

**WILLIAM MACONACHIE'S**

**JOURNEY**

**TO**

**AUSTRALIA**

**IN**

**JUNE 1986**

**William Maconochie's account of trip** from Aberdeen to Plymouth June in 1876 enroute to Australia with two brothers, Alex (or George?) and **JAMES** (*James Maconochie's name was changed to Maconachie on envoy by mistake*).

James married **Mary Batton** in Oakbank South, Australia.

They had five girls - Emma, Myrtle, Olive, Elsie, & Ivy and three sons - William Roger, Alexander James & **GORDON BERNARD**.

**GORDON** married **ANNIE MURRAY** at Kerang, Victoria in 1925.

They had seven children - **MARY ELIZABETH**, Shirley Anne, George William, Mrytle May, James Alexander, Hilda Doris & Olive Merle. Diary written by William Maconochie.

## 1876

**June 3<sup>rd</sup>** Left Aberdeen at 9 o'clock on board the '**City of London**'. Before she was ten minutes started on her voyage, I and a few more as well, had to go down below to our beds as we were beginning to get sick. So, before half an hour I was vomiting and kept sick until 6 o'clock in the morning. By the afternoon I was all right. We got a splendid view of the English Coast until darkness fell.

After having a good sleep, we arrived at Wrapping at half past nine o'clock in the morning. I will not attempt to describe the many docks, markets, stations, and forests of masts that lay in the docks on each side of the river.

We hired a spring cart to take us and our trunks to Paddington station, a distance of six miles. We left Paddington by the express to Plymouth which left at five o'clock. On our way down to Plymouth we saw some beautiful scenery, very much different from the agricultural sights of old Scotland. In many cases, the wheat in the 'stook' and some of it in the 'yard'. The Parks there were all closed in by hedges, with trees at every few yards which looks very beautiful when compared with the bare palings and stone dykes of Scotland, that is, of Rhynie.

We arrived at Plymouth at half past 12 o'clock, where we met the depot Master who had a cab to take some women and children that came with the same train. We left our boxes there all night. The depot Master sent a wagon for them next morning for nothing.

When we came to the depot we were taken up to a room at the top of the house, where there were about one hundred single men sleeping. Next Friday there were a few more that came which brought the number up to 113 sleeping in one room. We were all very much astonished when we found out that we were not allowed to go out of the depot when we liked. We were told that we could not go out.

The depot is surrounded on three sides by water from which you get a fine view of one part of Plymouth but very little of it. What we did see appeared to be the best part of town. On the other side we could see pretty large Barracks and near that again what appeared to be an old castle of a circular shape.

While from our bedroom window at the back, we could see the marine barracks with the guns. as it were, just peeping up their noses from behind the walls.

**June 6<sup>th</sup>** They examined our trunks today. They did not make a very strict search for any

contraband goods. A few of us had a game of leapfrog. There is a good deal of Sankey Hymns sung.

**June 7<sup>th</sup>** We passed the time amusing ourselves by looking at neat, little, pleasure steam boats that passed up and down or with a game of marbles or leap frog.

**June 8<sup>th</sup>** Two barges came alongside today and took away our trunks to the '**Forfarshire**' which is a pretty large, full rigged ship of 1238 tons. Her hull measures 218 ft. by 36 ft., her mast towers to a height of 120 ft. while the mainmast reaches 131 112ft., the mizen, 112ft.

**June 9<sup>th</sup>** Left the depot this morning at six o'clock. A very, rainy morning which cleared up towards mid-day. After dinner, the crew were exercised in taking out the boats, for wrecking, fire or any such emergency. One man is sick although we had been at anchor all day. We were lying in Plymouth Sound about 2 1/2 miles from the depot. Had Divine Service at seven o'clock, after which the preacher distributed books and tracts. Ship set sail at daybreak.

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** I was too sick yesterday and Saturday to write anything. We sailed Saturday morning at four o'clock. This is Monday and the sails have never been altered; had little rain yesterday, appearance of more today.

Almost everybody on board has been sick. We have a watch set every night between decks. We, (*that is, the single men*), have also three constables to see that the beds are rolled up properly and that the decks are kept clean. The three decks are cleaned every day in turn after breakfast, besides every mess cleans out its own place after every meal. Saw some porpoises yesterday picking up what they could find; seen a good few ships in our course; passed some of them.

