

The Journal of Jane Parsons

THIS is the simple, vivid account of a voyage to the East by sailing ship in 1840 and of the first impressions made by India on a young missionary wife. The pain of separation from loved ones, who would probably never be seen again, the effects of sea-sickness, the perils from storms, from a leaking ship and from smallpox are all clearly set down and, when Calcutta is reached, the wood fires, the mosquitoes and the style of living of the missionaries are artlessly noted.

The first years of Victoria's reign were not easy ones for the work of the B.M.S. in India. The breach between Serampore and the Society had not long been healed. The missionary band was a small one and had suffered severe losses. James Penney, who had looked after the Calcutta Benevolent Institution, died of cholera in 1839. William Hopkins Pearce—son of Samuel Pearce—succumbed to the same dread disease in 1840, almost as soon as he got back from a visit to England. The wife of James Thomas, of the Mission Press, died shortly after, leaving him with several motherless children. Then George Parsons, of Monghyr, who had only reached India a few months earlier, died on the eve of sailing home again, 13th November, 1840. This tragedy is recorded at the end of the journal by its author, Jane Parsons, George Parsons' sister-in-law.

George Parsons, a nephew of John Dyer (1784—1841, Secretary of the B.M.S. from 1817) was born at Laverton, near Frome, Somerset, on 23rd January, 1813. He had been baptized at Frome in 1832 and was ordained there on 31st July, 1838. Two weeks after his ordination he married Sophia Rawlings, eldest daughter of Joseph Rawlings, and with other missionary associates had sailed on 23rd September in the "Moirá", arriving at Calcutta on 22nd February, 1839. He took some initiative in the appointment of his brother John to Monghyr, for with W. H. Pearce he wrote to the Home Committee asking that if John should be deemed suitable he might be sent out to join him in the work there.

John sailed for India in July 1840 and with him his wife Jane. She was the youngest of the fourteen children of John and Rachel Rawlings and may have been the aunt of Sophia Rawlings who had married George Parsons in August 1838. On their journey to India in the "Jessie Logan" John and Jane Parsons had as travel-

ling companions William Watkin Evans and his wife. Evans was thirty-eight years of age and had been for three years Assistant Secretary to John Dyer at the Mission House. He was a member of Mare Street Church, Hackney, and was to take over James Penney's work in Calcutta. He remained in India, however, only till 1845. Parsons had a longer missionary career and was in the Fort at Agra during the Mutiny of 1857. He later went to Benares but in 1865 returned to Monghyr and died in 1869.

The other missionaries mentioned by Jane Parsons are James Thomas (1799—1858), grandfather of Dr. Vincent Thomas, whom many will still remember and great-grandfather of Dr. R. W. Thomas; William Yates, an important link with the pioneers; J. D. Ellis (d.1845), who was in charge of the Native Christian Boarding School at Entally; and Francis Tucker, appointed pastor of the Circular Road Church in 1839, but on his way home by the time the Parsons arrived, later the highly respected pastor of the Camden Road Church and father of Leonard Tucker, of India and Jamaica. Mr. Biss, in whose home the Parsons stayed, was a son of John Biss, (d.1807), one of Carey's colleagues.

As nephews of John Dyer, the B.M.S. Secretary, George and John Parsons were members of the remarkable family of whom details will be found in the *B.Q.*, XIII, XV and XVII. They were the sons of Dyer's sister Eliza. Another sister was the wife of Francis Franklin of Coventry, of whom George Eliot gives a picture. From one of Dyer's daughters Kathleen Mansfield was descended. To the Parsons family belonged the painter and illustrator Alfred Parsons (1847—1920), of whom details will be found in the *D.N.B.*

The journal now reprinted was written by Jane Parsons in order that it might be circulated among her family. It eventually came into the possession of her brother, Samuel Rawlings of Frome. From him it passed to Henry Tovey Rawlings, grandfather of its present owner, Mr. F. H. Trotman of Nottingham who has edited the text.

