

# *James Williamson*

## **Falmouth Packet Surgeon, 1828-1835.**

### *List of the Ships Company*

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19<sup>th</sup> Nov.<sup>r</sup> 1830  
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<u>Names</u>	<u>Quality</u>
Robert Snell	Commander
John Geach	Master
James Williamson	Surgeon
Charles Williams	Mate
August Glasson	Carpenter
James Evenett	Boatswain
William Waitcoat	A.B. (Steward)
James Pashbee	A.B. (Steward's Mate)
Joseph Stevens *	A.B. (Cook)
Willam Stevens	A.B. (Sailmaker)
Philip Waistcot	A.B.
John Richards	A.B.
Francis Hawkins	A.B.
Alexander Webb	A.B.
Samuel Waistcott	A.B.
John Coplin	A.B.
James Rowe	A.B.
William Poulson	A.B.
Charles Richards **	A.B.
George Pashbee ** (for the voyage only) as Joiner	
Dyer Williams	A.B.
- and two boys.	

(\*) *Our former Cook Edward Tourer was discharged for stealing a 500 box of Cigars from Ja.<sup>s</sup> Pashbee. He afterwards went on to one of the Mexican Mines at a handsome salary - our present Cook having been taken from the Mast to act in Tourers place has been appointed to the situation.*

(\*\*) *This man along with George Pashbee were shipped just as we were going out of the Harbour. It seems the former joiner John Stevens was drunk when he came alongside to his duty, & having some potatoes to put on board, he was very impertinent in asking the Master to order one of our hands to assist him. This he was told was impossible at that time, upon which he took the huff & refused to sail with us, altho' he had had two months advance of wages.*

[In the above context the term 'Joiner' might mean a new hand or new entrant, rather than a Joiner by trade!]

*Notes  
of a  
Voyage to Buenos Ayres & back*

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*Sailed 19<sup>th</sup> November 1830*

*Returned 9<sup>th</sup> June 1831*

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*29 Weeks – one day*

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A long time has elapsed since we returned from our last voyage to Mexico, which was on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Sept.<sup>r</sup> The cause of this unusual delay has been that our Packet has undergone a general repair at M.<sup>r</sup> Hocking's yard Stonehouse. We went to Plymouth on the 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.<sup>r</sup> and remained there till the 15<sup>th</sup> November - when our mail becoming due on the 19<sup>th</sup> instant, we were under the necessity of starting, leaving many things undone for Falmouth. This was on Monday - but owing to the state of the weather, our Capt.<sup>n</sup> did not judge it to be prudent, however great his anxiety was to reach his port, to start before Wednesday. Fortunately for us, we entered Falmouth Harbour next morning just in time to hoist our Blue Peter and to save our Mail. As soon as we came to anchor instant preparations were made for going to sea next morning - and you may easily conceive the hurry scurry in the ship when I tell you that we had every thing to take on board except water, with which we had provided ourselves at Plymouth. We were in hopes that the Packet would be detained as most frequently happens, and particularly when we heard of a change of Ministry - but we did not on that account neglect to have every thing ready for our starting at the appointed time. For my own part I set to and got nearly all my traps on board, leaving only a few articles which I could easily take with me should we be sent off at once.

*Leave Falmouth Great Confusion*

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November - to my very great disappointment, soon after the Mail came in the signal gun was fired, and our fears of our proceeding punctually to sea, which had been excited by their being no detention yesterday, were sadly realised. The orders of the Post being as irrevocable as the Laws of the Medes and the Persians, there was no alternative but to submit with a good grace. Having settled any affairs & collected all my traps, I went on board little suspecting to witness the scene of indescribable confusion which awaited me there. You must know that in addition to our peculiar causes of bustle, we had this morning received a cargo of 20 miners, 2 captains of the Mines - 2 females and 2 children - and consequently the decks were absolutely crowded with them and those friends, who had come to take a last farewell. Besides there were upwards of 80 large chests and packages belonging to our passengers' which so lumbered almost every part of the ship, that it was impossible to move about without danger. In short nothing that I had ever seen or imagined would have led me to conceive the chaotic jumbling of these most heterogeneous articles which was every where presented - for whatever might chance to come on board were thrown together as they arrived, and no attempt was made to stow away until we were fairly at sea.

You may be sure, that this bustle and crowding together were far from being agreeable or pleasant, and it was with no small satisfaction, that I heard orders given to clear up the deck, and to bring out some order from this mass of confusion. By night altho' much remained still to be accomplished, the more oppressing sources of inconvenience had been removed - and it was exceedingly fortunate for us that notwithstanding the wind was foul the weather was remarkably fine.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. <sup>r</sup> - gale from the South West - dull thick weather - found ourselves far to the Eastward from the tide & wind.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - variable weather - foul wind.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - this morning abreast of the Lizard - fine weather - foul wind. Sailors and Miners busily engaged in stowing away the different chests &.<sup>c</sup>

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - fine weather - wind fair with heavy swell - nearly a calm all the afternoon.

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> - dull gloomy weather with drizzling rain - favourable wind.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> - very fine weather - nearly a calm all day - favourable breeze at night.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> - cloudy weather - strong and favourable breezes.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> - dull rainy weather - foul wind, blowing a gale from S.W.

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> - gale in the morning - more moderate during the day. Squally dull weather.

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> - variable weather - fresh and favourable breezes.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov. <sup>r</sup> - foul wind & rainy weather in the morning - fair and favourable during the day - calm nearly all night.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. <sup>r</sup> - very changeable weather - foul wind.

Thursday 2<sup>d</sup> - fine weather but foul wind.

Friday 3<sup>d</sup> - fine weather - wind partly foul and partly fair.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> - in the morning fine weather - during the day variable with rain - wind foul in the morning, fair in the afternoon.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> - rainy morning - fine day - wind nearly favourable.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - very fine weather - wind variable sometimes fair.

Complaints of Sea Monotony ~ Some fun on board

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> - light favourable breezes - cloudy but pleasant weather. For these some days past we have had little whereof to complain in respect of the weather, the state of which is the sure index of comfort or discomfort to us mariners - but on the other hand, although' our party is so numerous, our days hitherto have run on in a dull monotonous current, which threatened to terminate in a complete stagnation. Of this fact you can easily judge for yourself from my notice of each day's occurrences consisting of nothing but a mere dry detail of the wind and weather. It is therefore a matter of no small pleasure to me to have something to say, altho' it is of such trifling in particular, that nothing but the cause I have mentioned viz. the paucity of events, could have instigated its insertion. I may observe that the several circumstances which follow are technically called '*riggs*,' and it is inconceivable how much zest and enjoyment a Jack Tar derives from them, while in the opinion of a landsman they are beneath the notice of a man and adapted only to the meridian of children or mischievous schoolboys. For my own part, I am always highly delighted with our sea "larks," provided they are all ended neither with harm or prejudice to the subject of them. But now for the incident which has given rise to all this twaddling.

While we (the Master, Mate and self) were conversing on the quarter deck with Captain Jeffery [a mine captain], we were surprised by an unusual commotion among the Miners, who seemed to be under the influence of no common cause of mirth. Shortly after all came trooping aft laughing and talking at a prodigious rate not to but at some unfortunate wights of their own number, who had subjected themselves to the general ridicule in consequence of some sin of omission or commission. It is not to be supposed that we, who were eager to catch the slightest glimpse of something comical, could be long ignorant of the cause of this rumpus - indeed, apparently the great body of the Miners were anxious that we should join in the fun, by their speedy reference to us to give our opinion of the case in hand. We were asked very gravely whether it was not indispensable for persons wishing to enter the Empire of Brazil to be furnished with a passport - and when we answered, as in truth we could, in the affirmative, a loud guffaw of laughter arose, the reason of which they explained to be, that two [of] their number (in all 26) had absolutely forgotten this essential requisite. These men W.<sup>m</sup> Treweek a simple, half witted, but exceedingly good natured fellow and a Thomas Manuel, a person whose appearance did not betoken him to be guilty of such a piece of stupidity. It appeared upon evidence when inquiry was made as to the discovery of their non possession of passports, that the conversation being turned (perhaps slyly) upon this subject, the two ill-fated defaulters were detected. The attention of everyone from Cook to Captain was now directed to Treweek and Manuel - and many were the gibes and jeers - the reflections & the approaches - the taunting sneers and affected sympathy of the wags (for Miners are all wags in their way) which they were doomed to submit to. All this they did not resent, for they were too deeply grieved at the probable consequence of their carelessness to listen to the contemptuous language of some, and but too ready to give credence to the exaggerated reports and surmises of others. They indeed received no mercy. How could you be so foolish - you tell me you are 24 years old, you are surely only 16 - did you not read our articles, where a passport is mentioned - what did you go to Fox's (Brazilian Consul) office for? Were questions to which they could only answer that they had known nothing at all about the matter, never having been told that a passport (of which they had never heard was necessary). And now, said some what can you do - You cannot go to the Mines openly without a proper qualification in the shape of a passport, and if you attempt to elude the Argus eyes of the Brazilian Authorities, you will be shot directly or clapped in prison for life. Would you not give

most willingly give up to £25 or £30 to be delivered out of your present trouble; suggested one kind friend - most willingly replied the poor terrified fellow - and then they were somewhat comforted by this expedient, till another said that this was vain and proposed to pass them off for females (they were both fair) by shaving beards and whiskers, and dressing them in female attire. To add, if possible to their deplorable condition their own Captains fell foul of them, and severely reprobating their folly, pointed out to them how much they had cost the company, to whom their services could not now be rendered. All this was said with the utmost seriousness, and made a proportionably impression - and when their fears had been strung to the highest pitch, they were almost ready to worship our skipper, when he promised to give them a certificate, which would clear them at Rio provided they would give a dinner to the rest of the Miners, and some grog to our men - conditions to which they most cheerfully and thankfully assented. Our Captain moreover added that if he were unsuccessful, he would take them home & charge their passage to the Company's expense.

When every thing seemed to be thus satisfactorily settled, and some cessation had taken place in the jokes of the rest another plan was suggested which seemed more feasible was suggested by M.<sup>r</sup> Geach, who proposed that they should be furnished with something in the shape of [a] passport which would no doubt pass for current with the Commandant of the Port. No sooner said than done, and two most incongruous but most precious documents were produced, which nothing but a belief in the utter ignorance of the Miners would have led anyone to bring forward for the purpose. William Treweek brought to me for my inspection and old, dirty, Admiralty Protection against impressment, granted 50 years ago to our Carpenter and requested me to erase the name and other particulars which appertained to the description of the said carpenter and in their room insert those, which perfectly described him. To this I agreed. Next Thomas Manuel lugged forth as his Mainstay, a venerable copy of the Quarantine Regulations of Malta, having the King's Arms at the top, and wished me to do something by it, so as to render it valid as a passport for him. His request I also promised to comply with.

I first altered by scraping and other means the Admiralty Protection which now set forth that William, instead of Gustavus Glasson was the bearer of it - that his age was 27 - his height 5 feet 8 inches - his complexion fair - his hair & eyes light - in short it was easy to alter everything excepting this, that it was mentioned that our Carpenter had broke his arm, and that in consequence it was somewhat crooked. This difficulty seemed insuperable, until William confidently affirmed that it was possible for him to carry his arm so awry as to deceive those who did not inspect it narrowly. This simple but efficacious expedient being suggested and rightly approved nothing farther was necessary to be added but the impression of the Seal of Office. For this purpose I made use of an old *vintine*, a Brazilian coin, which really looked as well as a Seal of much higher pretensions and much greater authority. My customer was highly pleased with his passport - but being ignorant of writing he made his mark of the following form, as was directed.

[a circle dissected into eight segments]

No sooner had I dispatched one passport than Thomas Manuel was impatient to have a similar document. On the Back of the Quarantine regulations I wrote in Latin & Portuguese some bombastic nonsense about allowing Thomas Manuel, having the following marks viz. Age 24 - height 5 ft 8 ins. - dullish eyes - fair

complexion - light hair - ordinary nose - ordinary chin with beard - to pass unquestioned thro' the Brazilian Empire - and signed the whole with the name of the Emperor Peter the Fourth. In order to give more appearance of validity to this instrument I had it most formally drawn out and appended two broad seals. As a matter of course the bearer signed his name and after receiving it with many thanks, and much regret that he could not repay me for the trouble I had taken, he carefully folded up the precious paper and stowed it away in the inmost recesses of his chest. Such was the termination of a business which yielded us so much amusement, but I must mention lest you should imagine that we were all laughing at what was a really calamity to Treweek and Manuel, that tho' they had stupidly neglected to secure their passports, their Captains had exercised better care, and were in possession of Passports for all. Had the case been a really otherwise the affair would have assumed a more serious colour and the worst consequences might have resulted to the unfortunate men.

### Trick played upon W.<sup>m</sup> Treweek

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec.<sup>r</sup> - beautiful weather. This morning Palma the Westernmost of the Canaries in sight at a distance. Very light & favourable winds.

After the ridiculous incident of yesterday, we did not expect to be so soon entertained with another even more ridiculous and laughable. One of our men and our Steward, finding how easy it was to tax the credulity of some of the Miners, resolved to have some farther fun at their expense. The subject of their joke was William Treweek, who I have mentioned not to be gifted with any superabundant stock of sense. Not to excite suspicion, they began afar off and at last brought it about that the Steward made a bet with our seaman of a gallon of rum that he would conceal W.<sup>m</sup> Treweek on the upper deck, so snugly that James Rowe would not be able to find him out in ten minutes. The bet was immediately taken and poor simple Treweek settled in the thought that he would (according to agreement) have half of it, and most willingly agreed to take his share in the business. Now in the fore part of the day, the corner of the fore-hatchway, which is of considerable depth and furnished with two folding pieces was stuck up against the side of the pig-house so that in the afternoon, all being ordered below, W.<sup>m</sup> Treweek was shoved into this receptacle, which he declared to be very comfortable. As soon as he was in the doors (if you may so call them) were firmly secured by lashings which crossed them. Upon a given signal all ascended from below and commenced the fictitious search. Two or three of our men passed to and fro, apparently engaged in scrutinising different convenient places, but in reality preparing sundry buckets of salt water ready for use. When all was prepared, a piece of tarpaulin which concealed the hider was withdrawn, and discovered him in *quod* - no very enviable situation, and then a deluge of brine was rained upon him from every imaginable vehicle - from which alas there was no escape, the doors of his prison being as I have already mentioned too well fastened. In a few seconds poor Treweek was thoroughly drenched - and then, but not till then, he was released amidst the shouts and laughter of every spectator, but I must in justice say without any indication of displeasure on his part, who a day or two afterwards declared that now he saw there was some joke in it but that then he really had believed what the Steward had told him. During the remainder of the voyage it was impossible for any one to play any more tricks - he was too shy & too much on his guard - in fact his extreme suspicion was as amusing as his former simplicity.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec.<sup>r</sup> - fine weather - favourable winds variable in force. Saw the islands of Palma, Teneriffe and Ferro, which presented nothing remarkable.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup>. - beautiful weather - light favourable breezes.

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>. - cloudy but pleasant weather light favourable winds.

#### Church music on board - Psalm singing

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>. - cloudy but pleasant weather - light favourable breezes all day, pretty fresh at night. This morning spoke a bark the *Endymion* of London bound to Jamaica.<sup>1</sup> To day we had divine service performed, and as on last Sunday, two or three verses of a psalm were very well sung by the Miners. This new feature - in our Public devotions had an extremely pleasing effect: Without any adventitious circumstances of architectural embellishment or of noble accompaniment on an organ - without a building adapted according to the rules of art for an exhibition of musical skill, but with no canopy, but the blue heavens and no instruments but those of nature's tuning, the peculiar situation in which we were placed rendered this part of the service indescribably solemn and impressive. The effect of this days worship was not diminished by any impropriety of behaviour on the part of the miners, the whole of whom on the contrary evinced the greatest outward signs of devotion. During the day it was pleasing to see so many men both Sailors and Miners in one Ship, some reading their Bibles some tracts or hymns and all showing by their walk that they were impressed with the sanctity of the day.

#### Blue light seen at the Tropic

In the afternoon the conversation turned pretty much upon our close proximity to the Tropic of Cancer and the expected visit of Neptune to receive the names of those who had never crossed the line. At 9 P.M. the Miners were struck with astonishment at the appearance of a blue light, which M.<sup>r</sup> Geach had secretly ordered to be conveyed to the Main top. The effect was certainly very grand and every one, tho' he suspected the Master, who said that he expected to see a bright star crossing & indicating the Tropic, was evidently puzzled how to account for the phenomenon.

At the dead hour of night, in the midst of a deep slumber, I was awoke with a sudden and tremendous noise which caused me to start up - thump - thump - thump - stamp - stamp - with the voice of the Master speaking in a loud and nasty tone to the man at the helm - *a vessel close aboard of us - Hard Starboard - Give her the helm quick or she'll be foul of us. Don't you hear - Why don't you answer you lubber? Schooner ahoy! Why don't you keep a better lookout? What schooner are you? Where from?* During this address the sound of many feet and much bustle was heard above & a rough voice from the schooner announced that she had Neptune on board, and that his submarine Majesty had come according to custom to take an account of all who might be strangers at his Court, never having been presented at his levee. Upon hearing this M.<sup>r</sup> Geach immediately backed the main yard (by which our progress was stopped) for his Majesty, who came alongside with a horrible noise. Intelligence of this circumstance was immediately communicated to our Skipper, who very politely enquiring after his health, and that of his family. The questions and answers were both

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<sup>1</sup> Probably the 277 ton *Endymion*, built at Newport c.1828, owned by Innes & Co., and commanded by Capt. Westmorland. Classed A1 at Lloyd's. *Lloyd's Register* 1831.

made thr'o speaking trumpet, one by M.<sup>r</sup> Geach on the quarter deck, and one by Neptune at the bowsprit. Preliminaries being all settled, the most important part of the business was then proceeded into viz. calling over the names of those who had not yet taken the oath of allegiance to the Sea-Green God. They were all fully and officially (perhaps officiously) announced with very polite wishes for our welfare and appointed to meet us again at the line for the purpose of installing their names into the order of his Knighthood.

Whilst all this was going on the Miners were not, you may be sure, asleep. At the first alarm each and all had started up, and not a few of them next morning candidly owned that they were dreadfully frightened when they heard the Master sing out about getting foul of another vessel. At the same moment 5 or 6 scrambled up the main hatchway, which unfortunately had not been blocked up, and would thus by their being confined below have added to their fears. The rest lay quaking in their hammocks, wishing themselves 1000 miles off. Knowing as I did the occasion of all this noise, I was not a little amused in witnessing from my Cabin the various methods in which their alarm was displayed - some prayed aloud and called for mercy - others lay silent yet quaking. The curious remarks and peculiar dialect to which I was a listener I cannot pretend to convey to you by description, altho' the effect upon my risibility was very great.

In half an hour after the commencement of the uproar peace & silence were restored only again to be broken at the first dawn of day - when all light imparted confidence - and each related to the other his feelings and impressions.

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.<sup>r</sup> - fine weather. Light favourable breezes all day - fresh at night.

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - cloudy but pleasant W.<sup>r</sup> Moderate and favourable breezes.

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> - fine pleasant but Cloudy W.<sup>r</sup> light variable winds. At 5 P.M. came in sight of San Antonio, one of the Cape Verd Islands.

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - this morning abreast of San Antonio & kept it in sight all day. Pleasant weather - light winds - calm at night.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> - cloudy morning - fine day - calm or nearly so all day.

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> - very fine weather - nearly a calm all day.