**June 13<sup>th</sup>** Weather fine, very calm, making very little headway. Saw a shoal of porpoises sporting about; when we see them about two or three hundred yards from ship, they look just like as many dogs leaping amongst the bushes for hares or rabbits; passed a few ships, one of them a Brigantine schooner, very close. A fine breeze sprung up towards night. Very fine appearance last night. So many fish sporting about, showing very bright phosphorous lights. A thick mist came down about eight o'clock but dispelled again about eleven.

**June 14<sup>th</sup>** Weather still fine, very little wind, but the ship heaves a good deal more than she has done yet. Saw some more porpoises. I saw a swallow, or what appeared to be one, skimming along, which made us suppose that we were not far from land. A large plank, about twelve feet long floated past us.

**June 15<sup>th</sup>** Had a fine, spanking fair wind all day, doing about twelve knots. If we carry on at this rate, we will be in Adelaide in two months, but that is almost impossible. A child died early this morning and was buried at one o'clock. I do not know the cause of death. Started a Bible class last night and a writing and reading one tonight - to be twice a week each. Saw some more swallows today. Spoke to one ship in the morning, the only one we passed today. Some fellows have been kicking up a disturbance today about not getting enough meat. I don't see that they have any excuse to complain. Our mess has always plenty except when we become extravagant and do not manage it properly.

**June 16<sup>th</sup>** Sighted the Island of Madeira.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>** Very warm. We are becalmed. The ship has been going right round about. Saw some very beautiful fish. Don't know the name. Almost all colours, some sort of shellfish. Had Divine service today on the poop in the early morning. In the afternoon there was a Bible reading and

singing, while on the forecastle, the sailors and Irishmen were dancing and singing songs. Some were playing cards and draughts.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>** Still in the same place, not moving at all and very warm. I never saw the sea so still in all my life as it has been today.

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** Very calm. A large ship has been in our wake all day. Measles has broken out among the children.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** Moving a little today. The large ship has come up with us today. She turned out to be the '**Ben More**', sixteen days out from London with passengers and cargo for Sydney. She belongs to a Liverpool company.

Another three cases of measles have appeared in married people.

**June 21<sup>st</sup>** Still calm. Very hot today. The '**Ben More Asayat**' is still keeping company with us. She is rather less than we are. A steam ship passed us a good way off just as it was getting dark. The fire bell was rung today about four o'clock. All the passengers rushed aft to see where the fire was. One woman cursed her husband for bringing her to be burnt and what was she to do with the '**bairn**' but then she thought that they would be all right because the other ship could take them off. As it was, they were just seeing how quick they could rig the pumps and boats in case a fire arose.

**June 22<sup>nd</sup>** Making very little headway. The '**Ben More Asayat**' has left us a little since last night. The time is slipping past very quickly now that all nausea and sickness has gone.

The sailors have a way with them that when anybody goes up into the rigging, they go up after them and tie them up. Well, yesterday afternoon, two fellows went up to the royal top gallant. The sailors saw them, so they took a rope and went up after them. When the passengers saw them, they began laughing and shouting in expectation of a treat in the way of the poor fellows having perhaps to stay an hour by hands and feet beneath an almost perpendicular sun.

The men that had gone up heard them and knew what would happen if they were caught. So, they tried to climb down as fast as they could. They both got on each of the backstays and went to slide down and so escape their pursuers, but the sailors were too quick for them. One of the sailors sprang from the ladder and caught one of the ropes and so crossed over to the one that the man was coming down on. Then the other three followed when they saw that they had lost the other one. So, they tied him to the ropes, him cursing and swearing at them all the time. They came down and left him.

The crowd of passengers below were jeering and laughing at him. At last, he got one of his hands free and was putting his right hand into his pocket to get his knife to cut the ropes, but the sailors were too much for him. He had his knife out before they (*the sailors*) got up again but one of them drew out his own knife and told him to put up his one or he would put his one into him, but he was (*really*) going to cut the rope after all. They (*the sailors*) took the knife from him, then as he was crying out that it was hurting his arm, they cut him down.

Saw the fins of two sharks today. They were too far off for us to see their bodies.

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>** A slight wind today, right astern, going about eight knots. A heavy swell on the sea making our ship rock awful. The crew was just showing us what she will do. Saw two or three shoals of flying fish skimming along. They are small, whitish, grey fish about six to twelve inches long (15 -

30cms). They look just like swallows when you see them on a river before a shower, going along without moving their wings. Saw another kind of fish, a shellfish. It was a small reddish coloured fish which puts up a shell for a sail and takes it down again to wet it. I do not know the name of it.

