#96

Per Private Ship "Windsor Castle"
via Dartmouth

Mrs Bleek
Knowbray
Cape Town
Cape of Good Hope
South Africa

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Chronicle of a voyage to England in the "Roman". Sent to Mrs Bleek (possibly from Lucy Lloyd?)

May 1st 1874.

As some of dear "Brothers" at Inow-
bray expressed a wish for a chronicle
of our ship-life, I am trying to
write one. — 1st explaining that my
head is very weak still, although
it is a great interest and amuse-
ment to me to write things
down for them. But I cannot
hope to do it well, at all events
yet-awhile.

To begin from the beginning:
April 25 you know we came on board the
"Roman". In the evens. I wrote a long-
ish letter to you all (directed to
dear Wilhelm), telling things so
far. The next morng, the
" 26th - I was adding a triple to it, having
heard that we were not likely
to start until 12, noon; - but in
the midst of my writing, and
certainly before 12 (between 10 & 11 just, Miss Schwabe says)
the Stewardess advised us to
make haste, if we had any-
thing to go on shore, as we were
just going to start (the bell
for

for the
departure of non-passengers was
then ringing), so I went quickly
on to the quarterdeck, taking my
letter to you, and Miss Schunke's
to Wellington, in my hand, upon
each of which we had just a
Cape 1d stamp), and, looking about
for any one at all reliable, to
whose care I could entrust the
letters, I saw, near me, (who had come on board, I believe, with a young officer from Natal who was returning to Cape Town) Mr. Pitt, & asked him to be so kind as to take charge of them. I hope you got them mine safely. I thought, as one was addressed to Wilhelm, he would not like to be careless abt them. We went out of dock, giving either ourselves or the edge of the dock some little injury, notwithstanding the aid of a little hard swearing on board. The vessel (at once upon going out) became so unsteady that even I could not wait for her to round the breakwater, & had to go down to settle a few last things and get undressed. However, the rolling was such, that I became very giddy & ill, & with great difficulty could even finish undressing & get into bed, & to add to our delight the soapy water, which Mrs Steward & Stewardess had omitted to empty, began to come out and run across the cabin (luckily, not at all where the box of pictures was), & Steward & Stewardess appeared (neither of them well-pleased with each other, or somebody) in the midst of my undressing; & the damage was arrested before any real harm but soaking part of the carpet & wetting my boots & slippers was done. (I view the washing-stand arrangements with much distrust since.) That afternoon I was more faint, & ill, than I ever remember to have felt the 1st day on board a steamer, wretchedly so. And from Shushu was I believe a little (of course very) ill, & uncomfortable, and I am sure,

feeling very lonely & out of her
element too. This was my only
very bad day, tho' of course it was
succeeded by others wh were un-
comfortable enough. But I may
be very thankful to have es-
caped this time, so comparatively lightly.

(continued Saturday, May 2nd)

April 27th

I was in bed, & Miss Schuncke, I
believe, on deck a part of the day.
She used to come down (very kind-
ly often, to see if she could get me
anything. On this day Shuster
pronounced the day on board to
be "Fearful" in point of length,
"and so horribly dull." She had her
Thölnische Zeitungen on deck, wh
was the only place where she
could keep tolerably well. This
day, she came down & made
some Liebig's beef tea for us abt
11 a. m; wh made me comparatively
comfortable for some hours, and

able

able to get some sleep (dreaming in it very often of dear ones at Inverary);

April 28th

I was able to get up and go on deck before luncheon, & stayed there until just before dinner, to wh I tried to go, on Miss Schuncke's account, chiefly, as she had not been well-used about our places at table. But again, this night, we had more annoyance, & as I could obtain no redress from the steward (who had probably been fee'd by the one person too many who had forced himself into our bench; & Miss Schuncke had been told would only contain 3 men besides ourselves) I left the table, & spoke to the Captain, telling him that I must ask him to do something, as 4 men were just into one seat with us, & we had no room to sit. (This doing was quite needless, as there were several spare places at table, where the boy in question could

read

been placed. Mrs Schunks (who has been previously much annoyed, by rude remarks from the people in the bench, in any of the wings when I was absent, but against my wish) left the table with me. We also spoke to the stewardess, who said that she thot, when her 7 or 8 (still) sick ladies all came out, that we should be obliged to have two sets of meals, eventually, she meant. I also managed, also, to speak to Major Erskine that night on deck, (he had not known that I was on board, & I had not seen him at all to speak to before.) He introduced me, at once, most kindly to his wife, who is a lady, and seems a very nice little woman indeed. Later in the evening, I had an opportunity of telling him a little of how uncomfortably we were situated with regard to our places at meals, (without of course entering into any particulars, or blaming the Captain, whose fault it really was that we were so, and) asked him kindly to see if he could do any thing in the matter for us. He said that he would speak to the Capt. in the morning, & see what could be done, & that any thing that he could do for us on board, I must tell him at once (words to this effect); so we went rather consoled to bed. And the next morning we were back in our proper places at bkfast, & double meals were announced for that day, and the future. Major Erskine told me after bkfast (at least some time that morng, I believe) that there were now to be double meals, an earlier, and a later set: and that we could each chose which-ever we liked, only that the set (of meals) that we chose, we must keep to. I most gladly chose the early set, for both Mrs Schunks & I had found the late breakfast