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - beautiful weather - morning calm - light variable breezes all day.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> - calm all day - Beautiful weather.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - cloudy weather - Strong and favourable breezes.

Wednesday 22<sup>d</sup> - cloudy weather - fresh and favourable breezes.

Thursday 23<sup>d</sup> - close sultry weather - Moderate & favourable breezes.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - close sultry weather, inclinable to calm. At night moderate but unfavourable wind.



Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> - variable winds and weather Heavy showers at night. This being Christmas the service appropriated for that day was performed & appropriate hymns were sung by the Miners.

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec.<sup>r</sup> - very unsettled weather - thunder lightning and rain - wind variable, sometimes a calm. Caught 2 sharks.

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - close sultry weather - calm all day

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> - cloudy sultry weather - light unfavourable breeze.

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> - cloudy weather - rain at night - light variable breeze.

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> - cloudy weather - rain at night. Fresh and favourable breeze. At 7 P.M. William Thomas one of the Miners met with a serious accident. While standing on the steps of a ladder placed for want of a proper apparatus across the entrance to the hold, slipped his foot - & fell so that the edge of one of the steps struck with the whole weight of his body, upon the upper part of the thigh & perineal portion of the Urethra. From the time of the accident till we reached Rio I was little, very little, on deck, having in addition to looking after him, to attend to my own health, which was such as to oblige me to confine myself.

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> - we crossed the line, but in consideration of the above melancholy occurrence none of the usual ceremonies was permitted or indeed needed as a damp was thrown over the spirits of all.

Soon after crossing the Equator, we had fresh favourable breezes with moderately fine weather - until we arrived in sight of our destined Port, to the great joy of all, on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Owing to the strength of tide and a scanty wind we were obliged to anchor off the Sugar Loaf, which in my first Journal, as being so conspicuous an object at the entrance of Rio harbour. We had therefore abundance of time to look around us, and I was even more pleased with the scenery than I had been before.

#### Miners leave us at Rio

All our Miners, of whom only two or three had been abroad were all on the “*qui vive*” and every thing novel was looked for with eagerness. Next day 13<sup>th</sup> we succeeded in gaining our proper anchorage, and there awaited till we should [be] sent to Monte Video. Our orders were to land and receive the Mails, but it is usual to detain the Packet two or three days. In the afternoon of the 14<sup>th</sup> two large boats were sent off to us to receive all the Miners luggage, which was a great pleasure to us, since nothing had encumbered and annoyed us so much during our whole voyage. Of course along with the luggage, the owners went for the purpose of submitting the different contents to the Customs House Officers. I propose to note down here a few remarks, which may or may not be applicable to Miners in general, but which struck me with regard to our party.

#### Female passengers - List of Miners

And First of all I may mention the names of all our passengers, as they all belonged directly or individually to one concern. By every man of the least civility and

politeness, the ladies are first attended to. There were M.<sup>rs</sup> Trebilcock and M.<sup>rs</sup> Angove. The former was the wife of the chief captain and was one of those you might meet with every day, without any marked character - by no means disagreeable in her manner - but rather brief and silent. The latter was the wife of one of the Miners, who was then at the Mines, and had been there 15 months. She was very tall, with a loud voice (for a female) - a great deal of ease and freedom, so that she could address any one with an unembarrassed air. I do not mean to speak disparagingly - for she was not over-forward or in other words pert & imprudent.

M.<sup>rs</sup> Trebilcock had brought with her a sweet little girl, called Elizabeth, and a very pretty boy called John. Both the Children were great pets, the girl of the father & the boy of the Mother. By their presence they greatly enlivened our voyage and gave no trouble.

List of Miners who went out with us to work the Gongo Soco Mines -

Captain John Trebilcock

Captain William Jeffery

Joseph Goldsworthy, very stout young man & a great wrestler.

Thomas Bunt young thoughtless boy - will require looking after.

W.<sup>m</sup> Thomas, the subject of the accident - middle aged - formerly in Columbia.

John Bennet very tall stout man, more roguish than foolish.

W.<sup>m</sup> Treweek our old friend, who afforded so much amusement.

Tho.<sup>s</sup> Manuel an inexperienced young man, who requires to learn a little more of the world.

Charles Mitchell very stout man, and rather superior to the rest.

W.<sup>m</sup> Tuckfield stout young man, had much the appearance of a farmers servant

W.<sup>m</sup> Rowe sober staid man, but too much of the "gift of the gab."

John Richards young man, very quiet - but dreadful when drunk.

John More young & stout - with a face & manners unlike the rest of the Miners.

Henry Davey stout young - much pock marked.

Tristram Bath ~~stout~~ young man, nothing particular.

W.<sup>m</sup> Slocam an old hand once a smuggler - once in Columbia - full of tricks.

Fr.<sup>s</sup> Ralph steady stout young man - only married a month before he left.

Sam.<sup>l</sup> Trengrove, Carpenter little fiery yet good natured fellow.

Sabastian Trewartha nothing particular - stout in the prime of life.

W.<sup>m</sup> Merret very quiet - rather peculiar countenance - of a very pious turn.

Tho.<sup>s</sup> Pengilly stout young man - rather dull.

Fr.<sup>s</sup> Tuckfield a younger brother of W.<sup>m</sup>

and

Thomas Skewes a very quiet sober young man, who paid much attention to religion and whose conduct was perfectly consistent. He did not belong to the Gongo Soco Company, but intended to join those of the Minas Geraes Company, for whom we carried out some on our Brazil Voyage. He expected to be made a captain as soon as he reached the Mines.

[link to Exeter- <http://projects.exeter.ac.uk/cornishlatin/gongosoco.htm>

Captain Trebilcock had been already 2½ years at Gongo Soco, and only a month or two before our departure had arrived in England from Brazil. He seemed to be a man who was very clever at his business, and who had gained the confidence of the Directors to that degree that they were most anxious to have his services again. He was also possessed of a strong common sense, which stood him in place of learning in his conversation.

Captain W.<sup>m</sup> Jeffery was a young man who made himself very agreeable to the Officers of the *Duke*. He was far from being polished or deep-read - but he was easy to be pleased and anxious to please, so that we were very comfortable together. What will not the "*Auri sacra fames*" not de.<sup>t</sup> [?] Had it not been for the temptation of a large Salary He would never have quitted his beloved home, to which his thoughts often turned, and rendered him melancholy. I suspect however that a four years residence in Brazil will materially alter the nature of his feelings, and that when the time arrives for his return, he will not experience the same degree of pleasure, which his immediate return would produce. Time will show.

#### Change produced in Cornwall by Wesleyism

Now with respect to Our Miners I have somewhat to say, but I forewarn you that I shall observe no method, but jot down what first occurred to me. In Auld Reekie you can have little idea of the anomalous genus of Cornish Miners. They possess a character peculiar to themselves - which character had some good as well as some bad points in it. Before the introduction of Wesleyism, they were little better than savages, but after that period a most wonderful alteration took place. It was then no unusual thing for those living near the sea coast to thank God whenever any unfortunate vessel was wrecked, as if the Almighty had intended only to bless them while he inflicted the extremity of misery upon many helpless creatures. So prevalent was this custom, that their consciences either became quite hardened or they were such excellent [cas- or cus-inety; or -insty ?], as to confound evil with good. Children from their earliest years were taught to pray for a storm and a wreck and woe be to the luckless mariners who were stranded on their inhospitable shores. If they escaped the dreadful perils of rocks, sands, or water, they found to their misfortune that death at the hands of men more merciless than the waves. It was the ancient maxim that whatever goods or merchandise were discovered having no legal that is living claimants became the undisputed property of the Discoverer, subtracting always a portion to the owners of the land. If it ever occurred that the proper owners of wreck were still alive, the justice of their claim was not necessarily admitted, nay was absolutely denied, as if God, in the mysterious ways of his providence, had appeared [toy ?] the storm off their coasts to give them a little, where not a shadow of a claim could lie, except for salvage. Fortunately, for the interests of humanity, and the character of Cornishmen, all these old things have passed, and all things have become new.

#### Incidental Remarks on Christianity & Infidelity

By the wonderful influence of the peace inculcating doctrines of Christ justice and humanity have taken the place of injustice and barbarous cruelty - honesty has supplanted dishonesty and shipwrecked mariners may now confidently look [for] Christian Charity and sympathy where their appearance would have called forth unalterable resolutions of deadly violence. How beautiful, how wonderful is the contrast - to me, who am far from being a fanatic or enthusiast, my faith and confidence in Christ and his doctrines receive a strength and confirmation, more than sufficient to overturn all the specious arguments of Devils or Infidels. I wonder that, considering how admirably adapted Christianity is to secure peace, tranquillity and obedience to the Laws of a kingdom or State; Infidels, who follow reason as their guide and seek alone the evil face of their species, have not left its doctrines to exert so beneficial an influence over the mass of the people? Are they mad or foolish in

opening the eyes of their underlings to the absurdity of the Christian doctrines, while they in the meantime suggest no better system of political economy, morality or religion in its room? Most assuredly they are - and their whole conduct shews that tis their pride that will not allow them to be silent as to their discovery, rather than an interest which they pretend to feel for the welfare of the whole human race. The question between Christianity and infidelity affords a wide field for argument & discussion - I do not mean to touch it, but have been unintentionally to the mention of the subject by the consideration of the rapid and beneficial effect of the introduction of true Christianity among the miners of Cornwall.

#### Miners &.<sup>c</sup>

The Cornish was once a peculiar language analogous I believe to their neighbours the Welsh - but I am told that since the death of a very aged female - not one in the County can speak the ancient language. In the room of an elegant and a copious original language, or of an accurate tho' adopted one, the Miners and inhabitants of many parts use a dialect which is perfectly or nearly unintelligible to English. On one occasion when I went to visit a mine not many miles distant from Falmo.<sup>th</sup> I actually had need of an interpreter to explain. So also with our mining party, who employed such quaint uncouth phrases together with terms that I had never heard and spoke with such an accent that it was not at all times I could understand their meaning. I had collected a few of the words with which they had previously used or enriched their adopted language but I have somewhere mislaid the paper, which would I dare say have amused you much - All that at present I can remember, is that when they wished to express that they had just finished tea, they said they had been "*taying*" - when we had a fresh or favourable wind, they called it a "*clever breeze.*"<sup>2</sup> Ex G. "*She & he*" for her and him, "*river*" for coves [?] "*wished*" for melancholy.

Amongst themselves and under those whom they had been accustomed to they Our Miners shewed a spirit of subordination, but as to submitting to any other jurisdiction that was quite out of the question. They seemed exceedingly jealous of their character, and any shew of contempt let loose all their wild passions at once. I verily believe that if left to themselves they would not scruple at having recourse to cruelty and murder, not assuredly for gain but when provoked or unrestrained. Being almost all stout resolute men and considering of their personal strength, they do not shrink from the argument of blows but they differ from the Irish in this that they do not ever fight for the love of fighting. They often quarrel amongst themselves and fight, but their disputes are generally followed by a sincere reconciliation. Their tempers are warm, mostly, but affectionate their attachments are apparently stout and lasting - in short with much in their character as deserving of reprehension, they combine more which is entitled to praise.

#### Remarks on Cornish Miners

All our party, with perhaps the exception of those who had formerly been abroad, were strict Methodists in form, altho' even Charity could not enable us to say, that all were so in spirit. We had Psalm singing - bible reading - and the offering up of prayers - acts which when performed with the heart and the spirit, are acceptable in the sight of God, but which in the present case, judging from the language and lax

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<sup>2</sup> Whisht = white (as in pallor); applied to feeling low, ill or under the weather.

morality maintained by some, only shewed that mere men after they have lost entirely the efficacy and power of religion in the heart, still fondly and inveterately cling to the dry and outward forms: I do not intend to assert that these men are worse than others - heaven forbid - I only recognise in them, as well as in others of inferior evangelical pretensions, the common principles of human nature, which often lead us for the sake of our own consciences & our own appearance in the eye of the world to cover our innate evil propensities and passions under the veil of austere virtue or strict religion. I have just excepted those who had formerly been abroad from the description of people now mentioned and I have the miners themselves observing that, before John or Samuel So and so left England, they were pointed out at home as patterns and examples to be imitated - but that after a short residence in a Popish country they had become exceedingly lax in their religious observances and by far too liberal in their theological opinions. As far as I observed myself this was certainly true - for the flame which had been kept brisk and vivid among neighbours and partial friends, too soon alas died away when far away from the ~~een~~ restraining observations of the strictest of their sect, and living among a people whose religion was more congenial & more indulgent to the corrupt nature of fallen man. This effect is by no means surprising and it required no inspiration to anticipate it.

It was amusing to remark the simplicity and ignorance of the world manifested by such of our company as had been all their lives accustomed to the narrow circle of a country village or limited society. If there had been among them any, of even moderate sensibility, I would have envied them their pleasurable feelings when so much novelty struck them on every side. The boundless ocean - the numerous and wonderful tribes of its inhabitants - the awfulness and majesty of a storm - the admirable government of a ship - when brilliant phenomenon of nature together with every other source of curiosity to be found by sea and land - all these must have excited wonder, pleasure, and admiration in their minds. Tis true that in coarse commonplace uneducated souls, no other emotions are produced than what arises from the gratification of a low curiosity which is satisfied with the surface, and never dives beyond - and whenever I see such I say with Horace "*olli profanum vulgus,*" tho' I would not go so far as to add "*et arceo.*"

Many laughable instances occurred, which betrayed the ignorance of some of our party. They were also exceedingly credulous - nothing being too monstrous or absurd to stagger their belief. One day I thought it necessary to prescribe a Soda Powder for one of the sick and after preparing it, we were on the point of giving it when a miner in great alarm begged us for heavens sake not to kill the patient by giving him boiling water.

My opinion, then, of the real Cornish miner, unacquainted with and uncontaminated by the vices of large towns or a residence abroad is that they are an honest hardworking race, deeply susceptible to religious feelings, and governing themselves accordingly - very irritable but readily appeased - not to be driven but without difficulty led - yielding a willingly obedience to the orders of their own Captains but resisting with pertinacity the interference of others.

#### Stay at Rio

It was expected by us that our stay in Rio would not exceed 24 hours - but we were detained four days. In the course of this time, altho' not very well, I went several times on shore. My recollections of Rio were tolerably distinct and I easily recognised

those streets which I had often traversed nearly more than two years ago. I observed no difference in the outward appearance of things - on the contrary I thought Rio had deteriorated, rather than improved. A few weeks before our arrival the Emperor, Empress & ~~Queen of Portugal~~ had gone to see the Mines, meaning thereby as I understand, the interior of the country without reference to any particular mine. He was not expected back for a considerable time and by some his going at all was censured as in the eyes of those, who professed great political sagacity, an important crisis was on the eve of breaking forth. Two or three days only previous to our coming, some disturbances had arisen, which were however easily repressed and complete order restored. During our stay no other particular occurred - the world wagged as usual - and at last on

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January - we left Rio de Janeiro for Monte Video and Buenos Ayres, places as yet unvisited by me.

Of our passage to Monte Video I can say nothing, being confined to my Cabin by indisposition. I can merely note that we came to Anchor before Monte Video on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.<sup>ry</sup> at 1 A.M. and sailed at 9 A.M. for Buenos Ayres with a pilot. M.<sup>f</sup> Geach, our Master having been seized 1<sup>st</sup> with inflammation of the Stomach, which was followed by Enteritis.

#### Arrive at Buenos Ayres - Fresh Water

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb.<sup>ry</sup> - arrived at Buenos Ayres at 10 A.M. For a week or two I was still confined to my Cabin, regretting accordingly that I could not go ashore. At the end of that time however, I managed to get on deck and survey the prospect around me. We were laying about 6 or 7 miles off the shore in front of the well known town of Buenos Ayres, which from our distance and the extensive lowness of its situation presented an appearance no ways remarkable. In the Outer Roads along with us were a few scattered vessels, merchantmen & men of war, while the greater number were anchored pretty close to the shore. From the little depth of the water the river was white and turbid, and apparently unfit for the purposes of life - a mistake which would soon be rectified by seeing a bucket of water brought over the sides, whenever any was required for drinking or for culinary purposes. The truth is that the water of the Rio de la Plata is esteemed very wholesome, and particularly so when you get it near Buenos Ayres, where it is said that in consequence of its being strongly impregnated with Sarsaparilla, great quantities of which grows at no great distance up the river, it is not only very wholesome for the healthy, but a certain restoration for those who are sick. "*Credat quicumque vult haid omnino incredulus audio.*" I found some difficulty at first in swallowing the muddy waters but finding it perfectly well tasted I had less scruples. If you wish it pure you must allow the sediment to settle and afterwards strain - but the process is tedious and thirst is impatient. Except near the mouth, where the water is brackish, you can obtain alongside fresh water for hundreds of miles in the River Plate - and no process consequently is easier than taking in the largest supply of water. As far at least as Buenos Ayres you can easily come to anchor in any part of the River, and indeed some of the pilots depend wholly upon their soundings to avoid the dangers which beset it in the shape of banks - sands &.<sup>c</sup> while taking a vessel up or down. Anchorage in front of Buenos Ayres, or any other part of the river, is not at all times very safe, as of times a land wind called Pampero (for wind coming from the Pampas) from the SW sweeps with the fury of a hurricane over

its surface, and commits incalculable mischief to the shipping. Fortunately its violence is of very short duration, whilst again you may experience several puffs in one day. During our stay of 5 weeks, we were always on the look out - but with one or two exceptions, we had tolerably moderate breezes. Sometimes however, I used to imagine it was blowing a gale above from the violent rocking motion of our Packet, but I found that this was owing to a very heavy ground swell.

#### Anecdote respecting River Plate

Before leaving the subject of the river Rio de la Plata, I may mention a story which I heard respecting it. Many, many years ago a vessel had suffered shipwreck, and all hands were lost except a few who escaped in the Jolly Boat. After having expended all their stock of fresh water, they experienced excruciating tortures from the calls of thirst - they had plenty of provisions, but the heavens denied them the fulfilment of the promised rain, with which the heavy clouds above seemed surcharged. Chance, or I should rather say Providence, directed their course to the River Plate - for four days they had been sailing in it ignorant that the object of all their hopes and most earnest prayers was within their reach, until one of them, while setting a sail, overcome by weakness fell overboard, and after rising above the surface communicated the joyful intelligence that they were in the midst of fresh water.

#### Difficulty in going ashore at Buenos Ayres

During our stay at Buenos Ayres our intercourse with the shore was often interrupted. If you left the ship in the morning - you could never depend upon the time of your return - perhaps on the same day, perhaps next day or probably not for several days after. The breeze - the swell - the tide, combined with the great distance were all causes which occasionally obstructed out visit to or departure from the shore. Suppose, however, that you had a beautiful day to go to the Town, you would set off, and after two or three hours rowing get ashore, while if the wind was fair an hour and an half would be sufficient. On approaching the City, you saw before you a naked beach and a heavy surf, so that no boat could land without the risk of being stoved in pieces. To remedy this defect numerous carts are in attendance, which are driven into the water as far as your boat - you cast anchor - embark on board these carts - and are carried ashore high and dry for a trifle.

Never having been ashore at Buenos Ayres, in consequence of an indisposition, I can say nothing from personal inspection of the appearance of the Town, but for the sake of completeness I shall extract a few paragraphs from a nautical publication.

“Buenos Ayres derives its name from its healthy climate. The City at a distance has a stately aspect.” This does not agree with my own opinion, which is that from its low situation it looks rather insignificant - and were it not for the spires, domes &.<sup>c</sup> of the Cathedral & the Churches it would seem (remember at a distance) like a large village.