**June 24<sup>th</sup>** Very fine weather. Slight wind from the north.

**June 25<sup>th</sup>** Much the same as yesterday. Saw four large fish. They appeared to be about nine feet long and went once or twice around the ship. A fine wind has sprung up. We have got into the Northeast trade winds going about eight knots. Some of the crews were fishing with a line for silver and black looking fish called Bonecta. Hundreds of these were swimming about but only two of them were foolish enough to be caught. One that took a firm hold of a piece of an old rag was a young flying fish.

**June 26<sup>th</sup>** Fine breeze from the N.E. going about 10 knots. We (*the passengers*) have got our trunks today. We are to get them every three weeks.

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** Still going along fine at 10 knots. The heat is not nearly as strong as I expected it would be in the Tropics. I think there is very little difference between this and Scotland. This I know, it gets quicker colder and sooner dark (*we would say "it gets colder quicker and dark sooner"*) after the sun has gone down. About dinner time, the wind increased a little and coming with a sudden blast, it tore the two uppermost sails into ribbons, but they soon put up two more in their place.

**June 28<sup>th</sup>** Fine clear morning. There was a heavy shower of rain about four o'clock which sent the fellows that were sleeping down below on deck sooner than they expected. We saw two whales blowing about a mile and a half from the ship.

**June 29<sup>th</sup>** Going about 13 knots today. A number of the passengers are sick today.

**June 30<sup>th</sup>** The sailors drown the '**dead horse**' tonight. The meaning is a month's pay in advance. They have been working for two months, as it were, for nothing, however their month was up today. First, they had a procession. Four of them had their faces blackened and were dressed like '**darkies**' and one of them dressed in his best clothes and another dressed like a horse jockey. They went first and all the rest of the crew followed them around the ship. They went singing all the while, "**As we go marching through Georgia**". After they had gone twice around that way, they took the form of a horse, which they had made out of some canvas and stuffed with some stuff. The one that was dressed as a jockey now mounted him and four others hauled him along twice round the ship singing some song to which they all joined in. I don't know what the song was, just a song for the occasion. They stopped at the captain's poop and one of them made a speech and offered the horse for sale, but nobody would buy him. At last, the captain said that he would give a glass of grog for him but instead they took him and hung him up in the yard arm and let him drop into the sea and so they got rid of the dead horse.

**July 1<sup>st</sup>** Today has been the calmest we have had and, may I say, consequently the warmest. We circled two or three times yesterday, but we are stationary altogether today. I hear them saying just now that a storm is expected, so I will go on deck and see. There has been two or three showers of rain and the wind has sprung up.

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>** It has been raining all day and such rain! Nothing like it in old Scotland. I have had to change my shirt twice. But it has been a great relief from the heat of yesterday. Although it be Sunday, everyone is taking advantage of the extra supply of water, by washing their clothes.

**July 3<sup>rd</sup>** A strong breeze today. Been going about 13 knots all day.

**July 4<sup>th</sup>** Still going very well. The weather has altered just a little.

**July 5<sup>th</sup>** Expect to pass the equator today if the wind keeps up for an hour or two. Everybody, for the past week or so, has been talking about the '*line*', as though they were to see something of a different colour about the sea or the sky.

**July 8<sup>th</sup>** Strong fair winds today, going about 13 knots. Another child died this morning. The child belonged to an Irish family and was buried at 12 o'clock.

**July 9<sup>th</sup>** Sunday. Have gone two points off our course since last night. Going about six knots.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** Still fine weather. Everybody says, (*sailors as well*), that we have had an unprecedented, fine passage. Measles is prevalent on board. One woman has been very bad for ten days (*with inflammation of the bowels*). She is not expected to live until morning.

**July 11<sup>th</sup>** Still fine weather. Going at the same rate as yesterday. The woman that was sick is a little better.

**July 12<sup>th</sup>** No vessels in sight today. Four children bad with measles. All of them in the hospital. They belong to the woman who is sick. Going about six knots. Weather still good, too good, I fear, to last. A very beautiful sunset.

Never saw such a beautiful sight in my life. The whole of the western sky was one vast sea of blood red, changing its hue as the sun went down. The whole was interspersed with islands which made it like a vast archipelago. On the north and eastern horizon, you could see all the colours of the rainbow.

