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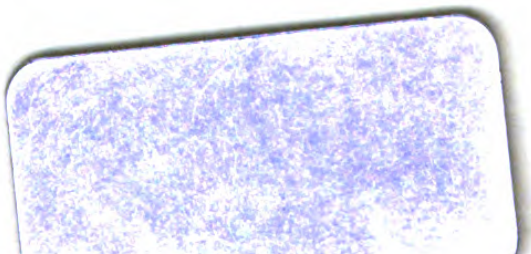
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THE  
LANDSMAN'S  
LOG-BOOK

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THE  
LANDSMAN'S LOG-BOOK;

OR, AN  
EMIGRANT'S LIFE AT SEA :

WITH SOME  
ACCOUNT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

BY MR. JOHN HAYTER,  
LATE OF WILSFORD, WILTS.

LONDON :  
SMITH, ELDER, & CO., CORNHILL.  
1842.

430.



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## PREFACE.

THE following pages were intended for the perusal of a very few friends only; but one who was allowed to read them, being struck by the fidelity of description and good feeling prevailing in Mr. Hayter's Journal, earnestly recommended its publication, and willingly consented to undertake the management and revision of it. In executing this task, his endeavour has been to abstain from all but the slightest verbal alterations, and whilst he deplors the severity of criticism as directed against the unconscious author, the Editor acknowledges that any deserved blame must fall upon himself. To those kind subscribers or other readers who may here seek in vain for direction on some points respecting the great cause of emigration, to Australia in particular, it is submitted that ample and correct information is already obtainable from many sources.

The annual reports of the Colonization Commissioners supply much valuable statistic knowledge, with a full explanation of the principles on which they have proceeded; and the abstract, published by Hailes, of the late Parliamentary Committee Reports, will throw a great light on the history, character, capabilities, and prospects of South Australia. Many interesting works have latterly been presented to us on these subjects by Messrs. Whittaker and Co., Smith, Elder and Co., and other spirited publishers; and the pages of several newspapers, as the "Australian Record," and the "Colonial Gazette," with other periodical works, devoted to the cause of emigration as the great

desideratum of our Colonies, may be consulted with advantage. Messrs. Capper and Gole, with several other agents, are ready to supply information to those who desire to become purchasers of land in these colonies, and the former gentlemen afford an opportunity of re-union and mutual consultation at their offices, to all who meditate the most important step of establishing themselves in what has been well called the **LAND OF PROMISE**. Material assistance and advice may also be obtained from the South Australian Company, whose liberality to emigrants who wish to become their tenants is well known, and the success of whose own zealous and indefatigable labours in South Australia gives the best encouragement to private individuals who have the means and the courage to follow their example.

Nor can the Editor omit this opportunity of declaring his perfect satisfaction with the ascertained result of his own efforts to promote the emigration of several families, who, leaving the scene of their precarious and ill-requited labours at home, and having found a more grateful soil and readier employment abroad, already enjoy many comforts hitherto unknown to them, have acquired some property, and may look forward to independence if not wealth. It is indeed much to be desired that a large fund to defray the expenses of emigration might be raised on the poor rates of over populous parishes; not as the law now is, by charging the payment in five annual instalments, on the tenants and occupiers, but by spreading it over a much longer period, levying the annual instalments upon the landlords, whose property is really relieved and benefited, and taking the interest only, if anything, from the tenants for the time being.



# AN EMIGRANT'S LIFE AT SEA;

OR,

## A LANDSMAN'S LOG-BOOK.

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HOWEVER unused I may be to writing, my dear sister, I am persuaded that you will be induced, by affection and the kind interest you take in all that concerns me, to receive with indulgence the pages I propose to write, by way of a journal of the new and animating scenes I am about to enter upon. The employment will agreeably occupy a few hours in an otherwise tedious voyage, and in some measure compensate me for the loss of your conversation and society; whilst the account you will thus receive of my daily life on board ship will serve to dispel any exaggerated notions of the dangers and annoyances I am about to encounter, amidst companions and occupations so different

from those of my previous life. To yourself and the very few friends who will see these unpretending pages, I need say nothing of the disappointments that have urged me to leave my home, friends, and country, nor of the hopes to be realized, please God, in the land of promise to which I am going.

SUNDAY, May 3d, 1840. Embarked on board the William Mitchell, bound for Adelaide, South Australia, as a steerage passenger. Found about 186 passengers on board, consisting chiefly of the lowest class of agricultural labourers and a few mechanics, and only two, except myself, deserving to rank amongst the middle class of society: they are two very respectable young men, but very opposite in their characters, one being a cockney, very reserved in his manners and fastidious in his dress, expecting everything as nice here as he had it at home, in which expectation, it will readily be conceived, he is most wofully disappointed; the other, a young man who has been at sea before, in fact, has been in the merchant service a few years, and is every inch a sailor, displaying that open-

heartedness and affable disposition so characteristic of a British sailor. Our mess includes, with myself, these two, two shoemakers, and eight regular clodhoppers, the most uncouth set of fellows I think I ever had the honour of dining with; and you will fancy what trouble we had to get them to behave with anything approaching to decency; but, as use is second nature, I shall doubtless get accustomed to their mode of living, for I am afraid I shall never bring them to mine.

TUESDAY, 5th. A steamer towed us to Gravesend early this morning, and then left, when we cast anchor, to the great mortification of all, who were most anxious to proceed to our destination. In the afternoon, weighed anchor again for sea; but in the evening were again obliged to cast anchor, having no wind, and the tide being against us.

WEDNESDAY, 6th. Off again with a brisk wind, which began to show its effects on most of those who had not been at sea before. The women were dreadfully ill; and one of our mess being taken ill at dinner-time, we sent him on deck with very little ceremony; but the young

rascal was determined not to be done out of his share of the dinner, and took it with him; a circumstance from which you will conclude, that at sea the old saying, "Let every one take care of himself," is acted on to its full extreme—a lesson that every one will learn before being at sea a week.

SUNDAY, 10th. We are still beating about the Channel, with contrary winds. Had the wind been fair, we should now have reached the Madeiras. We are now off the Devonshire coast, as we are told by some fishermen who came on board this afternoon; for the crew, being all Scotch, know nothing at all about the the different parts of the coast we pass occasionally. Although the wind was contrary, it was not boisterous; but there was a heavy ground swell, as it is termed, and the sea rolled about very much, and looked of a very dark colour, which is a never-failing indication of an approaching storm. This is the first Sunday ever passed by me at sea, and it was spent in a much better manner than I should have expected, considering the very different characters we had on board. In the afternoon, the surgeon read prayers, which

were attended by the majority of the emigrants, with a proper degree of attention, and indeed by some with an appearance of the greatest devotion; the service was closed with singing; and to those who have been delighted by the peculiar beauty of musical sounds (whether vocal or instrumental) on the water, it will be no matter of surprise that the sound of many voices, raised amidst the vast expanse of ocean, should have had a great effect upon the feelings of one who meditated on this singular assemblage, brought together from such various scenes and occupations, about to encounter the perils of the deep, leaving for ever their homes and family and friends and country, but all thus uniting to praise God, who alone could bless their hopes of good and calm their fears of evil. In the evening, there was a prayer-meeting held, at which I attended, and was quite surprised to hear such good prayers (extempore), and so adapted to our situation: I shall attend regularly.

MONDAY, 11th. Most welcome was the first appearance of daylight this morning. It would require an abler pen than mine to give a description of the horrors of last night. As I said



yesterday, there was an indication of an approaching storm, but we certainly did not expect such a narrow escape as we had. As soon as it was dark the wind began to blow hard, and the ship pitched and rolled frightfully, and the women were dreadfully ill, and most of the men. I did not feel it in the least. About one o'clock in the morning, we heard a tremendous outcry on deck and the captain's voice above all others giving orders with such rapidity, that it was impossible for any Englishman to understand him; but we were well aware that it was a case of great difficulty, as all the men were called to turn out instantly, which they did almost in a state of nudity, not having time to put on their clothes, as, owing to the darkness of the night, the watch had not perceived a large ship bearing down right upon us; in fact, all but into us. It is impossible for me to describe the confusion prevailing at that moment, and if you stretch your imagination to the utmost pitch, you will have but a faint idea of it. The sailors, when at work, generally make a very harsh disagreeable noise; but on this occasion it seemed more like the howling of demons than proceed

ing from any mortal beings. Their unearthly noise soon informed every one on board of our being in a desperate situation: the prayers of the passengers, the crying of the children, mingling with the oaths of the sailors, altogether formed a scene heart-rending in the extreme, and one which I even now shudder to think of, while I shall always revert to it as a most providential escape. Many a one, I verily believe, who never before had given a thought of a future state was irresistibly compelled to exclaim fervently, "Lord have mercy on my poor soul!" and those words might be heard proceeding from twenty different mouths, which probably had never before articulated a prayer. God grant that it may be the means of leading us all to reflect on our past conduct, and excite in our minds a firm resolution to amend! Had the ship not been discovered till five minutes later, there is not a doubt but we should have been sunk; and, in all human probability, every soul on board would have met a watery grave. The vessel just cleared us, and right glad we were to get rid of her: at daylight, we saw nothing of her.

12th. To day all the passengers were ordered to take their matrasses on deck, but, when I went to fetch mine down again, it was removed from the place where I had placed it, and I could not find it; so I laid hold of some other person's that was near, and took it to my own cabin. The man made a precious row about it, but as his and mine happened to be marked the same number, I considered it was as likely to be mine, and, consequently, I stoutly defended it, but was ultimately induced to give it up, on receiving a hint from the surgeon, with whom I am on excellent terms, that he would give me a better one, which he did the same evening. It may here be remarked, in explanation of the surgeon's interference, that the charge of preserving order and discipline amongst the emigrants is generally entrusted, with unusual powers and responsibility, to this officer on board such vessels.

13th. We are now on the Atlantic Ocean, with not a breath of air stirring, and almost motionless, which is very tiresome; and for my own part, I would rather have a gale of

wind, having now plenty of sea room, and not having seen any land since Sunday.

16th. On Thursday evening we entered the Bay of Biscay, which part of the ocean, even when it is calm everywhere else, is sure to have a heavy sea, owing to several currents meeting; but in a gale of wind it is tremendous. It was our luck that, the very evening we entered the Bay, the weather, which had before been very still, suddenly altered, and it began to blow fresh, which, in the course of the night, increased to a gale. Then it was we first knew what it was to be out in a heavy sea. Whatever I had seen of sea before was nothing to it. The passengers had all along dreaded the Bay of Biscay, and many remembered the old song —“In the Bay of Biscay O!” There were not many who obtained any sleep that night; but—

“ At length the wish'd for morrow  
Broke through the eastern sky ;”

and a scene it was we were introduced to, which I will not attempt to describe; but it was most awfully grand you may be well assured. What made it much worse was, that

the wind was, and is still, contrary, so that we are now beating about without making much progress, and last night the weather continuing bad, we made for the coast of Spain, but at daylight again stood on for clearing the Bay; but at this time, Saturday afternoon, we are still in it, and, except the wind changes, I do not know when we shall get out.

MONDAY, 18th. We are now clear of the Bay; last night the wind changed, and it is blowing a stiff breeze, but favorable, and we are going at about eight or nine knots an hour, with land to leeward, which the captain says is Portugal, and two ships a-head, the only vessels of any sort we have seen for several days past. In another day or two we expect to reach Madeira, when we shall soon meet with the trade winds. Many of the lowest class of emigrants find fault already with the provisions; though, from my own knowledge of the manner in which agricultural labourers generally live, I can venture to say that they never lived so well for a fortnight together in all their lives before. Some preserved meat, which we have twice a week, they say is no better than pig's



wash, but, for my own part, I look on it as quite a luxury, and it really is very good indeed, and altogether I consider the allowance quite sufficient; I live the same as the rest, and am perfectly satisfied. We have three or four families from Coombe, near ——, and a greater set of boors, or a set so devoid of common sense, or common civility, I never met with. I think it a pity that Mr. J. N., possessed as he is of a superior abundance of polished manners, had not imparted a small portion to these people, before he sent them away. Last night, about 10 o'clock, one of the watch on deck sung out, "a whale under the lee bows," which caused the Londoner to jump out of his berth and on deck in an instant, followed by one or two of the clodhoppers; although the cockney had been in bed a great part of the day, complaining of a bad cold. I, not hearing the cry, did not know what was the matter, but thinking that the vessel was running on the rocks, or something of the sort, did not hurry up, though I had none of my clothes off; when the rest were up, I followed, but we were not gratified with a sight of her, and in a few minutes

all were once more comfortably rolling in their berths again. We have been attended, for these last three or four days; by a number of birds, very much like martins, called by the sailors "Mother Carey's Chickens," but which I think you will find, in natural history, under the name of the "Stormy Petrel." Sailors have a sort of superstitious dread of them, and never think of killing them, but often feed them, at the ship's stern, with pieces of biscuits. They never make their appearance except previous to, and during a gale of wind, and they have now left us, which induces us to hope for more favorable weather. Yesterday we had divine service performed in the afternoon by the surgeon, and a prayer meeting below in the evening, before retiring to rest; some other man played the flute, and I the violin, and, with some tolerable voices, altogether we made a decent choir.

WEDNESDAY, 20th. Yesterday was a very busy day on board, as our boxes were hoisted from the hold for the first time since we left; the moment it was known, the deck became crowded, and we met with many strange faces that we

had seldom, if ever, seen since we started; in fact, from the commotion prevailing, owing to their anxiety to get something out, as there were many things in their boxes which they wanted, I really believe had another vessel passed us at the time, they would have thought there was a mutiny on board. An accident, unattended with any serious consequences, occurred to me during the progress of hoisting the boxes up: I was sitting to windward of the hatchway very composedly, waiting for mine to make its appearance, when all of a sudden the ship, which had previously been running steadily as a barge on a canal, comparatively speaking, made a tremendous lurch, and threw me off my seat right down into the hold. As luck would have it, I pitched astride one of the sailor's necks, and you may fancy that, as soon as it was ascertained that I was not injured, with the ludicrous posture in which I fell, a pretty good laugh was raised at my expense, in which I deemed it most advisable to join.

Last night the cockney kept watch a part of the night; but, climbing on the bulwarks to watch the porpoises, a sudden squall *capsised*

him, and to-day he complains of a tender back and a few more bruises, which, I think, has effectually cured his mania for watching. We have for these two days had fair wind all day, with a stiff breeze at night, but favorable, and we are going on charmingly.

21st. Spoke a vessel called the Eleanor, bound for Sydney; she left the river three days before us, which has given us a good opinion of our own ship, as during those three days the wind was fair for her to go down the channel, whereas we had foul wind till we had passed the Bay of Biscay; but since then a beautiful breeze has kept us on about an average of eight knots an hour. A man by the name of Willis, of All Cannings, had a child die to-day, quite an infant.

We have had a great many porpoises about us to-day, which is considered a notice to prepare for a gale of wind. The captain struck two with the harpoon, but we did not succeed in hoisting them on deck, as, owing to our going fast at the time and the great weight of the fish, the harpoon cut its way out again, and we lost them both.

22d. A man by the name of John Joyce, from Coombe, had a very narrow escape to-day : one of the sailors was aloft doing something to the rigging, he dropped an iron spike (marlin spike), which they use in mending the ropes ; it unfortunately fell on his arm and hurt it very much, but did not break it ; had it fallen on his head, it would have killed him on the spot.

23d. Last night the child that died was committed to the deep, the surgeon reading the service appointed for the occasion with all due solemnity ; but I could not help thinking that, had there been a clergyman on board to have addressed those present in a manner suited to the occasion, it might have had a different effect on many from what it really had ; as, within a quarter of an hour, it appeared to have been entirely forgotten, and there was the same joking, laughing, and singing to be heard through the different parts of the ship, plainly indicating the apathy with which so serious an occurrence is treated on board a ship ; a place, in my opinion, above all others most calculated to inspire a religious awe, for it is truly



said : “ They that go down to the sea in ships, and occupy their business in great waters, these men see the work of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.” Nor can I neglect this opportunity of remarking the singular appropriateness of the several prayers and selections from Scripture, which the book of Common Prayer appoints to be used at sea, whether in supplication for mercy in the midst of battles and storms, or in thanksgiving for victory over the enemy and deliverance from dangerous tempests ; or when, in committing the dead to the deep (in more painfully-felt separation than when they lie side by side with their fathers in the quiet churchyard), we are reminded to “ look for the resurrection of the body, when the sea shall give up her dead.”

We last night expected to have seen the Madeiras, but did not ; and during the night a gale, springing up in our favour, sent us by daylight far beyond them. There is now a stiff breeze blowing, with the sea rolling mountains high, which wind we hope and expect to continue, as we are now in “ the trades,” by which term you will understand the winds which,

throughout the year, blow from the east, inclining a little northward or southward, according to the latitude and the season; they prevail near and between the tropics, and contribute very much to the comfort of a voyage, as well as to its progress.