“The houses in general are very low, having no more than a ground floor, with large court yards & mostly with a garden. The flat on which the City stands is only from 15 to 20 feet above the level of the water. The City is regularly built, has several handsome squares, with streets straight & broad, having raised footpaths on each side, but unpaved in the middle, and so soft that in rainy weather they are frequently impassable from ponds of mud. The population is estimated at 70,000.”

And such is a very brief account of the Town of Buenos Ayres - and should I ever afterwards visit it, I shall then give you my own opinion and impressions of it.

#### Great number of cattle - Beef Cheap

The principal exports of Buenos Ayres are hides, tallow, and horses - but the imports are general. The number of cattle bred in the province of Buen: Ayres and in the adjoining province is almost incredible. The immense plains called the Pampas afford abundant and excellent pasturage. Tens of thousands are daily slaughtered near the City. Merely for their hides and tallow - very little of the beef is used, whilst all the rest is left to be prey to innumerable birds, which in consequence assemble in vast flocks, and soon clean the bones of all meat, presenting the spectacle of birds naturally at enmity with each other amicably enjoying the same repast, and also of birds, whose natural habits are not carnivorous, eagerly devouring this unwonted food, whilst in the neighbourhood the fine river abounding with fish is from this cause almost totally deserted by aquatic birds.

You will naturally imagine that beef at least will be very cheap - so it is. In the town we usually gave 4 shillings for a whole quarter - whilst in the country you might have it for the taking. Many of the servants and slaves subsist wholly on this diet, and I heard of one gentleman (old Admiral Brown) who daily gave his men 25 lbs each without vegetables or bread. You may also doubt of the quality of the Beef, and consider it as of the worst. On the contrary it is very delicate and tender (as they never keep cattle beyond two or three years) with this drawback however that it is almost destitute of fat, and has therefore not that rich taste which a proper admixture of fat & lean communicates to our Beef. If you are ill natured enough still, or remember the old joke of my fondness for beef, you may expect me to burst out into raptures about the place, and wonder how I could ever be induced to leave this earthly paradise, where I could eat, eat even to satiety. But alas tis this very abundance which makes me withhold my need of approbation - I am still fond of roast beef - but roast beef - beef steak pies - in short beef in twenty shapes coming before me every day for weeks is enough to overcome the partiality of the most desperate devourer of beef. Providence has wisely ordained that our food shall be obtained with labour and some degree of difficulty, and has annexed to the difficulty of obtaining it a great deal of pleasure - withdraw this barrier, and let abundance overflow, when satiety succeeds, and disgust even to loathing will follow in the train. From all that I have said no one need want a meal of beef - and those who beg have other objects than a morsel of such food.

(I am told that the rapidity with which an ox is killed, and skinned, is wonderful. The whole is the work of a few minutes. Even should the animal be very obstreperous, they have a most effectual way of catching it and securing him, which is termed lassoing, of which I shall speak more fully when we come to Monte Video, where I saw it.)

It may perhaps not be un-amusing here to take notice of the method employed by the inhabitants of South America in catching their cattle. This plan is known among us by the name of lassoing, from the instrument used being termed lasso. It surpassed every thing that is known in Europe, that for the same purpose, being sure and effectual.



The lasso is a long rope made of hemp or hide, and has at the one end a large noose, while the other is plain and retained in the hand of the lassoer. When it is intended to be used, it is coiled up so as to be held in the left hand, while the right hand retains the noose very slackly - and then when the object to be aimed at is near, the lassoer whirls his weapon rapidly around his head and can throw it over any part of the body he pleases, over the head, horns, fore or hind legs of the animal. Positively you can have no idea of the excellent and almost unerring certainty of the Buenos Ayreans who will fearlessly pursue the horse at this greatest pace & the bullock when tossing his horns and tearing up the ground with rage, and never fail to secure them.

Suppose a furious bullock which it is your object to secure, the Gaucho (or countryman) who by the bye are most expertly mounted on his horse which is trained for the purpose, will pursue it and watching the proper opportunity will, throw his lasso over the horns, or as is generally the case, over one of the hind legs. As soon as he succeeds, he gives out his lasso rapidly and his horse aware of what is to come, plants his foot firmly so as to sustain the shock, which he will meet with when the enormous animal has reached the end of his tether, and rendered more ungovernable by the sudden check, exerts himself the more till in the midst of his struggles the lasso fairly tumbles him on the ground. The violence of the shock is oftentimes so great, that the poor horse absolutely rears on his hind feet, and finds the utmost difficulty in preserving his balance & not being capsized. As soon as the bullock is down, the hamstrings are immediately cut and he is completely mastered. The same mode of lassoing is adopted in catching horses in the open fields or in a wild state, and where an Englishman in his way would [take] an hour or more, the Buenos Ayrean will succeed in five minutes.

Besides the simple lasso there is another with three Balls, which have the effect of breaking the legs & these by their weight & consequent rapid rotatory motion entangle inextricably the poor animal. In this way it is said that many tigers are caught, and other wild animals.

I should imagine that a flying enemy might be successfully managed by this contrivance so simple, and when once the lasso is around his neck, he must instantly stop and yield or be as instantly strangled. I am not positively aware whether or not they ever resort to this exped.<sup>t</sup> I believe they do and woe betide the luckless traveller who is thus entrapped. If he perceives the impending danger, his only chance will be to trust to the speed of his horse - neck or nothing - helter skelter on he flies - imagination & fear drives him on, till he reaches a place of safety. But if alas he knows that he cannot place dependence upon the excellence of his horse, if luckily he is provided with pistols or other weapons, he must boldly rush upon his antagonist, close with him, pistol or *poignard* him for the lasso will avail him nothing when the object of his aim is too close to him, as it requires a considerable sweep to throw it with certainty. If as is possible, the traveller cannot or does not resort to either of these modes of saving himself, no time is given him for reflection or supplication - the lasso is thrown - its aim is unerring - it has passed over his head - he has hardly time to feel the unpleasing sensation of his leathern cravat, before he is unceremoniously tumbled from his horse - expeditiously stripped and may thank his stars, if the well known knife does not put an end to his joys & his pains - so true is it that it is a maxim here, as in England, that "the dead tell no tales."

I am glad that the frequenters of the Kings Highways are ignorant of this *ultra quod non* plan of coming at their booty. If they got an inkling of it I am sorely afraid that its superior elegance & facility would so strongly recommend it to their adoption that all however old would common the practice & soon reach as high perfection as

their masters. As a measure of precaution would not the legislature act very immediately in passing a law, whereby to learn lassoing should be declared felony, without benefit of clergy.

With all their skill in the use of the lasso, the Buenos Ayreans are neither, good shots or Anglers. Lassoing is all in all to them, and in our Packet an Indian boy, after successfully catching the poultry, pigs and sheep, totally failed when he endeavoured to apply the same principle to fish. And no wonder they are so expert - for it is a well known proverb that perseverance will overcome everything. So it has been with them. From infancy to old age hardly a day elapses but they use their favourite instrument and hence they seldom fail to succeed at the very first throw. With the horse & his lasso the Buenos Ayrean feels the same confidence as we with our pistol or our sword, deprive him of these, and he sinks into nothingness.

#### Cheapness of Meat at Buenos Ayres

All kinds of animal food are equally cheap with beef as mutton, pork, & poultry - a sheep or pig for two or three shillings - a large turkey for somewhat less and so on. In short did a man place his supreme happiness in the indulgence of a gross appetite, he need go no farther than Buenos Ayres in search of his earthly paradise.

#### Horses at Buenos Ayres

Besides these animals, which are used for food, you have here also an almost innumerable breed of horses affording to the equestrian the most ample and cheapest means of following his favourite exercise. In fact you can often purchase a passable horse for little more than the hire of one for a day in England. All the natives, as a matter of course learn to ride from their earliest years, and continuing thro' life the daily practise of galloping for miles, they become the most fearless and dexterous horsemen in the world, yielding neither to the Arab nor the Cossack of the Don. This superabundance of Horses, recalls to my mind an old saying among us, when a person happened to express a desire for a thing which was unattainable "If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride." This pithy maxim, so just and so popular in Scotland, is totally inapplicable in its original application in Buenos Ayres - for it is a fact, that nothing is more common or less thought of, than the circumstance of beggars soliciting charity on horseback. I little thought that in my travels that I should find such an illustration - but we are always learning. A law is in existence that no person shall gallop thro' the streets of the City. To indemnify themselves for this restriction, you always see them at a hard gallop, when beyond the walls. And no ground can be better adapted for the purpose than the vast plains of the Pampas, without hillock or eminence, and extending for hundreds of miles. These plains commence immediately beyond the town, and thither the townsmen scamper, when released from the duties of the store or the counting House.

#### Rapidity of Riding

In traversing these immense levels, you must [take] a guide, whose conduct would somewhat surprise you. As soon as all is ready, off he sets at full speed - never stops - never looks behind him to see if you are following him. Your object must be to look sharp - to endeavour to keep up with him or content to be left behind. In this way an

almost incredible number of miles will be covered over each day - and this rapidity is often continued for a fortnight or more on the stretch. It matters not if your horse is knocked up or not - spare horses are always to be had, and they never think of looking after a broken winded horse.

#### Fruits and Vegetables of B. Ayres

From what I have lately mentioned of the abundance and consequent cheapness of meat, you can easily set forth what we would call a sumptuous repast at a small expense. But somehow or another living for a short time in the City costs you infinitely more than you would anticipate. Lodgings, accommodations, labour, and several other items are high - so that at last the balance is not much in your favour. Wines and spirits are plentiful and reasonable and good. The fruits, with which the dessert table is supplied are such as are well known to us - Strawberries - apples - pears - grapes & peaches, which are to [be] had here for the plucking - besides plums, melons & oranges. But all these are greatly inferior to the same fruits in Europe, preserving the same form & size but coarse and tasteless with few exceptions. Their water and musk melons are very fine and when not indulged in to excess are excellent [aljinsants ? abjinsants] for quenching thirsts. While we were in the Harbour, the vegetables from the country were good but exceedingly dwarfish, consisting of lettuces - turnips like marbles - greens which could easily be dispatched at a mouthful.

Leaving now the general description, which I have just been giving, I shall revert more immediately to what occurred while we were laying at anchor.

#### Carnival at Buenos Ayres

On Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February the Carnival commenced and lasted for three days. This festival so common in catholic countries and anxiously looked forward to as the period of unbounded license is now everywhere much on the wane and will soon at least in the Northern hemisphere cease altogether. On the present occasion the ceremony was shorn of almost all its splendour - The most important part viz. the Masquerade was strictly prohibited by the minister of Police on account of the present excited state of public feelings on the Subject of politics - to this I shall allude presently at greater length. All the liberty which was allowed was the throwing of water in various ways - the most common plan is to fill egg shells with water then close up the aperture & keep them for use. These missiles are liberally discharged by men and women known or unknown. It is of no use to get out of humour when you receive a dozen or two bang on the eyes - mouth - or ears - your ill humour only provokes laughter and an increased annoyance from your fair antagonists. Your case is not wholly hopeless - if thro' ignorance you are unprovided, a few paper dollars will procure you the means of revenging yourself, as their persons, who get a good profit by hawking about the Eggs shot.

This war of egg shells, however, is common & vulgar. By way of being more elegant some gentlemen go about having bottles filled with perfumed water, which they discharge most liberally among the ladies, who in their turn carry similar bottles underneath their shawls and return the gentlemen's water favours with interest. Hence from doors, from windows, from roof - from streets, the water, the egg shells are continually pouring - in individual parties & reencounters the mirth and fun grow fast

and furious until one or another is compelled to quit the field discomfited or from want of ammunition.

It is hoped by the respectable people that such childish, such puerile amusements will soon cease to be followed - a circumstance which would certainly be followed by the most beneficial effects.

#### Unitarians v. Federalists

In have said that the Masquerade, which is the substance, while the other is merely the shadow of the Carnival, was prohibited by the Minister of Police. In order to understand why such a restriction was necessary, you must know that a war involving Buenos Ayres and other provinces had just broken out, and it was feared that during the licenses of Masquerade some political disturbance connected therewith might break forth. I do not exactly understand the objects of the war fully nor the bearings of all the parties engaged - But what I know amounts to this "That there are two grand divisions of this part of Southern America, & the one styling themselves Unitarians, the other Federalists. The wish of the former is that the whole of the country (including I believe 13 provinces) shall be united under one heard or rather form of Government - that all shall be subject to the same laws and regulations and that thus one grand & powerful republic shall be formed out of a great number of small & but slightly connected states. The Federalists again are anxious that matters should remain in their former state viz. that each province shall have its own laws, and its own rulers, and be totally independent in its internal administration of every other - at the same time admitting that all should be connected for their mutual advantage and security as are regular republics.

These two powerful bodies these Unitarians and Federalists divide all the people of the Argentine Republic - party spirit runs very high - but it is said that the Unitarians have decidedly the greatest number of partisans. The boundary provinces have taken up the cause of the federation, and the principal are Buenos Ayres - Santa Fe - Entrerios and Corrientes, while the Interior provinces, at the head of which is Cordova, have raised the standard of Unitarianism. General Paz styles himself Protector of the Interior, and is Commander in chief of the National army: General Lopez the Governor of Sante Fe is Commander in chief of the Confederate army, and has commenced the Campaign with his army in two divisions, the one under the command of Felipe Iberra, the other of General Quiroga. During our stay at Buenos Ayres several unimportant engagements took place, which the Buenos Ayres always represented as being invariably in favour of their side - but I much miss doubt the correctness of their statements, as there is no free press.

#### British Newspaper - Disturbed State of Buenos Ayres

Every Saturday we had the perusal of a small paper, called *The British Packet or Argentine News*.<sup>3</sup> I never could gain any certain intelligence from it. It was so contrarily and oracularly worded, that the most acute lawyer could never [find] the slightest symptom of partiality for either party - and all you could learn from it was merely a knowledge of the bulletin published by the Buenos Ayrean Government, which were abundantly meagre and bombastical. The Editor, indeed, cannot be blamed - nay he deserves the greatest praise for his good general ship. His course lay

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<sup>3</sup> The title of this newspaper, as with the *Falmouth Packet* back at home, emphasising the importance of the Post Office packets as a primary source of information and intelligence - whatever its quality.

between Scylla (the Unitarians) on the one hand and Charibdis (the Federalists) on the other, and as a foreigner he naturally endeavours to steer safe clear of these rocks on which it was now so easy to split.

In consequence of the state of the country, we were kept at Buenos Ayres for five weeks - and during that time whenever anyone went on shore we anxiously awaited their return to learn the news. Various and contradictory reports of the state of parties were brought off - but all agreed that to be the state of universal bustle & preparation which prevailed in the City. An active impressment was carried on under a horse patrol, and foreigners whether English, French or Americans were not exempt from challenge, and unless provided with a protection, from their respective Consuls, were unceremoniously packed off to the army. Several instances of resistance on their part occurred, and on one occasion the Captain of a merchant vessel was stopped and his protection demanded, which he produced. No sooner did the villains get it into their possession, than in contempt they tore it in pieces, which so enraged the Captain that he drew a pistol from his pocket and shot the man who did it, dead on the spot - no notice of this transaction was taken by the Government, but it produced the beneficial effect of rendering the Press Gang more wary of interfering with foreigners.

This fact with regard to the impressment being thus indiscriminate will appear very extraordinary at home, but I was as much surprised to learn that, By a Decree of 14<sup>th</sup> Oct.<sup>r</sup> 1830, every foreigner settled in the country must be enrolled in the militia, whist it is absolutely indispensable that the temporary resident should furnish himself with a certificate from his Consul.

I think it says little for the strength and resources of the Buen: Ayrean that they are forced to have recourse to the odious system of an impressment. The truth is there are but few who are willing or are patriotic enough to leave the shelter & Comforts of a town for the privations & hardships, not to mention the dangers of a campaign. All who can escape, employ the opportunity and besides it is well known that a great number of the people wish well to the enemy, being infected with Unitarian principles. It is a saying that 'Novelty is always pleasing.' But it may be confidently quoted against its truth that the Novelty of the military press gang is detestable, & never pleases.

To the European the tremendous fuss and importance occasioned by the squabbles of a few petty states are eminently ridiculous. The whole disposable of the two armies does not exceed few thousands - and every trifling engagement is magnified by popular prejudice, as if the result of a skirmish, wherein 30 or 40 men had fallen could justify such hopes, as could only be realised by a general & decisive victory - whatever be the final upshot of the matter "*vae victis*" !!!

#### Remarkable Character at Buenos Ayres

I have now told you all that I know of the war politics of Buenos Ayres and shall take my leave of the tiresome place with one or two further "*notanda.*" There is at present here a very remarkable woman a *Mrs. Clarke*. In her youth, she had committed some crime which brought her under the cognisance of the law and procured her a passage out to Botany Bay in 1798.<sup>4</sup> On their passage the female convicts, who had been

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<sup>4</sup> One year out in his date - Mrs Clarke was almost certainly one of the female convicts shipped for transportation on board the *Lady Shore* in the spring on 1797. Following a bloody mutiny on August 1<sup>st</sup> 1797, some of the officers were put off in a boat near Rio. The ship was carried into Montevideo on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, where she was condemned as a Spanish prize. The mutineers were made prisoners

indulged with too much liberty rose up, and with the assistance of the males overpowered the soldiers and sailors, taking upon them the entire management of the Ship, with which they arrived at Rio de Janeiro. In this affair *Mrs. Clarke* bore a conspicuous part, and if report does not belie her. She murdered the Captain with whom she was then cohabiting by dividing his throat with a pair of scissors – After leaving Rio, she finally settled at Buenos Ayres where she had now resided for upwards of 20 years. I understand she has endeavoured to atone for her youthful errors by an amended life. Formerly when there were few English Merch.<sup>ts</sup> at B. Ayr.<sup>s</sup> she expended many hundreds of dollars in procuring decent funerals for such English as died, who would otherwise have been left a prey to filthy dogs & obscene birds. Whenever too she found her countrymen in distress from poverty or other causes, she aided and relieved them to the utmost of her powers. By these means and the propriety of her conduct she has acquired great respect among the English residents, and subsists respectably upon an annuity she has in England. She has often wished to visit her native country again and great interest has been made to procure her a pardon, but the answer to such requests has always been that she had better remain where she is and not venture to England, where she will be hanged.

To beguile the tedium of our enforced stay in the River Plate, we had recourse to fishing – not without success. There were only two kinds of fish which we caught, one called by our sailors the Cat Fish, and the other no one knew the name. Both were excellent eating, the latter being preferred as it [was] not so fat as the other - & was of the size of a moderate cod, with thick scales. The Cat fish was very peculiar. It[s] mouth was rounded not sharp and pointed. From the upper part of the head (if I remember aright) on each side of it were two long pliant excrescences of the size of whip cord, while below were two smaller ones, making up I think in all six of these feelers. These look very much like the whiskers of a cat and I wonder much what purpose they are destined to serve. The fish is likewise furnished with two lateral and one dorsal fin and each fin is furnished with a sharp bony substance, which Providence has intended for the protection of the possessor. When touched or irritated, it immediately struggles and its fins, thus armed are projected out to their greatest extent. If you are not aware of this peculiarity and incautiously seize it, the pain which follows will doubtless startle you & teach you a less[on] of caution in future. Several instances have occurred where amputation of the fingers and even the arm have been obliged to be resorted to in order to save the life – tetanus or Lock Jaw have also been the result of a wound from these strange Cats. The method then of securing yourself from them while you are engaged in extracting the hook, is to irritate them and cause them to raise their fins, and then to get these fins between your fingers and thereby confine them. I never saw such fish before and we have found it only in the River Plate.

