. The general state of the public morals has also been incalculably improved and a higher standard practised.

[Row on board concerning potatoes.]

Tuesday 3^d Feb.^y - to day proved to be a most beautiful day and I had promised myself the pleasure of a long stroll in the Town and its environs. But *[all my prospects were sadly disappointed from the Master not being able to accompany me in consequence of a row which arose between the Captain and crew. The subject of reprehension on the part of the Captain was that the men had brought more potatoes from England than by the regulations they were permitted – and that consequently they had intended them for sale – which was the case, for several bags-full, were lying on the deck, ready to be taken on shore. So angry was our commander that he declared that he would have a new Master and crew when he arrived in Falmouth. All this disturbance was owing to the sailors themselves, who instead of selling the prohibited articles, without the knowledge of the Captain, brought them on deck and bartered or sold them before his face – so that he was obliged to take notice and to threaten them. The consequence to me was, that having promised to go ashore with Signor Geach, and he being thus prevented, I lost the best part of the day before I went on shore]*³

Markets – Streets and Costume at Corfu – Dress of the Corfuites

³ Private venturing by the crew of packets, while strictly prohibited, was still widespread. English foodstuff's were particularly in demand by 'Brits' abroad. Williamson's account of this episode is written completely in his Greco-English code.

On shore, however, I went and landed at the Custom house, an edifice small in extent and indifferent in appearance. A short way from this is the market place, which is one of the improvements introduced by the English. It is nearly of a square form, and has a range of excellent stances for meat and fish, all around before which are small pillars, accruing at once as ornaments and as the separations or partitions between the different stances. In the centre stands a small elegant erection, nearly similar to that at S.¹ Bernards Well, but without any statue in the centre. This market place stands outside of the city walls - as also does the fruit market. The fruit market, however, is at the opposite side of the Town, immediately beyond the city gate, called the "*Ponta Reale*" (Royal Gate). There is tolerable beef and fish to be obtained and abundance of fruit but not in very great variety. I saw beautiful oranges - nuts of all kinds - pomegranates (1/2 a piece) - figs - apples - medlars &.^c - The supply of vegetables too was equally abundant and excellent.

The Streets of Corfu are very narrow and in wet days, rather dirty. Those of them which were situated [at this] end of Town, were daily so crowded with people, that you could with difficulty make your way thro' them. And what motley groups were here to be seen, produced by the commixture of persons from all parts of Greece, many of whom wore dresses totally distinct from those of others. I cannot pretend to give you any accurate idea of the costume here, as it was so various, and difficult to be expressed in writing. In general, however, among the *Corfuites*, a short jacket was worn and beneath it a vest of coarse cloth, which did not appear to button in front like ours. Their lower habiliments presented the strangest contrast to those in use among us - and I think you will have a very accurate notion of them by imagining a petticoat generally of black or blue stuff - reaching to the a little below the knees and having the lower edges sewed together, leaving only two apertures at each corner for the legs, which among the common people were bare. Such is the womanish dress of the poorer sort of people, which at a distance, rendered it impossible for one to tell precisely the sex of the wearer, but that of the more respectable and wealthy was infinitely better and more picturesque. A red sash passing around the waist was very generally seen, and looked well. Almost all wore little round caps on the head, which covered merely the top and in my opinion, produced a bad effect.

Moustaches – Long hair – [Women]

Moustaches were universally and most carefully cultivated - and, as is often the case, imparted a ferocity of mien and apparent courage to persons, which nature had in all probability denied them. I could hardly refrain from laughing outright in the middle of the street, when I beheld at their open windows, busily engaged in their several avocations, Shoemakers, Cobblers and Tailors, who had fostered their hairy excrescence as diligently as the rest, and looking as fierce, at their peaceful employment, as the Don Cossack who endeavours to heighten the ferocity of his appearance by every means in his power. I pictured to myself the astonishment, and derision which would be raised in '*auld Reekie*,' if the professors of the '*aul and needle*' were to follow their Ionian brethren in this particular - and thus my old prepossessions and notions, by receiving such a shock as they did, served to excite my risibility. The objects of my wonder, however, pursued their occupations unmarked by any but myself - and I dare say, if I could have addressed them in their own language, I would have found them as peacefully inclined & as tender hearted as the veriest Tailor in Scotland.

Another peculiar fashion was the permitting the hair to grow to an enormous length, and then to flow in ringlets down the back. You may be sure, that none but those who could boast of fine locks, would adopt this practice - at least all those I saw possessed remarkably fine hair - and what was also curious, they had the fore parts of their heads shaved.

Few women showed themselves in the streets, and these were principally English for the Greeks, from their long intercourse with the Turks seemed to have adopted their plan of immuring their wives from the public gaze - and consequently I can say nothing respecting them.

Disagreeable situation at Corfu

At night M.^r Geach and I went the Reverend M.^r Lowndes, to whom I had brought a letter of introduction - and he took us with him to a M.^r James's, where we spent a most pleasant evening, till near 11 o'clock, when we took our leave, not without some doubts as to how we should get on board. When we reached the city gate, we found, that it was always shut at sunset, and that no person was after that allowed to pass thro', without special permission from the commanding officer. To him, therefore, we were obliged to apply - and he very politely and readily granted our request to be allowed to pass - but then, we could not be permitted to come back, even should our boat not have come on shore for us, as M.^r Geach had ordered. This was a damper - but we had no alternative and were passed thro'.

As we had feared, no boat was waiting for us - and as it appeared afterwards the captain had ordered it to bring him off from the shore at the same hour. To add to our embarrassment, the guard near the shore, told us, that no shore boat was allowed, on any pretence whatever to leave its moorings after sunset - and we had the pleasant prospect of spending the night in the streets amidst the pelting of a pitiless storm of rain, which now began to rage. As a last resource to save us from our hand of fate, M.^r Geach, exerting his lungs to the utmost, shouted out repeatedly "*Duke of York,*" "*Duke of York.*" Very fortunately indeed his cries were heard, and answered by the appearance I need no say how welcome of our *dinkie*, which conveyed us on board.