24th. After another very stormy night we have as beautiful a breeze as any landsman would wish; indeed, had I a few acquaintances on board, it would seem more like a party of pleasure than anything else, so little do we think of the dangers of the sea when past. There are two of our mess who have been complaining of illness for the last day or two, but are now better; indeed I believe half of the illness complained of is imaginary. Thank God, I have enjoyed as good health hitherto as ever I did in my life. A rather laughable circumstance occurred yesterday to one of the invalids: a woman has been ill almost ever since we left, and has been indulged with having her bed on deck every fine day. Yesterday, she was at her usual post, as it was a beautiful day, but the sea running very high, when a wave broke over; what was every one's sur-



prise to see her jump up and run below, as well as the best of them ; in fact, to-day she is quite a different kind of woman, and is amongst the gayest of the gay. The fact is, those who are sick meet with many indulgences which those who are well do not. God grant me health, and let me live as hard as you like !

27th. I mentioned before our having prayer-meetings on board. I attend regularly, as I like their manner of worship very much ; not but I should prefer the church-services, but, if I did not attend, I should spend my time much worse ; and you cannot conceive what a solemn, and, I might say, awful effect it has on one's spirits, for frequently, during the prayers, the person's voice can scarcely be heard, amidst the roaring of the sea, and he can scarcely stand on his legs owing to the violent rocking of the ship ; and again, their prayers, being extempore, are generally very appropriate to our situation ; consequently they have often a very extraordinary effect on our feelings. Hitherto this service has been held in that part of the ship appointed for the married people, but on their applying to us single men to allow them

to hold it in our cabin, we immediately consented, and it is now much better, as there is such a noise in the other place with the children. It was holden in our cabin last night for the first time, and was attended by many of the ship's crew, and amongst others by the cook who brought a piece of candle with him, and everything appeared to be going on remarkably well; but, at the conclusion, who should make his appearance at the hatchway but the doctor, who immediately commenced a regular *shindy*, it being contrary to the rules, regulations, &c., of the ship for us to have candles; and then, where did they come from? No one would say for some time, till at length the cook was seen rolling out from one of the berths, where he had stowed himself to make more room, and after giving a hitch to his trowsers, and a "beg pardon, Sir," took all the blame on himself, but justified himself by saying that the piece of candle was brought in the candlestick for him to clean; consequently, instead of throwing it into the fire, he thought he made much better use of it as in the present instance; and after a little more mutual recrimination, it ended by "good-night, doctor, but you are

a very foolish man ; I beg pardon, I 'll now go and turn in and sleep on it, and I hope that your sleep will be as undisturbed as mine." The cook made his exit and all was quiet again. But it is generally believed that the real cause of annoyance to the authorities of the ship was this :—Almost every evening, when it is fine, I, and another person who plays the flute, go on deck, generally at the request of the captain. About a fortnight since he sent us some grog, but since then we have had none ; a night or two ago the sailors came to ask me to play to them, as the captain had promised them some grog ; I went and there was no grog, which I did not exactly relish ; last night the mate came and wanted me to play, when I refused. Just as we were met for prayers, the captain sent for me to come and play, with a promise of some grog, but I refused ; and thence arose the annoyance.

28th. Last night we took our music on deck unsolicited, and kept it up with spirit, two or three parties dancing till after dark ; but we had a glass of capital Hollands and water each. You will think I am grown very fond of grog already, but a month at sea with nothing better

than water or tea to drink, and in a warm climate, will soon teach the most abstemious to appreciate duly the value of a *glass of grog*, as well as a regular lover of ardent spirits. I have great difficulty in keeping order and regularity in our mess; we are continually losing something or other from our stores. For the sake of quietness I overlooked many things which, in other situations, I would never have allowed, and many insults which I did not resent, well knowing how much our comfort during the voyage depended on keeping up a good feeling towards each other, till at last I suppose they attributed my forbearance to fear, and carried it on to such an extent that I found it absolutely necessary to make an example. So one day something occurred to *put me up*, and I well thrashed two of them, and threatened the rest, telling them that I would no longer put up with it, neither would I make my complaints to the doctor, but would give them a good thrashing or they should me. It is wonderful to see the effect that announcement has had; it acts like magic: they are now altogether as respectful in their behaviour as they were before insulting; and some who before

thought themselves of great consequence, are all at once become almost servile, making themselves in my opinion still more degraded. Having once been obliged to hoist the flag of liberty in my own defence, or submit to be trodden under foot by men who have no other pretension to superiority than having a greater share of impudence, it is my intention to maintain myself in the character which their cowardly spirits have obliged me to assume, that of *head of the mess*, or in other words, "the cock of the walk," even at the expense of a black eye or two, should it be necessary.

29th. We are now passing the Cape de Verd Islands, and are very near one called Sant' Antonio; it is very high land indeed; the top of one of the mountains showing itself far above the clouds, which, though at their usual height from the sea, appear to be not much more than half-way up the mountain. It was so high that, when first seen, there was some difficulty in making many believe that it was land, who had never observed the gradual approach to land before, and they would not believe but that it was only a cloud they could see; when the sailors significantly remarked



that it was such a cloud that they did not wish to run against.

30th. It had been blowing fresh all the afternoon, and sent us along ten knots an hour, when suddenly it became a dead calm, and we did not move a bit forward, and there was an uneasy pitching of the vessel, which made our situation anything but pleasant; but before daylight a fresh breeze sprung up, and on our going on deck in the morning we found she was going nine knots, with a fair wind. We have been much amused to-day by watching the flying fish; they are a small fish, generally appearing in shoals, and appear to me to fly from about one to two hundred yards at a flight; this seems to be their only chance of escaping from the dolphin, their most inveterate enemy. To convince you that we are not leading that dull sort of life here which those who have never been to sea are apt to imagine, I will just relate a love adventure, in which the Londoner (whom I shall henceforward call Jerry,) cut a pretty conspicuous figure; though I fear it will not be very amusing to you, as it is almost an everyday occurrence on shore; but still I will tell it,



if only for my own amusement. We have a family on board from T———, by the name of G——, the eldest, a girl of about *sweet eighteen*, the only tolerably-looking girl we have of that interesting age, and who, consequently, was in the habit of receiving some little attentions from all the young men on board, as all, when opportunity offered, might be seen “doing the agreeable;” but it was very soon plain enough to be seen that Jerry was the favoured swain, as no one else was capable of inspiring the gentle Louisa with the tender passion, which, it was obvious enough, she felt for her insinuating admirer. The other young men soon seeing which way the wind was blowing, and that they were on the wrong tack, relinquished the pursuit, and left the fortunate Jerry in undisputed possession of the field. Everything went on smoothly till last night, and every one thought they were doing things very comfortably; but when did the course of true love ever run smooth? The doctor, who seems to consider it a material part of his duty to watch over the morals of the passengers as well as to attend to their

health, thinking that these loving attentions were not of that Platonic description which he would be justified in encouraging, made it his business to walk the deck after dusk, and found the loving pair enjoying a comfortable chat in the most retired part of the deck; for the young men are forbidden to enter that part of the vessel appropriated to the use of single women, and which is as strictly guarded as the Grand Turk's seraglio; although, as regards myself, it is quite unnecessary, for a more ordinary collection I never saw. But, as I said before, the doctor not liking the appearance of things, and, I believe, having heard something about it from some officious or jealous fellow or other, turned out the next morning by five o'clock, and found the damsel sitting in rather a melancholy mood on the top of our hatchway—a very unusual thing—which led the doctor to reflect. What, in the name of fortune could the *lassie* want so early in the morning? what *could* she want? He then began to recollect many little incidents, which before he did not consider worth noticing; the result of which was, that he has given orders

for her to remain below after dark, which you will naturally suppose has caused a pretty considerable stir; but we do not expect he will be capable of enforcing such an act of oppression.

June 2d. The weather is most oppressively hot; with the thermometer at  $80^{\circ}$ ; not so high as I should have expected, considering the latitude we are in—very near the line, and more under the sun than we shall be when on the line, as we are now leaving the sun to the north. We have some very pretty sport, harpooning dolphins, for those who are venturesome enough to go out on the further chains below the bowsprit, with nothing to stand on but a single chain, and at every pitch of the ship dipping nearly into the sea, a station which few landsmen will venture to, but where I spend many hours. It is a source of considerable amusement to us to watch the dolphin chasing the flying fish, who, as soon as they see the dolphin approaching, take themselves off as quickly as possible, and, when the enemy gets near to them, take wing like a flight of larks; they generally fly from one to three hundred yards at a time, and it is astonishing to see the

leaps the dolphins take when they find that their prey is likely to escape; I think that I should not be exaggerating the least where I to say that they leap from twenty to thirty feet at a time, and a corresponding height; it is not altogether unlike coursing: in this attempt to escape one enemy, the poor flying fish often come on the deck of a vessel, and become a prey to another foe—all-devouring man.

We have just spoken a French barque, bound for Boulogne, and have sent letters to England. Our captain went on board and found them in great distress, not having more than ten pieces of pork on board, and no flour, and they had been on short allowance for some time, and had met with very bad weather. We supplied them with a barrel of beef, and one of flour, which the poor creatures were glad enough to see.

The weather is still very hot, with scarcely a breath of air moving, except occasionally sudden squalls, which, in these latitudes, are very frequent, and sometimes very violent, but do not often continue long, and terminate as suddenly as they commence. Just as our captain

and doctor were getting into the boat to visit the Frenchman, a sudden squall came on, and, had they been in the boat at the time, they would have been in great danger of being capsized; but it did not continue more than twenty minutes.

5th. The weather is still squally, but, in the intervals of the squalls, very sultry, with not a breath of air stirring, and the thermometer at 85°. The doctor tells me that the French vessel we spoke a few days ago had spoken with H. M. frigate Diamond, bound for Calcutta, with troops; she had met with very bad weather, and had not one stitch of canvass remaining, but was going to fresh rig.

We had a great deal of rain yesterday and during the night; and the deck this morning presents a very busy scene. I have just taken a turn round the deck, and find there are not less than twenty-two or twenty-three people washing, as they were able to save plenty of rain-water, and during the first storm yesterday you might see every one who was fortunate enough to possess a bucket, or anything else capable of holding water, running about and



almost quarrelling to place it in the best position, regardless of getting wet through ; in fact, it was quite a luxury to be out in it, and we very soon found the benefit of it, in enjoying a beautiful cool evening : I wish a storm of rain was rather more frequent, such an effect has it in cooling an over-heated atmosphere.

MONDAY 8th. Yesterday it rained all day long, but not such rain as you are accustomed to see in England ; for, all the rain I ever witnessed on shore, I never saw anything to equal it ; and, what made it worse, not a breath of air was moving, and of course it was extremely hot. The hatches were ordered to be closed, with about 150 of us below in the dark, and as hot as an oven half heated, with the only alternative, to remain on deck and be almost drowned ; our sufferings were dreadful and many fainted away, owing to the heat. So great was the dread of some to go 'below, that they actually preferred taking their station in the *quarter-gallery*, as the *sweetest* place of the two, and even ate their dinners in that place, and were only removed by complaint to the doctor ; I suffered dreadfully with the headach all the



time, but to-day am all right again ; others have not so easily regained their wonted health and spirits.

To-day we have a beautiful breeze, which they call the south-east trades, and we expect it to continue till we nearly reach the Cape : they are not exactly favorable, but anything is better than a calm, which is very tiresome. We wear as light clothes as possible, and that little is too much. My dress is a brown Holland blouse, very thin canvass trousers, no waist-coat, shoes, or stockings, but occasionally some canvass shoes which are very comfortable. I stay up a great part of the night, as that is the only time I can take any exercise, that is, walking ; the deck is so crowded during the day ; but I assist the sailors occasionally, and get up about five o'clock in the morning, with nothing but trousers and shirt on, and help to carry water to swab the deck, and, when that is done, I go and place myself under the pump, and get some one to pump over me, which I think conduces very materially to good health.

9th. Yesterday we spoke a Spanish ship, named the Vittoria, from China, laden with

coffee and tobacco. The captain and the second mate came on board and remained about half an hour, drank a bottle of wine with our captain, and took leave. The commander, as well as his crew, was of a copper colour, but he showed the breeding of a perfect gentleman, and altogether afforded a most humiliating contrast to the captain of the William Mitchell, who, as I think I said before, is more the sailor than the gentleman.

These "*trades*" are not a fair wind for us, and are much stronger than those near Madeira; so that we are now beating up against them with a strong head sea, which keeps the vessel all on one side, so much that it is impossible to walk on the deck, and is very awkward writing.

Yesterday being Whit Monday, we were treated with a glass of grog each in the evening, and had a dance on deck, which went on with good spirit and continued until, all at once, it began to blow very hard, and the vessel made a tremendous lurch just in the midst of a dance, and capsized four or five of us, all in a heap of both sexes, rolling over one-another, to the lowest side of the ship, which you will fancy caused a pretty good laugh amongst those

who still preserved their equilibrium. I thought the captain and doctor would have split their sides; it appeared at the time as though a cloud had burst over us, as those who were not below in two minutes were as wet through, as though they had jumped into the sea.

11th. Upon going on deck this morning, we could see five sail besides ourselves, all outward bound; we spoke one and found her to be the *Kelso* from London, bound for Sydney, with passengers. We are now about forty miles from the line, and if these strong head winds continue, it will probably take us two or three days to reach it, as we are continually tacking ship.

13th. Last night Neptune came on board, preparatory to going through the ceremony of shaving those sailors who had never crossed the line before. Neptune is represented by one of the oldest of the men getting down unobserved among the fore chains, having the captain's speaking trumpet, and drest in the most ludicrous manner possible: he is at first heard as if at a distance, hailing the ship, and is answered by one on board, the first mate; after which he comes on board and demands to see the captain,

of whom he enquires if he has had a good passage, and whether all is well : he then goes round and sees every one in the ship, and then returns and informs the captain that he has overhauled his ship, and will come on board the next morning, to go through certain ceremonies to be observed on entering his territories. This afternoon the captain began on the quarter-deck by tying up a young man, a relation of the owners, and throwing five or six buckets of water over him; they then served the second mate the same, who had never crossed the line before; and then made some excuse to get me on the quarter-deck, and I received a pretty good ducking, "something," they said, "just to prevent my forgetting crossing the line;" I was the only passenger that was *thus honoured* with that not altogether enviable distinction; we were, however, carrying on these practical jokes all the afternoon. At dusk, Neptune again made his appearance, when business commenced among the sailors. The first notice we had was by hearing the sailors hauling on forwards; on reaching the spot, we found them hoisting one of the crew out of the fore-castle with rope tied

to his legs ; they then took him to a tub of water, and after smearing him with tar, commenced what they called shaving it off again, with a very rough iron hoop, taking him by the legs, and putting him head foremost into the tub of water, till I really thought they would have drowned him ; they then took him out and led him up and down the deck, the most pitiful-looking spectacle I ever beheld. The carpenter then went through a similar operation, and any of the passengers that went near enough were greeted with a bucket of water. Some did not relish it, and stopped to remonstrate, but they only met with ditto repeated. After this game was finished, there was some grog given out, and a general call for *the fiddler*, and dancing immediately commenced and was kept up with good spirit till nearly the middle of the night, when every one retired for the night after as good an evening's fun as any one could desire. Every one who had any life in him appeared to enjoy it, and, all distinction being thrown aside between officers and men, the latter exhibited a considerable share of taste for larking, a talent which they are well known to possess ; for, give



a party of sailors some grog, and there will be no lack of amusement.

SUNDAY, 14th. The doctor read prayers and a sermon, and an excellent one it was, but owing to the peculiar twang with which a Scotchman reads as well as talks, it is difficult to understand him, as they lay the stress on the wrong word, thereby making quite a different sense of it. In the afternoon one of the emigrants of the Wesleyan persuasion held forth on the forecastle, and his discourse, though simple, was striking, and certainly was much better understood than the doctor's. But it is painful to an attentive observer to see a man attempt to expound the scriptures, who has not, either through divine inspiration, or a superior education and an attentive study of holy writ, obtained such information as will enable him to instruct others; and to any person who has any education, it is equally painful to hear them attempt to use the language of one of superior education and abilities. I have no reason to doubt their being equally sincere, but people of that description are not generally speaking so successful in engaging the attention of their



auditors, as one possessing a better education and more eloquence with a persuasive address ; as one endued with those accomplishments is sure to engage general attention.

16th. Yesterday was a busy one on board : we had our boxes up again, with a hint that it would be the last time until we arrived at Adelaide ; consequently it required some little foresight to see what would be 'likely to be wanted. I took out my bacon and found that it had kept remarkably well, which was more than I expected, having been told that it would be all melted during the hot weather ; but if I could have come at it, I question whether it would have *kept so long*. Two young men in the same mess as myself brought cheese and bacon on board with them, but began eating it immediately ; whilst I was content to sit down at breakfast with biscuit, they were enjoying their rashers ; but I was well aware that way of living could not last all the way, and that my turn would come after a while. I now find that I was not far out in my calculations, for while they are obliged to be contented with biscuit, I can treat myself with a rasher every morning

and cheese for supper, which, with a very good dinner and a pudding of some sort every day, I think will be called pretty well for board of ship.