Another peculiarity in it is that when caught it utters a loud, distinct cry, apparently expressive of pain or grief.

The wished for day of our departure at length arrived, and the Consul, despairing of the speedy arrival of the next Packet, for which he had detained us, resolved to dispatch us. Accordingly, having received the Mail on board, at 3 A.M. on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March we left Buenos Ayres for Monte Video.

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of war, and the female convicts were distributed as servants amongst the Spanish ladies – Charles Bateson, *The Convict Ships*, Glasgow 1959 (& 69).

The weather during the day was beautiful, and I enjoyed greatly our sail down the magnificent River Plate. The wind was light and favourable. Our old Pilot a M.<sup>r</sup> Watts who had taken us up also piloted us back, having been on board of us all the time we lay at Buenos Ayres.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> – arrived at Monte Video at one P.M. and as our proposed stay was at least to be 48 hours we came to anchor near the Town. I did not go ashore with the Captain & Master, looking upon the scene before one with all the curiosity and interest which novelty seldom fails to call forth – for as I told you before, an attack of indisposition confined me to my Cabin when last we anchored here. Before me lay extended a very moderate size Bay of a semi-circular form -



Monte Video

[sketch of the bay from the text : enlarged]

- on the left hand of which at the entrance was a hill of tolerable elevation with a light house and signal station on the top, which has given the name to the place, and on the right directly opposite was the Town. In the centre and at the distant extremities of the Bay were several merchant-men of considerable [burthen] with many others of small burthen. The appearance of the country from the mountain on the one side to the Town on the other was very barren & dreary in aspect but it being rather high the prospect was very confined. On the Town itself we could hardly express as yet a decided opinion. It seemed to have very few large or public buildings, the towers of the Cathedral being the only object which attracted your attention. In its situation it appears to be of great strength to seaward, but in truth in viewing a place for the first time and from distance, you can only pronounce upon the general impression, until a more particular inspection confirms or overthrows your first opinion - and therefore to judge rather for myself on

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – I took advantage of our boat going on shore, and landed at a wooden Wharf, where all boats must come. This wharf was of considerable length, projecting into the water, and had two flights of steps where persons could disembark, besides several pulleys for the hoisting in of goods. It might well be called a scandal place for here assembled politician, Idlers, merchants, *et hoc omnee genaes*, fighting battles, settling the affairs of state and nations – discussing commercial speculations

& projects, and indulging not a little in private scandal & family chit-chat. For the convenience of the above personages two benches ran along the whole length and to shelter them from the Sun and from the rain the place was covered in with a substantial roof at a considerable elevation.

Leaving this useful, if not elegant promenade, you came at once to the streets of the Town, and if you are at first undecided which direction to follow, there is nothing here to guide you. No very wide & clean streets invite you to pace its *trottoir*, no object worthy of remark meets your eye and ha\_esits your curiosity, but to the right and to the left of you are two equally dirty, narrow and disagreeable roads, which will lead you round the ramparts. Fortunately I was not under the necessity of chusing either, but striking right from the Mole (as the Wharf is called) passed thro' a tolerably decent street to the American Hotel, kept by a Mr. Titus. After a short time spent there, I by myself, for I could get no one to brave with me the heat of the day and the dust of the road, peregrinated the Whole Town, round the ramparts – up to the Cathedral &.<sup>cc</sup>

The impression made upon my mind after my return was in general very unfavourable to Monte Video. There are a very few tolerably good streets, with many very good houses & well filled shops – They are in general of a proper width – the footpaths broad & well paved, but the middle of the street is full of holes and horse-traps, by which you ran no small risk of breaking your neck. The rest of the Streets not included in the above are filthy, narrow & dirty, replete with dust in hot weather and with mud in wet. Most of the houses are only one storey, with flat roofs. Some of them are painted or white washed, whilst others are seen in all the plain redness of the original brick. In the outskirts of the Town the appearance of the habitations is most miserable. There are numerous houses in ruins – the rank weed & the noxious herbs unchecked reared themselves into the air close to and encroaching upon the habitations of the poor, as I found them afterwards to be. When first I saw the low and narrow erections thus surrounded, I really thought that these constituted the last abode of the dead, as they exactly resembled some of the larger tombs which you often meet with in our church yards, and was certainly surprised to find them to be the residence of poor whites and still poorer blacks.

The whole Town is encircled with a wall in its whole circumference, which is in some parts more solid & stronger than in others. As far as I could see this wall is neither so well mounted nor so well manned as it ought to be, and would afford but a feeble resistance to a strong English force. Towards the land it seemed to me that an attack might be made with every prospect of success, but I believe that in the opinion of military Engineers – Monte Video is looked upon as a very strong position, being built on a hill or eminence & commanding the whole bay. I have said that the Cathedral is the only remarkable building and as a matter of curiosity I went to visit it. It is of very considerable size, & is dedicated to the Deity, the virgin Mary & several of the Saints. It is built of well burnt bricks, which meet the eye of the spectator in their full staring redness of colour. It has a large dome, two Towers, the one covered with porcelain, the other plain, whether done intentionally or not I cannot learn. When you enter the Cathedral you will find it to be divided into a large broad centre or body, and two sides or aisles of rather narrow dimensions. In these sides are several shrines, where you can perform your weekly devotions and for Sunday worship there is our saviour on the Cross with his Sainted Mother placed at the extremity of the building and directly fronting the centre division, to which I have alluded. There are also several very good pictures but my knowledge of the Sainthood did not enable me to understand the subjects of them. Taken altogether the appearance and ornaments of



the interior of the Cathedral had no pretensions to be styled magnificent or elegant – and the best you could say of it was that it was lofty & spacious. You must not imagine from what I say of the Cathedral being the only remarkable object & that there are no spires in Monte Video, that there are therefore no other places, to which religion is especially consecrated. Altho' the Town is of very inconsiderable extent, there are not wanting convents, nunneries and Chapels – indeed I am told that of these there is no lack.

### Visit the Chamber of Representatives

I regret much that my want of acquaintance as much as my ignorance of the language prevented me from becoming observing the different public institutions – the schools of education & other interesting matters. By mere chance a gentleman (a Mr. Constant, Surgeon to whom I was much obliged for his kindness & civility) invited me to accompany him to the Chamber of representatives. Their meetings of this body, (the institution of which is in imitation of the forms of Europe) are held in a large building, exactly opposite the Cathedral. You ascend by a spacious staircase to the height of two stories and enter by a small door into the Parliament Room. The door was open to all who pleased, and no sentinel kept watch there to observe or control you. Altho' tis true, at the bottom of the stairs there was a regular guard house. I found myself when I entered in a large, and long Hall, and in the midst of an audience of about 100 respectable people, clean, decently dressed, and amongst whom the utmost silence and attention prevailed. Right in front of us (for I too had taken possession of an excellent chair, one of those placed for the accommodation of the public) was a strong palisade of wood, and beyond it a clear open space, well carpeted, and furnished with benches & chairs for the members of the House. At the extremity of this place was a table elevated very high, covered with green, at which Sat the President or Speaker with his silver bell, and at his right hand again was a person who seemed engaged in writing the resolutions & motions. Immediately behind the Presidents back was a painting representing the leap of Liberty and the arms of Monte Video, in a very tolerable style of execution. The Hall was very well lighted indeed by Chandeliers and mirrors, - and the windows were concealed by elegant red moreen curtains, surmounted by an eagle with an olive branch in his beak. In short the Chamber where the Monte Vidian Representatives met was far superior in point of accommodation, and (excepting our Kings throne) and appearance to St. Stephens or the House of Lords.

From a hasty review of the plenishing of the House I soon turned to the scene which was enacting before me by the different members. During my stay several feegan (I had almost said, but that is impossible, stood up) to speechify. They commenced their harangue in a slow deliberate tone and appeared to me a stranger to be conversing with not addressing the chairman. In a short time however they fanned or talked themselves into a furry – slapped their hands with a loud noise upon their thighs. At other times set their arms akimbo, and yelled so loud to the utmost bent of their voices, as if they meant to crack their throats or split the ears of their hearers. Speech produced speech – reply was succeeded by Reply – and the Ministerial & opposition benches were set by the ears. In all their speeches little correct elocution was displayed, and the custom which they follow and to which I am going to allude, whilst they address the Speaker, prevented them from exhibiting their powers of graceful gesture, & how far they could come up to direction delivered by Hamlet when he says “*Suit the action to the word & the word to the Action.*” Will it be

believed there, that the polite and civilised Monte Vidians address their President setting a posture which, under such circumstances, with is implies contempt or disrespect. Of course of this custom I am ignorant – but I believe that they have a plausible reason. It is to say the least of it a very bad one, and is detrimental to all good oratory, since it precludes the exercise of that grand principle in Eloquence, laid down by Demosthenes “*Action! Action! Action!*”

After writing for nearly an hour, the President a very fine looking man rung a silver bell, upon which all the members rose up and left the Hall and we followed this example.

#### Trade of Monte Video

Monte Video was formerly a place of great trade, but has lately declined very much and now dollars are scarce where Doubloons formerly abounded. This was the great bone of contention between Brazil and Buenos Ayres, and the end of the inglorious contest was the declaration of its independence, and the decline of its prosperity. The Exports and Imports are the same as at Buen: Ayres – but that river state has completely carried away the palm of success, from the abundance of superiority of their cattle.

#### Excellent Mode of Catching Horses at Monte Video

Horses too are abundant and afford the pleasure of exercise at a cheap rate, and this leads me to tell you that even I, who you know was no horseman ventured to mount a nag, and steer for the country. With this view I and a companion went to a horse repository and engaged two horses from among an immense number. I of course requested to be supplied with a quiet steady gentle beast. As all the animals were ranging about in an open yard at perfect liberty, it was necessary to employ some mode of catching them – and to this mode called lassoing I have already alluded, promising some account of it. The groom, having singled out the proper horse, took a long rope with a wide noose at one end of it, and then approaching cautiously, and holding the lasso coiled up in his hand, he began to whirl it round with great rapidity as you would a sling, and altho’ at first motion the horse took alarm & fled, he threw the lasso with such dexterity that the loop passed over the horses head, while he had hold of the other. No sooner was the noose fairly on than the animal set off at full gallop, followed by the groom who prudently kept the lasso slack, or otherwise he himself would have overturned & [been] dragged along. By little & little – by tightening and slackening – the horse was gradually brought near a stout wooden post, round which the rope was passed as a purchase, & in this manner he was easily secured. The whole process was managed with great skill – such as can only be acquired by constant practice. Having secured our horses & being supplied with an English saddle & the small narrow stirrups of the country off we set, not without many misgivings on my part, as to the final result of our Journey. The nature of the ground in the immediate neighbourhood of the Town being hilly uneven & full of deep ruts and holes obliged us to observe a sober pace, and in so far it was well for me, as I could then manage to keep my seat. This lucky circumstance did not favour me long as we soon came upon a tolerably level road, I was afraid to gallop lest I should be thrown & endured much from the confounded canter of my beast. I dare say I cut but a miserable figure in the eyes of the Gauchos or country people, all of whom have been accustomed from their earliest years to trot – to canter – to gallop,

especially if you know that the last time I was on horseback was when I was thrown on Portabello sands from off poor Frank's Hills poney, in the days of our boyhood. I determined however not to let the thought of this disturb my jaunt, and after a little practice I managed pretty well in my own opinion. We passed about 2 or 3 miles out a neat village, with houses of one storey & flat roofs. I do not recollect the name of it. Many of the houses were marked with a cross above the door, which I was told was always done, when the master of the family died. Passing this village we saw a pretty extensive tract of country, but poor, miserable & barren. Houses were to be seen here and there, with small encloses but the whole presented rather a dreary aspect.

During our ride we fell in with great numbers of Gauchos, on horseback and always at a hard gallop, as if themselves & horses were part & parcel of one body. They were dressed in long loose cloaks, with wide trowsers underneath and invariably of the brightest & gaudiest colours, as I have [found] always to be the case among ignorant people & savages. We saw likewise several women well dressed in the country fashion and all of them seated like the men. This practice is however never adopted when they go into the Town, as it is not etiquette, but that I am told that as soon as they reach the country, they prefer this plan & adopt it.

In three or four hours we returned from our ride and restored our nags to the place where we found them, not more to their than to my own satisfaction, as I was heartily fatigued by my novel exercise, and glad that I had escaped all broken bones.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March – to day we had expected to receive our Mail at 2 P.M. and had no desire to remain at our present anchorage any longer. Unfortunately for us H.M. Packet *Frolic*, Lt. Green,<sup>5</sup> arrived here early this morning and proved to be the cause of our detention for eight days longer. For Before our departure from Buenos Ayres, our Commander had received a written order from Mr. Woodbine Parish our Consul there, requiring him, if either the *Frolic* had already reached Monte Video, or should come while we were there, to remain until he should receive additional dispatches from him for our Government. But if either of those circumstances should not happen – our Commander was after his usual detention of 48 hours to set sail for Rio. This further time therefore I spent chiefly on shore, and do not recollect any thing farther to mem down respecting the Mount as the place is familiarly called.

During this time I received much attention from Mr. Constant, a young English Surgeon here – was introduced to several of his Spanish relations, who all said that themselves and houses were at my disposal, the polite form of complimentary Spaniards – and one afternoon got a horse & accompanied him to see several of his patients in the country. All his practice lies among the Natives & as he has proved himself to be a very clever Surgeon, he is much employed.

Wednesday 16 March – after our involuntary detention of eight days, we bid a final adieu to Monte Video at 2 P.M. with light favourable breezes.

Thursday 17 – fine weather and favourable winds.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – very fine weather & favourable breeze.

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> – fair wind and pleasant weather.

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<sup>5</sup> HM Packet *Frolic*, commanded by Lt. William Pringle Green, was one of the Admiralty's 10 gun brigs adapted for the packet service. She had sailed from Falmouth for the Brazils on July 9<sup>th</sup>, and was on her way home to Falmouth where she would arrive on December 4<sup>th</sup> 1830..

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – foul wind and squally weather.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – foul wind and fine weather.

Tuesday 22<sup>d</sup> - foul wind and fine weather.

Wednesday 23<sup>d</sup> – this morning wind fair – pleas.<sup>t</sup> W.<sup>r</sup>

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> – fine weather. Wind fresh & nearly fair.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> – morning cloudy but pleasant. Afternoon fine – fresh and favourable breezes.

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> – fine weather – nearly a calm all day – fresh and favourable breezes in the Afternoon.

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – extremely variable weather – wind variable. In sight of land early this morning. At night close to the entrance of Rio Harbour.

#### Detained at Rio

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – beautiful W,<sup>r</sup> By the assistance of a light breeze and of the tide we came to anchor at 2 P.M. in the Harbour of Rio.

As soon as the anchor was dropped, the Captain being ill of the Gout, the Master was sent on shore with the Mail, and I accompanied him, together with a D.<sup>r</sup> Villa and M.<sup>r</sup> M. Gibbon, our passengers. We first took the Mail to M.<sup>ts</sup> Peppins Post Office Agent, with whom for the first I became acquainted. We found her to be always very civil and polite, and she on the present occasion requested us to wait for a short time, and she would send for a conveyance to take us to the Ministers house with his dispatches. This soon appeared in the shape of a covered gig with two horses and was on the whole a tolerable vehicle, in which we contrived very comfortably to be trundled along to Arthur Ashtons Esq.<sup>r</sup> H.M. Charge d’Affaires and Secretary of Legation, opposite the public gardens. This gentleman, or the Ambassador if there is any, has the power of detaining the Packet, for as long a time as he conceives the public service may require. As if we were fated to meet with nothing but detentions and delays wherever we go, M.<sup>r</sup> Ashton found it necessary in the present state of public affairs, to delay dispatching the Packet for a fortnight – and when you know how matters have gone on, you will think that he acted in so doing with the utmost propriety. I propose, therefore, to defer every other thing and remark till I have given you at some length the history and occurrences of our stay – intending however at the end of this History to detail those circumstances & observations which occurred to me unconnected with the chain of public events.

#### General Remarks

As in the natural world certain phenomena which, altho’ capable of exciting great interest and curiosity from their novelty or beauty, might be buried in oblivion if unattended with important consequences – acquire additional interest and are long remembered when they are found to be the forerunners of some dreadful calamity,

whether occasioned by an earthquake, an inundation or a storm – so it is in the world of human society. Certain events, whether in public or in private, take place and for the time they are interesting, but being followed by no remarkable catastrophe, they are speedily forgotten. When, however, some very important and unlooked for changes spring from them as their causes, they are then raised in our estimation to a rank of the highest importance – they are carefully recalled to our recollection, and much pains is employed in retracing them with all their connections, until we arrive at the final result.

To apply the above reflection to the present subject of my letter, which leads to nothing less than a revolution in Brazil, I may observe, that the apparently trifling events which preceded this change might have been forgotten, if they had had their origin merely in the temporary ebullition of party spirit, and had led to nothing serious or permanent – but being, as it were, the first slight commotions and rumblings which indicated the approach of the Earthquake shock, which has taken place, they merit now to be carefully remembered & retraced. Such in its fullest extent must be the test of the future historian, if he hopes to fulfil his duty with success and fidelity – but as to myself I do not pretend to take upon me to perform his part as my opportunities were so limited – nor is it necessary to do so, since my object is solely the information and amusement of you and of my other friends. I shall however endeavour to the best of my power and means to give you some idea of the occurrences which have happened in Rio, and if you find some omissions in my account, and some links awaiting to complete the chain of events, you will at least learn what I saw & knew myself, or heard from competent authority.

#### Account of Disturbances in Rio – History of the Revolution

You may remember that when I wrote you from Rio about ten or twelve weeks from this date, I mentioned that the Emperor had gone to the province of Minas Geraes, accompanied by the Empress, with what views I cannot say. Matters at Rio were then apparently tranquil, although indeed I heard some slight rumours which however were contradicted to me by a respectable merchant – and we set sail for the River Plate without entertaining the least suspicion that so momentous a crisis as the present was so near, or even probable. During our unusually long absence we heard no news of importance from Brazil, and it was only when we returned at the latter end of March, that the intelligence of the disturbed state of the City was first received.

We found that about a fortnight before our arrival, the Emperor had come down in great haste, and by a different route from the mines, and had anticipated by several weeks the expected period of his return, to the surprise of some, and the disturbance of others. This proceeding was rendered necessary by the state of public affairs, which could no longer be concealed. Notwithstanding the shortness of the time and the unexpectedness of the circumstance partial illuminations took place – but unfortunately the Portuguese embraced the opportunity of evincing their national feelings against the Brazilians. This will require some explanation. You are probably not aware that the Luzo-Braziliana are very numerous – that they are very wealthy and compose the most industrious portion of the community. They entertain a rooted contempt for the native Brazilians and take no pains to conceal this feeling. They treat them as persons of an inferior mould to themselves and would have spurned with contempt the idea of comparison. In the earlier period of the History of Brazil, when that country was a dependency of Portugal, and the offices of its Government confined to Portuguese, the superiority of the natives of the Mother country was

imperiously exercised and as yieldingly submitted to, because it was acknowledged. But when Brazil was separated from all political connection with Portugal and had been raised to the rank of an independent Empire, governed by its own Head, and under particular laws – and when as a necessary consequence, the Natives obtained a share in the Administration, they began to entertain higher notions of their own importance, and to dispute the claim to superiority which they had once admitted. Hence arose renewed hatred and contempt on the one hand, and hatred not wholly unmixed with dread on the other. I have myself seen instances where these feelings have been manifested, and we may fairly conclude that now the native Brazilians conscious of their strength, are glad to be able to enter the lists against their enemies, and will consider it their greatest triumph to have delivered themselves from the galling thralldom in which they had been held. Having given you this explanation of the views with which the native Brazilians and Luzo-Brazilians have formerly regarded, and even now regard each other, you will be easily able to understand what follows.

