While attached to the Hydrographic party on the Coast Survey, under Lieut. J. N. Maffitt I received a note from my friend Pay. Mr. A. F. Monroe saying that Commander Cadwalader Ringgold had requested him to say to me that he remembered my having expressed my willingness to join an exploring expedition under him & that if I would apply I would be ordered to the one then fitting out for the China Seas & North Pacific — Mr. Monroe also intimated that I would be ordered anyhow — To this note I replied that I had rather not leave the party to which I was attached & that since I had seen Capt.n Ringgold my mind had changed. Indeed it was very hard for me ~~to be~~ to be separated from so many kind friends & to leave a mess in which I had just become domiciliated & the members of which I looked upon as brothers — A more pleasant set I have never been with & if my naval life could have been passed with them I would have been perfectly happy — Free from the petty annoyances of American naval discipline no chasm placed between the diff. grades, in order to give scope to the ~~grea~~ grossest selfishness, all uniting in one object, to forward the work as quickly and as pleasantly as possible, Everything tended to make us happy and contented ~~But on going to Washington~~ But I was doomed to leave & a few days after the receipt of Monroe's note, my orders came, before ~~the~~ my answer had been received — I went to Washington & Endeavored to get off. There I found that Capt.n Ringgold had represented that I was a volunteer & I also discovered that I could not stay any length of time on the coast Survey & therefore if to sea I must

go, the Expedition was undoubtedly the best place for me. The reasons were obvious, I was much advanced by it & could gain Experience which would be valuable besides the capital which I could make of my service on my return - It was with much regret & many heart burnings that I made up my mind to go, and I so much dreaded bidding good bye to my friends & the Coast Survey & the people of the country about which we were surveying that I did not return & telegraphing to have my baggage sent on I went straight to New York & reported for duty on board the Vincennes - I was ordered as a passed Midn but a few weeks afterwards I received my appointment to the brig Porpoise as acting Master - This was in January 1853 - The squadron had then been many months in preparation & we did not leave New York until May. But it was very pleasant for me as I was with my relations & friends who made my time pass most delightfully - Indeed I would have been willing for the squadron to have been years fitting out. The principle drawback was the want of men for the ships. Seamen were scarce, wages much higher in the merchant service and the discipline (if such it may be called) in the navy abominable. There were thousands of little things to be attended to which caused delay. The officers in command of the vessels had to fight desperately to get their ships properly fitted out & it was the hardest possible work to obtain even the allowances. But we did get off at last. Half manned & as for the brig was concerned poorly equipped. The squadron consisted of the flag ship Vincennes, propeller Mississ. Hancock, brig Porpoise, tender Fenimore Cooper & store ship Mississ. P. Kennedy. The Vincennes

had been a fifteen gun sloop, but she had a light spar deck built upon her, was altered into a barque & had light guns mounted & Upon the whole her internal arrangements were well planned & far as these were concerned was well adapted for the purpose intended. The Mississ. Hancock had formerly been a brig in Boston Harbor & employed as an anchor boy, water tank &c. They cut her in two & lengthened her some thirty feet, put a very pretty bow on her but left the most beastly looking stern that it was ever my lot to see. She proved a complete failure, as most of our steamers do - She appeared to me very unsafe, neither steamed nor sailed even tolerably - & every now and then something would give way in her machinery. Our brig was a fifteen gun brig & had been altered somewhat for the Expedition. A poop had been built as far forward as the mainmast, and the cabin & wardroom were on the spar deck instead of below as formerly. All her battery was removed Except two thirty two's, a brass 24 pd Howitzer on the forecastle & two brass 12 pd's on the poop. Instead of rigging her in the best possible style for such a cruise as that she was going upon, they left the old standing rigging & gave the running rigging in the most unhandy manner. The tender Fenimore Cooper was the U. S. pilot boat Bell. Steady & about ninety tons - She was purchased for the Expedition & cruised at a much higher rate than necessary. She was a pretty thing & that was all. It strikes me that a more unsuitable craft they could not have got. Such were the vessels. The officers were mostly passed Midn, some of them the youngest on the list. They received acting appointments as Lieutenants & masters. Being one of them myself I cannot but think the plan a judicious one.

By this means active, zealous & energetic officers were procured. Knowing that many of their older brother officers looked with distrust upon this novel system & they were actuated to increased vigilance in the performance of their duties. Ringgold must have foreseen this & together with the fact that he could get none of the older officers to go with him, this induced him to recommend & ask the appointments of the young ones. The crews of the ships were of the most worthless description. I can speak more particularly of our brig. We were but half manned. Had but a few petty officers, & one two or three good seamen. Those we did have became discontented with the miserable manner in which duty was carried on & the thoughtless, inconsistent manner in which they were abused, and before we reached Madeira the ships steward, boatswains mate, capt.s of forecastle, yeoman & master at arms were dismated & confined. All this was partly owing to the misbehavior of the men, but more particularly to the injudicious & violent manner in which they were treated. When they first came on board, there being but few hands who were good seamen, many things went wrong. Then commenced the system of abuse which was kept up afterwards. Nothing could be done, not the least evolution performed that the men were not howled & cursed at. Before the power of flogging was at hand, but now not having that there was nothing left but curses & abuse & confinement in irons. These were resorted to on all occasions & I can safely say that I think the effect was worse upon the crew than if they had been indiscriminately & cru-

elly flogged. ~~But notwithstanding, therefore~~ We finally sailed from New York for Norfolk, after having been unnecessarily delayed. It was the intention of the commodore that we should all sail together, but our brig had some difficulty in getting underway, from our anchor getting foul of a hawser & the Vincennes & Cowper got out before us. The Hancock had sailed a day or two previously & the store ship not being ready, she was left behind. There was many stories afloat about the purchase of this store ship, which had been the merchant barque "Sea nymph" of Baltimore, but not taking confident about the truth of them & knowing the disposition of some to scandal, I will repeat none of them the tales I heard. We had a hard time in the brig going from New York to Norfolk. Our mess was a miserable one, our appartments poorly furnished the brig lively & continued capsizing everything - the crew were green (though I think well disposed) and the rigging was so badly rove that it was a fearful thing to see the confusion when sail was being made or taken in. Add to this the desire of the Captain to do everything in man of war style & a sailor can imagine our dismal condition. This desire to make a man of war of our poor brig was one of the principle causes of our inefficient condition, for it made every one dissatisfied. In the first place the men on account of their small nos of their number had under this system about four times as much to do as they would otherwise, and this came particularly hard upon the two or three who were seamen. They became of course discontented, one or two things went wrong, they were cursed & put in irons & then they were ~~carried~~ ruined - some tried to run away & one or two succeeded. Among the officers discontent spread in the same way. The annoyances of this attempt at ~~man~~ being a strict man-of-war made them particularly disgusted. Discipline consisted in their

being continually attacked about their beards, dress, & the necessity of carrying on duty in the strictest manner possible — Such a thing as sitting down on the holy quarter deck was an offence hardly to be forgotten. Discipline is essential to the well being of every one on board every ship no matter what she is intended for, but this extreme discipline which regulates every movement of the body, every word that is uttered, & consists in Continual Exercises in which men become accustomed to be creatures of Forms & stereotyped orders, is only necessary for vessels which are expected to combat the Enemies of the flag under which they sail. But our vessel was not one of that kind. In case of a war we would have had nothing to do. No civilized nation would trouble us. The duty upon which we were, was for the benefit of mankind & we were considered as non-combatants — To be sure we had a slight armament, but that was necessary to protect ourselves from the treacherous & barbarous natives whom we would be occasionally thrown amongst. I therefore think that this attempt at making our voyage like a man-of-war, was useless & annoying.
The Expedition upon which we had Embarked demanded our utmost zeal & attention & we should have been studiously kept from being discontented & annoyed in order that we might have devoted ourselves cheerfully to the work. Our minds as well as our bodies should have been kept in a healthy state. The time that was swallowed up by drills, Exercises, &c. might have been devoted to perfecting ourselves in the various branches of Scientific Enquiry for which we severally had a taste. We layed some time in Norfolk completing our preparations for departure, and in time our naval-style were idle for a week or so & then were suddenly

told that we must leave. Of course Everything was in an uproar. A story was even told that the Secretary had said to Capt. Ringgold that if he did not go in a week he would take away the command from him. Away we went from Norfolk, & beat down Hampton Roads to Old Point Comfort where we lay at anchor for one week. Well, we had made a start & that was something! But I would have preferred being at sea to laying near a town & debarred from visiting it. Once or twice however we of the brig had a chance to visit Old Point, that well known watering place — at least, well known to Virginians & Marylanders. But I think before I go farther I had better introduce "our mess." And afterwards I will think it better to give an account of our life in the form of a diary. — The eldest in rank & age of the ward-room officers, so called, is the "Egyptian" our acting first lieutenant. The Egyptian unfortunately is a spoiled man, from the fact that he is our Executive officer. His duties correspond to those of a housekeeper or steward & the importance of these has turned the poor Egyptian's head. Pharaoh is a good fellow at heart I believe, but although he is never sea-sick he has a large amount of bile. While we were in New York I saw more of him than I did of the other officers as they had not all joined & he & I were the only ones there. I formed a good opinion of Pharaoh then which was only changed when I became acquainted with him officially. For Pharaoh is only disagreeable officially & as I said before it may be because he is spoiled. Since we have left too, he is of course separated from Mrs. Pharaoh & this may soon him. Mrs. P. was in N.Y. while we were there & the Egyptian naturally did not like to keep night watches — this made it less pleasant to the rest & especially as

he pretended that he would have to keep all the days duties, which he may have done, but I observed a singular fact that I had to keep mine regularly nevertheless - the Egyptian can sing though he seldom does. He also thrums slightly on the guitar - He dabbles in natural history & political Economy: he is irritable, reserved and grand - The second lieutenant, Tiley, comes next. He is a quiet clever fellow, & exactly opposed to Pharaoh in many respects. He plays well on the guitar, banjo & violin & Entertains us often with good music - He went & got married just before he left & this feast & bitter reparation causes him many a pang though he bears up against it & tries his best not to show it - Our third whom we have christened "Doozer" is another clever fellow but an original - His first peculiarity is his great passion for music & his desire to play upon the flute. He has collected an immense amount of music & I suppose there is no opera from which he has not some morceaux - But the worst of it is, Doozer can't play any of them. At one time he played by ear & I understand very well, but he has forever shut up his most assiduous in learning by note. Every opportunity out comes his flute & he toots dolorously at some piece plays & replays a few bars & then remembers he has a fine pot-pourri from Lucretia & turns to that - He has two or three flutes, but his favorite is a very fine one which cost him a great deal. Doozer is fat & has a strong constitution for sleep - Another peculiarity of his, is his mortal aversion to priests - all you have to do is to say something about them & he is off on his hobby: Anything said against them tickles him very much - His library is a curious assortment

alongside of the works of Swedenborg, you find the "persecutions of Popery" and Michelet's Prêtre & Peuple: Victor Hugo's & works of Godwin on Political Justice: "Doozer" is a Taxidermist & has purchased a set of instruments for skinning & stuffing birds - This is the most singular mania that I know of; but the worst of it is poor Doozer will have to give up all his collection to Government at the End of the cruise. When this was announced to him he was raving - Let Doozer alone & don't get him off on one of his hobbies and he is a clever fellow. His excitements are only amusing. How he came by the name of Doozer none of us can tell, but it is fixed on him now. The next in order is the Assistant Surgeon - He has a name which custom assigns to him & which no other nickname can replace excepting that of "Pills" His usual appellation is however simply "the Doctor" - "the Doctor" is new. He has never been at sea before & therefore does some very amusing things. He is a true American, that is if a little tincture of fear & a mortal aversion to any restraint is characteristic of one. The Doctor passed for a very talented man, as he passed No. 1 of the candidates for admission in 53. But in some respects he has too much of that forgetfulness of little things for which great minds are so remarkable. Being recognized as the naturalist of the vessel by the Commodore he devotes himself Entirely to "Aberrathy" Cuvier, Buffon &c other authorities of very little to Abernethy or Astley Cooper. The Doctor has charge of the meteorological department too, which threat overcame him at first, especially as he was obliged to rise at 3 A.M. to observe. This only lasted one week however & ever since he has sent up the Hygrometer to the officer of the mid-watch - The Doctor has a

monotonous deep voice, which he uses most disgustingly when one is trying to go to sleep. He must have got this habit from hearing lectures so interminably while studying for his profession. I suppose sometimes when he opens as he takes as all for students. But very refractory ears he finds us, as the officer of the mid-watch who is generally trying to get some sleep about 9 in the Evening, does not hesitate to pronounce his hearers a bore. The Doctor took this very hard at first & thought it harsh but he is getting accustomed to this as well as other customs.

When the Doctor laughs he throws his head back & opening his mouth to its full Extent pours forth, slow, sonorous & measured ha'a-ha-ha's! We now finish "our mess" with the most amusing of the lot, our draughtsman — he is a German & a very humorous one. We have given him the name of Stein. He goes sometimes by the appellation of "Old Krout" but this displeases him & as he is obliged to have some other name besides that with which he was christened he takes that of Stein. Stein's humour is much rendered more piquant by the fact that he speaks broken English — Some of his "calles" are very good. If it was not for him we would all die of melancholy in our poor mess. But when we are all indignant at something, Stein will make some queer attempt at English with great emphasis, which will set us all in a roar. Every now & then you will hear a guttural "it is won-der-ful!" or "it is out-ra-geous", & "it is sin-sense! ——— I have now given a description of all the officers excepting the Captain — He should perhaps

have come first. But better late than never. The Captain is of French descent & was born in Louisiana. His sea life & Education is our service when it was little better than a sea-faring, added to his naturally quick temperament has made him a perfect Hotspur. He is passionate beyond Expression & when in an Excited state forgets himself Entirely. With such a man & when he has so much arbitrary power, how much must an Officer guard himself to keep out of serious difficulty which would hurt both. It is very painful to, & with the course that we are going on before us & the many Exciting things that will arise the prospect is not cheerful. The Captain too has a way of continually interfering with a duty a common fault in the navy but one which Causes more difficulties between superiors & inferiors than anything else. But when our Captain is cool & there is nothing going on he is as kind & generous a man as I would wish to see. What a pity it is that the life which he has led should have so much increased his violent temper. The Captain has one or two peculiarities which are annoying & at the same time amusing — One as I have alluded to, his desire to make a man-of-war of our ship-keeping ship. Of course it is very pleasant for him to be at the head of a machine but it strikes me that I would not like to be the director of a set of pleasant gentlemen & good men, who respected as well as liked me — The Captain has a great aversion to whistling. When he first came on board what a horrible time he had. He was continually pouncing upon some unfortunate sailor & was not quiet until every one was aware of his dislike to that species of music.

the Captain pretends that he is fond of music, but I rather incline to the belief that he suffers agony when Doozy get hold of his flute. I have noticed once or twice when I was on deck that his countenance Exhibited much disgust when the dolorous toot would strike his ear — Thus I have given very nearly the description of the men with whom I am associated, and I have given it just as it strikes me, withholding nothing. Some would perhaps have smoothed over & given a picture of a jolly set; but as I wish to refer to these letters at some future time I wish to see what my present impressions were then — I must say that so far we have made a bad beginning & that ill humor & growling has been very prevalent, but time may wear it off & the active duties upon which we will be Engaged. It is certain that Everything nearly tends to make us discontented, for our internal arrangements are miserable. Our steward cannot speak English & knows nothing whatever of his duties. He is a filthy Italian barber. Our two servants are lazy careless negroes & the Cook is bad beyond all Expression. You may therefore imagine that we are poorly off. I never was so wretched in this particular when a midshipman. Now pleasant it is & what a relief when coming down from a tedious & harassing watch in which you have been making & reducing sail with a few men in man-of-war style, bawling & hooting & seeing Everything go wrong, to sit down to a comfortable meal, with companionable fellows & forget your troubles at the table. But such is not our luck — For instance —

Scene. Wardroom — Day equally — Dinner on the

table & nearly over: Doozy has just relieved me — as I Enter, flinging my hat down — "Boy bring up my dinner!"

Toby "C— what have you been making such a row for on deck?" — "Who would not have made a row, Trying to take in all studding sails at once, Everything going foul, the Captain at your elbow shouting & cursing at the men & offering suggestions continually, & all this time the flag ship making signal "Preserve your Station". Enough to make a saint strike his father.

Pharaoh (in a dejected manner & with the tone of a man whom these little things do not annoy) "Yes — but we must have patience — Our men are new & must be instructed — We must give them Every order & see them properly Executed. That is the only way."

Stein "Oh, it is wonderful!"

(Enter boy with dinner —) I draw up my chair — "Remove the covers!" Why hang it this salt beef is not cooked! Do you call these watery things potatoes! Good heavens Everything is cold —" I attempt to eat. Bread is bought, black & heavy. "Take this away & bring me some hard tack, this is awful!"

Stein "I drink the cook it good to fall overboard when we Eat their bread. It is outrageous!"

(at this moment one of the servants brings up the soup)

"Why what the devil do you mean to bring up the soup at this time! Tell the Steward to come here!" (Enter Steward) "And is this Spontano? Look at this dinner! How comes this neglect" Steward "Yes!" "Damn it I say

has taken it under his especial charge - He washes it
combs it & trims its hair & gives it a bed in his room
The 'people' are continually teasing or the poor animal
often which causes him to howl dismally, whereupon
Dozens rush out to pet "Rip" as we call him. Steen
abhors him & calls him "filterer no. 2"

17

June 9th Yesterday we made an attempt to get underway and go to sea but failed from the wind being baffling and the tide contrary. After having progressed about a cable length or so the signal was made to anchor. Boats immediately left the Vincennes for Old Point and I concluded that there was some distinguished party on hand - It is agreeable enough for the officers of the flag ship to remain here as from the fact of her being the most roomy & best arranged vessel she is more convenient for entertaining. The commodore is fond of it and is very liberal - Besides I believe that some of the officers have female friends ashore & that alone is sufficient to make them any thing but anxious to leave. But we of the brig might as well be anchored on the banks of Newfoundland. There is little attraction ashore & we have not even the satisfaction of being able to receive letters. There are so few of us too, that the frequency of our watches and present much shore visiting. Pharaoh being so much engaged in the duties of Executive, which are very onerous (?) with us, that he keeps no watch in port. Poor fellow he has so much to do with keeping the cuttasses bright & the toys clean! This morning there was a terrible to do about utensils. The cat which Pharaoh had got aground in mess Locker & which is a perfect aversion if the Captain's made such a terrible mewing & "caterwauling" last night that our chief could not sleep, & about daylight he was roaring for his servant to haunt him up some cologne. He swore she must go ashore & I am glad of it myself. Steen too was in a terrible way about "Rip" for that young creature walked off with his suspenders &

amused himself chewing them up. "It was out-ra-geous!"
For some days past we have been in a state of Excitement about the Commodore's visiting the ship. Every time he went anywhere in his boat, we were summoned to prepare our Epaulettes & swords in order to receive him. He had intimated to our captain that he intended to visit us in order to read his instructions &c. From the way in which he did it I know he did not want us to appear in full rig & receive him as the Grand Mogul. When he did come he was in "service dress" & no one with him. But we were glittering & flashing with all our "bright work". He read Extracts from his instructions and Exorted us & the men to the zealous performance of our duties. Neglect would be punished with the full rigour of the law & attention be rewarded by having our names in a printed narrative with the prospect as Mrs. Partington would say of being "handed down to prosperity as having been members of a Exploring Expedition". We were also informed that at the End of the cruise we would have to give up all journals, notes, memoranda, paintings, sketches, drawings, specimens, curiosities & in fact Everything in our posses-sion that could possibly be of any use to government. Anything that we had purchased, the price of it would be returned to us. The Evils of this I will not Enlarge upon. It is too Evident how quickly it must kill any ardor in collecting, to know that none of the fruits of your labor are for yourself. As to journals it is Evident that a man who would write a Confidential private one, for himself & friends, would write a very different one for Government.

June 10th This morning we made another attempt to get underway & succeeded better. We commenced beating out with a NE wind & Ebb tide. We reached Lynnhaven bay by Evening & anchored. What a dreary, unpicturesque bay is this, as in fact all the Chesapeake. Nothing but interminable sand beach & pines & not the slightest undulation. One is consoled however knowing that beneath these waters repose myriads of fine oysters. But when arriving from a long cruise how beautiful do these same pines & this same sand beach with the white lighthouse peering upwards, appear!
June 11th Saturday Got underway this morning & commenced working out. The tide turned before we could weather Cape Henry & the wind becoming light, it was not until noon that we made an offing and dismissed the pilot. The Vincennes, Jno. Hancock & Fen. Cooper were ahead & the Vincennes made signal to "come within hail" & hove to. As we came up we did the same in company with the other vessels, & the pretty pilot boat "Reindeer" which had accompanied us went from vessel to vessel and picked up the pilots. She was a nice man who had gone out to sea & come around with us to Norfolk. What with the passage & the few days we lay in Hampton Roads we had become quite friendly towards him. Althô a little "pilotty" he was a clever fellow & good pilot. His in his profession. His name was 'Skinner' - I was officer of the deck at the time we hove to & what with our first Evolutions in squadron, the leaving of the pilot, & the visit of a boat & officer from the flag ship, it was quite Exciting. As we ranged up to leeward of the flag ship, we took in royals flying jib & mainsail & backed the main topsail at the same

time. Considering everything it was well done. We all shook hands heartily with Skinner, who wished us all sorts of luck & pumped into his boat with lots of letters & the delinquent cat confined in a bag. The Master of the Vincennes boarded us with instructions for the Captain & left immediately. We made all sail & stood on. Shortly after, the signal was made to assume the "third order of sailing (peculiar to this squadron) & we proceeded on our way. I noticed that in bidding good bye to Skinner that immediately after, several of the officers blew their noses. Whether this was to avoid moist Eyes at parting with that Excellent pilot I know not, but if I Exhibited any feeling or Emotion it was from the conviction that it was severing the last tie that bound me to the United States. We have all been gloomy Enough. The fog which surrounds us seems to penetrate & as Mr. Jarndyce would say, "there is that east wind again," only ours has a little "nothing" in it — This Evening we are out of sight of the squadron, the fog being very dense. We are glad of it as it would be fine to beat the rest into port, especially as they look upon us as the poorest sailers of the squadron. Our Captains instructions are in case of parting company to proceed to Porto Praya in the Cape de Verdes & thence to the Cape of Good Hope & Batavia. I am in hopes we will not see the flag ship again as it is more satisfactory & to navigate alone. Besides we will avoid all the hove-to-ing incident to sailing in squadron.