and dinner, very trying. What helps to make the new arrangement very much more agreeable for us, is this, — that, instead of us at 1st, sitting quite among strangers, & 2ndly (when we had just been out of the 1st places assigned, which were good, & among decent people) with & among very rough men (some of them from the Fields), — Mr. Hunt & his daughters, & a gentlemanly young officer from Natal (who goes home on sick leave) sit opposite to us, & our other companions in the bench, on our side of it, are a Mrs Green (the wife of a District Surgeon at Estcourt Natal, with whom Mrs Erskine appears on good terms, & who seems respectable, although somewhat common looking) and Mr. & Mrs Woodroffe, also from Natal (Edmund Byron's friend, & his young wife, who appears delicate,

delicate, just now, poor little thing). And the chief officer, who usually presides instead of the Capt. at the earlier repasts, seems a courteous, ~~good~~ inclined good-natured fellow, a very great improvement upon his superior boor. So you see that we might be very much worse off.

April 29th.

Began to read a little Bushman again, but found my head rather too weak to profit much by it. I think I tried Buckle's Hist. of Civilization too, this day; but found it too difficult, in the state my head was. But, from what I see of the book, I don't think that it is one which I shall care much about even when well. Regretted rather that I did not having brt. one new story-book with me, as, as yet, I did not like to ask any one to lend me a book. Miss Schunke gave me some German dictation.

April 30th.

Found a little damp on one end

end of Edmund's box of pictures (which had leaked in from the Steward's pantry), wiped it carefully off, & propped up the box on a many-folded thick box cover, until I could get some blocks from the Carpenter to put under it. I said nothing more to the Capt., after at first asking him kindly to take charge of the case for me, because one of the Stewards had spoken, about this bequest to me, to the effect that it could not be put down in a certain hold, where it would not be "very damp", or something to this effect. So I thought it better to ask the Capt no more, & keep a look out for it myself. This event. I asked Major Erskine to introduce me to Mr Woodroffe, and spoke to him about the matter, asking him kindly to get me the necessary blocks from the Carpenter. But he said that what he thought better still, would be to put them into one of the six berths

berths in the cabin he occupies somewhere forward or midships (having given up, to Mrs Green, his berth in the cabin which his wife has, round the Saloon where we are). I thankfully accepted this offer. He has been in the Navy, & therefore will be more Hagaricfili about ship matters. (So the box went down to him today, May 2nd, in good order. And my mind is much relieved about it.) This day (Monday 1st (April 30)) I began Miss Schaake's English; which she is very glad to be able to do.

May 1st.

All these late days we have been going along very nicely in the Trades; generally, I think about 11 Knots an hr. But the cloudiness of the days & nights is so curious. The temperature has, for the last 3 days been very pleasant, & people are beginning to put on cooler clothes. But it is so strange to

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to see the sun by day, & the moon
by night; altho' it must be
really bright moonlight, were
it not for the clouds where we
are. I do not feel well, tho' I am
most thankful to have so far,
& do well got over sea-sickness.
But the nights are very disturbed,
with all the bells, & the noises,
for a light sleeper like I am
now, & the food, tho' not ~~actually~~
bad, is very trying and un-
satisfactory for people like Miss
Schunke & me. I find so little
that I can eat, & poor Shuster
now & then eats things (being
hungry) that she had much
better not. We have drunk claret,
as I found the beer very bad.
& Miss Schunke is very glad of a
glass of Pontac at night. I have
been most glad of the very
nice Raspberry vinegar I got
from Mr. Mally. Having it, when
I can't take nothing at all else,
has very much helped me to
get

get over the sea-sickness - I may remark, en passant, that the tea is really pretty good here, & the coffee drinkable, when one is well - Our hours are breakfast at ½ past 8; luncheon at 12; dinner at 5; & tea (for both early & late diners) at 8. The others set breakfast at ½ past nine, have luncheon after us, & dine at 7, I believe, or ½ past six -

One of the late emeng, Mr. Woodroffe had up his banjo & sung some comic songs, not at all bad-ly; & an officer who is not now in the army, but is, Mrs Kerr-kine tells me collecting (Natural Hist. specimens I believe), also sang for us. He is evidently a gentleman, & seems a very good-natured fellow. Whether he has been always steady, I sometimes doubt. Mrs Kerrkine believes that he was in the Guards. He also sits nearly opposite to me, at table. I wished that I could

Rose

have seen him dance & sing "Sally, come up" when called upon by the Woodroffes, I believe. He dances it so capitally, that one thinks that one of the ~~negroes~~ ~~thin lanky~~ off the cover of a song has suddenly appeared on the deck. But, setting all this nonsense aside, - it is a great comfort to have some gentlemen at our table; for at my left, we have, outside our bench, a most objectionable young man, or rather boy; & beyond him some rough fellow. Stories being by far the quietest of the party in that bench - And when this boy talks of things that he ought not, the two officers opposite to him (& me) are a great help. This night there was a short amateur entertainment on deck (on to W^d the piano-forte had been moved the previous even.), & an attempt to

