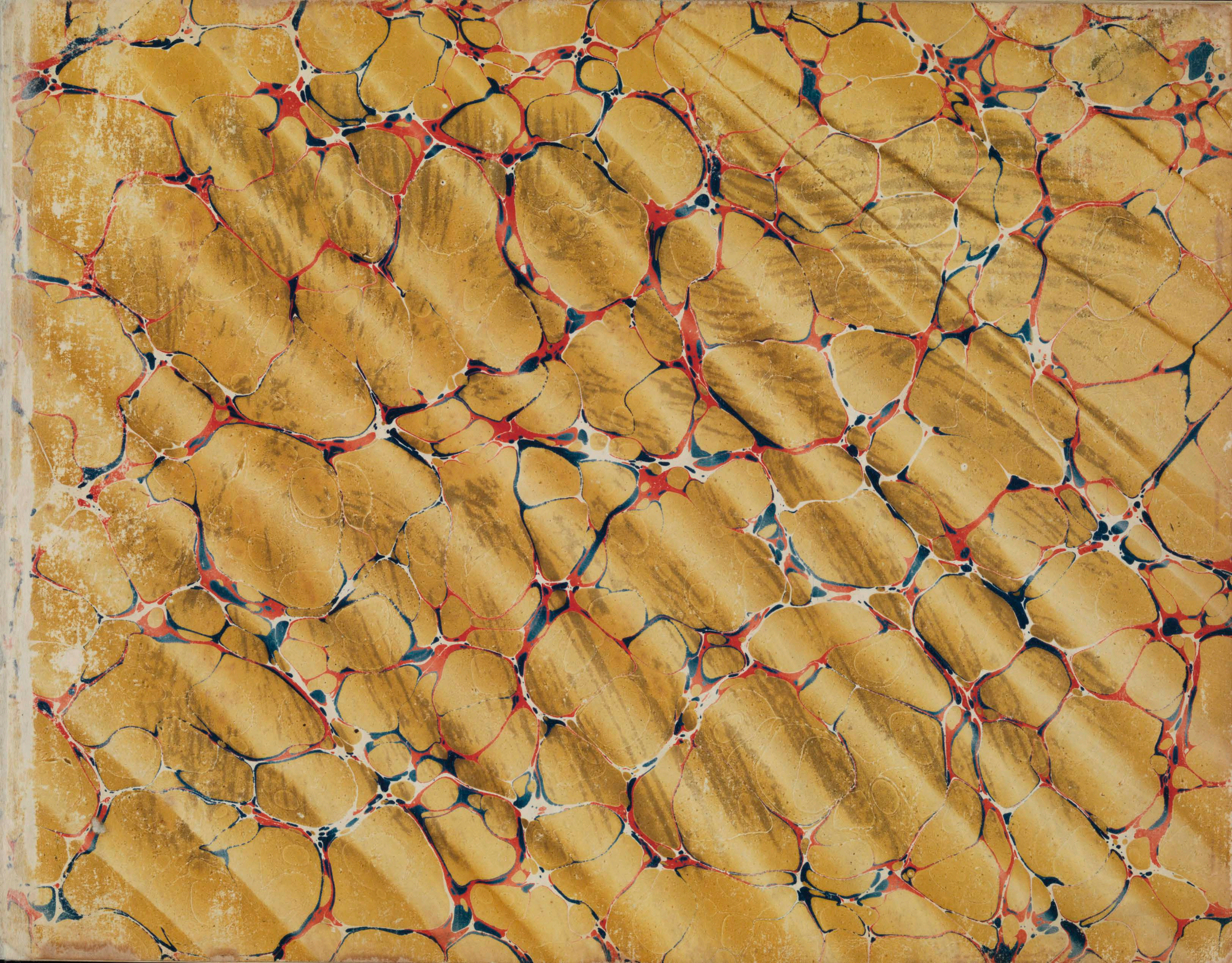






Left Portsmouth Aug 14th 1829 after a stay there of about a week finishing our preparations for the long voyage before us. Made a great many good resolutions and promises to keep a regular journal, & provided myself with every thing necessary for that purpose kept it for a few days, after which I am sorry to say I neglected it until I reached Swan River. The few observations I have made on Madeira, Bahia, Cape of good Hope, & Hobartow are from memory.

Madeira

Arrived Sept 1st experienced some heavy weather crossing the Bay. suffered severely all the time. The appearance of the Island of Madeira is truly beautiful, & we were all anxiety to land the moment we beheld it; some delay however occurred in consequence of our not having a Bill of Health, the Officer on duty desired that every body should appear at the side of the vessel & he was all astonish-

-ment at our numbers. (108) A pretty lively young girl (Miss L.)
who was remarkably stout insisted upon putting herself at the
front of the Cabin Passengers because she said She was the best
specimen on board & indeed she was, for she was the picture
of health & good humour. Altho' we had been so short a time at
Sea we were delighted at the prospect of procuring Vegatables &
Fruits both of which we fortunately found in profusion.
The finest Grapes such as are considered at home "Hot house"
were only 4ᵈ the pound, common kind 1½. We bought Baskets made
by the natives, but could procure no natural curiosities
Ordinary
Wine of course is cheap & I was much amused with the manner
the Mountaineers bring it into town namely in Pigs Skins
dried in their original shapes. Staid at Mr. Reins. Went to see
Mr Findlay an old friend of my husbands. he was very anxious
for us to stay with him. Spent the day in rambling about the
town visiting the different Catholic Churches, went to see the

English Church which is nearly finished & is an elegant building
it is most delightfully situated in the centre of a beautiful garden
The Shrubs and plants of this gifted Island are most exquisite &
grow in luxuriant profusion filling the air with the
most delightful perfume - Geraniums, and our choicest Hot House
plants growing wild The roads are good but very steep, it
requires Horses accustomed to them & mount them they are
mostly paved & the rains washing down them give them
almost a polished appearance It is customary when you
ride, to have a boy running behind you with a long stick
with a prong in it to excite the Pony on; if he goes too fast,
the boy by your terror pulls him back by the tail they gallop
up the steepest hills