From the 11<sup>th</sup> of March the rivalries and disputes between these two dissimilar and repellent parts of the population have been gradually increasing in violence, and indicated some approaching crisis on the one hand or the other. On the 13<sup>th</sup> and three succeeding days, the Portuguese are accused of having conducted themselves towards the Brazilians in the most insulting manner, of having officiously and prejudicially interfered in the political affairs of the country and of having maltreated those whose government and country had so generously extended protection to them. Amidst the shouts and *vivas* which welcomed the Emperor, many expressions, which were calculated to keep alive old animosities, and national distinctions were heard from the mobs of Portuguese which had assembled, and naturally enough excited the indignation of the Brazilians. It is not a little singular that the natives of Madeira resident at Rio were anxious to exonerate themselves from any charge of having participated in the insults and outrages offered to the Brazilians on that occasion, and published a declaration to that effect in the public Prints, to which was attached a number of signatures. Perhaps from theirs being also a dependant country, they regard the natives of Portugal with the same feelings as the Brazilians, and if so their story may be credited and the latter justified in according their belief to it.

The 25<sup>th</sup> being the 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Oath taken by his Majesty the Emperor to the Constitution, the occasion was eagerly seized by the Brazilians as most favourable for displaying *their* sentiments, and expressing *their* wishes. The *Te Deum* was sung in the Imperial Chapel, a levee was held – different orders were conferred, and the troops were reviewed. At night illuminations took place, and every public demonstration of joy exhibited. The Emperor himself when riding along the line of troops raised his hat and gave three *vivas* for the Constitution and in return, they shouted “Long live the Emperor and his august family,” to which it is reported that some added the qualifying and saving clause, “while he is constitutional.”

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of March we arrived at Rio, and on my first landing I was struck with the great number of people wearing the Brazilian cockade. Men and boys – blacks and whites were equally so distinguished. No other cockade was *then* to be remarked. I had expected at least to have seen some with the Portuguese national emblem, knowing the state of parties – but not one was visible. I learned afterwards that only one or two days after the disturbances of the 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>, the Portuguese had assumed the National Brazilian cockade, whether from insulting bravado or fear I cannot say. I should imagine that the latter feeling was the cause of this, but the Brazilians

themselves pretended to consider this assumption of their cockade as a token on the part of Portuguese of their alleged sovereignty and consequently as an affront of the most aggravated nature to the Natives of the Country. With this idea in their minds they had raised a loud outcry, and in unison with the general feeling, the municipal body of the very Loyal and Heroic City of Rio de Janeiro called upon all the Brazilians to mount the national *insignia* and to maintain its honour, while the Public papers insisted that the naturalized Brazilians, or rather Portuguese, who ought to form no part of their political body, should be distinguished either by the constitutional badge of Terceira or that of Don Miguel. Thus, they argued, all confusion would be prevented, and the number of those who supported either party would at once be indicated. It was doubtless a measure of prudence on the part of the Portuguese, if in the hope of concealing themselves and escaping the effects of popular violence, they had not adopted the Brazilian cockade, but, if from contempt of the native Brazilians and its acknowledgment of their superiority, they acted most unwisely.

As yet I had seen no open and public manifestation of those serious disputes, which actually now subsisted. All was apparently quiet and tranquil. I heard, however, of several instances where the national animosity had displayed itself in the usual mode. Some rascally Portuguese had murdered some Brazilians – nay one of the former had successfully stabbed three of the latter – but then in other cases dreadful retaliation had been exacted by the Brazilians, without the one party or the other seeming to have the decided ascendancy. Matters were notwithstanding fast approaching their crisis, and a few days only were to elapse before confusion and dismay were to be the portion of the Portuguese, and triumph, of the Brazilians.

#### Easter Week at Rio

On the afternoon of the 31<sup>st</sup> the solemnity of Easter commenced, a season, during which, it might have been expected that in a Christian country all dissensions and acts of violence would have ceased. The Emperor and Empress according to use and wont repaired to the Imperial Chapel, and after paying their devotions for a short time, departed, and, altho' I was present, I did not hear or see any demonstration of public feeling. The Emperor looked very grave and stately, the Empress very timid. On Good Friday the usual grand religious procession went forth from the Chapel, passed in front of the Palace, at the balconies of which were the Emperor and Empress, and then paraded several streets, returning after some time to the place whence they started, and during all this time appearances were kept up.

On Saturday it had always been the custom for the people to show their detestation of the traitor Judas by hanging, drowning and burning him in a thousand different places – and to set off large quantities of fireworks. By an order from the Minister of Police these amusements were strictly prohibited - & all persons found with fireworks were to be taken up and punished, and the reason assigned was the unquiet state of the city, and the apprehension that if the mob which usually assembled, should be permitted, they would seize the opportunity of creating disturbances.

#### Disturbed state of Rio

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> April an extraordinary session was summoned to meet as soon as a legal number of members could be collected, in order to take into consideration the

present critical state of affairs – a measure which was now imperative, as every hour and every minute was hastening the progress of public feeling. Parties of ~~armed~~ men were seen in open day parading the streets, armed with pistols, bayonets, and whatever else they could supply themselves with, without a question from the City Guard. – and by their looks and words sufficiently indicating their intentions of having recourse to violence, should their alleged grievances not be redressed, and their demands not be complied with. It was now very unsafe for the Portuguese to show themselves openly, and many of them returned to the vessels in the Harbour. Of course during the holidays of this season, all the shops were closed and all businesses intermitted to be resumed only after the holidays – but on the present occasion the shops remained closed beyond the usual time. The coffee houses and the French shops, which are nearly all to be found in the *Rua Ouidor*, alone were open – some few others were partially opened, but the inmates stood at their strong doors, and could secure them in an instance, should they perceive it to be necessary.

Foreigners likewise were placed in a most disagreeable dilemma whilst walking the streets, lest they should be mistaken for others, and meet the fate which not unfrequently befell the wretched Portuguese. Orders were now given to prevent the assembling together of more than two or three people and soldiers were stationed at the corners of the streets – musquets loaded and bayonets fixed – who were authorised to fire upon such as refused to disperse. All sailors were required by an edict to go on board their vessels at sunset, and such as were found in the street after dark, were to be severely punished. Additional troops also were marched into the City from different stations to maintain the public tranquillity, and it was even rumoured that the Emperor was resolved to put the City under Martial Law.

#### Rapid Change of Ministry

Notwithstanding every possible measure the public ferment continued to increase, the Brazilians became more and more daring in their behaviour, and the whole population in appearance poured in crowds to the *Campo d'Acclamacao*, and there with arms in their hands demanded the dismissal of the Ministry. In England nor in any European state have you ever heard of such a rapid change of the Ministry as in Brazil, and it might naturally be thought that surely one change or another would have been satisfactory to the Brazilians – and so it would perhaps, but then, the Portuguese faction would have been up in arms and insisted upon such a Ministry as would have been agreeable to themselves. According to the account of the Brazilians, they have never received the smallest benefit from the numerous changes, and have always had to complain that their interest was neglected, and their persons and property were subject to the oppressions and galling bondage of a Portuguese Government.

Two or three changes have followed each other within a very short space of time. One set of Ministers at the request of the Brazilians were dismissed because they had always favoured the faction of Portugal – a second because they seemed inclined to connive at the mode of revenge adopted by the Brazilians – and a third Ministry was appointed, consisting of some who were known, it is said, to be hostile to the interest of Brazil. The object then of the discontented people assembled in array against their Sovereign was to demand the dismissal of all the obnoxious Ministers, and the appointment of such as were favourable to their cause.

Troops refuse to obey D. Pedro – Bad measure to disband mercenaries



With this imperative and insolent requisition, the Emperor refused to comply, and endeavoured to support his authority against the people by force of arms, when to his surprise and mortification, the troops being all Brazilians, and as I have heard having large arrears of pay due to them, declared that they would not march against their countrymen, and even his own guards denied him obedience, when he wished at their head to repress the insurrection. When thus deserted by all, perhaps he might have regretted the disbanding of his mercenary troops, which had consisted of Irish and Germans. They at least being particularly attached to his person and dependent on him for all their pay and privileges, would have stood firm to his side, and have given as ready and glorious a proof of their devotion to him, as was exhibited by the faithful Swiss to the unfortunate Louis XVI of France. And in all probability their defence of Don Pedro would have been attended with a happier result than that of Louis – for the would have had oppose but cowardly troops and a still more cowardly mob. It was indeed an admirable stroke of policy in the Brazilians, when they procured the foreign troops to be disbanded, and, at the same time, altho' it was most unwise on the part of the Emperor, it showed the desire of his Majesty to give satisfaction to his subjects by removing this cause of their jealousy and fears.

#### Don Pedro Abdicates

As matter now stood, Don Pedro had no alternative but to renounce his authority or to yield to the demands of his armed subjects. The first course of course would never have been thought likely to be adopted, if an opinion had been offered prior to the event, and the second would have degraded him in the eyes of all, since it would be a too evident proof of his weakness and their strength, and by granting their present demands he would only open a door for unlimited submission to their insolence. In this situation, the Emperor at once decided to abdicate. He sent for the foreign Ministers to announce his intentions, and notwithstanding their advice to the contrary and the earnest remonstrances of others he remained firm in his resolution, declaring that having done every thing in his power for the good of his Brazilian subjects, and receiving nothing in return but ingratitude, he would no longer consent to be their head – that they were equally worthless, and that among them there was not one whom he could trust. He then signed an act of Abdication, which was expressed in the following terms –

*'Availing myself of the privilege which the Constitution gives me, I hereby declare that I have most voluntarily abdicated in favour of my well beloved and much esteemed son Don Pedro de Alcantara.'*

[signed] *Pedro*

*Palace Boa Vista, April 7<sup>th</sup> 1831.'*

After this, he was conducted by Arthur Ashton Esq.<sup>r</sup> his B. Majesty's Charge d' Affairs to the house of the British Admiral at Gloria. From the Admirals on the same night, he was privately conveyed on board H.M.Ship *Warspite*,<sup>6</sup> accompanied by the Empress, his sister and *Donna Maria* the Young Queen of Portugal his daughter. His three other daughters, and his Son were not permitted to be his companions, as they had been born in Brazil, and the nation claimed them as belonging to them.

<sup>6</sup> HMS *Warspite* (76), Capt. William Henry Shirreff. Rear Admiral Thomas Baker's flag ship on the South American station. *Navy List* – April 1829.

All these important events happened in the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> so that when on the 8<sup>th</sup> day light broke in, and the news began to circulate, all men were struck with astonishment, when they heard of the Abdication and flight of Don Pedro, or in other words that from being the Emperor of yesterday he was become the simple Peter Braganza Esq.<sup>f</sup> of today.

The Act of Abdication was followed by the appointment of three persons to act as a Regency, viz The Marquis of Caravellas – Senhor Francisco de Lima – and S.<sup>r</sup> Vergueiro – and this Regency took the following oath –

*'We swear to maintain the Roman Catholic Apostolic religion, the integrity and individuality of the Empire; to observe and cause to be observed the political constitution of the Brazilian Nation, to the utmost of our power; and also to be faithful to Don Pedro II, and to deliver up the Regency as soon as another is legally installed.'*

#### Dangerous Situation of Portuguese and Foreigners

The unfortunate Portuguese were now placed in a most awkward and dangerous situation. Their professed enemies had gained the day, and it might naturally be anticipated that they would not fail to use their victory to the utmost. The *late* Emperor has been much blamed for the act which he has committed on this ground as well as on others, that thus he left his Luzo-Brazilian subjects, whom he had hitherto protected, to the fury of their opponents – and it has been confidently asserted, that if he had remained firm, and called for their assistance, he would have secured his authority and set the threats of the Brazilians at defiance. Now they were left defenceless, without a head or rallying point. Under the influence of apprehension some retired from the City to the country – some sought the shelter of vessels in the Harbour and all shut up their houses. Now a few took refuge in the houses of Englishmen, where they rightly judges they would be most sure of receiving sympathy and protection. Nor were foreigners themselves free from alarm, and the history of all popular revolutions, combined with an armed soldiery might easily justify their fears. To prevent any mistakes, which the violence of the mob might make, they provided themselves with their national flags ready to be displayed from the windows and mounted their national cockade.

#### Few Outrages Committed

Contrary to the general fear, and greatly to the credit of those, who took the lead in these events, no very serious consequences ensued during the night and the general massacre of the Portuguese, which was apprehended, was resolved into the murder of a few individuals. For my own part, when I went on shore I was much surprised to find the principal streets comparatively quiet – the sentinels at their post and the guard house in the same state as usual. It was morally impossible to prevent some outrages, some violations of property thro'out the large circuit of the Town – and it was not to be expected that such acts would be rigorously punished. In several of the meaner streets, I saw many persons parading about in arms, chiefly pistols and bayonets – both blacks and whites, and seemingly as proud as if they had been conquerors and heroes. I likewise observed several soldiers in a state of drunkenness – a vice of which foreigners are seldom guilty – staggering along with a ferocious air and eye which regarded every one suspiciously that passed. As I have mentioned most

of the Portuguese were invisible – but some even in daylight, who had imprudently at to early a period after the revolution trusted to the hope of escaping without notice in the streets, were sacrificed by the usual mode – the knife. Then individual hatred and private jealousy would come in as the real motive of the murder, whilst national insults and injuries would be the avowed cause. It is indeed a curious circumstance, that in almost all the deeds of assassination, the knife of individuals was the instrument of death, and not the attack of a body of men using firearms. I believe hardly a shot was fired – at least I heard only of one instance of a poor Portuguese. He was passing the Guard house of the *Rua Dereita* (Right Street) one of the main streets, when he was assaulted by a Brazilian, who said that he had formerly murdered one of his friends or relations – which account so enraged those soldiers who heard it, that they fired & wounded the Portuguese in several places – but not mortally. The miserable wretch still advanced, with outstretched arms, as if soliciting mercy, until at last he dropped, when immediately his body was pierced and mangled in a most barbarous manner.

#### Observe that all wear the Cockade

As I had occasion to traverse several of the less frequented streets, I cannot say that altho' an Englishman, and accompanied by an officer in uniform, I walked along perfectly at my ease, when I saw such a set of ruffian looking men, and bravoos so frequently crossing my path. A circumstance, which I now for the first time observed increased my apprehension, viz that every person I met was furnished with a cockade while I had none. I noticed several looking after us with eyes of suspicion – but fortunately my companion being in uniform, I was not subjected to either insult or violence. You may be sure however that I did not long want this indispensable requisite, and when I had procured it, I ventured to perambulate the streets with more confidence. I now formed one, by my outward badge, of that nation, which is everywhere respected, and under protection of it, mixed freely with French, Dutch, Swede & Americans &.<sup>cc</sup> all of whom wore each his respective nation's emblem on the left side of their hat. One curious effect which this precaution produced was that you could recognise at once, among a large assemblage the real or assumed country of all those who formed it, and I received no small amusement from thus being enabled to tell, who were in my company, and to examine the personal appearance of the natives of different countries, endeavouring tho' often vainly to trace the distinctive characteristics of each.

#### State of Affairs after Abdication of Pedro

Business was completely at a stand, as indeed to had been since Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Coffee houses were open, and some of the French shops in the *Rua Ouvidor* – whilst others stood at their half closed doors, ready to bolt and bar on the slightest alarm. Notwithstanding the apprehension of many the evening drew on, with the occurrence only of some slight disturbances, and from whatever cause it proceeded it is pleasing to be able to mention the little bloodshed which ensued. When we consider the enmity which subsisted between the native and naturalized or Luzo-Brazilians – the great cause for retaliation which the latter had so lately given the former – and the barbarous half civilized character of a great proportion of the Actors in the Revolutionary Drama, any one would *a priori* have concluded that a general and indiscriminate slaughter would have taken place, and the golden opportunity of

satisfying their public and private feelings improved to the utmost. Perhaps the Insurgents were taken quite by surprise by the Emperor's Abdication or perhaps their leaders being men of moderation had sufficient influence to prevent the premeditated excesses – and I may mention here, as a most singular fact, that the Custom House – Bank and other public buildings containing immense property were last night left completely unguarded by the usual sentries, all of whom had repaired to the *Campo d'Acclamacaum* to join the people, and yet no robbery was attempted when it was so easy to accomplish.

#### Illumination at Rio

On the evening of this eventful day a brilliant illumination took place, in which all were obliged to join, under pain of popular violence. The spectacle from our anchorage was exceedingly fine. In front of us the City of Rio blazed in full splendour – the palace square was lighted up with public lamps in addition to those in the private houses – the church towers and steeples were conspicuous for brightness and the reflection of the whole upon the mirror of the Bay, with the tall masts of the vessels seen darkly between us and the Town – all together presented a scene of great beauty. To the left of Rio along the beach you beheld one continued line of light, indicating the direction of the village of *Gloria*, whilst several houses situated on an eminence formed an excellent termination. Proceeding still around by the left in a circular direction, the several forts at the entrance of the Harbour were pointed out very distinctly by their illuminations, and insulated as they were, from the mainland, produced a new and pleasing feature in the general review. Passing still round the circle, between the port of *Santa Cruz* and the village of *Praia Grande* a dark vacant space intervened, where there were no habitations. The above mentioned village lay behind us, and right opposite to Rio on the other side of the Bay. It was of large size, extending in a broken line for two or three miles along the beach. The illumination there also was very fine, and by its long even line of light contrasted most beautifully with the brilliant circle of coruscation proceeding from a Fort, which lay not far distant from the extremity of *Praia Grande*. In short this illumination was the most picturesque which I have ever witnessed, altho' not the most splendid. The effect of the lights reflected on the water – the noble amphitheatre of nature on which the spectacle was exhibited – the transitive view from land to water and from water to land – and the dimly discernable, almost visionary appearances of the mountains in the back ground – all these formed an assemblage of beauty which I am convinced no other city in the world could surpass or even rival.

#### Proceeding at Rio

During this eventful day, whilst matters had thus proceeded so quietly. H.M. Ship *Warspite* was a scene of complete bustle. Boats of every description were passing and repassing, some filled with fugitives, or persons proceeding to the Ex-Emperor, and other laden with furniture, and various articles. Frequent communications were held with the Admiral at Point Gloria, and the ship. From the shore, again innumerable passage boats were hourly leaving the Palace Square, full of people, and bound for the opposite side of the Bay where all was quiet and in the course of the day they all returned empty. Vast quantities of furniture were seen to be conveyed across. To all this no obstruction was offered, nor did the crowds of blacks and mulattoes, who were standing by make any attempt to commit robbery.

Events of Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April at Rio

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April – this day, which was the last which we spent in Rio was a most important one. The astonishment created by the events of the two preceding days had not yet subsided – men did not know what to think, and public confidence was far from being restored. Throughout the night serious fears had been entertained for the safety of persons and property, but with the exception of a few houses broken into, and some more assassination, no worse consequences had ensued. Of course those who had reason to fear the vengeance of the Brazilian mob kept out of the way, and foreigners of every country pursued the same prudential plan. Business was still at a stand, and the shops closed. While passing thro' the streets I met a small cavalcade headed by an officer, and accompanied by a mob of black boys, who ever and anon shouted our *viva viva* in gratitude for some coppers thrown to them. This officer halted several times and announced that the public tranquillity was secured inviting the inhabitants at the same time to open their stores and resume business. In the after part of the day some did so but with great caution. It was difficult to give instant credence to all that was promised – and those who declined doing so, if they erred, perhaps erred on the safe side. For three days back, soldiers in a state of intoxication, when they perceived a shop open, had been in the habit of entering them – and having obtained several articles, had refused payment, declaring “that the nation would be their paymaster.” Hence the shopkeepers having no redress for the loss they had sustained, wished to wait a little longer in order to be sure that they would be free from such arbitrary exactions for the future.