dance had been made. The entertainment was, naturally, very bad indeed, excepting a song or two by Mr. Woodroffe, & one by this officer, & one by a lady-passenger (whose name I cannot yet learn) who has a really sweet nice voice. & Miss Sabatta also sung twice, greatly to the delight of many of her audience. And the Hunt girls played a duet very badly. You W^d laugh to hear Miss Schunke's very severe remarks upon the music; & also, almost daily, upon some of our fellow-passengers. She comes to me & says with intensity "I hate him (or her)," as the case may be); I only laugh - for, really some of the poor dears are not at all bad in their ways; & as for hating, besides the mistake of it, it really W^d not be worth the trouble. I had not an idea that she had so much

much bitterness, or something of
the kind, to spare. Among the
treats, yesterday every. We had
to listen to a recitative so
stupid, so ill done, that I was
on the point of saying that
we must borrow the man to
give us a sermon on Sunday
(He almost sent me to sleep
as I sat this Right.) But the
presence of Papa ci-devant
Churchwarden is rather re-
straining, I prefer so - for I do
not want to say anything
that will shock him, for
Papa is a kind hearted & very
respectable kindly disposed
fellow, too.

May 2nd

At length, I have written up
almost - even with to day, ex-
cepting that I have not yet
told you the ins & outs of the
trouble

trouble that we had abt our places;
partly, because the thot of the
cheating of the steward makes
me still angry, & partly because
Miss Schunke is not on deck to
give me dates, etc. I am so
longing to know how you all
are, & how dear Wilhelm has
gone thro' the last two or
three days, especially yester-
day/ wh was full moon again,
altho' the clouds wd have pre-
vented our knowing it, as far
as light went. Today, we see
several pieces of blue sky, &
the sun was out for a few minutes
after 12. I go on Reading Bush-
man (in the privacy of my
cabin). but my organs seem
stiff & not strong. I hope, as I
regain strength, to find it
all easier, & more natural
again. I get up abt (or before) 1/2
past six, so as to dress out
of Miss Schunke's way, & at
8, I escape from our warm cabin to
the nice deck, &

there
get abt ½ an hour before the
breakfast bell rings. I dress 1st,
for both our sakes, as I can bear
the window open almost the
whole time of my toilette, &
Shusha cannot often risk this;
& in bed, out of the way, she
enjoys it. It is very trying these
warm mornings not to be able to
go on deck before 8; but I shall
consult some one who knows, and
see if it may not be feasible, at
least during the hot weather, while
there is such a necessity for it.
Major Erskine told me today that
we were in 12° at noon, & 12° 45' at
the time he spoke this afternoon.
He says we are making 3 degrees
a day, & shall be at the Line in
4 days if all goes on well. The Chief
Officer today, at dinner, said that
he thought between the 19th & 22nd
(if nothing happened to hinder us) we
shd get home. You would be sorry
for poor Mrs Erskine (excepting
that she seems thoroughly happy
in her marriage, wh is so very
nice to see); for, here she is on
board with one child of abt 2 years
& 8 months old, and another, a baby of
between 3 & 4 months old, which
she nurses entirely herself; and
she has no servant. She is looking thin,
& delicate, & suffers much from
headaches, wh seem to come from
weakness. Mrs Green & Mrs Wood-
roffe seem kind in lending her
an occasional hand with her
baby, and I try to help her with
him when I can. She seems very
grateful for any little things
that one can do for her. And the
baby is a good, quiet, dear little
fellow. Of course he is not equal to
dear little Doris; particularly being so much
younger; — but still he is a plea-
sant, to hear dear little fellow, & begins
to be very comfortable with
me; I suppose it is, that from
watching him rather closely, I be-
gin to understand something of his little ways.
The elder child is a fine little
fellow;

whom one can see at a glance to be
a gentleman's child. He has been
a delicate all along, his mother
tells me, & has had whooping-
cough for some months, from
wh. he has not yet quite recover-
ed. Her baby was only born about
a month after poor young Erskine
was killed, & is named Robert, after
him. It seemed to me to have
rather a scared look, poor little
man; & the shock & distress to
his mother m^t. acct. for that.
She seems to have been much at-
tached to poor Charley; & her great
love for his father would have
made her suffer, without that,
in what must have been a very
heavy trial for them all. She seems not to find
the food quite sufficient on board
& no wonder, - not that it is bad for it,
much better than I expected; but it is
not of a satisfying kind, nor just
what one needs. I thought of the
nice fresh eggs wh. dear Jamaica
me, & wh., chiefly owing to my being

being so very much better than
usual this time, & partly also to
little difficulties on board, I have
not yet used. And I gave her 7 j=
keeping still 4 for ourselves; she was
very glad to hear them, & meant
also to have one boiled for her
elder boy's (she does not seem able to eat much
the same, with one or two, for my
own. But the poor Steward seems
to be in one incessant race from
morn. to night. There are many
of them, but some are any thing
but good waiters. They seem to
have, generally-speaking, the art
of tumbling over one another in
bunches, in doorways, & so on, — if
you can understand what I
mean. They are still up & about after 1/2 p
past ten at night, — at which hour
our candle is usually just out; &
in the morn. I hear them about
before five, sometimes. There is in-
deed a hard life. There are a
few other children on board, but
only, as

as far as I at present see, for, besides the 2 little Lesbiennes in this part of the ship. The farce of the Fire-bell business was gone thro' today; after our luncheon, I think. But it seemed such a farce. The bell did not ring as if any thing were really the matter. I can realize more & more, how very unfit a crowded vessel, like this, is, for any one who is really delicate, excepting for the nice mild climate, into wh it carries one so quickly. It is pleasant to hear how very much less bad coughing one hears than when one came on board; even the very bad coughs that are by no means over yet, are so much less frequent. I don't know how we are going to get thro' tomorrow, for I shall have not to shock some of the Natal R.s. And yet one must do something. The days here wd be indeed utterly dreary without that enormous assistance.

