
PRG 1399/3/1 Diary of Charles Algernon Wilson from England to South Australia on the Duke of Roxburgh 3 April to 30 April 1838 containing 6 hand drawn maps.

Transcribed by Lyndall Fredericks, Volunteer at the State Library of SA, 2012

Catalogue summary: Journal by Charles Algernon Wilson, aged 20, of a voyage from England to South Australia on the 'Duke of Roxburgh', 3 April to 30 April 1838. The first few pages include details of steerage conditions on board. Includes carefully drawn maps of the south coast of England and the English Channel (p.23), the west coast of France, Bay of Biscay and Portugal (p.29), north west coast of Africa and Atlantic Ocean islands (p.37), and pencil sketches of Madeira (p.39) and Cape Verde Islands (p.49). There are no entries past the arrival at the island of St Jago, Cape Verde Islands. A pencilled note at beginning refers to maps the writer planned to add. Towards end of volumes are 6 pp. of pencilled lists of insect categories dated March 1846.

[Inside fly leaf

Page 1]

3/-

[Page 2]

Howell

This book belongs to C A Wilson

[Page 4]

Six maps to be put in when we come to [...] of southernmost part of each –

1. From London to just beyond lands end
2. From lands end to just beyond S. of Spain
3. From S of Spain to S. of Cape de Verd
4. " Cape de Verd to just beyond Cape
5. " Cape Good Hope to " P^t [...]
6. " P^t [...] to " Kangaroo Island

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Journal of a voyage

A voyage from England to \South/ Australia also of our arrival & continuation in that Country

N.B. for other side

[Page 6]

Drawings from Papers in order

- 1.
2. Madeira April 22
3. [...] " 29
4. [...] " 29
5. [...] May 29
6. D^o D^o
- 7.

[Across Pages 7 and 8]

Map of World & our Course

[Page 9]

Written by Chas Algernon Wilson

[Diary pages numbered]

Page 1

Journal of Voyage of a voyage from England to South Australia

Introduction

I begin from the time we left town. – Hearing that the Duke of Roxburghe sailed on April 3 Saturday, by break of day, we thought it advisable to start the evening before, so we took a post chaise & horses from No. 8 Arundel S^t Strand (where we last lodged being nearer the city) & all our remaining luggage which was to go into the cabin. There were 8 of us. My father & mother, Edmond – Agnes & Minna, whom I had brought up that morning from Hoddesdon my aunt – Wallace's, where they have been on a visit – Maria Sheppard, who had come from Molesey Hurst to assist my mother, though her husband will not comply with our request of taking her or them both to Australia – Theodore whom Maria had brought the day before from his school at Cam-

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berwell & myself we took leave of Percy & my uncle Edmund at the door Percy has been kindly invited to stay at my aunt Curtis's till they move which will be on the 6th of April next & after that he is going to my sister Dolly's by invitation at Melcombe Place till he goes to Oxford & in the vacations also If we can find something eligible for him in the church in Australia in four or five years he can come over to us unless he has something better in England – With regard to George not being in time now to come over in this ship as he is assistant in a school in the Isle of Wight & he has found out too late now that the situation does not suit him, if he cannot stay there he must come over in the next ship. – [8½ lines of writing in Greek]. – We set out about ½ past 8 o'clock and got to Dartford by 11, for we/ were going to

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Gravesend off which the Duke of Roxburghe was laying, having sailed from the Docks (St. Katherines) 3 days before. Papa thought we had better stay at Dartford that night being so late, & start early in the morning again, which we did. Papa remembered the inn very well, having been there often before & many will recollect the two grenadiers that stand on the stairs

We started again the next morning at half past 8 o'clock after breakfast, taking another post-chaise postillion & horses; we stopped at the Falcon inn at Gravesend, & I immediately went off by Papa's wish in a boat with two waterman, to the vessel which was lying about two or three miles off; I clambered up the ship's side by ropes & steps, & found that the vessel would not sail till the next morning, but that was to be by daylight. I was to go in the steerage. Hamp the labourer who we are going to take with us & whose family a wife & 6 children are all going, took me down into the steerage & then I saw what an uncomfortable place it was. My father's intention was that I should go in steerage as I could go free if I went there as his/ my father's labourer, but he also thought

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That I should have at least a bed to myself, though it might be above or under another, but the steerage here was merely for the lowest class of labourers, that is to say, who cannot afford to pay for better accommodation, though they may have an excellent knowledge of their business Here every bed was to hold two persons, & the women even slept 3 in a bed according to rules which could not be altered. In my sleeping hole for so it was, I was to be with a young man ~~who~~ ~~was~~ the servant of one of the cabin passengers; close on one side of us slept 2 brothers, and underneath us was another bed; all the three beds were for 6 persons, & compressed into a space of about 5 feet by 6, & 6 feet high; no light was admitted into any part of the steerage but through the opening that the entrance into this dismal place presented, which you descended

into by a ladder; there were 63 persons including the children altogether in this place, among whom were 12 Irish, very dirty creatures: M^r Hamp was made a sort of superintendant over them, who though a laboring farmer has lived very differently formerly, & the first that his family were in the vessel which was before we came, M^{rs} Hamp went into hystericks, for they had then no place to sleep in, & she has 6 children the

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youngest only 8 months old. In fact what can you expect when you go free, though I think every thing was to intended to be good & wholesome, for the surgeon M^r Philcox, who is going to be a resident in the colony is particular in attending to the health of the steerage passengers, & in seeing that each has his proper quantity of meat & drink or rations as they are called; at the least sign of any disease in an individual he or she is immediately to be conveyed to a portion of the steerage set apart as a hospital, still it does not do for any one above the rank of a common labourer or journeyman mechanic. –

I went back & told my father these circumstances, & he said they must certainly be altered in some way or other for me. – We staid at the Falcon \Inn/ & had dinner at 3 – before going I took a sketch of the pier (Gravesend), *[in pencil]* / & could discern through a good telescope they had in the inn Hamp standing on the forecastle of the vessel. – We set off for the vessel \Duke of Roxburghe/ in a boat at 3 o'clock having a good deal to do in putting things to rights in the cabin before night. Papa Teddy & myself had to ascend the side of the vessel by means of the ropes & steps, Theodore & Minna were carried up, but a chair was hoisted over for the rest. – Mamma took Agnes in her lap, & they were hauled up & landed on deck, Maria was after-