Thursday Rose early & rode to see the Lady of the Mount-
-returned to breakfast - after breakfast went to Cavallo's Gardens
he is at present absent on account of his political opinions it

is painful to see such a beautiful & extensive place running to ruin the Furza here grows in the wildest profusion whole hedges are formed of this exquisite flower. In the evening went to a Concert at Mr Findlays. was so tired could scarcely keep my eyes open. Matthew had upwards of three hundred applications from Portuguese desirous of going to the new settlement Friday. Walked in the morning but was so excessively tired was obliged to return to the Ship Sailed Septbr 5th

I have discovered that good Madeira Wine is not to be met with at the tables of the Merchants the best being always reserved for the London Market Public Entry is very generally in favour of the Constitutionalists a Military Officer whom we met on being asked for a toast after dinner publickly gave Donna Maria for Gloria. The Peasantry are a fine and noble race but sadly depressed by the withering influence of Priest craft

Ecclesiastics are seen in every part of the town lounging about maintaining the most despotic power over them. to them alone Dominguez is indebted for his Island they are indeed the only enemies liberty has Bpeare. It is remarkable that during the various political commotions no Europeans was ever interrupted by either party their houses were invariably considered sacred though known to contain refugees. these refugees would frequently very imprudently go to the windows and abuse the Patriotic Officers & Soldiers while passing which at length induced the Governor to inform the English that he could not answer for the consequences of irritating the feelings of the triumphant Party if they continued the same line of conduct. a few English Sailors in Arms were banished the Island.

Mary Ann Friend
to her Sister
Maria Congreave.

Bahia

Arrived Oct 15th after having had a most delightful voyage - fine weather nearly all the time. The first appearance of this place is very beautiful - the scenery is magnificent - the Lower Town stands at the foot of a high hill, upon the top of which the second (a higher) town is erected. The Lower Town is where most of the mercantile transactions are carried on & is a miserably dirty place. The upper town is of more modern date & has some excellent houses, but is also very dirty - Every body is carried up the hill leading to the upper town in a kind of Sedan Chair with open sides & with Curtains which you can draw at your pleasure - they are generally either Scarlet blue or Green & Gold These chairs are called in Portugese Cadeiras - I was the charge for merely mounting the Hills but it was customary to engage them by the day & give them 6 Patacs (equal to 6 Shillings) . No. respectable person walks unacquainted with the customs

we went out for the purpose of shopping a L'Anglaterre but presently had a great crowd after us cheering and apparently admiring us we were obliged to take refuge in a shop & were not sorry when we found ourselves in Cadeires on our way home. Even at the Hotel at which we were staying we used to be much annoyed by the numbers of strangers constantly coming in to look at us. we were quite subjects of curiosity so many English Ladies having never been seen in Bahia before. we could not get private sitting rooms & were obliged ultimately to shut ourselves up in our bed rooms Sunday 8th Rose early and went dressed to the Italian Church it was the jour de fête of the Patron Saint St Rosalie. We were obliged to have seats taken for us and although we were there in good time, had great difficulty in getting to them. I never saw such a mass of people they were mostly seated on the ground and so thick we could scarcely put our feet to the floor without treading upon them

The Portugese Ladies were in full dress & altogether presented a brilliant scene they wore gaudy colours such as pink or blue and some of their dresses were handsomely worked in Gold. Their dresses were low to the bust with short sleeves. Their hair which is generally black was dressed according to our custom & at the back of their heads, they wore either black or white veils hanging in graceful folds - They appeared some peculiarly interesting with their large dark eyes sometimes cast on the ground apparently in deep devotion, at others times looking at us. as we entered with such a languishingly indolent expression as if the very exertion was too much fatigue. The Church was adorned with a profusion of flowers & was more pretty than magnificent - At different parts of the Service where they wished to be impressive Sky Rockets & fire works were let off. To carry the prayers to Heaven & in the middle of the Service quantities of sweet flowers were thrown over the

congregation by Slaves placed in the galleries the delicious perfume from them was most refreshing - There are here a great number of Churches considering the size of the place. I was told 72 - by a Gentleman who was writing an account of Bahia - He visited a great many and in general the style of them was heavy having such a profusion of Gilding In one Church we went to the Monks although at prayers stared & smiled at us in such a manner we were obliged to leave in another an Old woman was very rude and insisted upon my taking off my bonnet but suffered a young Lady who was with me to wear hers with impunity -
We went to the Convent so celebrated for its "feather-flowers" and found them very pretty we made large purchases but consider them dear they are made by the Nuns for their own private profit the colours were very beautiful
The Slave population is very great two Slave Ships were laying in the Harbour whilst we were here and others were

daily expected they were bringing as many as they could the time
having nearly arrived when by their treaty with England they must
put an end to the trade they average at present nearly six blacks
to one white - insurrections are daily take place some are just down
with difficulty Slaves were Paying about in all the Streets for sale
I understood from the gentlemen who visited the Slave Mar-
ket that it was crowded to excess - some of the women were
remarkably fine figures & wore their Shawls in a most grace-
ful manner Sunday 25th Went into the country and dined with
Mr - an English Lady enjoyed myself so much my dear. Thes.
Band was with me the only time he went out with me in
Bahia he found a curious creeper, the seed the most beau-
tiful thing I ever beheld it was unknown to him. I regret to
say that at this Port my Maid Servant behaved so ill I was
obliged to dismiss her from my service & put her in the Steerage
I had done all in my power to save her but in vain the temptations

to whilst Servants are exposed on board Ship are incredible I only wonder how any escape - Went in a large Party up the river shelling the river is very wide and navigable a great distance up we went on shore at one of the Sugar Canes & whilst there a Brazilian female passed on horseback, she rode like a man and was dressed in white & had a Mans hat trimmed with a large plume of black feathers, to European eyes she presented a singular appearance found a great many shells on the beach but mostly dead ones dined in the boat & returned home much delighted - Tuesday Went to the Opera. the Theatre a miserable building & the performance wretched with the exception of a comic dancer who was excellent -