Sunday, May 3rd

This a very nice day, still cloudy, fortunately for us; as, otherwise, I am sure it wd be very warm. Last night was very close; & for Miss Schuntke's sake, I did not like to propose having the port open, but she felt it very close, as well as I; & perhaps, tonight, we may venture to try it open. We drink veronique. It is after b.-fast, & we are on deck, most of us, waiting for service, to wh I think I have persuaded Miss Schuntke to come. She has never seen a deck service, I find, & I tell her that it is a pretty sight, wh it is a pity to miss seeing, if only for once. And to sit Dr below, is so warm and unhealthy. The poor girl has been suffering from an ulcer gathering on her leg; — if it does not show signs of dispersing,

I tell

tell her that I think we must
speak to the Dr. abt. it / see what
he can give her. Of course, she
does not like the idea; but as
she thinks that there is an elder-
ly very respectable-looking Dr
on board it will not be so bad.
I can see more & more how in-
nately unhealthy the poor girl
must be. I find, with some relief,
on inquiring from her, that the
London so called friends, are 3 cousins
of her Scotch friend, viz. ½ men, & a girl
of abt. 19, their sister. The men
are, she says, in business with
their uncle (one of them partners);
in what business, she does not
know, & the sister also lives with
the Uncle, & them. She (the niece) is not in
business. She also says that she
knows that the business is not a shop,
& think that it is a bank. This latter
seems to me unlikely. But,
any

any how, I am very glad to
hear that there is a woman
in the family. Miss Schunke
thinks that the Uncle is
married (as she says the girl
we he rather young, otherwise
to live there), but does not
know this. She herself, five yrs
ago, when the girl was 14, saw
& liked her very much, in
Switzerland. She says that these
young people are all members of the
large family, & that the father
being dead, these two sons sup-
port the mother. She heard of their
goodness ~~dissatisfactoriness~~ from their
cousin, her friend, when in Switzer-
land. I believe that the mother &
the other children live in the
same village or ~~town~~ place that her
friend does. She (the mother) is the widow of the
brother of the father of the family
where Miss Schunke goes. Just be-
fore service, we had the pleasant
intelligence that there is a poor
child (really an adult) ill with measles, in one of
the maindeck cabins, this side of
the funnel.

funnel. Poor Mrs Erskine is frightened on acct of her little ones; & tho' I don't say so, they are complexions fair enough to catch anything. The awkward thing is that there are 3 children still more forward in the vessel, who belong to some 1st class passengers, & who naturally run about from their end of the vessel to this. I think that this ought to be stopped; by getting some men to change forward, and getting this family, with the children, come at once aft. But it is not likely to be done - And, so, I fear, we may get the disease aft. We have only 4 children (little ones) sleeping round the saloon, but 2 young girls also. Passengers are growling, lest we sh^d not be allowed to land at Madeira & (Shusha among the number), w^h seems rather likely to be the case. I find that Mrs Green knows the MacFarlanes, & Banastre's family

family; & her husband succeeded Dr. Purcell (and went to) at Estcourt ab^t a year ago. She has had fever & is going home in a year for her health. She seems to like Banastre very much, & speaks as if he were a great favourite, generally. She says that he & her husband saw them over the bar when they left, & went back together. The latter seems to be B.'s family doctor. Mrs Green has no children, so can leave home the more easily. She has been 5 years in Natal, & does not like it at all. Her service this morng. was rather long, & the sermon of ab^t 1 only caught a few words, about Balaam or Balak, did not seem over-appropriate. But the minister has a kindly face. On inquiring from Mr. Hunt, I find that he is a Missionary from Zululand, under Bp. Wilkinson, so I have asked Mr. Hunt to introduce him to me, on

acct of the former circumstance,
of course. I hope he may be able to
tell me something; and also, I
and also ab- the Robertsons,
want to see if I can interest
him at all about the Native
traditions. He, Mr. Hunt tells me, belongs
to the other church, yet, he adds,
that he
"cannot be "bitter," or he mentions
Pope & the Bishop of Natal by
their titles.

May 4th Monday.

To our relief, the Stewardess says
that we may come earlier than
& upon the poop here. And as it
was trying close & warm last
nt, & the mosq.s, in our Cabin, I
came on deck at ½ past 7 &
& found it very nice; sitting
down quietly to Bushman in
a shady corner. Pom Shuahn is
not very well, & does not eat well;
I tell her that if she is not better
very soon, I shall speak to the
D. about her. He is only a young
man,

young man, unfortunately, i but quiet-looking. The elderly man is ~~the~~ a Dutch captain ~~Capt. Koopman~~ of the Dutch navy, I believe, going home (the stern-looking quiet man whom Mrs Schunk mistook for the ship's doctor; whom I think I have already mentioned.) — Now, I must tell dear Wilhelm that Mr. Jackson (the Missionary) was presented to me yesterday by old Mr. Hunt; & seemed much pleased. He told me some Zululand news; — among other things that poor Mrs Robertson is very ill; & now quite confined to her room. Happily she does not seem to suffer much; & does not wish to be removed to D'Urban. It seems uncertain yet, whether her illness will end in her death, or her recovery, poor thing. Mr. J. told me that he had hoped to have seen Dr. Bleek, while at