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wards pulled up, all said they did not dislike the sensation. This chair is of a particular construction adapted for the purpose, 7 every one who ascends is wrapped round with the British colours which are let down in the chair; the reason of this I do not know but it seems to imply the protection by English seamen from foes. –

The rest of the day \we/ were employed in putting our cabin in order, & walking on the upper deck or poop which is above the cabin's & cuddy, the name for the dining room of the cabin passengers, who alone are allowed to walk there while the steerage passengers walk below, their deck being on a level with the cabin floors. – I took a sketch or two of vessels & small boats that were passing: Mamma, Maria, & I had tea from the cabin brought to us, as I did not wish to go to the steerage till I was obliged. The children had their bed made up on the sofa, all four laid in it two & two at each end, while Papa, Mamma, Maria, & I sat up as \we/ were going to see her (Maria) off early the next morning, the vessel sailing at daylight. –

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April 4. Wednesday. This morning we went on deck at 4 o'clock, but the boat did not go off with Maria till about 6. – Mamma watched it with her eyes till it was out of sight. we sailed with a fair wind at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 6. before Maria got into the boat which was fastened to the side of the ship. I now went down into the steerage for my breakfast, I sat with Hamp's family & had it with them quite apart from the other emigrants. – M^r Coltman, the clerk of M^r Wiggram (the master of the vessel) says that M^r W. has not done right, & all others say he has acted shamefully, for instead of my being one of 16 respectable emigrants in the steerage, which would have made it tolerably comfortable, there are 63 persons crowded, I don't know how, into this part of the vessel, & many of them though not of course bad characters, are yet very dirty, however Hamp's family with whom I shall have my meals

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whenever I go down there, are very clean, as also some others who are the labourers & servants of the cabin passengers: the names of these (the cabin passengers) are, M^r & M^{rs} De Horn, (not French) M^r & M^{rs} Edmonds, M^r Philcox, the surgeon, M^r Scott, M^r Holthouse, M^r Biddulph, M^r Coltman, who of course leaves us at Portsmouth, Mast^r Sandell, my father & mother, & 4 children, these besides the captain & the two mates sit down to table making in all 19 persons. –

Now I will give some description of the vessel. It is of 500 tuns burden, the births under the fore-castle are for the sailors to sleep in & the rest of the vessel except about a third is for the emigrants; as the steerage passengers are always called who have all their meals & births under mid-decks; the rest of the vessel is for the cabin passengers, & the cabins are raised upon the lower deck: You first enter the dining room or cuddy which stretches across the deck, & then there are 4 cabins beyond that, of which ours is one of the two end ones & the largest in the vessel, though small indeed for 7 persons, the captains cabin is next to ours, that for the two mates is on the larboard or left side beyond the cuddy, above these is the superior deck or poop which is thus entirely separated from the emigrants part, & you ascend to it by step ladders fixed, with a

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bannister. – Whenever a boat or vessel past I always sketched it if I had time before it was gone, so I am now making a collection of them & shall copy them better altogether into my smaller scrap-book. –

The rest of the day was spent in putting the cabin to rights, & the vessel under the pilot's direction (M^r Grace), sailed swiftly out of the river. –

April 9. Monday. Oh! What trials we have endured since Thurs-day about the middle of the day, for since that time throughout the vessel, there has been nothing but sea-sickness, so I have but little to record. – The captain is going to touch at Portsmouth for many reasons. – to land M^r Coltman (the master of the vessels clerk), & to stay to take in fresh water & bread; I believe we are likewise going to have another family, cabin passengers, from there.

About one o'clock on Thursday \last/ a smart breeze sprang up, which seemed to us like a storm, for the vessel was pitched about as it then seemed to us, in a most dreadful manner, in fact I may call it an awful time, as for four days & nights Thursday to Sunday, we did not take off our clothes, but all lay on the ground, as we were taken by surprize, & Papa & I were not able to swing the cot for himself

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and Mamma; we thought to have reached Portsmouth in a day or two, but when Papa got out on Sunday he found that we were not further than Hastings, as the wind had been exactly in our teeth the whole way, and all we could do was to tack every 4 hours, so we actually did not get on above six miles a day; the mate told me that it was not very uncommon to be six weeks getting to Portsmouth from Gravesend, when the wind was contrary, & that he had once known it take 14 weeks, we could not anchor it being too rough and it would answer no purpose if we could, nor were we able to approach the coast till we arrived at Portsmouth, as there was no harbour. The other vessels we heard had put back to the Downs, but it was best for us to wait for any favorable change of wind; as a proof how much it was against us a vessel, an East India-man I believe, passed us, which was 5 or 6 miles off in half an hour; this morning we were told that the wind was in our favor, & that we might reach Portsmouth perhaps that night, the tacking was discontinued, & the vessel no longer heaved, again this afternoon a calm came on

& we should not be there they said till Sunday next in all probability, & the third report this evening was, that we were going along quickly again & should perhaps be at Portsmouth tomorrow morning; in fact I never saw anything so changeable as the weather is, a contrary wind or calm may not

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advance us half a dozen miles the whole day, & a good breeze in our favor may carry us along 7 or 8 nots an hour.

I was tolerably well off during our four days of sickness, as we all eat together of whatever there came into the cabin for us, but by regulations I was obliged afterwards to take my rations as they are called in the steerage: Except the dirt of the place & the persons that are round us, we are as well off with respect to food as perhaps the cabin passengers, as we have fresh meat I believe two or three times a week, bread, potatoes, & now & then a little flower each & plums, these where there is a family together are of course made into a pudding, mine go to the Hamp's who manage for me, as I merely go down at meal times, eat what I want, & then go up again; M^r & M^{rs} H. try very kindly to make everything as pleasant to me as they can.