I have said that this the last day of our stay was a most important one – and I shall now inform you why it was so. I went on shore early in the forenoon and perceived some symptoms of Preparation and bustle in and near the Palace Square, as if something of consequence was about to take place. All the balconies and windows were hung with tapestry curtains &.<sup>cc</sup> throughout several streets. In the Palace Square fireworks were ready to be fired – the Imperial Chapel, and, as I found, superbly lighted and fitted up for some grand ceremony. About noon the long street of the *Ouvidor* began to be lined with troops, which also occupied the sides of the *Rua Dereita*, as far as the Chapel leaving the centre clear. Great crowds of people – dressed in their best were seen to congregate – blacks freely mingling with whites, and slaves jostling freemen on this *happy occasion*. Under protection of my English cockade I joined the throng, and attended with interest, tho' without understanding much, to the animated gesticulations and language of some revolutionary spouter, who as a friend conversant with the Portuguese told me, was setting forth to his delighted auditors the advantage which they had gained – and I heard him use a most expressive term respecting the revolution that it was '*Gloria das glorias,*' glory of glories.

## Illustration of Macbeth at Rio

I had now before my eye an admirable illustration of the witches prophesy in Macbeth respecting Birnam ? wood, as I may say, without exaggeration, that the leaves and branches of many trees have been used to have supplied the vast quantity which I saw. For those, who were too poor to purchase a ribbon cockade, displayed equally well their devotion to the cause – which they had espoused by leaves of green in every button hole, a handsome bunch in their caps or hats, & a branch in their hands. Those

again, who had very handsome cockades were not contented therewith but also bore about them the leafy honours of the favourite tree. In fact all Brazilians without exception carried these cheap emblems of their sentiments, and wherever a dense mass of them were collected together, it would not be a very extravagant hyperbole to say that they bore a wood in the hands. I observed also that altho' the green leaf was sufficient, and indicated the nation, there was a more appropriate national badge, which was likewise very beautiful, viz the beautiful leaves of a species of bay, of a green colour, with stripes of bright yellow. These however were rather scarce, and not freely obtainable.

#### Proclamation of the Emperor

Every minute after noon was adding to the crowd of spectators – the balconies of the houses were filled with well dressed and beautiful women accompanied by their male friends – the interior of the Chapel was thronged with a large assemblage of respectable people, Officers &<sup>c</sup> and the passages in the centre leading to the grand altar was lined with the Emperors body servants, who by their dress (of green) with broad worsted braiding in great profusion and their long halberds reminded me strongly of our old "*Town rats*."

All these preparations indicated something important, and indeed it was generally said that the new Emperor would be proclaimed. About half-past twelve we heard the sound of distant shouting, which approached nearer & nearer until we ourselves came in turn to join in the chorus. First came some cavalry, who were received with loud *vivas*, and waving of handkerchiefs, probably because they had performed their part well in the drama – then an awkward squad of respectably dressed persons on horseback, with white handkerchiefs in their hands, looking as proud and as vulgar as from their present success and their former pursuits might have been expected. Not far behind these was seen a very pretty State carriage covered with red velvet, and drawn by small horses, which contained the young Emperor, and a lady of whose name I am ignorant, but whom I took to be his nurse. On the appearance of the Imperial Child, loud and repeated *vivas* rent the air – handkerchiefs were in constant motion, and hats were put into requisition to the great inconvenience of numbers, upon whose uncovered heads the Sun darted down his melting rays. As soon as the State Carriage had reached the entrance to the Chapel, it stopped, and the lady in attendance lifted out Don Pedro II, and having placed him on the ground, led him in by the one hand, whilst the other was held by a Gentleman in uniform. What took place in the Chapel I cannot say, as my own inclination and my curiosity induced me to prefer observing what was going on without to being sweated down in the dense congregated mass within. Hitherto the Palace Square had been tolerably free from the crowd, who had all assembled along the main street and in front of the Church – but now when there was nothing to attract their immediate attention, they spread themselves over the square and awaited what was farther to take place. Little time was permitted to them to lounge about without an object. Bodies of infantry and cavalry were marched into the square and occupied all the sides. Then followed some artillery corps with small brass pieces on carriages which were emulously r-dragged by the mob by means of a very long rope, in order I suppose to allow to as many as possible the honour of assisting. These pieces ready loaded were disposed around the square, and fronting the sea, and at a certain signal, at the time I suppose when the Emperor was proclaimed, off they went like so many pop-guns, amidst the cumulative sounds of the fireworks and the shouts of the people.

### Young Emperor of Brazil

After the religious services in the Chapel had been concluded, the young Emperor was conveyed to the palace, and there presented to his subjects. I formed one of those spectators who were there met, and certainly not one of the least interested and amused, since the scene was so novel and striking.

The Emperor was brought forward to the balcony of one of the windows by the same persons, who had led him into the Chapel. He was dressed in a green coat, light tight breeches, and exactly like a little man. He appeared about 5 or 6 years of age, with full cheeks, and hair carefully arranged. When he first came forward his figure was nearly concealed by the balustrade, which overtopped his diminutive person – but in a short time a large armed chair was introduced, and placed with its back towards the people, and into this Pedro was lifted to the great amusement of a set of black rascals who were there. He was next directed to bow, whenever the people shouted “*Viva Don Pedro Segundo,*” and a handkerchief was put into his hand, which he was instructed to wave occasionally. He poor boy looked astonished and timid – his countenance was expressive of wonderment but he invariably preserved the utmost gravity. It was impossible however to prevent his attention from being diverted from the part he had to play, and he frequently forgot to bow and to wave his handkerchief, until reminded by the lady, when he would mechanically resume his task – for task it evidently was – whilst it was plain that something else was in his mind. The window, where he was fronted the Bay, and from it he could see the *Warspite*. He was constantly turning his eye in that direction, and I heard, that he had been told, that his papa, to whom he was much attached, was there, and that he wished to see him. In the next balcony to where Don Pedro was, were placed the Ex-Emperor’s three young daughters born in Brazil with their attendants, who taught them to curtsy to the people when they shouted aloud. I sincerely pitied these young and \_\_\_ly victims of court ceremony and can easily conceive that they would have been glad to have escaped from their present constraint, and engaged in their childish amusements.

### Ludicrous review at Rio

The public show was yet over. All the troops in the City were made to pass before the Emperor, and it was not the least amusing part of the exhibition to witness this review. The infantry and cavalry in general were not amiss in their equipments but were miserably defective in soldierly arrangements and manoeuvres. Between each regiment of the regular troops marched large bodies of the Irregulars. These consisted of volunteers – regenerators or patriots, who had thus neglected the exercise of their proper calling to seek the bubble reputation even at the cannon’s mouth. Tho’ professedly uniform and concordant in their sentiments, their dresses were as remote as possible from uniformity, and their faces in all the shades of colour were as dissimilar as their dress. What a hard employment it would have been for the drill Serjeant to have chastised into order all those who violated the military precision of the veteran? They marched before their Sovereign slowly enough, and in tolerable order – but no sooner had they passed than their ranks began to fall into confusion – one extremity of the line was far ahead of the other – and rigid distinction of right and left were confounded. No regard had been paid to size for the great and the little – the thin and the stout walked side by side. Some had ordinary hats, others something *a la*

*militaire*. Many had soldiers musquets with which they had been supplied from the Arsenal, while others, who could not obtain these, rather than not shew their zeal in this way, had furnished themselves with fowling pieces, blunderbusses and nondescript instruments. Not a few also in addition to these respectable weapons had bayonets or swords with two pistols stuck ostentatiously in their belts. I could not help thinking, after viewing the whole, what a despicable appearance they made and that a very inferior English or French force would make [soul?] of them scamper off like timid hares.

When the review was over the Emperor was led away into the palace – the crowd dispersed with a few vivas, and matters returned to their usual channel. I was on shore all day and also at night and neither received nor observed any violence or insult, so that we shall have left Rio in the enjoyment of apparent tranquillity and order – with an established government – and the party, which has gained the ascendancy disposed not to exercise with cruelty their victory over their former opponents, to whom on the contrary they have declared, that they have nothing to fear. How sincere or treacherous they are in these professions time alone will shew – but in my opinion, their tumultuary proceedings previous to the revolution may be said to resemble the fresh breeze which would be expected to usher a gale, and give time to the mariner to take measures of precautions, altho' they may not be eventually required – and the present tranquillity may be like the fatal calm, which is only the harbinger of the sweeping hurricane. The naturalized Luzo-Brazilians are the possessors of the greatest wealth, and if such could give it to them, of the greatest influence. They are the most industrious part of the population, and if common report speak true, they alone are fit to uphold the national commerce & to fill the public offices. It is therefore not unnatural to suppose that the native Brazilians are jealous of their wealth, and view it with a longing eye – and would gladly throw off the yoke of superiority which galls them. If such is the case, is it not probable that the Brazilians having now proved their strength, but not as yet willing or prepared to go all lengths will watch impatiently till a more fitting time shall arrive, when they may pounce upon the wealth of the Portuguese and treat them as the South American States have treated the old Spaniards. I think we may go still further without improbability and be led to expect that from the vast super excess in numbers of the blacks over the whites and the lesson they are now taught, there will be another transfer of property into their hands and a black Government established. This is indeed a consummation not devoutly to be wished for but it is one, which some would consider as an instance of retributive justice upon the white man for all the cruelties and enormities which that race have committed upon the Negroes - But a time to speculation.

#### Freedom of the Press in Rio

Having thus far brought before you what I know of the revolution in Brazil, I have now only a few remarks more to make.

One of the most powerful means which was employed to effect the mighty change was the freedom of the press, an engine of incalculable utility or mischief. It has been well observed that the freedom of the press is likely to be beneficial only when the Government is firmly established, rests for its stability on the attachment of the nation to it – but that on the contrary when a Government is weak – or recent origin – or mismanaged, it may be made the most efficient organ of rebellion and revolutionary principles. Now among us the press exercises its sanative power, because we are strong in an excellent constitution, our countrymen are civilized, and



are able to judge for themselves. Brazil again, and I speak particularly of Rio, Bahia and Pernambuco (which I have seen) has as a constitutional portion of its population thousands of discontented spirits, *Novarum serum cupidi* – and in the hands of their orators, the freedom of the press has enabled them to inflame the minds of such and thus to overturn the Government. What will you think when you find that thro' the Press in Rio – in the Capital of the Empire, and almost in the presence of the Emperor himself, the language of certain men and certain papers has been most abominable against their government and their prince. No abusive epithets have been spared – no mine of insult and invective left unexplored – and lies and inflammatory expressions have been promulgated, which would not discredit the father of lies himself. Now however were these infamous papers left unanswered. The Portuguese were to the full as abusive of the other party and as strenuously supported what the other vilified. Accusations produced replies, exculpations and counter charges: jests and insults were bandied about from the one to the other, and the Whigs and Tories of Rio regarded each with a far more embittered feeling than is ever manifested among us. And what a powerful effect would not the views of the Brazilians thus openly expressed have among a large mass of ignorant, jealous and revengeful mulattoes and blacks. It would be impossible in a moderate compass to mention the various instances where the Emperor has been abused – or the abusive language they employed – it is sufficient to say that the epithets of *Imperial Thief* – *Crowned Robber* – *ingrate* – and *Perjurer* were among the least abusive that were applied.

#### Political Clubs

The freedom of the press was thus one of the chief instruments for circulating abuse of the existing Government – for giving currency to interested and all disguised misrepresentations – and for preparing the minds of men for rebellious principles. And not content with this, the Brazilians formed themselves into Anti-Portuguese Clubs, where politics were the subjects of discussion. There their plans were originated – matured, and the means of executing them considered. There they drew closer those ties which bound the members together in common – and it was easy for the Federals to spread their opinions and infuse their spirit by going about among the common people who are ever ready to follow men of superior sense and sagacity, who chose to appeal to their passions, and not to their reason. And instead of suppressing at the onset these pernicious societies & restricting or withdrawing the liberty of the press, the Emperor to his prejudice and ruin gave his discontented & factious full liberty to shoot their envenomed shafts at his person & character, and to sap and undermine the very foundations of his authority by rendering both himself and the contemptible in the eyes of the people. No other Infant State in the New World ever ventured to act as Don Pedro has done in this respect – and their reasons stood good before, they will now have his example before their eyes, as an additional reason for continuing the same line of conduct, they have hitherto pursued.

#### Conduct and Intentions of the Emperor

Various reports were current respecting the manner the Ex-Emperor and his Queen bore this reverse of Fortune. The former was said, (and I am inclined to believe it), to evince a stoical firmness of mind, and to treat the matter with great nonchalance. The Empress on the contrary was much affected, and was almost constantly in tears. The

Young Queen of Portugal, as far as I could judge from her appearance on board the *Warspite*, did not seem to be very much affected.

Immediately after the act of abdication it was an object of great curiosity – and much anxiety was manifested by the Portuguese – to learn what was to be the future destination of Don Pedro, or what his plans. Many thought that all was not over yet, and that with the aid of the English & French Marines, together with the \_\_\_\_ of his Luza-Brazilian subjects, he would still make an effort to retain his throne – and from the general dastardly character of the Brazilians they augured well for success. But a very short time served to shew that the abdication was no feint or constrained act – and that it was the full purpose of his Ex-Majesty to resign his Empire without a struggle. A communication at an early period, was made to the New Government, that it was his wish to proceed to England – and in the confidence of his sincerity no molestation or obstruction was offered to such measures for his comfort & which he might judge necessary. His Britannic Majesty's Sloop of War *Volage*, Lord Colchester,<sup>7</sup> which had arrived but a few days previous from Buenos Ayres was appointed to convey him. The *Volage* immediately after her arrival had been stripped of her rigging and was undergoing repairs, when the necessity of the circumstances, there being no other vessel proper for the purpose here, required her to be got ready as soon as possible. It was expected that she would [be ready] on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>, and as we sailed on the 10<sup>th</sup> she may be there before us. Her destination was said to be Portsmouth, and we were directed to make all possible sail, as it would be of importance that our Government should be acquainted with Don Pedro's intention of visiting us. We also heard that he purposes to carry his wife to her Mothers and there reside with her. He will not be in want of the means of living in splendour. He has a very large sum vested in the English funds – by his economy he has saved much yearly of the income allowed him for his private expenses – and besides, if I am rightly informed, he will be permitted to take with him his jewels, plate, & other private property – altho' perhaps some dispute might arise as to what was public and what personal property.

It will no doubt afford abundant matter of speculation to conjecture the course, which is likely to be pursued when the Ex-Emperor arrives in England, the asylum of dethroned Kings. Will he or can he claim again the Crown of Portugal in his mown right? If not, he may endeavour to support his daughter's rightful claims, and having gained his Object ascend the throne himself. Or will seek in truth and in deed the vale of privacy and retirement and having been twice been obliged to leave the country – Portugal his native and Brazil his adopted land, will be content to live in a third in a situation, in which none will be tempted to annoy or expatriate him? These are questions which time can show and I shall not attempt to resolve.

#### Anecdotes of Don Pedro

By the fortune of saying I have been twice in Brazil and each time have heard much of Don Pedro – and thus I have become interested in him. This interest in him has led me to jot down such incidents as showed his character both in public & private. It has also so chanced that we have several passengers onboard who were at the Mines when the Emperor paid them a visit, and from them I have one or two anecdotes, of which perhaps nothing but the person to whom they related, would excuse the insertions. I

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<sup>7</sup> HMS *Volage* (28), Capt. Rt. Hon Charles Lord Colchester, on the South American station. *Navy List* – December 1831.

speak particularly in reference to the Mine of Gongo Soco the richest & most productive of all – to the Chief Commissioner Col.<sup>1</sup> Skerrett.

Intimation had been given some months beforehand of the honour His Imperial Majesty deigned to confer – and accordingly great preparations were made to receive him. He arrived in the afternoon with a small escort of cavalry – some of his nobility – and some of the Magistrates of the neighbouring towns. He did visit the Mines that day but remained at Colonel Skerretts house. The next day, however, a new level having been made purposely, he entered it and was neither incommoded nor nice about the narrowness & dampness of the place. He had I believe on an ordinary suit of clothes [&] did not care about drying them – but his courtiers were afraid to enter, and besides did not like to spoil their new clothes. Pedro sent repeatedly for them but his commands were not obeyed. Having seen all that was worth seeing he came out, and by his orders, accompanied with several shoves & pushes, he forced them in before him. When they were all fairly inn, he managed to get all the torches extinguished, and in total darkness, he himself set the example of hustling, jostling, and roaring a-bellowing like a bull. For some time he enjoyed this unprincipally amusement – the miners entered into the spirit of the thing, and all scrambled to the outlet the best way they could. The poor courtiers cut a most ridiculous figure but were obliged to chew the cud of chagrin in silence.

To gratify the Empress an elegant box had been made, which was presented to her, filled with the most beautiful specimens of gold, which the mine produced, and the present was most graciously accepted. The Emperor was offered nothing but he took care to indemnify himself by pocketing several pieces – and in particular, a remarkably fine specimen of pure gold weighing several pounds, having been submitted to his inspection as a matter of curiosity but with no design to give it to him, he admired it very much, and then coolly popped it into his pocket.

Don Pedro was extremely well pleased with his reception by Colonel Skerrett, and at the neighbouring mines of Capt.<sup>n</sup> Lyon – both of which gentlemen were made *Commandadus of Christ*, an order of great distinction. He commended the industry of the English to those around him, and called upon them to take example by them. He promised the Mines his constant protection, little knowing how soon it would be out of his power to keep that promise – and in short he showed such a partiality for these foreigners as must have [been] exceeding galling, when compared with the contempt with which he had treated the Brazilians.

#### Remarks of the Laws of Brazil

Thus, my dear mother, have I endeavoured to give you as good an account of the political events which have happened, at Rio during our stay there, according to the best of my powers, and as the revolution was the prominent subject of attraction to me & to every one, I have presented it to your attention first of all, leaving deferred all other matters until I had finished with it. It is now time to take notice of several particulars which had occurred to me as worthy of contributing to your amusement and instruction – as thus.

England is possessed of a code of laws, in which, it has been the anxious desire of the legislators, to settle the rights of man and man to uphold the distinction of *meum* and *tuum* – and in short to administer even handed justice in every possible case. Brazil also does not want a good system of laws – and the Theory of them is excellent. But there is not a greater difference between day and night than there exists

between the administration of these in England and in Brazil. There you can always hope for impartiality and justice – here bribery, corruption and mal-administration persist and destroy the truly admirable intentions of the written law. The original written laws are found[ed] on the plain and broad basis of eternal justice, but there are so many bye-laws and exceptory clauses, that “might and wealth will always make right.”