**July 13<sup>th</sup>** The weather is still keeping up the character it has well-earned of being all that anybody could wish. A Brazilians schooner came along side today and hailed us. She was within three hundred yards of us, so we could see and hear the men on board very well. What shouting and crying there was for a few minutes. She was bound from Pernambuco to Rio de Grande. She said she would report us. She lowered her flag three times for us before she fell behind, wishing us a safe and happy voyage, which of course we responded to. We are not moving too fast today. We are about 17degrees latitude and expect to be in Adelaide in six weeks. A large dolphin was caught by the Boatswain in the afternoon, which he generously shared amongst the passengers. We just tasted it. The dolphin was about three feet long, of greenish, yellow colour when out of the water, with a curiously shaped head. It is broad below, tapering to a point when it reaches the crown of the head. The front part is the same as if it had been cut right through.

About midnight we were awakened by the sound of the Mate giving orders to 'about ship' and the tramping of the sailor's feet, clanking of chains as they were drawn through pulleys and the rattling of ropes and pulleys. When we got up there was a small ship on the starboard about one hundred yards off. In a short time, there was another one right under the bows with no lights up and ours were not up either. We got clear of each other, but it was a close shave.

**July 14<sup>th</sup>** Weather rather squally. We have sighted the coast of South America. Saw a large seagull flying about the ship. Passed a small fishing smack today. She was quite close.

**July 15<sup>th</sup>** Weather keeps up well. Making very little headway. Tacking a good deal.

**July 16<sup>th</sup>** Held Divine Service on the poop today. Sea calm. No wind. Just a slight breeze. Not enough to make us move through the waters more than two miles an hour. One vessel in sight today. We have had 'about ship' twice today.

**July 17<sup>th</sup>** A pretty sharp breeze rose last night about 6 o'clock and kept up all night. Been going about 11 knots all night. The roughest weather we have had. Been a little sick all day. We have shipped a few seas and had to put up a few of our winter sails today.

**July 18<sup>th</sup>** Wind still as strong, going along beautifully. Every appearance of a windy night. Two vessels in sight at latitude 23 degrees, longitude 36 degrees. Saw two whales spouting about and one or two sea birds flying about the ship.

**July 19<sup>th</sup>** Breeze kept going until about 10 o'clock then died away until it was nearly calm. About 8 o'clock it sprang up again.

**July 20<sup>th</sup>** Going along under close reefed top sails at about 12 knots. At one time of the day, from two till four o'clock, we were going fifteen knots. No vessels in sight, very cold too, everybody stopping below. Still a few cases of measles on board. No other diseases have broken out. There is a good deal of card playing going on. I see one little table and two sets of card players. There is one set of dominoes at the mess next to us, while fiddling and dancing is going on at the other end of the room. One or two are trying their vocal powers.

**July 21<sup>st</sup>** Wind still very stiff. Top sails still close reefed. The sea has been coming over pretty often, sometimes going from one side to the other. Ship pitching very much. A few of the passengers are sick.

**July 22<sup>nd</sup>** Wind very strong through the night. We were awoken about two o'clock by some unaccountable loud noise. When we got up, I saw that the outer jib was torn to ribbons and so also was the mainsail. The crew were putting new sails in their stead and in the afternoon, likewise, a new foresail. They have to put up new ones on all.

A flock of cape pigeons have been following the ship all day. They are about the same size as home pigeons only a little longer in the wing. They have a black head with white bars, white belly, black and white striped wigs, and a black tip of tail. The tail is not so broad as home pigeons. They feed on pieces of pork and biscuits or anything which might be thrown from the ship. They fly with one another for the pieces uttering shrill cries. Something like partridges. There's been no vessel in sight for the last two days.

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>** No service held today. The pigeons still follow the ship but today there are far larger birds about us. When they are on the water, they look like a large goose with a large brood of goslings swimming after them. They are really the cape pigeon which appears to be quite friendly with them.

In the afternoon the Boatswain and Third mate tried to take the Molly - I mean the big bird, an albatross - with a bait and hook, but the hook was too large, or something was wrong somewhere. The bird did indeed try but could not get away from the line, so it gave up after 5 or 6 attempts. It is a large bird of the shape of a wind duck with long wings, which I suppose would measure about eight feet from tip to tip.

