

Thursday Arrived at Gravesend about 5 o'clock all confusion company went back by boat Mr. Dexter gave me 10/- beautiful moonlight evening sailors playing concertina and dancing up till half past ten got children to bed at six did not much like the close quarters but slept very well.

Friday got up at 5 beautiful morning had to get breakfast the best way we could for the steward for our cabin was tight all day yesterday and not recovered yet. Wind getting up we are beginning to rock makes all feel queer.

Tuesday June 6th been so bad not been able to write or think or do anything we are in the Bay of Biscay and the weather has cleared beautiful they say we shall have fair weather now for a month and getting warmer every day how we have passed the last few days I can't say everybody has been ill my two children as well Nellie bore it well but Edie was dreadful I nurse her all the time the old gentleman next berth to me was best of all and he waited on the rest as much as he could he hunted up the doctor and got arrowroot for us all and on Sunday only one or two was out of bed all day I got up and dressed about 11 but with the children went to bed again at 3 and laid there with our clothes on nearly rolled out several times the wind being the wrong way the ship rolled sideways at last I suppose we went to sleep and when we woke up it was night they leave a swing lamp alight all night in the cabin so we got up and took off our things as well as I could the children crying of course cold and miserable and got into bed again Monday was as bad could not eat anything but today we are better and can eat a little had for dinner soup boiled beef and redcurrant and cherry tart tea biscuit and tea but the tea is horrid stuff they have bread but its so stale the biscuit is very nice supper biscuit and cheese have been sitting on deck all day reading could not begin work yet from six to eight the sailors have for themselves and they keep us alive singing and dancing and playing music three of them have concertinas one a flute one a violin and a tambourine another bells so we have quite a concert We stay on deck as long as we can it is so close down here and the ship creaks so you can hardly hear yourself speak the children were undressed at six and now I shall soon go good night this is a good lot for one day

June 7 another lovely day the sun is beginning to scorch my face so we shall be forced to take our hats after breakfast went on deck did some crochet till dinner roast beef and potatoes and plum pudding very nice went up again till tea time the children make friends with all the men and everybody is kind to them they were following the captain about this afternoon and hanging on his legs the first passengers too take notice of them and give them things to eat there is another baby in our cabin 16 months old her mother a very nice person but very delicate her husband working his way out as seaman such a kind man has taken upon himself the cleaning of my berth when he does their own they were not so fortunate as me they had to pay £10 for their baby and she has only the bottle with cornflour which they brought themselves so I may consider myself lucky well I see nothing to complain of we have a very nice lot of people who seem determined to make things comfortable the men wait on the females fetch our water empty our pails and start us up stairs after meals while they wash up the things we have only to express a wish and there is somebody ready to do it We yesterday finished the pudding mother made us and today for tea began the seed cake I have now put the children to bed and am going up again to finish the evening at crochet

June 8 Another beautiful day too fine they say not much wind it is getting warmer I am getting tired of the sameness already you can do nothing but sit on deck till meal times and as far as we can see we don't seem to get on a bit farther on We seem to be in a round piece of water and always in the middle of it We saw a lot of porpoises today just like great pigs leaping up out of the water everyone rushes to see it one of the first passengers came down our part of the ship today and the sailors made her pay her footing they had three bottles of rum

June 9 Such a hot day very little wind and the water is smooth as glass and as blue as blue ink we only did 90 miles since 12 yesterday to the same time today and now we are going slower still there was a commotion just now they thought they saw a large fish and got the harpoon ready when it turned out to be an empty barrel the sun is so scorching and it makes the children so tiresome I am quite tired attending to them We are now a long way past the Bay of Biscay but I dont know where I don't know why but we never stopped since after we left Gravesend I thought to have written again from Plymouth but its a good job I sent one by the pilot we had for dinner today pea soup very nice boiled pork too salt and plum pudding but you have got to look a long way for the plums

June 10 nothing particular today we are on the coast of Africa and not going very fast