#### Laxity of the laws in respect of Murder

These general statements I have been led to make from one particular point, where the intentions of the laws and the demands of justice are seldom, very seldom, fulfilled – I mean in the case of Murder, a crime of the deepest dye. Not one in a thousand, you may say, ever suffer the penalty of death. The criminal either escapes altogether from human punishment, or after a few months imprisonment is let loose again upon society as much inclined as ever to commit the same crime. No one then will be so foolhardy as to maintain that there is no harm in this impunity, and that it does not lead to any dangerous consequences. Let us suppose that a man knows that stabbing or shooting is not punished with death – will such a person, whenever his anger is excited not seek the readiest and most efficient means of revenging him upon the object of his anger – assuredly he will and does. Hence it is that a foreigner ought to be particularly careful in his intercourse with Portuguese, and be always sure to let them know that he has the mastery of them, for they and their descendants the Brazilians are a set of the most cowardly dogs in existence. It is astonishing for how slight an offence murder is perpetrated – nay sometimes before you are aware that you have done anything to displease, the knife is drawn and has pierced your heart. The story of an occurrence so common, excites no curiosity or interest – it is forgotten almost as soon as told – but thank heaven, we live in a country where such a monstrous event is attended with the execration of all, and where all are pleased when the last sentence of the laws is executed upon the murderer. I since my visits abroad have heard enough to make me shudder but with a few exceptions to the circumstances have been similar. I shall however relate to you one or two instances which occurred to Englishmen, within our knowledge.

#### Murder of a Miner

One of the first stories which I heard when I landed on our return from Buenos Ayres was a most melancholy. The sufferer was a Cornishman of the name of John Gibbs, and was one of a party who had reached Rio only days before, and in a short time would have gone up the country to work in M.<sup>r</sup> Oxenford's mine. The whole party had been lodged by the Agents in a butcher's house – and there in the evening while the unfortunate Gibbs was quietly smoking his pipe at the door, he received a stab in the right side, which penetrated the liver. He immediately exclaimed 'I am stabbed,' and ran up stairs, holding his hand to his side to stop the effusion of the blood, which swelled out of the gaping wound. He had just power to reach the room up stairs, when he dropped down, and in a few minutes was a corpse. This melancholy event completely paralysed his companions, and when they had recovered themselves, the[y] procured the apprehension of several persons. No one however could account for the reason of the murder. The man had been only two days in the Town – was of a remarkably quiet inoffensive disposition – and could not possibly have given offence to any one. One of the men, however, who were apprehended confessed the murder,

but was exceedingly sorrow for it, as the object of his vengeance was the butcher himself, and from the darkness, had made the deplorable mistake. Yet confident of impunity, the villain declared that he would still effect his original object, as soon as a short imprisonment should have atoned for the unhappy blunder – and there is little doubt but that he will ultimately succeed, unless the butcher should forestall him. What rendered this murder the more melancholy was that the poor man had brought out a son a boy [sic] from Falmouth, who was thus left to the world without his natural protector and dependant upon strangers.

Another instance of attempted murder which occurred while we were lying in Harbour was that of a M.<sup>r</sup> Sykes Midshipman on board H.M.Ship *Warspite*. A Portuguese rascal was horsewhipping a little fellow of a midshipman, who was on horseback ahead of M.<sup>r</sup> Sykes, and when the latter reproached the Portuguese for thrashing a mere boy, the man in a rage drew his knife, wounded the Midshipman in the fleshy part of the thigh, and also the horse so dreadfully that he died. I could mention several other instances – where the most atrocious unprovoked murders have been perpetrated, and where no punishment has followed. I am persuaded that a little severity would have a most salutary effect – and that the well merited deaths of a score or two rascals would save the lives of hundreds, who would/will otherwise be sacrificed. Why cannot the government of Brazil pursue the same plan which was adopted with such success by Buonoparte in Italy. There assassinations were frequent, because – they were unpunished, but when he came they decreased in a most extraordinary ratio, because it was his plan as soon as he caught the assassin, to execute him without mercy, whatever might be his rank or connections. Such an excellent result would surely be brought about here by a similar process – and it must [be] the earnest desire of every friend to humanity that a stop should be put to such a piece of barbarity.

### Robbery in Rio

If thus murder can be committed with impunity, it is almost natural inference that robbery will not be visited with a heavier punishment. The character of Rio is rather notorious – not so much for housebreaking, which is almost unknown as for street robbery. The blame for this even however is hardly to be attached to the natives, but rests almost solely upon those crowds of villains and ragamuffians, who prowl about the palace square and beach by day, and pounce at night upon any unfortunate straggler, who is passing unprotected to his abode. These men are called beach rangers. They are all foreigners and the very scum of all nations. Their subsistence in a great measure depends upon theft and robbery – and they are always on the watch to decoy to their destruction the sailors of their respective nations who have obtained liberty to go on shore and are generally well supplied with money for a spree. Of all men in the world sailors are the least suspicious and most easily gulled. They are frank, free, and generous – and the appearance of a friendship or a fictitious tale will make them your friend at once. While we were at Rio one of the liberty men [was] completely and cleverly robbed. A man dressed like a seaman, and professing to be a country man of his, offered to show him the place, and after taking a glass or two off they set on a spree. Their road was purposely by the seaside – the day was hot – and the stranger proposed a bathe to cool themselves. Jack agreed, and after both unrigging they enjoyed the pleasing amusements of swimming, ducking &.<sup>cc</sup> After a short time the beach ranger professed sudden illness, and came out, requesting his

companion not the mind him but continue the sport. As soon as he got on shore he dressed himself hastily and decamped with all the clothes, which were new, and some dollars in them and copper. Jack meanwhile had been so occupied that he took no notice of what was going on and when he landed, he found that he was minus his clothes, and must of necessity proceed as he was to a place of shelter, vowing all the time the severest vengeance upon the robber who had robbed him.

I saw another instance where the villainy of these desperadoes had been exhibited. Passing with the Master one of those shops which are the resort of seamen, we there saw some of our men – and along with them the poor unfortunate Carpenter of a merchant vessel, with nothing on but a shirt and trowsers. This person was holding forth to the others, and he was easily persuaded to tell his story. It appeared that he had obtained [liberty] to spend the preceding day on shore, and after a pretty good jollification, he, against the advice of his companions, had left the Grog Shop about one in the morning, with an intention of going on board his vessel. When he had come near the beach, four men started from their hiding place, and planting their knives against his breast, swore that they would murder him, if he made the slightest alarm. As the Carpenter valued his life more highly than his property, he promised to keep quiet, while in the meantime the robbers proceeded to strip him of all his new clothes, and left him only what I saw him in. Hardly a night passed without a robbery or murder and still no means were taken to put a stop to these outrages – nay some of them were committed within a few yards, of those very military police, who were paid to preserve the public peace. Heaven grant that our happy country may never be reduced to such a state of [imbeaulty?] and misery as this.

#### Ceremonies of Passion Week

Leaving this disagreeable subject, which several circumstances which came under my own notice induced me to mention, I think you will be better pleased, if I tell you how they spend the season of Easter or Passion Week in this country. From the disturbed state of the country, the solemnities and festivities which usually take place were either in part omitted or much shorn of their splendour – but enough remained to enable me to give you some idea of how matters are managed.

#### Proceedings on Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon the services of religion commenced. Then it is customary for the Emperor & people to visit seven churches – but this year he went only to the Imperial Chapel. I was there when he came and had a full view both of him and the Empress. He presented much the same appearance as when I [first?] saw him nearly three years ago – The Empress, attracted more particularly my attention. Her countenance was remarkably pleasing but at first sight I thought her far from being beautiful, as to me, the length and smallness of her chin contrasted very unfavourably with the breadth of the upper part of her face. Her figure and manner could hardly be termed dignified – altho' father above the ordinary standard, her walk was quick, not slow and stately as you might expect it to be on a public and solemn occasion. Her smile, when she graciously acknowledged the homage of those, who knelt to kiss her hand, had something in it very pleasing and attractive. Having had, however, several opportunities of seeing her afterwards, I came to alter my opinion of

her beauty considerably – and the last time I saw I thought she was very handsome – but you know the old saying “*de gustibus non disputandum.*”

### Interior of the Palace

The devotions of the Imperial pair occupied but a short space of time – and when they left the Chapel, it was soon also deserted by the crowds who had perhaps gone there more to see the Emperor and the show, than to worship the Almighty or any of his saints. From the Church I for my part adjourned to the Coffee House adjoining and there learned that some thing more was to be seen – which was the Interior of the Palace, which it was custom to open to the public indiscriminately . About 7 or 8 o'clock the whole extent of one side of the palace was lighted up, and crowds of people were to be seen thronging to the entrance. I joined the mob and never in all my life have I enjoyed such a squeeze. Enjoyed did I say – I should rather have said suffered – for suffering it was. 'Tis very well at home, in a little cold winter's night to get into a comfortable warmth in a large crowd, who are collected to attend for the benefit of some celebrated actor – then all the squeezing in the world can scarcely produce a degree of heat which you would call excessive. But oh - in a country where you always perspire without exertion, how can I express the jugs and torrents mined of the squeeze in the palace. Altho' the staircase was none of the narrowest, it was choke full, and there many unfortunate wretches were struggling like persons in the last agonies of death.

Before entering upon this ocean of human bodies, which were so closely impacted together, than the motion of one person in any part was communicated to the dense mass, as one wave puts another in motion, I carefully prepared myself. I buttoned my coat, lest it should unluckily become wedged in and be torn – I looked to my elbows and pointed them out to be the ~~best~~ greatest advantage to me, a measure of precaution which subsequently saved my ribs from being stove in. Thus prepared I plunged into the centre of the vortex – and allowed myself to be carried to and fro, seizing every advantage.

The heat was intolerable – the perspiration was so plentiful, as to have washed a shirt, or a pair of trousers of the foulest description, and I sincerely pitied those unfortunate females, who had succeeded in gaining a dangerous eminence, and could get no farther, but stood screaming, panting and fainting without remeedy. After much exertion and suffering, I reached the landing place, but was not permitted to go farther, until a reasonable time had elapsed after the last party had passed. Soldiers were stationed to prevent too great a crush – but they were civil, and did not keep you waiting too long.

### Imperial Plate

At last my turn among others came – the soldiers opened, and we ran helter skelter up a second flight of steps, at the top of which you entered an anteroom, which conducted you to the different state rooms. I followed whither the rest led, and found myself in a long room, along one side of which was a sideboard covered with the Imperial plate. With the advantage of a profusion of lights the spectacle was a fine one – but the quantity of plate displayed was far below what I had expected – and I am sure one of the finest Jewellers in London could make as great a show. The Emperor perhaps was right in his precautions to insure the safety of his gold and his silver and not to trust his most loyal subjects to fate. Touch not, handle not was as

intelligibly indicated by the crowds of servants in the Imperial livery, who guarded this garden of Hesperides, as ever it was when painted in large letters on a board at the entrance to a flower garden, or of some public walks. But in truth the company was very decent and orderly – and paraded about as politely as if they had lived all their life at Court.

Having satisfied myself with a view of this grand sight, I followed the stream of the people thro' a long suite of apartments – but in each of these I stopped some time to examine it. The whole were elegantly adorned but were by no means superb – suited to a wealthy individual but unworthy the splendid condition of an Emperor. The objects most worthy of attention were some fine paintings by the first masters brought from Portugal. Of their merit I am you are aware no judge, and all I can say is that the subjects were scriptural chiefly, and that they gave me much pleasure, which pleasure would have been increased had the light by which they were seen, been netter disposed – the arrangement of the light was miserably bad. When I had seen every part that was to be seen, I retired pleased yet disappointed in some measure, by a door at the opposite extremity of the palace to that by which I had entered, none being permitted to go back by the same way.

#### Good Friday at Rio

Next day being Good Friday is observed as a high day in Catholic countries as being the anniversary of that most afflicting period, when our saviour completed the design of his mission on earth by a painful and lingering death on the cross. The flags of the different catholic vessels were hoisted half way up, and all their yards were crossed in token of sorrow. At intervals during the day the bells tolled mournfully – and in every church religious services suitable to the occasion were celebrated. Owing to some business, which occupied my time, I did not get ashore until the afternoon, and did not go farther than the palace square where we always land. In front of the Imperial Chapel a very large crowd was collected, all dressed to the best advantage but without finery. It is usual at this season to dress with great plainness, and if possible in black. The feeling which prompts this is a most admirable and religious one, as if it were an act of impiety to deck your person with ornaments of gold and jewels, or even of flowers and ribbons, when the Saviour of Mankind was executed on the cross. Not even the Emperor and Empress themselves were indulged with an exemption from this self denying and anti-vanity custom – their dress being remarkably plain.

About 4 o'clock, great crowds having assembled, all eyes were turned towards the church doors when the great bell began to give forth its solemn mournful sound. From thence issued out a numerous and long procession, commemorative of the way in which our Lord was conducted to Calvary. I cannot pretend to give you the details of the procession, as they were so various and complicated. We had guards of soldiers, with their musquets reversed and their band playing a solemn dirge – we had persons dressed up as Jews, executioners and assistants, and Roman soldiers with coats of Mail. We had also angels, represented by little girls, each of whom bore a diminutive copy of various articles used in the crucifixion. Some bore a small ladder – others a mallet – several carried spungles – and others nails. These little angels were among the most attractive of the whole. They were all mere children, and had been drilled some time beforehand to act their part in the drama of the day. Their hair was curiously curled & highly powdered, and their cheeks resembled roses from the quantity of rouge, which had been laid on. Their dress was very gaudy, all covered with spangles and ribbons – bracelets encircled their arms, and rings sparkled on their



tiny fingers. The shortness and stiffness of their frock permitted you to see that their legs were cased in light coloured boots over white silk stockings. The only part of their dress, which remains to be mentioned was that part which pointed them out as angels, viz their wings. These wings were made of fine gauze, which was extended on wire forming a hoop of large circumference rising obliquely from above the head. Every step they advanced this moved to and fro, and required some skill in the management of it – and in this they were all perfect. Indeed it was most laughable to see children so young act the part of puppets so demurely in this show – and I did not see a single one who forgot herself for an instant.

It is not a little curious that these, as well as the rest of the fancy characters are furnished by contract by persons who gain much by the hire of them. Competition of course is kept up, and the who can supply the greatest number of angels at the cheapest rate is engaged by the director of this religious spectacle – and the contractor has to instruct them and to find them in everything. Those children in general are chosen, who are of good appearance and handsome – and I must say in the present procession, a most excellent collection in reference to personal accomplishments had been made.

Some of these terrestrial angels proceeded, and followed a Canopy borne by four priests containing the body of Christ, and immediately behind the Image of the Virgin Mary. These were the great objects of adoration. When they passed all uncovered, and many knelt, uttering at the same time a prayer to themselves. Intermixed with the procession were many persons carrying large tapers 5 or 6 feet in height and I suppose that it is accounted a meritorious act of religion to be a candle bearer.

I do not know more of the particulars of the procession, and all that I can add is that the pantomime proceeded in front of the palace – that there the Emperor & Empress bent their knees, when the sacred images passed before them – and that after traversing several of the public streets the holy mummary returned at last to the Imperial Chapel, amidst a blaze of torches and candles.

### Birthday of *Donna Maria*

The day after Good Friday is usually a day of great bustle and enjoyment. Fireworks are displayed, and on many occasions large sums are expended in this way. As in England we used to burn Guy Fawkes with every mark of contempt, so in Catholic countries it is the custom to burn, hang, or drown Judas Iscariot. This year, as I have already mentioned all these practices were expressly forbidden – for which I was sorry, s I was told that I should miss a sight of much amusement and interest.

Today (if I forget not) was the birthday of the young Queen of Portugal. A levee was held in the palace but very few attended. On this occasion I saw *Donna Maria Segunde*, in the form of a stout, blowsy young girl, without dignity and without grace. She had her own carriage, and was attended by several officers of state. She appeared very timid and alarmed; she scarcely looked upon those few of her subjects, who ventured to pay her homage by kissing her hands. As soon as she was huddled into her carriage, it drove off in haste, without a single *viva*, or God bless you.

Sunday 3 April, Monday and Tuesday were great holidays, and would have been spent in mirth and festivity had times been quiet. Presents are frequently given and received – chiefly bonbons and sweetmeats. The different curious, fanciful and often

elegant cases containing these “sweeties” drew my attention very much. Among the negroes, who are the Chief manufacturers of these for the lower classes, there were displayed to view cones of coloured pasteboard, sheathed with cut paper – crowns of various dimensions also ornamented similarly, and having the centre filled with bonbons – also churches, human figures and a variety of other designs all tastefully conceived and executed. These were purchased to a great extent, and among the buyers, I saw many of an age which reminded me of the time when I too used to have my fairings in sweeties. For people of higher rank who can afford it, the ornaments and design are far superior – some are even splendid. In the Coffee House or *Hotel du Nord*, they had a most elegant assortment from 3 milrees to 50 milrees (i.e. from 5<sup>s</sup>/3<sup>d</sup> to £4. 7. 6.). For auld langsyne I purchased some of the sweeties, but whether it be prejudice or the fact, I did not like them half so well as our “din” – and would at anytime have preferred half a pound of *lick-jib* or *tablet* to half a dozen pounds of such stuff.

### Curious Scene at Rio

I have now only one more circumstance to mention and then shall finish my remarks on passion Week.

You must know that I love to traverse the streets and look out for myself. In this way, when I light upon any thing novel or amusing, I am more pleased than if I had been directed to the place for the express purpose of seeing what was to be seen. On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April, in the course of my rambling, I heard a loud noise proceeding from a large church – and it was neither like the noise of preaching, praying, nor psalmody, but a confused hubbub, entirely out of character with the sacred building. Curiosity strongly prompted me and I privately reconnoitred before I attempted an entrée. Then I perceived that the sound had been sent forth by a parcel of black people, who were assembled not in the large church, but in a small chapel adjoining. I made no scruple, but along with the Master joined the throng. I could not conceive what was going on or why so many had met together. That there was some design was evident, from almost all of them having small & large jugs, cups, pieces of linen, and large bunches of aromatic and excellent herbs. Such a merry set I had never yet seen in such a sacred place – laughter and jesting were general – and by all the powers, the clack, clack was tremendous. Their conduct was perfectly inexplicable to me – sometimes they ran out at a back door, and looking upwards with their [mites?] &.<sup>cc</sup> raised to catch whatever was to fall, they seemed the very personification of intense eagerness and anxiety – at another time again, with disappointed countenances they returned into the church after a young man had said something to them.

At last in waddled a jolly mulatto priest, with a dirty white surplice. All crowded round him – he laughing and talking all the time. One of the Church Servants threw a small silver vessel of water, and the priest, finding the weather likely to be wet, so as to prevent the ceremony from being performed outside, after some deliberation, mounted up on one of the small tables and altars, along with a young man who was probably a servitor. He then pull out a book, and in a clear, distinct voice proceeded to read the service for blessing the herbs and plants, which was to be done by converting ordinary into Holy water and besprinkling the persons and herbs before him. His enunciation tho’ extremely rapid was so very distinct, that all he said was perfectly intelligible to me, much to my surprise and delight. As soon as the necessary part of the book had been concluded, he dipped his had repeatedly into the vessel containing the water, and threw it liberally on the anxious expectants. Then all

the utensils, herbs & cloths were held up to catch the Holy shower – uproar shouting and laughter prevailed, loud enough to wake the dead. The Padre enjoyed the scene. He loved to see them scrambling, shoving & pushing and when the din had somewhat subsided, he easily renewed it by additional showers of water. We also got a little on us – but alas for the weakness of our faith, we have never perceived that it had any particular efficacy. It is difficult for us to conceive the transport of those, who had received only a moderate quantum of the holy water. I dare say that the herbs which we saw would either be religiously kept, or sold to wealthy persons for a high price. I never enjoyed a scene so much in my life – certainly I never laughed so much in a church or chapel before. My sides were sore with ‘*cahinning*’ and I was at last glad to get away from the religious farce – being able to stand it no longer.