This night was the first we slept in beds again, the four children on the sofa, P. & M. (viz: Papa & Mamma) in the swing cot, and I had a mattress on the ground. – The captain said I might have half a-b an under deck cabin which was unoccupied if [2½ lines of Greek]. Our live stock on board consists of about 3 dozen sheep, some of which will be killed when wanted; the rest belong to cabin passengers: ~~We have~~ \There are/ likewise two goats and a kid, so we have

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goats milk for our tea, as we keep no cow on board. There are likewise 4 dogs, our greyhound which is the best dog on board, a large bull-mastiff, a small white bitch, & a Scotch terrier; there are also a dozen or two of pigs; then on each side of the poop deck are coops all the way along, half on each side fowls, about 100 of them, the rest on the larboard side geese, on the other ducks; we sometimes have music on board as M^r De Horn plays the flute as also M^r Holthouse, M^r Philcox, & M^r Edmonds, who also plays the horn, so we often have duetts which are very pleasant and well played, we sometimes join in with ½ dozen others in singing chorusses, the National Anthem, Rule Brittania &c.

This night there was a most beautiful full moon, producing that splendid glittering effect on the water, which can never be seen except at sea.

April 10. Tuesday

Before we got up M^r Philcox (the surgeon) came to our cabin door, & agreeably surprized us by saying that we were in view of the Isle of Wight, & so we soon got up & ascended to the deck; there was Hampstead \shire/ to our right hand, & about 8 miles ahead was the first discernable point of the Island, a remarkable white cliff called Dunnose, on which the sun powerfully shone, standing out by itself; in a short time the land adjoining was seen, and also the hills to the left forming a bay with the white cliff; at last we came to this garden of England passing between

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it & the Hamshire coast, which was generally barren and low, or lined with trim neat rows of houses forming a great contrast to the beautiful undulating shores of the Isle of Wight: we soon stopped & anchored about 2 miles off Ryde, which is opposite Portsmouth, it being thought better anchorage here than nearer that Port. It was singularly enough George's birthday, & he now not 12 miles off; my father & mother had intended that we should all go over to Ryde about ½ past one, & then I should walk to Cowes for George, & bring him to the inn where we should

stop to spend the night, we could then tell him anything that would be necessary about his coming over to us in future, for of course we could not take him over with us now even if not prevented in a pecuniary point of view.

My father has expressed some doubt whether I being an emigrant should be allowed to leave the vessel, I was sorry indeed to think it was likely I should be prevented from going, as it would be some change for me, & I had never yet seen the Island, independant of my principal wish to see George: My father asked M^r Philcox who said that he would read his instructions to see if I could be permitted; the first mate told my father that it could be done if Captain Thompson & M^r Philcox jointly signed a certificate, M^r P. soon came & told my father he was very sorry to say that he could not permit me to go, as many of the emigrants wished to leave the vessel, & they might

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grow riotous if I was more favored than they so I was obliged to stop & my father altered his plans & said he would leave the children under my care, & go with my mother to Ryde, sleep there, & bring George with them the next morning from Cowes to the vessel at 2 o'clock, so they went off in a boat at 12 & I took care off the children. I amused myself by walking about, reading, & writing my Journal, we all had tea together in the cabin & went to bed early, as my father and mother being from home the captain did not wish me to keep a light later than 10 for fear of fire. –

April 11. Wednesday. The sun never rose on a finer morning than this, I had breakfast with the children in the cabin, & afterwards went on deck; I took a sketch of Ryde being opposite, a rough one with a common pencil (see the first sketch in my little clasp book Page 1.) We were much amused by the song of the sailors, who joined in chorus as they kept turning the capstan, with the long poles, about a dozen of them (sailors) two men to each pole; the capstan stands close before the cuddy (dining room) window & is not in this vessel used to heave the anchor but in twisting ropes; the lower deck at this time presented a curious & rather slovenly appearance, as lines were stretched across the forecastle & gangway which were hung every where with clothes washed

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out by the emigrants, this being allowed because the vessel was at anchor. The children dined at 1 o'clock as usual, & I had some biscuit for dinner as I did not like going into the steerage.

Two o'clock passed & still my father & mother did not come; I often looked through the telescope towards Ryde by which I saw it much plainer, together with its extensive pier – time went on I had tea with the children in the cabin, & afterwards began to write to Percy that the letter might go by George if he came after all; I had intended to have sat up all night as I did not know when P. & M. would come back: At last they came at 11 oclock & George with them who was to go away again at 6 o'clock next morning as the vessel sailed then. The reason of their being so late was this. During the gale the cabin passengers had promised the captain a dinner for his good & clever management of the ship, the dinner was to be given at Portsmouth & every cabin passenger was to contribute, I don't know what each person's share was – perhaps £1 – so Papa had set off this morning from Ryde to Cowes (while M. wrote a long letter to Dolly) brought George back, & then they set off in a boat for Portsmouth where the gentlemen had their dinner about 5 o'clock; Mamma & George meantime walked about the town, buying what things we yet wanted, the dinner was not over till very late so they could not return sooner than they did; I was delighted to see George, who when he leaves us will go to Melcombe

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Place, to stay there a short time till he can conveniently come over to us in Australia by another vessel; I walked with him, P. & M. about deck, we then went down shewed him the cabin & he saw all the children though they were now fast asleep in bed; George slept in the dining room as there was no other place for him; I could not get my letter for Percy ready for George \him (G.)/ to night, so I was obliged to postpone sending it. All this day has been most beautiful, & my father & mother have much enjoyed themselves. –

April 12. Thursday. George went back again to Ryde at 6 o'clock; the sailors struck for a rise of wages this morning, although they are a fine crew yet their work is certainly too hard, without increasing them: the \1st/ mate was obliged to sit up till 3, as not a single sailor would work but I believe now it is quite adjusted. – M^r Wigram has written back to say that the balance I ought to pay now is £33 but he will not be too hard but take under £30 so the captain has agreed with Papa to make it £25 –

[4½ lines of Greek]

I have now likewise half a cabin with a M^r Holthouse, one of the ~~middle~~ \intermediate/ ones, as they are called under the cuddy; it is a very nice cabin about $\frac{2}{3}$ the size of P's & M's: I have $\frac{1}{2}$ of it for my luggage & hammock, so I am able to put many of their boxes in it, besides my own, we had 5 new passengers yes-

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terday from Portsmouth, M^r Duthie, his wife & 3 children, all girls, ages 1 year, 2, & 6; they have two of the intermediate births: wanted a lamp for our cabin & some oranges which M. & P. were not able to bring with them, so the captain volunteered to bring them saying, he would not advise them to go on shore again, for fear they should be too late; In fact the expense of boating would have deterred them from going again. I forgot to mention that I had asked M. to buy me 6 pennyworth of gingerbread cakes, that I might eat them sometimes instead of breakfast or tea in case I still had my meals in the steerage, wishing to go there as little as possible, so M. bought some at 12 a penny, but in getting out of the boat to ascend the side of the ship the bag tore out of her hand & dropt into the water, but one of the sailors put his hand under & caught it, so P. told him to keep it till he came next morning, however he either eat them or forgot it. We had some poultry, meat, hams, pigs, &c. from Portsmouth. to last during the whole voyage: though we had left a slate out for the use of the children on board, yet we could not find it among the things in the cabin, so M. bought by my wish a book of 3 small slates together, & now Edmund & Agnes have Arithmetic, Geography, &c. &c. for an hour every morning; I shall begin with Theodore & Minna also soon, as they ought not to remain idle.