The wind has gone down altogether today, quite calm but a heavy swell on the sea. When most of us had come below, there was in one corner, Bible Reading, in another (*perhaps two or three*) novel reading, in another fiddling and dancing, another there was card playing, another dominoes and then in another, a few were singing Sankey's Hymns. A motley scene it presented.

**July 24<sup>th</sup>** The wind has not sprung up yet. We are just moving but that is all. There are no ships in sight. The ship has on all her winter clothing. We are for the rough weather now.

**July 25<sup>th</sup>** A breeze sprung up last night about 10 o'clock. It kept up at a speed of about 6 knots until four o'clock when it died away almost altogether. We are making, I suppose, about three knots. Saw three whales today, very close. They were not very large.

**July 26<sup>th</sup>** The sky bears a very gloomy aspect this morning. It has been raining through the night. Going about five knots. Another child died today, aged three and a half years. It was buried at four o'clock in the afternoon. Its complaint was measles.

**July 27<sup>th</sup>** Fine day today. Going about six knots. No vessels in sight yet. Towards night a pretty strong breeze sprung up blowing us along at a rate of nine knots.

**July 28<sup>th</sup>** Very beautiful morning, slight wind. Been rather warm today. Wind right astern in the afternoon. Changed to a quarter breeze about 12 o'clock, going about five knots. Large flocks of cape pigeons and molly hawks still follow in the wake of the ship. Many a fruitless attempt to take a few has been made, but somehow the hooks, which are crooked pins, do not hold.

Two young men have been shifted to hospital. One with rheumatic fever and the other with inflammation of the kidneys. The one with rheumatic fever is very bad.

**July 29<sup>th</sup>** Very misty this morning but going along pretty well about six knots. Early this morning we were going at nine knots. It was raining pretty heavily all night.

The two men in hospital are rather better this morning. There are still a few cases of measles on board.

We have reached 36 degrees south latitude and 18 degrees west longitude. A large whale came in sight this morning. No vessels sighted yet. We are all longing for the sight of one or two.

A few of the emigrants have been complaining to the surgeon Superintendent about getting bad cheese, but all he could give them was consolation.

One of the cape pigeons was caught yesterday by the third mate and today some of the emigrants got hold of it and stripped of its feathers, wings, and head. Some had a feather, two, the wings and another, the head after which it was thrown overboard. Just as it reached the water, its old companions came flocking around it and (*the unnatural wretches*), began to tear it to pieces.

A good breeze sprang up about four o'clock which was a head one as it usually is. When we get a good wind, it is always accompanied with a thick mist. Course S.S.E.

**July 30<sup>th</sup>** Very foggy with a strong head wind. The sea running high, sweeping the decks every few minutes, coming over on sinner's heads and shoulders making him think the ship has gone and that he is drowned and awfully cold. The sailors have been reefing the sails all night (*one now and another an hour or two later*) and we are going along under close reefed topsails, mainsails and crojack.

A very large number of big birds flying in the wake of the ship today. The decks are very slippery this morning. Many are getting a fall. Of the men in hospital, one is a good deal better, the other worse. No church today. Our course is S.E. by east half east, so we are sweeping in our course.

Two of the molly hawks and a young albatross were caught today. What a commotion it caused among the passengers - shouting, crying, and pushing one another about to get a glimpse of them. The young albatross measured six and a half feet from tip to tip.

Another child died this morning and was buried at 12 o'clock. It has been ailing for a long time.

**July 31<sup>st</sup>** The storm has been raging for two days now with very high seas. The decks are like one mass of ice with the sea washing over them so much that the passengers are to be seen scrambling about on their hands and knees every few minutes. One man slipped from one side of the ship to the other, bruising his leg on the side of the ship so much that he had to go to the doctor to get it bled and bandaged up. Going seven knots.

**August 1<sup>st</sup>** My word how the time slips away. The wind has increased. Sometimes the "**sea gunwhale**" is almost under water rolling and pitching something awful. It seems as if the next mountain (*of water*) was to come right over us and send us to the bottom in an instant. She rocks so much that there is hardly a whole form or seat in the "**between decks**". Often while sitting at our meals the seats and all on it, will slide away to the lee side perhaps leaving the all in a heap on the floor amongst the dishes of the table. What a sight they are, especially if it is pea soup for dinner! I have got burned once or twice with hot coffee or tea.