17th. Yesterday the sailors all struck and would not do a stroke of work, in consequence of the captain altering their diet. The men have not been on the best of terms with the captain, on account of their not being allowed so much grog as is customary in other ships; but they had some when the captain was in the humour, and frequently in bad weather; when it was absolutely necessary he would not give them a drop, and at another time, when there was no need of it, would send them some. The other day he sent them some, and they sent it back again, saying, they did not want it then; the captain, of course, was much annoyed at it, and immediately put them hauling up the chain-cables from the hold, merely as a punishment, and then putting them down again; and the next day, yesterday, cut off their usual allowance of rice, which they previously had twice a week. Yesterday then was their rice-day, but at dinner time they

found nothing but beef and biscuit, and were given to understand that in future that would be their food one day, with pork and peas the next. The consequence was, at one o'clock, the usual hour to return to work, they refused to turn out; the mate endeavoured to persuade them to return to duty, but was unsuccessful; he then informed the captain who is very passionate, and he immediately went into the fore-castle and tried to force them up, but found them resolute; he then went into the cabin and loaded the pistols, fully expecting serious consequences, but returned to talk with them and to know the grievance. They told him they could not, neither would they, work without better provisions. He told them about sending the grog back, and that it was done on purpose to insult him; they replied, that they did not care if they did not have any more grog during the voyage, but insisted on having the victuals which they were entitled to, and they would then work, but not else. The captain was firm and would not make any promise, but threatened, if they did not immediately come up, he would fasten the hatch down and keep them on

bread and water, an intimation which they did not appear to relish at all, and, after a little time, they came up, saying they would try a little longer.

THURSDAY, 18th. Yesterday the captain appeared anxious to settle all differences with his crew, for though very passionate, he is very forgiving; and though he would not *promise* anything, and certainly showed a most determined spirit, he the next day altered their provision and put them to get up spirits from the store, and in the evening sent them some grog, and they were all, except the man at the helm and one other on watch, as drunk as ever any Scotchman would wish to be. At 10 o'clock they were on deck, and might be heard singing "Auld Lang Syne," and, though I cannot speak much in praise of their vocal powers as regards harmony, I must do them the justice to believe that they doubtless considered themselves more than compensating for their inharmious sounds by exhibiting an extraordinary strength of lungs. The days are now very short, it being scarcely light at six o'clock in the morning, and dark by six in the evening.

There is no twilight here, for it is almost incredible how soon it is dark after the sun is down. In England, it is quite light for an hour or an hour and a half after sun set; but here, as soon as the sun is down, the stars appear in the east, or, if there is a moon, it immediately shines strongly enough to throw a shade; whereas with you it is a long time before the refraction of the sun will allow the feebler rays of the moon to show itself strongly enough to throw a shadow; the reason of which, and why the sun does not here cast these refractions, I must leave to wiser heads than mine to explain; I only mention it as a fact that I was not aware of before, and which has struck me very forcibly in the evening when taking my tea on deck about sun set, as is my usual custom to seek out some retired part of the vessel, there sip my tea alone and give myself up to meditation, for which there is ample scope: for to a reflecting mind, sunset at sea and a starry night, is a scene on which it could dwell for hours, as it were lost in the thoughts to which such a scene gives rise. I often remain on deck long after others are retired to rest,



and who, in such a place and with such objects to regard, can avoid admiring that omnipotent Being who created these things, and can say to the raging waves, "be still," and they shall be still? There I sit, sometimes for hours, undisturbed, excepting by the heavy tread of the watch as he passes to and fro, humming some favorite Scotch ditty, and occasionally stopping to ask how goes the night; or should the weather be very fine and no need of keeping a strict watch, perhaps they are snoring, three or four in a heap.

June 22d We have within these few days seen a great many whales. It is very amusing to see them at play, throwing the water up to a surprising height. We frequently see sharks following the ship, but have as yet been unable to catch one, which is very surprising, considering what voracious creatures they are, and the temptation held out to them in the shape of a nice piece of pork of about three pounds. We have a fine breeze blowing still, the southeast trades, but do not expect them to continue more than two or three longer days, and then we must wish for the westerly winds which will, it is

expected, take us all the way to Adelaide. We are now in 20 degrees south latitude and 30 west longitude, and consider we are about half-way as regards time, but not half the distance as regards miles. The weather is rather cold in the mornings and evenings, about as it is generally in England in October, but we expect it to be much colder at the Cape. There is just two hours and ten minutes difference in the time here and in England: the clock at home is now faster than with us, we being now 1,800 miles west of Greenwich; but when we come to the Cape and sail eastward, we shall soon make it up, and soon after passing the Cape we come to the same longitude as Greenwich, and we shall then gain on you: and on our arriving at Adelaide shall have gained nine hours, and shall be 138 degrees east of you. We have now lost sight of the north star altogether, and almost of the Great Bear, or, as it is commonly called, Jack and his Wain, and we can here see the southern cross, which S. P. speaks of in his letter. I wish I had a book of geography with me and a globe, it would pass away many dull hours, or hours

that are unprofitably spent ; not that I feel at the least dull, and were there a few old companions here, I should consider it more a trip of pleasure than in the light it is generally looked upon—that of a hazardous undertaking.

24th. We are now becalmed, having run through the south-east Trades and not yet reached the south-west Trades, as we expect to do within a day or two. I shall be most heartily glad when we do, as the ship does nothing but rock to and fro, having no wind to keep her steady. We have had some very good amusement with fishing, and though we could not catch any thing, it was good sport to see the fish play and chase each other ; however, the mate managed to harpoon a dolphin, a beautiful fish, which has a peculiar quality of varying its colours, whilst dying, to all the different tints of the rainbow. On its first appearance out of the water it is of a light colour, it soon changes to a green, then to a deep blue, and continues to change until it dies, and goes through almost every hue you can mention ; in fact, it is altogether as interesting a sight as any one would wish to see.

In the afternoon we caught a shark, which was another hour's good sport; it was seen following the vessel for some time astern, but too far off to catch him; at length, he came alongside, and kept sailing backwards and forwards, apparently looking out for something to be thrown overboard; he was accompanied by ten or twelve beautiful little fish, of about a foot to eighteen inches long; they are called pilot fish, in consequence of there being always some of them attending on a shark, and are said to be mainly instrumental in directing him to his prey, as their natural instinct seems to direct them to a ship at a distance. The first plunge the shark made at the bait he missed it, which seemed to exasperate him considerably; he took another turn, and was seen again coming towards the tempting but treacherous morsel, about three pounds of pork. Says the mate, "*Dinna be fash'd, laddie, troy it again,—now, I'll hae ye;*" he came up to it and, after eyeing it for a moment, made a sudden plunge at it, and, turning on his back, he opened his great mouth and took it in as easily as I could a small nut. He was immediately hooked and was safe; "all

hands to hoist" was the word, at it we went, and after about ten minutes hauling he was safe on deck. There was no more necessity for telling the people to get out of the way, for, as soon as he was over, he began laying about him with his tail, and had he happened to strike any one on the leg, he would have broken it.

As soon as any one could get near enough, one of the men put a great piece of wood into his mouth, and rammed it down him to stiffen him and prevent his having such a free use of his tail; they then got an axe and hit him on the head about a dozen times, which had the effect of stupifying him, but did not kill him; they then cut off his tail, which completely disabled him, after which he was killed, but it was a long time before he was completely settled; he was then cut to pieces, and any one who chose had some of it. Many eat it greedily, saying that it was a change of diet, and any thing fresh was a treat. I tasted a small piece, but could not relish it, as I could not divest myself of the feeling that the most delicious food a shark can obtain is human flesh,



and I thought thus whilst tasting it, "perhaps I am now eating that which has been nourished on human flesh," and the idea was too revolting to allow me to eat a bit more than just enough to taste it.

25th. As was expected we are now in the south-west winds, with a stiff breeze blowing, and standing right for the Cape. Caught another dolphin this morning (weighing 40 lbs.) on the hook.

29th. Since the 25th, till this morning, it has been blowing a gale. It came on very violently in the evening of that day, accompanied by extremely vivid lightning all night; not of that dangerous description that I have seen on shore, but broad sheet lightning; its appearance on the water was awfully grand: with nothing to intervene, no hills or buildings in the way, here we see it in all its terrors. It has been blowing a gale ever since, till this morning, from the south; not altogether a bad wind, as we were steering south-east. We have this morning a light breeze from the west, and are running direct east pleasantly enough before the wind. The sailors are taking down

the top masts and substituting stronger ones and not so high, so as to weather the expected heavy gales off the Cape of Good Hope.

We are now in 26 degrees south latitude and 22 west longitude. Had the gale continued much longer, it would have brought us too near the coast of Africa, which is rather an unpleasant situation in a heavy westerly gale.— At the commencement of my log, I gave an opinion of the character of two of my messmates, but I am sorry to be obliged to acknowledge that I was never so egregiously mistaken in forming an opinion of personal character than on this occasion. I then considered one of them as of an affable, obliging, disposition; in fact, as possessing every amiable quality requisite to make him a desirable associate and pleasing companion, and a thorough-bred English sailor. The relation I shall now offer will give an idea of the class of adventurers who, after exhausting the funds and patience of their friends at home, betake themselves to emigration as a last and sure resource; but whose disappointment, naturally to be expected from their previous habits, is frequently alleged

in proof of the failure of a colony. This man's father was a commander in the British navy, but retired early in life to one of the Channel Islands, where the son was born. He afterwards went to France as a cheap place of living for a person of limited income, where he brought up and educated a numerous family, of whom this young man is the youngest. From his own account, at the age of 14 years he was apprenticed in a *French* vessel, and served five years mostly upon the African coast, during which time he distinguished himself chiefly by his wild dissolute habits. He then returned home fit for any society, for he could assume when he chose the perfect gentleman; but from his conversation and conduct occasionally, I should think his usual companions must have been of the profligate and abandoned description. He was then placed in the counting-house of an extensive mercantile concern in Paris, where his dissolute habits did not forsake him, and he was consequently discharged. After some difficulty, his father succeeded in obtaining him a situation in the East India Company's service, and, fitting him out accordingly with every ne-

cessary for so desirable a prospect, and twenty pounds in his pocket, started him off for London to join the ship; instead of which, having met with some of his old acquaintances, he pawned everything which was intended for his outfit to India, at an expense to his father of sixty pounds, spent every farthing of it, and at last was obliged to leave his travelling trunk, with what few necessary articles of wearing apparel he had remaining, as security for his lodging, board, &c. He then had the effrontery to go to his home again, and claim the protection of an indulgent but much injured father; a father who was striving every nerve to keep up a respectable appearance, and to bring up a large family with very limited means. To a person in such a situation such a loss must have been severely felt, and his grief might be imagined at finding all his endeavours to advance a favorite son in life frustrated by that son's folly and extravagance.—But if I go on in this strain, you will think that I am sermonizing, and, instead of being amusing, am writing a tiresome scrawl, which even an indulgent sister will throw by as a pack of nonsense; but, when

I consider that it is a source of never-failing amusement to myself, and that I trust you, my dear sister, will not allow any one to see it but those few whom you know would overlook the innumerable imperfections it contains, and the many apparent inconsistencies, I am confident of indulgence, especially when I remind you that this unpretending journal is written in a place fifteen feet long and ten wide, with eleven noisy fellows around me, perhaps engaged in several different arguments, or rather quarrels, and constantly appealing to me to decide between them; I think, when you consider these facts, you will candidly make every allowance for whatever blunders, or even contradictions, you may discover, resting assured they are not intentional.

June 30th. Scarcely any wind this morning, but a very heavy swell on the sea, and we sail along but tediously. I shall now tell you a little more respecting the amorous J. He is a very pleasant companion, but he does not appear to have had much education, or, if he had, he has very much neglected improving himself since; in fact, he seems to be a spoiled child,



consequently there is not a great deal to be learnt from him; whilst H., though wild, and at times very coarse in his conversation, has had an excellent education, and possesses a great deal of general information.

J. has proved unfaithful to his innamorata, and is now *doing the agreeable* to another lass, a Somersetshire damsel, whom he leads up and down the deck much the same as a dog would a blind fiddler, at the same time grinning like a Cheshire cat, as H. says, and is exceedingly jealous of any one who presumes to speak to her. You will suppose that I, for want of better amusement, annoy him not a little. She is very young, not more than sixteen, tolerably good looking, having a pair of wicked, mischievous black eyes, but very short, and withal so astonishingly credulous, that I really think any one could make her believe the moon is a cheese. Such is the fair one for whom the *fascinating* J. perjured himself to the neglected L., who, to revenge herself and show that she did not care about it (though it was obvious to a close observer that she pined in secret at the faithless nature of that lordly creature, man),

somehow managed to persuade a Somersetshire shoemaker to fall in love with her, being determined to have a lover of some sort or other at any risk, and she in return immediately transferred her *affections* (qu.?) over to the cobbler, who, though he was aware they were second-hand, received them as if they were genuine, and as if the tender sigh, which ever and anon escaped her, flowed from a bosom feeling the first impression of Cupid's dart. But all will not do, even the attention of her new lover appears to lose its charms, and brings no consolation to her injured feelings; for, as Goldsmith says,—

“ When lovely woman stoops to folly,  
 And finds too late that men betray;  
 What charm can soothe her melancholy;  
 What art can wash her guilt away ?”

I am *turned philosopher*, and endeavour to convince the young woman how little confidence is to be placed in any professions made by young men in our situations, as anything which promises some amusement is eagerly caught at, and the generality of our sex, I am sorry to say, would not wish for better amusement than

doing the agreeable by the side of some nice girl. I do not attempt to exonerate myself entirely from the same charge, but still I can conscientiously, on this occasion, acquit myself of the charge of endeavouring to gain their affections, though I am civil to them all; in fact, they are a plain lot, and might do for those who have never seen better; but on me, who look back to the privileged days of far different and better society, their blandishments are entirely lost. There! that's enough moralizing,—and I shall endeavour to describe two or three more.

July 1st. A strong breeze blowing from the south with a heavy sea, and we are running about nine knots an hour. We have not seen any vessel, I believe, since we spoke the *Kelso* from London to Sydney. Till we saw her, we had beaten everything we came near; we came in sight of her, and she shortened sail for us to come up; she then came near enough to speak, and then went away from us again in prime style, and gradually gained on us until we lost sight of her altogether, much to the mortification of our captain, who before, in the pride of

his heart, thought he was going to beat everything, and crowded all the canvass possible to cope with her, but all would not do, and he was obliged to confess himself beaten; and a sailor feels equally annoyed to see his favorite ship beaten, as a gentleman of the turf does to see his favorite horse lose the Derby. I understand there is a bet made in London, to a considerable amount, that the William Mitchell will reach her destination before the Lallah Rookh, which sailed about a fortnight before us, bound for the same port; but it is the general opinion of the crew that the backers of the William Mitchell must lose, on account of the contrary winds we met with till past the Bay of Biscay. I wish I had brought plenty of powder and shot, as there is now an immense quantity of Cape pigeons and other birds. The captain is frequently amusing himself with *shooting at* them, but has not yet killed one. He will not give me any powder, saying he has none to spare, and is also short of shot, and wants me to spare him some, I having got a few lbs. from a passenger; but, to retaliate, I refuse to let him have any except in exchange for pow-

der ; but he as yet holds out, and I will not give him any without his giving me powder. These Scotchmen seem to understand how to drive a bargain tolerably well, and those who can overreach them, must know a thing or two themselves.

July 4th. Squally weather still, with a heavy head sea and contrary winds, and blowing hard at night, accompanied with heavy rain. Unable to walk the deck, on account of the rolling of the vessel and tremendous high sea running, and frequently breaking over the ship, last evening, when as many were on deck as could stand it, it being a beautiful moon-light evening, she shipped a sea which gave all who were in its course a good ducking, which you, who have never seen a sea, will consider anything but a joke, but it actually afforded us considerable amusement for some time, to see them creeping off to their berths as wet as drowned rats, and with long faces which plainly said :— “ We don't see anything to laugh at in this ; ”— and they would not stay long enough to allow us to make them converts to our opinion.

5th. A light breeze blowing to-day from



the south, after a very squally night ; last night a sudden squall threw the ship on her beam ends, or to speak more plainly, blew her over on one side, but she almost immediately righted again. I was in the cabin at the time, playing at draughts with the captain, who immediately ran out and shortened sail, and returned to the game. I beat him five games in succession, which considerably lowered him in his own estimation, especially as he had been beating the doctor and others, who were not a little pleased at seeing a little of the conceit taken out of him. Seeing me in the act of making a board in the morning, he asked me if I was a good player ; I said, " Not very ; I suppose, sir, you are ?" Says he, " I will stake my gun against yours, and play which shall have both." I refused to play for so high a stake without first seeing him play ; accordingly, he sent for me last night to come into the cabin, when I found him and the doctor engaged in a game, and, from observations which I had made during their game, I found he would not be a very dangerous customer ; so when he finished he asked me if I would take his challenge : I told him I would,

which completely frightened him, and he said he would see me play a game or two first; but, after seeing me play, he found he was not a match for me, and would have no hands with me for the guns, and the doctor offered to back me for a pound with ten men to his twelve.