at the Cape, Mr. Lightfoot was going to have taken him. But going out to Rondebosch, [to stay & not returning until the last night,] I understood, prevented it. He seemed quite sorry to have missed seeing you, because he thinks that you could have told him many things that he does not know. He has just lately met with your paper on the B. language, in "The Cape & its People;" & seemed much interested by what you there said as to the two families of language in S. Africa. He had previously himself thot. that there were two or three, even among the Kafir languages. He, however, hopes to see you on his way out again. He has been nine years among the Kyulus. I told him that I had with me one or two papers of yours, that wd. interest him, and I have just fetched up the little vol. wh. contains your paper "On the Concord." He was asking me today abt. your Comp. Grammr., wh. he says he has not seen, & must get. I regret now, slightly I left mine at Mowbray, as a mre useful working copy for you, as, in this instance, you would be mre glad for it to be here, or that it could have been looked at. I lent him your notice of Jom Mr. Appleyard, wh. seemed to interest him. He is a kindly honest-looking man. I must find out this, whether he is related to the Jom Jackson, just dead, who used to annoy us so much in old days in Natal by preaching to the Kafirs when they went to fetch water. I saw the death of the latter in the Natal Colonist wh. Dean Wilhelm kindly [illegible] gave me to bring with me on board,

Wed

of various kinds

we contained a great deal that
was of interest to me. I have not
told you that (to our surprise) they actually gave us an-
other service yesterday evens,
after 8 o'clock tea. I think
that in many ways, it was
an unsuitable & thoughtless
proceeding. Miss Schuckle will
not remain, & rather foolishly
retired to her very warm cabin,
instead of sitting prettily a little
in the shade on deck, as some
others did, & as I did. Mrs Woodroffe
little thing. I must go down,
some time today; to just a
few things right, in the cabin,
I mean. But one dreads even
going down for a few minutes.
I put on my holland polonaise
yesterday, & find it a com-
fort. The boxes come up tomorrow,
& then we must find some-
thing still cooler. Miss Schuckle

Mon

has <u>much</u> enjoyed & laughed over the 1st. vol. of "Hard Cash", & is looking forward to tomorrow to get the other vols. out of her hold pt. Manteau - She has lent the 1st vol. now to a funny-looking elderly woman (very common-looking) who generally seems very dull & who asked Miss Schuster for our "Argus" this morng. Little Herman Erskine (the elder child) hardly speaks any thing but Dhafir; & gets quite impatient, poor child, they say, when not understood. At first, he would not play with the other children (Major Erskine told me Herman "hated" children, & had never been used to them), but now, luckily, he begins to play a little with them. It relieves his mother, & will, of course, teach him English, too. He is named Herman after a German brother-in-law of Major Erskine's. I did not know that the latter

cried

could speak German. He says that he can, having been five years (first & last) in the County. He has been glad to borrow a vol. of Buckle from me (as it is a very favorite book of his) finding there yellow novels here unreadable, & he also wishes to have some of the late Thackeray. She gets on comfortably with him, & is not as stiff as she is with many of the others whom we know. And she is kind & helping in little things to Mrs Erskine, where she can. The girl is to me a very odd mixture. Of course, there is the inevitable flirtation of the ship's officers, & some of the girls. I only hope, that one of the Jom Hunts who is very young & simple, will not lose her heart on board. to a huge Chief Officer

I do not, at all, think that the other person means any thing but amusing himself. Now, I have told dear Barbie the chief of our ship nonsense, saving one thing we amused R. & me rather yesterday; - but we I don't write here at this moment. Not being sure that a Cape woman may not be near enough to peer over my shoulder - & not wanting to turn round to look.

5th May.

Today after all was not box-day; so we have to wait for to-morrow; & I have had the courage to dress in my quite old blk & white cotton, (We was rather stared at on deck) in the absence of another cool dress-

6th May. (Wed.)

I could not get time to write more yesterday. I had to fold up & put away most of my warm things, ready to get them into my

my hold box today, as the Cabin over
little cabin cooler & freer. And being
busy downstairs, was very warm work.
I was much interested to hear
from Major Erskine that the
Dutch naval Capt on board is the
man who was in command of
the 1st Atchin expedition. I wish
I knew him. I think he cd tell me
a good deal that wd be interest-
ing. I forgot also to mention that
the Jnor R. who is said to have
measles is not a child, but an
Adult, who shipped at Port Elizth.
I cannot easily learn how
he is getting on. There seems to
be an endeavour to keep the
matter as quiet as possible, but
the general impression seems to
be that we shall not be al-
lowed to land at Madeira.
I wonder how we shall get
our letters safely posted.