It is very cold now. Everybody has put on their winter clothes and those who do not have any or do

not put them on appear awfully cold like. It is also quite dark in the morning until after seven o'clock and dark again by half past five in the afternoon. The last few days seem to have been the longest we have had. If we go on deck, we take the chance of being half drowned with sprays that are continually coming over. Then again if we stay below to read or anything, the seat slips away from under you, and you find yourself lying on your back on a not very clean floor.

**August 2<sup>nd</sup>** Wind still blowing very hard from southwest. Very foggy. Calmed down about four o'clock, exactly three days since it began. Wind has sprung up again early this morning but from the right direction this time, from the northwest. Another gale expected tonight.

A large albatross (*about 14 feet*) flew away with one of the fishing lines today. The simpleton let it slip through his fingers. It has been raining pretty steady all day, sometimes sleet, sometimes rain.

**August 3<sup>rd</sup>** Very strong wind this morning, going along almost under bare poles as only three sails have been set out from our full complement of 25 sails. Been raining all the forenoon. Another child died yesterday afternoon, aged seven months. Five have been thrown overboard now. There are very few that go to see them buried since so many have been thrown overboard.

Afternoon - We have got up a few more sails now and we have been doing 11 or 12 knots all day. Oh, it is a beautiful sight to see the sea, just to see such mountains of water rise and fall. The sun is shining just now, which we have not seen for a week, making the scene even more beautiful.

Another child, 17 months old, died today, making six in all that have died. There are still a few cases of measles on board. The man that has rheumatic fever is still very bad. The one that was bad with inflammation has completely recovered. We are thankful that there are no other fevers aboard. We have had very good health as yet, with the exception of the cases where a pill or a draught has relieved, but that is nothing. Sea sickness has disappeared now even though the sea has been far rougher for the last week than it has yet been.

**August 4<sup>th</sup>** Very fine morning, although very cold. Going about nine knots, with all sails up. They (*the sailors*) have taken down the uppermost yard in preparations for storms as we round the cape. It is about 42 feet wide.

Another child very bad. It is a little better now. A married German is very bad too. He is insensible tonight. I do not know what is the matter with him. The child that died yesterday was buried about four hours after it died.

August 5<sup>th</sup> Very fine morning. Fair wind blowing from six to eight knots. Another child died at a quarter past three yesterday afternoon and was buried this morning at eight o'clock. The doctor is awfully distressed because he does not know what is the matter with them. Whatever is wrong with them, it wastes them away to skin and bone.

Afternoon - Strong breeze on our quarter doing about 10 or 11 knots. A different species of birds has appeared today, called the whale bird. They always follow in the same track as the whales and feed on their spawn. There are a few more children not expected to live.

There is a good deal of betting going on amongst the passengers about the probable time we will arrive at Adelaide. Some are thinking that they will make a few shillings by betting that we will be in sight of Adelaide in three weeks. I guess they know very little about it!

**August 6<sup>th</sup>** Sunday. After dark last night, for about two hours, we were going 13 knots or more,

but the captain ordered the main and mizzen topsails to be taken down, which brought the speed down to 11 knots. They heaved the log three times between 4 and 8 o'clock. Still blowing a stiff breeze. Doing 12 knots. No Service today. A little foggy. Looks like rain.

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** Rather drizzly looking this morning. One vessel in sight. She came up to us about four o'clock in the afternoon. She proved to be the '*Loch Venacher*', 68 days out from Glasgow, bound for Melbourne. She is a large iron ship carrying seven yards on her masts. We can only carry five. There was a great commotion amongst us from when she was first sighted in the morning at about 8 o'clock, until she came up to us. There was a good deal of small betting going as to the probability of her being the '*Hydespes*'. That is the name of the emigrant ship that was to sail a fortnight after us. By the glasses that we have, we could see that she carried a few poop and steerage passengers. By the time the moon rose she was out of our sight. Another child died this afternoon, aged one year and four months.

**August 8<sup>th</sup>** Very foggy. Wind has gone aft again. Going seven or eight knots. The '*Loch Venacher*' has gone out of sight this morning and left no track behind her. The child that died yesterday was buried today. Another is very bad, not expected to live through today.

**August 9<sup>th</sup>** Fine clear morning. Going seven knots. A vessel in sight on our lee bows, a three master. It looks like the one that passed us the day before yesterday but is too far away to know what she is. We went 10 knots all last night. The child did die last night as was expected and was buried this morning at eight o'clock. That makes the number up to eight now. We have been at sea sixty days now and we have about 5,000 miles to go yet. We have not yet got rid of the measles.