June 12th. This morning we got a glimpse of a vessel to windward on the quarter. Tacked ship & stood for her, but the fog soon again hid her from our view & we went about again. About 10h the fog lifted again & the vessels were discovered astern.

We hove to to let them come up. It was quite pretty to see the Vincennes as she loomed out of the mist & came dashing along rising & falling on the swell. We were soon in our position & off again. This little accident has quite tickled us all as it has proved that "on a wind" we can beat the other ships. I am quite pleased with the behaviour of the little brig. She sails better than I anticipated & "works like a top".

June 17th. We are becalmed. We toss about upon the heaving sea our sails flapping & beating against the masts & rigging. I will not describe the unpleasantness of a calm, every one who has made a sea voyage is aware of it. We are well to the southward & only one or two days sail from Bermuda. We are out of the tracks for Porto Praya. Our vessel had she been alone would have been much further north, as she "lays much higher" than the Vincennes & is more weatherly. Boats have been lowered & we have communicated with the flag ship. Our Doctor went on board & he brings back the news, that we may go to Madeira. I hope so as that would be infinitely more interesting than Porto Praya. The scientific operations have commenced. Stein has got a net with which he catches all kinds of floating organic bodies, takes a drawing of them & the Doctor & Dreyer put their heads together & discover its "botanical name" as Stein persists in calling the Scientific names of all objects of nature. The Doctor is also in observing & reading portents, & in looking for dolphin was at first amusing to us who have seen such enquiries of them. Dreyer occasionally runs out on deck with his gun & endeavours to shoot some innocent gull, in hopes that he may catch, skin & stuff him. On such cases as in fact whenever he comes

about, he is followed closely by "Rip" & I often think of Doctor Caius in the merry wives of Windsor and his "Jack Rugby, follow my heel!" Stein takes pleasure in pulling Rip's tail, in these rambles, & looking away when Dorgan looks sharply around at the dog's cry.

June 19th At last we have got a breeze! How delightful! To add to our pleasure the flag ship telegraphed to the squadron that in case of our seperating which we were to avoid, we should proceed to Funchal, Madeira. We are all highly pleased and are now glad enough we did not lose the squadron in the fog. What a disappointment it would have been if when meeting again we found the rest had been to the "island of wine" while our recruiting had been done at that miserable place Porto Praya. The wind freshens and we dash along on our course. Yesterday we had a terrible "pow-wow". The "spirit room" which is barred & padlocked & under the eye of the "master at arms" was found broken open. Three petty officers, the highest in the ship, viz: the pursers steward, master-at-arms & boatswain's mate were found intoxicated, besides a man who was confined in irons & under the charge of the master at arms. The latter & his prisoner were terribly drunk. The captain was of course furious. Who the delinquent was (herein) who entered the "spirit room" no one knew, but certain it was that three who were there to guard it were the most drunk. There was a good deal of raving &c & the four confined hands & feet in irons & kept on bread and water for some days. Here now is an example of what I find fault with aboard here, partly caused by the present state of discipline in the navy. All offences are punished alike

negligence & offences which annoy personally those authorized to punish, are treated in the same manner as violations of the articles of war. Irons & cursing is the universal panacea. Minor offences are treated too severely, great ones not severely enough. But we have nothing severer than confinement. Well then make that the severest punishment by making it as disagreeable as possible & only using it in aggravated circumstances, and hunt up some milder punishment for trifling offences. This abusing, goading & worrying of men is most pernicious.

July 3d For the last two or three days we have had light baffling winds & have progressed but little. Nothing of moment has occurred. We have been plodding along in the dull unnatural routine of a sea life, growling, arguing, drinking and smoking. The sailor officers, Tiko, Dorgan & myself are discontented from the evils I have before mentioned. The captain is continually interfering on deck. Below is hardly ever below. He cannot act the captain. Working ship is his hobby & he is anything but liberary. Having no one to converse with in his cabin & not liking books, he has nothing to do but to poke about on deck. There is no expressing how annoying it is. And then we hear stories about how he used to get angry when captains interfered with him. There is one consolation however, however troubles us at night. The monotonousness of Pharaoh is unpleasant. From the time he takes the deck at 8 it is one continual hubbub & no one can sleep. He has an unfortunate way about him too, which is disagreeable. Our steward & servants are another cause of grumbling. They are anything but neat, very lazy & serve up the most detestable dishes. What do you think of cod

fish stewed with raisins! We have to console ourselves with poor Madeira & are trying to get rid of what we have so as to get a fresh supply of good in the island itself— As is usual in all messes that I have ever been in there are several topics of argument & they are nearly the same in all. They are "slavery & the merits of the north & south, navy & navy matters, women & religion. The first & last are the most exciting. With regard to the first there is only one man with northern principles in the mess, and that is the Doctor. In religion we are singularly divided. We stand in the following order. Catholic, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Unitarian, Deist & Atheist. Liley, Pharaoh, the Doctor, myself, Doozen & Stein——— The wind has almost died away and the Commodore has made signal for us to send any letters we may have ready to the "Jno. Hancock", which means that she is to steam up & go on ahead to Madeira. How I envy those lucky fellows who have the advantages of a propeller. I immediately rushed into my room & wrote a few hurried lines to father & mother & just got it ready in time to send it by the boat. It has been my intention to have letters ready in case we met with such sudden opportunities of sending home, but on this passage I have been continually busy. Nearly all the forenoon is taken up with my observations & preparations for noon, after I have handed in the results of my "sights" to the captain & marked the position of the ship on the chart, which is generally about half past 12 or 1 o'cl. Dinner comes very shortly. Then one day I have to go on deck & relieve & at four comes other observations

which occupy me until half past four & not long after "quarters" break in upon us. Afterwards until evening is about all the leisure time I have. I have six books to keep or look out for. That is there are six books in which I have writing to do. Besides all this I have a regular watch. ~~every eight hours~~ I will be glad if I am made an acting lieutenant as then watch keeping will be my only legitimate occupation.

July 4th "The day we celebrate". Luckily the weather is fine & the wind light & boats can pass to & fro. About noon the captain & some of the mess went on board the flag ship to a collation. I could not go, as I was obliged to take my ~~observ~~ infernal observations. They returned about two or three & with some of the Vincennes' officers & we had dinner in our mess. ~~With~~ With the assistance of the captain's steward we managed to get up a tolerable meal. Some of the Vincennes' brought some good wine & cigars with them happily, or we would not have had that necessary equal ~~with~~ to it. We went off very well & at sundown our guests returned to their ship. On these anniversaries we often look back & think where we were the previous one. On the last fourth, I was a day sail from New York on my way to Charleston in the "Crawford" with Lt. Maffitt. I must say I was happier. Let me see, the year before. I was at a grand picnic in Dayton Ohio. I certainly was much happier— no, I don't know that I was, for I was ridiculously in love, and "she" was away.

July 6th We have again got a fair wind and are dashing finely along. We passed about two hundred miles to the southward of the Azores & now being well to the northward the trades are fair for us. Thank heavens we will soon be in. I don't know when I have been so anxious to get into port. I long for some fruit & a ramble ashore.

July 8th about two in the afternoon discovered the island of Madeira on the lee bow. On account of the hazy atmosphere we did not see it until we were within twenty miles. It can be seen in clear weather seventy or eighty. It is high & precipitous. Pico Ruivo is 6000 feet above the level of the sea. As we approached the outlines became more distinct and soon we could make out the green patches & the cottages on the sides of the mountains. We were all wishing ourselves inhabitants of some of them living the happy lives of mountaineers. But I have no doubt I would get heartily tired of it in two weeks. As we sailed along the veritable "south side" the marks of cultivation became more apparent & the sun set leaving us becalmed under the lee of the island. For the last two days I have felt unwell & this evening I could hardly stand my watch out. I went to bed with a burning fever. The Doctor is quite attentive —

July 9th This morning after beating about for an hour or so we succeeded in coming to anchor in the roadstead of Funchal. I was too sick to get up & take a look but the Doctor came in & reported everything as fast as he was struck with anything new. It was quite amusing as he has never

been to a foreign place before. It was not long before there were plenty of strangers aboard. Runners soliciting the patronage for their houses, washerwomen & boatmen &c. The Doctor was particularly struck with the runners as he came in & told me that there were any respectable looking individuals in boats around the ship who touched their hats whenever he looked at them. My first inquiry was for fruit, which was soon brought & I dined with pears, apricots, peaches, bananas, plums &c &c. rather largely for a sick man but the Doctor did not object & it did me good. Stein was very enthusiastic & kept urging me to come out & take a look. He said "it was immense fine". Towards evening I did manage to get out. The view was very striking and magnificent. Before me rose abruptly high mountains, the tops amid the clouds & upon the sides & in the gorges hundreds of pretty little cottages & houses surrounded by luxuriant foliage. The combination of colours was beautiful. At the foot lay the town of Funchal, houses rising above each other built in the spanish & portuguese style with their red tiled roofs & their variegated 'stuccoed' walls. On the left with the 'Loo rock' rose abruptly some hundred feet, perfectly perpendicular sides & on its summit a fort with the Portuguese flag waving over it. Another fort high up back of the town assisted in the picture & still another one on the right, by the water. Here & there amid the houses, were masses of foliage indicating fine gardens. In the anchorage were several vessels besides our own

& the peculiar boats of the inhabitants pulling to & fro.

Our captain went ashore immediately & called on our consul Mr. March. In the Evening the Doctor, Doozen & Stein went on shore and as the doctor said merely to take a little stroll & look at the place. "Oh, yes, very well said I, I lay a wager you are not back at midnight" He scouted the idea, & could not see what would induce him to remain. He did not return till late the next day. Stein & Doozen came on board about one in the morning, talking very loud & fast. Stein groped to my room door & asked "where old angles was" but I pretended to be sound asleep as I knew if he got "on a yarn" he would not soon stop. The next morning however I received a full and detailed account of their visit to Funchal. Everything was new to Stein & the doctor & therefore amusing & interesting. Doozen had been there often before & he was very calm & quiet about it.

From the 10th to 18th the next day our captain returned from a second visit to the consuls and brought me an invitation from the latter to go there & live at his house. The Captain had mentioned my name among his officers to the consul & that he believed I had said I was a relation of his. "Oh yes, said Mr. March "I have a cousin Mr. Francis Carnes of Boston & I suppose he is his kin" & when he heard I was unwell insisted upon my taking up my quarters either at his town house or his "quinta" but said I would be rather lonesome at the latter. The captain urged me to go. & I mustered up all my strength & started ashore with Siley. I had a letter of introduction from father to Mr. March & had intended to present it when I got well. The landing at Funchal is upon a dark stony beach

upon which the surf breaks & it is bad for the ships' boats, but there are plenty of the natives' boats who are ready to take you from your ship & land you in perfect safety & completely dry. The Madeira boats are curious & unlike any I have seen before. They are generally sharp at both ends & the stern & stem pieces continue upward some two or three feet above the level of the gunwale. They are round bottomed with three keels which, the moment they are hauled up prevents their "bilging", that is inclining to one side or the other. As you approach, the oarsmen turn their boat stern on to the beach so as they can face it, not on account of presenting the sharpest end to the surf (as both are equally so) and two of the 4 multitude of jabbering men on shore, plunge in up to their waists, and as the roller carries the boat rapidly on, they seize her by the gunwale & with loud cries, run her up high & dry, as well as their passengers. You recompense the boatmen with a small piece of money & then make the best of your way through the mass of beggars. These assailed us from the moment of putting our foot upon the shore & we were so occupied with wending our way amongst them that we could hardly examine the scene around. The usual amount of beggars is vastly increased by the failure of the wine crop last & in fact this season, which has deprived many of their only means of sustenance. Old men, young men, boys, women & children assail you at every step with the most piteous exclamations. But singular to relate American officers are their particular 'butts.' If I could have gone ashore

in citizens I could have been freed from these annoyances.
We passed from the beach into a short street or avenue
paved as are all the streets in Funchal, with small round
stones, and completely shaded by magnificent trees. On the
left was the Governor's mansion & barracks & on the right a
block of houses among which is the reading room, a nice cool
place & scene fronting the water. A few steps took us from be-
neath the pleasant shade of the trees & into an plaza, in shape
a parallelogram, & in the middle of which runs an "alemeda"
or walk, raised a little above the level of the street & shaded
by trees, but smaller, fewer & farther between, than those
of the avenue we had just left. We turned to the left, & op-
posite one End of the alemeda we passed through a gate
into Mr. March's grounds. The gateway was besieged by beg-
gars & old women selling baskets, tidy's, coarse lace work
&c. A neatly paved walk led up to his door & on either side
were luxuriant plants. I noticed a tree which had been re-
trained in its growth by weights & had spread laterally form-
ing a shady bower. Mr. March received me very kindly
told me a room was prepared for me & that he had ob-
tained permission for me to remain with him as long as
our vessel was in port. I thanked him for his kindness &
took advantage of his Easy ottomans to rest myself
after my walk, which though short had fatigued me.
I found Captain Ringgold & the captain of the U.S. Brig Perry
domiciliated there as indeed are generally all captains
of our men of war while in Funchal. The house is a large
one with plenty of rooms ready for the reception of visitors

& the table is set every day for a dozen or more - Mr. March
I should suppose was about Mr. Nat. Carnes' age. He is a little
below the middle height & has a quick Eye & manner. He has a
way of turning his head when addressed which reminds
me of father. His address is frank, a little blunt & appears
very generous. He is undoubtedly very hospitable. Mr. March never
sleeps in his town house and is carried every Evening in a
palanquin to his quinta about a mile distant.
In the afternoon being invigorated by an excellent dinner and a glass
of delightful wine, I accepted Captain Ringgold's invitation to
take a short ride on horseback to the villa of an old acquaintance
of his. Our horses were at the door in the cool of the afternoon
& we started off, accompanied each of us, by a man or boy, who
no matter at what rate we went was always behind
or at the side of the horse, urging him on or brushing off the flies.
They are generally dressed in the native costume, which differs
from the other Spanish & portuguese dress most particularly in the
cap which is a small blue skull cap sitting on the back of
the head, apparently by atmospheric pressure only, and from
the apex of which stands up a tuft of the same material & about
six inches long. These "bourriquerros" are the most persevering
attendants I ever saw, & when you go at a gallop they
hang on to the horses tail & they fly along on the tips
of their toes. I took a ride one day fourteen miles alto-
gether, & much of the time I galloped, but my atta che never
left me. — On our way to the villa we passed along the
most beautiful steep & narrow streets without sidewalks
with pretty, neat & different colored houses. Every now & then

we would pass some magnificent gardens, & everything betokened care & attention. the streets were very clean. No gutters offended the eye, they being subterraneous. As we passed along I got a glimpse into the cemetary, through the neat iron fence, & it was beautifully & tastefully arranged, with all variety of plants & flowers & tall, waving, sombre poplars. We passed over a very pretty stone bridge in excellent order, which led across a deep ravine at the bottom of which flowed a little rivulet & the banks were dotted with white Dresses lately washed linen spread out to dry. The precipitous sides of the ravine were thickly covered with foliage. At last we arrived at the gate of a villa & entering the gate we Dismounted & found the lady of the house looking through the paling of a large poultry yard in which were all variety of fowls & of the choicest breeds. She received us graciously & after showing us her magnificent garden we Entered the house. She was a fine looking woman & when young must have been very handsome. The house was very tastily & handsomely arranged, with fine airy parlors on the ground floor - after a short visit & having partaken of some wine & fruit we departed. Our ride back was pleasanter still, and we went leisurely along admiring the beautiful scenery around us. On our return I strolled out into the streets & found my way to a french hotel where the officers of the squadron generally made their head quarters. The only modes of conveyance in Funchal are by sledges & palanquins, besides of course horses. there are two kinds of sledges, one for carrying load another for passengers. Both are drawn

by oxen & the former is merely a thick strip of plank slightly grooved out & fastened on to two wooden runners & attached to the oxen by a wooden tongue & leathern thong. The latter are more like our sleighs, with cushioned seats & a light top & curtains. They slide easily along on the smooth even pavement & with little bells attached jingle merrily along. There are no wheeled vehicles of any description. I saw principally in the streets soldiers & beggars. there are always many of both about, Especially in the neighborhood in which I walked as the barracks, custom house, & landing are near at hand to say nothing of two or three cafés, where ices & wine are to be had. I saw no women in the street except beggars & basket sellers, all of which are generally old & ugly. In fact all the females you meet in the street or country are mostly of that description & therefore some travellers, who jump at conclusions, pronounce all the women of Madeira ugly. But I saw many pretty faces, but never out doors. Yes, I did one day, as I was riding up the mountain, there were two quite pretty young girls seated near the gate of a little garden engaged sewing, & dressed in the costume of the peasants & lower orders & very neatly. the little blue tailed cap, the same as worn by the men, but more carefully made, set jauntily on the head, armed which flowed their black hair, & over their shoulders a blue cape with a little white collar. Their skirts of their dress was of common material & striped longitudinally with different colors. They smiled as I bid them good day & in expending showed a pretty set of teeth -

The poverty of the lower classes is extreme, increased by the cause I have mentioned, at this present time. The authorities known of private individuals employ many, of course at extremely low wages, in keeping the streets & public works in repair. We shipped several in our squadron, more out of charity than anything else & principally as servants, stewards or cooks. Thank heavens, Spontano, the barber of Palermo, has been discharged & at his own request too & we have an excellent steward & in his place besides a good cook — Doozen who has a habit of eating at dinner with half his body under the table & sinking according to its excellence; now gradually disappears, and as Stein said one day at dessert "it is like ze setting of ze sun, the deener must be com-mence fine. We will have to haul him up again to get hels coffee!" — But I believe I have not returned to Mr. Marchi yet. I soon did so, and enjoyed a good night's rest after the fatigues of my first day in Funchal. Pretty good I think for a sick man — What a delightful breakfast we had the next morning, with figs, strawberries, bananas &c &c. How much better I was & except feeling still a little feeble I was perfectly recruited — I spent the rest of my time in Funchal seeing the lions, strolling about and trying to enjoy myself, in which I succeeded very well. One morning I took a walk up to the convent del Encarnação. One of the innumerous boys always at hand ready to act as guides showed me the way. We trudged up the streets, which are exceedingly uncomfortable to walk on, until my feet were quite sore & I was very

glad when we reached their convent. I walked into a small court yard & up under a stone portico with a stair-case on my left leading to the reception room & an aperture in the wall before me in which revolved a cylindrical box with partitions, as in the figure by means of which articles passed to & from the inmates without their being seen. As I walked into the portico an elderly female who was at the whirligig passing something in, ejaculated out in Portuguese that an American officer was there who wished to buy "feather flowers". You must know that the nuns employ themselves making artificial flowers with feathers and little boxes of shell, both of which they sell at good prices. But my object was not to purchase flowers or boxes. I had heard that a pretty nun came occasionally to sell their articles, and I wished to see her. A voice answered the elderly female who had announced my arrival and I was motioned up the staircase on my left. I entered a room with whitewashed walls & floor & on one side was a grated aperture about four feet square & to the right of which was just such a 'whirligig' as there was below. I seated myself in a wooden chair near the grate and awaited the appearance of some one. "Ha! there she comes!" as I saw a female in black approach with a close fitting black cap edged with white which came down in a point over the forehead & lying between the Eyes. But it was an aged & wrinkled nun who wished me good day & I grow-lingly asked for some specimens of her handiwork. Soon some tolerably well made feather flowers were passed to me by the 'whirligig', none of which, of course

dusted. After hunting considerably to gain time going for some time, at last Anna Batista (such was the name of the pretty nun) appeared. I was not disappointed. She was very pretty. Italian & I believe well born, her skin was delicate and fair, her eyes soft, her nose straight & mouth small. Her voice was low & sweet & she was slightly, though well formed. Anna Batista spoke french tolerably well, & separated by the cold hearted iron bars we conversed for an hour or so. She was intelligent and spoke well. altho' she occasionally laughed, there was a melancholy tone in all she said, which of course rendered her more interesting & was in accordance with her position and gloomy dress. She asked if I was a good Catholic & not receiving a satisfactory answer I received a mild & sweet religious lecture. She spoke sensibly & liberally. The outrageous old maid all this time sat close by & tho' she could not understand a word (she was eminently Portuguese) persisted in remaining. After a while I rose and looking at some flowers brought by Anna Batista, of course purchased some. While I was examining a lot, she slipped out & presently returned with a very pretty bouquet of natural flowers which she gracefully presented through the bars with an amiable remark. I reluctantly said good bye, & thus ended my (first) visit to the convent del Encarnaçao.