Spent a few hours this morning delightfully in visiting the American Ship "The Hudson" Commodore Creighton came my husband (who is an old Lieutenant in the Navy) acknowledged she was in beautiful order Capt Friend afterwards received great kindness from the Commodore. he was in great want of water for his Ship & could not

get any & was very anxious to get away at this time he understood that Government were about to supply the American Ship with water he immediately went to the Commodore & explained how he was situated. he immediately told him he would do all he could to serve him. next morning when Government sent the water to his ship he received it. & then ordered his boats with an officer to tow it to the Wanstead assist in putting it on board & getting her under weigh as we passed he manned his yards & his band played God save the King of course he was loudly cheered from the Wanstead. Sailed Oct 30th During our stay I often heard Mrs Grahame. most enraged by the Portugese Gentlemen & found her descriptions of their manners and customs had given great offence. English Articles were much cheaper than in England occasioned by a glut in the Market. It is a most magnificent Harbour for Shipping and apparently a place of considerable Trade the Inhabitants appear well disposed

An English Sailor came to see Capt Brand requesting to be taken on board his Ship Capt B. naturally asked him why he left the last Vessel he was in and received for answer that he had served on board a Portuguese Ship & had left in consequence of killing the Captain whom he had thrown overboard but added he was not so deep in the mire as some of the others. Lucre was this a recommendation he soon sent us with us who was one of the Irish Brigade from him we learnt that he was one of a large party who came from Ireland with the promises of grants of land and other advantages. the Emperor however instead of fulfilling his promises compelled them to carry Arms ultimately little to his advantage for being backward in his payments & provisions the body rose en masse and actually took possession of the Fort at Rio Janeiro they held it three days which to crush Garrison the

Emperor that he was very glad to take up the first ships
and send them away at any expense.

Cape of Good Hope

Decbr 7th Anchored at the Cape the first appearance of this town is pleasing the houses appearing so remarkably clean Resided at Mrs Rusks & were tolerably comfortable - Received great attention from Capt & Mr Bane to whom we brought letters of introduction - Should not like to reside at the Cape on account of the South Easterly wind which at times blow with great fury carrying clouds of sand along with it & which penetrates almost every thing - all the windows and doors are obliged to be shut but in vain it took such an effect on me that I was quite unwell & obliged to go to bed The Spirits of our party were here much damped by reports respecting Swan River - A ship had returned from that place bringing bad tidings almost all the shipping had been on shore & great disappointment prevailed with regard to this spot - Some of the passengers did not believe the reports - others did - on the whole it threw a gloom over our happy party & great

anxiety prevailed until we reached our destined Port the Swan
One Gentleman left us at Mr Ths with about 20 Saxony Sheep &
well he did so for at the Cape they were estimated at £70 each
& at Swan River they were of little value - Met with Capt Bame
& see Dr Smiths collection was much pleased. heard from
him that about a month before a Ship had touched at the
Cape which had from Montgomeries on board for the French Naturalists
Miss Roberts a young Lady on board was obliged to put herself under
my protection her brother suffering under a relapse of brain fever.
She accompanied me in my long voyage home. her brother left
at this place under strong delusion. Capt Fraser met with his
Majestys Ship the Chanticleer Capt Foster. with whom he com-
pared some observations much to his satisfaction and also
visited the Observatory and received much Kindness from
Mr & Mrs Fallows he was extremely pleased with the Instru-
ments which he states to be of the finest description

The Cape appears quite a land of plenty but the spectacle that most astonished me was the large tails of the sheep which in some instances weigh equal to their whole bodies and are principally composed of fat the goats are also of an immense size and the finest I ever beheld. furnishing a great deal of milk one that I had on board supplied me daily with two quarts they are much better at sea than Cows being so much more Lively

There is no English Church the Service is performed in the Dutch Church alternately with that Communion

The Streets are hilly but wide and built with much regularity but you suffer much from the Clouds of Dust which the South Easters blow through them