Ionian Isles – Corfu, its produce

Wednesday 4th Feb.^y - as we leave Corfu to day I shall proceed to give you some further particulars, which, had this been a regular book, ought with more propriety to have come on at the beginning instead of at the end of my account - but *n'importe* you will easily grant me your indulgence

Corfu is the residence of the general government of what are called the '*United States of the Ionian Isles.*' These isles are 7 in number viz. Corfu, Paxos, Santa Maura, Theaki or Thaix, Cephalonia/Cephalonia, Zante, Zacynthus & Corigo. As I have only seen one or two of the islands at a distance, of course, I can affirm nothing with regard to them from my duration, and I shall therefore omit them, and confine my self to Corfu.

The chief produce at Corfu is sweet oil and olives. These alone are the principal articles of exportation. The island likewise produces oranges, grapes, good honey and wax with several kinds of vegetables. Little corn is grown, so that except during three

months of the year, they are dependent for their subsistence upon foreign supplies. I cannot venture to say, from what cause grain is so little cultivated, from laziness on the part of the people, or difficulties in the way of doing so, of which I am unacquainted.

Corfu (city) lies on the Eastern coast of the island, within five miles of the shores of Albania. Its population is estimated at 20,000, which I should judge not to be overrated from what I myself saw. The entrance into the port is very fine - you have three lofty forts, numerous spires of churches - a fine bay extending out and defended by the small island of Vido - and the distant prospect of villages, picturesquely embowered among groves of olives, and far spreading vineyards - All these present such an appearance, as would fill a person on first arrival with pleasure and delight. The interior of the island is also extremely beautiful and accessible by good roads.

Leave Corfu

At ½ past nine A.M. received the mail on board, but were detained for more than an hour, by the non appearance of the Steward, who was on duty on shore. He at last made his appearance, when we set sail. The wind was very light and it was not till late that we passed between Cape Bianco and Paxo. At midnight a tremendous squall came on which effectually put an end to our repose

Thursday 5 Feb.^y - weather changeable - wind variable.

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude
S.12° W.	39	30° 6'N.	19° 24'E.

Friday 6th - wind and weather variable

Course S.28° W. Distance 51 miles. Latitude 38° 21. Long. 18° 55E Chron: 19° 0.E

Saturday 7th - Feb.^{ry} fine day - wind favourable but light. Course S.49 W. Dist: 127 - Lat. 36° 58 N. Longit: 16° 58 E. Chron: 16° 58' 15" E.

Sunday 8 - weather and wind variable _

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Chronom
S.46° W.	43	36° 28'N.	16° 18'E.	16° 16 E.

Monday 9th - fine forenoon - strong breeze - saw Mount Aetna, very clearly towering to a vast height, In the early part of the day, saw Malta, which we expected to have reached to-night - but the wind changed & blew right from the Harbour, so that we were obliged to tack about repeatedly during the night.

Course	Distance	Lat. ^e	Long	Chronom:
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Arrive at Malta – Mr. Kirby & Greek Pilot leave us – Digression to the Language of Corfu

Tuesday 10th - wind still against us - heavy squalls occasionally - but by tacking & tacking about, we succeed in coming to an anchor at ½ 11 A. M. Immediately on our

arrival, the Quarantine boat alongside, and we were placed under the same rigid surveillance as before. We remained at this place for three days, having been detained one day - and this time was felt by me to be the most tiresome and monotonous I have ever spent.

Our passengers from Corfu, a M.^r W.^m Kirby left us here to go to the lazaretto where he will be obliged to continue for ten days, before he is admitted to pratique. He was a very young man, very pleasant but shewed no particularity of character.

Along with him, we also brought from [Corfu] a Greek Pilot, a young man, who spoke English, Italian, French & Russian & Romaic with equal fluency and ease. A very necessary qualification, where ships of all these various nations are constantly requiring pilots, to secure them against the difficulties & dangers of the Grecian Archipelgo. By the bye I believe I forgot to mention that, at Corfu the Venetian dialect is in most common use in the city - but in the country, the Romaic is universally prevalent. Altho' before I came to Corfu, I knew a little Greek (old Greek I mean) I found such a difference in the Sound and in the inflection of the words, that only in one or two exchanges of single words could the person I addressed, understand me, or I him. I saw however, several Greek signs and inscriptions, which, as the characters were the same as I had been accustomed to read were intelligible enough to me - and I remarked one in particular, which produced very curious train of feeling in my mind.

Impressions produced by Greek *Sign*

All the time my thoughts were running upon Greece in days of old, and my eyes were employed in endeavouring to catch every trace of antiquity which might heighten the illusion, which I wished to be produced, a sign caught my attention, almost irresistibly with these words on it in bright golden letters "*KAFFENES THE META AHE BPITANNIAE*," i.e. [*which*], as Jacob can inform you [means], [*Coffee House of Great Britain.*] A British Coffee H/Room in the mus(es)ical Isles of Ionia - a nation, at the time, when Greece was at the height of her glory and civilization, then immersed in a state of the darkest ignorance & barbarism, now, giving laws to these very isles, and showing themselves far superior to them "in the march of intellect and improvement." Such are the wayward fancies, which strike or seize the mind, that this slight circumstance impressed me more powerfully than either the dress or language of the inhabitants - which have both from their communicating with other nations been very much changed, for the worse

Great change of Language in Greece – Site of Aient Coreyra

What a strange mixture is observed in Corfu, of languages - houses - and articles for sale. I heard on all sides persons calling out to me "*Signore Signior*," with an invitation in the Venetian dialect to purchase their wares. I heard countrymen conversing together in Barbarous Greek - but oh!!! How unlike that mellifluous and "*ore rotiendo*" language, which I had pictured to myself, and of which ancient authors spoke so much. Alas it must have been greatly deteriorated since the days of Demosthenes, Themphon &.^c not only in richness, elegance, and variety, but also in sound - the delusion, under which I laboured so long, still to have continued than to have been thus so awfully undeceived. I would never advise Jacob, if he is anxious to

remain in the high opinion, which he entertains of the dignity & beauty of the Greek, to pay a visit to the Ionian isles, even should the opportunity occur.