The next place I went to see was the church of Nostra Senhora del Monte, which was situated about two thousand feet over my head. From the bay you see its two steeples or turrets peering out from among masses of

trees, & with occasionally a mountain mist around it. The road is steep and winding, but is lined on either side with beautiful houses & gardens. Part of the way leads along the edge of a romantic gorge & when near the church, we passed through a dense wood. At every turn almost we had a magnificent view of the town & bay beneath us. It was charming. Having arrived at our destination we strolled around, besieged by hordes of beggars, all eager for charity & to show you the church. The latter is only tolerable, being much inferior to many others I have seen. One beggarly guides took us right up on to the altar & showed us the candlesticks &c, which they said are silver, as if it had been a mantel piece. From the turrets we had another fine view & then started to descend. We had dismissed our horses & engaged one of the half dozen sledges with boys ready to transport passengers down the mountain. These sledges are very light & made of basket work. A small line on either side & one behind each held by a boy serve to guide it & hold back in its rapid descent. The boys fly along with it & are very skilful in its management & at times one pushes behind & the other side on the runners, making the fire fly, & then the speed is almost equal to that of a locomotive. The road is paved all the way like the streets of Funchal & is very steep. There were several of us at the time & what with the rapidity of our descent, the cries of the boys & our own to each other, it was intensely exci-

ting. We were landed on the outskirts of the town & some asked in a cart I preferred waiting for my horses to come down & avoiding the trudge— The Governor gave a ball to us ~~this~~ a day or two after our arrival. There were some thirty of our officers & we all met at Mr. Marchi's glittering in full uniform, from thence we walked over to the Governor's mansion & as we ~~were~~ Entered the court yard the band struck up "Hail Columbia". We marched two & two through the spacious rooms, the head of the file I suppose looking for the Governor, Suddenly the head stopped. The rear trod on the heels of each other heels, we saw we were in a room full of ladies & we scattered as if a shell had Exploded in our midst. Dancing soon commenced & much to my delight I saw what I did not expect to see again during our cruise the delightful Polka, and danced as it ought to be, not in the "Edibacte style" as I call it which is practised in all small places in the United States & which consists in holding the lady half a mile off with the tips of your fingers. Never shall I forget my horror when, waltzing with a pudsick young woman of North Carolina, she asked me "not to take her so far 'round". Thinking she meant not to go around the room, I held her more firmly in order to diminish my circuit & she stopped short declaring she could not waltz with me! The ball went off very well. The rooms are large & well lighted, the music good & some of the women pretty. Refreshments were abundant. It broke up about three or four in the morning.

We all felt pretty tired the next day & did a vast amount of sleeping. I kept quiet all day long & spent the Evening at Mr. Marchi's. Happening to be near the whist table, I took one one's place & found myself playing with an old Portugese Colonel who had served in the Peninsular war, & against two old padres. I mean he played against them not that the Colonel fought against them. These three old fellows met every evening nearly, drink Mr. Marchi's Excellent tea & bet his toast & play till twelve & one. I supposed I would rather be a bore, attempting to play with such Experienced ones, but my partner did me the honor to tell Mr. Marchi in Portuguese that I played very well & better than any american officer he had met there. I suppose I returned his lead on all occasions. We are two or three Rubbers & retired— Many of our officers went to see the Carral, a magnificent valley shut in by high & almost perpendicular mountains. They all spoke Enthusiastically of it and described the view as magnificent. But altho I was anxious to go, I did not feel strong Enough to undertake such a ride, nearly fifteen miles and back. The most I attempted was a visit to Camera de Lobos a village about seven miles from Funchal & around which are the most splendid views. The village itself is Exceedingly picturesque. Our ride there & back was delightful. All the way every foot of nearly, of the country, was cultivated & we passed many species of fruit trees, flowers, vines &c &c. We passed many peasants at their work, all of whom begged from us. We returned by a different road & descended into the

town still over fine clean roads & amid luxuriant vegetation. I saw several pretty faces peering at us from the windows — Another fine ride is along the sea shore over the bluffs, or what is called the "Sea Road". This is as beautiful as the rest —

July 18th Alas the time has arrived for departure. I have enjoyed myself mightily, and am sorry to leave. I had formed a poor idea of Funchal from what I had read of it, but how differently people see things! — The "Lucy Hancock" sailed a day or two after our arrival, for Porto Praya where she expects to meet the Lucy P. Kennedy. We are going to heave to off that place & let them come out to us, ~~but I~~ at least that is what they say, but I would not be at all surprised if we were to anchor. I think Capt. Ringgold wishes to create an impression that he is in a terrible hurry to get to his work. About ten in the morning we got underway & the two vessels stood out of the anchorage. We did not get into the regular N.E. trade winds until in the afternoon, when we were clear of the land. The high peaks of Madeira fade from our sight and we ~~sail~~ bid adieu to its pleasant shores

July 19th We sailed along nicely last night and to day, urged on by the fresh North East trades. At 5 we discovered the island of "Palma" the most western of the "Canary bird Islands" as "Stein" calls them. Like all the islands around here it is high and precipitous. When we got abreast of it the wind freshened to a young gale and the swell was tremendous. I have never yet experienced anything like the rolling which our little Cy indulged in on this occasion. Towards night, or as we got under the lee of the island the wind died away & left a fearful sea. It would break sometimes as if we were on a shoal.

July 20th We did not get out of the "Doldrums" occasioned by being under the lee of "Palma" until about 10 this morning. Then we got the trades again and dashed along on our course.

22d We had a little excitement to day. During my watch the Vincennes suddenly took in all studding sails, brought by the wind & went about. We followed her motions of course, and so quickly that we were almost on top of her before she gathered headway on the other tack. This was owing to the immense hurry and fidget of the Captain who seems to think that if he doesn't get excited and "raise the devil" that everything will go wrong. If I had tacked when he wanted me to, I believe we would have run into the flag ship. After standing on a little, during which we were convo-

turning what was the matter, the Vincennes were around and she had hardly put her helm up before the Captain roared out to me from the forecastle to do the same. The consequence was that we passed under the Vincennes stern and came around to leeward of her within half an length. Great was the consternation of Ringgold, and our Captain was subsequently blown up sky high for it — The Vincennes then hove to and lowered a boat & we saw the cause of all this fuss, the trunk of a palm tree, covered with barnacles. Great was the field open to the naturalist — "Polywogs" innumerable were found — This was one of the occasions upon which the great fault of our Captain was made manifest, a perfect want of self control. I believe fully that before the cruise is up I will have learned to be a cool man, merely from seeing the Evil effects of being the opposite —

28th Last Evening being abreast of the northern islands of the Cape de Verde group, signal was made to spread & keep open order during the night. After dark a night signal was made, but like all other night signals that I ever saw nobody understood it and everyone disagreed as to its meaning. We were obliged to go within hail and be told what to do. It meant to "go ahead and sound" ~~or~~ in other words order that if there were any danger we might go ashore instead of the flag ship —

About 1 we discovered the island of Mayo and at 3 that of St. Iago. at 7 we anchored off the town of "Porto Praya". The appearance of the town is pretty. It is situated on a high bluff and some distance inland the ground rises gradually into high peaks until it is lost to view among the clouds under the name of Mt. San Antonio. The hills are barren and with the exception of a grove of bananas, cocoa nuts &c to the right of the town there is but little green to relieve the eye —

29th During my morning watch, a large American frigate hove around the point & stood off and on the harbor. She showed the "Constitution's" number — After having communicated with the shore she stood out to sea. Shortly after breakfast I & Stein went ashore with the Captain — We landed in the surf and were carried to a dry place on the backs of half naked negroes. We then commenced the ascent of the bluff to the town — Heavens what a miserable place. The sun poured down upon us with scorching heat & the dusty stuff we had blinded us with. Having reached the top we found ourselves in a second or so in the midst of a hot, dusty dirty square pratably styled "the Plaza". I cannot imagine some how or other that Plaza means a "place" or square. The former always reminds one of a palace, a garden, a band of music & pretty "señoritas", while the latter is associated in my mind with mud, bricks, iron railings, grass, Croton water & children. This plaza had nothing of either. The

houses around it are of the commonest kind of Spanish architecture, and the only thing in it besides its layer of dust an inch thick is a small column of dirty plaster on the top of which are two iron hoops crossed. What the deuce it means I don't know. Somebody said something about a monument with a crown on it but I suppose he alluded to something else. Around this mysterious structure were about a dozen jackasses with paniers, all in a brown study — Diagonally across the square, we saw over a door the "american turkey" turkey buzzard" & we walked into the house of the american Consul, whom we did not see. Thence we adjourned through a filthy alley to a house in the upper room of which we actually saw two or three of the Vincennes' officers Eating! after chatting, somebody said "Claret" & it appeared from an adjoining bed room. We sat there for some time trying to cool off and I had an opportunity to look around one — We were in, I afterwards learned, in "Gilberts Hotel"; that is we were in the parlor of the house of a woolly headed negro who could get up a meal for you & sell wines. He had a tolerably good looking Portuguese wife who bustled around a good deal and let herself be seen. Mr. Gilbert took pains to let us know she was his wife, by having little conjugal billings & cooings in our presence. Having been sufficiently amused and cooled off

the captain and I strolled out to get hot again & we actually roamed around one or two streets in the dust to have a look at the place. Negroes, negroes, hovels, hovels, dust, dust, sun, sun — Disgusted we returned to the Consuls where with a few others we played "vingt-et-un" until nearly time to go off. Another visit to Gilberts where we met Capt. Ringgold, and then having viewed our squadron from the bluff we bade adieu to the most miserable place I ever was in. Down at the landing was a prodigious uproar, caused by one or two ship's boats Endeavoring to tow off some a lighter load of water amid the frantic jabbering of a dozen negroes — A little farther on was one boat with two of the crew very drunk and fighting — Dozen was standing on the beach looking piteously at them with his game bag over his shoulders & gun in hand. He had come on shore to have "a little bird murder" and had been endeavoring to pacify the inebriated crew, seperated from them by the surf — At last by our united efforts we got off, not however before the negro also was carrying Dozen, missed his footing (accidently of course) & ducked the "ornithologist" up to his neck —

Having got one or two turkeys and some limes the squadron sailed in the afternoon, and once more we were upon the briny.

when not on watch or eating is generally buried in his room, writing or sleeping. Occasionally he & Tidy give us a little music & cause Stein and I to go raving distracted by playing Polkas &c &c which makes us feel the outrageous solitude of our life — But as I said, this has been broken in upon. One morning the following placard appeared pasted up in a conspicuous part of the ward room —

TREMENDOUS EXCITEMENT !!

"Herr Stein

having heard of the benighted state of the inhabitants of

Porposia

takes pleasure in announcing that he has engaged suitable rooms in that village and will exhibit to the intelligent villagers a series of dramatic entertainments which in splendor and in instructiveness are unequalled on this globe. These amusing entertainments have been patronized by all the

Crowned heads

of

Europe!

and have so delighted his Royal highness Prince Albert & her Majesty Queen Victoria, that Herr Stein is known at St. James' by the affectionate name of

"Old Krout"

He takes pleasure in adding that he has secured the services of the celebrated performers

Señores Doozen and Tidey !!!

the former of whom is unequalled on the flute and attends the last moments of all the cows in his native land. These magnificent musicians will discuss delightful music during the evening.

Herr Stein's friend and associate in the

"Old French War"

Mons. Carné has kindly volunteered his services and will Exhibit his unrivalled

"Ombres Chinoises"

Herr Stein hopes that the inhabitants of Porposia will keep cool, & appreciate his efforts to redeem them from a state of barbarism.

The first performance will be on Saturday Eve. Aug 13th. Programmes will be issued the day previous.

☞ Efficient 'Darkies' will be in attendance to preserve order, lemonade and 'hard tack'

☞ No dogs admitted under any pretence

Of course this stirred up the mess & even the Egyptian was seen to read it & smile. The Captain injured his liver. In due time the programme was issued as appears on the next page.

It was a fine night — As we approached the Cape crowds of "Cape Pigeons" & Albatross made their appearance & followed in our wake. Then commenced the "fishery" for them. Dozen was assiduous — as well as the Doctor. Horrible "botanical names" as Stein says, were bandied about & Cuvier, Milne &c &c were quoted. Their efforts were rewarded & Dozen commenced his labours as "taxidermist" Indian meal, arsenic, cotton & horrible anatomical looking instruments, were strewed around, to say nothing of the insides of the unfortunate birds, all to the secret annoyance of the Captain, who found it hard to let his old man-of-war notions succumb to Science. Our poor chief is continually struggling with his old fogy notions and tries very hard to adapt himself to the present school. It is amusing to see how he oscillates between the two.

Sept. 13th So day at noon we were 147 miles from the Cape of Good Hope. We have made but little progress, the wind being light and ahead —

14th Distant 94 miles at noon. Usual excitement about approaching land — A nice breeze sprang up about meridian from the S.W. & before long we were under all sail gliding along about as fast as the old big can go, that is about 9 knots. We passed an American ship, bound to New York from Batavia. How I wish I could have been in her!

Toward Evening the wind freshened, and by eight o'clock it had increased to a moderate gale. I calculated that we would be about twenty miles distant by twelve o'clock, from the Cape, when it would be prudent to heave to and wait for daylight. Of course the Captain acquiesced. In nine cases out of ten, captains take the advice of their masters for, if they do not they have to shoulder all responsibility in case of accident, and most men like to share it. By eleven it blowed so hard that the vessel was brought to under close reefed maintopsail, and by twelve we had a regular "nor-wester". This was the first gale during the passage that we had — and we all felt curious as to the ship's behaviour. She merits all the encomiums bestowed on her as a sea-boat. A better I have never seen. She rides like a duck or tub, as she is. But as for comfort in our apartments, Good heavens was the Doctor & Stein — blessed! Such 'larching' & such a flying about of dishes, chairs, clothes &c &c. "It was out-rageous." At meals, above all, to leeward might as well be in a treadmill for they have to keep clambering up to the table. Stein having that position, puts on a "mackintosh" & chalks the soles of his boots in order to keep his comp &c &c of his clothes & to preserve his footing.

At daylight, high land was seen

to the N.E. & E. of us, which afterwards proved to be the Cape. The gale continuing & we there being a tremendous sea, we could not make sail—

16th The gale did not abate until two this morning. Sail was then made & we stood in for the land. When we made it, we found we had been drifted to the S.E. We have been all this day creeping along, the wind being light & the weather thick. During the night we stood off and on.

17th Early this morning, the weather being clear we discovered the Entrance to False Bay, formed by the Cape of Good Hope on one side & Cape Hanglip on the other, bearing North from us and distant twenty four miles— We kept away & made sail, a nice breeze blowing from the S.E. As we approached, the captain got my nerves about a sunken rock in the bay & altho' I had the greatest confidence about piloting her in (another of the masters duties), I had some difficulty in assuring him— We got passed all safe however and then he was much pleased. about to come alongside, but before we got in to the anchorage of Simon's Bay and a man boarded us calling himself a pilot & offering to show us the anchorage— We accepted his services gladly altho' he had come after the ~~ship~~ was past— The first Enquiries were for the other

vessels, and to the Captains disgust, he heard that the Vincennes, Kennedy & Cooper were in The store ship of course to expected to be in but he had hopes of beating the other two. I had said all along the Vincennes would arrive before us but I had hopes myself of getting in before the schooner. But she gained an advantage by doing wrong, for she made the land to the northward of the Cape whereas she ought to have done as we did, for South East gales prevail at this season & a strong current sets along to the N.d By chance it blowed from the opposite direction and when it moderated she found herself opposite her port and slipped in. If she had been one or two days behind hand she would have got a South Easter & would have been as the steamer afterwards was, three days beating a distance of 40 miles— the latter vessel did not get in for a week or so after all fun. We had commenced to be anxious, for as a steamer she should certainly have been in before She is a miserable affair.

Simon's Bay is a cove within False Bay, the latter being formed by the peninsula, ending in the Cape of Good Hope, on the west side, & the continent on the East. On the N.d north side of the neck connecting the peninsula with the

main lies Table bay, and Cape Town - Table Bay is an unsafe anchorage at this season, & besides, Simon's bay being an English Naval Depot offers greater facilities for refitting, & and these reasons induced us to come here - The relative positions of the places will be better understood by this little sketch.

Simons town is a picturesque little place, being situated at the foot of hills about 3,000 ft. high, whose sides are covered with profusions of wild flowers, offering to the botanist almost an inexhaustible field for his researches. To the right of the town is a deep gorge down which leaps a pretty cascade, & on the left a small battery frowns over the waters of the cove - the houses are built on a bluff and consist of two hotels, stables, shops & — a few

residences - But the principal part of the place is taken up by the dock yard & buildings, admirals house, barracks &c. We found two or three English men-of-war at anchor & during our stay we became acquainted with & exchanged civilities with many British army & navy officers - Some of them are nice fellows but as a whole they are very anything but refined & the brutal part of our natures predominates in them to a remarkable degree. I must say that as gentlemen they are much inferior to us & the French - I say so without prejudice and sincerely - Debauchery is their forte - Not dissipation, but reveling - Repairs commenced the immediately - We found many defects in our brig & many were the blessings received by the people of the Navy Yard in N. S. for fitting us out as they did - The idea of our government sending out an Exploring Expedition & two of the vessels having to refit in a foreign port & only a few months out! The Kennedy's foremast was found to be rotten & had to be taken out. She had several leaks, much of our rigging was bad & had to be replaced, & had to be caulked all over & in order to stop the leaks, the bowsprit had to be removed - There were besides many little jobs about the vessel & the rudder had to be unshipped to repair the casing - Capt. Ringgold raised a good deal at first & well he might. Much

time has been lost by these defects — The workmen here are devilish slow coaches too — As soon as Capt.n Ringgold got in a better humor he commenced his series of diplomatic dinners — I cannot say that his course has as far been a judicious one. He shows a great deal of temper and is exceedingly pettish. He lives entirely for show and indeed carries his ideas of nicety, & trimmers, to a degree I have never seen equalled. The consequence is, every one is on a comfortable pad and dissaffection has crept into the squadron & on every side growls are heard. I am afraid of the consequences to the Expedition — After having been in one of his pets he tries to smooth it over by dinners & familiar slaps on the back and condescending smiles — Every one is blown up sky high and then he thinks a kind remark remedies it all. He will find out his mistake before the cruise is over —

We had been some days at anchor before I went ashore — It didn't get to be the fashion for the first week or so. Gradually however more and more officers would be sent & towards the last we all, nearly, were ashore every other day or so that we could go. My desire at first was to go to Cape Town but the officers of the Kennedy said it cost so much & you saw so little that it was not worth the while. How differently people see things! At last I determined I would go. How glad am I now that I did! I would not have missed it for anything.

I had some compunctions at first about my own keeping my watch as Pharaoh's arduous duties prevent his any one keeping his own in port. He knew I wanted to go, but never offered to relieve me. At last I determined to get leave for 48 hrs. & and then he would be obliged to take my watch —

So one morning, having made my preparations, off I started in the market boat for the shore — How exhilarated I felt after the confinement of a fifty days passage! The weather was fine, quite an unusual thing here at this season as it either blowing a gale from the S.E. or rain & squalls from the N.W. — By walking a short distance I arrived at the "Fountain Inn" from which the mail starts for Cape Town every morning at 7 o'clock. I was a little early and calling for a cup of coffee I conversed with the fat landlord on the subject of the colony, the road, prices, statistics & statistics generally, and then watched the progress of hitching the horses to the vehicle. The team consisted of four very meagre looking Rosinantes, the vehicle was a Cape Cart on two wheels & the driver was a good natured, old little Scotchman with a round hat — Peter was quite a character and I immediately formed his acquaintance, took my seat beside him & used him all the way except at the stopping places, when he seemed to think I was a "jolly fellow" — My fellow passengers consisted of an Englishman, a captain in the Dutch navy and a fine woman, who unfortunately was very ugly and took up a deal of room — The conversation was animated all the way except once when the interesting female

declared her intention of puling unwell, which however was fortunately nipped in the ~~bud~~ bud by the arrival at the post house – The jolting was unpleasant at first – I conversed occasionally with the Dutchman in execrable French & discovered that he commanded a schooner then at anchor in Simm's bay & was on his return to Holland after an absence of some five years in the East Indies. From Peter I got posted on the various localities, on the people &c. The road at first is sandy as it runs along the beach for some seven or Eight miles, but our lean looking cattle did their duty well & Peter did not spare the whip – We soon reached the head of the bay and passed along the foot of Muyzenberg, where lies Kalk Bay or the "Brighton of the Cape" – Here I observed a singular thing, fences made of whale bones, and hedges composed alternately of brush wood & the ribs of whales. It appeared, according to Peter, that there are many fishermen who along the bay continually on the look out for these fish & that they make a regular business of catching them. Be one that as many as thirty of a season had been caught. Leaving Kalk Bay the road was no longer sandy but became hard & firm and Equal, if not superior to any of our macadamized turnpikes, not having their painful glare & dust – On turning the foot of Muyzenburg the Table Mountain & Devil's Peak burst on our view. You have often heard of the former – but you can have no idea of its peculiar

and grand appearance. Perfectly flat on top, with perpendicular sides its resemblance to a table is striking & when previous to & during a South easter, hard, white clouds roll over its summit you can well understand that the natives should say "the Old woman is spreading her table cloth." What is singular is you hardly ever see clouds in any other part of the sky at this time – On our right as we rode along was the "neck" before alluded to, a sandy plain, with a little brush, a few windmills & houses – Beyond this rose the blue mountains of the interior – Having arrived at the End of team no. one journey we all got out & stretched our legs (I beg the unwell lady's pardon – I of course Except her). On our left were the estates of Constantia where the celebrated wine of that name is made. They were distant some miles but looked pretty, the houses Embowered in trees – Peter having harnessed his new horses, which looked much worse than the first, although he assured me they were his fastest, we again started – The road became better as we advanced & it was not long before I found myself passing as it were through a garden. I have never seen any thing to equal its beauty – The finest trees, shaded the road for miles, while continually we would pass long avenues leading to picturesque Cottages – The road became well filled too with foot labourers &c passing by and frequent other vehicles –

we passed through the village of Wynberg consisting of the prettiest residences and ~~now~~ town glimpses of the frowning sides of Devils Peak, were caught every now & then through the foliage — I was delighted —
Turning the base of a hill at the foot of the "Peak", we came upon a slight Eminence from which we got a view of Cape Town — Its appearance was pleasing — Behind it towered the heights of Table mountain Devils' Peak, & the Lions head & rump. Before it lay the bay with many vessels & agitated ~~not~~ by a strong breeze, altho' we felt it not where we were — The town itself is built in a mixed style of Spanish, Dutch & English architecture. The streets are paved, but have no side walks — the houses are generally flat roofed & plastered in different colors. But then an occasional spire, white & unmistakably English reminds you of the possessors — We trotted along and the evidences of its being an English place soon increased. Signs announced taverns, coaches loaded with outsiders, such as you see in English pictures, passed by us, mostly on their way to Wynberg and its vicinities, and an occasional policeman in his blue uniform stalked by — We passed the market place to our right & the parade ground and the barracks on our left and shortly after arrived at the coach office, having come a distance of twenty three miles in three hours and a quarter. But a few doors off was the hotel to which the