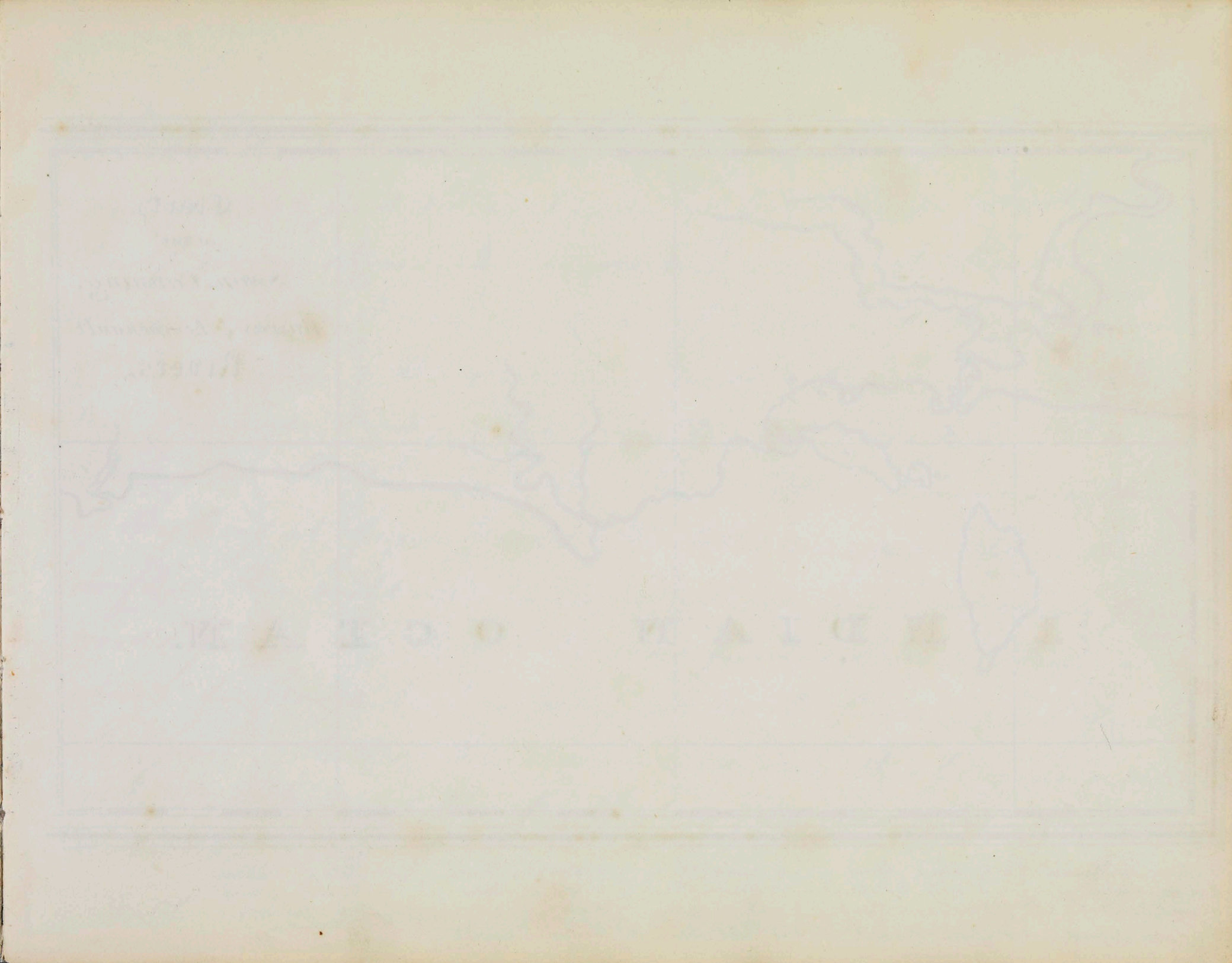


Chart
OF THE
Swan, Canning,
Murray & Leschenault
Rivers.



1 River Leschenault.
2 River Murray.
3 Mangles Bay.
4 Garden Island
5 Cockburn Sound.
6 Mr Peel's Establisht
7 Woodman's Point.
8 Gages Roads.
9 Freemantle
10 Preston Point
11 Point Walter
12 Point Heathcote
13 Canning River.
14 Melville Water.
15 Perth
16 Mount Eliza
17 Village Tillburn
18 Rottenest Island
19 Pulo Lamac.

1830

Swan River

Saturday Jany 30th Arrived in sight of Rottennest Island about 3 O'clock & at ½ past sit anchored in Gages Roads about a mile & half from shore – the weather was so rough the Pilot could not come off – I was much disappointed with the appearance of Swan River the entrance is so extremely narrow the country low and sandy We found several ships here. The Sulphur. Capt Haney at Cockburn Sound. The Minstrel Pamgelia & Marquis of Anglesey at Gages Roads. The Pattie was just where she had drifted the night she came on shore & was not above five yards from dry land. She was purchased by Mr Leake a Merchant for £300 & he has since let her to Government for £100 the year. She has been converted into the Governors residence (when at Fremantle) the Harbour Masters Office, the Post Office & Prison Ship for refractory Servants. The chief town Perth is situated 16 miles up the river & there is already

a passage-boat, plying from it to the mouth of the river
you can hire one of these boats but the charges are enormous
for one trip to a ship & back with luggage they charge 4. 4. 0
Fish is very plentiful but the Snapper is the most common
and is very good, indeed the best I tasted on the coast
We find that in consequence of Mr Peel having arrived behind the
time named by Government, Capt Stirling had given away
the grant reserved for him, & he had been obliged to take another
about nine miles to the South of the Swan opposite Garden Island
Sunday 31st Early this morning all the Stock went on shore
Capt Friends also went rowed by four of the gentlemen who
call themselves his boys, all the crew stood up & cheered
him as he passed. About noon went on shore with
my husband was very much disappointed with the appearance
of the coast which is very narrow at the entrance - I should
imagine not a quarter of a mile wide It is very true that the



country is "beautifully undulating & thinly wooded" but alas the said is no thing but sand The town of Freemantle strongly resembles a Country Fair & has a pretty appearance the pretty white tents looking much like booths - at present there are not above five or six houses - it is situated at the entrance of the River The Bar has never more than four feet water over it, and at times is impassable; every morning there is a strong land breeze & at evening a sea breeze at which times it is impossible to go in opposite directions. Went to see Mr & Mrs Wells Colt Lantons agent here was extremely pleased with Mr Wells find him a charming unaffected young woman while I was sitting at the door talking with her up came the Ships Carpenter, he came up here in a state of consternation with his tools in his hands. He had been doing something to the outside of the ship when the boat broke loose with him & two men in it & in spite of every exertion they had been carried by the cur-

cent over the bar & had drifted on shore. - to judge how
navigable the river is, I stood by the side of the river
and saw Mrs Daly the surgeons widow of the 63d come down
in a boat she was towed by men at times walking nearly
to their chins in water, she had started at day break & did not
reach Fremantle until past seven at night being a distance
of only 16 miles sometimes days elapse without being able
to have communication between the two settlements (Towns)
the river also is in parts so extremely shallow as to prevent
good sized boats from being used on it, they have made
some flat bottomed boats something like half of a packing
case for general use Took my first walk out with
Mathew found the soil extremely sandy but covered with
verdure the Trees were quite bleached and leaning in one
direction giving evident proof of constant heavy winds
from one quarter, I understood from those who had first



arrived at the commencement of winter that the winds were truly dreadful coming in sudden squalls with violent bursts of rain - Tents were sometimes entirely blown away, leaving the unfortunate inhabitants, who had been beneath them exposed to a deluge of rain He did not find one garden in the place, all had failed - we saw one potatoe patch which appeared tolerably flourishing it was made sail & about 6 feet by 2 From what I could learn they appeared to have erred in the measure first adopted on landing - it was quite distressing to hear their sufferings, they landed in "Garden Island" in a most tempestuous time of the year, many ill provided - the Governor himself had no tent & was obliged to have a sail fixed, namely any thing was a protection - Gentlemen & Ladies were obliged to share the same tent each night exposed to a deluge of rain, after staying there some time they removed to the entrance of Swan River where they again had