**August 10<sup>th</sup>** Fair morning but cold. Going about eight knots. We still keep in sight of the other vessel although it is a little foggy. Today we saw a large white bird, the first we have seen. I have not heard the name of it. It is large, white and with just a little grey under the wings, which measure from tip to tip, I suppose, about six feet or may be more.

**August 11<sup>th</sup>** Very foggy looking this morning, raining just a little. Been going about nine knots all night. We lost sight of that vessel that was on our bows yesterday, but I suppose the mist excludes it from our sight. We have, this morning, been nine weeks on board the '*Forfarshire*'. How many more weeks will it be, I wonder? I fear we will have to be quarantined for a while as there is a good deal of sickness on board.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>** Misty looking. It's been raining through the night. Going about six knots. Made very little headway through the night. At one time, I believe, it was calm altogether. Two men had a dispute. When they saw that they could not settle it by words, they tried their hands and cut each other about the face a little. I do not know if they settled it or not. They were stopped before they were tired so I cannot give an opinion on it. There is one thing though, it will be taken notice of in Adelaide when we arrive at that desired haven.

**August 13<sup>th</sup>** Almost dead calm this morning. A very close mist hangs on the surface of the sea. It is so close that the smoke from the cook's gallery and the engine was almost crawling on the face of the water. Saw a good deal of seaweed floating past. I asked the captain where it came from, and he said from the '*Crozet Island*'. We asked if we could see them, but he said no, unless we could see 140 miles! The Crozet Island lies 46.45 south latitude and 50.27 longitude east. It is a high island, very steep and precipitous with a high reef on the S.E. coast and no anchorage.

Saw some fish today leaping out of the water like porpoises, but they were not nearly so large, and they had fins on each side like wings when they leap out of the water. They are called '*Penwing*'. I do

not know if I spell it right or not.

**August 14<sup>th</sup>** Quite a hurricane this morning and about one o'clock the fore lower topsail was blown into ribbons. A new sail it was too, supposed to stand any winds that we would have to encounter. The sound of the winds and waves and the rattling of the blocks and flapping of the torn sails was something awful. I rose about two o'clock to see what was the matter. The sea was a terrible grand sight to see. The waves were rising on each side half the height of the masts. You would have thought that any moment we would be swamped by the mighty waves that rushed past us so madly. The wind has kept up all day nearly as strong as it was.

There was one man nearly killed by slipping from one side of the ship to the other and alighted on his head and side. They had to take him to the hospital where they found that he has fractured some of his ribs and other injuries besides. At the time he fell, I went along with him. The bystanders that saw us slipping across the deck said that we went like a shot from a gun. His shoulders saved me or else I would have split my skull. It did get a pretty severe blow, but I escaped with my head a little sore all day and a piece of my leg skinned.

**August 15<sup>th</sup>** The storm has not blown over yet. The sea runs very high. A large vessel is in sight on our weather quarter. The surgeon superintendent has stopped our allowance of soft bread today. He said that it was not fit to eat. There is a good deal of grumbling about it. I believe they will ask him to continue it again. For my part I do not care if I never eat it, but I sold it for biscuits and as I generally got a good few for it, I believe I will miss it too, as I see my stock of biscuits are getting very low. It is very cold down in these latitudes. It was snowing yesterday and a little today too.

**August 16<sup>th</sup>** The storm has blown over now. We are going about six knots. Another two children were buried. One died about one o'clock in the morning, the other at 11 o'clock. Bowel complaint was the disease I hear.

**August 17<sup>th</sup>** Fine fair wind. When I woke in the morning, I thought we were in a calm sea it was so steady but when I got on deck, she was going through the water at the rate of 10 knots, which we kept up all day. This is the finest day we have had for two or three weeks.

**August 18<sup>th</sup>** Very foggy morning, but pretty strong wind, going 10 knots which we have been doing all night. Saw a piece of seaweed floating past this morning about 11 o'clock. It has begun to rain a little now. Expect to anchor in about ten days' time.

**August 19<sup>th</sup>** Very fine weather now. Everybody is stopping up on deck, or rather, the surgeon has ordered the married women and children to come up, as we are nearing the end of our journey, to see if plenty of good fresh air will put them all in good health before the inspectors come aboard. We are going nine knots all day - it would average that.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** Fine, clear morning with the sun shining - beautiful! The sky is something the same as in the tropics, there is not a cloud to be seen but much purer. Going ten knots. Saw a large fish this morning called a '*Whiffen*'. I think it measured from 20 to 30 feet long.