June 11 - Sunday rain in the morning everyone but me went to Church and Edie was so tiresome I was afraid she is not at all well diarrhoea for some days this afternoon we were in some danger the wind has freshened and it was found we were driving right onto the island of Madeira we were almost close to it before they saw it for it gets dark now about 5 o'clock so there was a great commotion today they had to turn the ship and go back a long way saw three ships at once one close to us

June 12 Close by Madeira we were on the wrong side of it yesterday so they had to turn and go round it because one side of it they always get becalmed we could see the houses on it and the green hills the cliffs are very high but the hills behind it are an immense height We are only moving about 2 miles an hour I do not see anything to grumble at yet We have plenty of everything and they seem inclined to make us so we have asked for three things which are not generally allowed milk cheese and lump sugar and have got it I don't know whether it will be continued my only trouble is the children they are tired of it or not well or something and they worry fearful and I cannot do with them as at home and I have not got over my illness yet I think if I was to live an hundred years old that packing scene would be fresh in my memory I dream of some portion of it every night

June 13 Very hot going very slow almost as calm

14th - ? so? hot it is fearful Edie suffers much her head is as though it had been dipped in water and she is so troublesome she struggles about in my arms I am completely worn out they eat very little we had roast mutton and jam tarts for dinner today potted herring for tea and tonight I have been sitting on the forecandle till ten o'clock watching the phosphor

15th rather cooler today we have got into trade winds and are going along at a fine rate 10 miles an hour I have had a sick head ache all day but tonight I feel better. Preserved meat made into soup with potatoes for dinner and a gooseberry and an apple tart the steward gave me a tin of cornflour today so I can make it when I like for the children two of the sailors hearing my name asked me if anyone belonging to me went out in the SOUTH AUSTRALIAN last year they went in her and remember Fred well directly they heard my name they thought he was my husband.

16th felt very queer all day had sick headaches I am heartily sick of the voyage what shall we be as we go on it is the same thing over and over again I cannot do much work the children are too troublesome for that if you feel queer and want to lie down they will not let me and besides it is so fearfully hot in the bunks I give the children a salt bath every morning one of the sailors brings me the water and I can get hot fresh water every Saturday for their bath pea soup salt pork and jam tarts for dinner

17th made a hat for Edie for the hoods are no good now it is so hot (in about three weeks we shall have it cold again) and if she wears her hat she will have none to go ashore in so I begged a piece of canvas of the sailmaker and covered it with a bit of white twill and so cobbled her up a first rate hat to save the other bathed the children in the afternoon and washed the dirty clothes boiled beef for dinner and potatoes and boiled rice with currants the ship is rolling fearfully talk about great waves it is like hills and valleys looking over the side of the ship you can touch the water one minute and the next it is like looking down from a housetop to it they have put out the nets to catch flying fish but none has come as yet we passed a ship just now so close we could see the people on deck they signalled it we seem to go faster than any ship we have seen yet we overtake and pass them all

18th Sunday the most miserable day of all because I cannot do anything could not go to church because of Edie so sat on deck all the morn roast mutton and potatoes and plum pudding for dinner bad headaches sat on deck all the afternoon reading as the time goes on I feel the separation from all my friends more and more it seems as a dream now shall I ever see them again it makes me so miserable to think of but I have got to go through it so the least I think about it the better for me

19th Needlework all day tonight the sailors dressed up as niggers and two as women and went up to the saloon and danced and sang you never saw such a lot of noodles in your life but they seem very happy and are always up to some larks

20th fearfully hot today there are a lot of flying fish about a pretty looking fish with wings as transparent as a fly's they fly on the deck and some has come down in our cabin they catch them to cook but I don't suppose we shall have any its too hot to work everywhere its suffocating down here and up above although there is some air the sun scorches I have made two chemises for Edie yesterday and today and two I did last week there are a lot of flannel shirts going on now I had a hand in these last week but I don't see going on having my own work the second mate asked us to make him three which we did I worked close for two days and now the steward and the first and third mates want some they are rather deep to get them made for nothing so I don't think I shall help preserved meat and potatoes for dinner and greengages tart salt fish for tea too salt to eat we are about 800 miles from the line now they expect to meet some homeward bound ships soon so we may perhaps be able to send a letter I shall get one ready