and from thence were again removed from
Freemantle to Perth. This town which is the seat
of government is sixteen miles up the river but the
good land does not commence until five miles afterwards
& then but in comparatively small quantities - I must say
there appears a great want of energy on the part of the settlers
it is true they are waiting for the season to sow their seeds:
but I do not see why the intermediate time should be spent
in doing nothing, which is the case with many - they might
at all events be erecting their houses & preparing for the
winter - melancholy appears to pervade all classes and
great dread is felt least there should be a scarcity of
provisions Capt. S. started this evening with the sea boat
for Perth as no goods may be landed until the Ship
is reported to the Governor the wind being contrary
for me, I could not return to the Ship & Mrs Wells kindly



offered me such accommodations as she had, which I thankfully accepted Mrs M'W. are at the head of the first establishment here, but have scarcely a comfort about them - one of our barns would be a mansion beside their house - they have half a small thatched house which makes one room in which the sit eat & sleep. they have about 96 Men Women & Children under them but with this establishment they can get nothing done - they have but one attendant and that is a dirty little Boy about ten years of age they can even scarcely get their clothes washed, while at the same time the women are washing for strangers, who are obliged to pay 6 shillings the doz. the servants are in fact receiving wages & food and doing nothing for it. I had a wretched night at Mrs W. She was so kind as to make me up a bed at the foot of hers & put up a curtain to divide the beds, scarcely was the candle out when out rushed

Rats two frotted over my head a third more bold came over my face, which so frightened me I was obliged to awake Mr & Mrs Wides, a candle was procured but alas. there was no chance of sleep for the place was full of the largest fleas I ever saw — Monday Feb 1st My dear Husband returned without having been able to reach Perth — the boat had grounded, he was obliged to remain in her all the night & return this morning quite tired — returned to the Ship — Matthew again left me to try & reach Perth Tuesday 2nd Mr Sands the first Mate went on shore with the "Horse House" it fell out of the boat cropsing the bar with two of the men inside of it. the House drifted who were in five miles above the Town, every time the men tried to reach the door it turned over, like Squirrels in a Cage. they went it was at length overtaken by the boat it has been taken on shore for the purpose of making a Cottage Orné

for me Mr Sands likewise took all the men save the Cook and the Steward, we determined to have a joke with the gentlemen on shore for leaving us Ladies alone on board ship - got Richard D hoist the Blue Peter as a signal we were going D sea, half an hour afterwards hoisted the Union Jack bid in knots to shew we wanted a boat, at four o'clock began to get rather frightened that no boat came off, so drew down the blue jutes to shew we were in earnest - at eight the boat came off with the Rev? Mr Davis & Capt Lead quite rejoiced D see them Wednesday 3? Had a restless night quite uneasy about my husband wish he would return several gentlemen came off D see us - understood great dissatisfaction prevails against Government they appear to think it extraordinare D make so fuss about an infant settlement not more than 300 per Month - complain likewise of the great government reserves of

land the whole of one side of the river is kept - the whole of the frontage from Fremantle to Perth Town besides a large quantity of the choicest land near Perth the Governor has likewise given good grants to the Officers of the different Men of War that have been at the Port they are gone away for three years & in the mean time the land lies idle, and numerous Settlers are waiting on the beach for their grants - no person as yet has had their full grant - settlers that perhaps expected 60.000 Acres have 500 & so in proportion The exploring Party to the South on which so much depended the fate of the Colony returned this day and without going on shore came off to see my husband two of the Gentlemen were known Some before but they were in such a state I did not at first recognise them, they had been absent 8 or 10 days during which time they had neither shaved or changed their dress - imagine the state they were in - they gave a tolerable good report

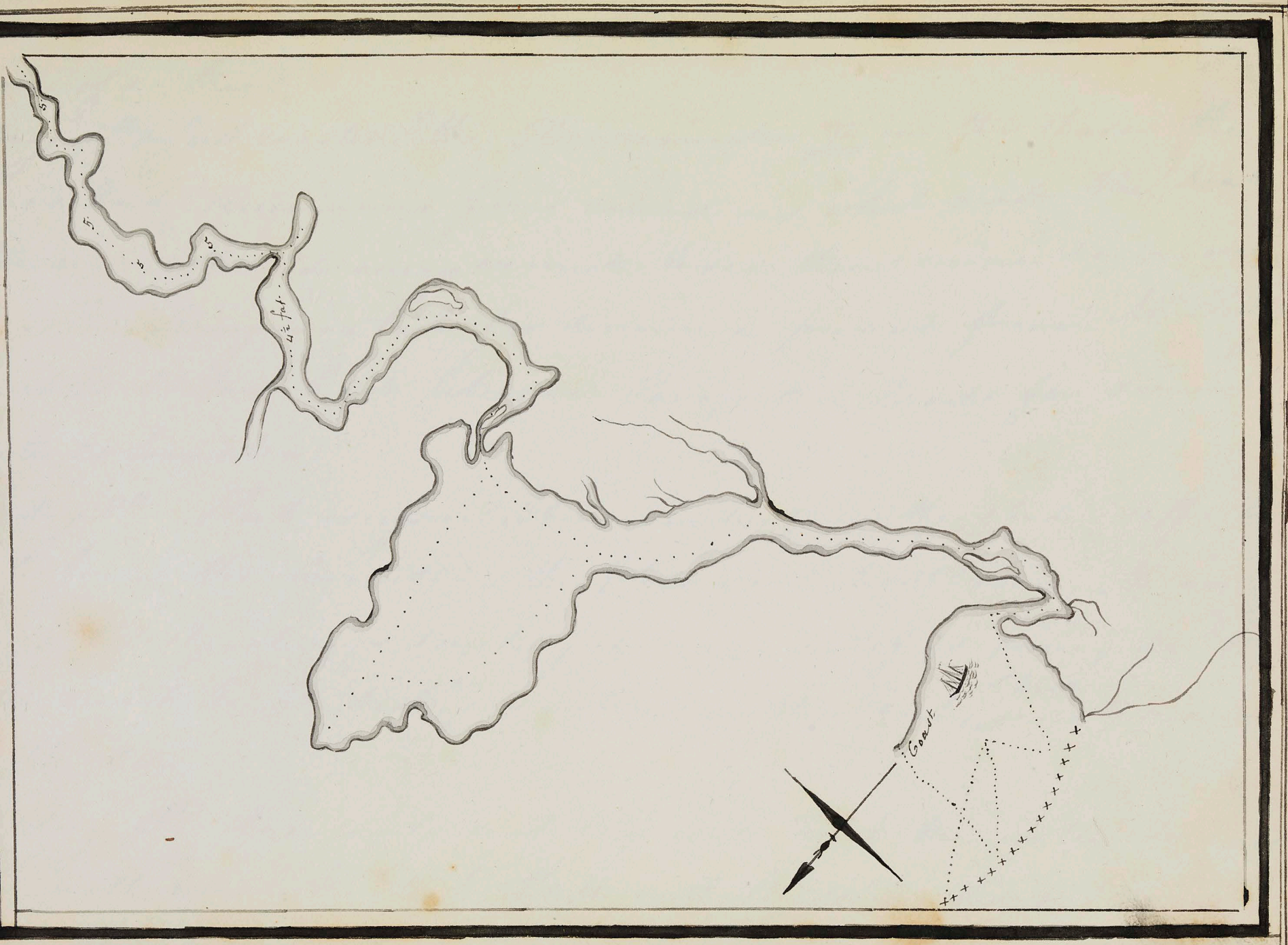
of the land at the River Liechenaultt say it is much better than at the Swan & that the river is navigable a considerable distance up & has a pretty good harbour — they saw an immense number of Swans the Natives were numerous and at one place showed signs of hostility one powerful Man followed them to the beach threatening — the Gentlemen gave me a black swan the only one I saw at Swan River