The Blue Peter (for so the flag is called that is hoisted on the mizen mast when a vessel is about to sail) was taken down, & we were soon going along 8 to 10 nots an hour, & the captain says there

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Is no doubt of our reaching the Bay of Biscay in two or three days. I sent my letter to Percy by the Pilot who left the vessel about 2 o'clock. Teddy was rather sick again this afternoon. M^r Philcox the surgeon was not quite well to night so he went to bed early. The vessel is now pitching a little but goes along well: I slept in M. & P.'s cabin again this night as mine was not quite ready as the former $\frac{1}{2}$ occupier \Mast^r Sandle/ a boy about 15 has not yet removed all his things into another $\frac{1}{2}$ cabin – This night was cold & windy.

April 13. Friday. To day is Good Friday. Theodore has been very unwell all night so we have applied to M^r Philcox & he is now better. We are this morning off the coast of Devonshire at Hart Point – (For my father & mother I shall in future say P. & M.) My fathers face is very irritable & painful this morning, looking as it used to do some years ago when he had that irruption, but as he has not had it lately we could not account for it to day, till the captain said that it arose from going on shore after having been some days at sea, & that he himself had had it before from the same cause: Mamma too has a headache so she & Papa staid all day in the cabin. I shall mention our dinners for a few days to shew our stile of living: we had to day being Good Friday. Soup – Salt-fish – Roast beef – Boiled mutton – Potatoes & cheese &c: this of course is our only vegetable but we have it boiled

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& fried. M^r Philcox the surgeon has two musical snuff-boxes, & he generally brings them both up every day (as his cabin is in the intermediate) to amuse the children, ours & M^r Duthie's.

M^r B. who fishes with long lines & imitation flying-fish for mackerel, has not caught anything yet, and unluckily broke one of his lines to day, which are very good ones, the longer they are & the quicker the ship goes the greater is the stress on the line. I'm sure they they must each sometimes bear a hundred weight. This morning Papa read prayers to us all in the cabin, and I hope all do so for themselves as there are no regular prayers read except to the steerage passengers, by M^r Philcox.

A fowl got loose this morning one of the coop bars not being fixed tight enough, there was immediately a chace after it, though cautiously managed for fear of its flying overboard, & Papa at last caught it. This evening Teddy and young Sandle had four games of chess, and each won two, Teddy certainly plays best as Sandle is too careless.

April 14. Saturday. Papa's face was much better to day, so he got up to breakfast: I will mention what we have for that meal which makes indeed a capital breakfast; two dishes of hot meat and two of cold, bread & butter, biscuit, eggs, & tea; after this Edmund & Agnes each said a lesson or two, & then I went to see M^r Duthie & M^r Edmonds shoot with a rifle at pieces of paper or straw, which

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\they/ threw over the stern of the vessel & shot at when we had got about forty or fifty yards off, they sometimes went very near, but never hit them.

I am now not to sleep in the same cabin as M^r Scott, but to share one with M^r H. this is my fathers arrangement & I am glad of it. The cabin is apparently a very comfortable one, our hammocks swing side by side very conveniently, & of course can never touch one another as they of course move together with the motion of the vessel. There is plenty of room for my green desk, & the other things I have out, & also for some of Mamma's.

Our dinner to day was roast beef, boiled mutton, roast D^o, & Yorkshire pudding, soup, cheese, &c. & after dinner almonds & raisins we also have as much wine as we like Port & Sherry, & very good wine it is. – After dinner the shooting was continued, & I asked if I might have a shot which was granted directly, so I took up the rifle & ~~took~~ \aimed/ at a small bundle of straw which I had thrown overboard, but the piece being rather heavy & the ship pitching a little at the time I could not take a very good aim, however I did not go far from the mark.

We passed Lizard Point about ½ past 6. I was a good deal up in the night to assist my father & mother, but I managed to get a little towards the morning.

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April 15. Sunday. Easter Sunday. – We were all of us unwell to day, but I went out for a short time in the morning; we were none of us at dinner to day, but M. P. Ted. & I, had some plum-pudding in the cabin.

My voice is now quite come back, though I still speak rather gruffly, I lost it by a severe cold last Friday fortnight, the evening I was at Hampstead, & could not speak at all till within these last few days: I was much delighted and so in fact were we all at seeing those curious phosphoric particles of light which may always be observed in some degree in the ocean at night, & though they are even now very fine Plentiful, yet I understand we shall most likely see them quite in clusters & illuminating all the water when we get to the hotter regions; Papa says that in the German ocean he has seen the water at night shining like a stream of fire: This certainly must be animal matter perhaps the spawn of fishes, or Polypi, or scales of fish; most of them are small but have a quick bright spark, others are not so bright but more lasting, while some continue several seconds before their light disappears; it is certainly a very

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curious sight, and at first seems almost supernatural: I could not leave the cabin window for some time.

At 5 o'clock to day we entered the Bay of Biscay as it may be said to begin almost as soon as you leave the English Channel. – My father has put away the double cot, & M. now has the single one, while P. sleeps on the locker, and the children on the sofa two at each end as usual: the double cot is too heavy to take up and put down night and morning, and when down we have no convenient place in which to put it.

APRIL 16. Monday We passed Brest in the morning night, and are now really tossing on the tumultuous bosom of the Bay of Biscay, though we shall of course keep far seaward.