I was very sorry, that the badness of the weather, and the shortness of our stay, prevented me from paying a visit to the ancient site of Coreyra. I was told, however, by the Rev.^d M.^r Lowndes, that very few vestiges of it are now perceptible - nor are they at all valuable with the exception of a few coins and pieces of sculpture.

A Piratical Vessel brought to Malta

But to return from this digression on Corfu to Malta. On Thursday 12th February, [an] H.M. Brig of war, came this morning into Marda-musschelles Harbour, together with a Greek piratical vessel, which she had captured. Five men belonging to the Brig were wounded and one killed, by the fire of the rovers, as they were about to board them. Four only of the pirates have been made prisoners, and will shortly meet the fate they deserve, while unfortunately twenty made their escape by jumping over board, and a few received a more honourable death by the bullet, than if they had lived to be carried to Malta. This piratical vessel is supposed to be the last which was known to be prowling about the Grecian seas seeking whom they might devour.

Short Account of Malta. Soil – Harbours – Caves - & Stone Ornaments

Before quitting Malta I shall briefly mention a few other particulars, which I learned during our three days stay.

The island of Malta is composed of small valleys, defiles and hills. It was in its original state almost a naked rock - but now has been transformed by the hand of industry, into a place, where the labour of cultivation is abundantly rewarded. Indeed considering the nature of the soil the produce is most extraordinary in quantity and variety. With infinite trouble as you may suppose, the soil has been imported from Sicily - and it is said, that the earth requires to be removed once in ten years, in order to clear away from the rock underneath a thick crust which prevents the moisture of the rain and dew from sufficiently penetrating.

Malta has two harbours named the Coradina or Great Harbour and the Harbour of Marsamuschetto. In the former, by the regulations, kings ships only are permitted to perform quarantine while all merchant vessels must go thro' their quarantine in the latter.

The island is full of caves or grottoes, and one of the most considerable of these, most usually visited, extends more than 200 paces under ground. Perhaps the great number of these natural excavations may be owing to the extreme softness of the stone, which in many parts is such that it can easily be cut with a knife - and thus the various causes, which occasion subterranean passages elsewhere, would act here with greater facility and to a greater extend. In consequence too, of these remarkable qualities of the stone, you may purchase stone vases of elegant designs and workmanship, and every other kind of ornament, at a less price than you would give for a Stucco one in Edinburgh. For instance, you may have a stone vase of considerable size, neat and elegant, for the sum of one Shilling Sterling, which, if I mistake not, would cost you at home 8 or 10/-.

Stone field-partitions &.^c at Malta

So plentiful is the stone that the *partitions*, between each field and garden (and here they are more numerous than I have ever seen them) are all of them of this material - which practice, altho' it imparts a very heavy look to the country, has the advantage of supporting the weight of the artificial soil.

After having been in sight of Malta now five days in all, I find that my sentiments are becoming more and more in favour of it - and my regret proportionally greater, that I cannot obtain access to its interior beauties and defects. But patience is a virtue, "and what canna be cured maun be endured," and so I take my leave of Malta, without expecting ever to be allowed to go ashore, as it is understood, that no vessel, coming from certain parts (among which are Cadiz, Gibraltar and Corfu) Shall have free practique - else, if they had, no vessels coming from Malta, would have the same either in France, Sicily or Italy.

Leave Malta

At ½ past two oClock P.M. on Friday 13th Feb.^{ry} - we gladly got under weigh, altho' the wind was blowing half a gale and that too in a direction, quite in our teeth, as we were bound for Gibraltar. The captain, however, judged it to be better and more pleasant to be sailing about in any wind than lying in Quarantine at Malta. Our course, as we were allowed by the wind to make it, was in the direction of the island of Sicily.

Saturday 14 February - this morning the wind was still in the same quarter, but rather fitful. Weather finer. Sicily also was in sight and upon approaching it we tacked about in the direction of Malta again. We soon changed our course to Sicily, with the intention of doubling Cape Passaro, the Southern extremity of it, and thus of having smoother sea, and calmer weather

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Chronom
N.51° E.	33	36° 15'N.	15° 2'E.	15° 2 E.

Mount Aetna – Syracuse – Weather

Sunday 15th February - on coming upon deck this morning, I found that we had passed round Cape Passaro, and that we were sailing about with light breezes and smooth water, in front of that portion of the island which extends from Passaro to Capo Morro di Pores. Apparently at no great distance from us rose Mount Aetna, covered, nearly as far as we could see, with a garment of snow. Almost at the summit, we distinctly beheld the black smoke issuing from the Greater Crater, which contrasted strangely with the pure whiteness of the Snow. Not far from us (only 1 league from Morro de Porce, or 2 or 3 hours sail) was Syracuse, once so famous in History and Commerce but now, reduced to utter insignificance. - but even yet the climate of it, is so fine, that according to the ancient adage, there is never a day on which the sun is not visible, at some one hour. That part of Sicily before us now appeared to be well diversified with hill and vale, but no mountains except Aetna rose pre-eminently high, or indeed to any great height at all. The interior of the country

seemed to be highly cultivated - and I believe Sicily still maintains as high a representation for fertility, as when of old she bore the name, of the “Granary of The Roman Empire.”