Thursday 4th Matthew returned — delighted to see him, had the Swan for dinner & found it very good eating, it was dressed the same as a goose the flesh is dark but tender and well flavoured — Came on Shore with Matthew and actually slept in my own house, had an excellent night's rest quite enjoyed the change — Went in the evening to see the Net drawn — caught a great many fish

Thursday 4th Rose early & arrange my house it will make a tolerable residence, but find it too much exposed to

the sun & the wind - tired to death by the flies had many visitors in the evening, had trunks of trees placed on each side of the house on which we sit & in the evening have a large fire in the front - had a tent pitched for the Servants by the side of the house & two tents at a distance for the rest of the party - looked under a night - lowering Tree

Friday 5th Walked into the country find nothing but sand - the scenery very pretty & a profusion of shrubs likewise a great many Grass Trees - We are here at a bad season for Botany all the flowers being past & winter commencing to put on his sober hue, from the first comers I hear that the place was literally a sheet of flowers - As to birds scarcely one remains every body carries a gun & they have completely succeeded either in shooting or driving away all the feathered race - Moved my house under the



River Leischmanlts.

shade of a tree

Sunday 7th Augt roasted!!! the Thermometer 92 in the shade the Natives had numerous fires round us which made the heat intense expected every minute to see them come down on us - Had Kangaroo Tail for dinner a present from Mr. Hunter resembles Ox Tail had likewise Parroquets & Quails for dinner - quite colonist -

Monday 8th Heat excessive. Thermometer 98 in the shade suffer so much from the mosquitoes & the flies are so troublesome - We are always thirsty - always drinking & never satisfied, Imagine the water must be brackish, as our well is on the beach, I have scarcely moved all the day

Tuesday 9th Rose early not very well think the water does not agree with me - Went to Port with Matthews did not arrive until very late in the evening the Banks of the river are truly beautiful & Melville Water a fine sheet of water, where we can

(Perth)

arrived at the settlement, and to make our way through the bush to reach the town guided by the fires - Was not expected before. Tomorrow did not find the tent ready, so was obliged to walk up & down the town whilst they emptied the tent which was full of people carousing - never slept in such a miserable place every thing so dirty Lots & such quantities of Musquitoes & Flies the last century the largest I ever saw - Matthew sat up all the night driving the insects off me - the noise from the neighbouring tents so annoying & the Soldiers sitting up late singing and drinking

Wednesday 16th Rose at day break Capt Irwin of the 63d came down and took me to his house he is very comfortable - breakfasted with him & tasted the comforts of an English home had excellent white bread butter & milk - took a long walk after breakfast did not find the sand so annoying as at Freemantle but it frustrates just as much, here it is black; at Freemantle

it is quite white, and dissatisfies the sight over much The situation
of the Town is extremely picturesque but its great distance from
the entrance of the river & the numerous Shoals must certainly
prevent its being the seat of Government — the town is situated
on an eminence & has a beautiful bay in front they have
already raised a kind of jetty for the convenience of landing — Many
of the Soldiers have neat Houses, others have tents — there is an
excellent House nearly finished which will be opened as an Hotel
& called the Stirling Arms, the Keepers of the Coffee tents are making a great deal
of money — the lower orders having plenty of money The flies & fleas
are beyond description annoying The Church is composed of reeds &
wood & considering the short time in which it was erected does
them great credit — they were only eight days from the commence-
ment being anxious to open it on Christmas day it is large and spa-
cious & has a belfry at the end — called on the Governor & Mrs Stirling
& was most kindly received Capt Stirling is desirous of persuading

Matthew & stay & has offered him the situation of Surveyor General of the southern district at the Rivers Inschenautte. Matthew has applied for a grant of 3000 Acres the Governor has promised to give it him & should we not be back before the end of 1830. will reserve it for him. Dined with Dr Millegan - Capt Irwin was so kind as to insist upon giving up his Lower Berth at night & left there surrounded by every comfort what a contrast to last night - Walked back in the dark but saw nothing worthy of notice many parts were burnt by the Natives saw one of the Lakes - there are three of them but rather marshes than Lakes

Thursday 11th Had a delightful sail back to Tennauttee but was terribly burnt by the sun a great part of the way the men were obliged to walk in the water & push the boat along saw an amazing number of Fish but few birds & those Sniffy ducks Matthew got some good mineralogical Specimens got home about 9 o'clock dreadfully tired wanted to go to bed but had so many visitors

I could not – quite weary – suffering from the effects of the Sun
We have noticed on the beach a large brown misshapen Mass. some
thing like jelly. they have called it here the Sea Slug since
upon more minute enquiry I have little doubt it is La Beche
la mere so much in demand when dried in India – the Chinese
are particularly fond of it. Had a small Kangaroo made me
a present, the only one I saw at the Swan.