E. A. PAYNE.

July 23rd, 1840

My beloved Friends,

I have been quite unable to write any thing till today, but will endeavour to give you some account of the short time we have been on board. Friday the 17th came to the vessel about 12 o'clock accompanied by Mrs. Lyons and three daughters at whose house we were kindly entertained the night previous, kind cousin William, the Captain's wife and many others.—We were towed into the river Mersey by a steam boat in which our friends returned. Stayed the night on the river. Saturday morning were met again by dear cousin William, Mrs. Farren sister to Mrs. Evans, and other friends who came with us 40 or 50 miles and returned in the steam boat which towed us out into the channel. It was a trying

day, I cannot describe the scene, each taking leave of beloved friends. How could we say the word farewell? But we were wonderfully supported, yes, God was better to us than our fears, he gave us needful strength.—We shall not soon forget the unremitting kindness of cousin William, whilst we were in Liverpool.—After our dear friends left which was about 6 o'clock a breeze sprung up and made us all feel sick. There was much noise on deck during the night.—Very ill all Sabbath day, obliged to keep in bed. Thought much of our dear dear friends, and felt assured you were thinking of us.

Monday 20th We felt much better walked on deck a little in the morning, could eat nothing but a little biscuit, was very sick again in the evening.

Tuesday 21st Rather better in the morning, with much difficulty dressed ourselves owing to the motion of the vessel and sickness. Were present in mind at Barnsbury in the evening, returned home to sup with beloved sisters and brothers, but only in imagination.

Wednesday 22nd Very ill all day. The steward is very kind and attentive.

Thursday 23rd Much better today, we were able to walk on deck. Held a meeting for prayer in the cuddy, at which nearly all were present. We have now lost sight of land. The Isle of Man and Ireland could be seen distinctly till the day before yesterday.—I did not think we should be so soon reconciled to our present situation, but we have many mercies. Our good Captain joins us in family worship, and though we are few in number, and weak in body, we find it good to wait upon the Lord.

Saturday 25th Unable to write yesterday, very ill all day, I thought much of dear dear friends in England, meeting at Barnsbury, were you there dear Hephzibah? (Jane's elder sister, who at that time was living in Barnsbury—Ed.) Better today, hope to spend a comfortable Sabbath.

Sunday 26th Met for prayer this morning at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7; with much pleasure dear friends did we commence this service; it truly is a contrast to the last Sabbath. Our health is better, the day very fine and many other blessings to contribute to our happiness. At $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 we had public service, many of the sailors were present, and seemed to listen attentively. The sight was affecting, dear John (her husband—Ed.) preached from Luke 2nd chap. 10th and two following verses. I was the only female present, dear Mrs. Evans sick again, it comes on frequently unexpected. Service at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 at which quite as many were present, Brother Evans preached from Haggai 1st chap. 7th verse. I trust the blessing of God will attend these meetings, it has been a day that will long be remembered, a day of special mercies, after being deprived of like enjoyments with our dear friends at home. We have thought much of you all, nor have I forgotten dear brother George on his birth-

day. (her sister Eliza's husband—Ed.)

Monday 27th Another day of comfort and happiness, sitting on deck great part of it working with Mrs. Evans making flags for the Captain. Prayer meeting in the cuddy this evening.

Tuesday 28th Dear Hephzibah's birthday, could we visit you dear sister, how much pleasure would it give us, but we cannot, still we can think of and do wish you many happy returns of this day. We have for the first time taken and enjoyed some of the cake so kindly given us by our beloved Cross St. friends, I wished the dear children were with us, they would enjoy running on the deck when it is fine as today. Dear children, what would I give to see them (presumably her sister Eliza's children, Eliza and George were at that time living in Islington where Hephzibah was and as she was unmarried she was probably living with them—Ed.) Much pleased to find our fellow passenger young Mr. Freckleton willing to attend family prayer.

Wednesday 29th How ought we to admire the power of God as well as his goodness to us. We look on every side and it reminds us of those encouraging words "He holdeth the winds in his fists and the waters in the hollow of his hands".