26th I have missed some days the heat has been so oppressive I have not been able to do anything at all I get up in the morning and about 7 bath and dress the children and then I am quite knocked up want no breakfast or anything else its a task to attend the children at such times its more than one can do to attend upon themselves then we go on deck and do nothing although I have enough to do without work it is so hot that I cannot even sew on the buttons to the children's boots but today it is better we have a strong wind though not a favourable one we go along rapidly but out of every 16 miles we only gain 4 We sent letters today by an homeward bound ship we came rather near each other but they had to go in a boat about a mile it looked so dangerous the sea being rough they had been 68 days at sea from Bombay our Captain sent them newspapers potatoes pipes and a lot of other things we are tumbling about fine everybody has been sick today but me they say I am the best sailor of the lot but I should be as bad as them sometimes if I gave way to my feelings then who would attend to the children I am forced to keep up. We had roast chicken for dinner yesterday but so hard we could not eat them today boiled pork but so salt and damson tarts

27th A man was seen drowned floating past our ship today very glad I did not see it rained torrents this evening and such rain they said it would be legs of mutton but it was buckets full I never saw anything like it

28th Saw a lot of whales close to the side of the ship so hot but a little wind can manage to do a little work if I get in the wind I go up directly after breakfast everyday the same I find a shady place then sit and work when the children will let me and as the sun passes over the ship we have to shift our places to get in the shade we are all as brown as a berry we are called at meal times and go up again after

29th Sat at work all day rather rough weather every now and then we get a good sea over we have a good many shower baths I have done a good deal of crotchet and 4 chemises for the children already and I am the only one that does that much work

30th nice cool breeze but almost too — for work the ship is all on one side and ours is the high side so when we are in the cabin dressing I have the greatest difficulty to keep from tumbling out of the door for we have a curtain instead of shutting the door to be cooler. We shall cross the line tonight so Neptune came on board one of the sailors dressed up to tell the captain he should come on board tomorrow night to shave the people so we must look forward for some fun this is also a month today since we came on board and the sailors were paid a month in advance so they call it working for a dead horse they made a horse as large as life with blue rosettes at the side of its head and tonight about 7 it was raised up to the yard arm with one man on its back who then sets off some rockets and some more was set off from the poop then it was set fire to and lowered into the sea the man left hanging there was a tar barrel inside it so it burnt well.

July 1st fine doings the sailors have had a holiday and dressed up there was Neptune and his wife six policeman 2 bears the barber and assistant and several more they had an immense tub on the deck with a board on the edge one was dressed for a lawyer to call the names of the persons to be shaved and a doctor with spectacles who gave the smelling bottle which had a needle in the cork and to each a great pill and a spoonful of vinegar then the barber came with a bucket full of lather and a great paint brush the man was blindfolded smothered with lather two or three buckets of water thrown over him and then the board tilted up and into the tub he went the two bears on top of him then another was pulled out of course there was a great race for him all over the ship by the policeman sometimes they were on the mast head or hanging by ropes over the sea all the males had to be shaved or pay a fine and while this was going on the bears were running about and doing all sorts of mischief tilting someone into the tub if they got a chance running away with the lather brush and when they were quite wet growling and running in among the ladies they were covered with sacks oakum rope in altogether they had fine fun and when all were shaved they began shaving each other at dark Neptune took his departure we saw the light for miles

2nd Sunday another splendid day but so hot sat reading all day

3rd too hot to work evening is the best time but as it gets dark about 4 o'clock we are obliged to sit on deck and do nothing plenty of singing and dancing going on passed a ship so close this evening the moon is shining splendid they had a conversation and our ladies sang them a song

4th very lazy all day shall be glad when it gets cooler

5th Not quite so hot today but the children are almost unbearable I feel that I shall never get them in this worry I would caution anyone against coming with young children they are uncomfortable and don't know the meaning of it they get hungry but when they come to meals they will not eat Nelly is getting so thin nothing is nice on board ship but I cannot make them try to eat it and in trying to entice then I have to go without myself everybody thinks only about themselves there is only one more person with a baby but she has her husband to wait upon her I have wished lots of times we had not started for I am truly miserable and what with bad thoughts, bad dreams, and longing for some news I almost dread arriving at Adelaide.