"Kennedy's" had recommended me, the Masonic. Here I found the purser, doctor & master of the Vaticanus in the middle of a nice breakfast in their parlor & seating myself beside them emulated their good example — My arrival caused an exclamation of "why, when did you leave Simons Bay?" & much to their envy found how short a time I had been on the road — They had hired a private conveyance the night previous, had broken down and had been all night on the road. They had had a horrible time — We soon sallied out to see what was to be seen. Shopping was the first thing to be attended to — Sailors, booksellers, jewellers, grocers, all were visited in turn — then came the bath, the hairdresser &c. We found all very good, if I may except the bookstores. Only two and a very thin stock of light reading which was what most of us did not want, of course, in our Scientific Expedition. I was amused to see "Uncle Tom's Cabin" staring me in the face in all sorts of bindings. It seemed as if one half the books were copies of it. I forgot to mention that we payed our respects to the american Consul — We found a hard featured down-Easter, not over polished, but kind and well meaning. He has gained respect here from his honest, steady, go-ahead-ness. He was formerly a "merchant captain" trading to this coast. Of course he invited us to dinner — Some of the party went

As I strolled about I noted one or two fine looking houses, but generally there is nothing imposing in the style of building and Except the cottages in the Environs, not even pretty - Near the parade ground & facing Adderley street, the principal thourough-fare, is the Custom House, Reading room & Assembly room in one building. The reading room & library is a very respectable one - Opposite is a stand of cabs. Half a crown an hour is their price - We amused ourselves until tired and returned to our hotel - How much more comfortable is this English style of keeping hotels than our own. How queer must it seem to an Englishman to live at one of ours for the first time! But if the comforts of the table & parlor are greater than with us I cannot say as much for the bed rooms. At least in Cape Town, how much it is the type of corresponding places in England I know not - A short time before dinner I took a stroll towards the botanical gardens, only a short distance from our hotel - I Entered a magnificent avenue of English oaks, in which were many loungers. Seats "occurred" at short intervals. On my right was the botanical garden, quite a fine one, kept by subscription, & on my left the Governor's house and grounds. I walked on slowly looking at

occasional pretty faces as they passed me. After all give me an American, English or French girl. I have read and heard a great deal of your dark eyed, languishing brunettes of Spanish & Portuguese countries. I have seen some - But there ~~is nothing~~ are none like the vivacious maidens of northern latetudes - Those here are in South latitude of course & in Africa a ~~place~~ country, which is associated with the idea of heat. But Cape Town is in 34 S and even while I was here in the Evening I found an overcoat comfortable. Many of the people are English born, some Dutch, others descended from both, while the mass ~~is~~ of ~~people~~ the lower population is made up of a mixture of the races already mentioned with Hottentots and Malays. Nearly all speak Dutch. But back to our muttons. I noticed one face which pleased me much - It belonged to A well formed, well dressed girl with an elderly gentleman. They were seated on a bench as I passed by. I looked back, and they had risen and were walking towards the garden gate. I was there before them and not being stopped by the sentry as I passed him I attempted to walk through the gateway, but a surly looking gardener objected to my further ~~progress~~ progress, as I had no ticket. I said I was a stranger but he said he did not know that and at any rate no one was admitted without a ticket, when the band was

playing. I was walking away in disgust, when the elderly gentleman and the pretty girl came up. They had overheard the latter part of the keepers answer. I saw the girl say something to the gentleman & both speak to the man, who then came out a few steps and said I might Enter. Under any other circumstances I would have seen him— I would not have done it. But curiosity or a desire to see more of my mediators prompted me to go in. I was pleased with the garden, more with the band and still more at seeing the unknown fair one several time. She pleased my fancy more and more and at last I may say that I found myself lost to the beauties of the rare plants around me and to the strains of the music, and "working thoroughly" as Jack says to meet my new acquaintance if I may call her so, althó' nothing had been said. At last our meetings became more than accidental, and I fancied that the last time I detected a look which was neither a blush nor a smile. I roamed around some time longer but they had gone— I found my way back to the Masonic where I did justice to a good dinner in company with my officer friends of the morning.

I spent the Evening quietly at home, and being very fatigued retired early— I dreamed that I was capsized in the mail cart and buried beneath my fellow passengers of the morning, not Excepting the interesting female, and when on the point of being smothered

was extricated by my pretty friend of the botanical gardens. The next day on rising (it must have been rather late) I found that our Doctor and some other officers of the squadron had arrived in the mail. This was hailed with pleasure by me, as the more the merrier, and my friends of the day previous were "slow" and married, althó' clever (Am.) fellows. It is strange how glad people are to meet, who in a strange place, who have been associated together, notwithstanding in my case, I had seen them all but a day or two before. I acted the old resident, and we had a delightful day. We met a party of English naval officers at a billiard room, who like us were up on a visit. An acquaintance in "pool" immediately commenced and we became very sociable. They were very complimentary about a variety of american subjects; one in particular by the 1st lieutenant of a sloop of war, who had been in the "Gulf" station during our war with Mexico. He was quite Enthusiastic on some things & especially about our clippers. In fact they all knew as much if not more about the names of our fastest ships and their passages than I did. We came very near having a difficulty however at one time from the excited state of one of our party who had been too much in the sun, and who was extremely American & imagined that it was necessary to have a row because our new acquaintances were with this exception Englishmen— The day passed off very pleasantly. I made one or two unsuccessful attempts to index yet time

one to accompany me to the Observatory (the spot of Sir Jno Herschels labours) situated a mile or two out of town. I also ~~upon~~ proposed attempted a ride back of the town in a gorge betwen Table mountain & the Lion's Head, called the "Kloof", but no one seemed inclined to go, and in fact I did not care particularly about ~~as~~ it myself, ~~and~~ having done it as a matter of duty, for these places form a portion of the sights — I took another walk in the gardens this Evening with one or two of my friends. There were not so many people there as the day before because there was no music, ~~but~~ and my eye searched in vain for the person who interested me so the previous ~~day before~~ Evening — Disappointed I sauntered back to the Marona where I consoled myself with my companions over our comfortable meal. ~~That Evening~~ But the grand event of my visit was to come! I thought when I left Southampton that I was exiling myself from the Polka & Polka Redowa for four long years. It was with a bitter pang that I brooded over my melancholy fate. I was delighted at having a slight taste in Funchal. My pedal appendages throbbed at the sound of the Governors Excellent ~~band~~ music. But when our anchor was torn from its hold of the soil of Madeira I was certain the last link that bound me to the Polka was severed — Thanks heavens it was not so! I was to be blessed once more on the shores of Africa! Who would have thought it!

We went to a "hop". The music was very good, consisting of some thirteen players. So my card it was glorious. The time was excellent & so was the choice of ~~airs~~ pieces. I became so excited on Entering the room, that it was with difficulty I could restrain myself from seizing some one & whirling off — I went about it calmly however with the aid of one of the Committee and I danced until I was really obliged to sink upon a seat — For five hours I did not miss a single piece. I was making up for loss of opportunity of the future. But I have not said who it was I danced the most with. Why my fair friend of the botanical gardens, of course. She was then much to my delight. I was soon introduced. Her name was Lizzie Evans. Not a bad name I thought. It sounded sweetly to my infernally marine ears. A nice girl was Lizzie — Smart, lively and pretty — I can assure you our acquaintance did not cease with the "hop". The elderly gentleman was her father, an amiable Englishman. He was kind enough to invite me to visit him which I did not neglect to do the very next day. He ~~then~~ explained me the garden gate affair. Said his daughter attracted his attention to my position and that she was certain I was an american officer. I had no uniform on, but they knew there were some ~~americans~~ of us in town. Evans was a subscriber. I thanked him — What an outrageous bore it is to be limited as to time! My leave was up the next day and back I must go. Why was I not independent of such trammels. I raised a little. At two P.m. the mail start for Simons Bay,

and slowly and reluctantly I clambered in alongside of Peter again. But this time there were several of "us". Some had cigars and "pocket pistols", there were none but mates in the cart, and so we drove dull care away, and I forgot I was returning to bondage — We sang many songs, ~~and~~ and kicked up generally, much to the danger of old Green, the apoplectic keeper of the British Hotel in Simons Town, who Bagstock like every time he laughed, induced a fit of coughing, fearful to behold — He survived the ride however. We drove in at a dashing rate, passed the lounging place of the officers waiting for the sundown boats & scattering Malay Children & two Bull sailors right and left, we brought up with a crash & whoa — before the "Fountain". I was shortly after on board the Porpoise and at 4 asm. was readered painfully aware of it by having to turn out & keep the morning watch. Such is a naval life. Of course everything was horribly dreary and dull for two or three days and I raved a little about the unnatural life I was leading &c — The brig was upside down and looked more wretched than any hulk. Keeping watch is very disgusting after having been ashore some time and I found it particularly so in this harbor. I will not enlarge upon the inutility of the strictness observed by the "new broom" commanders in this expedition. It is a topic upon which I could never stop — Stein was wild when I gave him an account of my trip and was for rushing off

immediately. But poor fellow his work all comes upon him in port. Knyvett has had much work for his draughtsmen in preparing charts, diagrams &c and Stein is busy, ashore all the time. So he says he likes it better than being on board — His tastes & mine agree exactly — Give him a small tract of Earth & something fresh to Eat & he is happy. This is his first experience in a sea life and there are his tastes now. He abominates salt water. So would any man of ordinary culture. If persons commenced a sea faring life ~~at~~ between 20 & thirty there would be but few sailors, except ~~unless persons~~ such as were driven to it by necessity. But the worst of it is, they commence going when the brain is full of infernal (I think a stronger expletive) romantic notions & when the body can bear up against & not receive impressions from the unnatural modes of living —— Stein flies about on shore from the office to Mother Green's (the British Hotel), drinks "immense ale" in the absence of "lager beer" and talks to the baker's daughter — I wished much to have a trip to Cape Town with him as I enjoy his company much, he is so full of humor, so fond of amusement & so persevering in sight-seeing — He and the Doctor I find of course the most companionable as they are the single men of the mess. Drozen is single in the usual acceptation of the term, but he is married to ornithology and music. He has de-

voted himself to the former in this port. A more
persevering man in this science cannot live. It has become
a monomania with him and it is painful to see
any one so completely absorbed as he is in the study.
Every thing is viewed in an ornithological sense. If a day
is fine, "what a fine weather for shooting" is his re-
mark. Wilson, Cuvier, Swainson & others only lived
for him. Corpulent and somewhat lazy he nevertheless, right after a morning watch, trudges off with
his gun & is gone all day among the hills. In the
evening he buries himself in his room & works till
midnight preparing the skins of the victims of his
days work. The Captain looks on him with pity
and with the eye of that ancient band of sea dogs
who think that any one who is not ~~like~~ wedded
to ropes, tar, & naval traditions is little better
than a witch. I made it a point to go ashore on all opportunities, even if merely to
take a walk. But I generally found plenty to
amuse me even in Simon's Bay. I shall always
look back with pleasure to our sojourn there.
To be sure there was nothing in itself very attractive
when compared with the amusements of other places,
but I don't know what it was, about the place, I
enjoyed myself. There was Mother Green's, where
there was always an agreeable set from our squad-
ron. Mother Green herself was a study.
A large, stately, very theatrical English woman

— who bordering on to fifty put on the simpering
airs of a young girl. Poor old apoplectic Green her
husband was amusing with his continual sallies to
keep off boys. "It was more amusing than "Janet, Don
Keys?" Two exceedingly nice men boarded here with
whom I became quite friendly — Buyskes & Von Hunteten
will are names which I will long remember with as as-
sociated with many pleasant, merry scenes. The first
was a young handsome fellow, descended from a Dutch
family who also occupied high stations in the old Colony.
The latter was a German merchant Captain who was on his way
home after a voyage in the East Indies. He had been in
the "Bremen fleet" that abortive attempt of the German
confederacy, at a navy. Another lodging place was
Anderson's the vice consul. His store and room overhead
was ~~always~~ never empty and just before sundown there
was generally a large number of officers standing about
the door watching the boats coming from the vessels.
The Fountain althis a second class house was occasionally
frequented for variety, especially because the mail stopped there.
There was a pleasant walk out towards the grave yard,
and a rustic climb to the cascade. Horses & carriages
were to be hired and we frequently took a trip up the
road. Isley and myself rode on horseback one afternoon to "Kalk
Bay" stopped there about five minutes, and were
back in an hour and a quarter. It is seven miles
from Simon's Town.

One day G— n of the "Han

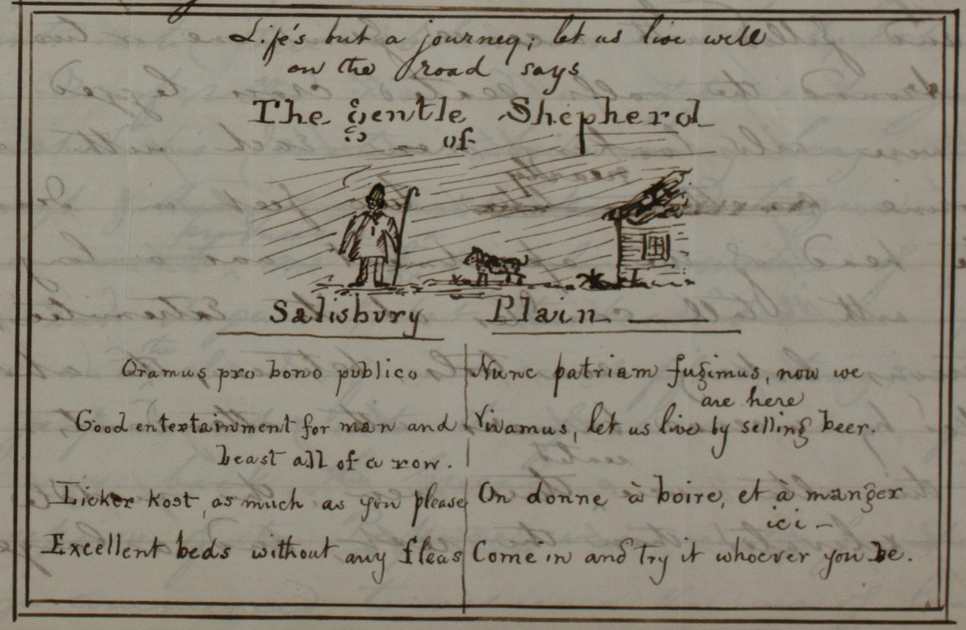
cock came down from Cape Town and announced an assembly ball to be given at which we were all invited — (I — was a lover of the Polka & the author of a book of poems. altho I knew him slightly before I had never an opportunity of discovering what a remarkably pleasant man he was.) He urged me to go, but I did not like to "rise in" Pharaoh again as I was afraid of the consequences to his health. But Riley insisted upon taking my watch & used such arguments that I accepted. When it came to the time however Pharaoh relieved him. How then I was once more going to Cape Town! how delightful! This time the Doctor accompanied me, and as there were several going from the other ships we promised ourselves a nice trip. The usual time found us behind Peter and the meagre team and we trotted off through the awakening village passing by the picturesque carts with their long horned teams, consisting sometimes ten yoke to one waggon, and large droves of the big tailed sheep of the Cape. But much of our anticipated fun of the trip was marred by a "wet blanket" personage in the shape of an English naval Doctor who was made sick by the tobacco smoke and never laughed at a joke. It is wonderful how one man can thus affect the spirits of a whole party. The ride was as pleasant outside

as before and at the usual time I once more found Table mountain towering above me. I enjoyed the views & the scenery this time better than I did before. I looked upon things more calmly, and besides had what is so satisfactory at such a time a companion, (the Doctor) who enjoyed everything as much as I did & coincided in my tastes. About noon there was quite a collection of our officers at the Masons and as the Ball was to be that evening. Most of them roamed around as before, and amused themselves variously. I paid a visit to Miss Evans. I found her gracious and entertaining. But my visit was partly spoiled by the entrance of a Lieut. Warren of the 78th who eyed me in the most singular manner. Of course we were all constrained and reserved from that moment, but I blessed my lucky star when the red coat rose to leave. We were all invited out to dine with a very kind citizen (a Mr. Eager) and from there we were to go to the ball. I came in to the hotel too late to go. As to the ball that was out of the question for me as I had no uniform with me and all the rest were going in full rig. I had no means of bringing mine up with me as the only valise in the box (mine) had been walked off with by the "barber of Palermo"

Breakfast was served somewhere between the hours of 12 & 1 the next day and we chatted (I interrogatively of course) over the ball —

They were mostly pleased. They were treated with proper attention & principally by the officers of the garrison who formed a large part of the assemblage.— Some were ~~not~~ disappointed and told me I had lost nothing. I was certain I had not. Nearly all returned to "the bay" that day, but myself, the Doctor, G— n & Mr— of the "Hancock" remained. We were all too fond of the shore not to take advantage of our two days leave. We went to another "hop" and enjoyed ourselves mightily. Lizzie Evans was there again— The next day was the one for returning and determined to make the most of it we ~~have~~ hired a baroueche & four. It was a fine turn out. The horses were spirited & fast, we had a driver and the day before us. It may appear Extravagant, but we determined to Enjoy ourselves and see Constantia. It only cost us a guinea a-piece! The drive to the estate of Mr. Colyn was magnificent— the day was Exceedingly fine we were in grand spirits and a very roomy comfortable vehicle We stopped every where to see everything— On our arrival at Constantia were were politely received and Entertained— Everything was beautiful to us. We roamed around the garden picking bouquets of (tea's) the ~~x~~ rarest flowers, such as Camelia Japonicas &c we were shown the wine cellar, so called because it was above

ground, with its long rows of casks, hard plastered floor and thatched roof— At one end was a table and chairs, where being seated we enjoyed the coolness of the place and wrote our names in the large book, while in the mean time a negro handed us glasses of the choicest wine and a nice sweet biscuit to munch afterwards— Having Expressed our gratitude for the Kindness shown us we took our leave & dashed off through the splendid avenues in our carriage— The rest of the road was gone over quickly as tho it is deficient in interest compared with what we had passed. But we laughed & joked & smoked and Americanlike Enjoyed placing our pedal appendages in Elevated positions. We stopped at Farmer Peek's and drank some ale and also laughed at the following sign which hung over the door —



In one of the apartments we found an assemblage of malay workmen seated around a table. We caused beer to be brought to them and they favored us with wild fantastic chants & songs. But we hurried off so as to get in by sundown and exhibit our turn out to the admiring gaze of our fellow officers before the Anderson's. We dashed in in grand style, our driver understanding our wishes, and the reeking horses were brought up before the "Fountain" ——

This was my last trip to Cape Town. During the remainder of our stay when I was not on duty I was at home and it was then that I passed the pleasant hours before alluded to. One Evening I went with some friend to witness a species of religious ceremony of the Malays. It was out of town and when we arrived we found our way through a crowd of dark beings into a room overpoweringly hot and filled with incensed from one or two burners. Around the walls seated cross legged on mats were wild looking men each with a tambourine nearly two feet in diameter. At the head of the apartment was a long low bench with tall candles at its Extremities, and mysterious looking iron tools between, the whole flanked by incensed burners with attendants. Behind this altar were seated three men, the middle one more elevated than the rest, and a large

book, inscribed with strange characters, open before him. The whole were chanting a wild, doleful melody, keeping time with the tambourines and led by the man with the book. In the centre of the room a powerful looking Malay, bare to the waist and his long dark hair flying about was dancing and writhing to the strange music, and, with one of the sharp pointed iron tools already mentioned, in each hand, would apparently inflict upon himself most painful wounds. Suddenly up darted a hideous little dwarf, who flung himself on his knees before the altar and seizing a pair of the instruments of torture keeped with the air and commenced the same repulsive ceremony. Now and then the chant would burst out loudly and the dancers would become frantic in their writhings, leaping into the air and plunging the points into their abdomens. Nearly Exhausted the dwarf rolled around in apparent agony & finished his decorations by running long needles through & through his cheeks and tongue. The scene produced in me a singular mixture of fascination and disgust, but the heat became oppressive and the clouds of incense suffocating, so we groped out into the fresh air and found our way back to Green's.

The repairs of the Porpoise were nearly finished and things commenced to assume the air of leaving.