Sunday 14th Much disappointed was D Lane gone to Perth Town
with my Cart but the weather proved unfavourable he went
without me

Monday 15th Matthew returned gives a sad account of the place
nothing has been done, no houses erected, he has about 362 Settlers and
dissatisfaction prevails

Tuesday 16th Thermometer 61. in the morning 87. at noon

Wednesday 17th Were terribly frightened this morning a party of Natives
7 in number came down to our tents fortunately Matthew was at home

he shut all the females & children up in my Horse House
I understand the natives are quite naked with straight hair
they are black-but paint their bodies red - they pulled our
breakfast about, tasted every thing but particularly liked the
sugar, afterwards Webb one of Mr Riddey's men asked them to
come to his tent when there. he would not let them come in -
they endeavoured to force an entrance, Matthew caught up his
gun and ran across seized the most violent by the throat who
drew a kind of knife and attempted to strike him the other savages
levelled their Spears & I thought all was over with my dear
Husband I was paralised with fear, fortunately at this moment
two Gentlemen came up armed & no mischief ensued. The
Thames from V.D. Land put in in great distress having sprung
a leak & expecting every hours sink - She had 1200 Sheep on board
for the Mauritius - it is expected they will be landed and sold.
Mr Walcott returned from Peels Town the accounts are very bad.
the natives had made a large fire to drive the Kangaroos - it

spread rapidly owing to the dry State of the grass & reached the encamp-
ment of Mr Watsons which was entirely burnt he lost every thing I believe
except his Stock & Mr Smith had his tent also burnt the fire reached
to within a few yards of Mr Pitts Stores where his Gunpowder
was kept—
Friday 19th Walked to the Mineral Spring saw a fine Cow lying dead
on the beach such a sight is common took tea with Mrs Morley a
Lady from India
Sunday 21st Went on the water to Preston Point, beautiful weather
dined on the grass; after dinner took a walk with Miss Roberts in
the wood; we much frightened my good Husband who thought the
Natives had carried us off; he came after us in full pursuit
occasionally firing his gun, never saw him so agitated he appears
to have such a horror of the Natives did not get home before
one in the morning, the wind and tide were both against us we
were fearful we should have been out all the night Matthew

went on shore at one place to try and make a fire he imprudently shook his powder flask over the flame when it went off with a loud explosion it was a mercy he did not lose his hand

Tuesday 23d. Walked into town with my Papa was sorry to hear the Ship Hooghly had run herself by striking on the rocks coming in An Indian fire on the other side of the water had a beautiful effect this evening —

Sunday 28th Mr. Dutton at Preston Point lost his Child, a fine little boy about four years of age it was supposed the Natives had carried him off, a party having been seen near the house; Many persons went in pursuit of them One Gentleman about 12 at night came up with a large party encamped they all ran away with the exception of one who took refuge in a tree. he asked him for the Picaninny. the Man pointed to the Mountains the Gentlemen then fired his gun upon which he fell from the tree as dead but immediately got up and ran away — he found about a bushell of fish each fish was cleaned and carefully

wrapped up in a piece of the bark of a tree & tightly bandaged —
I tasted it but did not like it at all, it had imbibed a great degree
of acidity from the bark; disagreeable to the taste but I daresay
useful in preserving it — many of our party however liked it much —
Tuesday 2nd. Understood some of the men in pursuit of the child
have fallen in with a party of the Natives & fired upon them
two of them dangerously wounded
Friday 5th A poor Black Man who keeps a Coffee Tent had it destroyed
by fire, it was a most distressing sight — I happened to be passing at
the time and witnessed it: his agony of mind was so great — at first they
were at a loss how to quench the flames as water being at hand. Tile
Matthew caught up a quantity of sand and threw upon the tent at
the same time tearing it down, fortunately his little bag of money
was found & we raised a subscription on the spot for him the
poor Man was so grateful and during our stay when he had fresh
provisions or a nice pudding, he would send me a piece with his

humble duty. such dainties as these are always acceptable. at Swan River, indeed I must say there is a great deal of what is vulgarly called "cupboard love" going on here

Sunday 7th Went to Church, the service was performed at Granby House which was lent for the occasion, had a delightful walk in the evening with my dear Cara, went to the mineral spring ascended the mount at the back of it, had a most beautiful view - heard that the Cumberland a fine ship 600 Tons had run upon a reef of rocks off Cape Leeuwin & was a total wreck some of the people came up in a boat. the Cumberland had stuck for Swan River -

Monday 8th Broke up our encampment at the trees and moved to the beach where we have had a tent erected - left the place with regret having spent so many happy days there, the whole of the time we did not have one shower of rain and took all our meals in the open Air - Rode with the things in the cart & thought it quite delightful Staid on

the beach nearly ten days after we moved - had for dinner one day a large Bustard - it was coarse but every thing fresh is considered good at Swan River - Much interested in the account I heard of a English Man in the bush, who was in a state of great destitution & had been fed for some days by Miss Wittenoom. Walked with Capt. Irwin to see him think him to be to a certain extent, an impostor - he was laying under a bush, with his head tied up in a sack, he would not suffer it to be taken off, for us to see his face said his name was - that he was brought up an Architect & was the son of the Provost of Dundee would not take the sack off because he had not been shaved for some time - Capt. Irwin promised to send for him and give him employment, also to send him some cloathes on enquiring, we found that that the chief part of his story was true but that he had reduced himself to the state we found him in by his excessive dissipation, that he &

two other young men shut themselves up in a hut, until they had consumed every thing they had. They stated themselves the Glories of Fremantle one died in a drunken broil the other was still living but in great distress. The day after I saw this man went in the evening to see Mr Wells - a violent storm came on we (Cara & self) were obliged to run across the heath in such a torrent of rain as we never see at home. We were completely drenched & ran in constant fear of the numerous holes that had been dug for the purpose of making wells last our way it being dark, came up to a reed built house saw a man standing outside the door - asked him the way & was much startled by hearing a response in the same voice we had heard in the bag - got home very wet the tent completely drenched. The day before we left had an application from the friends of a young Lady to take charge of her home to England objected to it myself, but was