MONDAY, 6th. A strong breeze from the east, and running eight knots an hour; very few on deck, and out of those few you may see one capsized almost every minute; but we don't mind it now, especially as it hastens our arrival at the place of our destination.—I shall now attempt to describe another of our female passengers, sister to the shoemaker I spoke of before. But I scarcely know how to describe her, as she is a combination of two extremes; although of rather a pleasing figure, (such a figure as, had I seen her back only in a crowd, I should have thought to myself, that looks like a nice sort of a girl,) it is more than counter-balanced by features of such a peculiar expression, that you can scarcely form any idea of them; her hair is black, and not longer than a boy's when close cropt, and as curly, or rather as frizzy, as the back of a Scotch terrier, with

two eyes that seem to bear mortal enmity to each other, as they appear to avoid as much as possible any appearance of friendship, by never looking both in the same direction. Would you believe it—this girl is most insufferably vain? but what of I cannot possibly imagine. You will, I think, readily allow that she has not a very captivating appearance to boast of, but probably she fancies that she possesses “beauties of the mind,” that would more than compensate for so trifling a disadvantage as a most uninteresting countenance. She is also very fond of leaving her neck bare, thereby exposing another great disadvantage, as, having the misfortune when young to set herself on fire, it burnt her neck so dreadfully, that it is quite horrid to see, and whatever can possess the girl to expose it, I cannot conceive; yet, with all these *opposites* to female beauty, L. S. is one of the most affected girls we have in this motley collection. When first I entered into conversation with her, I found that by indulging her whimsicalities, it would afford me considerable amusement, for, as much as I detest affectation, there are times when, instead

of feeling disgust, I can turn it to my amusement. “Well, Miss S.,” said I one day to her, “how do you like the sea?” “Why, I should like it better if it did not toss one about so; it is not a bit of good to dress; it is what I have not been used to.” “True,” said I, “it’s useless to adorn one’s self here.” “Yes,” said she; “when I was at home I was obliged to be more particular.” “I suppose so; your brother is a shoemaker, I believe?” “Why—yes,—that is, when he chooses to work for his amusement, his business is a boot and shoemaker.” “And you, I suppose, used to help him occasionally?” “Oh no, I kept house for him, and had not much to do.” Thinks I to myself, I should think not, if you did nothing else but keep house for a village cobbler. “And what are your intentions on your arrival at Adelaide,—if it’s not being too curious?” “Why perhaps it may be amusement to me to do a little dress-making, *but it’s what I have not been used to.*” From this and subsequent conversations, I found that by indulging those high notions, it would probably afford me some amusement; and that she was trying to persuade every one that she had been

accustomed to *shine* in a much higher station, than that in which she now appeared. Unfortunately, the young men do not seem to place the same value as herself on her charming person; for, whilst most of the other lasses in the evening are listening with very visible delight to the most marked attentions of some favorite youth, she may be seen sitting alone, apparently in a state of forgetfulness, or perhaps railing at dame nature, because she was not formed in as lovely a mould as her companions.

I fancy I hear you say, "Well, I wonder what you are doing amongst it all, you were not particularly noted as entertaining any objection to the society of the fair sex." True, if to be most passionately attached to the *society* of females, be arraignable, I plead guilty; but

"Is there a heart that never loved,  
Nor felt sweet woman's sigh?"

But it is often remarked, that whilst almost every other young man is doing everything he can to make himself agreeable to some particular lass, I "pace the deck alone," smoke my pipe, and find plenty of amusement in my



own reflections, and in making observations on others.

MONDAY, 13th. Since writing the above, we have had a great deal of bad weather. On Tuesday it commenced blowing a strong breeze from the west and north-west, and continued till the next evening, when it increased to a gale; and the whole of Thursday and Friday morning it was no better; and all that day and a great part of Saturday we were kept below, with the hatches down, in consequence of the sea breaking over us almost every minute; which made it dangerous to be on deck. It was laughable enough to see some who did venture up to get something cooked, come down again almost drowned. I ventured up once, and then met with such a ducking, that I was glad to get below again and turn into my berth. Towards the evening it began to abate, and by ten o'clock all hands were called on deck to hoist more sail, as a great part of it was lowered on the gale commencing. Since then it has been blowing a fine breeze from the west, and we are now running seven knots; but from Wednesday night till Saturday morning,

we were going sometimes thirteen knots, and never during that time less than ten knots an hour; indeed, at times we seemed to go with frightful velocity; many of us had been wishing for a gale of wind, but for the future we shall be perfectly satisfied with a steady breeze, and to jog along at the moderate rate of seven knots an hour; still there were very few who felt any alarm, the women excepted, so soon does any one, by being accustomed to danger, gradually grow callous to any sensation of fear. But still it was *unpleasant*, and by no means calculated to lull any apprehensions of danger that might arise, to hear the sailors complaining that the captain did not take in more sail, and saying they were never before on board any ship carrying so much canvass in such a gale; and that they knew that she would never give up her masts, but would go on her broadside first; which at times appeared actually the case; for, from the rolling of the vessel, the buckets, water-cans, cooking utensils, and everything else which was not lashed on, would come from one side of the deck to the other, and, on her rolling back again, away they went, to the most

imminent danger of the legs, shins, &c., of those who happened to be in the way. As some of our party, who now mess at the opposite side of the ship to us, were at dinner on Friday, all at once four or five of them came rolling, neck and crop, to our side under our table, accompanied by peas-soup, potatoes, and sundry utensils, altogether forming a scene of the most ludicrous description, such as is only to be met with in a life at sea.

We are now in the same longitude as Greenwich, and in latitude 36 degrees south; consequently, our time and yours is just the same; but as we proceed eastward we shall gain on you an hour every fifteen degrees we go, so that on our reaching Adelaide, the longitude of which place is about 138 degrees east, we shall have gained nine hours and twelve minutes in advance of your time, nearly reversing the days and nights of the two countries.

It is now the middle of winter here and very cold, and requiring some of the warmest clothing we can get to keep ourselves comfortable, as, from the crowded state of the deck, it is impossible to take much exercise during the day;

but I frequently get up early in the morning and walk for an hour before others are up, besides pacing the deck in the evening after others are retired to rest, and sometimes on the poop, when the sea is not too rough ; but, in a heavy sea, that is the most difficult part of the vessel to walk on, being the farthest part aft, whilst the middle part, or midship, is the easiest. I spend a great part of the day with the captain, shooting with single ball at a bird called the albatross : it is said to be the largest of all water-birds, measuring from point to point of the extended wings from seven to eight feet.

Had I known they were not more strict than they are, I would have brought plenty of powder and shot, as there are hundreds of birds of different descriptions flying around us all day long ; and any one coming out, who is fond of shooting, had better bring plenty of ammunition and a gun, or he will bitterly lament the want of such things. I bought in London one double-barrelled and three single-barrelled guns ; the former cost me three pounds and the others twenty-five shillings each. I have

sold one of the latter to the captain for fifty shillings and a porter-barrel, worth at least fifteen more, which was what I wanted very much to keep rain water in for washing, &c. Altogether, I think, not a bad bargain!

WEDNESDAY, 15th July. A fair wind this morning, but very little of it, which makes it tedious sailing after going at the rate we have for some time past; in fact,

“The sails are flapping idly in the wind,”

which in the night sounds most drearily; and, as a vessel rolls ten times as much in a fair wind, or blowing right aft, as it does with a side wind if it blows strong, the ship rocked to and fro all last night, so that we could scarcely lie in our beds, and J. lay and groaned so that I should have thought he was really seriously ill, were it not that every now and then an exclamation burst from him, protesting that, if he laid there much longer, he would certainly get his ribs broken; at length he could stand it no longer, and left his berth, determined to sit up and endeavour to sleep, rather than subject himself any longer to those unpleasant *punches*



in the ribs. As a last resource, when almost driven to desperation, he went into the hospital, and having procured a hammock, slung it and exulted in the idea that he should now enjoy that sweet repose hitherto denied him; but, alas! how fallacious are human calculations on future happiness, and how soon are our fondest hopes blighted! So it happened to the unfortunate J.; for, being unaccustomed to slinging hammocks, it seems that he did not manage it exactly right; but, after being about an hour in the cold, he contrived at last to get it something like in shape and, at last, we observed him *turn in* with every appearance of the most heart-felt satisfaction, and, without doubt, believing his troubles to be at an end for that night at least; but even then his ill fortune did not forsake him, for just as he was in his first nap, the cord by which he was suspended broke, and down he came whack on the floor. He then made another attempt, in which he was more successful, and slept tolerably well till the morning, if we might judge from the entire absence of those mournful expressions which plainly indicated his uncomfortable position

during the early part of the night. As for myself, I passed anything but a comfortable night, for what with the aforesaid bumpings in the ribs, complained of so bitterly by J., and his at times unearthly noise, I got but very little sleep, and often was induced to exclaim :

“ Come, gentle sleep ! my eyelids seal,  
 And peaceful visions to my soul reveal :  
 Come, gentle sleep ! and woo me to repose,  
 Thy sweet oblivion grant to heal my woes.”

At length the morning arrived, and eight bells (8 A. M.) found us all asleep, or very reluctant to turn out.

I will next endeavour to give you some idea how we, single men, employ our time, and then offer a short history of the occupation and amusement of the married folks. We, bachelors, are twelve in number, and were originally in one mess, but did not continue so long, on account of the frequent dissensions between some part of the *men* and the *boys* ; the latter conceiving themselves to be much injured, and that they did not get their *whack*, we agreed to divide the mess into two, six boys and the same number of men, appropriating the hospital to

the use of the former. But we were still in the ship's books as one mess, and being served altogether, we were obliged to divide our allowance or rations afterwards, so that quarrels were almost as frequent as ever, and I must say that the boys were very often shamefully used, which at last induced me to interfere in their behalf, at the necessary expense of much ill will towards myself, until, finding that I was not to be frightened, I had the satisfaction of seeing justice done ; since which we have been on more amicable terms. We take turns in the management of the household affairs ; " that can be but little," I fancy I hear you say. In the first place, he, whose turn it is for the day, has to get up half an hour before the rest and clean up the place, scrape and wash the floor, and prepare breakfast for the others ; after breakfast, he washes and puts away everything and prepares the dinner, washes up again after dinner, and by the time that is done, provisions are serving out for the next day's consumption, and it is his place to go and receive them ; afterwards it is time to get the water on for tea, and when that is over, and the things are put away,

he will have the rest of the day to himself, and he will not be *troubled* to get a supper, as those who want one may get it themselves, that is, if they have anything to get. Fortunately it is but one day in six that we are called on to perform such a combination of offices, as those of housemaid, cook, and scullion. Other days we pass as we please, and always find plenty of amusement; and, as regards myself, I have not had a dull hour since I have been here, and time flies remarkably fast.

The married folks pass their time in much the same way; except that they have these duties to perform every day, each for their own family; and four of them are required to scrape their deck, and clean up in the morning. There are thirteen *messes* of married people, so that their turn for this work comes one morning in four. They also have to watch during the night, to see that no accident occurs from fire or otherwise, two at a time, till twelve o'clock, when they are relieved by two others; taking each their turn by couples; whilst we single men are exempt from this duty, as the *ladies* consider it a breach of delicacy for young men

to have free access to their apartments. Tuesday and Friday are the appointed washing days, and busy days they are, well corresponding with the old song—

“The devil any comfort’s there,  
Upon a washing day :”

For if I go on deck, (especially if the vessel rolls,) it is ten to one but I get pitched into one of their tubs, or at least get bumped right against one or other of them, when one is sure of meeting with anything but a kind reception ; and the least thing one can expect, is a wet cloth round one’s neck, and generally one of not the most delicate description, more suited for the innocent subjects of the nursery rhyme, “Bye baby, bunting,” than for a childless dandy’s cravat ; and it will not do to retaliate, as they immediately make common cause, and we defenceless bachelors are sure to meet with the worst of it; so that the best way is to take it quietly, but by all means to sheer off as soon as possible, or one may expect *ditto repeated*. The day following is not much better, as it is devoted to drying, and you cannot walk five



yards without something or other, (probably half dried, and quarter cleaned baby linen,) flapping in your face. What a treat for a bachelor!

July 17th. Early this morning another being was ushered into this world of sorrows, the wife of one of the emigrant's having presented him with a son. Another or two are expected, ere we shall reach land. We had a good joke in the cabin in the evening, telling the doctor that he ought to *stand treat*, as he has a certain sum for every one he lands alive, he said he wished there had been twins, and should have no objection to perform the same office for every married woman on board.

18th. There is a young couple here that I must give you a short description of, a Mr. and Mrs. W., they appear to be very respectable people; although they paid for their passage, they live in every respect just the same as those who did not pay; I believe he is going out as an engineer, and is a very pleasant man, possessing a great deal of general information, and has been for some time in North America, and for the last two or three years in the Madeiras; his wife is a remarkably pleasant woman, and

is the only female on board I feel any pleasure in conversing with. About a month since, she received a serious fright, which occasioned the premature birth of two children, an unfortunate circumstance for the husband, which he deplored in the most pathetic manner imaginable; since which, till within these few days, she has been confined in the hospital, but I am happy to see her again enlivening the deck by her presence, and I have some one with whom I can sit and chat away an hour or two with pleasure.

July 20th. Yesterday and to-day we are almost becalmed; last night, the wind being right aft, we were again subjected to that unpleasant rocking, to prevent which, I hit on a plan which I found to succeed admirably. Our berths being wider than one can well fill, for want of a more suitable bedfellow, I placed, as a substitute, the shoemaker's box of tools, my own being too wide, and *wedged* myself in as tightly as you would put a fleece of wool in a pack; which kept me as firm as a rock; but, though it answered the purpose of keeping me steady, it was not without its inconveniences, as upon every heavier roll than common, and generally

just as I was gone off in a comfortable sleep, it seemed as if the hammer and lapstone were busily engaged in their usual avocation, and were hard at work, for ever and anon they kicked up such a confounded clatter, that at times I felt dissatisfied with my bedfellow ; but, upon due consideration pro and con, and acting on the old maxim, “of two evils always choose the least,” I decided on letting the box remain, and at length grew quite familiar to its society, and, falling off to sleep, slept as soundly as ever I did in my life. I must not forget to state that J. managed his hammock much better than before, having learnt from sad experience the ill effects of mismanagement, even in so trifling a thing as *slinging a hammock*. The mention of hammocks, and the nightly use of them as the snuggest contrivances for sleep at sea, induces me to suggest their adoption ashore, for the young men in some of your crowded cottages, of which the lower or “keeping” rooms would thus be available, to the great promotion of comfort and decency.

22d. Yesterday we were visited by an immense number of albatrosses, but we succeeded

in killing only one, and, as it was very calm, we were fortunately enabled to get at it; one shot only had struck him, and that in the thigh, which prevented its rising, but did not kill him; and by the time we could lower the boat, it was driven by the strong current always running round the Cape, a mile or more from us. On reaching him, we found him alive and much exasperated, and on our closing with him, he immediately snapped at a man's arm, which made him bellow out like a bull at a stake, and it took more than five minutes to capture him, when, after repeated blows from our oars, he was at last stunned and hove into the boat. Before we reached the ship he recovered from the effects of the blows, and when on deck, as every one was pressing around to see him, he appeared quite indignant at being made a gazing stock, and had not the good breeding to acknowledge the flattering encomiums passed on his size and strength and beauty, but indicated his displeasure by endeavouring to catch hold of every one within his reach, and growling like a dog, which soon cleared room for him, and obliged every one to keep at a respectful dis-

tance. At last one of the men caught him by the bill and tied it tight together, after which any one could approach him with comparative safety. I am afraid you will think that this description of an albatross is much exaggerated, but I give you my word that it is not, and perhaps you will more easily credit it, when I tell you that, on measuring him, he was found to measure upwards of ten feet from tip to tip of his expanded wings. The captain and I skinned him; he had the skin to stuff, and I the body to eat, well satisfied that I had the best of the bargain. I intend dressing him to-morrow, when I expect a good treat, the captain having given me something to make it palatable. J.'s amorous proceedings were yesterday very nearly brought to a close, and S. M. as nearly deprived of a sweetheart. I was on the quarter-deck, with some hooks astern, catching Cape pigeons, when J. came to speak with me, and I gave him the line to mind while I went below; the captain had gone into the cabin for something, leaving a musket unloaded; it appeared that the first mate came on the poop at the time, and, finding it unloaded, loaded it with slugs,



but did not discharge it, and, being called away, left it without acquainting any one that it was loaded. Just as he left, the captain came up, took the gun, and, mistaking J. for me, pointed it at him in a joke, thinking to frighten me, spoke sharply, and then pulled the trigger. Upon hearing him speak, J. immediately looked round and, seeing the musket pointed at him within a foot of his back, shifted on one side; not that he dreaded any actual danger, but mechanically, and, from the kind interference of that Power, "in whom we live, and move, and have our being:" he had not moved a foot on one side before the musket went off, and the contents passed under J.'s arm, doing him no harm, but dreadfully frightening him, if we may judge from his behaviour, as he rushed from the quarter-deck below, just like a cat scalded or a dog with something tied to his tail, who runs without stopping till he reaches his own kennel; just so it was with J., who, to the anxious enquiries if he was hurt, turned a deaf ear, and left the bystanders in the utmost suspense, not knowing what to make of it, as, were he actually wounded, he never could run

so fast, and, if not hurt, why should he run away at all, the danger being past? The mate followed him immediately and found him uninjured, but loudly exclaiming, with good reason, against the extremely culpable negligence of the captain, and declaring that if they ever caught him on the poop again, whilst the captain had a gun in his hand, they might kill him outright, and that if I went to catch Cape pigeons again, I might attend to my own lines.