The slowness of the workmen was to our Captain & Ringgold very annoying. I never saw anything like it. The prices too were tremendous. In fact we found Everything very dear, Especially marketing, altho' Everything was in abundance. I shall remember the excellent butter, unrivalled mutton, and delicious oranges of the Cape a long while. Everything could be procured but we had to pay for it — At last on the the Hancock and schooner sailed. The latter had been the admiration of the foreigners and Every one was up to see her off, while the band of the Englist flag ship played some of our national airs — The steamer and Cooper go to Batavia and have some work about the seas in the neighborhood. The Kennedy goes there also. The Vincennes and our brig, go to Macao, around the Eastern side of Australia. Examining the routes between the ports of the latter country and China. The Captain's orders, are after dwelling upon the importance of the routes ~~between~~ already mentioned to our increasing trade in that quarter and a little "buckrum" about our Enterprising countrymen &c, are so worded that if we hurry over the work & neglect anything our commander can be blown up, or if we pay too much attention to our duties

and arrive in Macao too late, he can also be blamed. Our poor chief is therefore in a quandary and his temperament is such that it causes him inconceivable anxiety. The old fashion of sealed orders to be opened in such a latitude is carried out by the commodore. We all ridiculed it at first but I can see now that it was to prevent being teased by Embarrassing questions — The route we are to pursue and the duties to perform are as follows: after running across the Indian Ocean between the parallels of 35° & 40° South we are to pass into the Pacific Ocean through Bass straits or South of New Zealand according to circumstances, and then to run North off the East coast of Australia between the meridians of 153° & 160° East, sighting all that we can the Reefs, shoals & islands in our way, and ascertaining their position — This part of the ocean has been called the "Coral Sea" from the multitudes of reefs in it & its dangerous character — after having sighted Sandy Island, the Eastern point of the Louisiade Archipelago, our course is still to the northward between the Solomon Islands and New Britain passing to the East the Pacific between the islands of New Ireland

and Bouka. In this part of our route we are to visit some harbour and replenish our stock of wood and water. Thence we go to the westward and Enter "Dampiers strait" between the island of New Guinea and Waigeou a channel frequently adopted by vessels taking what is called the Eastern passage to China. Having examined this strait we passed out again into the Pacific through the Gillolo passage & Examining some islands & shoals in our way make a straight wake for Macao, which place we are Expected to reach by the 10th of February — Captain Rongold himself Expects to be there by the 1st of the same month. our orders require that we should be there if possible by that time as we are to proceed down the China sea before the change of the N. E. monsoon which occurs in April. As I said before the orders lay great stress on the performance of the work & at the same time we are required to be in Macao with a certain time, about 90 days from the time we sailed, two things which are incompatible with Each other as we will see. The Vincennes is to go across the Indian ocean more to the south than we and to pass to the Eastward

New Caledonia

On the 9th of November the Vincennes, the Kennedy and our brig, after having been five days under sailing orders, during which intercourse with the shore is prohibited, got underway from our anchorage & commenced working out of False Bay — During these five days it blew very hard from the S. E. and as we could not go ashore we were much annoyed by it & were anxious to be off — By the time we were clear of False Bay we were hurried along by a strong Easterly wind, the Kennedy soon walked ahead of us & the Vincennes, and by Evening we were all out of sight of each other —

The passage across the Indian ocean was cheerless, the weather being at times quite cold and we were obliged to have to in a gale. For a long time we had strong westerly winds and for several days ran off two hundred miles. This was good for our little tub. ~~Could~~ Flocks of Cape Pigeons and Albatross followed in our wake, amusing Dozen & the Doctor. But the rough weather & outrageous rolling of our vessels kept our spirits down and we had no amusements of any consequence. One day we had a little Excitement

by the Dispensary catching fire. Either was the cause there was a little rushing & howling and calling for water & blankets, and it was soon put out. Our excitable Commander also has commenced to work himself into the most fearful states of apprehension & nervousness thought when he heard the noise that a mutiny had occurred. — With this Exception we had nothing to interest us. And now before I proceed farther, I must make a few remarks to explain what would otherwise appear as Egotism. As this is only read by my relations whom I hoped know my character, I have less hesitation in speaking as I will. In this letter I wish to relate Everything that I can, unvarnished and as it has impressed me and to do so the word I must necessarily frequently occur; but from the situation in which I am placed on board here it must occur more frequently than might appear necessary. In others this fault has always appeared disgusting to me and I am very much afraid of creating the same impression in others. This will be sufficient to insure that no one but my immediate relations will have an opportunity of approving or disapproving my narrative.

The navigation of this vessel has been placed in my hands and I have had uncontrolled and untrammelled authority in it. So be sure often the captain has had some idea which has conflicted with mine, but after a little argument I have always had my way. This "little argument" however I wish to be remembered. It is natural that the part of navigation which consists in determining the position of the vessel should be intrusted to me as I am past from the papers where I have been drilled in it. But the shaping of the course & various other items have also been left to me. No one but myself has had a certain in this hand but Except to play with it, or while surveying. It will also be thought that I speak unkindly of some on board & especially the Captain. I cannot help it. I must do so or else give up my present plan of writing entirely. The other officers of the vessel have tacitly approved of the Captains reliance in me for they have never meddled & have taken directions from me frequently when the Captain did not wish to be disturbed. All this is very gratifying undoubtedly but it has caused me many unpleasant moments from the dread of appearing to take advantage of my position —

But to go on— The Captain desired to go to the South-
ward of Van Diemans land, which is the longest
and most boisterous passage— I wanted to go
through Bass straits, because it is shorter
and more pleasant— But the Captain is un-
greatly afraid of land & responsibility— His
imagination is easily excited & he works
himself into fearful states of nervousness by
reading & talking about "shipwrecks & disasters at
sea" He is easily affected by dreams & omens.
Now what can be more provoking than all
this to us— What can be more out of place
in the commander of an Exploring vessel?
But by dint of a little talking & citing of an-
cient writers the Captain determined to go through
Bass straits, but it weighed on him like
an incubus & he seemed like a lamb being
led to the slaughter— On the Evening of the
22 of December about six o'clock my reck-
oning placed the vessel about twenty miles
from the entrance of Bass straits and in 50
fathoms water. It was too far to see the
Kings Island to the northern End of which
we had to pass, but the lead was just over
immediately & sure enough there was just
fifty fathoms. You can have some idea
of the perfection to which navigation has

reached when you consider that in this case
we had come six thousand miles without
seeing any land— whatever & on Examining the
chart to find we ought to have had
dropping the lead over forgot it &c.
We Kept on & Entered the straits during the
night. This straits which as you know is
formed by the south part of Australia & the
north of Van Diemans land, are about 120 miles
long and at both ends has plenty of water between
islands and rocks— Hence is no greater dan-
ger in passing through than the ordinary risks
of navigation— The next morning we got
a fine breeze— and made the islands by noon
we flew by them under a press of canvas so as
to get through by before night, which we suc-
ceeded in doing for we passed the last
island, upon which there is a fine lighthouse,
about ten in the Evening— So the great bug-
bear was passed. All the islands we saw
were barren rocks and very dreary looking.
We had a fine run from thence to Lord-
Howes Island the first of the series we had
to Examine. It is about 3.000 feet high &
uninhabited. Some miles from it is a remarkable
rock nearly 2.000 feet in height. We next
sighted in succession Middleton, Elizabeth,

Cato, Kenn & Bampton reefs, the Low
isles and on the 12th January were off
Cape Deliverance. During all this time the
state of the captain was unenviable. No
sleep during the night & horrible dreams
during his day naps.
A proper nautical reconnaissance or "running
survey" requires that the islands, coast or
reefs surveyed should if possible be outlined &
the latitudes & longitude of the principal points
ascertained, as well as heights of mountains,
& everything that can be done for navigation consistent with
good progress. For navigation - Now because
in his instructions he was directed to sight
these places our Captain wanted to obey
literally & do nothing but look at them!
When not near these places he cattered
largely but as soon as they were seen he
wanted to keep as far off as possible &
go away immediately. The captain himself
could not take the direction of the surveying
Branch & Dozen said they were unable to,
& Riley altho' knowing more than the rest
about it, gave in to me who had studied
it & had some little experience in it. Now
as I was never ordered to take the direc-
tion as I should have been, but Every one

tacitly did what I aimed, the whole thing fell on
me. One day the captain remarked, "since you
have assumed the direction do just as you
please, whatever you want shall be done". But
the pleasure of it was that I wanted to, as much
as the other Expeditions have done & sometimes
ordinary cruizing vessels & he wanted to literally
sight these places & no more! So it was one
continued battle. If anything has been done
of any use, it was done by dint of almost great
fretting. To give you an idea of what practical
labor is connected with a mere "running Survey"
&c, "I will cite" what was done between Lord
Howe's Island & daylight about 4 a.m. I
was stirred out, as the islands were in sight.
From that moment until 4 P.M. I was not
off the deck except at breakfast & dinner
& every half hour or so taking observations
assisted by Stein, who was sketching on
paper occasionally when my pencil & the others
and lending a hand in after 4 P.M. when I was
passed by the island, I should have gone to
bed and worked out as many observations
as possible. I however took a short nap
& then commenced the top of this I kept the
first watch, from 8 to mid night. Every
day from the moment we commenced I

since been busy working out— the rest have hardly any thing to do except Stein who is busy with the charts— And yet nothing has been said to me about relieving me from watch— When we go into port however I & a dozen of myself have to go in three watches because Pharaoh is Encased—

Cape Deliverance is the most eastern point of Rossel Island, itself the most eastern of a chain of islands and reefs running from New Guinea— All the islands are very fertile and covered with trees among which the cocoa nut is prominent. Most of them are inhabited by a race of savages very similar to the Negro. They are known by the distinctive name of Papuans. They have woolly heads, dark skins, & are warlike & treacherous.... Rossel island was the first one of the famed intertropical Pacific islands that I have seen— And it did not disappoint me. We sailed pretty close to it & by the help of a glass could make out the beauties of the wild vegetation very distinctly. The centre of the island rose about 3,000 feet from the sea & from its summit to the water's edge was one mass of magnificent foliage. No beach intervened. Even between the trees & the water & from the clear smooth sea to the fleecy clouds, all was green— We knew before that the island was inhabited, but we were rendered certain

of it by curling wreaths of blue smoke rising from among groves of cocoa nuts. We were all very anxious to go nearer & let a boat go in & trade for fruits, but the Captain would not do it. We were tired after having been to sea as we had to be so near abundance of fruit of the most refreshing kind and sail away without a smell. In all the narratives that I have read of the different Expeditions fitted out by the English & French Governments & even in that of ours, I have found that it was customary whenever near an island, reef, or coast, to land a boat or boats and discover everything that could be useful to navigation, geography or general science. Natives are always interesting and everything that is added to the stock of knowledge concerning their habits and language is valuable— But the massacre of ten officers & by the wild cannibals of the Fiejee islands in our former Expedition, of which our Captain was a member, had rendered him cautious in the Extreme. To this may be added the continued perusal of a book containing annual newspaper accounts of murders, massacres &c by savage islanders, and an overwhelming sense of responsibility— These combined causes have produced an effect, most detrimental to the objects of

the Expedition, injurious to the captain and annoying to ourselves. For two or three days we were in sight of the islands owing to calms and light winds, so that delay to our progress could not be urged. Yet we went away knowing as more of this part of the Louisiade Archipelago than of the interior of Ethiopia, if we except its latitude and longitude which I obtained. I should like to have had the outline of the shore &c but could not, for altho' as far as words were concerned one could think I had unlimited power, yet to practise it would involve tedious explanations & arguments, leaving the questioner as wise as he was before, all of which is to me annoyance beyond measure. Naturally hasty in such controversies I had to labour not to give offence—

We crept along amid calms, light airs and squalls, and by the help of occasional favorable currents succeeded in reaching Port Praslin at the South end of New Ireland on the 21st Inst. I had long before selected this as the best place for us to water at. Indeed it was the only harbour near our route except those in Australia, which however we were forbidden to go into unless absolutely necessary— I had recommended Port Praslin to the captain, shown him the accounts of it and he agreed with me

entirely. The passage between Cape Deliverance & this place was undoubtedly the most tedious & trying in the whole passage. We had been about 80 days out & were getting short of water, so much so that we were put on a daily allowance of 5 pints per man. The thermometer was above 100 day & night and in the middle of the day sometimes 100— Many of our stores had given out & the men's grog, tea & sugar & other of their luxuries were gone. To be sure we had one of that fearful rubbing & potatoing that we had in the Indian Ocean & which rendered all hands so miserable, for the sea was smooth as a mirror. We suffered a great deal and were all anxious enough to reach some anchorage & fill ourselves with cool fresh water— At last one morning we discovered the high land of Tombara (the native name for New Ireland) but unfortunately the wind came out strong from the eastward and we had to beat all day to reach our anchorage. It was very tedious & annoying especially to me as the nervousness of the captain required me on deck nearly all the time— We had a good chart of the place, made by the French Captain Duperrey, and like all these Pacific islands there are no hidden outlying dangers— Yet one would have supposed we were in the most

intricate navigation. The captain too was terribly nervous about the natives for some of the accounts said they were not to be trusted. What of that, every one knows what a savage is. The idea of a land armed vessel caring about miserable negroes. Cook when he had any troubles from their stealing too much generally dispersed them by judicious loads of pepper & salt. You would hardly believe that the captain made this remark to one, "would it not be too bad if the natives would not let us water." !! About an hour before sundown the last tack allowed us to lay in. As we approached the shore assumed a more beautiful aspect. The anchorage which we were steering for was in a sheltered little cove, with which was almost entirely land-locked and could not be seen until close to. We rounded a point and in a minute with the head way that we had after the sails were taken in let go the anchor and once more found ourselves near the blessed shore. The water being so deep very near the shore, we were only two hundred yards or so off. The view around us was charming beyond description. The hills rose some hundred feet above us & were one dense mass of the most splendid trees down to the water's edge.

Never before had I seen anything to equal it the noise of one chain rattling out startled myriads of birds of splendid plumage, and the woods seemed filled with their twitterings and screams. Dorgan was for some moments out of his mind. Of course we were anxious to push on shore, I suggesting that we ought to find the watering place. But the Captain would not hear to it asserting that it was too late & that it would be time enough in the morning. "Besides who knows what number of natives there may be lurking around, ready to attack the first party." Shortly after when twilight was about fading away the woods suddenly resounded with a wild whoop and on the little strip of beach astern of the vessel, and three dark naked beings trotted down in full view. The indistinctness of objects made them appear like beau ideals of savages to our excited visions. Every glass in the vessel was put in requisition. The natives appeared delighted. They danced about & tore off green boughs & waved them at us. Some of us waved white handkerchiefs in return. Two more presently appeared bearing burdens which looked like cocoanuts. But darkness soon rendered them invisible. The Captain Expressed great regret at seeing them saying he had hoped he would not be troubled with any. We were all pleased.

At 8 a musket was fired to inspire them with awe and seven men stationed in different parts of the vessel with loaded carbines to keep watch during the night. all the arms were prepared & the Egyptian commanded the brass 12 pounders mounted aft in their places early in the morning. The captain gave orders that a boat should land in the morning in charge of myself & every one should be armed with carbines and cutlasses. Another boat should be lowered & kept in readiness to send to our assistance if necessary. Dooyen & the Doctor asked to accompany me, with ornithological views, which was granted but injunctions given to be well armed. The Egyptian of course went off watch the moment the anchor was dropped. He was a very overrated poor fellow. He had done nothing, literally nothing except keep his regular watch at sea. That very day that we anchored I had been unceasingly on my legs from 4. am. until 9 P.M. except at very short time at meals. It was one continued strain on my nerves too, for I had to be answering questions, plotting positions, taking sights, explaining charts, keeping watch & piloting the vessel. I then had to turn out again for the morning watch

at 4. Had Pharaoh kept a watch, as any the most selfish, inhuman officers, that I have ever been with before would have done, I would have had the whole night for rest. Should it have so happened that I had had the middle or first watches I would have been obliged to keep it. I enlarge on these things in order that any future conduct of mine may be explained.

The natives built a fire on the beach and having danced in the light of it for our amusement went to their primitive beds. Early in the morning the armed Expedition put off from the vessel. The Captain was up & gazing anxiously from the poop. We pulled towards the point that formed the cove & then slowly followed the shore back looking for indications of fresh water. As soon as the natives saw us approaching they gave a shout & came running towards us. I have no doubt the excitement on board was intense, notwithstanding that there were nine of us armed overloaded with the most deadly weapons of civilized warfare, and there were five savages naked as the day they were born and completely unarmed. Our landing was effected without resistance and the leading savage timidly approached & shaked hands. He appeared alarmed at our warlike appearance. We attempted to

pantomime the word water when to our astonishment this extremely wild & ferocious islander said, "water - good - oh - yes." & led the way to a nice pond a few feet back from the beach which contained excellent water. Having gained this point we turned to Examine our new acquaintances. They were above about the middle size, and very much like negroes as they appear in their native wilds. They were however different both in clor & cast of features. Some had aquiline noses & were lighter in clor while others would have the flat nose & black Ebony like skin. all had woolly hair, some colored red with a pigment which they have & others white with lime while one had his hair in its natural state. their only dress consisted of small pieces of wood stuck through the lobes of their ears & their nostrils. One had an axe which he used for cutting wood & this was the only thing like a weapon which they had. They understood many English words and on questioning them we found that many vessels visited the harbor for wood and water. The village in which they lived was on the other side of the cape and about five miles distant. Having satisfied ourselves as to the most convenient place for watering we returned on board and took one of the natives with us. They were all

anxious to "see chiefee" but we could not take more in the boat. Two swam off to us, but during our stay we found them less fond of the water than we expected tho' they were very Expert Swimmers. More natives came around that day bringing cocoa nuts, bananas, yams, taro and pieces of tortoise shell. They were very cunning in trading and appeared accustomed to it. Chewing tobacco, gaudy handkerchiefs & knives were the great article of demand. Old things they rejected with contempt. At night they bivouacked near the beach under rude huts which had been built there before. We continued our cautious system and made preparations that would have sufficed in time of war with a civilized nation, and when we were expecting to be cut off by numerous boats. We had only about ten or twelve savages in the harbor all that day they were puny, peaceful, naked, unarmed creatures, slothful in the extreme and with none of that fire or Energy that are found in other Pacific Islanders. The next morning we commenced watering. the facilities were very great. In fact it could not be much more convenient. We could lay in safety so near the shore, & the water was so near to the beach that the launch could be filled by force pump & hose & hauled

to and from the vessel — as I said before, the shore and hills were thickly overgrown. all kinds of choice wood could be found. Immense trees rose a hundred & more feet. It was a perfect primeval forest. the land commenced rising perpendicularly a few yards from the beach and reached an Elevation of some six or seven hundred feet near by, though the hills in the interior were some thousands. No fruit trees were to be found — all refreshments were brought from the village on the shoulders of the natives — not far from the pond from which we got our water is a small torrent leaping down over huge masses of rock. All around is a dense wood and the interlocking branches form a complete protection from the sun. about an eighth of a mile up the hill the rocks are very numerous and massive, and the torrent here forms a pretty succession of Cascades. In one spot the water has worn away a basin in the rock some forty feet in circumferance and three or four feet deep. Here we frequently resorted to bathe, and after having sat layed down to rest and cool after our climb, Enjoying the beauty of this secluded spot, with the sighing of the foliage, the varied noises of the birds and the rippeling and rushing of the stream, we would plunge into the basin and revel in fresh water.

the second day after our arrival, while I was on shore taking observations for time, a party of natives came upon me and I was introduced to "King Dick" the Sovereign of the village of "Likiliki" — He was a little taller and older than the rest and all that I could see, about him to distinguish him from the rest was a ring or bracelet of ivory around his arm — He Expressed a desire to go on board which was gratified. He was Evidently treated with some consideration by his subjects as they waited on him &c although there was no clinging or appearance of awe. He was too dignified to bring anything to trade but had no hesitation in asking for presents. In his basket, or rather bamboo reticule, which most of the natives carry in their hand and correspond to our pockets, he had carefully wrapped up in paper several slips stating the names of vessels that had visited the port & given to him by their Captains — By this we saw that many vessels had touched there, and in fact the knowledge which they all had of English and of vessels proved it. ~~The day on which King Dick~~ King Dick after in the ward room, asked one of us for a cigar. and receiving one, looked around & asked for a spit box! Another savage whom I was questioning about the vessels that had been here before & what they did, in answer to a question as to the size of the last one in, after having looked around the brig said, "He more big this one, he have tree mast" !!

notwithstanding that all appearances proved these poor beings to be well meaning and inoffensive, knowing the use of fire arms, having had intercourse with many unarmed vessels, perfectly having no weapons whatever, perfectly naked and not large or strong men, we continued the strictest precautions against being taken. So much so that every day that there were any savages on board a man with a drawn sword was stationed in Each gangway and the captain had his loaded revolver placed on his table. The greatest number that were on board at any one time was about twenty. We always had over that number of our crew. The water being all got in, we next commenced wooding. This did not take long either, of course. During this part of the duty however four of our men deserted. Two came back the next morning pretty well dejected and jagged out. They said they did not intend to desert but were shy to have a run. The other two never came back. I think they are rather sorry of their bargain by this time. The place is not a Typee as far as the inhabitants are concerned.

The day after the desertions, Pharaoh, Stein, the Doctor and myself, asked the Captain's permission to go around to the village in a boat. Much to my surprise, he granted it. We were of course

overjoyed. It took us about an hour and a half to go. We found the village situated at the bottom of a little bay, which and on a strip of land connecting a high bluff peninsula with the main. It was Evidently so situated to be Easy of defence from a neighboring tribe which they informed me they were at war with. We landed on a fine sand beach where we found several natives assembled to receive us, having bunches of bananas & cocoa nuts. They Evidently wanted & expected us to buy the fruit & clear out. But we wished to walk around their village. The houses forming it were scattered about amid the masses of cocoa nut trees, banana & other trees, and the number could not be Estimated at a view. We made our wishes known to King Dick's prime minister, the former being on board the brig, and he politely acceded at once, and offered to show us around. All the savages remained by the boat, where we also left three men. We roamed around among the huts. We found them very comfortable, being large & roomy and well thatched. They have no windows and but a small low entrance. The ground around the huts was firmly beaten down and formed a hard smooth surface. Every hut had a small garden attached and was surrounded by a low stone wall. We found nearly all the huts deserted. The women and children fled from

us as if we had been wild beasts. I caught a glimpse of several women with small children on their backs, scampering off hurriedly, & modestly holding palm leaves behind as they went. We made fruitless efforts to persuade the Prime Minister Camboy to invite his wife or wives to come and see us, & to all our assertions of friendship & good intentions, he would accede but did not act upon them— We were next shown the Hippar or public building, council chamber, church or anything else of that kind. It was much larger than any of the huts, being some forty feet by twenty. It had many entrances and was filled with rude benches. Around the sides were stuck spears, war clubs & musical instruments. One or two native drums were there and at one end was an idol about three or four feet high— The Hippar itself was in a circular Enclosure 3 some 70 or 80 feet in diameter interspersed & surrounded by tall cocoa-nut trees, and the intermediate ground levelled and smoothed off as hard as stone. We next visited King Dick's house, which was not different from the rest, but nearer the Hippar. Here we surprised King Dick's two wives & daughters chopping wood. They were very much frightened. We attempted to show our benevolent intentions but they fairly shrieked when we came

near. By degrees they were soothed and Stein made them a few presents. They were lighter than the men. Their hair was worn short and was not dyed. Their dress was more modest than that of the men being only a very little more than nothing. One of them was a little tatooed. I saw very little of this among these people. Most of the men chew the betel nut with lime which turns their teeth jet black & lips very red. I was questioning a man about the way in which he used the spear & club. He threw himself into an attitude for throwing the spear which he balanced beautifully & then seizing the club and only, he brandished it about him, thereby showing that they first throw the spears & on closing ~~fought~~ with the clubs— His Enemy being dead he coolly said, "cook him— Eat him—" I asked repeatedly about it & he assured me positively it was the case and seemed surprised at my ~~perturbation~~ not taking it for granted— The natives of the Solomon Islands are well known to be cannibals and I suppose these partake much of their character.