The weather too has undergone a considerable change in a short time. Ever since we left Corfu, we have suffered much from hail, thunder and lightning - and in fact, we have felt the coldness of winter, as severely as you will do at home. But today the sky is beautiful - the air is clear, and the weather very warm - a change far from being ungrateful to our feelings, and very appropriate to the performance of divine service. So that on the whole, I do not consider the wind that blows, as one, which blows nobody good, since, in consequence of it we have had a good view of Sicily & mount Aetna. We continue in sight of mount Aetna, and the same line of coast all day, as the winds were either very light, or there was a calm.

Course	Distance	Latitude	Longitude	Chronom
	69	36° 50' N.		

South Coast of Sicily

Monday 16th Feb.^{ry} - beautiful morning and the breeze, tho' light is favourable. During the night, we passed round Cape Passairo and have now a view of a considerable portion of the Southern side of Sicily, which is even more beautiful than the eastern. The land rises gradually from the sea shore in a gentle swell, until it attains a pretty considerable height - it is highly cultivated, well watered, and adorned with numerous villages and towns &.^c A very fine object in the back ground is Mount Aetna, placed in relief, by its lowering height, and white colour, against the far inferior magnitude, and green clothing of the hills in sight. As we coasted slowly along, with every thing to render sailing pleasant, as delicious weather and smooth sea, the appearance of the coast is continued the same, till we came near - Cape Scalamibra, where the country looked more elevated and mountainous. -

Distance 40 miles. Latitude 36° 39' longitude 14° 39'. Chronometer 14° 20'
Bearings and Dist.^{cc} at Noon, Cape Granitola bore N 60 W. Dist.^{cc} 110 miles.

Tuesday 17th Feb.^{ry} - most delightful day - very light winds. This morning found ourselves almost midway, between Malta and Sicily - but both at a considerable dist.^{cc} From this it will be seen, that we have made little onward progress, which is owing to our having been obliged to tack about in the night, as the wind would not allow us to go round Cape Scalamibra with safety. We continued in sight of land the whole day, and many sails were around us. Towards night the fresh breeze died away, and we had nearly a calm.

Distance 58 miles. Lat.^o 36° 36' N. Longi. 14° 26' - Cape Granitola bore N 58 W. Dist.^{cc} 105 miles.

Aegadean Islands

Wednesday 18 February - beautiful day. A favourable and fresh breeze spring up at 4 oClock A.M. Land is still in sight, but very indistinct. The temperature of the air, for these last few days, has been most remarkable, and equals that of the best of our Autumns. At 12 oClock we saw, on our larboard side the small island of Pantellaria, which is a dependency of Sicily. At 3 P.M. we were opposite to Cape Boco, the

Westernmost point of Sicily. Land is still in sight, but very indistinct. The temperature of the air, for these last days, has been most remarkable, and equals that of the best of our Autumns. At 12 o'clock we saw, on our larboard side the small island of Pantellaria, which is a dependency of Sicily. At 3 P.M. we were opposite Cape Boco, the westernmost point of Marsala (ant.¹ Lelybeeum) which presents a very fine aspect of domes and turrets to those at sea. Thus we have coasted along Sicily, from its most Southern point Cape Passaro, to its most Western Cape Boco, and now as our course lies differently, we shall lose sight of it altogether. At the same time we saw Cape Boco, three of the islands, called anciently the Aegedes, were visible, viz. Maretinio (ant.¹ Hiera), Favignana (ant.¹ Aegusa), and Levanso (ant.¹ Bucinna). They appeared, at the distance from which we observed them, to be merely 3 small and barren rocks. Distance 83 miles. Latitude 37° 25'. Longit.^e 12° 28' Chronom.^t 12° 22' W.

Thursday 19th Febr.^y - beautiful morning with light winds and very warm weather. No land in sight. In the afternoon, sky rather cloudy & wind considerably fresher. 3 sails in sight. Course N 73° W. Latitude 38° 26' N. Longitude 10° 41' E. Chronometer 10° 27' E.

Friday 20th February - weather fine and cool-fresh breezes. Passed Toro, off Sardinia this morning. Towards night the wind lulled to near a calm. Course N.83° W. Distance 141 miles. Latitude 38° 43' N. Longitude by account 7° 42' E. by Chronometer 7° 39' 30" E. Cape Palos bore S.80° 30' W. 401 miles.

Saturday 21st Febr.^{ry} - beautiful day fine sailing, with smooth sea. Breeze again sprung up this morning, which continued with increasing strength all day. Afternoon cloudy but fair. Course N.79° W. Distance 78 miles. Latitude 38° 58' N. Longitude 6° 2' E. Chronometer 5° 41' 30".

Sunday 22nd Febr.^y - in the morning sea very rough - weather fair but cloudy. In the afternoon little wind and fine weather. Course N.84° W. Distance 83 miles. Latitude 39° 3' N. Longitude 4° 16' E. Chronom.^r 3° 53' E.

Monday 23rd Febr.^y - morning very disagreeable from heavy sea and cloudy weather. At noon the wind became more moderate and the sky cleared up. Course S.77° W. Distance 73 miles. Latitude in 38° 47' N. Longitude 2° 42' E. Chronometer 2° 30' E.

Tuesday 24th Febr.^y - morning cloudy with fine and favourable breeze afternoon clear and cool. Course S.23° W. Distance 83 miles. Latitude 37° 46' N. Longitude 2° 9' E. Chronom: 2° 1' 30" E.