I had a very bad headache this morning which continued all through the day, but I was better at night; P. was quite well & out all day, but M. did not feel well enough to leave the cabin. We have now often clear blue skies and I suppose they will soon be quite Italian ones. At about 7 o'clock \this afternoon/ the cabin passengers began some

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[Map showing the coast of England from Lands End to London, the Straits of Dover and the coast of France south from Calais]

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games on deck and invited me to join them and now I was finely played upon The game we played at was called cocks eye The way is this a line is first made on any part of the deck with chalk then about 30 or 40 feet off a small circle Any person now walks to the line and goes on all fours upon which another gets astride on him but without sitting down & putting his hands over the others eyes they walk on together till the undermost one who has a piece of chalk in his hand makes a mark with it when he thinks he has come to the circle the young men went on playing at this till it came to my turn; they asked me to stoop down which I did & M^r Edmonds covered my eyes with his hands after marking I got up but was immediately greeted with a roar of laughter for M^r E. while holding my eyes had rubbed my face all over with black lamp oil & from this the game takes its name. I ran down immediately and washed it off not disliking the joke though it was at my expence & when I came again on deck they asked if I understood cockseye of course I answered “perfectly well” they told me that they had taken in M^r Holthouse

last Saturday they were now trying a sort of gymnastic feat a pole was lashed across from the mizen-mast to the mizen chains ladder and a rope thrown over with

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a loop at one end you put your foot into this loop and holding quite firm without bending or moving a limb pull yourself by the other end of the rope till you can kiss the pole I at once put my foot in & began to pull but not holding ~~my foot~~ it steady my knee bent my legs went up & my head down and of course my foot slipt out of the loop & I fell flat on my back from about 3 feet a roar of laughter followed & the jolting that I got warned me not to be so hasty in future this feat can easily be performed if you keep your knee stiff or perhaps what is better bend it slightly & firmly against the rope.

We now witnessed an amusing scene. M^r Biddulph went up the rope ladder on the poop & when hear the top one of the sailors followed & tied him tight by this a fine is incurred by a bottle of rum to be paid to the sailor who ties you But this tying is only a form as you could easily cut the rope with a penknife & get down the custom is at once to give the bottle of rum & then you are at liberty to go up as often as you please without any more fines While the sailor was engaged tying M^r B. M^r De H. who is quite a seaman & accustomed to these things got up & tried to tie the sailor but another came after him (M^r De H.) & M^r B. being now tied there were two to one so M^r De H. took hold of a rope and slid down to the deck M^r B soon extricated himself

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With his knife and when he was down gave the sailor the bottle of rum as he luckily had one by him We always keep 180 miles from land being six times as far as the horizon which is not above 30 miles we are now in the very middle of the North Atlantic Ocean

They say that when we land after seeing nothing but see and sky for so long we shall suffer from Ophthalmia for some little time I observed again the beautiful luminous particles which I could look at for hours and I long for our approach to the warmer latitudes that we may see them in all their perfection. – I had one game of chess with Ted to night which I beat and we went to bed.

To day M^r Duthy in attempting to kiss the pole in the game we played at lost his large flat white hat which floated quietly away at the stern of the vessel and being noe irrecoverable M^r Ed. Had a shot at it with a rifle but did not hit it. – There were two accidents to day with the crokery a cup was broken by the pitching of the vessel at dinner and a plate at breakfast.

Another pig died this morning in fact they have the murrain among them and there is one found dead almost every day, they want more water and room but that we cannot give

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them they are kept in the middle of the steerage deck between two boats one inverted over the other and the sheep are there also we have two boats besides these called the gig & cutter one on each side of the upper deck or poop

A shoal of porpoises were observed to day about 3 o'clock and were shot at but none hit I was not fortunate enough to see them being below deck in my cabin at the time

The stars which are very bright now have a singular effect when the ship is rolling seeming when it heaves up towards them as if they moved instead of the vessel the first time I saw this I took one for a falling star. – We are now all of us getting sailors (except poor Mamma who but

seldom leaves the cabin though she says she will be often out when the weather is warmer) we can walk comfortably about deck even when the vessel pitches without much tottering

APRIL 17. Tuesday. Our breakfasts are always very good almost luxurious two dishes of hot meat one or two of cold – eggs – hot & stale bread – biscuits tea – cocoa – butter – & toast for those who cannot eat the butter which is obliged to be salt or it would not keep we have hot loaves which seem quite new by their being soaked and then baked again.

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We have now nearly crossed the Bay of Biscay being on a line with Cape Finisterre but not quite so much South it is called Finisterre from being the lands-end of Spain like our Lands-end of Cornwall

This morning I taught the children (that is Ed. & Ag.) Arithmetic & Geography their dinner to day was a rice pudding as M^r Philcox said it would be better than their having meat every day with so little exercise and this would be equally applicable to both old and young. The two Misses Duthy's dine with our children making a small party of six to the first dinner and I generally carve for them,

This afternoon I put up my hammock to sleep for the first time in my cabin with M^r Holthouse. M. also got up but has not been out to day though it would have done her good I played a game of Chess after tea with Teddy and was driven hard being stale mated but of course I therefore beat.

APRIL. 18. Wednesday. M^r Duthy's youngest child about a year old (a little girl) I understand this morning was not expected to live last night the poor little thing is afflicted with water on the brain, – it does not seem a healthy child & is very small for its age it has had leeches

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[A coloured, hand drawn map showing the south coast of England, France and part of Spain]

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since and is now better The vessel pitched about a good deal last night there being a brisk gale and P. & M. did not get to bed till 3 o'clock I did not feel the motion being in a hammock

This morning I read on deck taught the children as usual & made notes for my Journal. Hamp's servant is now I believe the only one unwell in the vessel as all are so accustomed to the motion that they hardly feel it. – We are now opposite Oporto but 180 miles from land.

Before dinner I asked if any who liked might go up the rope ladders I was answered in the affirmative so I went up on the starboard ladder from the poop. I had not been long up when a sailor came after to tie me. I did not resist as when he left me I could cut myself down having a knife in my pocket he tied my arms and legs though I managed so as to give my right arm sufficient relief to enable me to reach my pocket Well Sir said Jack when I was secured how is it to be in my innocence I enquired What do you mean why Sir a bottle of rum before I untie you well said I seeing how the land laid its plain I cant give you one up here [...] you get one when you're below Sir I've got no rum of my own I

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said what will be the fine then" "Why some give 5/- Sir" No no thought I that won't do. It was my intention to remain tied a short time & then to cut the ropes & come down and I should not have cared to have been there all day as I thought if I was not untied I should escape the fine however the custom I afterwards heard was to give the fine if you are once tied: the sailor by the captains wish went and untied me again shortly afterwards when released I went up a little higher & then came down. P. & M. came to dinner to day being now recovered & afterwards we went on deck.