July 25th. A strong wind blowing from the north-west, we made ten knots an hour. Last night we had several tremendously severe squalls, accompanied by a heavy fall of snow: the wind was so strong that it sent the top and studding sails flying in all directions, and ropes as strong as a double waggon-line were snapped off like a piece of twine. It brought to my recollection what Mr. Alt, from his own experience, said,—that, in rounding the Cape I should, in all probability, see such a storm as I had never before witnessed,—and certainly never before did I see such storms as those of last night. I was in the cabin all the evening, and was retiring to rest about 12 o'clock, and

had to pass through the place where all the married people sleep, (our hatchway being closed as the sea was continually breaking over that part of the ship ;) the greatest part of them, however, were awake, and several times was I stopped by some of them looking up to enquire if I thought there was any danger? I assured them there was nothing to fear, and that we were going twelve knots an hour straight for Adelaide, which in some degree lulled their apprehensions, as, from my being on terms of intimacy with the captain, they place some reliance on what I say. But, say they, "the sailors tell us there is too much sail up, and that the vessel cannot stand it; either the masts must go or we shall capsize, and that she is built so strongly that she will never give up her masts; therefore, in all probability, she would go over." You will easily imagine the effect such information was calculated to produce on minds altogether incapable of thinking for themselves on such an occasion. I endeavoured to explain to them that it was very unlikely that the captain would expose his own life to such imminent danger, even supposing

him to be entirely careless as to our fate and that of his ship, as no doubt his life was as dear to him as ours was to us, and that he best knew the capabilities of his own vessel, having been in her ever since she was built, whereas, perhaps, the person from whom they had their information had been accustomed to smaller craft, and consequently knew but little about the sail which a ship of this description could carry. They were at last satisfied that the captain knew best what to do.

26th. I, yesterday, gave you a short description of a storm which happened on the preceding night, but we have since found that *that* was only the prelude to one of the most dreadful description. It had been blowing hard all day yesterday, and, in the evening, had increased to a gale from north-west: I had *turned* in and gone to sleep, when J. came down saying, "For God's sake come on the deck, it is such a dreadful night; except you wish to be drowned in your berth." I told him, "if that was the case, I could not see any choice between drowning on deck or in one's bed; therefore, I should remain where I was;"

but I afterwards altered my mind, and went on deck to witness the awful grandeur of the storm, and to reflect on the merciful Providence, which snatches us from impending destruction when the utmost ingenuity and courage of man seems hopelessly unavailing!

MONDAY, 28th. I was obliged to leave off suddenly on Saturday, in consequence of a gale springing up which made it impossible to write, and it has been blowing hard ever since, but is now decreased and got down to a stiff breeze, and we are going nine knots with top sails close reefed. Yesterday afternoon, the captain had the studding-sails hoisted; sails seldom set except in light breezes. About 7 o'clock in the evening, it suddenly commenced to blow almost a hurricane. I was attending a prayer-meeting below at the time, and was in the middle of singing the second time when I was called on deck, as I frequently assist the sailors in case of emergency, to "*down studding sails and close reef top sails;*" not a very easy job, blowing as it did, and the vessel rolling tremendously all the while. You can have no idea of the power of the wind on a



piece of canvass containing from fifty to sixty square yards; sometimes, by a sudden jerk, it will throw every one who may be pulling right across the deck with stunning violence; last night we were served so, and every man was thrown a-back, as though impelled by some supernatural power, it being imperceptible from whence the shock comes. I was very fortunate; for, happening to be just opposite the long boat, beneath which a pig is kept, it was my good luck to be opposite the opening through which he is served with food, so that, whilst the rest were thrown over each other, or against the long boat, with violence enough to break their ribs, I went comfortably through the aperture into the grunter's bed, who did not appear to relish so unexpected a visitor, and indicated his displeasure by grunting and growling most furiously. It is needless to say that I did not intrude longer than it would take to find my way out again, which was not very easy, owing to the darkness of the night; at last I did escape, glad enough again to breathe wholesome fresh air. When I joined the others again, I found that they had missed me, and

could not conceive what had become of me, unless I had gone overboard; a matter which they had not time to investigate, well knowing, if that was the case, all there was in the ship could render no assistance in a dark night, with the sea running mountains high.

I shall now return and endeavour to give you a faint description of the night of the 25th; though well aware how incompetent I am to describe such an awful scene as that night presented. On reaching deck I did not know which way to move, for some place of shelter from the hail which was falling, and so as to steer clear of the ropes which were flying in all directions. It was only when a flash of lightning came, that I could see to move at all; at length I reached a place sheltered from the hail and rain which fell in torrents. The storm was now at its height, the lightning appearing as one continued flash, and playing about the rigging, in a thousand fantastic forms, and accompanied by the heaviest thunder I ever heard, which, together with the roaring of the sea, rendered the captain's voice almost inaudible, so that he had some difficulty in getting his

orders obeyed with that facility with which they would otherwise have been.

A heavy storm of thunder and lightning at night on shore is very awful, but at sea, and accompanied by a gale of wind, it is ten times more so. There being no other object nigh, it seemed as though its whole fury was directed against ourselves. Had there been other ships, or indeed any other objects near, so as to share the danger, it would not have appeared so particularly directed against us. It seemed for some time just as though our top masts were in the midst of the cloud, and in some way connected with the thunder, as it appeared for a long time to be hovering amongst the shrouds. The storm continued for about two hours, when the thunder was no more heard, but the lightning, which was very blue, continued more or less during the night; the wind also did not abate, but blew a gale all night long, and continues with occasionally less violence till now. I went below to see how they were getting on in the married people's berths; and there anything short of the ship actually sinking would not have prevented my laughing till my sides

ached, notwithstanding the long faces in fashion just then, as, I believe, the majority of them were fully persuaded that they were doomed never to see the sun rise on them again. With all the serious drawbacks to mirth, I found it impossible to resist an inclination to laugh at the ludicrous figures before me. It happened that, whilst I was there, the ship gave two or three tremendous lurches, so as to be nearly on her side; there was immediately such a clatter of tin ware, of every shape and name, and wooden buckets, boxes, bowls, and unnameable things; and there were all these different articles and fifty more perhaps which I do not mention, rolling from one side to the other with the ship. On seeing which, eight or ten men jumped out to secure them; but, for want of *sea-legs*, they succeeded very indifferently in the pursuit, and looked as though they were drunk altogether, whilst, on reaching the place where the things were, (which they were only able to do, by clinging to anything they could lay hold of,) the ship gave another lurch and sent them rolling, buckets, tin-ware, men and all, one over another in hopeless confusion, to the other

side of the ship; and, on regaining their legs, they were glad to get out of the way as quickly as possible. Two or three in particular, whom I had noticed as being extremely dull in their movements, were now to be seen jumping about to prevent the different articles coming in rude contact with their legs, and showing all the activity, if not the grace, of a dancing-master. Just at the time several *delicacies*, which had been left at dinner, (a rather unusual circumstance, but easily accounted for to-day, the bad weather having deprived them of their usual appetite,) began to show symptoms of an inclination to join the rebellious buckets, &c., and in a few minutes, divers pieces of pork, potatoes, plum-pudding, dishes of sago for the children, &c., agreeably diversified by sundry books, such as "Watts's Hymns," "Joe Miller's Jest Book," "Cottage Economy," "The Way to be happy," and many more which I had not an opportunity of catching a glimpse of, all these joined together, afforded a sight strange and laughable enough; but the men with nothing but their shirts on, rolling over one another, were still more ludicrous; and when on the



escape of the pork, the cry of pursuit was raised by about half a dozen women in the same state, the scene was complete, and I rushed on deck, choosing rather to witness the battling elements, than such a scene as was exhibited below!

29th. We have now a beautiful breeze, and are running ten knots and a half. During the gale the mate told me we ran 242 miles, in twenty-four hours; equal to the fastest coach in England I fancy. It is true we have no stopping to bait, or change horses, so that a coachman might say he beats us, but we stop when necessary or obliged, and a coach does the same, therefore we consider that we beat them *hollow*.

Harry and I have had a quarrel. We had a piece of pork soaking to get the salt out of it, and on going to it sometime afterwards, I found there had been some cut off, and that he had done it. On accusing him with it, he did not deny it, but alleged as an excuse, that he had nothing for breakfast, and had done it merely as a joke. I told him that I was not over fond of practical jokes; especially as by indulging in that joke, he disappointed me of a dinner. As

he did not appear to take it in so serious a light as I could wish, I felt rather annoyed, and told him that if I caught him playing off that sort of joke on me, he would find himself rather wrong in his calculation; for, though ready to allow that there was no harm in a civil joke, still, there was a point beyond which it is sometimes dangerous to go; and, as a proof, I gave him to understand that the next time I found him at those tricks, I would without further ceremony, give him the *rope's end*. His dignity felt annoyed at being treated so like a boy, though he knows better than to say anything to me; but, after I had gone on deck, he began telling the others how he "would serve me, and that he kept a sword in his box, and would some time or other give me the *cold steel*;" when this reached my ears, I considered it my duty to provide myself as well as I could against such a desperate character as I knew him to be; I therefore borrowed a pistol of the shoemaker, and had some slugs, but could get no powder, so that I was obliged to ask the captain for some; he wanted to know what it was for, and I was obliged to tell him; he informed the doctor,

who sent for Harry and obliged him to give up his sword, which is now in the possession of the doctor.

FRIDAY, 31st. Since Wednesday evening it has been blowing a heavy gale from the south, but is now got down to a stiff breeze from the same quarter, which is not a bad wind as we are steering direct east, and have been for these three weeks or a month, and we are now in lat.  $36^{\circ}$  and  $50^{\circ}$  east long., and expect to reach Adelaide in rather less than three weeks.

My fancy often takes its flight to England, and settles at C., and finds you and Mr. S. with the children snugly seated in the arbour in the evening, and very probably joined by those who are dear to us all; the ladies are busy at their needlework, the children racing about the garden every few minutes, as they grow tired of your, to them, dull conversation; and the gentlemen are smoking their pipes over a jug of your never-to-be-forgotten strong beer, and discussing the appearances, and probable yield of their own and neighbours' forthcoming crops; which will I hope be as fruitful as yourselves can desire. Sometimes I change the

scene, and picture to myself a rough and stormy day, the wind blowing ready to tear up the trees ; and then I am vain enough to think your thoughts roam to the distant ocean, and a tear of pity will, in spite of yourself, steal down your cheek as you say to each other, “ What a dreadful night to be on the raging sea ; I wonder where John is now, and if it is as rough at sea as it is here ? ” These, my dear Jane, are your thoughts frequently, I know ; at the same time adding, “ may God of his infinite mercy protect him through the many dangers to which he is exposed ! ” Your thoughts in such a night, I fancy, are faithfully portrayed in the following lines :

WRITTEN AT MIDNIGHT.

'Tis night ; and all is silent around,  
 And all is hushed in gentle sleep,  
 Yet there is one, still wakeful found,  
 Who wakes to think, and pray, and weep.

I think on one who loves me well,  
 And weep that he's so far away ;  
 How dear I love, no words can tell,  
 How fervent for his safety pray.

The rising blast from far I hear  
 Break on the silence so profound,  
 My thoughts rush onwards to the sea,  
 And my heart sickens at the sound.

On fearful wing my fancy's flight  
 Bends where the vessel skims the waves ;  
 There, through the blackness of the night,  
 Hark, how the headlong torrent raves.

I dare not think but all is well,  
 Yet vainly chide the struggling sigh ;  
 As list'ning to the wind, I tell  
 My fears ; and yet those fears I fly.

—

Be still, my heart, for sure the gales  
 Play harmless round the outspread sails ;  
 And mildly the fair queen of night  
 Sheds o'er the waves her softened light.

Oh may such gentle, pleasing themes  
 Inspire my heart, and form my dreams ;  
 So shall my pillow yield repose,  
 And slumbers sweet my eyelids close!\*

In such a night my thoughts revert to my native land, and the comforts of your fireside ; not that I regret for one moment the step I have taken, and only lament that I did not take

\* The Editor does not vouch for the originality of the above lines.



it years ago ; but still, my thoughts will sometimes return to the scenes and companions of my youth. I must drop this subject, or my paper will not hold out for anything else, but when "the light of other days" recurs to my memory, which is but seldom, then it is I feel the wide difference in my present and former situation. And then,

Lost to the lively converse of my home,  
 My spirit dwells on themes for ever dear,  
 In musings deep, I think on days to come,  
 Or pay the past its tributary tear.

I hope, my dear sister, you will not judge, from my occasionally indulging in such reflections as these, that I am melancholy, or any way unhappy ; for I assure you that I have not for many years enjoyed three months of such uninterrupted happiness as since I embarked on board the *William Mitchell*, and left my native shore. I can but rejoice in still having an opportunity of seeking my fortune in a foreign land, where I doubt not, with the blessing of health, to gain an honest livelihood, unincumbered by the humiliating feeling of

dependency, which weighs down many who cannot get suitable employment at home. Indeed I have every reason to rejoice in the hour I first set a foot on board, not to land again till on the shores of the land of my adoption; and glad was I to see the anchor weighed:

“ And with a flowing sail,  
Went bounding for the island of the free;  
Towards which, the impatient wind blew half a gale;  
High dashed the spray, the bows dipped in the sea.”

August 3d. On Friday night, the wind, which had before been favorable, suddenly shifted, and has continued blowing ever since a steady breeze from south-east and east, consequently we are obliged to go a little out of our course, and are now steering east by north. It is generally understood that the magnetic needle always points due north, which is not the case, for where we are now, (lat.  $34^{\circ}$ ,  $66^{\circ}$  east long.,) our right course is east, but if we steered exactly east by the compass, we should in reality be going north-east, consequently, to go direct east, we are obliged to go by the compass south-east, and sometimes south-east by south.

4th. There is a calm to-day, and the sea is as smooth as a fish-pond, which is anything but agreeable to the passengers, many of whom begin to exhibit considerable anxiety to set their foot on shore once more, and are growing mortally tired of so long a voyage.

Every one is busily employed to-day; the women at washing, and the men assisting the sailors to fill the empty water-casks with salt water, for ballast; as, from the quantity of provisions consumed, the ship is light below, and requires something to keep her in the water, which will enable her better to "weather the storm," and prevent her rolling so violently in a calm.

I spent last evening in the cabin with the captain and doctor, as I generally do three or four times a week. They and one of the mates and myself make up a rubber at whist, and sometimes loo, but more frequently at bragg, which is their favorite game; but they are not adepts at either game, so that I generally manage to come off victorious; as, however, we play for very trifling stakes, there is not much won or lost, but still it serves to pass away many an

otherwise dull and tiresome evening. The other young men pass their time as best suits them ; some at all-fours or putt, but the shoemaker and J. devote their whole time to courting ; the former sticking as close *as wax*, and J. though not quite so hot and outrageous as at the outset, still may be observed moving with his fair friend, as it were mechanically, more like an automaton than a human being, who would wish to make himself agreeable and amusing. But the fact is, she does not appear to me to have sense enough to appreciate duly these attentions, and to understand those soft nothings, even were her lover capable of doing the agreeable in its most fascinating form ; which, by the bye, I take to be far above his comprehension. I have frequently observed them closely, and find his plan of courting consists of taking hold of her hand and playing with it, without speaking, till after a few minutes, I suppose from having received a harder squeeze than common, she turns her eyes up and smiles, and J. smiles again ; still not a word, but, doubtless, there is meaning in those smiles, or rather grins, which express the

feelings of the heart, more eloquently than the strongest language.

August 5th. A fair wind to-day, and we are once more going right for Adelaide, to the great delight of us all. Every one on deck is again employed in filling casks; they filled twelve barrels of three hogsheads each, yesterday, and have another day's work after to-day, by which time they hope to get in sufficient to keep her tolerably steady.

6th. This morning the wind is again in the old quarter, right in our teeth, and blowing strong. In the afternoon it fell a dead calm.

7th. The wind is again fair, and we are going pleasantly enough eight knots. The wind shifting so frequently and so suddenly is a very unusual occurrence in this climate,  $77^{\circ}$  east long.,  $35^{\circ}$  south lat., and at this time of year, as in general there is a favorable wind from the Cape to Australia, nine months of the year, and the reverse the other three months. We are having the boxes up again to-day, and find the clothes much injured from damp and mildew. I kept mine up the last time, having found a place for it in the hospital, and have since well aired



everything, and have had all my shirts ironed over again. I have not used any white ones since I left, but I make my three coloured ones do, as I can get them washed for  $2\frac{1}{2}d.$  each, which I think to be far better than to have all in use. I have also used only two pairs of stockings; in fact I did not wear any for two months, but was obliged to take to them again on approaching the Cape, and it is still cold; but the days lengthen rapidly, and we begin to experience those pleasing sensations, every one feels as the spring advances, leaving a dreary winter and all its dull attendants far behind, and looking forward with the most pleasing anticipations to the approaching summer.

10th. Until this morning it has been blowing hard from the south since the 7th, and we have averaged ten knots an hour during that time. On the 8th, we passed an island called Amsterdam, leaving it to the south; it is uninhabited, and is celebrated for its boiling springs; and cod-fish is said to abound, the finest in the world. An immense quantity of birds came from land to see what we were, staid a short time, and left us again to return to their

native shores, after being satisfied that it was not our intention to intrude ourselves on their unenviable solitude ; but whilst with us they indicated their fears by the most discordant screams imaginable, as though they wished us to understand that they were determined to reign paramount in those dreary regions. To-day it is nearly a calm, and the captain has been out in the boat shooting all the morning, and is just returned, bringing with him thirteen birds, of five different species, the smallest about the size of a wild duck, and the largest about that of a hen turkey.