Thursday 30th A most delightful day but we find it very difficult to walk steadily. I often see the sailors smiling at us. Poor Mrs. Evans is still suffering from sickness. We spend much of our time on the poop working, and our beloved husbands read. The days are becoming much shorter. It is necessary to have our lamp by 7 o'clock. The weather we find much warmer than in England. Had a view of Madeira about 10 miles distant. Lecture this evening on the encouragement and importance of prayer, good attendance.

Friday 31st Very warm today, my dear husband is very unwell. Drank tea with our friends Mr. and Mrs. E. in their own cabin, Captain told us to order what we pleased of the steward, and to invite whom we think proper and each week, our parties will be small, but I think we shall enjoy them, it seems more homely than going into the cuddy. We enjoy Captain's company. Mr. Freckleton is a very worldly young man, he is the only passenger beside Mr. and Mrs. E. and ourselves.

Saturday August 1st Many mercies are we the subjects of. Arose this morning in health and strength, I trust with a thankful heart. It is a time of great anxiety for us; but we know the Lord doeth all things well, and may his will be done, we have a poor man laid by with the smallpox. The Captain is very uneasy but I trust if it is the will of our Heavenly Father, it will not be permitted to spread among us. Dear brother John, (Jane's brother John Rawlings, born August 1st, 1805—Ed.) this is your birthday, we wish you much happiness, do not longer neglect that which can above all things contribute to it, securing by faith an interest in eternal joys.

Sunday 2nd Another day of special mercies, every thing so calm and the Captain gets things very comfortable for public service; today both were held on the poop, we enjoyed them much. I hope the presence of God is with us and the earnest prayers of our beloved friends are being answered on our behalf. Oh! for a heart more alive to thy goodness, thou God of love and mercy.

Monday 3rd Very warm indeed we feel it much more in the cabin than on deck. The sea breeze is very pleasant, it is a lovely sight to watch the waves rolling and every few minutes a number of flying fish make their appearance. Beloved friends we often wish you were with us.

Tuesday 4th Fine day very warm we now feel the heat oppressive and are expecting to see one of the Cape Verd Islands tomorrow. Our voyage has been very prosperous hitherto. I wish to feel more grateful for the many mercies bestowed upon us.

Wednesday 5th Saw one of the Islands today, it looked very beautiful, its height is 7 thousand 4 hundred feet; we were about 4 miles distant. We passed under the sun so that tomorrow it will be north of us, we have also seen three sharks.

Thursday 6th My dear husband is very unwell today. I think he studies rather too closely, you know how anxious he is to learn Hindoostanee and he makes great progress in it. Our lecture this evening was well attended and much attention paid. I trust some good will result from these meetings. Dear Mrs. E. suffers still from seasickness.

Friday 7th This morning I was sitting alone in our cabin when my dear husband came in to inform me there was a homeward ship in sight, we were delighted with the opportunity to send a few lines, but were sorry we could not write more, before I had written one page Captain called for all letters; as the boat was waiting we were obliged to close, after I had sent my letter I recollected there was no name signed but no doubt you knew who it was from, I must beg you dear ones to excuse it. I have thought much of you all today, and wish we could receive letters from those we so dearly love.

Saturday 8th We have been on deck great part of today. The sailors caught a fine shark this evening but in drawing it up, the part by which it was caught, gave way, and the poor thing got away with the wound of the harpoon in its side. The moon is shining beautifully, I thought when we were on deck admiring her lovely rays, it may be some beloved sister, brother or friend was at the same time enjoying the glorious sight.

Sunday 9th Prayer meeting $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7 this morning, service $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10, afternoon we commenced on deck but were obliged to go below to the cuddy, on account of rain coming on, but it did not hinder our meeting; how are we privileged above many who are now voyaging on the mighty deep, Oh! may these mercies be valued by us more than ever, and make us love our Saviour ten-

fold.

Monday 10th Beloved friends every day brings constant proofs of God's goodness to us, we are still preserved in a measure of health and strength, dear John was very poorly this morning, but recovered sufficiently to conduct the prayer meeting this evening.