6th going on nicely but very rough almost as much sea in the ship as out of it the decks are swimming but the children will not be contented below so we have spent the between the sheep folds perhaps you remember the place over the main hatch we sat on the bag and there was a covering over to keep the sea from the sheep

7th Not quite so rough able to do a little work

8th felt very ill all day not able to do anything had a job to bath the children

9th Was woke up last night rolling about in bed something dreadful the slop pail and the water bottle was rolling about with the plates and spoons the cabin was floated almost everyone's water was upset for the ship rolled so sudden no one had prepared it seems the wind dropped in the night and the sea was very heavy made it roll so it has been the same all day (this is Sunday) nothing will stand on the table. I was trying to wipe up my cabin and I and the pails went rolling together and yet we are not getting on a bit for there is no wind only a very heavy black sea well I have a job to keep on my seat but when I move I am thrown from one side to the other just now I nearly jerked over the table stewed chickens for dinner just warmed through so you may fancy very tender and last night we took the pains to stone the raisins and wash the currants to have an extra good pudding but the cook made a mistake and gave ours to the sailors while we had their common one a fine lark for them

10th - 20th I have missed 10 days which has been such a wretched time stived? up down here with a head ache every day it has been and is now very bad weather it is very cold and the sea so rough a day or two ago I almost gave up hope of getting there we were tumbling about down here could not keep on our seats and could not stand my arms and legs are stiff with holding on yesterday a sea came over smashed to atoms all the sheep pens broke away part of the bulwarks and took lots of things overboard it is a dreadful state of things nothing will stand on the table and as to the children they are all bruises I have to write a word now and then the decks are always swamped and I shall not be at all surprised to find all my things in the hold spoiled. I have spoken about it but while it is so rough they cannot go down I shall be glad to have a breath of fresh air it is a week now since I went to the top of the steps. We have our meals after a fashion but sometimes it gets upset in cooking we get very nice fresh meat Sundays and Wednesdays today we had preserved mutton and apple and plum tarts last Sunday I was so bad was obliged to send for the doctor he gave me

some stuff did me a deal of good I have never got over the leaving yet my head has been screwed up ever since I came on board but it is better now and would be better still if I could get some rest but night is the same as day we are rolling about in bed I don't think I shall ever get over parting with all my friends I cannot trust myself to speak about it

21st Another bad day one of the largest sails torn to ribbons in the night I ventured up to see it this morning the pieces are frayed a quarter of a yard deep worked down here as well as I could all day must give you an account of how much I have done when we are at our journeys end if ever we get there roast mutton for dinner and jam tart. 22nd still bad weather baked rice pudding for dinner the pork was too salt got some hot water and bathed the children In the afternoon played cards in the evening

23rd Sunday A fearful day and last night was dreadful the sea washed over the poop smashed up the hen coups and washed the chickens overboard about twenty knocked down two men and hurt them much and again it smashed in the door of the cooks room on deck washed him out of bed and everything out of the place some of the stores are kept there We have been rolling to ? all day it seems we must go right over mutton and baked potatoes for dinner and plum pudding this evening the poop steps have been washed away breaking the thick brass railing in two or three pieces well I don't suppose you will be able to read this I cannot do it better so I will leave off have some supper and go to bed

24th still very cold but much finer able to go up on deck this morning for a little while when the sun was shining but too cold to stay long for the deck is so wet and the water still coming over we had to be perched up in one place so of course soon got frozen and glad to come down again

25th Went up again this morning and the Captain came and told us to go on the poop which we did and it being nice and dry up there we stayed walking about till dinner time came down had roast mutton preserved potatoes which is very tasty and jam tart staid down the remainder of the day at work.

26th rough weather again but able to get on the poop for a while Mrs. Smith took the children and I had a turn out of my cabin and scrubbed it.