Wednesday 25th February - wind fresh and favourable - day fine and cool. At night nearly a calm. Course N.88° W. Distance 55 miles Lat.^e 37° 47' N. long. 0° 40' E. Chronom: 0° 49' 15" E.

Thursday 26th February - beautiful morning. At 4 A.M. the breeze sprung up fresh and in our favour still. Many sails in sight at different distances. At ten o'clock came in sight of Cape Palos, and the High Coast of Spain. At noon the wind subsided and we had nearly a calm - but light breezes came on at 3 P.M. and continued all day. Course S.59° W. Distance 74 miles. Latitude 37° 7' N. Longitude 0° 40' W. Chronometer 0° 47' W.

Cape Palos – Bay of Carbonera – Towers & Castles

Friday 27th February - very fine day - light breezes with smooth sea. The coast of Spain, high mountainous, and partly covered with snow in sight, almost from cape Palos to Cape de Gata. At 12 the wind changed and forced us to tack about towards the land. We entered the Bay of Carbonera, and had a distinct, and near view of this bold part of Iberia. I remarked with curiosity, the numerous castles and towers, which seemed to line the whole coast and which serve, for the purposes of observation, but, I should suppose from their small size, but little for defence, except, perhaps, against the insignificant predatory excursions of their neighbours, the Moors. As a contrast to the rugged scenery around us, a few fields near the small town of Carbonera, of the richest verdure, which the imagination can conceive, presented a most agreeable prospect.

When we had approached very close to the land, which the depth of the water permits to be done, to within a yard or two of the shore, with perfect safety, we tacked about at half past five P.M. and stood out to sea again. A very great number of vessels, under the same circumstances as ourselves, being unable, on account of the wind, to get round Cape de Gata, were sailing on all sides of us - during the night we will attempt to accomplish this by frequent tacking backward and forwards, and thus to make progress slantwise or obliquely. Latitude 37° 1' N. Longitude by Chronometer 1° 53' 15" W.

Dense Fog

Saturday 28 Febr.^{ry} - out of sight of land this morning. The day was, to use a frequent expression of Tourists, a glorious one, with a warm, brilliant sun, clear sky, and calms alternately with light breezes, till about 2 o'clock, when a dense fog, accompanied with a mephitic odour, & coming from the arid Coast of Africa, overcast the whole heavens, and left us unable to see, but a very short distance before us. This worse than Scotch mist, cleared up at 6 o'clock P.M. and disclosed to our eager eyes the very high coast of Spain, not far from Cape de Gatt, which we had succeeded in getting round. We continued in the direction of the land for two hours longer, and then tacked out to sea. Course S.31° W. Distance 53 miles. Latitude 36° 17' N. longitude 2° 15' W. Chronometer 2° 25' W.

Anchor in Bay of Almeria

Sunday 1st March 1829 - we this morning, experienced the truth of what had been told with regard to the Mediterranean, viz. that, in the winter season the weather & winds are altogether unsettled. It was blowing half a gale, and from the direction the most opposite to us. The sky was enveloped in a thick mist, thro' which the shores of Spain were but dimly descried. In a short time we found ourselves in the Bay of Almeria, which town, once of great commercial importance, was but a few miles from us, when we came to anchor, as we did at 12 o'clock. Our position was in front of the small town (village?) and Castle of Roquetas, situated near the entrance of the Bay. Its appearance is mean, and it is by no means calculated for the pursuits of commerce as

there is only an open roadstead before it. It is built at the foot of a very lofty mountain, and on an extensive down, or piece of low ground, which does not appear to be very favourable to vegetation. At this point (village of Roquetas), the high land, which we had seen all along from Cape Palos to be close to the shore, ceased - and the mountains then retired from the sea, a little, and trended more interiorly, leaving the space between them and the shore to be occupied by the Llanos or plains of Almeria, which I believe, extend a considerable way.

There were some ten or twelve vessels riding at anchor with ourselves, and as many others tacking about and about around us, notwithstanding the prevalence of a heavy gale of foul wind, which and induced our Captain to come to a mooring here. At 6 oClock P.M. the wind having abated and the swell of the sea being less, it was resolved to stand out to sea again, but a difficulty occurred, which prevented us at this time. It was found that the anchor had sunk so deep into the ground that I was impossible to weigh it up. At 9 oClock P.M. it was nearly calm, and the renewed exertions of the crew, having proved successful in getting the Anchor up, we left our forced station to proceed on our voyage.

Leave the Bay of Almeria – [*Carpenter falls overboard*]

Monday 2nd March - during almost the whole night a calm prevailed, so that this morning we were not more than about 6 miles from the place, where we had been at anchor yesterday. At 11 oClock the same unfavourable breeze sprung up but lazily, along with a considerable swell of the sea. At 3 oClock we tacked about towards the land again, altho' we were at no great distance from it.

At 5 oClock, every one on board was thrown into great consternation by the alarm being given that a man had fallen overboard. This was soon ascertained to be our Carpenter, Gustavus Glasson, who, having been up the fore shrouds, taking down several articles of clothing, which had been hung up to dry, had, in his descent missed his footing, and fallen into the sea. In a few moments all hands were engaged in lowering two boats, and, as often happens in such a sudden emergency, no regular method being observed, but all hurrying to do they knew not exactly what first, more time was lost, than if they had directed their attention to the disengagement of only one boat.