Tuesday 11th Our anxiety on account of the poor man who has the smallpox is in some degree removed, he is much better, I thought it prudent not to mention it in my letter, because I knew it would cause uneasiness on our account.

Wednesday 12th We have spent a pleasant evening with our dear Mr. & Mrs. Evans in their cabin, it did so remind us of beloved friends, it is the first time we could place our lamp on the table, but this evening all is still, Mr. E. read, dear John did part of a net, we are netting at Captain's request to catch flying fish, Mrs. E. and myself at needle work.

Thursday 13th Dear John is still very poorly, the motion of the vessel affects him much, it is unpleasant today, we can scarcely walk in our cabins without slipping. We have a great number of ants, I generally find about 10 or 12 on my toothbrush every morning, since also not a few, I was much vexed to find they had also eaten several holes in a counterpane that was in a drawer of the sofa. Little did the little creatures think how much time it would cost me to fill up the holes again.

Friday 14th I have suffered much with a severe headache today and dear John continues very unwell.

Saturday 15th We are complaining the weather is very warm and unfits us for any active duties. We have been talking of our beloved friends at Islington, Laverton and Frome. (Jane's widowed mother, Rachel Rawlings was living at Laverton in Somerset and her brother Samuel Rawlings who married Sophia Tovey, of Islington, was in business in Frome, Somerset.—Ed.)

Sunday 16th Held our services on the poop today. Our Heavenly Father is very merciful in restoring our health in some measure. We often wish you could see us seated, I was obliged to hold on by a chair, or I think I should have fallen, the vessel lay over so much. Again we much enjoyed talking of beloved friends at home, though it may be, I shall never visit it again. When we think of this the tears will force from our eyes, but if we meet no more below, let us hasten to win a crown of glory in our Father's house above. There separations are not experienced no, there we shall enjoy each others society for ever, and rejoice in singing and adoring our Blessed Saviour who hath redeemed us from eternal ruin.

Monday 17th I have suffered much in my head again today. It is better this evening for which I desire to feel thankful. Was disappointd not being able to attend the meeting in the cuddy.

Tuesday 18th Took a shower bath this morning thinking it would do my head good. It was refreshing and pleasant.

Wednesday 19th Fine weather again after the rain. Had our friendly (sic) this evening. Walked on deck after 10 o'clock. The water at the stern looked almost like a sheet of silver, the waves also are beautiful.

Thursday 20th A day of great comfort, health and happiness. All feel well. Did more Hindoostanee than any day previous. I find it rather difficult. We crossed the Equator about $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 this morning. The weather is much cooler which makes it more comfortable. My dear husband preached this evening from 5 St. John 36 verse, a good number came, they appeared attentive. I trust their souls will receive benefit from these delightful seasons. I have been thinking of my darling Henry (presumably her sister Eliza's son—Ed.) and wishing we could have a few sweet kisses from him and the other dear children. Kiss them all many times for us.

Friday 21st I have been thinking much of the dear children again today. We can scarcely persuade ourselves that we are so far from our dear native land. I often visit you in my dreams, sometimes go with you to Mr. Tovey's at others think perhaps Mrs. T., June and Anne are spending the evening with you, brother George and Eliza, dear Hephzibah, brother Henry and Esther (her sister Esther married Henry Watts—Ed.), happy circle, but much as I love you, I cannot regret leaving. My husband is very unwell, the motion of the vessel affects him much.

Saturday 22nd This afternoon we were much interested and delighted with a view of the island Fernando Noronha, in $3^{\circ} 55'$ S. Lat $32^{\circ} 16'$ W. Long. It is a most beautiful island covered with woods, green fields, and rocks. There are two peaks, the higher one is named the pyramid from its shape and immense height, and has a grand appearance. We also saw a whale about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from us, it leaped some distance above the surface of the water so that we had a good sight of it. A number of seagulls and boobies and other kinds of birds came very near our vessel. We sat the whole afternoon feasting our eyes on the various objects around us, you will imagine what pleasure it afforded us.