We returned to the boat, bought some fruit and sugar cane, rounded a little, in the bay, Examined a small river Emptying into the western side of it & then started in our return. We had a long pull of it, going back & did not get to the vessel till late.

the next morning, the 25th, we got underway and stood out of Port Praslin. The great state of nervousness & excitement that the captain had got himself into for the past month at last made itself felt and our poor chief was taken very sick. We spoke an English whaler just outside who had been trying to get in for several days. Our course was then directed for the Isles Vertes as the French call them, which we reached on the 26th they are two low islands and well wooded. Towards Evening as we were sailing close by the most southern we espied a native canoe coming off to us with six men in it. We hove to and allowed them to come alongside. For some time they kept aloof appearing timid. We waved white handkerchiefs and did all we could to entice them & at last they paddled alongside. They were a fine looking set. Well formed, fine black skins and regular features, not tattoed, and their wool not dyed. The leader who appeared to be a chief, for his arm was stund with white ivory bracelets, was a splendid looking fellow. His eyes were, black fiery and nervous, and his nose aquiline. His wool was combed out and "mopped" up on his head quite tastefully. They appeared to have had little intercourse with whites, for they

seized Everything with avidity, even to old tin cans, in Exchange for the fruit and fish which they had. Their canoe was a frail thing. One of them jumped up in the gangway. While he was there and while all were chattering and bargaining the Captain who was in bed, roared out to get away, as the noise disturbed him. His order had to be obeyed. The consequence was, the canoe came near being swamped, so much so, that the savages jumped overboard & held their little boat up while we bailed it out. Their companion in our gangway seeing himself being seperated from them, immediately leaped overboard and swam to join them. We stood on our course leaving the poor fellows not well impressed with the kindness of our race, and doing their best to get on shore, which I suppose they reached. Our next point of inspection was the north End of the island of "Bonka" the most northern of the group of Solomon Islands - We reached it on the Evening of the next day and immediately stood off. We then ran for the Abgarris Islands which we reached on the 30th Jan. Here again while we had a good opportunity for making a nice little survey without losing any time, we neglected it. When I was endeavoring to point out the utility and benefit of it, the Captain said rather pettishly

"I am only ordered to ~~sight~~ these islands". Therefore ascertaining their position ~~of these islands~~, which I did was Entirely an act of supererogation. Can I be blamed for being disgusted? From the Abgarris Island we were to make the "Lyra Shoal. The distance is only about 128 miles and yet we were four days endeavoring to go ~~over~~ that distance, on account of adverse winds and currents. the weather we Expenienced here was very bad, having continued squalls and the most tremendous and astonishing torrents of rain - We were all wet for several days. Our apartments have proved Exceedingly uncomfortable in such weather, many of us having been obliged to stop all night in the wet. Many of our things have been ruined. I have been more fortunate than the rest in my Goods, altho' I have not Entirely escaped - On the fourth day we found ourselves about 40 miles from the Lyra shoal and a strong wind & current against us. By consulting the books which treated of this region we found that westerly winds and currents to the Eastward prevailed at this season. You remember that we were to go to Dampiers strait between the N. W. End of New Guinea and the island of Waigeou - To reach there under the circumstances would have taken a long while. The distance was something like 1200 miles

and you may judge of the time it would have occupied by the trouble we had in going 128 miles. Lyra shoal, being in the track for Dampiers St. This was on the 4th of February. The Capetain's orders were to be in Macao by the 10th - There was therefore no alternative, as the orders were positive, but to give up the remainder of the work layed out for us - Of course we could not get into Macao by the time specified, but it was our duty to get there as soon after as possible - We had already sailed since our departure from the Cape of Good Hope, 11,000 miles in 87 days, averaging nearly 130 miles per diem, which considering the qualities of our ship, was very good. We had still about 2500 miles to go, should we take the ~~most~~ quickest route to Macao. All of this proves that Capt. Ringgold could not have considered when he made out our orders, for to have Executed what he desired us to in the time allowed was purely impossible.

We therefore gave up beating about for Lyra shoal and the remainder of our work and shaped our course for Entering the China Sea by the Balintang Channel & thence to Macao. after having got north of the equator we got the N. E. monsoons and made beautiful runs. We passed by three small islands called the Kama Bales, forming a part of the Caroline Archipelago, and

on the morning of the 13th February discovered the beautiful island of "Owap" or "Yap" as some call it. We sailed along its eastern & southern sides, close enough to distinguish the number of large huts or houses which lined the shores. The views were Enchanting and I yearned to be on shore roaming around its delicious groves. The moment we were espied, the natives shoved off in their canoes under sail. These quaint looking structures are very light & swift and altho the body of the canoe is like a wedge still by means of "outriggers" & judicious Equilibrium they keep upright and hold many persons. They have mat sails— A great many were seen coming out from among the reef towards us, and our Captain was very uneasy about it. Every one Evinced so much desire to see what the canoes contained that the skipper allowed one or two to come alongside at a time. They Evidently came off more for curiosity than a desire to trade as they had but little fruit with them. What there was of it, was however of the most delicious kind. They brought off many handsome shells, in fact more than of anything else. The contrast between the appearance of these people and the inhabitants of Lombara was very great. They are an Entirely

different race. These were splendid looking fellows. Their color was that of a bright copper cent, just from the mint. Their hair was black, fine & long, and they wore it tied up in a bunch on one side. Their features had nothing of the negro about it, and on the contrary were in some really handsome. Their forms were faultless. Some were very elaborately and handsomely tattooed. Their dress was a little more protecting than that of the Lombarese, as they all wore the maro, or covering around the loins. There was only one fault to be found with them, they chewed the betel nut. But in an account of a Captain who had been here often I read that many of the women were not addicted to this practice & had fine white teeth. Perhaps you may not have read a description of this betel nut chewing. I will describe what I saw of the process & what I have read of the fruit. The areca nut is the one used & not the betel. The leaves of the latter are chewed with the areca. The nut is layed upon two or three leaves and then a piece of bamboo full of lime is shaken over it, like a pepper box, after which the whole is rolled up and plumped into the mouth as if it was delicious. The teeth become very black & the lips blood red. One of the canoes which came alongside was very large, being some 40 or 50 feet long & three or four feet wide.

One would suppose that this extreme narrowness would render them rather unsteady. Especially in going to and from the Pellew islands, which is frequently done. But the whole is explained when we consider that long straight pieces of wood are lashed & secured across the canoe extending some 10 or 12 feet and on one side their Extremities fixed to uprights in a long log which floats in the water. Over all is a platform of bamboo. The large canoe which I speak of had 25 men on the platform. One of them struck me particularly as a man that would be admired any where. He was tall, graceful and elegantly formed. His face was handsome, his nose being straight, nostrils thin and eyes coal black. His hair which was long & fine was tastefully tied up & the whole confined in a net, from which a long feather of some handsome bird, beat gracefully over. On his arm was a white ivory bracelet (a sign of nobility I believe) and around his neck hanging over his breast was a necklace of green beads and pieces of red coral. The "maro" was light blue. He had no tatooing whatever. Unfortunately none of their women were agreeably inclined, but I find by the accounts of them that their behavior is very different from what we found it in the women of the village at Tombara.

The personal appearance of the females of Guap is also different, as they are fully as deserving of praise as some of the men. We sailed away from the lovely shores of this island with sighs of disappointment & regret and lamenting that we should see and know so little of all the places we visited. It was the cause of much feeling both in the ward-room and on the berth deck. We found that not only the word 'surveying' but also "Exploring" could be struck out from the title of the Expedition. Between Guap & the Balintang Channel we suffered a great deal from the excessive rolling of the brig. Stein at his charts and I at my calculations were the most tormented. On the morning of the 21st sometime before daylight we passed through the channel into the China Sea. Between Formosa & China we had a strong gale from the North with an exceedingly heavy sea. Every thing cracked and strained in the rotten old brig and she got masses of water in her. I pumped out in my watch from 3 feet water in the hold. In one of her fearful lurches we lost our lee quarter boat. In the gale we had in the Indian Ocean we lost the stern boat & Capt.n Gig, so that here we were going into port with only one boat besides the launch — all the upper works leaked very much. Pharoah like and the Doctor were actually driven out of

their bunks by the water. Many of Pharaohs clothes & books, shoes &c were ruined. We were all wet until we got in — On the morning of the 24th. we were on soundings and in smooth water. Just about dawn we passed close by some fishing junks, my first view of these curious craft. We took a pilot from one of them. Shortly after the land appeared looming through the mist. By 10 A.M. We were fairly passing among the islands in the mouth of the Canton River. Thousands of junks were Every where around us, and instead of horrible unwieldy things as I expected, I found smartly worked vessels which sailed very well. We passed by the island of Hong Kong & got a glimpse of the houses on its southern side. At 2 P.M. we anchored off the town of Macao. We were the only vessel of war — the Vincennes, nor had she been here. — Never have I Experienced such pleasure, such relief, such delight as I did this time on finding my self at anchor —

During the latter part of the night before we entered the Canton River, we were 'hove-to', and at four in the morning, having been called for the watch, I came on deck and found that we were in comparatively smooth water and the wind moderate. This after the gale we had experienced and during which we suffered so much, was a great relief. A little before daylight I "filled away" and made sail & we were soon moving along at a pleasant rate. I was startled by the cry from the forecastle of "rock on the weather bow." but was relieved by the first sight of a Chinese junk or fishing boat. The indistinctness however, gave one but a glimpse and the boat could easily have been mistaken in the gloom for a rock. Daylight soon struggled thro' the mist and quickly fleets of fishing boats appeared to satisfy my curiosity and had I not been somewhat prepared for their singular forms, I should have thought they were all taking their farewell of this external globe and were diving simultaneously to the realms below. Their high sterns and low tapering bows with the two peaked lug mat sails, the forward one so much the smallest, gave them Exactly the appearance of being about to go down head foremost. Notwithstanding they sailed and worked remarkably well and were by no means the unwieldy things I had been led to believe. They were not however two specimens of junks. One fellow Edged down towards us, and hailing in English, asked if we wanted a

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pilot. We "hove-to" and amidst a terrible amount of jabbering the fishermen launched their small boat & paddled alongside. The Pilot, a dirty looking Chinaman with a kind of bonnet and cape over his head gave us the first specimen of his countrymen's "squeezing" propensities by demanding an exorbitant sum for piloting us in. But our Captain had been in here twice before and knew the usual price, so that our friend was obliged to change his mind.

The high, rugged, barren islands which stud the mouth of the river, in a short time broke thro' the morning vapour, and passing between the islands of Hong Kong and Potoë, the sun came blazing out the Easterly wind freshened, the chinese boats and junks became innumerable, and occasionally a more familiar vessel would be seen beating about in the passages to and from the anchorage of Victoria. The scene altogether was novel and charming, and the prospect of being once more at anchor, was to us wearied & worried men, soothing beyond measure. As we approached Macao, every Eye was strained to find the Vincennes as of course we expected her to be in after the announcement of the Commodore. One or two vessels were anchored and the reports were various as to their character. Finally they all turned out to be merchant vessels and our doubts were settled. A chinese boat or properly "sampan" was espied making for us,

with an american flag flying, and as it approached a line was gotten ready to throw to it. Altho' we were going nearly nine Knots, they came alongside beautifully, and disdaining our rope, poked out long bamboos with hooks and were soon fast. It turned out to be one of "Lyonks" boats, the usual "Comprador" of american men of war, and our Captain knowing the "ropes" engaged him. From that moment we were their property. The Comprador system is I think an excellent one. Every thing that may be wanted is furnished at the market price they procuring so much of course make a profit but not a very great one. A Chinaman is satisfied with a little profit, however, for a great deal of work. The Comprador does Everything for you, even to paying your bills elsewhere if necessary, and allows no one to cheat you — but himself, some add, but I do not see why people should call making a small profit, cheating. They would not have him do it for nothing I hope. I am certain now, that if I had undertaken to purchase myself, I could have given much more than was necessary. Every morning before breakfast the Compradors boat comes alongside with the marketing which has been ordered the day previous. The caterer enters all in a book with the price. Beef is 8 cts a pound. Pork 10 Mutton 24. Chickens 20 cts each. Capons 40

vegetables, fruit & Eggs are moderate. the latter are 9 cts. a dzen.

The distant view of macao, on approaching, gives an idea of Spanish looking fortifications "dabbed" against the side of a high rocky hill, with no green to be seen. But from the anchorage which is at least three miles from the town, the view is more pleasing. There you see room for a large town built in the tropical, anti-earthquake style, and masses of foliage pop up here and there indicative of gardens. We had no sooner anchored than a party was formed to go ashore, of which I was fortunate enough to be a member. We had gleaned from the people of the sampan that the naval store house had been moved to Hong Kong and the Captain stated that he should be find if to be the case he would go over the next day. We therefore knew this would be our only chance of seeing macao. On our way to the landing we had an opportunity of admiring the unique style of the common chinese. The boat in which we were was a fair sample of the passage or "fast-boats". Sharp at the bow, a high round stern and the greatest breadth of beam well aft, the model approached very nearly to that of all swift vessels, of

course excepting the high stern, which is in this case thus built for the accomadation of the people. For in these boats, as you have read, a whole family lives. Every one has heard of the immense floating population of China. Here in one boat was the head of the family, an old wrinkled fellow, his wife with her youngest on her back, two or three children scampering about the boat & two young men - forehands, but also to all intents and purposes were part of the family. In this boat they lived, cooked, eat, slept. It was curious to see the youngsters assisting to work the boat. No wonder they are such good boatmens. Indeed they are born and bred in one. A very little fellow had a buoy or block of wood attached to him by which, in case of falling overboard & which occurs frequently, they recover him. The wife worked like a cart horse, baby all the time at her back. The old woman sat either steering, sculling with a very long oar, or tending the main sheet. Every one was good humored and seemed very happy. The place where the passengers recline at full length as mats, is covered by an arched roof of cane and matting. The boats are quite

swift and work like tops. I have often thought what a grand thing it would be to have one with all the appurtenances, off the Battery. I would much sooner sail in one than in any of ours.

The front of the town of Macao is situated on a long, curved beach between two hills of rock upon which are some extensive fortifications. Most of this beach is walled at the water's edge & bordered off but forming an "alemada". About the landing were quat numbers of small boats, and as we approached an immense clatter arose. We appeared to be running into another Tampean at anchor & it looked very much as if we would cut her in two. Every Chinese as far as the eye could reach was yelling. Even the baby on its mother's back caught up the cry and we awaited with deep interest some awful catastrophe. Just as the collision was about to take place, presto, the boat turned as on a pivot & we were anchored, surrounded as appeared to us by two hundred and one "tanka-boats" Each with two young women clamoring for us to "come my boat". One Capetan very unwisely having stopped to have a yarn

it was taken for uncertainty, and the din became dreadful. Preferring to be rude, I left the yarn unfinished & unceremoniously jumped into the arms, it amounted to that for I came near going overboard, the boat was so "crank", of two very black Eyed white teethed, smiling, chattering, Ear ringed & bracelette girls, who soon deposited me on the pier. The rest of the party came tumbling after with the Exception of the Doctor who from indecision in action had been seized by the women of three boats, and for some time it was uncertain what would become of him. The struggle was deeply interesting altho the poor "pills" did not seem to like it. I thought of our Cabmen at home, but concluded of the two I would rather be in the hands of the Macao boat women. The Doctor did get on shore and we moved on. As we turned round looking at the boats, I gave a glimpse at the ~~end of "tanka-boats"~~ houses before me. There extended a long row facing the water and most of them two stories high. The hot glaring rays of the sun reflected by the pavement and plastered walls, the verandas and window blinds carefully closed and no one but chinamen to be seen stirring, made

me feel about twice as hot as I otherwise would ~~have been~~. On my left the buildings ~~were~~ until stopped by a precipitous bluff and on my right was a slight interval of ~~sward~~ and benches forming the evening walk, which was bounded beyond by another rocky eminence crowned ~~the~~ with ~~fort~~ dilapidated fortifications, and above the base of which around the walk where ~~powder~~ was where I stood. All was hot and blazing and as we ~~passed~~ onward we saw many chinese standing in doorways and some walking with umbrellas, or fans held over their chairs ~~or~~ ~~with~~ with sedate and unmeaning countenances. I suppose there is no style of dress in the world so exceedingly unbecoming & at the same time so comfortable as that of the common chinese. Their terribly loose pants, and easy shirt merely protect their bodies from the sun & allow the air to circulate freely. So with their cane hats, some like umbrellas, others like inverted fruit baskets, all simply rest on the tops of their heads & keep off the sun.

Our walk was a short one and we brought up at the house of "Ayonk" the Compradore

The Captain from his previous acquaintance took us there as the best means of finding out where to go and what to do. Old Ayonk himself was not there, but one of his sons received us, a true specimen of the Celestial Empire, and the first impression & there received was favorable. He treated us politely inviting us to partake of ale, fruit, and cigars which were grateful beyond measure to us as it were Escaped prisoners — Oh thou Naval life! thou unnatural gilt pill! A man doomed to imprisonment in the Bastile - How like the punishment of confinement in a dark place with sudden introduction to the bright sunshine. We learned positively that the Naval Store had been removed to Hong Kong and that Mr. Desilver also acting Consul had left a Gentleman to attend to his duties — The name of the gentleman it was impossible to discover from the futile attempts of the Chinese in pronouncing it. While canvassing as to the propriety of calling there, a coolie brought us a message desiring us to go around to the gentleman house. As our Captain was not pleased at this manner of Extending hospitality

he would not go, but the remainder of our
party concluded to follow the coolie - On our
way we looked with all our eyes and
much amused and interested at the novel
things around us. We passed by many
Chinese shops but could not stop to
examine. We entered a gateway, passed
a porter's lodge and were ushered into
the drawing room of a splendid man-
sion and were very politely received by
an elderly lady and gentleman who han-
ded us a few letters and papers and
gratified our thirst for news. Mr. Rawle
such was the name, was late of the firm
of Rawle, Drinker & Co of Hong Kong and
which had failed. The mansion belonged
to a Mr. Dyce - We were much pleased
with our visit and meeting the Capt.n
outside we mentioned the name & the
fact that the gentleman was rather
advanced in years to travel about after
us, whereupon he instantly pushed in for he
was an old acquaintance - The remainder
of our party strolled around a little &
finally reached the Macao Hotel, facing
the sea beach & delightfully situated for

coolness - During our stroll we passed two
or three public gardens & pleasant walks
and came across a petite American
who introduced himself and took the
trouble to walk himself to death to
show us what was to be seen. A Chi-
nese theatre much interested me. It
was built Entirely of bamboo and matting
and there was not a nail in it. It
was capable of holding from two to
three thousand people. Our kind guide
pointed out & explained. The performances were
just over & masses of Chinese were
streaming away. The seats consisting
of chairs & benches on raised platforms
were arranged accordingly much as with
us. There was a pit for the poor
classes which is always free - The
stage was a clear space with no cur-
tain or side scenes & it was crowded
with the actors all variously employed
preparing their Evening meal. We
saw the spot where a former Governor
of Macao had been murdered by the
Chinese for insisting upon cutting a
road through a native burying ground.

We saw the garden in which was Camoens grotto, but had not time to go in. We saw two or three fine cathedrals and got a glimpse at one or two pretty Portuguese faces. Finally, separating from our pleasant companion we lounged into the Macao Hotel where we shortly met the Captain & sat down to a tolerable dinner for which we had to pay intolerably — Toward Evening we took another stroll & finally beds at the hotel concluding it would be a bore to return to the brig that night. Early the next morning we Embarked and got under way for Hong Kong.