**August 21<sup>st</sup>** A strong breeze sprung up last night about six o'clock and has kept up all night. Today we have been going twelve knots all day. The sea runs very high deluging the decks every now and again.

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>** The wind has moderated a little today, but the sea runs pretty high. We are going about eight knots. It is very cold.

**August 23<sup>rd</sup>** Saw a good few phosphorescent fish last night (*after dark of course*). I did not see the fishes themselves only the light they made. When I came down below and asked somebody what might be the name of them, I was told that perhaps it was blubber and no fish at all!

The ship was rolling and pitching very much last night. The wind has been right aft all night and driving her along at about eight knots. The wind has gone round to the starboard quarter a little today. Going nine knots. Very foggy looking and a little inclined to rain. One of the single women has gone into hospital with some swelling in her throat. Another of them has been attacked with measles. Saw a black and white bird. It is a very small bird with short, grey wings, black back, and white body, with a white tail.

**August 24<sup>th</sup>** Very foggy looking this morning. Been raining a little through the day. We have been going over eight knots, but I see that they have almost all the sails full, so we expect to go 11 or 12 knots tonight as the wind is pretty strong. The crew are employed scraping all the decks - to make them have the appearance of being kept clean all the voyage I suppose.

**August 25<sup>th</sup>** Very fine day, the best we have had for a fortnight. Going only about four knots but towards evening we were going 11 knots. We looked up our boxes today to get our togs to go ashore with. There are a few of us missing somethings.

**August 26<sup>th</sup>** Very strong wind which has been blowing all night and driving us along at the rate of ten knots and, some short time, for 12 knots. They have been taking in sail all morning. Very squally in the afternoon. We had to shorten the sail twice before six o'clock.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>** Very foggy and squally today. Been going 12 knots all day. Still going about the same. We had muster today, everyone to answer his name. While they were calling the names, the sea came over and gave the doctor, the captain and the third mate, besides half the single men, a good dripping. The most of us are expecting to see land today, but I don't think we will, or we will be in tomorrow if that is the case, but we do not expect to be in before Wednesday.

**August 28<sup>th</sup>** Very fine today. Going about nine knots. The sailors have been scrubbing the decks and sides of the ship to make ready for landing.

**August 29<sup>th</sup>** Almost calm today. The long looked for cable was taken from its lockers today and the anchors were hung over the sides. The berths, tables, lockers, and forms between decks were all scoured white by surgeon's orders.

**August 30<sup>th</sup>** The between decks were all cleaned today and made as white as scraping, holystoning and sand could make, and more. They have a very clean appearance. There is no land come in sight yet. A few of us have been up in the foretop once or twice, to see if we could see any sight of it but we were miserably disappointed. We had scarcely any wind in the morning however it has sprung up a little now, but we are only going along at about six knots. The crew are employed scraping and greasing the masts today.

**August 31<sup>st</sup>** We saw three lights last night about 11 o'clock. A good many did not see them, so of course they were incredulous but this morning, Kangaroo Island was sighted right ahead of us. What an excitement there was when it was first seen, the first land we have seen for three months. It appears to be very rugged and steep on shore, but we are not close enough to see what it was like. It was first observed at nine o'clock. About ten o'clock the wind began to rise until about 12 o'clock, when the order, "*all hands shorten sail and about ship*" were given. The wind still increased, and we

turned right around and back the way we came. About one o'clock the outer rig was blown into ribbons. It is now three o'clock and we have been going close reef topsails and mainsails for two hours. We have turned round again but the wind is very contrary, almost a head wind.

**September 1<sup>st</sup>**                    Been almost calm all day after yesterday's storm. We got into the Roads about eight o'clock at night and cast anchor in 12 fathoms of water. But what was our astonishment when we saw the **Hydestes** in before us. She had been just ten days shorter on the voyage than we have been. Our Pilot came aboard this morning about nine o'clock.

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>**                    We raised the anchor this morning again and went nearer the shore just inside the **Hydestes**. What a cheer rose in the air as we passed them. There was a steamboat alongside the **Hydestes** taking the single girl's luggage off. The Commissioners are coming aboard our ship after they been to the Hydestes.

The End