Today, we have a good breeze
again, wh. is a gt. relief, after the
2 days of gt. heat we have had.
But the sea seems a little in-
clined to be rough, & the vessel
moves a good deal. Finding that
Mrs Erskine had been in the habit
of getting a cup of tea at the chil-
dren's tea, at 4 o'clock, & hearing
her complain that it was now
so bad that she cd. not drink it,
I instituted our tea just yesterday
afternoon at that hour, & gave
her a cup from it. The man who
sold it to dear Jan was quite
right; it does hold two of
our large half-pint ship break-
fast cups full. — Of course the
Miss Arents defend Natal and
Natal things, & on one of the
earlier days of our voyage, I am
sure Wilhelm wd. have had
a hearty laugh to have heard the
discussion abt. it. The Chief Officer
was abusing it, but it came out
that he had only seen it from
the

the Cape never having landed there. This w^d rather have turned the laugh against him; but he proceeded to say very quietly, "No: I have never been ashore there, but still I have my own opinion abt it." and proceeded duly to relate that one person after another came on board their ship from Natal with "Well! I am thankful that I have got out of that hole of a place!" ~~all expressing their very unfavorable opinion of it.~~ To this, the young ladies could not find much to say.

The Zulu Missionary told me the 1st day that we spoke together, that he is going home to try to get money to continue his work, and I found, on further conversation, when he returned the book, that he wants to establish a Mission among the Bushmen

Bushmen in the Transvaal; he said that when you published on that subject, he sh^d be very glad to see it; at that moment I was nursing Mrs Erskine's baby, who wanted to cry, & did not manage to talk further; but yesterday, I explained to him that as yet, there was only last years printed report ab^t it & sent him, & therewith sent him my copy of it (with the letter), and added that there w^d be another, longer one, published this year. He said of course you were going to publish the results of your inquiry. I said yes; but time and money w^d both be required for that. I told him that you had had Bushmen for the last 4 years; & had collected books full of their stories. He seemed to think that must be a very interesting collection, and asked

asked if I took any interest
in the language. (!) I said yes;
that you had thot it w^d be
of use for me to learn it too,
as also I had more leisure to
give to it. I must tell you
that he told me yesterday,
that he had been told on board
that I was "writing a book";
I wished to know on
what subject. I said I was not
sufficiently industrious. and
when we came to talk later
ab^t Bushman, said that as if
that was one of the things
that I was reading; so as to
endeavour not to lose it.
(It is probably some one who
has seen me sitting with the
M.S. book before me, who imagined me
to be writing one.)

May 7th

We were thinking on the
5th that a few lines w^d be

be starting from you to us. And
also all these days, we are
thinking that dear fellows are
probably (especially Tannies)
hard at work at the Report.
And also, we are thinking,
with gladness, how very near
the Lib^y. Meeting, & dear Mrs
Helm's holidays have drawn.
Yesterday, we were abt. 9
degree N. of the Line. The
day, thanks to a good breeze,
was wonderfully bearable
on deck. But I am getting
weak, I dislike almost all
the food, & my ancles are weak
now to get about. — Tho' a few
days ago, I was (for me on board ship)
wonderfully well. If this weak-
ness continues, I shall probably
try to get a tonic. Yesterday
was luggage day. We had to open
our boxes just outside the smoking
room, in rather an awkward
place.

place however, that is over for
a week. They certainly abuse the
form boxes: my nice new one
was forced open (by ill treat-
ment, I think) at one end, so
that any water could have
poured in, from the drain,
if it would: neither locks nor unlock.
I had to send over Stewart for the car-
penter to rectify matters.
Mr. Woodroffe told me yester-
day that he thought another
fortnight would take us home.
Having seen the measles patient
up on the bridge, he concluded
him to be better. — Yesterday,
Major Erskine came, announcing a
forthcoming newspaper, & asked if
I would write for it. I, of course, said
no. I don't expect that it will
be well-conducted here — that it
will be vulgar, I mean — So I did
not even like to promise to try
to contribute towards it.
Yesterday morning the Missionary
came over to look at one
of the maps, to look at, one
showing where his station is on
the Transvaal, & where the Bush-
men are in the mountains near
him. (It seems to be a continua-
tion of the Drachensbergen.) Derby
is the name of his station, it is
near Walkerstroom. He says that he is
going home to tell the people that
he cannot carry on the station
without more money. He says that
what protection is wanted from the
Bushmen, that, he seems to
think, a Missionary station would give.
He says, when he was first now on his
way down, he saw a whole line
of Bushmen women & children, going out
with their digging-sticks, to dig
roots. He says that they (the Bs.)
(the Bs.) are wild, & that (the only
man (whom he knows), as the on-
ly way of getting rid of them,
used to ride them down, & catch
them, by throwing a riem over
their

their heads; he then took them
home & fed them well for two
or three days; & when he sent them
back
go home with a blanket. They
then saw that he treated them
well, & said that he was their
"father" & afterwards return-
ed to him of their own
accord. I want to hear more,
but it is rather difficult on
board ship, what with one interrup-
tion & another. He says that some of
the B.'s speak Thaiti, & that so
they do. hope to reach them, tho',
he thinks it will be better, & lead
to a better understanding of the
people, to learn their own lan-
guage. And he seems to hope
that this may be done whether
just about where these Buck-
men are, there are, no, or
any Dutch, I forget what he said.
But I understand that the

the Bushmen go to the uninhabited parts of the country by preference. Some of them, Mr. Jackson tells me, have begun to cultivate gardens—

May 8th, Friday.