The space between Macao and the colony of Hong Kong, being nearly forty miles, is filled with island, some quite picturesque — Amongst these are continually gliding hundreds of junks and boats & often many of our own & foreign craft. There is nearly always a fine breeze & the navigation is very safe. As the

wind was against us we did not reach our anchorage until the day after. I was much disappointed in the appearance of Victoria the official name for the settlement on the north side of the island of Hong Kong — I had seen pictures which gave me a notion that I would see something grand. The harbor is the passage between the main land and the island and facing the settlement. It is always pretty well filled —

The high peaks of the island, some 3000 feet, come tumbling abruptly down to the water & the town is built along the base extending some three miles east & west. Terraces, winding roads &c are cut out of the side of the hill & some handsome houses with gardens are found here & there. The business part of the town is of course near the water — The precipitous peak which rises above, presents a hot uninviting granite face, with green shrubbery & slippery streamlets trickling down its sides. To the east of the town is the "Happy Valley" more inviting and full of verdure & pretty groves. At its mouth is a race course & a cemetary —

I was at first pleased that we could have

to refit here instead of Macao, thinking that there being so much more life & stir a greater European population &c that there would necessarily be more amusement. But I was sadly disappointed, and during the six dreary months passed in this wretched hole I often lamented that I could not have spent the time in Macao. The foreign merchants in China are all actuated by one idea; to make a fortune & return to their native county. Most are wealthy already & live in splendid style, labor & servants being so cheap & provisions moderate. Their life is a grasping and a sensual one. they become from the reason of the climate, the want of refined society & often natural ignorance, snobbish selfish & inhospitable. Naval officers must, if they are desirous of becoming acquainted with such people, seek them out & call first, a pleasant rule which they have made & which is the cause of much estrangement. The true society of Hong Kong, consists of the Governors family & the head officials of the colony & the officers of the garrison. As this is stiff formal & English, few of our officers ever make their acquaintance. So that visiting &c et cetera may be said

as a general rule to be denied us. Shortly after anchoring, Mr. Rob. Desidner the Naval Storekeeper & the Am. Consul Gen. Keenan called on us and invited us to visit them which we did. Mr. Desidner lives in a splendid house and we found him & his lady nice kind people. Gen. Keenan a single gentleman had rooms & many a pleasant evening have we spent there. Near the barracks is an open space for military reviews &c and twice a week the garrison band would play tolerably well. Here would assemble a motley group of men, crowds of ugly ungainly old Chinese nurses with pale babies (European) in wagons, on an occasional Donkey, led by hand & carried in arms, here and there a lady with her husband and outside on the road two carriages with an uninteresting inmates, while occasionally the Governor vehicle booming grandly out of place would drive by, à la Desden. But last tho' not least there would often be seen one sweet, graceful, pretty Portuguese with her father, whom I used to haunt until the papa scowled & the angel smiled.

The Club house a handsome building was terra incog. to us as well as

the Reading Room. It strikes me we ought to have been invited there.
So that the routine of a person trying to do something to amuse himself, was to play billiards at a public table (a very good one) until surfeited, walk down to hear the music if there was any perhaps visit one of the two porcelain mentioned above and finally return on board. This for six months was certainly exciting.
Our Captain from the moment we arrived in Macao commenced to evince a great degree of nervousness and mental excitement, and exhibited an instance of what frequently occurs in our Navy, a man heretofore known as a prompt, decided, officer becoming almost as weak as a child on being invested with a command. Hence one evil of the system, men do not look forward to responsibility until they have arrived at a mature age and do not school themselves for it, and if by any accident their desires are anticipated they often exhibit more fogyism than their seniors. The causes for our captain's anxiety arose from several causes. In the first place it ap-

pears that Captain Ringgold was not particularly anxious that he should take command of the Porpoise and Even after he had command, Capt^n. R. tried to induce him to take the store-ship and allow another lieutenant whom he fancied to take my Capt^ns place. Both on Capt^ns political influence was great and as the Expedition depended solely on that for support he retained his command & Capt^n. R. bided his time. When we were in Simon's Bay one or two little difficulties occurred & Capt^n. R. attempted to take advantage of what was represented to him to be a failure of our Commanders. This failed but it was sufficient to set our skipper upon pins and to make him very nervous — In Simon's bay, Captain Ringgold's true character and powers commenced to render themselves apparent and several little incidents and difficulties caused nearly all under him to feel the first symptoms of discontentment. His orders for the duties of our vessel showed either much duplicity or want of foresight for he layed out work that could have

taken three times the time that he limited us to. A great part of the track we were to travel over, namely, from New Zealand to Dampiers Straits, would have to have been performed against strong winds and currents at the season of the year we would reach there. In fact it would have been a terrible long and trying cruize and one which I doubt the Porpoise could have succeeded in making. As it was, we lost ground for the few days we attempted it. It was the third or fifth of February when we reached their locality & we were ordered to be in Macao at farthest by the 10th. Being obliged to give up this part of the cruize worried our Captain greatly, fearing that Captain Ringgold would find fault altho' he would have risked as much by failing to arrive at the rendezvous at the appointed time. The passage through the Coral Sea the most dangerous navigation in the world caused him sleepless nights innumerable — the savages in Port Praslin were a source of great mental anxiety, for our Captn had continually before his eyes

the massacre of the unfortunate officers Underwood & Henry in the former Ex. Expedition — the bad weather we had in the China Sea where we lost a boat, besides what we experienced in the Indian Ocean where we lost the gig, had brought out many defects in the poor brig — All these things rendered the Captain nearly crazy so sensitive was he & afraid of consequences. He stood too much in awe of Ringgold. The orders were that the moment we arrived in port the brig should be got immediately ready for sea again. Now this in our case involved the expenditure of many thousand dollars for repairs absolutely necessary. The Captain was afraid & could not take the responsibility to order them as he conceived the order to mean only what is generally understood by preparing for sea, filling up with stores & making slight repairs — These things weighed so on our Captn's mind that together with imprudent living he became very sick — He had barely recovered when the Vincennes arrived — This was about the 18th or 20th March — As was Expected the storm burst — Captn Ringgold found fault with Every thing & was guilty

& harsh conduct to our unfortunate Commander - Some of those people who are always to be found ready to whisper scandal and create difficulty caused the Commander of the Expedition to believe that our Commander was habitually intemperate — Mr Ringgold seized upon this, imagining the officers of the brig to be inimical to their captain, and becoming bold by our Captain's pagan & timid appearance, he one day charged him with continual drunkenness & tyranny & told him if he did not apply for a medical survey, give up his command & go home quietly, that he would report him to the Secretary, Court-martial & break him - The effect of this upon our poor Captain was painful. It completely unmanned him. He wept like a child. All his bright hopes were gone - He would be ruined for ever in the service — But he rose up sufficiently to refuse to apply comply with Ringgold's suggestion, knowing the latter could prove nothing against him - Whereupon Ringgold ordered the medical officers to report upon our Captain's state of health & whether he was fit to retain the Com-

mand of the brig. They were obliged to report the truth & that his health was not such as to admit of his remaining in command for some time much less to remain in this climate — Our Captain therefore received a copy of their letter, & orders to return to the United States and a letter to the Secretary, stating that his bad health was the cause of this course. Besides he got a private letter in which it was insinuated that if he (our Capt.) made a difficulty when he reached home that disagreeable facts would all be produced. The effect of this on such a sensitive mind can hardly be described. Our Captain became completely prostrated & overcome - He was sick for a long time on shore and during that time Capt. Ringgold never came near him, nor ever inquired after his health.

The first lieutenant of the "Vincennes", being the next senior, was appointed to the command of the Porpoise. Lieut. Orlando seemed to have imbibed the pusillanimous spirit of his former commander for his behavior from the very moment of his taking command was highly reprehensible, ungenerous and unmanly. The day upon which the exchange was effected, the brig was got underway and moved up near the ship up which it was proposed to haul her pre-

paration to commencing the repairs. Our old captain was lying quite unwell in his cabin and the first lieut. Pharaoh was in charge of the deck preparing for lifting the anchor when Orlando came alongside and came on board with his usual pompous style - He walked down in the cabin & shortly after all of the officers were sent for by our old commander, whom we found sobbing bitterly - He appealed to us in broken accents as to his conduct while with us and as to the injustice in removing him. The scene was very distressing. We did what we could and retired - Orlando followed & gave quite snappishly to the Egyptian the order to get underway. It is the first lieutenants duty on board men of war to manoeuvre the ship at all hands" under supervision of the Captain - It seemed this day as if Orlando was anxious to render every one aware that he was invested with the command. He had not taken read his orders or announced officially even to the officers his new position - To say the least of it, it was in bad taste to curse the crew and speak harshly to the officers, during the very first hour & insinuate while the man whom he relieved was lying broken hearted below him & hearing every thing he

said, that everything on board was in a bad state and that he had come to alter it. Of course the impression upon our minds was very unfavourable -

It was found impracticable to haul the brig up on the slip and she therefore was taken alongside a hulk and preparations commenced to heave her down.

The Vincennes on arriving in Hong Kong we found to be in an unfortunate condition as far as harmony among her officers was concerned - Capt. Ringgold had by his arbitrary, injudicious and foolish behaviour alienated every one with him. When his officers found that he was incapable as an officer & surveyor they naturally lost respect for him. And when he excited their passions by arbitrary conduct & acting the martinet, they must have commenced to dislike him. On the passage from Simon's Bay to Australia, he had one or two little difficulties with the watch officers & others & exhibited a disposition to be violent and pettish - We were told that he shewed shewed his ignorance of the higher points of seamanship in several instances - He turned away from his track to go into Sydney for which there was no necessity - He

could have done as we did for wood & water if he wished any. But the Vincennes could carry enough for the whole voyage to Macao— The reasons which caused the positive orders for us not to go into the ports of Australia, were as cogent in the case of the flag ship. So it was she was obliged to lie an enormous distance from the town & keep the strictest watch to keep her men from deserting. Notwithstanding, a few succeeded— But the reasons which prompted Capt. Ringgold to go there were very Evident. He had visited Sydney some years ago in the former Exploring Expedition as Commander of the Porpoise— It tickled his vanity to return there as Commander of an Expedition. After spending two weeks there during which dinner parties and bumkum were largely distributed, & Capt. Ringgold & them fully satisfied, they finally sailed— All this was unpleasant enough & as yet the officers were only disgusted— But when after attempt running in sight of several islands in the Pacific, it was found how little the Commander knew of the duties for which the Expedition was sent out, &

what a large amount of "cooking" was done, all order was Extinguished— The Porpoise was stripped and Everything removed to the Hulk & the crew transferred on board the latter to live while the repairs would go on. The hulk was a filthy rotten old french vessel called "Le Revenant" & she smelt of the grave. Every single thing being tossed out of the hold, littered up the hulk so as to leave barely space to move around. The miserable remnants of the cabin was perfectly filled. It leaked like a sieve & was full of vermin. Here Orlando wished us to take our quarters, & finding persuasion would not do attempted the authoritative— We were astounded at the mans impudence & wrote a protest to Capt. Ringgold backed by a medical certificate from the Doctor— At first Orlando did not want to forward it, but we insisted and the consequence was that Orlando returned with the Purser of the Vincennes who had orders to hire suitable quarters for us on shore— On the top of this Orlando had the assurance to tell us that he did all he could to persuade Ringgold to do this!

In a few days we were delightfully ~~situated~~ quartered in ~~Victoria~~ ~~Glenridary~~ Glen-ie-lay' by far the prettiest spot in Hong-Kong.

The House, large and roomy & gracefully built is some distance above the town proper, on the side of the precipitous hill which rises in the rear of the settlement. It is surrounded by a luxuriant & well arranged garden terraced off, which stretches back to a wild ravine down which leaps a cooling torrent — We moved nearly all our furniture & wares ashore & "Coolies" toiled up the hill with them — Each one of us delighted to be free from the damp & cramped quarters of the brig took pleasure in bustling about & arranging our rooms. The steward & servants were frantic. We took our first dinner luxuriantly on the back Piazza & afterward strolled among the shady walks with our fragrant Manillas.

This new found Paradise belonged to Mr. Djunker an american merchant who had lately failed, and he had either rent or let the place to Capt^n Ringgold (I never discovered which) for an Observatory &c Mr. Rindet of the Vincennes we found

installed there with transit instrument & chronometers, besides a small guard of marines, to keep off the Expert thieves ~~which~~ who crowd Hong Kong —

One would suppose that under such pleasant circumstances we would have forgotten the troubles that were accumulating around us — But unfortunately, no. Pharaoh as soon as Orlando was ordered to our brig made an application to be detached — He knew Orlando of old and could not bear him. His application was not acted upon — For myself seeing the state of the Squadron, foreseeing nothing but troubles & failures, disappointment in Everything, and great hardships ahead, I applied to Capt^n Ringgold for permission to try and effect an Exchange in the Japan Squadron which was soon expected. As I feared, Capt^n R. threw difficulties in the way, & proved that it would be impossible — He tried in his plausible manner to dissuade me — Having tried the first means, I then made a formal application to the Secretary of the Navy to be detached from the ~~Squadron~~ Expedition. I could not then bring myself to take the steps that I afterwards did. I was long before convinced that it would be proper but I had not then sufficient confidence

in myself or courage. That the Navy was not my proper sphere I had concluded some time previous. The reasons are numerous, but can be contained under a few heads. In the first place, for certain dispositions and temperaments a naval life is unnatural and injurious. A military profession in peace, laying aside the corps of Engineers in the army, can only suit a listless, torpid, ordinary mind — The effect of a naval life I conceive to be, in general, highly injurious in many respects — The ennobling influence of social ties and affections, of religion, of mental culture and Employment are all more or less lost to the seaman. In the second place, owing to the play allowed to the passions and the necessity of discipline, the position of inferior is so often galling. To be the tool of ignorant, violent men, to be insulted time and again by persons whom you cannot reach is the cause of great misery to a sensitive mind. To be so often in positions from which there is no escape, no appeal is terrible — In the third place the state of our navy is so deplorable that these evils are aggravated tenfold —

Doozen was overpowered by the state of things as well as the rest of us and his

applications went on as well as mine.

We had been about a week at Glenistay, when the Susquehanna, a large steamer & one of the Japan squadron came in. I found it was impossible to exchange with any one there, as they all got scent of our state — but afterwards I found I would not have gained much, except reaching home quicker, as there was not a ship in the Japan squadron, where there were not difficulties, squabbles and everything rendered peoples unhappy. We had just become domiciliated in our fine shore quarters and were congratulating ourselves, when one Evening it happened there was a little meeting of several fellows in Rivulets room. Tilly was playing lively airs on the guitar and some were dancing — In the height of our glee, Cad. as we called Capt. Ringgold appeared on the ground floor & spoke for a few minutes with Rivulet on the subject of the Chronometers &c. and went away. Nothing was thought of it, but the next day, orders came for the officers of the Porpoise to move their quarters, and rooms were hired at the Commercial Hotel — Of course this was a great damper and the affable Cad. received his share of blessings. Coolies had to toil

down the hill again with our traps, & Pharaoh talked about bringing in bills for porterage. So from our own savoury dinners we had to come down to Winiberg's meagre diet - The fat Jew looked upon us as a great windfall and his wife, a trim little Englishwoman must have swallowed half his profits. to dress in the fascinating style in which she did shortly after our arrival. Stein and I had rooms opposite to each other & mine was next to the appartments of the pair. Mrs. W. had two small children of which the eldest a boy very unlike his father, had a precocious talent for playing on the piano and without instruction was able to make the semblance of several popular airs on the very out of tune instrument. The youngest a girl and just out of the arms, played on no instrument Except that which nature had placed in her throat, but upon that her performance was powerful and thrilling. both children commenced practising at very early daylight, and as from being obliged every three days to get up dismally early at sea, I Enjoined sleeping late on shore, my agony every morning was intense - I could have smashed the piano and choked the child over & over again.

I used Every Endeavor to change my room, but failed. all the others were occupied & no one was sufficiently fond of music to exchange with me, not Even Doozen. I at last got desperate and found a room in a gentleman's house which I hired for a small sum, & only took my meals at the hotel - Here I fancied myself secluded & able to Enjoy my morning sleep. It was only partially so. On account of the heat I was obliged to leave my window up, and my room was on the first floor and faced on the street - Immediately beneath this window it seemed that Every morning some wretched Chinese would collect to howl more dolefully than our cries of "fish!" at home. A few missiles and pitchers of water however generally stopped it.

In the mean time the repairs were going on, on the brig. As they advanced or tore away planking in fresh places, new defects became visible.

It was a shame to see in what a state they had sent out the vessel from the navy Yard. We took turns in staying on board the hulk a day at a time, and these days were looked forward to always with horror as Orlando managed to make himself very disagreeable. Pharaoh at last

fell sick and he did not go near the ship until she was once more ready for sea. All this time things were becoming very disorganized on board the Vincennes. Cad. was at sword's points with every one. Nearly all sent in their applications to be detached. However the trouble did not prevent "the affable" from giving and receiving his usual dinner parties and making a great show. For some time he convinced many people that he was a great man, and many ladies went away from a visit to his vessel charmed with the neatness and beauty of every thing in his cabin. The first real outbreak that he had in Hong Kong with any of his officers became a serious one. Mr. Munson one of the lieutenants, an old friend and shipmate of mine, is a very strict Catholic. Now one of the habits that Cad. had was to have divine service (according to the Episcopal forms) every Sunday, & his tool & prime minister, Mr. Keep (Secretary & Draughtsman) officiated as Chaplain.

To most of the persons on board it was to say the least annoying, as it savoured so much of humbug. One Sunday Munson was officer of the watch, and as usual all hands were called to attend church. That day several of the crew stayed away & as the attendance was slim, Capt. Ringgold sent up word to the Officer of the watch to send every one down to divine service. This Mr. Munson declined doing. Capt. R. then went on deck & personally gave the orders which were still refused to be executed. Capt. R. then ~~returned~~ sent a guard calling witnesses. Mr. Munson ~~adhered~~ to his determination & he was sent below arrested. Shortly after one of the crew who had stayed behind was put in irons.

Munson remained arrested a day or two and then received a letter from Cad. in which the latter stated that it would be impossible to convene a court for some time, and as officers were scarce he felt obliged to restore him to duty. He wound up by saying that as Munson ~~after having opposed~~ had placed himself in an antagonistic position to him, he felt obliged to order him away. Munson was therefore ordered to the Porpoise and Sidey took his place aboard the Vincennes. The excitement consequent upon this occurrence of course lasted some time, but finally gave place to other things.

Our life at Nimbergs was rendered somewhat less monotonous about this time by the arrival of a Spanish gentleman and his wife

accompanied by a little Colonel. They were all on their way from Spain to the Philippine Is. The Citizen had received an appointment as magistrate or something of that kind of one of the Provinces in Luzon while the Colonel was to be stationed at Manilla. There was also a Jew, an Englishman staying with us whose home was Manilla. All these people we found amusing and agreeable and our Evenings passed more pleasantly. The lady was pretty and chatty and most of us commenced to dig up our Spanish. All Except Stein pretended to say a few words. Of an Evening we would lounge upon the piazza Enjoying the fresh air and smoking and occasionally we would amuse ourselves with cards. Abraham knew many Excellent tricks -

Our poor old captain sailed for Hong Kong about this time. He left, much broken down. The length of time he had lingered in China & the absence of anything to occupy him had caused him to become perfectly childlike. Haggard, trembling & with a painful cough he made a deep impression on me when parting with him. I felt that I saw him for the last time. My forebodings have been realized. A kind

chivalrous officer, with some weak points, my former Captain has Ended his career on this Earth, a victim to an idiot - A perfectly naval man his whole soul was wrapt in the profession in which he was so anxious to advance. Shortly after reaching his home in Delaware he died. The papers said of Cholera. We all know of a broken heart.

Nothing occurred worthy of note in our life on shore until the 24th. May the Queen of England's birth day. This day was marked by a review of the regiment, a ball at the Governor's and the arrival of the Jno. Hancock. The steamer arrived in the afternoon and was some time finding the Vincennes, the latter vessel being so covered with flags as to render her hull & spars invisible. Cad. displayed himself on this day & actually decorated his vessel infinitely more than any English man-of-war in harbor.

I could not help feeling what little nationality we had when, afterwards, on Washington's birth day merely three american flags were run up at the mast heads. It makes my

Hood bid to see us thus attentive to a nation which we ought to regard less than any other in Europe, either on account of the treatment we have heretofore received or on account of the want of anything to make us respect them - That Evening at the ball I thought how little there was in Englishmen to make us love them - The present Governors mansion is a poor affair, not near as good a building as the one occupied now by the our naval Storekeeper. A better is being built however on a hill which it will be a torment to ascend. We found the Governor Sir Jno. Bowring a nice old gentleman with an amiable lady & two daughters. These with the remainder of the ladies were seated in a circle in the receiving room, looking very stiff & savage & seeming to think they had no share whatever in Entertaining. One or two bold men were roaming around in the circle but the mass were outside in an adjoining room & presented a goodly array of

uniforms. This mass was heterogeneous & hot. I however finding the circle stupid & Exceedingly ugly joined the crowd. Having been presented to Lady Bowring & her daughters I was left to Entertain myself in the best manner I could. Dancing commenced in which three ladies & twenty officers took part & altho' the regimental band played some Exhilirating airs, I was not induced to attempt such a hazardous & problematic undertaking. To roam around & criticize with my own associates was all that was left me. Four or five awkward looking Englishmen had the air of wanting to be sociable & saying something but they were not drunk Enough & their "gaucherie" was too great. Refreshments were very plentiful & good, & the supper was a first rate. The ball wound up as usual with much noise & inebriation. The next day the store ship P. P. Kennedy arrived, & a few days afterwards the Cooper. We were thus again all together and most of us felt ~~very different from when we had~~ in a very different state of mind from that in which we were at Simons Bay. I was at first in hopes that the dissatisfaction was confined to the Vincennes and Porpoise, but we found

the rest in very nearly the same plight. They however had done a great deal of satisfactory work, having made a thorough survey of Gaspar Straits, a much used thoroughfare in the trades to China. The labour was great and was very trying, but it was executed with skill. Lieut. Rodgers, the commander of the Hancock was in charge of the three vessels and conducted the survey. He is a talented and Energetic officer & it could not be said of him that he did not understand his duty.

The principle cause of annoyance in this division of the squadron was owing to want of comfort in their vessels. But it was particularly vexatious after having labored & toiled as they did in the unhealthy regions where they had been, to have their work picked to pieces & criticized & almost spoiled by the meddling of Ringgold & his toady. These two, having about as much knowledge of surveying as two cows attempted to overhaul Rodgers' work. They pronounced some parts of it faulty thereby Exhibiting their want of judgment & of sense. Most of the officers were much irritated at this but none more than Rodgers of course.

Learning also from the rest of us how unfortunately situated the squadron was, as to vessels & officers, Every one now became

disheartened.