14th. In the evening of the 10th, a fresh breeze sprung up from the west, and has continued ever since, and we have been running during that time at an average of nine knots an hour, and as comfortably as if we were on the Thames in a Gravesend steamer ; and in the pleasing expectation of spending Sunday week (the 23d) in Adelaide, as we are now in  $99^{\circ}$  east long., and Adelaide is in  $137^{\circ}$  east long., consequently we have but thirty-eight degrees to run, and a degree of longitude here is but forty-seven miles, so that we have only 1806 miles

to go, which, if the breeze continues, will require about eight or nine days.

They are already making preparation on board, and are busy getting up the anchor tackle, which has been stowed away in the hold, and they have mounted a cannon to fire in case of danger, or to call a pilot, and are getting everything in the nicest order possible, by cleaning and painting the ship throughout, as is usual toward the end of all long voyages.

I have often remarked that sailors are looked upon ashore with a suspicious eye, especially in the interior of England, far remote from a sea-port town, and where they are but seldom seen, being then out of employ and out of their element, consequently, in their worst colours ; but to see a sailor in his true character, you must see him on a Saturday night at sea. Since I have been here I have had an opportunity of seeing them in their highest glee, by spending a Saturday evening in the fore-castle ; there you will perhaps see a man, whom you may have observed on deck as one from whom you can scarcely get a word, and whom you will think to be of a morose disposition ; but, when in the

forecastle, he is a very different character, and would never forgive a messmate whom he considered to be guilty of any breach of hospitality, and who may have neglected to offer a visitor everything their humble apartment affords. After the first glass he gradually begins to grow communicative ; after the second he begins his *yarn*, and *when once begun*, should every one besides himself be joining in a song, he takes not the least notice of them, provided he is satisfied that you are paying some attention to him, and that he is affording his visitor some amusement. For my own part, I always had a better opinion of them than many people have, but certainly far below what they entertain of themselves, as the following short dialogue between one of them and a Mrs. W., last Saturday night, will show. We had long observed Bill Collins, a Welchman, as one who thought more of himself than any one else did of him, and who thought proper to stand forward as the champion of two or three female passengers, (Mrs. W. amongst the rest,) who had been observed coming up from the fore-castle at rather unseasonable hours, (in fact they had no business

there,) and whose conduct had subjected them to a very severe censure from Harry, who turned moralist on the occasion; but who might claim some indulgence, as charity was their *ostensible* motive, and I do not stop to enquire their real object; Harry, who it seems was taking a sentimental stroll round the deck after it was dark, was coming by where Mrs. W. had stationed herself, and hearing Bill's voice in a higher key than usual, he stowed himself away behind the capstan, and within earshot, to listen to the conversation; Bill commenced with, "Why Mrs. W., how is it we have not had the pleasure of seeing you in the fore-castle lately?" "Why to tell you the truth, you wont see me there ever again." "Why not," says Bill, "I hope you are only joking." "Indeed I am not, for the young men have made such a fuss about it, that I am afraid it will come to the doctor's ears; still I do not see any harm in going there with a little gruel for a sick man, (the carpenter was ill,) and I am sure I went for nothing else, whatever others go for; but that Harry will make harm out of nothing." Says Bill, "I will give him a good thrashing the



first opportunity ; but I can tell him, that there are more respectable men in the fore-castle than anywhere midships," (where the emigrants are placed,) "and the young women are better treated, and more safe, than in any other part of the vessel, and we in the fore-castle are never guilty of such bad breeding as you see amongst the young men; as for myself, I have seen the first society in London, and know what good breeding is; in fact, I never associated with tradespeople." He had got thus far, when Harry's patience was exhausted, and, on hearing him say that he never associated with tradespeople, he jumped out from behind the capstan with, "No, because they would not have you;" and put an end to the conversation. Bill has ever since gone by the name of *gentleman Collins*; and I took the earliest opportunity of congratulating the captain on the very select crew he was master of; telling him the joke.

You will be able to form some idea of the value a sailor places on himself, from this short conversation between gentleman Collins and Mrs. W.; and if you should in future take him at

his own valuation, you will no longer regard him as of an inferior race of beings.

J. has unfortunately purchased an accordion,—I say unfortunately, as it makes it almost impossible to write with any degree of accuracy. For this week past, he has been continually at it, and he has still more unfortunately imbibed an idea that he possesses a musical voice, and actually attempts to accompany the instrument with a voice—such a voice, more like the roaring of a bull at a stake, than that of a human being. He was three whole days at, “In my Cottage near a Wood.” The discord of discords we were obliged to hear during that time was to me dreadful, and at times excited my astonishment how he managed to produce such unharmonious sounds from that sweet instrument; and it is really astonishing, that any one can be so infatuated as he appears to be, to think that such discordant sounds are amusing to us, who are compelled to listen to them. Good music is a sweet resource on board ship, but you have no place of refuge from the cruel infliction of unskilful scrapers and blowers. It sometimes almost drives me mad, and I throw

down pen or book, and rush on deck in a state of desperation, and there remain till I think it is over ; but the fellow seems to be possessed of more patience than even Job could boast of, for, in an hour's time I return with the cheering hope of enjoying a short tranquillity, but find him still in exactly the same situation, apparently unconscious of any one else being there, and turning up his eyes occasionally, like a duck in a thunder storm, as if in extacies at his own performance ; a performance in my opinion, only to be equalled by a pig hung in a gate, half a dozen dogs barking at him, and a jack-ass braying with astonishment.

17th. A fine breeze still from w. s. w., and we are running nine knots, which has put every one in good spirits : and nothing but mirth and jocularity is to be heard from bow to stern, and every face we meet appears as though care was banished far from its brow. Even the elderly and most reserved may be heard in the evening joining in some lively ditty, or shouting most lustily the chorus of "Rule Britannia." Indeed "hope's cheering influence" seems to have instilled a new life into them, and transformed

them from dull insipid beings to social and at times lively companions.

J. is at his old occupation again with his *discordian*, and I find it utterly impossible to write.

19th. On the evening of the 17th, about eight o'clock, it began to blow hard, at ten increased to a gale, and at midnight to a hurricane, which sent the top sails flying in all directions, and split them to ribands, and broke a chain by which the yard is fastened; and you can guess the wonderful power the wind has when I tell you that that chain was as strong as a common timber carriage chain. The storm continued with the same violence all day yesterday, but in the evening it fell to a strong breeze, and about nine o'clock myself and some others were called on deck to unreef and hoist more sail, as, on the commencement of the hurricane, almost all the sail was reefed, and we carried only 'sufficient sail to keep her upright, and in her right course. I have now seen what I have often wished for, namely, a storm with thunder and lightning at sea, a hurricane, and the sea running mountains high. At times yesterday we

could not see fifty yards from us, but appeared to be enclosed by stupendous mountains of water; in a few moments afterwards it seemed as though we were on a pinnacle, or rather on nothing at all, but were falling with fearful impetuosity into a dreadful abyss: but we reach the bottom unhurt, and another mountain of water is seen rolling on as though it would overwhelm us; but see, instead of being overwhelmed or the least alarmed, our gallant ship is rising majestically over the top of it. Such a scene is well calculated to call forth our admiration of the courage and ingenuity of man, but still more to fill us with adoration of that Infinite Being who ruleth the winds and the waves, "who rideth upon the storm," at whose command the winds blow, and who can say unto the waves, "be still," and they shall be still. What sublime ideas does the contemplation of these grand objects raise in our souls. The Lord taketh the winds from the four corners of the earth, he marketh out the paths they shall walk in, regulâtes their boundaries, and bids them to cease when they have fulfilled his purpose. Why should we be troubled when his messengers execute his commands? God



grant that I may be enabled to say with Christian Sturm, and with sincerity, "Though the tempest should howl about me, the earth tremble, the rocks be rent in twain, and darkness obscure the face of nature, I will not be disturbed, neither will I be terrified; but I will put my trust in the Lord, and rest my cares on the bosom of Him who rules and governs the universe, who directeth the winds, and pointeth out to the stars their course."

August 21st. On the evening of the 19th it again began to blow hard, and by midnight had increased in violence equal to the night of the 17th, and continued till last night at dark, when it blew, if possible, still harder; indeed, there was nothing that we had seen before, except the thunder and lightning, but might be considered as a trifle compared to the storm of last night. We could not keep any sail up; for as soon as any was hoisted, it was split to ribands, and we were obliged to close reef the main-sail, an expedient adopted only in the greatest extremity. Just at midnight, it suddenly shifted, from N. E. by N. to due west, a fair wind, and then it immediately fell to a gentle breeze, leaving a tre-

mendous sea. During the night, as no sleep was to be got, I thought I would read, as we have always a lamp burning. I took hold of a book given me by my uncle S., entitled, "Reflections on the works of God," by Christopher Christian Sturm; and I opened it at a page in which are his reflections on winds and tempests; it struck me as being very appropriate to our situation, one part particularly, in which he says "perhaps at this moment some luckless bark is riding in the storm at the mercy of the winds; above the loud blast roars, and all around is darkness; the waves now meet the clouds, then roll back, and discover the gulf threatening instant destruction. The fear-struck mariners have now no hopes; they think on their far-distant homes, and with wild horror view the wave, in which, as it rolls back like a vast mountain, they read their final doom." He then explains that storms and tempests are sent to answer some great and important purposes in nature. It is an old saying, and I believe a true one, that "a storm is generally succeeded by a calm;" it is the case now, for to-day there is scarcely a breath of air stirring, and

we have a beautiful sunshining day ; indeed so great is the contrast of last night and to-day, that it appears like another world, and it brings to my mind a hymn, which says,

“ Behind a frowning Providence,  
He hides a smiling face.”

22d. A fine breeze still, and we are sailing as pleasantly as any one could wish, and the bad weather we have lately experienced has taught us to estimate it accordingly. A child belonging to a Mr. and Mrs. Haggard died last night ; it was a girl of five years old, who had never been well, and was entirely helpless, so that it might be considered as a happy release, both to parents and child. The father is going out with the intention of carrying on the business of seedsman and florist ; he is a very well informed man, and a pleasant companion, with whom I spend a good part of my time on deck.

August 26th. The past night has been one of the most intense anxiety. Just at the close of day, Kangaroo Island was observed right a-head. The night set in very dark with an

increasing breeze ; our captain was well aware that, with the wind then blowing, we must run long before morning beyond the nearest point of land ; consequently it depended entirely on his judgment and knowledge of navigation to take his ship between the island and the mainland, a rather hazardous undertaking, when we consider the 'darkness of the night, and his being (as was every man on board,) an entire stranger to that part of the coast, though he had been to Sydney before. At three in the morning the welcome sound of "land a-lee," was heard on deck, and in the next minute, "land a-lee" rang through the ship, the most joyful exclamations echoed from head to stern, and the majority of us immediately got up and ran on deck, to catch a sight of land once more. As the morning dawned, we were enabled to see what sort of place it was. Its first appearance is extremely unflattering, and looks more like an immense range of barren rocks than anything else, and is altogether of the most unpromising description ; but, as we proceed, it gradually improves in appearance, and at last it is of the most picturesque character. It is

very rocky, but is much relieved from the sameness observable on our approaching it by numerous little bays, and occasionally a most romantic valley running from the sea far into the interior, and covered with wood down to the water's edge. Some of the trees appear to run to a great height, and some of the woods, from their regularity, seem more to be the work of art than that of nature.

We are almost close to it, leaving it on our right, and on our left a small island called Althorp, and on the same side, far beyond Althorp, lies the main land of New Holland or Australia, the land so anxiously wished for for these four months past.

August 27th. Last night, finding we were approaching the main land very fast, and being unacquainted with the coast, though in too deep water to anchor, our captain did not deem it prudent to proceed in the dark, so leaving only the main and fore-top-sails up, the former being backed, we "lay to" till day light, when the sail was again set, and we proceeded, keeping about two miles from the shore, for about two hours, when a signal post was discovered a-head.



We hoisted a signal which was answered from the shore, when we saw a boat making for us, and dropped anchor. When the boat came up, we found they were come for the mail, which was delivered up, on showing that they were authorised to receive it. After giving us instructions which course to take, they again left for the shore; whilst we weighed anchor and set sail for the port. Their accounts are by no means flattering; they say provisions are very reasonable, but that trade is very bad; but I shall soon be able to judge for myself. Ten o'clock at night, we went, according to instructions, about ten miles further, when a pilot came on board, and we immediately made for what at first sight appeared to be a small creek, but as soon as we had entered it, we all at once found ourselves in what seemed to be as beautiful a river as ever the sun shone on, but is in fact an arm of the sea running a long way inland. It is from half to three quarters of a mile in width, and its banks are thickly studded with trees and bushes, close to the water's edge, with occasionally an opening, through which might be seen a tent, or perhaps a house of a

very humble cast, and a boat fastened to a bush, bespeaking the occupation of the owner of that retired spot to be that of a fisherman; in which supposition I was correct, as, just at dusk, a boat was seen suddenly making its appearance from a part of the shore which, to look at, we thought impervious to anything except kangaroos and wild ducks, the latter of which we have seen in immense quantities. It came alongside, and we found they were come to see if we wanted any fish, which, being quite a treat, as you will naturally suppose, after living for four months on salt provisions, were eagerly purchased and as eagerly devoured, in an almost incredibly short time. They were of excellent quality, and of moderate price, one of about two pounds costing sixpence. We are again at anchor, about four miles from the port, the wind being right in our teeth, and no room to beat. The captain swears that if the wind does not change by to-morrow, he will put the men to tow us up with the boats.

August 28th. We are still at anchor, and not a little annoyed at being so near port and unable to reach it.

The country from aloft presents a very pleasing appearance: from thence we can see the port, but not the town, though we can see just where it is. After passing over an immense level, the view is arrested by Mount Lofty, whose top is amongst the clouds, and running as far as the eye can reach, giving one *some* idea of the amazing extent of country we are just entering.

September 2d. Yesterday we came on shore, and of all the scenes I ever witnessed, the disembarkation of emigrants beats everything; unfortunately it was a very wet day, which of course made it ten times worse; and the drays not being arrived, which were to take our luggage to town, we had to wait from nine in the morning till two in the afternoon, before we could remove our things. Some remained to *watch* the things, as there was a set of rascals who infest the port, and who do nothing else but rob every one, but especially those who are credulous enough to listen to a story they tell about the country, a tale which fresh comers are too apt to listen to. Those who were not watching sauntered about where they chose,

the greatest part in the public houses ; so that by the time the drays came, and there was some hard work to do, there were but six of us who were able to do a stroke :—not an easy job for six to do that which would have been enough for twenty, and it took us three hours to get through it, as we had to carry everything two hundred yards or more, knee deep in mud. At length we got everything up, and started the last dray in the evening. My boxes were gone a-head, so I got on as fast as I could to see to them, having six miles to walk from port to town, and leaving two or three to see to their own, as the police had given us strict injunctions to look sharply after our things. J.'s boxes being in the last dray, he remained behind with it; about half way the driver upset the whole concern, and swore he would not stay to put it up again, and actually started and left everything as it was, in the mud. J. and two more remained with it some time, till at length the two bolted and left J. alone, who, not altogether liking his lonesome situation, eventually started off too for the police station, and sent a policeman to guard it till morning; but alas! he was too

late, for on his reaching the place, he found poor J.'s box broken open, the wearing apparel strewn about the road, his pocket-book cut open, and its contents (twelve sovereigns) gone.

October 15th. The Appoline being arrived with the Messrs. Phillips, I shall bring this to a close and send it by her, when she returns. I have not yet got any situation, but have been about thirty miles up the country, staying with Mr. W. who is sheep farming, and has just got into the right track to do well; he, as well as Mrs. W., enjoy very good health; Mrs. W. not having had a day's illness since they have been in the bush. It was a good chance for me to stay with him, as I was not spending money, and at the same time was gaining information and experience of the manner of doing business in the bush. The general idea in England of a bushman's life is, (at least it was before I left,) that you might as well be transported, that it is dull, and in fact, that one might as well be out of the world at once; mistaken notion;—from what little I have seen of it these three weeks, I would prefer it to any life I



know, excepting of course that of an *independent gentleman*; and as for those *hardships* to which a bushman is exposed, they are ideal, and exist but in the fancy of those who have never left their native land, or have never been ten miles from a pig trough. All I can say is that it must be a good thing to tempt me to remain in town. I have been in from the bush two days, and already feel quite disgusted with the habits of the town; where, without any pretensions to sanctity myself, I cannot but feel disgusted at the dreadful state of drunkenness and immorality I am obliged to witness. There is a good deal of money to be earned here, and very few have sense enough to take care of it. Some who have been in the country and worked hard for six weeks or two months, will come into town, immediately go to some public-house, and place perhaps *twenty pounds* in the landlord's hands, saying "when that's all spent, tell me."