Today has been very wet. but I managed to sit on deck some hours this morng., in a dry place; to get out of the very close cabin, wh. still makes me feel ill, very often. It is now afternoon. Shusha, fearing the damp, has not ventured up at all, & is amusing herself with "Hard Cash" downstairs. I have had for the last 2 or 3 days, headache - wh. has come on badly to day. I believe only from the very want of nourishing food - Yesterday I cd. not go down to dinner, or luncheon, feeling the motion so very much - and the day before I cd. eat very little either. Indeed, for some days, I have been able to get hardly any thing fit to eat - The food is very bad now;

puddings with apparently little but water & grain in them, hard pastry, hardly any vegetables excepting cabbage, & badly cooked potatoes, & worst of all, very bad meat now, for some time. The soup at dinner is the only thing worth eating; & that not always. We hear I believe five poor consumptive men on board; & of course this is worse for them than for any one - The cheese is not bad, but one can't live upon that; & the beer is so bad, I don't care to drink it. Shasha complains that she is becoming very thin - and so, I think, will all who are not ostriches, before we leave - Yesterday, in a heavy shower on deck, old Mrs Mayburgh happened to be sitting by me, & she began to talk. She said that she was going out to Natal, as she was anxious about her daughter, who was living with a married sister (at the Cape) she asked married & whom. and hearing

hearing that it was Withelm, I said at once that she knew you, & proceeded to explain that she had often met you at the rather Dr Leech's. She made herself pleasant, poor old lady. She seems very anxious ab. her son-in-law, whom she does not think as well, & says how he wipes the perspiring face on the towel he had on when [illegible] - The Dr. appears to have said, that if he can only keep up his strength, he may recover. He is suffering, not from the a third lungs, they say, but from an attack & abscess on the liver. He coughs sadly, at times, poor fellow.

What I said red amused me the other day, was this: one evening Major Erskine sat chatting, rather confidentially, in the saloon with me, Shasha was with me. Some of the Captain's passengers were sitting there too. I said to Shasha afterwards that it was not a bad thing for us. It made them weather independent. However, the next day, the Capt. who had never taken the least notice of me, or said any thing further

abt my request regarding the
pictures, appeared suddenly
before us on deck, I asked if I had not
come down with him abt 7 years
ago, from Natal. I said that I had
come down in 67 with Capt
Boxwell. but that I did not
remember him. He alluded to
my having come on board to them
in the outer anchorage, & to other
incidents of the voyage - & then
I said, if I sent him the pictures
that I had taken, him abt, he
could put them into the mail-
room for me. This he agreed
to. I said that I was
much obliged, & should be very
glad to hear he had them put into
the mail room. He said that Mrs
Woodroffe had kindly taken charge
of them for me, in his cabin,
as I feared the water from the
pantry leaking into mine. I said
did he think that one of the berths
in Mr W.'s cabin was a good place?
He said yes - Today a large
brown

brown butterfly two the early
caught, Mr. Kent told me? I
did not see it, both being below
at the moment. Yesterday,
we were, they said 150 miles
from land. Swallows were fly-
ing very near the ship. One
even over the poop; it was
very pretty to see them.
I find the stewardess very kind
& obliging to me; about my having
meals on deck & everything; but some
of the ladies complain of her being
very disobliging. The fact is, she is
elderly; & I think likes to be properly spoken to. And I like her - in fact
perhaps makes also a little diff-
erence. Anyhow, it is a comfort to
feel that when one has to stay
on deck, things are willingly brot.
I can't afford now, to do without
anything that I can take - the
hear from the ship officer that we are likely to pass
the "Anglian" on Sunday - & that
Capt Lade may perhaps take
letters from us. I hope he may;
for

for them, dear brothers we hear quickly of us. The last two days have been long, as I have been too weak & poorly to do much- We have only had two very hot days; but today the warmth is of a trying steaming kind. I had a long chat with Mr. Jackson this morng. (who gave me his place on a dry bench when Mrs. Green etc. were sitting); & learnt that poor John Forbes went quite out of his mind, while travelling in the Zulu Country, & was brot. back by his Khafirs to Mr. Roberts's station; from whence Mr. R. sent down for Robert & Forbes, who came up, & took this poor brother away home- He was violent at times, & one day suddenly felled Mr. Jackson by a blow, but Mr. Roberts being close by came out & got hold of him, before he cd. do further mischief. It is very sad for the poor fellow, & his family.

9th May; Sat.

Today we are near land. We do not see it yet; but we can smell it & the sea is pale green. We did not know where we were, having for two days been unable to take the sun, but luckily this seems to have been satisfactorily accomplished this morg. There was some large reef ~~ahead of~~ supposed to be somewhere ahead of us last night, Major Erskine told us. & we certainly were going at slow speed part of the night. I cd. hear the slow revolution of the engine. I was in very great pain for some hours yesterday even.g & night, in my ear & jaw & one shoulder, a regular sharp attack of neuralgia- But thanks to two doses of quinine, the last of wh. made me deaf, I became easy at last. altho' to day, I feel as if I had been beaten: & of course weak & tired after the severe pain. Poor Thasha got it ab.t 4 this morg.; she is otherwise not quite well; and

I have persuaded her to stay in bed, for
breakfast, and have asked our
Steward to make us each a
cup of cocoa for bkft. fast this
morng. Mrs Woodroffe was so kind
to me last night yesterday evenf.
when she saw me suffering, & of-
fered me some of her quinine
& gave me some cloves - She seems
a kind little creature.