Sunday 23rd Held our service in the poop as usual. Enjoyed the evening in singing. Were pleased to hear the seamen similarly engaged in the forecastle. Another poor man is taken ill in the smallpox.

Monday 24th Good attendance at our prayer meeting this evening. I trust the blessing of God will attend these opportunities.

Tuesday 25th A very still quiet day. In the evening enjoyed the company of our dear friends in our cabin. Mrs. Evans and myself were able to work the whole evening which is an unusual comfort. I am reading the Life of Henry Martyn, with peculiar feelings, first it was given by our dear friend Mr. Barnett and therefore brings many circumstances to mind connected with him and again that we are in many respects in a similar situation to good Mr. Martyn.

Wednesday 26th Awoke this morning or rather in the night by a great noise. A breeze sprung up unexpectedly, split several of the sails and caused much confusion on deck. The motion of the vessel makes us very unwell. We went on the poop this afternoon to get a little relief from our sickness by laying in the open air, when presently a wave broke over the side, and drenched us through. It really must have been an amusing sight to see one after another come into the cuddy streaming with water. Captain enjoyed the accident, knowing it would rather do us good than otherwise. Mrs. Evans and myself could not help smiling, ill as we felt.

Thursday 27th The wind continues very high. Could get but little sleep all night. Dear John can scarcely keep up today but through mercy I am better.

Friday 28th Still very uncomfortable weather. The motion of the vessel great. I got a fall this morning in the cabin, but was slightly hurt. Mrs. Evans had the misfortune to get a cup of tea upset into her lap this afternoon. The things frequently tumble about in all directions.

Saturday 29th Much stiller today though we are far from (?well*). This seasickness unfits us for anything. We are scarcely able to sit on our seats without slipping on account of the constant motion of the vessel.

Sunday 30th It was a lovely morning and has been a delightful Sabbath; we enjoyed our services. My dear husband preached in the morning and Brother Evans in the afternoon, the men were attentive. Spent the evening together, sung some favourite hymns. Talked of our dear friends in our dear native land. Nor do we forget the prayer meeting at Barnsbury this afternoon. I know the dear teachers will remember us, when they meet together.

Monday 31st Have spent today very pleasantly and I hope more profitably. We have been able to attend to our studies. The sea is calm, it looked with the sun shining on it, like thousands of brilliants. A very pretty bird came near our window this morning, many are constantly flying about but will not venture on deck, they are called Mother Carey's Chicken. Our dear friends Mr. and Mrs. Evans and Captain spent the evening with us. Were obliged to omit our public meeting for prayer on account of the misconduct of some of the sailors. They have taken too much wine and spirits and sad to relate have stolen it from the stores.

Thursday, September 1st This day beloved ones directs my thoughts homeward. Twelve months yesterday you returned from Ramsgate. I well remember sweet little Henry's brown face, and Brother George's healthful appearance. I often think of Mr. A. Barker's kindness, he was in that affliction we had just passed through, a Brother indeed. I have thought much of dear Matilda's death. I love to think of her happy spirit, may it never be forgotten

*A word is omitted here in the original.

by me.

Wednesday 2nd A most delightful day. We are now in a pleasant climate. A heavy storm of rain fell this afternoon and a fine rainbow appeared in the sky, the reflection of which was very beautiful on the water. We are sadly annoyed with cockroaches and mice. Captain, Mr. and Mrs. Evans spent the evening with us. I find the jam dear Miss Foxe's sent us very useful, we take a little with biscuit for supper. It keeps good notwithstanding the heat and shaking it must have had.

Thursday 3rd A light breeze this morning. Dear John felt it much but was much better and able to address us this evening, from Matthew 5th 17th and following verses. We do enjoy our services and I hope feel thankful for them. May the time be not far distant when all who voyage on the mighty deep will enjoy similar privileges.

Friday 4th My beloved Hephzibah I have just been with you and was going to see Eliza and the dear children when I awoke and must say a little disappointed. We feel very anxious to hear how you all are. It has been a delightful day. There are many Cape pigeons about us, quite different to English ones. The wings are long and narrow and prettily marked. Two whales were seen yesterday. Walked on the poop till late admiring the beauties of the sky.