We had gymnastics again this evening & also the trial of pulling ourselves up by the rope & pole I succeeded this time & Teddy and Sandle also we now began pulling ourselves up by a rope with our hands in which M^r Holthouse succeeded best

The next most particular points in our course will be opposite Lisbon Cape S^t Vincent the Straits of Gibraltar and then the far-famed is/land of Madeira to which our wishes now all point if it is only to see it in the distance This evening I had two games of chess with Teddy after which I went on deck till 11 o'clock M^r Duthy & M^r Biddulph were there also the luminous

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particles on the ocean were very bright at the side of the vessel there was continually a great rush of water which being thus more agitated sent forth a great showers of brilliant sparks & flashes some of these continued a long time and seemed almost tangible Now that the warm weather is coming on I shall always go on deck from 10 till 11 or half-past to get a little fresh air before going to our necessarily close cabin and by this means I shall always be able to observe the phosphorescent sparks.

All day we have had our studding sails up.

APRIL 19. Thursday. We see one or two homeward bound vessels almost every day one was seen this morning while we were at breakfast and we have not yet spoken with any as I suppose it is not thought necessary.

M. says she feels the motion of the vessel at night very much though she sleeps in the cot & I can't think how that is as now I swing in a hammock I feel no motion at all and cannot in the dark tell which way it is swinging

The vessel has been rocking a good deal during the night & what was worse the poop deck was scraped about 5 o'clock & M. says the noise was horrible it is just over their heads but we

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being below do not hear it The deck will not be scraped again during the voyage and in a few days it will be holystoned.

There were two more shoals of porpoises to day at 9 & at 1 o'clock but being again employed at the time I missed seeing both these also they generally appear near the forecandle of the ship M^r Duthy's baby is better to day M^r Philcox the surgeon has paid great attention to it.

We are now opposite Lisbon and getting on well at an average rate of 8 nots an hour. – This morning I gave the sailor who tied me yesterday a pound of tobacco not being able to get a bottle of rum as the steward is not allowed to sell it Mamma came to dinner to day & afterwards went on deck. After tea P. & M. had some games of pickett and Ted & I of chess I

took my usual walk on deck before going to bed This night the luminous particles of matter were very brilliant

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APRIL 20. Friday This morning I find upon inquiry that we are about opposite Cape S^t Vincent & going on well Mamma is sea sick again to day she is now the only person so affected on board the other 3 ladies are quite well. – I now regularly set the children to their lessons after breakfast as the best thing they can possibly do.

About the middle of the day we passed the Straights of Gibraltar. M. was better to day by 2 o'clock & came to dinner the usual hour of which is ½ past 4. After dinner I went up the rope ladder on the larboard side of the poop to a good height though I do not yet like to venture so high as the cross-trees which are about 70 feet in height from the deck. Two gentlemen M^r Duthy & M^r Scott who had just come from the forecandle were each marked with a piece of chalk on the toe of their boots whether this means a fine or not I don't know no more did themselves. There was a good breeze towards the evening but scarcely any of the phosphoric particles in the water. We are now steering S.W. & \a/ little by S. no vessel has been seen to day and most

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likely we shall now see them but seldom as we shall usually be several hundred miles from land

APRIL 21. Saturday. Nothing particular occurred to day before dinner. The captain had told us this morning that we should most likely see Madeira tomorrow early but as we got on very fast in the middle of the day we heard that it was seen from the mast head at 4 o'clock this afternoon & we could all catch a faint glimpse of it before it grew dark it was a great way off & we did not expect to pass it till midnight this was very unfortunate as we all wished at least to see the island distinctly if we did not touch there

Our letter of recommendation to a M^r Ball will now be of no use as the captain cannot stop here being he says too short a time after leaving Portsmouth tho' some said if we had all pressed him particularly he would have consented and then we should have seen this "Gem of the ocean – this Paradise of the Atlantic" which Coldridge has described as one of the most beautiful & fairy land like little places upon earth with its vines orange & citron trees rivers valleys and tree covered hills & beautiful bays their glittering waters reflecting the ever azure sky We shall not pass on the side where the town of Funchal lies & if we did it would have been usseless under the present circumstances.

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[a hand drawn, coloured map showing the south of Spain to south of Cape Verd Islands]

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we could just see it as I said before it grew dark and then it looked like a black mountain of small extent & I just drew the outline as it is now

[pencil sketch of the outline of the mountain]

appeared Oh Madeira of whom we have heard so much how I wish we could land upon thy hospitable shores.

At half past 10 all except the captain & my father had gone to bed & they were talking together so I got into one of the ship's boats lashed alongside & began to think of Old England & the friends we had left now we were on the bosom of the wide ocean far from any land except the above island which we were not destined to see but at a distance I looked at the boundless expanse of waters & then at the firmament glittering with countless orbis each displaying the wisdom & greatness of its creator I was entranced in a maze of thought & felt a strange & longing desire to leap into the blue rippling mirror beneath & flee to the land of oblivion – Darkness reigned around & our little bark but a speck on the ocean &

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wrapped in profound repose rode calmly over the silent deep. – My father now went to bed as we both intended to get up early the next morning to see if possible the last of this isle of beauty – I descended to my cabin & throwing myself in my hammock without undressing was soon fast asleep

APRIL 22. Sunday. According to my wish I was awoke at 5 o'clock so I got up & went to Papa's cabin who came out with me on deck. We had not long passed Madeira but had never been nearer to it than 14 or 15 miles – M. did not get \up/ as we told her it appeared merely like a dark cloud on the horizon we could now just faintly see it & the telescope did not assist us as it was half hid in mist & sunshine –

After breakfast M^r C. read prayers & as sermon to the Cuddy passengers on deck & the emigrants who ranged themselves below. – The captain says we are now in the Trade winds so shall go on for many weeks quite steadily. – M. came to dinner to day. – I was on deck as usual till ½ past 11 & I always go out from \10 till/ that