### Leave Rio

Our time in Rio was fixed to expire on Saturday the 2 April, and we received on board all our passengers for England on that day. We left behind at Rio only one Gentleman, whom we had brought from Buenos Ayres. His name and title was D.<sup>r</sup> Domingo Vila, and his degree was I believe that of LLD. During the War in the Peninsular, he had been a lieutenant-Colonel of the Guerrillas, so famous for their defence of Spain – and to this day he still enjoys a pension from our Government for that rank. His appearance was much that of a gentleman his manners were agreeable and pleasing – and the range of his information was very accurate and yet considerable. In the course of conversation I learned that he had resided three or four years in Edinburgh and was on intimate terms with all our professors, particularly with Professor Pillans, of whom he expressed himself in very high terms. He spoke English very well and also French. I for my part was glad of his company, for I could then recall old scenes and old acquaintances – but I know nothing of his own history and pursuits.

### Passports

Early on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April, having received the Mail and dispatches over night we up anchor and made sail for England. As we passed the Fort of Santa Cruz we were boarded by the usual officer, in order to ascertain if our passengers has passports – out of 17 only one had regular passports. The rest were impossible, in consequence of the confusion in the public office, to obtain and it was apprehended that the want of them would detain them in Brazil. To make up; if possible, for the want of a regular passport, our Commander gave in a list of the passengers to Arthur Ashton Esq., his Majesty’s Charge d’Affairs – and this Gentleman appended to this a certificate that they were all British subjects, and had been unable to satisfy the usual forms – following the state of public affairs – advising the Captain, if any objection was made to this certificate, and they should refuse to allow our passengers to pass then to appeal to the British Admiral on board the *Warspite*. Very fortunately for us all no opposition was made, and we were allowed to wend our way to *Inglaterra* – our dear native land. Just as we had got clear of the Harbour – we saw and spoke H.M. Packet *Lyra*,<sup>8</sup> for whose arrival in some measure we had been detained. Some Miles astern of her, we thought that a vessel in sight was the *Calypso*<sup>9</sup> bound for Rio and

<sup>8</sup> HM Packet *Lyra*, Lt. James St. John, had sailed from Falmouth on February 4<sup>th</sup> 1831, for the Brazils..

<sup>9</sup> HM Packet *Calypso*, Lt. Richard Peyton, had sailed from Falmouth on February 21<sup>st</sup> for Buenos Ayres.

Buenos Ayres. We had fine weather all night, but the wind was foul in the morning but favourable at night.

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April - cloudy wet day – fine even.<sup>g</sup> Moderate and favourable breeze, but strong current against us. Cape Frio in sight all day.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – fine weather – Moderate and favourable breezes.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – beautiful w.<sup>r</sup> – wind fair in the morning – foul in the afternoon.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> – foul wind – cloudy, rainy w.<sup>r</sup>

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> – light variable winds all day – fresh and favourable breezes at night – cloudy w.<sup>r</sup>

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> – cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – Moderate but unfavourable breezes.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> – fine weather – foul wind.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – fine w.<sup>r</sup> – wind foul all day, favourable at night.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – pleasant w.<sup>r</sup> – wind nearly favourable.

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – variable w.<sup>r</sup> generally fine – favourable breeze.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – fine w.<sup>r</sup> – fresh and favourable breeze.

Friday 22<sup>d</sup> – cloudy but fair w.<sup>r</sup> – Fresh and favourable breezes.

Saturday 23<sup>d</sup> – cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – very fresh and favourable breezes.

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> – cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – fresh and favourable breezes.

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> – much rain during last night – cloudy but fair during the day – light variable breezes. But favourable. This morning saw the remarkable island of Fernando do Noranto, in shape like a cone, and at a great distance, resembling a vessel under full sail.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – pleasant fair w.<sup>r</sup> – very light favourable winds. In the afternoon it came on a flood of rain, which continued all night.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> – almost a calm – fine w.<sup>r</sup>

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – nearly a calm – very fine w.<sup>r</sup>

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> – very fine w.<sup>r</sup> – light breeze.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> - fine weather – nearly a calm. Crossed the line.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May – fine w.<sup>r</sup> – occasional squalls NE winds.

Monday 2<sup>d</sup> – very variable w.<sup>r</sup> with abundance of rain – a calm with merely occasional puffs of wind.

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – squally w.<sup>r</sup> much rain all day – light breezes and calms alternating – fresh unfavourable breeze at night.

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> – cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – fresh unfavourable breezes.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – very strong but unfavourable breeze.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - cloudy but pleasant w.<sup>r</sup> – foul wind.

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> - cloudy but pleasant w.<sup>r</sup> – wind foul.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May - squally w.<sup>r</sup> – winds not so unfavourable but changeable.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - pleasant w.<sup>r</sup> – fresh breezes but unfavourable.

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> - cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – fresh but unfavourable breezes.

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - pleasant w.<sup>r</sup> – strong breezes more favourable.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – variable winds and w.<sup>r</sup>

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - fine w.<sup>r</sup> – variable winds.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> - fine w.<sup>r</sup> – Moderate but unfavourable breezes.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> - pleasant w.<sup>r</sup> – variable winds – more favourable.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - fine w.<sup>r</sup> – variable winds.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> - fine w.<sup>r</sup> – light variable winds – more favourable.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – light variable breezes but favourable.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – forenoon dull cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – afternoon fine – very light variable winds but favourable.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - beautiful w.<sup>r</sup> – Nearly a calm in forenoon. At 1 sprung up a fresh and favourable breeze from NW.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> – light variable breezes – but unfavourable - pleasant w.<sup>r</sup>

Sunday 22<sup>d</sup> - beautiful w.<sup>r</sup> – Calm all day till about 3 P.M., when a light breeze sprung up from NNW. To day we picked up many planks which had probably been thrown overboard by some vessel; in distress. One of them bore the marks of fire.

[no entry for Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>]

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – dull disagreeable w.<sup>r</sup> – fresh and nearly favourable wind.

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> – fine W.<sup>r</sup> Fresh and favourable breeze.

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> - Cloudy W.<sup>r</sup> Fresh and favourable breeze.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – dark gloomy w.<sup>r</sup> & strong unfavourable breeze in the forenoon.  
Afternoon blowing half a gale. Saw dimly the islands of Corvo and Flores.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> – Gale still continuing. This morning saw a brig far ahead of us – in the course of the day passed, and left her behind in a long way, when all at once she made sail and bore down to us. In the evening she came up with us – passed close under our lee bows, without hailing us or saying a word. She then kept hovering about, and then came within hail. We` hailed her but owing to the indistinctness of the answer, we could learn nothing certain. We thought that she was called the *Chichester* out from Rio 54 days and bound for Liverpool.<sup>10</sup> Now we ourselves knew that no vessel had sailed from Rio for 54 days and that it must have been Rio Grande. When our questions had been answered, and all information respecting ourselves been given she ought to have sped off, but instead of that, she still kept near us – now here, now there. As we were near the Western Islands, all this seemed suspicious. Our Commander, who had gone to bed, got up when told of her conduct, and came on deck. She was then very near us - he hailed her. And distinctly said that if she did not keep off, he would fire into her. To show that this was no vain or empty threat, he ordered the Master to get a 9 lb Shot ready; and at the word of command, to fire over her. Still in case of any misunderstanding, on her part, the Captain bore away right from him, and plainly indicated his wish be rid of her company – and after some time, resumed our proper course. In spite of all this, the brig still came close to us, and so near that any mistake of the men at the helm would have been attended with distinctly fatal consequences. Upon this the Commander amazed at his presumption ordered the gun to be fired, and soon the ball whizzed past her stem. The good effect of this was presently seen, for he kept away, and lagged farther off us. This incident was the subject of much conversation and enlivened us all.

Very disagreeable w.<sup>r</sup> all day.

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May – still blowing very fresh. In the course of the day it became more moderate. Dull gloomy w.<sup>r</sup> Saw Fayal, S.<sup>t</sup> George;s, Pico, Graciosa, and Terceira; but none of them so distinctly as to enable me to say any thing about them.

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – fine weather. Moderate and favourable breeze.

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> - dull cloudy w.<sup>r</sup> – Moderate and favourable breeze.

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June – fine weather all day, rainy at night. Fresh and favourable breeze.

Thursday 2<sup>d</sup> – pleasant w.<sup>r</sup> – Moderate & favourable breezes.

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<sup>10</sup> A *Countess of Chichester*, Walker master, was reported as arrived at Liverpool from Bahia on June 11<sup>th</sup>. But whether this was the same vessel is conjectural. *Lloyd's List* – Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup> 1831.

Friday 3<sup>d</sup> – pleasant w.<sup>r</sup> – Fresh and favourable breezes.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> – beautiful weather – Fresh & favourable breeze in the forenoon, very light in the afternoon.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> – beautiful w.<sup>r</sup> – light variable winds.

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – fine weather – Moderate but unfavourable breeze.

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> – beautiful weather, light winds, which would have been favourable, had we not been to the Northward of Scilly.

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – most beautiful w.<sup>r</sup> light winds all morning – fresh & favourable breeze in the afternoon. At 3.30 P.M. made Scilly. At 1 A.M. Saw the Lizard, and

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> - at 8 A.M. came to anchor in Falmouth Harbour, after a voyage of 29 weeks, Minus one day. In the afternoon the *Volage* with the Emperor came in sight.<sup>11</sup>

Almost immediately after our Commander, the cabin passengers went on shore. These were three in number, viz. M.<sup>r</sup> John M<sup>c</sup>Kibben from Buenos Ayres to England – M.<sup>r</sup> & M.<sup>rs</sup> Dodgson from Rio. As a matter of politeness I shall introduce the lady first. She was a very pleasant agreeable & when her face was lighted up with animation, a very handsome woman. Her age was only 23 & she had been five years married but had no children.

Her husband the Reverend W.<sup>m</sup> Jacob Thomas Dodgson was a tall genteel young man, a native of Demerara, and an Oxford Man to boot. If we may believe all we heard they (M.<sup>r</sup> D & wife) have mingled in the most genteel, nay fashionable society. M.<sup>r</sup> D is very clever in the Classics and is moreover a poet, although such is the true modesty of merit, he never once alluded to this gift & we learnt it only from his wife. About 18 months ago he had left England to act as Clergyman at the Gongo Soco Mines – but having been unable to live on good terms with the chief Commissioner there Colonel Skerrett, he had resigned his situation & was now on his way back to Liverpool, of which place his wife is a native. In our society he showed himself a very pleasant fellow – was no enemy to a cheerful glass of wine - & was not particularly strict in his conduct on Sundays & holidays. He was not worse certainly than the great mass of Ministers, altho' it is much to be feared that true religion will decline most lamentably, unless its teachers enter upon their task with more energy & a greater strictness of doctrine & life.

M.<sup>r</sup> John M<sup>c</sup>Kibben was an Irishman a native of Belfast – a stout, unaffected young man. He had been 7 years as a merchant in Buenos Ayres, in the house of Dickson & C.<sup>o</sup> He was very pleasant company – had read a great deal, or as I may say, too much reading has injured his mind in reference to religion. He professed Deistical principles and I may remark that his case is by no means singular but that many young men, who go to reside abroad, are soon corrupted, and merely retain a little religion for fashion sake. M.<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Kibben was a complete merch.<sup>t</sup> professed to look only to his own interest - & declared that all the fine feelings of charity & benevolence were nonsense, & the mere inventions of a crack brained fellow. In politics he was a rank reformer, & to often expressed his hopes, that the title of King

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<sup>11</sup> *Lloyd's List* of Friday June 10<sup>th</sup> 1831, reported that the *Volage* had sailed from Rio on April 13<sup>th</sup> with the Emperor and family on board. And on Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup> reported her arrival at Portsmouth on the 13<sup>th</sup>, from Rio, Fayal and Cherbourg.

would be obliterated from the dictionary of men and a government established on a republican basis.

Besides these passengers we had a Captain Hambly, his wife & 3 children, together with 12 miners. I gave up my Cabin to Capt.<sup>n</sup> H & his family. They were so frightened at Rio, that they were in haste to come away with us, & would not wait for several large packages, of clothes which was coming down from the Mines to them. Capt.<sup>n</sup> H & wife were very pleasant people & their manners such as you would naturally expect from their situation. The oldest of the children a boy of 8 or 9 years named David – the second a girl of 4 years, named Dee - & the third was called Mary Ann, a child of 8 months old.

The 12 Miners, whom we brought home, were quiet steady men, very different from those whom we had taken out. They were satisfied with their provisions & accommodations, whereas the others had been continually grumbling & never satisfied. The most of them belonged to the Gongo Soco, and had been there for upwards of three years, and they were now returning to their homes with a little money, which they had saved.

Finis.



## Account of Expenses incurred during a voyage to Rio &amp; Buenos Ayres

		At Rio de Janeiro		
Jan. <sup>ry</sup> 15	Medecines -		£0	6 0
		Montevideo		
	31 <sup>st</sup> 1 oz of very bad Rhubarb & 43 Castor oil -		0	5 0
		Buenos Ayres		
Feb. <sup>y</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1'3 Rhubarb - 4'3 of Picin: & 4 drops Croton oil -		0	3 4
4 <sup>th</sup>	Medecines -		0	4 6
9	6½ lbs Sugar -		0	2 0
	1 Yard Calico -		0	0 8
	1'3 Rhubarb, 1'3 nitric acid -		0	1 2
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sarsaparilla 1 lb -		0	3 8
12	sugar		0	2 0
	3 lbs Sarsapar: 2 oz nitric acid & 1 ounce Muriats -		0	12 0
19	Medecines -		0	4 0
24	For supplying medicines -		1	10 0
	3 Yds Calico -		0	2 0
	1 lb Chocolate -		0	0 6
	Carry over		£3	16 10
Feb. <sup>ry</sup> 24	2 dozen tongues -		0	6 0
March 3	Medecines -		0	12 0
	Washing -		0	8 0
	Soap -		0	1 6
		Montevideo		
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cegars 200 -		0	4 0
10 <sup>th</sup>	Horse -		0	4 0
	Cards -		0	3 0
	Living on shore for 4 or 5 days -		1	6 0
	Segar Pouch -		0	2 0
		Rio de Janeiro detained from		
March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Gin - 3 Gallons -		0	15 0
to	Rum - 2½ Gallons -		0	4 4
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sugar 6 lbs -		0	2 0
	Coffee 6 lbs -		0	2 5
	Segars 500 (12 mil : at Exchange 21. <sup>d</sup> ) -		1	1 0
	Segars 1000 (20 milrees at d. <sup>o</sup> ) n-		1	15 0
	6 Bottles Port wine -		0	7 6
	2 Bottles best brandy -		0	4 0
	6 Bottles liqueurs -		9	8 0
	5 lbs 4 oz preserves -		0	7 0
	84 leeches borrowed from Sailor -		1	0 0
	6 leeches -		0	2 0
	Loss on paper currency -		1	2 0
	200 oranges -		0	1 6
	Paid for Oranges to Capt. <sup>n</sup> -		0	4 0
	Carry forward		£14	18 8

Refreshment – coffee – dinner &. <sup>c</sup> being almost every day	
On shore with M. <sup>r</sup> Geach -	1 0 0
English Cockade -	0 2 0
Guava Jelly & Jam -	0 3 0
Tigers Skin at Buenos Ayres for M. <sup>r</sup> Rob. <sup>t</sup> Symons -	<u>1 0 0</u>
Expenses in Buenos Ayres voyage -	<u>£17 3 8</u>

1831

April 8<sup>th</sup> received from Mefs.<sup>rs</sup> Campbell and Aveline, Agents for the Gongo Soco Mining Association, 137 milrees 200 rees, paper currency, in payment of a Bill of £12 presented to them for medicinces & attendance on their party of Miners sent out with us – Exchange at 1<sup>s</sup>/9<sup>d</sup>. milree.

Falm.<sup>o</sup>

8 July 1831

Received from Mefs.<sup>rs</sup> Carne's Falm.<sup>o</sup> Agent for the Brazilian Mining Association the sum of £2 2. for medicines & attendance rendered to John Tregelles, one of their Miners, who came home with us from Rio, labouring under an affection of the heart.

Falmouth

16<sup>th</sup> June 1831 Received from Captain Snell the sum of fifty pounds, as part payment of money due to me.

From my account of last voyage (Vide Journal at the end) the Sum of £7 3/- was due to me from the last term of payment. Now from Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept.<sup>r</sup> 1830 to Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 1831, we have 39 weeks, which gives £78 as my pay during that time

Due to me when I arrived	£7 3 0
	<u>78 0 0</u>
	<u>£85 3 0</u>
Received above	<u>50 0 0</u>
Still due -	£35 3 0

&

Besides 3 years medicines money is also due –

Account  
of  
Expenses at Falmouth  
From  
9 June to July 1831.

1831 June		£.	s.	d.
9	Paper -	0	1	6
	Letter to Elizabeth -	0	1	3½
	Boatman -	0	1	0
10	Still's (Shoemaker) Bill -	1	1	6
	Month at Lake's Lib. <sup>ry</sup> -	0	2	6
	Porterage -	0	1	0
11	2 silk purses ( <i>for our M.<sup>s</sup> Wilson</i> ) -	0	5	0
	Watch ribbon -	0	0	7½
	Black Neckerchief -	0	5	6
12	Boat -	0	0	6
	To Trish [Irish ?] -	0	0	6
15	M. <sup>t</sup> Drew's Bill -	1	14	5
	Library for H. [ <i>Sando</i> ] -	0	2	6
	James Rowe (valet de chamber) -	1	0	0
16	Hat (got 8 <sup>th</sup> June) -	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
	Carry over -	£6	2	10
16	Refreshments at Burrels -	0	4	0
	1 Box of matches -	0	1	0
17	Boat -	0	1	0
18	Pair of black kid gloves -	0	3	6
20	To Boatman for five days & for one whole days time -	0	8	0
21	Board & Lodging -	1	7	0
22	Letter to Mother -	0	1	3½
24	d. <sup>o</sup> d. <sup>o</sup> -	0	1	3½
25	Board & Lodging -	0	18	7½
	1 Box of Soda powders -	0	1	6
27	Refreshm. <sup>ts</sup> at S. <sup>t</sup> Mawes -	0	3	0
28	To servant there -	0	2	6
July 1	Carpenters Bill for writing desk &. <sup>c</sup> -	0	7	0
	Sundries -	0	2	0
2	Gold Band & repairs to Cap -	0	9	0
	Paper -	0	0	8
	Boat hire -	0	1	6
4	Subscription Read. <sup>g</sup> Rooms -	0	10	0
	Board & Lodging -	1	12	8
6	Lancets sharp. <sup>g</sup> at Truro -	0	3	0
	Refreshment -	0	1	0
7	Paper & Ink -	0	1	4
	Soap & Tooth Powder -	0	1	2
	Expenses of Jaunt to Truro -	<u>0</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>
	Carry over -	£13	18	10½

1831

July

7	Wax -	0	0	6
8	fair at Penryn -	0	1	6
	Medecine Bill of M. <sup>r</sup> Evans, Stonehouse -	0	18	7 ½
	Soap Shav. <sup>g</sup> -	0	0	8
	Paper & camel hair brushes -	0	1	6
	Looking Glass -	0	3	6
	Shaving Brush -	0	0	9
	[ <i>Po de la Chambre</i> ] & basin -	0	4	0
9	Boatman -	0	6	0
	Letter from James -	0	1	3½
	Servants -	0	8	6
	Bill for Washing -	1	16	6
	Board & Lodgings -	1	13	6
	Part of Collivers Bill -	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
		£29	15	8½

Addenda

	Case of Bottles -	0	1	8
	Ribbon, Shoe strings &. <sup>c</sup> -	0	1	0