Saturday 5th We are sailing prosperously this morning, in 28° 51 L.L. 33° 16 W.L. Twelve months today dear Samuel and Sophia, I came to visit you at your abode of peace and love. May you beloved ones long enjoy each other's society with the smiles of our Heavenly Father resting on you and your little darling—I trust she will prove a blessing to you both. We often remember you at the throne of Grace. I have not forgotten you today cousin Richard, we wish you many happy birthdays.

Sunday 6th Prayer meeting at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7, these early services are delightful. Were prevented from holding public meeting on the poop on account of the damp. Brother Evans preached in the morning, and dear John in the afternoon. I have thought much of dear Isaac (her second eldest brother—Ed.) since we left you, Captain's voice is so much like his was, that I seldom hear it without thinking of one so dear to us all. This evening we met in Brother Evans cabin to commemorate the dying love of our now risen Saviour. You have met for the same delightful purpose. Oh dear friends, may we duly appreciate our mercies, you were remembered by us and I doubt not you thought of us.

Monday 7th The sea is perfectly calm today, the air damp, and we feel the change of climate. It is now getting cold. We had a comfortable meeting this evening conducted by Captain, after which we worked and read till 10 o'clock. There is so little motion of the vessel, that we can keep our table in the centre of the cabin by tying it on one side, so that we appear quite homely.

We often wish beloved ones, you could spend an evening with us. We have room for at least nine. But we must not cherish these delightful thoughts.

Tuesday 8th Pleasant breeze this morning. We are now glad to wear our merino Dresses. The setting sun this evening was a glorious sight. It sinks rapidly and leaves the most splendid rays. Our dear friends spent the evening with us. We generally spend our evenings alternatively in Mr. Evans and our cabins.

Wednesday 9th Numberless are the mercies our Heavenly Father bestows on us. Our health is now good and we have many comforts we did not expect on board ship. We often wish you knew how happy we are, considering the separation from so many dear friends. As we advance nearer the Cape, birds increase, they vary in colour and size, Captain says some of them would measure 10 or 12 feet with the wings spread.

Thursday 10th For some days past the wind has been favourable, but a change has taken place this evening and we fear it will cause a rough night. The lecture was well attended, I hope and I think not without foundation, that some good is going forward. One of the men seemed much impressed.

Friday 11th After a rough night it has been a very stormy day. Mrs. Evans and dear John feel it much more than any one, poor Mrs. E. has suffered very much at various times. Sometimes from our cabin window we appear almost buried in the waves. At others when on the top of a wave, we see only the sky, you will judge what the motion must be which together with the rain make the deck dangerous to walk on. Mr. Evans went out in the morning but soon returned. It is a great mercy that we are preserved in these storms, surely it must call forth our gratitude, for the care our Heavenly Father is exercising over us.

Monday 14th Beloved friends, could you have witnessed our circumstances since I last wrote in my journal you would have felt anxious. Saturday was a very boisterous day. The wind split the main sail in two. Nearly all the others were immediately taken down. I was fearful some of the men would get blown off the yard whilst reefing the two remaining sails. Some things in the spare cabin were sadly thrown about. The canaries got also hurt; poor little things. In steward's pantry many things were broken, 4 pancheons of water lost, the latter is a great loss. But we would acknowledge the goodness of God in preserving our lives, and keeping us from fear, sickness, and accident. We retired early but could not sleep, it was difficult to keep in bed, and it seemed every minute as though the partitions between the cabins must give way. The sabbath was differently spent to the previous one, no public service could be held, but we had prayer meetings in our cabin, and I hope the Saviour's presence was with us. His smile can cheer though danger may threaten on every side. Trusting in Christ we are safe. The thought that you are earnestly praying

for us is a great comfort also. Today is much calmer. We walked on the poop, every thing reminds us of the late storm. One poor dog was killed and others much hurt. I did not mention that on Saturday the waves broke over the vessel wetting through those who were obliged to be out. Captain says he never saw the poop so flooded before. We held our meeting for prayer in the cuddy this evening. Oh for a heart more alive in these privileges, we know not how soon we may be deprived of them.