27th too rough to have a smell of fresh air knocking one another about in the cabin so set to work as well as I could pea soup and pork for dinner and plum pudding

28th no sleep all night rolling about in bed and the tins and jars keep up a constant clatter we are going very quick did 297 miles yesterday

29th Went to the top of the steps to have a peep at the sea it is grand we seem to be between two mountains all white foam and the wind blowing it seems to look as though the mountains were smoking a white smoke one wave came up while I was there quite as high as the mast head crested with white I should like to get up to the poop and see it from there but the men cannot even get so far the sailors are oil skins all over and sea boots dinner is hard work for me I have to hold the children and plates too hot one go and it shoots into your or somebody elses lap or on the floor

30th Sunday fine day very cold able to get up a little while on deck but could not go to church. roast mutton and plum pudding for dinner.

Tuesday 8th August been sick bad weather lately could not write or do anything some of the people have not been to bed for a week but I go to bed on account of the children but not to sleep much it has been nothing but storms and squalls last night I think has finished it up it was an awful night it began lightning about seven in the evening I went to bed early in hope of getting a little rest but I had not been asleep long before the water came dashing into the _____ from hatch skylight and ventilator it made a fearful noise but my berth far up the cabin I got none in my place presently came another and the sea strikes the sides of the ship with such violence you would think it must be stone in the storm lasted all night and they said the lightning rested on the masts in six different places and burned like lamps the breakwater was washed away that they had fixed up to keep the water out of the saloon and they were flooded the Captain and bosun were washed off the poop on to the lower deck and the bosun's leg seriously hurt the deck was a complete wreck there is not a bit of the bulwarks left all was smashed up and the sheep and pigs loose early this morn the Captain gave orders to heave to but the first mate disputed it and so we have been going all day but the sea has been very angry now we seem to have got into better weather

9th much finer today but bitterly cold they talk about the last storm as being a very bad one the Captain says all the time he has been at sea he was never in such a one and he says if it had continued much longer we should not have held out so we have had a narrow escape we shall go into port in a very bad state all the iron is rusty which they generally keep clean and the bulwarks all broken they expect to be there in more than a week

10th Went up on the forecastle this morning to see the sea it looks grand from there the waves mounting up so high and in an instant down again we are tossing about very much but the wind is in our favour and it is fine spent the day learning some patterns of tating the people are all very comfortable and kind I like the ship and all very much except that so much water comes over and they say others do not ship so much I believe all will be spoiled in the hold I know my cases will not stand the water it will be a pity if all is done for. I wish I had not brought any it has been a constant worry to me some tell me the water cannot get down others say it does and they will not look after it for me the sailors may not go down on their own account or they would for they are all very kind well I must wait and see

11th still fine and going very fast the weather too is getting milder more like Adelaide weather they say took the children up for a blow but we have not been able to go to the other end of the ship for a month the water dashes over the middle of the ship so much more tating.

12th cleaned out my berth did some work till teatime then bathed the children Edie begins to talk fine she can say most everything she tells me what she is going to say to dada she is delighted to get up with the sailors and have a game they seem very fond of them both

13th Sunday a fearful headache all day got up this afternoon the sun shone splendid the sailors amused the children and I could sit quiet I made my own tea but it has done me no good think it is the thought of getting there makes me feel very bad at times I wish I knew how I shall find him They say we shall most likely spend next Sunday in Adelaide.

14th my head much worse I feel quite ill as the time draws nearer to know what awaits me I wish I could compose myself but the more I try the more I tremble a very fine day but I could not go up one of the ladies sent for Nellie to go on the poop they seem to have taken a fancy to her We are going very slow now no wind we only did 160 miles yesterday

15th I cannot help it the thought is too much for me I am laid up quite ill.

18th Friday this is the day some said we were to get there we are about 60 miles from Kangaroo Island with the wind right against us so we cannot get on at all I am much better I think I have made up my mind to get there

19th We are now in the Gulf and if the wind continues we shall be there at 4 tomorrow morning such a preparation for going ashore and it is quite time we were there for we have only salt water and sour bread.