10 May, Sunday:

We have got thro' another
Sunday; — this morng. we saw
a good piece of African coast
near & at Cape Verd, wh was
very interesting. Had it not been
rather hazy, we cd have seen
better still; as it was, we cd see
the forms of some trees, & a
lighthouse or two; & some pretty
broken-looking rocks, as well.
Today at noon we were long. 18° and
a half, & lat. 15°. I think we have
got on well. We had service again
on deck this morng, and a most
practical sermon; wh I think
ones

owes at least a trifle to a
last week's argument with
me. I don't know though. I oc-
casionally say a trifle of what
I think to the r. I did not men-
tion how the day before yes-
terday (a very damp, close,
Sophrepsiac day), a poor in-
valid, whom we have seen
but seldom, but whom I had
noticed that mors. as look-
ing particularly weak & ill -
was taken out of the saloon
at our tea, looking very faint.
The next day he did not ap-
pear at all, & on inquiry from
different people, I learnt that
he had broken a blood vessel the
night he was taken out of the
saloon; & that they had sat
up with him all night, &c.
fearing that he could not
last thro' it. Yesterday the poor
fellow felt easier, & today they
brought

brought him up on deck for a good many hours, looking better than I had expected to see him. He is very thin, but does not look nearly as ill as poor Devon did the last time he came to see us at Innebiay. He seems very very anxious (poor thing I mean) to get back to his friends. I trust that he may, poor fellow. I have not spoken to him, but hope to do so the 1st day that he looks fit. I find that one day since we have been on board before this attack, he had been left from 12 noon to 8 p.m., with no one going near him. the steward being very busy. Is it not sad? I am sure that there are kind men on board, who would have seen after him, had they only known his need. He says that he was much better, — but travelling down from Grahams Town to Pt. Elizt in the conveyance made him very ill, & he lay 3 weeks at the latter place very ill, before he cd continue his journey. I am sure to say that I did not speak to him the 1st day that he came up on deck, she must have found out something of his extreme delicacy, I have been of some use in getting him better looked after. Now, if I see a little thing that is wanted, I go & tell the stewardess, who is an elderly woman & goes, since his attack, to & then to look after him. I got her to take up pillows this morng. & make him very much more comfortable on deck, & to put him into one more resting chair, that the stupid man had done who brought him up. He looked so much more comfortable afterwards, that I was well rewarded for

for the little trouble & difficulty I had had in getting him better seen after.

11th Monday

Headwind, & rough sea. I was again, & unable to do any thing. Poor Mrs Erskine's baby has got a bad cold from the cold wind on deck on Sunday. I got a chill on deck from the cold wind today.

12th Tuesday

Head wind still, but less better. I very poorly most of day; with severe neuralgia; so stayed chiefly in our cabin. I was afraid of the cold wind outside; & when I did sit out a little after dinner, remained on the quarter deck, where the other ladies chiefly were. Mrs Erskine's baby much worse (last nt.) this morng; but the Dr. had a mustard plaister just on, Wh much relieved it; & it was able to drink

drink again, poor little thing.
When I saw it today, it was asleep,
but not breathing at all nicely.
But it was much better than
it had been. The D^r appeared to
have told Mrs Erskine that
it was suffering from a slight
attack of inflammation of the
throat & chest. I have not liked
to go in again this even^g but
Thera from its father & Mrs
Green a much improved ac-
ct.

13. May, Wed:

Baby still better, tho' by no
means right yet. But its parents
look happier abt it. Today was,
happily not so cold - the still
had head wind, but not so strong.
The motion has been far from
comfortable; & I have been
weak & good for little all
day. It has been bx day again,
& but I have been able to get
out our warmest things.

things, wh is a comfort. We are to see the Peak of Teneriffe tomorrow morng. They say that we shd see it tonight, were it daylight instead of night. I wanted to have written to you today, but have not been fit to do so, & now tonight I am stupid with headache - & must wait to see if I am better tomorrow.

14th May.

Not well. Passed Teneriffe abt 4 in the morng, & Palmas later.

15th May.

Reached Madeira (in sight when I went on deck (before 8h) last). Anchored somewhere about 12 noon. Went on shore with the Erskines. Drove up in an oxsledge to Reid's Hotel. A quaint house outside; but in a most beautiful garden, full of bright flowers. Major Erskine ordered luncheon for us there; to wh we were to return & at 2 o'clock. We were to be back on board between 3 & 4 last. The Erskines went for a drive, but we preferred walking about a little, & making our purchases; as we knew that there would not be time for both. We walked about, posted my letter to you, wh after all, I fear, will not reach you any sooner than this, as I understood afterward at the Post Office that the letters now had to go via England to the Cape. The 1st person to whom I spoke I understood otherwise from - probably from not understanding his talk. But I hear from others that the steamers outward do not now call at Madeira, & have not done so since Sept last. Whether this be true, I cannot say. We very much enjoyed our little time on shore - & got back on board a little late, - owing, I believe, to Mrs Erskine's being detained with baby after luncheon. We were off again before 4. P.M. I never cd have imagined so quaint a place as Madeira. I shd dearly like to be able to spend a few days there, & see a little more of it.

We there learnt that

London 25 May. I must see J.S. that
the Jew minded landed safely,
& I saw him skating with
a rather strapping minded by
the London train from Southampton the day we did. He
looked a trifle better, I thought.
The Prodigious!
Cattegly - Baby also got well,
but Ben Mann landed with
a bad cold & cough at Plymouth -