Tuesday 15th A very pleasant day. Numbers of birds are daily flying about the vessel. Captain caught a most beautiful Molimank this morning, the back and breast is snow white, the tail shades to a pretty dove colour and the wings brown. It would measure from 6 to 7 feet with the wings spread. Some of the feathers are very like ostrich. These birds are caught with hook and bait by the bills. Mr. Freckleton is preparing the skin to send home.

Wednesday 16th Another day of special mercies, we have again been preserved in danger that might have proved fatal to us. One of the sailors poured some tar into boiling pitch which set the cook's galley on fire, but through mercy it was soon extinguished. Another proof of our Heavenly Father's care. The weather is very cold, we are glad of our warm clothing.

Thursday 17th A light squall this afternoon which broke one one of the booms. The winds prevented our holding the usual meeting in the cuddy, but we had a prayer meeting in our cabin. Dear John and myself often enjoy talking of our beloved relatives and friends, the farther we are wafted from you, the more our affection for you increases, if possible.

Friday 18th Passed the meridian of Greenwich during the night, so that our time is nearly the same as with you. We had a good breeze until the middle of the day when it became quite calm, the Captain hoped it would continue some days. Our position today is $38^{\circ} 24' \text{ L.L.}$ $2^{\circ} 30' \text{ E. Long.}$ Thermometer 55.

Saturday 19th Passed a brig this morning, Captain spoke with it and found it was from London bound to Calcutta. The gentlemen went on deck, but Mrs. Evans and myself were obliged to remain below on account of the rain, still we had a good view of it from our window. It left London 6 days before we left Liverpool.

Sunday 20th Was much vexed with myself this morning. Laid in bed too late to attend our early prayer meeting, but having a cold I slept later than usual. We have again been privileged with a still sabbath. Brother Evans preached in the morning and dear John in the afternoon. We have thought much of our beloved friends today. I trust you continue to pray for us, that we may be the instruments of much good in endeavouring to promote the glory of God in a heathen land. I felt this morning as though I was in your midst dear dear ones.

Monday 21st The weather continues very cold, and we feel it the more coming from the climate we have so lately passed. We

had for tea this afternoon some mustard and cress grown in small tubs, in one of the spare cabins. It reminded us of home, and the fresh sweet vegetables, we are now deprived of; but though we cannot help thinking of past comforts we desire to feel thankful for those we now have. One thing we wish for, that is good bread. A loaf from Laverton would be a great treat, we often speak of the brown bread, fresh butter and beautiful cream we enjoyed when there, with you dear Mother, brothers and sisters.

Wednesday 22nd Dear Friends, the swell of the sea, and the rolling of the vessel left from the gale of yesterday makes it difficult to write and for this reason, and also because she had wished me to write in her journal, my dearest Jane desires me to give you the usual history of our circumstances yesterday. The previous night and the morning were rough, but about noon the wind had increased to a gale, rougher than the one of last Saturday week. Still the wind was directly in our favour, and so it caused neither so much confusion nor so much discomfort. Moreover the destructions of the former gale had led them properly to secure everything about the ship, so that we heard of few or no disasters, and not a single sail was split. Thousands of birds, chiefly stormy petrels, were about in the morning filling the air like a heavy fall of snow, almost all of which left us before the heaviest of the wind. Much hail fell, so as, in one squall, to cover the deck 3 inches deep. Mr. Evans and myself, however, managed to be on deck great part of the morning admiring the sublimity of the scene, and Mrs. E. and beloved Jane were able to venture up in the afternoon and see, what is an uncommon and interesting sight, a vast iceberg, measuring, we supposed 200 feet above the water and 300 feet in length. It was at the distance of from 10 to 15 miles and looked, with the sunshine upon it from between the clouds, like an island of glass. Thro' mercy we were, throughout the whole, completely delivered from fear, and from any accident or sickness. The gale did not continue long enough to raise the sea to what would be considered a great height, and yet the vessel often appeared to have just descended from a hill of water, half as high as the masts and to be ascending another of the same altitude. As we were obliged to have our cabin shutter closed, it made a good deal of difference to our comfort within doors. I thank God you will be able to join with us in our praise for deliverance without the anxiety of knowing we were in danger. On the whole we have happiness and comfort far beyond our loftiest expectations, and even here, with many privations and on the changeful ocean, I cannot but confess God hath fully made up for the loss of country, home and friends, and I can love you all most dearly without in the least regretting that I have left you in the Lord's cause. Good bye, beloved ones, excuse my scribbling so much. I am full of affection to you, and of gratitude for the surrender of your sister for my sake.