December 30th. Whilst staying with Mr. W. I had an opportunity of witnessing a kangaroo hunt. You would suppose from the awkward appearance of the animal, that there never was a creature less adapted for running

than the kangaroo, as he never puts his fore-legs to the ground, and they are of no use to him, except to keep a balance in taking such tremendous leaps. I have measured the distance where one has crossed a swamp with the dogs after him, consequently at the top of his speed, and found the leaps he took measured twenty-five feet each, scarcely varying a foot from that distance, except when he had to go over bushes, which they always do if they meet with any in their way, not being able to turn without taking a large sweep. They have been known when hard pressed, to clear a team of bullocks, which happened to interrupt their course. The dogs used for hunting them are the greyhound crossed by the staghound, but slightly, so as to combine the fleetness of the greyhound with the sagacity of the hound; some are crossed by the mastiff or bull-dog, as it requires something better than a cur to face a kangaroo: for should he once catch hold of a small dog, I would not give one penny for his life, as many of the best-bred dogs are killed in the battle. They do not bite, but hug their enemy with their fore-legs, and rip them open

with their hinder ones. There is scarcely one dog in ten that has been at the death of one, that does not bear very visible marks of the unpleasant embraces of a kangaroo. Hunting the emu, (or Australian ostrich,) is also good sport, and it requires good dogs to do anything with them. They cannot fly as their wings are too short, but by flapping them when running, and with their long legs they manage to go at a speed that requires a good horse to come up with them, and a kangaroo dog to manage them; for as soon as a dog comes up to them, they give him a kick which generally sends him sprawling ten yards, and if he has not pretty good pluck, he will not come the second time, as he is sure to receive a second edition, should he be unsuccessful in catching him by the neck and pulling him down.

The wild dogs are very numerous in the bush, but they seldom do any mischief. There are plenty of wild fowl of every description, from the black swan and wild turkey, down to the snipe. The turkey I believe to be the same as the bustard, formerly found on Salisbury plain; it is just like that on the sign-post of the

Bustard Inn on the plain. The mountain duck is the handsomest bird of that description I ever saw; it is larger than the common duck, but not quite so large as a goose, and of the most beautiful plumage. Quails abound more than any bird of the game kind; they are now in the valleys, where they come to breed, and in a few weeks' time a good shot may kill fifty brace in a day I am told; I think it very likely, as I and F. had a day some time since when they were scarce, and we killed twenty-six brace and a half, and a couple of snipes. I have been out a few times since, when I had nothing else to do, and could generally earn from 12s. to 16s. a day by my gun, but I shall for the future be better employed as we are going to commence distilling next week, when I hope to have but little time for shooting. The town has been all alive for these two or three days, electing a corporation, and to-day they elect a mayor. I have not seen anything of it, as Mr. C. my partner and I have for these last three days been up the river Sturt and Brown Hill creek, to find a situation best adapted for our purpose. We examined the Sturt yesterday, and have decided

to settle on that river, as there is a never-failing supply of water and fuel, and a capital road all the way to it, with a still further recommendation in the chance of enjoying good society. We caught a glimpse of some genteel females, as we passed their tent: they had a fire outside with pots, saucepans, &c. on, at which was a gentleman smoking his cigar. We went and asked him to allow us to light a cigar, thinking to get a fair view of the ladies, but they did not show out; however, I do not despair of overcoming that shyness in the course of a month. We found him a perfect gentleman, who had a sheep-station there. Everything about the tent and other buildings, around the tent in particular, presented a neatness which bore a striking contrast to the habitations of the generality of bushmen who are usually noted for possessing an utter contempt of anything approaching to neatness, or even comfort. We did not tell him of our intentions, but passed on to explore the river farther up, secretly wishing we might not find a better place beyond, so as not to be too far from our interesting neighbours. We went on as far as it was possible to get a cart up,



and could find no other spot that would suit so well as that I have mentioned, so we returned and finally fixed on *that* as our future residence. The section on which it is situated belongs to some gentlemen in England, but Mr. C. is acquainted with the agent, and intends renting enough for our purpose, not the whole section.

I will now attempt to give you some description of the city of Adelaide. It is laid out on a very extensive scale, in my opinion too extensive ; for, let it thrive as fast as it will, many years must elapse before it can possibly be filled up in all the streets, which now present a rather unconnected appearance, with the exception of Rundle and Hindley streets, which are tolerably well filled, and present a scene of bustle far greater than any street in Devizes, excepting on market days. The length is nearly a mile, straight as an arrow, and sixty feet wide. There are some very good buildings here : the merchants' stores are elegant and very extensive. The church is by no means a handsome building, but more like an old-fashioned village church in England. The Baptist chapel is a very neat building, very commodious and well attended.

The Wesleyan Chapel is very handsome and built in the same style as the best buildings of that description at home, and is to be opened next Sunday, (November 1st,) for the first time. There are other places of worship belonging to sects of almost every denomination in the known world. The Government House, government offices, and the bank, are buildings that would be an ornament to any town in England. There is a new prison now building, and about half finished, which is taken by contract for £15,000, to be finished within a given time. The dwelling houses are built chiefly in the French (?) style, with only a ground-floor; but the streets will never be of a very uniform appearance, as every one builds according to his taste, or rather according to his means. The villages come nearer to what poets describe, but what we seldom see realized, as rural felicity, than anything I ever saw before. The inhabitants are chiefly composed of people who were labourers in England, but who, after being here a short time, and having improved their circumstances, have bought some land, some one acre and some two, according to their

means, have then built a hut and cultivated their land, and by industry and perseverance have found themselves gradually growing into a comparative state of affluence. These people, after being accustomed to every hardship at home, know how to appreciate the comforts they now enjoy. Care now never enters their doors; they have no rent to pay, and most probably some to take, for some old cot let to some new comer. These people enjoy their independence, and actually pity their old masters at home who, they knew, had enough to do to pay their rent, and were constantly in fear of being turned out of their farms or houses, either through the poverty of their landlord, or the tricks of some rascally steward, whose insatiable desire to fill his pockets must be satisfied, no matter who goes to ruin. They have good gardens, and well stocked with everything necessary, all being done with that neatness which plainly speaks the contentment which reigns within.

On Sundays you will see every description of vehicle, from tandem down to the humble one-horse cart, engaged in taking parties to the

port, bay, botanical gardens, to a pic-nic party on the mountain or some other place of amusement; as some relaxation is necessary,—for as everybody comes here to *get* money, not to *spend*, the week-days are spent, with some exceptions, in the strictest attention to business. We have two theatres open three times a week each; so that there is plenty of chance for play-going folks. I have been but once, and never felt the least inclination to repeat my visit. They are both temporary buildings, but there is a new one erecting that is nearly finished, and will cost £16,000, and which, when finished, will of course do away with the other two.

It has been said in England that Adelaide is badly off for water; it is quite the reverse; those who have been here longest tell me they never knew yet what it was to want, or even to have bad water. The river Torrens is a never-failing supply to the town, and up the country they are still better off, as they obtain water at the depth of a few feet in the valleys and most of the hills have springs on the very top. The rivers here are also unlike those in England, which are widest near the sea; but here you

may find a river near the sea dry, and yet, on tracing it up, the farther you go among the mountains, the wider it becomes. Our chief rivers in this part of the colony are, the Torrens, Uncaparilla, Sturt, and the Brown Hill Creek. The Adelaide tribe of natives is a quiet inoffensive race, and will do anything for you, if you give them a bit of bread, rice, or sugar ; they are very useful in recovering anything that is lost, such as stray cattle, a person who is lost, &c. ; suppose for instance, a person going a great way into the interior gets lost, and is not heard of for some time after he ought to have reached his destination, a party is despatched in search of him, accompanied by two or three natives, who will trace him for weeks perhaps, where an European would not discern the least track. A native will find perhaps a blade of grass broken, or something or other by which he scarcely ever fails to find the missing object. But we often hear of murders committed by them which are not noticed in the papers ; and I was told when I was in the bush, that in the little Parra, where there was a shepherd killed without any notice being taken by the govern-



ment, our people have taken the law into their own hands, and on the spot where the shepherd was killed, there are now lying the dead carcasses of sixteen Blacks, and every Black who shows himself in that part adds one to the number of victims to retaliatory vengeance. It is astonishing with what dexterity they use their spears, which, though made of wood, they will fix into a gum tree, which is nearly as hard as box, from a distance of forty yards, so firmly, that one can scarcely draw them out again. They can also strike a spear through a hat thrown up at thirty yards distance, or will send it right through a man's body. They are very much afraid of guns, and still more so of pistols, which they call "*pickaninny muckett*," as they do not know how many you have of them, but think you may have a pocket full. I have often regretted that I did not bring a six-barrelled pistol, that Lot the gunsmith had in Devizes; as it is by no means safe to be in the bush alone and without fire-arms.

They hold what they call a corrobberie at every new moon; it is a religious ceremony, and two or three hundred people then meet to-

gether. It would be impossible for me to give you any idea of the antics they perform on these occasions; but the first time I saw them, the impression on my mind was that they were mad altogether.

They are very expert with their waddies, (knobbed sticks,) with which they will knock down a quail flying, as well as a middling shot would with a gun; and I would back some of the best hands to kill one swallow out of three on the wing.

I must now conclude with a little advice to any who may be coming out. Bring everything you can on board in the shape of eatables, such as are not supplied on board ship, and as much as you can, for, should you have more than you require for your own use, you will find plenty of customers for it; and do not be too particular, and fancy you are imposing on those who buy of you, by charging *three times the cost price*, for rest assured, whatever *you* buy on board yourself, you will buy at the same rate; therefore I advise any one who may be troubled with a *tender conscience* to throw it aside, during the voyage at least, for, let there

be what class of persons there may on board, he will find the feeling of self-interest predominate over all others. At sea as ashore the demand and the supply regulate the price, and the floating vendor reaps the benefit of his monopoly. As to bringing anything out with them on speculation, I think it as well let alone, for many who have brought things with them, expecting to increase their small capital, have found on their arrival that the same article may be bought here for the same, and in some instances at less than the cost in England. It is best then, to bring whatever you may possess in cash, for here, as in England, " 'tis money makes the mare to go ;" even wearing apparel may be bought at sales CHEAPER than in England. Every Monday and Saturday nights there are sales, at which things of every description are sold astonishingly cheap.

If you sail from Deptford, by all means beware of those sharp-witted fellows at the depôt. After coming on board, I found that \* \* \* \* \*, who had the management of that establishment, had promised to procure the situation of superintendant for three different persons, myself

amongst the rest, in hopes of drawing a pound or two to put in his own pocket, but I believe he was unsuccessful with all three. I know that I shall raise the laugh against myself by relating my own folly in being cheated out of five shillings by a cunning young rascal belonging to the concern, whom they called Dick; but as it may be the means of preventing others from being so easily gulled, and as I shall not hear you laugh, I will tell you how it was done. This Dick, though quite a boy, appeared to have a hand in everything, and the entire management of measuring the emigrants' luggage, to see that they had not more than what is allowed by the commissioners. After he had measured mine, he told me that I should have to pay 10s., as mine was more than what was allowed; but that if I would give him 5s. he would say nothing about it; thinks I to myself "'tis easier to pay five shillings than ten, and where a set of rogues are combined together, the more you stir, the more," &c. &c.; so I gave him the five shillings, and found afterwards that he had tried the same game on others, but not so successfully as with me. Therefore, have as little as

possible to do with them at the depôt, and place no confidence in them; that is, if the same parties are there still; but, should they be removed, their places *may be* supplied by those disposed to act on a more honest principle; although we shall generally find that those *who promise most, perform the least.*

When on board ship, and especially on a long voyage, it is very necessary that a good feeling should prevail amongst all, but more especially amongst messmates, as one disagreeable person will destroy all harmony and good feeling towards each other, which are so necessary, and which so much conduce to make the time pass pleasantly. Therefore, every haughty feeling of superiority must be thrown aside, or you will be certain to meet with many very disagreeable rebuffs. As for myself, I was very studious to make myself as agreeable as possible to all; those who might be considered as my inferiors, I treated with affability; to my superiors I behaved with a proper respect; and by these means I succeeded in passing my time as happily as any one could wish, and gained (I may say without any vanity,) the respect of



those in the steerage, and the friendship of those in the cabin. Such as are fond of reading should bring a supply of books, as they will find plenty of time for that pleasing occupation, by which they may improve, as well as amuse themselves during many otherwise tedious hours. I was very fortunate in that respect, as I had the use of any book which the captain or doctor had; sometimes I could not get any place retired enough on deck, where I could pay sufficient attention to what I was reading, without being interrupted; I would then mount the yardarm, where I was sure of being unmolested, and there sit for hours together in perfect security.

There is plenty of amusement in fishing and shooting; and any who are fond of fishing had better buy some hooks of different sizes, and lines; also a harpoon or two, and some handles: by which means they will have plenty of sport with the albatross and the dolphin, the "boat-swain" and the shark. I should mention that birds are commonly caught at sea with a hook and line.

Although I have so strongly recommended

quietness, and the necessity of keeping up a good feeling with every one, it will not do to be too submissive, as there is always some bullying chap or other on board to take advantage of a *quiet fellow like myself*, and to take every opportunity of insulting him. The emigrant Cook on board the *William Mitchell*, was one of those disagreeable characters, always abusing some one; and, being a blustering sort of a fellow, he succeeded in frightening the greater part on board, and had grossly insulted me more than once. For some time I put up with it quietly, but finding that it only subjected me to more insults, I determined to adopt a different plan, and told him, that if he thought it was through fear that I did not resent his insulting behaviour, he was labouring under a very great mistake, of which I should take the first opportunity of convincing him. Such a lecture did not agree with his palate, and, the consequence was, we had a *turn up* on the deck, and in less than five minutes his eyes presented an appearance which by no means added to the beauty of his countenance, whilst I had not a scratch, in fact not a blow excepting from his

wife, who had been washing just by, and came up just as it was over, and on seeing the condition her husband was in, sent a wet dishclout or something else slap in my face: to prevent a repetition of which I was glad to make my escape, and got below in pretty quick time. It had a wonderful effect on the fellow, for he was ever afterwards civil to all, and quite submissive to me.

December 25th. Having an opportunity of sending this free of expense by the surgeon of the Lalla Rookh, I gladly embrace it, though, on looking over two or three pages of it the other day, I had a great mind to throw it in the fire, for I find about a dozen mistakes in almost every page, and altogether such a collection of nonsense, without any top or tail to it, that I had not patience to look over any more of it. I then recollected that it was only intended for the perusal of a very few, who I knew would make every allowance for its many imperfections, and who would "be unto my faults a little blind;" I beg of you, therefore, my dear Jane, if you allow any one to see it besides yourself, to be careful who it is, for

there are many who would make the most illiberal remarks on it ; one would say, "I suppose he intended this for a book, what vanity ! except he could write better sense : " another would say, " what a pack of nonsense ! " but it is only intended for *your* amusement, and if it affords you any for an hour when you have nothing else to do, I am satisfied. The few hints to those who may be coming out, are intended for any one that you know, who may be coming here, and if attended to, will materially add to their comfort on board.

New-year's day, 1841. The weather has been very hot for this month past, till last Sunday evening, when it commenced raining, and continued without intermission till Monday evening ; and such rain as you but seldom see in England. It is now as warm as ever, and it is really wonderful to see the effect the rain has had on vegetation ; before it fell the grass was dried up, but in three days after it was like a water-meadow ; and the face of the country altogether appears as if changed by magic. A person who had never seen it would

not believe it possible that it could be so altered in so short a time.

There is a considerable stir just now; the skeleton of a man and horse have been found in the woods, and they have not yet been able to ascertain who it is, but it is thought to be a young man who accompanied the Governor down to Encounter Bay last September, as he has not been heard of since. Whoever it is, the manner in which he met his death will in all probability remain a mystery. The poor natives are blamed for it, though I think it not at all unlikely to have been done by a white man. A man has been hung for bushranging since I have been here; his name was Joseph Stagg, and he was a native of Somersetshire. It was expected that he would have made some confession, as he was known to belong to a gang of fellows of the most depraved and desperate character; but he made none whatever, and in fact asserted his innocence of being the actual murderer, but did not deny being an accessory before the fact, consequently, in the eye of the law, he was as guilty as though he did it himself. There are two more in prison on suspicion of being concerned in the business.



I now conclude by wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New-year, which are ever uppermost at this season, in an Englishman's bosom, wherever he may be, at *home*, surrounded by fond and kind friends, or *abroad*, mid arctic snows or in the torrid zone, where all around him are strangers to his name, and perhaps indifferent to his fate.

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## APPENDIX.

### EXTRACTS FROM THE AUTHOR'S LETTERS.

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Ship William Mitchell ;  
June 3d, 1840.

A SAIL has just hove in sight, a-head of us, which we take to be homeward bound, and there are about twenty who have jumped up from dinner on the strength of it, myself amongst others, happy to embrace an opportunity of writing home.

I am very glad that I came out free, as there are two young men that paid their passage, and who do not live one bit better than we who came free, in fact they mess with me, and are not a little annoyed that they could not get out free as well as me ; as I chaff them pretty much, and tell them they have more money than wit. Our provisions are excellent, and quite sufficient for any ordinary appetite, though there are some discontented ones who are always grumbling, and at the same time acknowledge that they never lived half so well in their lives before, as their improved condition plainly denotes. . . . .

I have not much time to spare as she is nearing us apace, but a little advice to those who may be coming out.

Bring everything with you that is possible, not minding the quantity, as they are not particular ; bring plenty of CHEESE, spice, and some tin buckets, which will be very useful. I can sell cheese now at 2s. per lb. ; a very *fair* profit. The boat is down ; adieu, I shall write again soon.