The Captain himself was conspicuous among the most forward to render assistance, and put his hands to expedite what was necessary to be done, as eagerly and, I may say, more anxiously than any else. As it would have lost much time to have regularly untied the ropes, which secured the second gig, orders were given to cut away and make haste - and so much haste, indeed was made, that both the gig and the dinkie, were, in a short time, rowing out to the assistance of the poor Carpenter, to save him from a watery grave, whilst they even forgot, or else did not take time, to put in the plugs, which are generally used in stopping up the hole made in the bottom of them, for the purpose of allowing the escape of the water, with which they may be washed and cleaned. The consequence of this neglect was, that in a very brief space of time, no small quantity of water rushed in thro' these holes - which circumstance, however, was totally disregarded, in their eagerness to assist their unfortunate messmate, who had now been in the water for about 6 or 10 minutes. At the instant of the alarm being given, the ship was put about - but before this could be accomplished, as we had a fresh breeze, Glasson was a good way astern.

With feelings of anxiety and deep interest, which I cannot describe, I watched these motions and saw with joy, that he was able to keep himself afloat, altho' as he told us afterwards, he had never learned to swim. Every succeeding moment was fraught with a more intense feeling than the preceding one, from the anxious hope that he would be able to support himself on the surface, till succour should reach him, while, at the same time this hope was often dashed with the fear, that every coming wave would engulf him in its bosom; or, that, wearied out or from some other cause, he might sink never more to rise. While considering all this, the nearer and nearer the boats approached him. I felt almost breathless, with the interest of excitement, and experienced the removal of a heavy load of oppression, when they dragged him [aboard] - so that I believe, I actually Shouted for my gladness. Do not imagine *mia cara Madre*, that this is an exaggerated description of my feelings, or that I wish to throw the glare of romance over a very common place story - very far from this, for I am persuaded, that the most energetic terms, which our language affords, would fail in, or at least fall far short of conveying to you the real state of my mind. Besides you must consider, that this has been the very first sight of the like danger, which I have ever witnessed - and that, to see a human being, whom I had known intimately for nearly a year, apparently on the point of meeting a watery death - before my face, while I myself had nothing to do but to behold his peril in safety, that was surely enough to harrow up the soul. Less impression would have been made upon me by seeing great numbers swept away in the heat of battle, where I myself might also meet perchance the same fate. How providential and fortunate was it, that the accident happened at a time, when the sea was comparatively smooth. Had poor Glasson fallen overboard yesterday, when it was blowing a gale of wind, with a heavy sea, nothing, short of a miracle, could have saved him, and we would have lost one of the most useful men in the ship. As it was, he reached the vessel in safety, and all the clothes, which he had under his arm at the time, were picked up, with the exception of a few articles.

As soon as every thing had been again secured, we went on our course towards land, and at 7 oClock, tacked about again to sea. The whole day had been fine, and cool.

Tuesday 3rd March - a dead calm this morning, with a hazy sky, while we were but a short distance from the shore. It is said by sailors, that a calm is half a fair wind, and great anxiety was shown as to what quarter the wind would blow from. To our great satisfaction, after having been so long the sport of adverse winds, it began to blow favourably but gently, and increased in strength. During the whole day we had the coast of Spain in pretty close view, as we were obliged to keep near the shore, to avoid the very strong current, which prevails in the centre of the Mediterranean. This current, when combined with the wind is so strong, as to carry vessel[s] considerably out of their way. Course ____ Latitude 36° 26'N. Longit. 2° 41'W.

Arrive at Gibraltar

Wednesday 4th March - fine breeze this morning, almost amounting to a gale. The sky was overcast with lowering and rain-containing clouds, which did not fail to fulfil the promise which they held out. Torrents of rain fell fast and heavy - and we, who for three weeks past had had nothing but fair weather had ample amends made to us by the copiousness of the present supply. Frequent thunder & lightning accompanied the

deluge. At 10 oClock A.M. we dimly descried the outline of the Rock, and advancing, with a fair wind, we had such a view of it, as was well calculated to give one a high notion of its majesty and sublimity - for the thick mist shrouding every other object and land from our eyes, left it to be seen singly, rearing his head aloft in spite of the war of the elements & the thunder of heavenly artillery. At 10 oClock we came to an anchor in the Bay of Gibraltar, being six weeks and two days, since we had left it. We had not been safely moored more than half an hour, before the wind (which had been in the East) changed to the Westward, and blew directly in the teeth of those, who were close upon our wake, but who could not get in before the wind altered, & forced them to retire behind the rock.

Stay at Gibraltar

Thursday 5th and Friday 6th March - I went on shore on both these days - but saw nothing to remark in particular, more than I have already mentioned. As was to be expected, an air of greater bustle and activity than when we were here last, prevailed - the streets were more crowded, and every thing wore a different appearance. M.^f Geach and I had indulged the hope, that we would have had the pleasure of seeing the greatest curiosity about Gibraltar, viz. the excavations in the rock, which afford one of the most formidable means of defence, and annoyance, as it is impossible to make any breach in batteries, which are formed of the maternal rock itself. We could have procured permission with the greatest ease, thro' the kindness of a M.^f Brown - but the Master had so much to attend to on board that we were unable to accomplish our purpose, to our great regret.

Bay of Gibraltar – Algesiras - Bull fights

We experienced much civility, indeed from the above mentioned gentleman, M.^f Quentin Brown. He is a Scotchman, having been born in Ayrshire - and at present, his two sons are at the Ayr Academy. He has a large general store House, where our Steward &.^c were supplied, and he also keeps the “*commercial*” Inn, which is large, airy, & very commodious. He shewed himself most willing on all occasions to oblige us, and exerted his endeavours to procure the gratification of our curiosity.

I like Gibraltar more & more every day - and I am astonished at myself, that I did not fully discover those beauties, which now forcibly attract my attention and admiration. The Western extremity of the Bay is Cabrita Point, and at some distance to the Northward of it, is the Spanish Town of Algesiras, which appears to be pretty large, but not very handsome. Here in the summer time, fine bulls fights are exhibited, the peculiar feature & disgrace of Spanish and Portuguese manners. At these shows, the ladies are invariably spectators and display the most indelicate and unfeminine signs of pleasure, when the poor animal is successfully tormented by the matador - forming as it were, and anomaly in the female character, when we see that sex whose characteristics ought to be gentleness and mercy, acting on the contrary, as if the greater amount of pain was a proportional addition to their delight.