Wednesday 23rd Beloved friends I wished my beloved husband to give you some account of our past circumstances, and he readily complied. One thing he forgot to mention. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. Evans were sitting on the sofa with us, a heavy lurch came and threw us with such force to one (?side)* as to break one arm of the sofa. Captain sat on the floor, but there he could not sit still, he would first slip to one side and then to the other of the cabin. The rolling continued all night which prevented our sleeping, sometimes our heads will be much lower than our feet, and cause very unpleasant sensations. But amidst all dangers what consolations we have knowing our Heavenly Father cannot err. Your prayers for us beloved friends I doubt not have been answered in many instances, for did not our ever watchful God give the winds and waves charge concerning us we must have perished. Today the violence of the wind and waves have decreased, we spent a pleasant evening with our friends in the next cabin. The Captain often joins us in these social evenings. Another iceberg was seen today, and the Mate thinks we must have passed another in the night. It is a mercy we have been kept from coming in contact with either of them. Captain has never seen one in this part before. We are only 350 miles from the Cape.

September 24th We have not made much progress today it has been quite calm except two or three hours in the afternoon when we passed a barque. Captain was sorry he could not speak with it, but just at the time the wind was carrying us too fast. We could not hold our usual meeting this evening, although it was calm, they expected the wind to change and the assistance of the men would be required, but we had a comfortable meeting in our cabin. The second poor man who had the smallpox has quite recovered, through mercy it is not permitted to spread. What a kind interposition of Providence keeping us from so dangerous a disease.

Friday, 25th. Much warmer today a sultriness in the air, at dusk showers of rain fell accompanied with thunder and lightening, the lightening was very vivid and continued some time.

Saturday, 26th. A wet, uncomfortable day, heavy rolling of the ship which made us feel very sick. It is no uncommon circumstance for the wine glasses to empty the contents into our plates, on such occasions it is amusing to see the steward run to prevent other things from falling, it sometimes tries his patience. Captain has read to us several accounts of ships being lost very near where we now are.

Sunday, 27th. Owing to the roughness of the sea we were obliged to omit public service, there is scarcely any wind, but the waves beat most violently against the ship, and cause it to roll every way. A proof that we have not much wind is that we have not come 50 miles for the last three days, still our mercies are

*A word is omitted here in the original.

far more numerous than our trials. We are preserved from harm, we have a great measure of health and strength, and above all are enabled to put our whole strength in God. We have had two prayer meetings in our cabin, and this evening My beloved John has read some of Bridges on the 119 Psalm. The thought of being remembered by our beloved friends in our native land cheers us, nor are you forgotten by us, at the Throne of Grace, no beloved ones I trust we shall never cease to pray for each other, we often weep when talking of your unremitting kindness but they are not tears of sorrow, nor do we wish to return much as we love you all—no, the honour of working in the Lord's vineyard will more than make up our loss of precious friends.

Monday, 28th. We have had very little sleep the last three nights owing to the motion of the vessel which has rather increased today. With much difficulty we went on the poop this afternoon to see a vessel, but were not near enough to speak with her, at times the waves would hide her from view. A rough sea is a grand sight, but it is seldom Mrs. E. and myself can venture on deck to see it. There is a breeze now and we have come 260 miles since last evening. We are today in Lat. $36^{\circ} 51'$ Long $27^{\circ} 50'$.
(To be completed)

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