J. HAYTER.

Cananpilla; Sept. 14th, 1840.

MY DEAR SISTER,—The city of Adelaide is much larger than I expected to find it, in fact it is, in my opinion, laid out on too extensive a scale; for, should it thrive ever so prosperously, it must be many many years before it can possibly be filled up, so as to form anything like regularity, at the same time giving it a very unconnected appearance. Two or three streets are filled rapidly, whilst others though inhabited, have their houses so far apart, as to give it the appearance of a straggling village, rather than a city. But London was not built in a day; and when I reflect on the short time this colony has been established, I am astonished that any infant colony should have progressed so rapidly as this has. The country at present looks beautiful; vegetation being at this time of year (spring) clothed in its gayest livery; and in walking about we are every moment treading on flowers that would not disgrace a gentleman's greenhouse in England; and the country altogether presents the appearance of a gentleman's park on the most extensive scale, rather than that of a land, 'till within the last few years uncultivated, and almost unknown. You will see the price of provisions in the paper I have sent you. Everything you can wish for is to be got here, though certainly not so cheap as in England; but when we consider the high wages still paid, I think prices not unreasonable. Carpenters are getting 12s. to 15s. a day, masons and blacksmiths from 10s. to 12s., and day labourers 7s. There is an immense quantity of horned cattle here, and as fine cattle as ever I saw. It is no uncommon thing to see a herd of two or three hundred feeding and ranging where they please. There are several dairies on a very large scale; one person keeping two hundred milch cows, so that we shall soon have cheese and butter as cheap as you. Vegetables are also reasonable: seven good cabbages of *eight weeks' growth*, for 6d.; young potatoes are dear, but will soon be cheaper, as there are large fields of them growing, and looking as well as any one would wish. The wheat is also looking remarkably well. I have

seen several fields of twenty acres each, looking as well as any I ever saw in England. The climate at present is beautiful and lovely in the extreme, though I am aware that I see it now in its best colours; but were it always like this, it would be a perfect paradise. I am at present in the bush staying with Mr. and Mrs. W., whilst Mr. G. and several influential gentlemen are looking out for a situation for me as manager for some gentleman in the bush. Mr. W. has some sheep of his own, and takes in to keep for others, for which he has two fifths of the produce, which will pay him well, having no rent to pay, or any boundary to his pastures, but he can drive them as far as he likes, and is under no obligation to any one. Had I the means to purchase 100 ewes and do as he is doing, I would not envy any renter of a farm in England.

Mr. W. intends to sell his houses in town and to buy sheep, and will be sure of doing well; he is his own shepherd, and consequently at no expense. I intend buying a score of Chilver lambs and putting them with his, and as fast as I can earn a few pounds, I shall buy a few more, and in time should fortune smile upon my endeavours, I may get a little flock of my own, and off up in the bush, where, with industry and perseverance, one is sure of doing well.

On my arrival I went to "Emigrant Square," to a house found by government, and the next day drew a week's rations; every one is provided with a house as long as it can be spared, and with a week's rations to enable them to obtain work. The next week they are employed by government if they choose, at 9s. a week and rations, which are very liberal. If they do not choose to work for government, they may go where they like, but are not allowed rations.

About two days after I came, to my utter astonishment who should I meet but F.; he immediately insisted on my making his house my home, till I could get employment, and sent a horse and cart for my boxes. He has a good situation as book-keeper, and gets three pounds a week and his *grub*.

Send newspapers as often as you can, they cost me nothing.

Adelaide, South Australia;  
October 16th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,—Adelaide is much larger, and the buildings much better than I expected; many of the merchants' stores are noble, indeed I do not know any buildings of that description in Devizes at all equal to them; some of the shops also are proportionably good. We have also two theatres open, and there is a splendid one building.

The country altogether far exceeds my most sanguine expectations, both as regards its mercantile business and its agricultural capabilities; for in the first place, there is scarcely a day passes without some vessel arriving, which is a proof that the merchants are doing something; and as regards agriculture, I am afraid the account will scarcely be credited, though related to me by those whose veracity cannot be doubted. As regards the goodness of the soil, this fact will speak for itself. I have seen fields of wheat looking as well as ever I saw any in my life, with the exception of their being too thick; and I was told that there was only one half bushel of seed sown to the acre, and without any tillage but from a rough sward ploughed but once, sown, and two tine with harrows; and even with that management they have grown sixty-four bushels per acre; they sow the same quantity of barley per acre as wheat, and have grown eight quarters, as it *stowles out* the same as the wheat.

We have some very good nag horses, but carting, ploughing, &c., is done by bullocks, of which there are immense herds, and of the finest description I ever saw; cows also are very fine, in dairies of two or three hundred each, looking more like cattle grazed for the butcher, than kept for a dairy; which is plain proof of the very nutritious nature of the herbage on which they feed. Horses when worked too hard, and in the lowest condition possible, (which is often the case, as the people here ride tremendously, and think nothing of going sixty or eighty miles a-day,) are turned out to go where they choose for two months, and are then taken up again as fat as ever you saw a horse in your life. You



would scarcely believe, neither would I, were it not that there has been an investigation to ascertain the exact quantity of land at present cultivated, and they find there is now, UNDER CROP, corn and potatoes, 2500 acres, and this, in the second *agricultural* year of the colony. The gardens are looking beautifully, with everything in them you see in an English gentleman's, both for use and ornament, and it is astonishing how rapidly everything grows; cabbages come to perfection in eight weeks, and are now selling seven for 6d., as fine as any one could wish for, and all other vegetables proportionably cheap, bread 1s. 8d. the four lb. loaf, butter 1s. 6d., butcher's meat 8d., pork 1s., porter 1s. 6d. a pot, Burton ale 2s. 6d., wine 6s. a bottle, cape do. 1s. per pint, brandy 8d. a glass, &c., but everything is getting cheaper.

Labourers get 7s. to 8s. a day, carpenters 12s. to 14s., blacksmiths and masons the same, with some difficulty of obtaining employment, for it cannot be denied, that trade at present is very dull, and not what it was some few months ago, but the old colonists tell me, they experienced the same depression in trade last year for a month or two, but soon recovered, and went on as well as before. But my opinion is this: previous to experiencing that check last year, fortunes were made so rapidly, as to astonish themselves; and frequently, the wildest speculation, perhaps made in a drunken frolic of which a man knew nothing until told of it the next morning, in the course of a week would turn his hundreds into thousands. When this wild rage for speculation was over, and people began to do business in a more rational manner, they found it answer no longer, and what speculations were made, must be done with judgment; consequently it soon reduced the number of speculators, and not more than one man in five knew anything of business, but had to thank fortune rather than his own judgment; and now that they cannot do the same, complain that times are bad; but from what I can ascertain, every one who is steady and persevering (in business,) is making his fortune as fast as any REASONABLE man can wish. You will, I suppose, want to know what I am doing. I have been in the bush almost ever since I came, about thirty miles from town, but

am now in Adelaide. The doctor of our vessel is going to establish a distillery, and has made me an offer to join him in partnership, as it is a business you cannot trust to servants; I told him my situation, and that want of capital alone would prevent me; he said it was not for want of money that he desired a partner, but would give me what share I could manage, either one half, one third, or a fourth, as I might arrange; his object being, that I might feel interested in the business as well as himself. We calculate that £150 will start us, and I am in hopes of being able to take a fourth. A friend of his in the same business here, told him that he was clearing thirty pounds a-week, with a still of sixty gallons, whilst ours will be 150 gallons. Mr. Carruthers (my partner's name,) is a remarkably steady and gentlemanly man, and I always found him such during our voyage out; he was much beloved and respected by every one for his good disposition and uniform kindness. I have enjoyed excellent health since I came here, as well as during the voyage.

I have not used any strong inducements for others to come out, that no blame should attach to me in case they should not like it. All I say is, had I £100, I would not fear being able to return to England, (*were I inclined,*) in ten years with an independent fortune. But if I have my health, I do not think I shall wish to leave, as it does not seem like a strange land at all.

J. H.

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December 26th, 1840.

SINCE we have been in the bush we have experienced— (what you in England would call) hardships innumerable. The first night we came, we slept in a hollow tree; the next morning we commenced putting up a hut, which took us three days to make it at all habitable; and during that time we slept in the open air, with very cold nights, but did not feel any ill effects from it. As soon as it was covered in, we commenced preparing the still in the open air, to lose no time, and went to work with it, and then commenced building a

more substantial house, for a permanent residence, and hired a man at 30s. a-week and rations, to assist us. We have now got that up, but are not removed into it yet.

If you and many more were to see the place we are living in, you would think we must be miserable in such a place, not having any of those comforts we had at home; but rest assured, my dear Jane, that I really do not think I was ever so happy in my life.

The weather is very hot now, (not much like Christmas weather in England;) with the thermometer 90° in the shade, and 120° in the sun. We do not attempt to work in the heat of day, but work early and late, and rest a few hours after dinner, and have a nap, or more usually have a pipe and a cup of tea.

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SIR,—Knowing your anxiety for the welfare of this colony I have delayed writing until, from my own observation, I could give you some account of its agricultural and pastoral capacities; having been here now six months, I have some opportunity of seeing the different management on different farms. The contrast between good and bad management in England will show itself, but here it cannot escape the notice of the most casual observer. In England a few days' difference in sowing is not often of any great consequence: at the worst, perhaps, he who is a few days behind with his sowing, only loses a sack or so per acre, but here I have seen where, by being a few days behind, two thirds of the crop is sacrificed. On the road to Adelaide, from where I am living, there are two fields of wheat adjoining, but in different sections, one belonging to a Scotchman, the other to an English gentleman, a doctor, (the Scotch generally speaking, are the best farmers here.) The Scotchman got his in, in good time, but the doctor was a week behind his neighbour, both looked equally well, until the early sown was nearly fit to cut, and the other coming on very well; just at that state, we had the hot winds; the day following, I passed and found the Scotchman with all the hands he could muster cutting his, well aware that it would not improve after

experiencing that visitation ; the doctor's was that day quite green, two days after, it was fit to cut. I got a sample of each: one was as fine a berry as you would wish to see, and as bright as silver ; the other, a small, thin, dried-up corn, scarcely a marketable article. A few who summer-tilled for wheat were amply repaid, and had enormous crops, whilst others who did not go to that expense, or had not time, were obliged to content themselves with several sacks per acre less (with some exceptions,) as there have been instances of growing sixty-four bushels an acre with once ploughing, and with half a bushel of seed. I do not relate this from my own observation, but had it from a gentleman whose veracity I cannot doubt. The benefit of summer-tilling has not escaped the notice of those who neglected it last year, for I see almost every one has already got his land for next year's crop in a state of forwardness, having learnt from sad experience the ill effects of being too late with sowing. But taking the crops on the whole, we may consider them good. In Van Diemen's Land they were known to be better. At Sydney they have suffered considerably from the red rust. The barley here was excellent ; in fact, it is almost incredible what we hear has been grown, but from what I have seen, I should place the average at about eight quarters per acre. Maize is cultivated to a considerable extent this year, and looking remarkably strong and healthy, running twelve feet high ; it seems peculiarly adapted to this climate, as neither the dry weather nor hot winds appear to affect it. The potato crop very partial, but where managed well, and in good soil, they yield very well. We grow two crops of potatoes a-year : one put in in July comes off in November and December, the other put in the first rain after Christmas, comes off about June ; the latter, or winter crops, are most to be depended upon as they get plenty of rain.

This country is particularly adapted for sheep, from the immense extent of pasturage they can run over, not being confined to a few hundred or a few thousand acres here. Mr. Waters and Mr. Sanders, a Hampshire gentleman, have a good flock, I believe about 700 ewes, and they are together. They have, in my opinion, adopted the best plan a sheep farmer could do in this extensive country, which is, not to



purchase land, but look out a good run where there is water, and there *squat*, where you may in all probability remain unmolested for some years, but should it be purchased, and the owner come to take possession, all you have to do is to move on beyond where it is surveyed, where in all probability you may remain as long as you have any occasion for business. Dairies answer remarkably well, as there is always a good sale for the produce, and the increase in a few years is immense, as they never sell the calves, which are kept at little or no expense. Many, without an acre of ground, have 200 or 300 cows, and are making their fortunes.

I know it to be the opinion of many in England, (and it was mine also before I came here,) that the capitalist and labourer were the only people who would do well here, but I fairly own I was never more mistaken in my life. A man possessing one hundred pounds in England is but little better off than a labourer; let him bring it out here, but make up his mind before starting to put up with inconveniences innumerable, and if he be industrious and economical, he will soon find himself much better off than many whose *apparent* affluence he is at present envious of at home. But supposing him to possess £300 when he is here; if he has sheep, he must mind them himself; if cows, he must mind them and milk them himself; if he has a team of bullocks, he must not be above driving them himself. Any one who cannot make up his mind to do either or all of this occasionally, had better stay at home, for he will be of no use here. Candour obliges me to confess that at present there is a stagnation in trade, and scarcity of money is a very prevalent complaint, even amongst the most influential tradesmen and merchants, and failures are taking place almost daily. The ready money all goes to other colonies for corn, potatoes, flour, &c. &c.; our imports are so great, and the exports so comparatively small, consequently the capital is continually going out and but little coming in. Another disadvantage is, the high price of labour; whilst labour is so expensive, it will always be a check to agriculture, as a person with a moderate capital is unable to cultivate to any extent, as it takes his capital to pay his men. But then it might be said,



the high price obtained for the produce gives you a proportionate remuneration ! But as stock farming requires less capital, and at the same time being a sure speculation, it induces people to turn their attention more to that than the growth of corn ; and although corn is grown to a considerable extent, and the soil is as good as any man could wish, I think this will be rather a pastoral than an agricultural country. We have now an overplus of labourers, and there are now upwards of 200 at Government work at 9s. a week and rations. Any one would suppose that would have the effect of bringing down wages, but such is not the case. Still with all these drawbacks, the colony progresses most rapidly in spite of them, and in Adelaide, notwithstanding the scarcity of cash, splendid shops and warehouses are springing up in every direction ; in fact, I believe the chief cause of many of the tradesmen's difficulties is, by building to a larger extent than their circumstances warrant.

The following returns just made will give you some idea of the progress of the colony : 2915 acres under cultivation ; 200,160 sheep ; 18,100 horses and cattle, with a population of between 15,000 and 16,000, and about 310,815 acres of land surveyed. From the same returns, I find that North and South Adelaide contain 200 stores, shops, and warehouses ; 500 dwelling houses, built of stone or brick, and 800 wooden and other buildings, and a population of 8,000 souls.

Yours respectfully,  
J. HAYTER.

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THE EDITOR of the foregoing papers takes the liberty of adding a few suggestions to emigrants, as the result of his own experience during long voyages, and from his further observations and enquiries. Capitalists, and those who have been used to a comfortable style of life at home, will do well to provide a few articles which may contribute to their reasonable enjoyment on board ship, such as some biscuits from Leman or Fisher, in small tin cases, with some portable meat and soup, as prepared by Donkin, being very desirable in case of sickness, or when the supply of poultry and fresh meat fails at the cuddy-table. Such parties will find their very oldest clothes of all description, sufficiently good for ordinary use at sea, whilst those of more delicate fabric and colour, especially ladies' silk dresses, should be secured from the effect of sea-air in well-soldered tin cases. Our author has properly recommended the providing a supply of books, and ladies are reminded that their many and long hours of leisure may be agreeably spent in needlework, knitting, &c., and that any instrument of music, as a guitar, or especially a cottage or piccoli piano-forte, will contribute delightfully to their own enjoyment, and that of all around them during the voyage. A pitch-pipe and tuning-key will be very desirable, and a knowledge of their use should be acquired at home.

Cash, or for safety, good bills of exchange will generally answer better than an investment of the emigrant's funds in any article for sale in the colony, however well assorted; and the money, until required, will command 15 per cent. on good security in Adelaide or any other part of Australia. Emigrants of another class, agricultural labourers, shepherds, mechanics, sons of farmers, and members of large families, to whom the colonies afford the prospect of honorable and profitable employment denied them at home, should provide as ample a supply of clothes as possible, not rejecting the oldest; and all classes must remember that the climate of

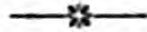
the land of promise they are seeking, however healthy and congenial to Europeans, being generally warmer than our own, indicates the use of calico or cotton body clothes, instead of linen.

To those who have not the spirit to encounter the few troubles related by our author, nor the ambition to attain the wealth and distinction which assuredly await the sober and industrious emigrant, or whose circumstances happily leave them no occasion or inducement to undergo the painful struggle of separation from their friends and country,—the editor would submit that, although content with their own state at home, they may do an incalculable service to many about them, by making known the advantages which our colonies offer, not only in Australia and its several provinces, but in Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, the Cape of Good Hope, and even the nearer, but less genial regions of Canada, distracted as these latter are by civil dissensions, and deteriorated by the evil neighbourhood of Yankee land. All who promote the cause of emigration will have, in most cases, reason to rejoice in the essential benefits they have been the means of conferring on the emigrants and on their descendants; whilst a sound patriotism thus secures the extension of the British power to every corner of the earth, and the day may be anticipated when those who speak our language, and obey the same laws, and worship God in the same purity of faith, will outnumber the collective nations of the world.

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