Bull fights & Cock fights & Pugilism

It has been urged against us, that our cock-fights - and pugilistic contests are to the full as cruel, and disgraceful to the English nation, as the Bull fights among the Spaniards. Let this be admitted - and there are few sensible men, who will deny - but we can ask, with exultation, if our females attend such exhibitions, & take an indecent delight in the cruelty and bloodshed, of which the cock-pit, and ring are too often the scenes. No never - and I am persuaded, that no time & no actions could induce them to tolerate nor encourage these by their presence. I think the Spanish ladies, might even be prevailed upon to go a step further - and, like the matrons of ancient Rome, witness with pleasure gladiators mangling & slaughtering one another, to gratify a monstrous passion.

So fond are the Algeserians of their humane disport of Bull fighting, that, in the summer season, a part of the Sunday is regularly devoted to it - and must, afford, I should suppose, a strange contrast with the spirit of the lessons, which a Christian pastor ought to teach and inculcate.

Town of S.¹ Rogue - Europa point

But to return from this digression to the description of the Bay, - leaving Algesiras, which is built close upon the waters edge a considerable interval lies between it and another Spanish Town, called S.¹ Rogue. This interval is filled up with lofty hills, to the North of the Rock, and rather on the East side of the Bay. It is of a much less size than either Algesiras or Gibraltar, and might rather be termed a large village than a Town. Its position is its chief advantage, and it naturally attracts the great attention of those entering the Bay for the first time. To the Southward of this Town, the ground is high, and after a short distance, suddenly sinks down into a sandy plain, which is continued as far as the Rock. Part of this level space, is, as I mentioned before, called the "neutral ground." After it comes the Rock, high towards the Northward, and shelving down towards the South, where it terminates in a rather low precipitous ledge of rock, called Europa Point, which forms the other extremity of the entrance into the Bay.

Saturday 7th March - this morning the wind had subsided into a complete calm, and we were doubtful whether we would be able to set sail or not. Our proper day of departure was yesterday, but it is always impossible to get thro' the Straits with a foul wind. In the afternoon the breeze came on in our favour, at 4 o'clock P.M. we set sail, with colours flying. I forgot to mention, that particular care is paid to obliging all vessels to show the colours of their particular nation, whether they be going up of down the Mediterranean - and if they do not, a cannon is fired to enforce them - and be they French, Spaniard or Dutch, the language which the gun speaks is intelligible to all, and its order obeyed without demur. This happened to us, when we were bound for Malta - but I omitted to note it down. The Capt.ⁿ had ordered the colours to be lowered, as we came out of Harbour, not being aware that they were any longer necessary. When we were abreast of Europa point, and while the Capt.ⁿ and officers were at dinner, a gun was fired with blank shot, which not hav.^g been observed or attended to at first by those on deck, a ball was sent after us in another which passed over our poop but did not do any damage. Upon this the colours were instantly hoisted, and we were then left to pursue our voyage in peace.

As night came on, we entered the Gut - and I am sorry, that the darkness again prevented me from enjoying a sight of the opposite shores of Africa and Europe. I

could however observe that the distance between them is by no means great, not above 10 or twelve miles, as they were distinctly visible even at night.

Reach Cadiz – No Quarantine boat comes up

Sunday 8th March - on coming upon deck I found, that we were again in the open sea, and out of sight of land. During the night the breeze had carried us rapidly thro' the Straits, notwithstanding the strength of the current and we are now proceeding, at the rate of 8 knots, with a wind which would have been quite against us, if we had been still at Gibraltar - how fortunate we have been! The forenoon was squally and the sea very high, notwithstanding which we reached Cadiz at 10 minutes to one o'clock P.M. From what we had heard at Gibraltar we understood, that we would be admitted to pratique at once - but we had been deceived. A boat came from the Consul, and we had orders not to land the mail, till the Quarantine boat came alongside of us. We waited and waited, but no Quarantine boat made its appearance. Meanwhile one or two shore boats came off, & the persons in them made no scruple of receiving letters, and of coming into close contact with us. Nay more we had taken a pilot on board, at a good distance from our anchorage and he went at once ashore, without being put into Quarantine. No yellow flag was hoisted nor any '*guardianos*' or guards put on board of us to prevent us from going on shore. Strange conduct this you will say - being a mixture of extreme and censurable carelessness, combined with a puerile strictness.

In this state of uncertainty, we spent the whole day - and yet no Quarantine boat came.

Quarantine boat come off

Monday 9th March - no orders or intelligence having been received from the shore the Captain resolved to set sail at 1 o'clock, even without landing the Mail. To give notice of this his intention a gun was fired - the Blue Peter hoisted, and a gentleman, who came alongside, was requested to inform the Consul. At 10 o'clock A.M. the cumbrous and unwieldy Quarantine boat came off, and made the same apology, of the violence of the wind, and the heavy swell of the sea, for not coming yesterday. Numerous questions were put to the Capt.ⁿ from which we learned, that not having been admitted to full pratique at Malta, we would be held under the same restrictions here. However the Capt.ⁿ was told, that he might go ashore with the mail, and that perhaps the British Consul would procure him liberty to go ashore. This permission you perceive did not extend to any other, and, therefore we were forced to wait in order to see if the same indulgence would finally be allowed to us - and this we could not ascertain, before our gig should return again. It did not come off, till it came with the captain & Mail at 4 o'clock, at which time it was too late to think of going ashore, as after sunset there is neither egress out of, nor ingress into the City. The whole day was spent on deck, looking at the City thro' a glass. I am even more pleased with it, than when we were last here. It looks magnificent from the Bay, & has this peculiarity, that altho' it is a commercial city, the sea side is not crowded with the mean-looking and dirty warehouses, as is the case in almost all other ports - but there is presented to the view a fine range of elegant & lofty private buildings, intermixed with public & religious edifices, which contribute much to the ornament of the Town.