On the 5th of June the Porpoise hauled out into the stream. It was with loathing that I assisted at this operation, for I saw all our troubles returning. Orlando had become very unpopular and without exaggeration I felt sick & chilly whenever whenever duty brought me into contact with him. Our mess was reformed on board & the rigging of the brig went on with rapidity. She had been thoroughly repaired and might be considered a new vessel. But she was still a wretched little brig.

We were nearly ready for sea when the foreign merchants in Hong Kong & Canton all became into a great state of terror and excitement. The insurrections which were breaking out in many parts of the country had reached the vicinity of Canton. The rebels laid siege to the city and the work of devastation & barbarity commenced. The merchants became greatly alarmed for the safety of their property and every harmless Explosion of Chinese gunpowder would make them start in their seats and imagine that a hundred fire-brands were being applied to their dwellings. About this time too the news of the declaration of war between the allies & Russia reached Hong Kong. As a Russian squadron had been in that port some months previous, all sorts of notions were started with regard to their probable

intentions. It happened also that the hordes of petty Chinese pirates then renewed their depredations with unprecedented vigour & conjectures were rife as to a probable alliance between the Russians and the pirates, & the probability of a united descent upon Hong Kong. Volunteer companies were formed, guns were dragged to commanding points and hulks transformed into floating batteries hauled out into the stream. amid all this excitement our merchants were of course much alarmed as there was a prospect of losing money. They clamored loudly for protection & as some of Com.r Perry's vessels were then in those waters, letters poured in to Capt.n Ringgold. This officer I fancy was rather pleased at the opportunity that presented itself. Surveying & Exploring was not so suited to his tastes as the routine of a regular cruizer. The pomp & circumstance of war shipp was his atmosphere & he could never be happier than when breathing it. The command of five vessels of war is an honor which it will take years for him to become entitled to, but as there is a precedent or rather precedents for officers of scientific Expeditions with young men, he with the aid of politics and humbug succeeded

in obtaining a command. the appropriation once made & the expedition started it required very little to divert it from its legitimate objects. Cad was firmly convinced that the true road to popularity & advancement was through the press & he was in hopes that a few bombastic articles on the great services performed in protecting American interests and commerce, would hush any comments on the delay in pushing on the surveys laid out for him. Besides it was a pity that such beautiful crockery with U.S.E.C.R. in blue and gold, such neat portraits of our great men, pretty statuettes, luxurious bed, Extensive & magnificent library (never to be read), it was a pity they should be wasted in uncivilized & barbarous countries. It was surely never meant that the Indians of the Pacific, alone, should wander with admiring gaze in that boudoir.
The opportunity was therefore seized, and the first step was to despatch the Porpoise in search of Pirates. These marauders had lately chased an American ship and frightened her Captain out of his wits, who of course reported the affair in as terrible terms as possible.
These pirates are sometimes very formidable it is true from their great numbers. They are organized in fleets of some sometimes sixty and seventy junks, under a Chief who is generally some clever Canton man, who has picked up foreign knowledge.

their vessels are very lightly built, sharp bows and high stern & drawing but little water. Two & large mat sails of the lug character are hoisted on heavy masts, the fore raking forward, and the main upright & generally tapering into a light stick with a great pennant fluttering in the breeze. Besides these a little jigger mast is stepped on one of the quarters, upon which traverses a light sail for the purposes of manoeuvering. They have low light bulwarks or rails & are armed with bad iron guns, of small calibre miserably secured & which after the first discharge generally fly all around the deck. Some are however better appointed, having by the aid of Europeans one long thirty two or twenty four amidships and fair 6's & 12's for broadside guns. Their own powder is very bad & they have no idea of aim or accuracy in fire. For boarding weapons they have wicked looking trident shaped spears crooked pikes, and unwieldy swords. In a calm they propel their vessels with numerous oars or sweeps. But what renders them particularly formidable are the missiles which are vulgarly called "stink pots". At the main mast head of every fighting vessel is a species of basket or "Crows nest" as the whalers call it. into which a man exercises himself just previous to an Engagement & he is supplied from below with the missiles by a ship. They consist of Earthen jars filled with all kinds of combustibles which are difficult to extinguish & send forth an effluvia impossible to stand. A slow match is attached to them & the fellow aloft with lighted "joss stick" in hand kindles his hand compound & throws it unerringly on the decks of their antagonists. These produce confusion, stifle the combatants & set fire to all parts of the vessel. Thus do these wretches attack a defenceless vessel on all sides. But should their intended prey be well armed & should they at a distance receive a well directed shot or two, they are done for, & pour helter skelter overboard.

Steamers and shell they cannot face. Several severe brushes have taken place between them & men of war. One may ask why is not one sweeping Crusade made against them by the combined forces of the foreign powers. The difficulty exists in the strict maritime laws which render it a crime to attack Even these villains unless they are caught in the act or proved conclusively to be guilty of piracy. Besides when necessary the Emperor of China hires these pirates for his navy & many mandarins own & speculate with these vessels. Foreigners in their anxiety to gain the good will of the Chinese officials & thereby make money

are cautious how they interfere with their property. at this time too in the midst of the rebellion, many of the pirates have joined the insurgents, & under their colors continue their depradations. Vessels of war fearful of meddling with either party have to suffer armed junks under the pretence of their arms which they are morally certain are pirates, as they call themselves either rebels or imperialists.

We hurried off before we were completely ready for sea, many jobs about the interior of the vessel being unfinished. But as these concerned only our comfort they were unimportant. As our object was simply to make a demonstration and satisfy the popular desire no particular pains were taken to ascertain the exact lurking place of the pirates. The Great Ladrone I. one of the group at the mouth of the river was many years ago one of their resorts and hence the name. The am. ship alluded to was also chased some twelve miles from there. General instructions were therefore given in most grandiloquent terms, to Orlando, to cruize in the neighborhood & to inflict chastisement upon the marauders. Orlando at somebody's suggestion went to the Superintendent of Police in Hong Kong to ascertain from him where pirates might be found. He instantly pointed out two fishermen who

just had been robbed of their junk. These fellows were brought on board, and they were in high good humor as they anticipated vengeance & the recovery of their property. We sailed in gallant style out of the harbor & when passed the Entrance beat to quarters and loaded all the arms. Such murderous preparations never were seen. The quarter deck was strewed with muskets, cartouches, pistols, cutlasses ammunition, boarding pikes &c &c. Every one was employed burnishing his revolvers & to all appearances we were like the war horse, snuffing & scenting our Enemy afar off. When quarters were over & Everything loaded, Pharaoh went in the Cabin to report but found Orlando in such a stupor as to be unable to understand him. Our Captain probably Exhilirated at the prospect before him of benefitting humanity & distinguishing himself had allowed his spirits to overcome him.

We suffered however in the afternoon for he came out surly as a bear & practising those annoying & numerous methods of annoying his inferiors which class is so often resorted to in our navy. His wild imagination also led him to undertake a survey of the islands in sight. He was undertaking to do in a very imperfect manner, a thing that had been Executed completely many times before.

But as he said, he was anxious to hand in a little chart to Ringgold U. show him what we could do. As poor Orlando had not the most remote idea how to conduct a running survey, & at the same time was too weak to silently acknowledge it & give it into other hands, it was amusing to see his predicament. He sent for Stein and myself and sextants in hand he looked at us and then at the land. Finally he says cheerfully, "let us commence". Stein repeats, "well! let us commence" Nothing is done however as we persist & in requiring to be told & he wishes us to suggest. So it is finally given up & our Commander of course becomes more disagreeable.

But what was particularly amusing was the disappointment of our Chinese informants. When we got outside they in the most energetic terms pointed out to us where we could find the pirates, but our prow was turned in an opposite direction. After wasting an hour or so entreating, pointing & vociferating they finally subsided into calm indifference & awaited with Oriental taciturnity our return to Hong Kong.

The night closed in without our having seen anything but a small pilot boat with a crew of two men an old woman & child. This little craft however was the cause of much excitement, for

when she was descried standing out for us from the redoubtable Great Ladrone, all hands were called to quarters & the Captain was a victim to the mistake originating in the incapacity of the Chinese in pronouncing the letter R. For when Orlando questioned our Chinese as to the character of the approaching sampan, he was fearful, when they said "pilot" that they might mean pirate! This bright idea was the cause of his penning quite a lengthy document for him, afterwards to Capt. Ringgold suggesting that the multitude of pirates in these waters might be accounted for in this manner, as the captains of merchantmen could easily mistake their informants & flee from friends. He made a most notable error in his report however, as he therein stated that the Chinese could not pronounce the letter L, using R instead, & hence pirates reported for pilots. The opposite is the fact They can't pronounce L the little pink with its innocent crew was saved (saved) from untimely destruction by our Pilot who succeeded in making us understand her character.

That night we beat about most unmercifully, the wind being strong and sea very high.

In the wardroom we suffered very much as Everything leaked. Many of our effects were ruined. The crew were no better off. How poor Brunson did lament his fate! thrust from the comfortable Vincennes into our miserable quarters by the caprice of a despicable man, his usual philosophy and Equanimity was overcome. The second or third night out we had a strong blow from the E.d and during my middle watch Orlando came up & ordered me to "wear". This operation requires care & delicacy in a gale & in a small vessel and is looked upon as a nice manoeuvre. Orlando a little intoxicated commenced giving directions, whereupon I & crew yielded to him & he undertook the task. The Evolution was one I had often performed with success under like circumstances & I understood perfectly the brig's qualities. But Orlando went on & the consequence was nearly fatal. To Explain it better I will say that in a gale a vessel lies to, that is she is kept as near to the direction of the wind as possible thereby rising & falling on the crest of the immense waves & receiving them on her bow. Should she fall off so as to bring her

length parallel to the crest of the sea, she is then as it is technically called "in the trough" and liable to have the seas break over & her ~~swamp her~~ throw her on her beam Ends & swamp her. Now it is often necessary from approaching land or other causes that the ships bows should be turned in an opposite direction & the wind brought on the other side. This involves bringing the ship in the position above alluded to for her bow is made to recede from the wind & describing a semicircle & to come up again with it on the opposite tack. If this is done rapidly & a smooth chance watched, no danger ensues. But Orlando committed a mistake which had a midshipman been guilty of it before his board of Examiners, he would have failed to pass. The consequence was that an immense wave struck us right amidships & threw us over. I was to windward & was thrown with violence against the boom Every article on deck was flung to leeward. For a moment the vessel labored & then recovered herself & slowly came into the wind. Had another struck her, there is no telling what would have happened. An old quartermaster came puffing from leeward & growled out as

he shook the salt water from him, "Im blessed if the brig ever did this before". The wardroom door flew open & a white figure appeared. It was Dorgen in very light clothing roaring for help. He had been precipitated into the middle of the apartment amid wrecks of tables & chairs & the immense side board had made a complete somerset, smashing pitchers & tumblers & nearly immolating Stein who was swinging close by. This adventure taught us that our new captain was deficient in the only quality left for him to possess that of being a seaman - The bad weather continued & of course we said nothing of pirates - In fact we pursued the best course to avoid them. Being in sight of the islands the next afternoon we discovered an Am. ship beating about in a singular manner & on approaching found she did not know the land & was afraid to run in. Orlando offered to convoy her in which was gladly accepted & which we were heartily delighted at. & we meandered amid the islands with lights aloft & anchored in Hong Kong harbor about midnight. This affair very kind, proper & Creditable was made much of & magnified a thousand fold. Our Chinese friends were returned to their native soil, much disgusted & disappointed.

So Ended our first Pirate Cruize. While we were at anchor at some distance from our old berth the Vincennes returned from Whampoa, up the river. We shifted our position to the old one. The carpenters recommenced their work and there being a prospect of a little rest I took advantage of it to write out my resignation. I handed it to Orlando, according to form who made a wry face on receiving it & attempted a parley but I cut him short & he forwarded it to Ringgold. The mail closed in a day or two and I made particular inquiries to see that my letter had been sent as I believed Cad. capable of detaining it and even of lying about it. To enumerate all the causes that have led me to take such a step would be to give a description of annoyances, sufferings, deprivations, heart-burnings and feelings of disgust, all of which would only be necessary in order to justify myself or to prove I had acted wisely - It would be out of place to do so here. I have at times long had a desire to leave the Navy, simply from the fact that I did not like the life and that it did not suit my tastes. But to have resigned hastily on such motives would have been imprudent as there was no telling to what straits I might be put. The strong disapprobation of my parents to such a step has also been an additional source of hesitancy. I was strongly tempted to resign while in New York just previous to sailing in this Ex-

pedition. But the glitter of Ringgold's promises & assurances, the weakness of a desire to be in an Exploring Expedition, and the fact that I had not been to sea since my first cruize and was not alive to the evils of a sea life, all tended to make me vacillate & finally, helplessly, to be carried with the tide, without moral strength or capability of calmly considering the best course. How bitterly have I repented my weakness. A very short time at sea opened my Eyes. The ambition to be an Explorer & to make a reputation as a surveying officer & practical astronomer, was dispelled like mist when I saw what a humbug that arch impostor made of the enterprise — My more mature age & greater experience since I sailed as midshipman, showed me the shallowness & incapacity of the men whose whims & caprices I was the tool of. In this case a little knowledge has made me mad. I can see the truth of part of a remark made by one of our, at present, most celebrated ~~Commodores~~ Commodores, to a Professor at Annapolis, viz: "that he objected to the Naval Academy on the ground that it taught the younger officers too much, making them wiser than their superiors & thereby 'discontented & insubordinate'"!

Ringgold also said one day to our old Captain of the brig, "I would like to see that Academy

abolished as it will End in driving us all out of the service"! After we had been some time in Hong Kong a long spell of comparative idleness enabled me to reflect & turn over and the subject in all its lights. I came to a conclusion & I had no sooner acted upon it than the conviction came upon me how necessary it was to get clear at once. This idea haunted me night and day & I became lean with anxiety. My utter helplessness & the manner in which I was bound only increased my desire to get out of such a scrape. But for all my efforts were of course vain, & I had to await news from home. I expected to have an interview with Ld. in consequence of the document I had sent in, but the Vincennes was again hurried off to Canton and I escaped. The merchants had again become panic stricken & the letters which poured in upon Ringgold worried the latter until he yielded. The Hancock followed and was stationed off the city itself with a detachment of men & marines from the Vincennes which remained at anchor at Whampoa fourteen miles below.

We in the brig expected we would be ordered up also but we were left in Hong Kong to allow the mechanics to finish their repairs. The store ship at this time was found to be in a condition that required overhauling and Everything was taken out

accordingly. But when this was done so many defects were discovered as rendered it necessary to haul the vessel up on the slip. This with other troubles gave Capt.n Ringgold much uneasiness. He had started from the U.S. full of hope, having succeeded in humbugging the government until he had got unlimited powers. Every thing had rested with him. All purchases had been made under his Eye. He had incorporated his name with Everything & not a book but had Cadwalader Ringgold on Every page. The three ships & schooner he had purchased for the Government at extravagant prices when much more suitable vessels could have been found. Both were bought because they were pretty. Scandal even said that the Captain was enabled to pay off many of his debts after the purchase of these vessels. Now, one of them was found to be almost unseaworthy & the Government with lead. for its agent had been Enormously cheated.

Our pirate cruize had naturally created some talk and as we had done nothing, many, thinking we were anxious to punish the marauders, suggested means for its accomplishment. Among others Lieut. Carvalho of the Portuguese Navy commanding a lorcha at Macao, I believe

wrote to our Captain that he knew the rendezvous of about 60 piratical junks & that with an assistance he was willing to undertake their destruction. This officer with the little vessel under him had distinguished himself frequently by his daring attacks & was well known among the corsairs.

As the information was positive & as we had then no imperative call anywhere else, it commenced to look very much as if we would really be obliged to fight. I feel very confident this prospect was not over pleasing to our chief. But luckily for the present, something else turned up. The news reached Hong Kong of the wreck of a vessel named the Hygeia on Pratas Shoal & that there were over 500 chinese who had succeeded in reaching the island but were dying from exposure and starvation. The Philanthropy of many citizens was aroused notwithstanding the sufferers were chinese. A mercantile house that had something to do with the vessel, subscribed a hundred dollars or so towards the chartering of a few junks to send to the aid of the poor people. This was followed up by other subscriptions & it was said six junks had actually started for the shoal. But I am sorry to say their principal object was (technically) plunder or as it is called, "wrecking".

The true history of the Hygeia was simply this.

The Emigration to California, of the laboring class of Chinese or "Coolies" as they are called, was at this time very great, so much so that nearly every one went into the speculation of transporting them. For, every individual paid about $75 and furnished his provisions. And as every vessel was built upon to carry some hundreds of passengers it can be perceived that the business paid well. Every old vessel that could be found was put in requisition & great prices were paid for ships. Among others the Hygeia which had for a long time been lying as a receiving hulk & was too crazy for sea, was bought and hurriedly fitted up. About 530 coolies paid their money and Embarked. But just outside of Hong Kong a strong breeze proved to the Captain that the vessel could not stand the voyage and as the Pratas Shoals were convenient, the vessel accidentally ran ashore on a fine, clear night with a smooth sea. The Captain his officers & crew escaped in their long boat & reached Hong Kong, of course in great hurry to obtain assistance for his suffering passengers.

Orlando was in company with the Am. Consul when the news arrived & the latter remarked that here was an opportunity for Orlando to do

something for humanity's sake & that his vessel could not be better Employed. Orlando did not seem to like the job & wished to consider about it. They finally found the late Captain of the Hygeia & asked if in his opinion another vessel was necessary. This individual who instantly saw if the brig went to rescue the Chinese, he would have an opportunity to stay behind & "wreck" the vessel, in the junk he was about to Embark in, replied in the affirmative. "You see" observed the Consul to Orlando "you ought to go by all means." Orlando took him aside & as they walked back remarked it would be useless for him to go as the people would have all been taken away by the time he reached them. The Consul seemed to think otherwise & finally said he would write officially to Capt. Ringgold & request that the Porpoise might be instantly despatched. Orlando then became anxious to go and by the return mail the orders came and we started out. Pratas Shoal lies about 175 miles in a South easterly direction from Hong Kong and Consists of a low sandy islet covered with shrubs & with a dangerous Coral reef Extending twenty miles from it. The currents are at times very swift around it & it has consequently been

the scene of many disasters. We had very light weather & were two days on the passage. We finally found ourselves becalmed about twenty miles from it, just being able to see the island from aloft. Orlando was now anxious to send a boat to communicate with the people. The object of this was simply, now that he had come, to be sure of taking the Chinese off & thereby gain the éclat. Two or three junks were in sight & he was fearful they would rob him of what he now looked upon as his prerogative. But to go twenty miles in an open boat in a notoriously changeable climate & to spend the night out, for it was nearly sundown, was no enviable duty, and as no result beneficial to the cast-aways would arise therefrom no one was anxious to go as officer of the boat. Had the Captain ordered any one of us, I can safely say the order would have been unhesitatingly obeyed, but he asked for volunteers & he got none.

He finally grew desperate and concluded to go himself & fortifying his resolution with several draughts of brandy & started off armed to the teeth & with a good store of spirits——

What might be spent on the island & the next morning the brig having got closer in

arrangements were made with a junk at hand for the transporting of the Chinese. Some humbugging went on & Orlando now crazy to get all the credit would not hear to allowing any vessel taking the poor people except us. That night again was spent by the Capt.n out of the vessel & the next day by the help of the junk & our boats the whole 530 were got on board. No words can convey what a mass of beings were in that little vessel. a faint notion can only be formed of their wretchedness. A few had died on the island, one poor fellow died a few hours after having reached our decks. Many were sick, with their limbs swollen from lying in the sun & water.

Every part of the vessel was occupied. Our crew never left the forecastle during the passage. One or two remained aloft. The hammock nettings were lined with Chinese & none of our crew had their hammocks during the trip back. We in the wardroom were obliged to go up through the skylight to get on deck as our doors were blocked up. It was with difficulty we could make a passage amid the people for the officer of the deck to walk.

The ropes were all blocked up & where one night we were struck by a squall the crew

were obliged to stand on the poor devils to get at the rigging. As it was sail could not be taken in & we were fortunate in not loosing our spars. Such a condition, vessel never was in.

The Chinese under such circumstances could not be very clean, but it was surprising to see how temperate they were when food & water was served out to them. You could see with what Eagerness & delight they would seize a cup of water but instead of Emptying it at once it would be passed to the neighbor. Orlando had three or four of the head men in his cabin who were occupied inditing a long letter in Chinese Expressing their gratitude. This document is now in a frame religiously kept by its owner who amuses all new acquaintances by its perusal as translated. We reached Hong Kong in safety and landed our colony. The parting was mutually agreeable.

This affair gained deservedly much credit among outsiders & praise for Orlando. But with us in the squadron it was one of the causes of his ruin. For we could not but know all the minor details, faults, & exact promptings in the affair. A base heart could appear as nothing else to us, who so lamentably suffered by it.

The truth must be told to Explain after Events - Orlando had in this affair exhibited

meanness, want of judgment, overbearingness, injustice and drunkenness & had risked his vessel & the lives of all on board unnecessarily.

Meanness was shown in attempting to back out from going on the expedition, in his conversations with the Consul, & then asserting that he was the first man to propose going & had begged Capt. Ringgold to allow him. Want of judgment was demonstrated in the modus operandi off the shoals. overbearingness & injustice in many acts to us on the trip. Drunkenness by extreme intoxication while away in the boat on the island so much as to fall overpowered & to be guilty of some of the most ridiculous pranks. Finally by refusing the assistance of the junk which could have carried a hundred, he risked his vessel & greatly risked her - for a slight gale would have been our certain destruction.

But as much as we were disgusted we held our tongues & in fact with regard to the drunkenness, most of us were ignorant of it, until we heard it on shore, the affair having been twisted about by some Europeans who had formed the crew of the junk & had been astonished witnesses.

North Pacific Expedition