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time or 12 as I find it the most pleasant part of the day now they are so warm. –

To night I saw a whole shoal of small porpoises who swam swifter than the vessel passing along the larboard side & left behind them by agitating the water small streaks of phosphoric particles. – I also saw two of these fish last night. – There were this eve a great many large globes or flakes of light which had a beautiful & singular effect ½ past 10 oclock is considered late here so by that time the captain or boatswain & myself are usually the only persons on deck. –

APRIL 23. Monday. This morning M^r Holthouse who has a great many sheep on board had 3 of them sheared which had the heaviest fleeces & I am sure they must have felt more comfortable after it especially as it is now very warm weather. – In a lurch of the ship this morning my desk fell down in which I have all my stationary & other things for present use the water had just before flowed into the cabin which till then did no harm but now the desk not being locked my best colors were soaked by the

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salt water these were partly melted but the other things were not much injured & I dried them all again. –

The Captain discovered the Island of Palma with the naked eye this morning tho' it was 80 miles off so it must be vey high land – M^r De Horn who has been long accustomed to the sea also saw it a short time afterwards. After dinner I went up the mainmast ladder into the shrouds or main top: this is a very comfortable place being spacious & defended by a railing it is

about 50 feet from the ground – I afterwards ascended about half up one of the cross tree ladders above.

The sky is usually now of the beautiful Italian blue so often celebrated in song & story. – It is rather curious that since we left the English Channel the sea has been of quite a different color to what it then was of a beautiful bright green but now it is always blue.

The Hamps not having much to do on board I have lent them some books & magazines to read as we took care to leave plenty out. – I was on deck till 12 to night. They

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say we shall see flying fish in a day or two which will be quite a novel & extraordinary sight. –

APRIL 24. Tuesday. I had a headache this morning which was no doubt caused from the little exercise we take. It is now said that we shall cross the line most likely in ten days or a fortnight we are 27 degrees longitude & 60 miles being a degree we should reach the line by going about 1620 miles in 24 hours which is now our average rate. –

We all wish to stop at the Cape de Verd islands & we think we shall prevail with the captain to grant our wish in fact we think he will do so on his own account to take in more fresh water – if we stop there it will of course be the only place during the voyage

I am now beginning to write my Journal out fair in my book I bought for that purpose (id est this). – To day is the birthday of our ancestor Cromwell.

APRIL 25. Wednesday. We have now tea \&/ coffee or cocoa for breakfast – this morn I got up into

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the shrouds for an hour & read the Curate's Widow a most beautiful story from Sarah Stickney's tales of Private Life [*Sarah Stickney Ellis: see Wikipedia*] – soon after this we saw a shoal of porpoises on the larboard side of the vessel I have here given in the rough Journal a description of the different parts of the vessel & their names but as this can best be learnt by looking into any work of naval architecture I shall omit them – Every sail & even every rope has a name with the whole of which I am not yet quite acquainted. –

In the evening to amuse ourselves we sometimes join in chorus in singing some of the popular songs or the National Anthem – After dinner to day I went for the first time up to the cross trees on the poop which are about 50 feet the same height as the shrouds on the main mast.

The evening closed in with a glorious sunset & just as the sun sunk below the horizon a beautiful crescent moon rose on the opposite side – it was a beautiful night & the stars were extremely numerous while many meteors shot like lightning across the sky. – Poor M. has not been well to day a bad headache has prevented her from coming out at all – We all now find it necessary to keep our windows partly open during the night as the heat is more

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oppressive than in the day time & we now sailor like that is all the young men wear jackets before dinner I wear jane being light.

APRIL 26. Thursday. This morning I was more than two hours in the shrouds after breakfast & enjoyed my airy situation much – I descended by a descended by a quicker way than the ladder

for I caught hold of a fixed rope & soon reached the ground deck & finding this a pleasant mode of descending I repeated it but paid this last time in some measure for it for I cut both my hands with the friction.

We have seen no flying fish yet which is rather singular the captain says they are usually seen as early as in latitude 30 & as we are now in 24 we look about sharply for this long doubted wonder of nature every day. We are now within the tropics as we passed that of Cancer last night & the heat is becoming very great At dinner to day the captain at last agreed to the great desire we all have to stop at the Cape de Verd islands which will be quite a relief after so much salt water & he will be able also to lay in a further supply of fresh water & provisions if necessary we shall most likely near these islands on Monday morning. – There was a very slight shower of rain this ~~morning~~ evening M. was better to day she came

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in to dinner & staid out in the evening from 10 to 11 it is impossible to go to our close cabins much earlier these hot days a beautiful sunset was succeeded by a bright moon so that darkness was not allowed to throw her sable cloak around us.

We are now going on an average 7 nots an hour & have for the first time a 4th sail or top royal on the main-mast I did not go to bed till near 12 o'clock lying on the hen coops or sitting with one leg over the taffrail [*the aftermost railing around the stern of a ship*] admiring the beautiful sparkling appearance of the water which to night was particularly brilliant large globules or masses of light shot by every instant & continued undimmed in brightness to a great distance while seeming flakes of fire & millions of sparkling atoms kept the water in a perpetual \state of/ splendor. As I was sitting on the taffrail Sandell who was walking up & down on the deck said to me Don't go to sleep M^r Wilson or we shall never see you again nice bait for the sharks he added as he again came up to me there was little likelihood of my sleeping on deck on such a night.

APRIL 27 Friday This was a very fine morning & at half past 3 we heard with great delight that the first flying-fish was seen! by the captain & doctor several more were seen afterwards by others

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After dinner P. M. & I went on deck & we all soon witnessed the most brilliant setting sun we have ever seen the clouds on the horizon were fringed with gold through which the sinking luminary shone like a ball of fire above this the tints gradually shaded & mellowed off to the most beautiful light pink & violet colors presenting a glorious & lovely scene P. & M. said they had never seen such a beautiful sunset before even in their travels I have myself seen in England many a beautiful sunset gilding the whole face of the firmament but these gradual shades of color I never witnessed before the moon also was very bright to night a new one appears much sooner after the full than in England the captain says that in these parts he has even seen it on the second day This evening I had a long talk with the Hamp's on the lower deck during the twilight they are all now quite well.