Captain comes on board with mail at Cadiz

By the time the captain came on board, all was ready for weighing - but the orders were countermanded, as we could not leave port, without a pilot, and the pilot would not undertake to go, with us, till to morrow morning at 6 oClock, when the gate would be opened. The weather during yesterday and today has been as bad as possible, with squalls, torrents of rain, and all the other *agremens* usually met with - & we had only occasional glimpses of the Sun. The wind too, shifted different times, and to day is as foul as could be feared.

Tuesday 10th March - at 6 oClock A.M. we bid adieu to Cadiz, and set sail for England ho! With a breeze nearly favourable. During the whole day we had frequent squalls, accompanied with heavy rain, while the sea dashed over our sides with great fury. Course N.78° W. Distance 28 miles. Latitude 36° 38'N. Longitude 6° 52'W. At 8 oClock P.M. I was on deck and was witness to one of those sudden and tremendous squalls, so frequent at night. The instant before, we were sailing with a fine steady breeze, and the moon was shining brightly over our heads - when in the twinkling of an eye, the wind took us with such violence, as threatened nearly to bend our foremast. Luckily we had foreseen the likelihood of such an occurrence, and were in a great measure prepared for it, by furling up the fore and main sail. All was now bustle and activity - order was issued after order by the clear loud voice of the Capt.ⁿ, who, cool himself, directed every thing necessary to be done with precision and distinctness. In the midst of our operations, the moon withdrew her light - we appeared to be entering the bosom of a mass of Clouds dark as pitch, except when their surface was fearfully illuminated by the brightest and most awful flashes of lightning, which I have ever beheld. The effect, indeed, was instantaneous, and impressive - and it at once brought before my mind a picture of what the ancients represented as the entrance to their infernal regions.

The squall or hurricane soon passed away, but left a strong wind, which compelled us to deviate from our proper course.

Wednesday 11th March - fine day - wind partly against and partly favourable Sea high. Course S.70° W. Distance 52. Latit.^e 36° 20'N. Longit.^e 7° 52'W. Chronometer 7° 57' 15''W.

Thursday 12th March - morning & forenoon very rainy, with nearly a calm - fine afternoon with a favourable breeze. Abreast of Cape S.^t Vincent at ½ past 5 P.M. Course N.W. Latitude 36° 57'N. Longitude 8° 40'W.

Friday 13th March - beautiful day with fine and favourable breezes, which continued strong till evening, and then greatly subsided. Course N.38° W. Distance 111. Latitude 38° 22'N. Longit.^e 10° 17'W. Chronometer 10° 10' 45''W.

Saturday 14th March - weather cloudy, but fair - breeze fresh and favourable. Course N.12° E. Distance 124. Latitude 40° 34'N. Longitude 10° 53'W. Chronometer 10° 41' 15''W.

Sunday 15th March - beautiful day breeze favourable. Course N.15° E. Distance 159. Latitude 43 ° 12'N. Longitude 9° 57'W. Chronometer 10° 10' 30''W.

Monday 16th March - dull cloudy weather - wind not very favourable. Course N.15° E. Distance 143. Latitude 45 ° 30'N. Longitude 9° 7'W. Chronometer 9° 30' W. Towards evening it fell a dead calm

Tuesday 17th March - very fine weather - favourable breeze. Course N.6° E. Distance 60. Latitude 46 ° 20'N. Longitude 9° 0'W. Chronometer 9° 18' 45'' W.

Wednesday 18th March - very cloudy weather - wind perfectly favourable and carrying us at a rate of 9 knots an hour. Course N.34° E. Distance 179. Latitude 48 ° 49'N. Longit: 6° 38'W. Chronometer 7° 23' W.

We were all in expectation of getting into Falmouth Harbour about 12 oClock at night. In consequence of the height of the waves, and the dark cloudy sky it was found impossible to descry the lighthouse on the Lizard point & therefore our Capt.ⁿ resolved to lay to until morning, or until it should be seen.

Thursday 19th March - this morning we found ourselves in a sad predicament. During the night we had got unknowingly into Mounts Bay, immediately to the Westward of the Lizard Point, and into which the wind was blowing directly towards the land, so that we could not weather the point, till after a long time. At ½ past 5 we came to anchor in Falmouth Harbour, and we had expected to be allowed to land immediately. But in this we were mistaken, as some difficulty occurred with respect to the Bill of health. It seems that Capt.ⁿ Snell, had delivered at Cadiz, upon demand, the Clean Bill of health, with which he had been furnished at Gibraltar – and had received in release one from the practique office at Cadiz. This he considered to be perfectly sufficient and satisfactory, till he was undeceived by the officer at Falmouth who scrupled to admit us to practique, without a stronger sanction than his own. He went on shore again and left us to the pleasant reflection, that we might probably be put into Quarantine for five days. At 8 oClock he returned, and brought with him old Doctor Fox of Falmouth – before whom we were obliged to perform the ceremony of shewing our faces by the light of a lantern. Having satisfied his curiosity, he was pleased to admit us, to practique – for which we gave him many thanks.

End of Mediterranean Voyage.

Addendum

At Gibraltar, on our homeward voyage, we received on board Mrs. Grant, lady of Major Grant, of the Royal Artillery and sister in law to Capt.ⁿ Bull of the Packet service. She was returning to her native Truro, where her father practiced as a Surgeon, for the ... [ends]