M^r & M^{rs} Duthy's poor little baby (only a year old) is dangerously ill & M^r Philcox the surgeon says it will not live long the disease I believe is that dangerous one called water on the brain

APRIL 28 Saturday This morning some more flying fish were seen though not by me – We have been getting on lately very well & we shall be at the Cape de Verd islands some time tomorrow though the captain says he has often lost two or

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three days coming inside as he calls it that is out of the trades towards the Islands In the afternoon I began to write a long letter to Percy to send at St. Iago if I could possibly do so. The day closed in with a very fine night.

APRIL 29 Sunday – We passed the island of Sal during the night (this is the first of the Cape de Verd Islands) and are now passing alongside Bonavista which is larger than the former it was too distant for us to see more than a waving undulation of rocks & mountains I took a sketch of it just as it was.

After breakfast I saw for the first time numbers of flying fish tho' I missed many from looking too far as they rose in shoals from the sides of the vessel not ten yards off the first two things that struck me were their extreme whiteness and small size & to use a common simily they most resembled I think small strips of paper for they seemed carried along by the force of the wind: – the length of these seldom exceeded three or four inches in length they scim along about a foot above the ~~ground~~ \water/ dropping again into the first wave that approached these small ones being merely startled by the motion only fly off to get out of the way & the flights not being above 50 feet but the way to see them more naturally is to wait till one

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Cape Verd Islands

[hand drawn pencil sketches of the islands in profile]

Bonavista

The figures show our distance in miles, from the seperate parts of this island

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rises in the distance pursued most likely by some larger fish these latter \flying fish/ often 8 or 10 inches long & take flights sometimes of perhaps 1000 feet in length doubling turning & scudding along with the swiftness of light strike every one as being exactly like a bird as for myself I should have been certain they were so if I had not known to the contrary as they resemble them in every respect the lengthened fins not being able to be distinguished from wings at that distance

Though I at first thought the color of these remarkable fish was white I must have been deceived by the light shining on them as they are in reality as I afterwards discovered dark on the back & banded something like a mackerel the only chance of catching them is if attracted by the light ~~shining on them~~ they fly on the poop during the night but as one has not done so yet I shall not be able to sketch them from the life their motions being much too quick for that purpose while flying – Some of the gentlemen thought they really possessed wings & now as in fact always I found my advantages in the study of natural history & shall do so more & more when we arrive in Australia where every living thing almost is unknown & therefore curious at least in the infant Colony to which we are going

So we have at last seen these curious fish & can inform the old woman that they do exist who remarked to her son a sailor after listening to

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one of his particular yarns “I can believe Jack that there are rivers of Rum & mountains of sugar but that any fish can fly I never will believe”. – Almost as a great a curiosity and certainly more scarce I observed this morning it was the little Argonaut with its sails set floating in the water It

was not the Paper Nautilus this I have not yet seen but the red Nautilus Argonauta We saw two or three of these but they were not near enough to enable us to distinguish their curious [...] of sails – one that was floating had its sails down. –

While the surgeon was reading to us the morning service a booby bird came & flew twice round the vessel affording under other circumstances a good shot it was evidently on the look out for the poor flying fish who are thus tormented both in the air & water This bird is called booby from its extreme stupidity on land & little knowledge of escape as when in companies some are shot the rest sit looking at their wounded companions quite unconcerned so that a child might knock one down with a stick as they do not move from the spot on which they have perched themselves – they are in appearance like a wild duck but much larger & fly with the head stretched out in the manner of all this family. – About this time also we saw at least 6 shoals of the small flying fish in a

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minute & they were remarkably numerous during the day. About one o'clock the ladies (all but M. who seldom comes out of her cabin before dinner) who were looking towards the larboard side of the vessel saw a shark in the distance we all immediately looked in that direction & a few others saw it also but it then disappeared – a piece of pork was then lowered with a large hook attached but no shark was caught

Romantic scenery! – Passed Bonavista & came to Mayo at sunset I took a slight sketch of the outline of the mountains as they then appeared After passing the island of Mayo which is smaller than Bonavista we stood out from the land as it is dangerous to approach before daylight on account of the shoals.

M. stopped up on deck with me till 12 o'clock P. have gone to bed before & then by myself till ¼ to one – we stood off & on towards St. Jago till morning The phosphorescence in the wake of the vessel was very brilliant the water at times seeming all of a blaze with large patches of light here & there – no one on deck could help observing it.

– [*in pencil*] I have read to here Jan'y 1843 –

APRIL 30 Monday. We were all up by 7 o'clock and were then within a few miles of the island of St. Jago & rapidly approaching the town of Praya [*Praia, capital of Cape Verde Islands*] it is about 40 miles at its greatest length & has two towns of consequence St. Jago & Praya we did not

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go to the former as the latter serves our purpose for water much better and St. Jago is too much inland. There are three smaller islands composing the Cape de Verd but they are of no particular note except the one called [*blank space*] on which is a mountain of the height of 9700 feet which more than doubles that of any British mountains

The scenery of this island is extremely romantic rugged rocks and cliffs border the sea shore while in the distance rises an extensive range of lofty mountains the summits of which were lost in clouds and mist.

As I am rather shortsighted I borrowed M^r Philcox's telescope and then saw the shore very plainly. – We now began to near the Bay of Praya and discovered one by one several vessels at

anchor which rather surprised us as but few vessels touch here for water and besides there being no accomodation for the English. I now ascended the larboard rope-ladder on the poop with the telescope which gave me a much better view. There were two that had been stopping for cargos. A large American vessel homeward-bound as we found afterwards the captain said it was a very barren place when he was last here many years ago but great alterations might have taken place since then & so they had as we afterwards found.

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An old slaver broke up and reduced to a hulk and some smaller ones there were also a good-many native boats which are like ours with the exception of being smaller and rounder When we had approached within three miles of the shore we cast anchor and tied up our rudder

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[in pencil, the whole page crossed out with 2 diagonal lines]

Genera & insect in my [... ...] known May 1846

Coleoptera

Families	Genera	species	Remarks
Carabidae			
Do			
?Lyticidae			
Staphylinidae			
?			
Cleridae			
Do			
Do			
Dermeestidae			
?			
Dermeestridae			
Do			
Hydrophilidae			
Do			
Scarabeidae			
Do			
Do			