were persuaded by Matthews the came on board the day we left.
Sailed for Hobarton March 19th quite sorry to leave Swan River
& the many kind friends particularly our Family that had come
out with us about 30 passengers came on with us from Swan
River. A Newspaper had been established some time before
we left but it was a stupid concern The stock out of the
Plains was sold by public Auction the sheep did not average
more than fifteen shillings each - Whilst we were here a runaway
Match in the town made a great sensation - After the young
Lady had run away the Clergyman disappointed them & did not
come from Perth as promised - To my great surprise at night
the Gentleman brought the fair one to my tent and begged me
to take charge of her - I had no room but she staid with Miss W.
& in the morning was married from Mr Gilbert's tent went to
give her joy had Cake & Wine afterwards the happy pair proceeded
to a neighbouring tent (the most miserable place I ever saw) for

the Honey Moon Swan River is considered on the whole healthy — Dysentery prevails but seldom proves fatal

The only vegatable found is Samphire which is either eaten with Vinegar or boiled I was much amused with the account I heard from Miss E— of Mr Peel's arrangement Mr P. pays his people weekly with his own Notes on Messrs Cooper & Levy which Notes he receives again for payment of things purchased at his own Stores & for which he charges an exorbitant price at one time his charges were so out of character his people came and applied to the Governor & he was made to redeem them : Nobody takes his Notes but himself & his people . Gentlemens sons who had come out with high expectations were obliged to stand behind Counters selling Tea Sugar &

The night before we left a great deal of anxiety prevailed owing to the natives having attempted to carry off a Female

from Preston Point which is about three miles from Fremantle
a Gentleman coming down the river was alarmed by the violent
screams of a Female he pushed his boat ashore & found the
Natives endeavouring to carry off a female Servant he fired &
they fled. The Families residing at Preston Point used formerly
to see the Natives on the opposite side of the water they used of
night to kindle large fires & dance round it in the most fantastic
manner more like Demons than anything else
A literary Society is established at Perth to which Ladies
are admitted as Members. I put my name down was balloted
for and elected. I was the third Lady on the book being pre-
ceded by Mrs Stirling the Governors Lady & Mrs Roe the Surveyor
Generals Lady. The subscription was 2 pounds they have
already funds in hand and intend immediately to commence
building the rooms. The Plant having the most singular
appearance is the Grass Tree called by the residents the Black

boys from their resemblance to a Negro & which their appearance fully justifies a sketch of them is annexed this singular tree first shoots up from the earth like a tuft of grass which is followed by its large black stem studded with a scale like a fish the bark is about an inch & half thick and is strongly impregnated with a resin like substance which when burnt emits a strong aromatic smell something like Frankincense & which exudes from the trees in large tears Masses of it may be sometimes collected at the foot of the tree When it attains its full growth a Spear from four to six feet shoots up which bears the seed I have procured one of these sometimes the stem branches forming two heads the bark leaves a black mark as if covered with Charcoal but which may be removed by the numerous fires made by the Natives burning the surrounding grass. On the way to Perth at Preston Point there is a natural shelf of rocks on the beach of the River which is limestone. The limestone is abounds with Caves made by the Water one of which we entered in our Boat & found it

Hobarton

Arrived Sunday April 11th. never saw such diff sort in my life as came off to the Ship – the town is situated a considerable dis tance up the river and has a pretty appearance but had more the resemblance of a Country Village than I expected Endeavoured but without success to get Lodgings – the town was so crowded on account of Archdeacon Broughton being here he came from Sydney in his Majesty's Ship the Crocodile Capt. Montague Received a great deal of attention from Col & Mrs Arthur although we brought no letters of introduction – Went to a ball at Government House on the 23d April the celebration of the Kings birth day took my young friends with me Miss Roberts & Miss Elwin My dear husband went to Launceston on business suffered severely with my eyes during his absence the effect of Swan River – While he was away Miss Lord one of the young Ladies who came out with me came off to the Ship & asked me to allow

her to be married from under my care, did not like to refuse her as both she, and the intended Bridegroom were great favourites of mine – They were married on the 29th April Went on shore with her in the morning with her two Bride Maids & returned Breakfast & spend the day I never was at a wedding that pained me so much – I am afraid great trouble awaits the young folks in a pecuniary point of view I do not like Hobarton at all – Nature has done her utmost for it, but her inhabitants ruin the spot – The soil is of the richest kind and every thing grows to the greatest perfection the winter is extremely mild and in its depth the finest flowers may be found – the inhabitants are carrying on a war of extermination with the Natives who are destroyed without mercy whereas they are met – The Bush rangers are utterly put down, Matthew likes the place much but as for myself I would rather be at Swan River with its cares

Farm at Hobarton with all its advantages Matthew has taken his town grant of 20 acres and has commenced his fence leaving an agent behind to conduct it in his absence – Received a great deal of kindness from Capt & Mrs Bell – dined several times at their beautiful place at New Town – Met here at Government House a family of the name of Clarke old friends of my husbands particularly pleased with Miss C. think her a charming unaffected girl – Dined at Mr Franklands. the Surveyor General. Visited Mrs Pedder the Judges Lady must pleased with her Miss Emslie the young lady I brought from Swan River Lad. several offers. She formed an attachment with one of the first Residents & was married from under our care – My husband took care to secure good settlements & she had three hundred a year settled upon her – Went to New Norfolk for change of air not being quite well the ride did me much good – the scenery along the banks of the River is truly beau

tiful I have no doubt it will be the Richmond of V D Land.
there is a good sized town a Church Government House
& excellent Inn. We were to have returned to London direct
from Hobarton but in consequence of several Ships coming
in and reporting that freights were up in India my husband
determined to proceed there. Left Hobarton June 20

We remained when at Hobarton at the Marquarie Hotel when
we could get apartments and were very comfortable we gave
at the Hotel a Wedding Dinner to the young folks. Walked Down
my Husbands town grant accompanied by Miss Roberts and was
highly delighted with the view from it which is most splendid
and embraces almost every kind of scenery, the greatest part of
the River, the whole of the town & the distant hills are all in
view from the eminence as also a highly cultivated plains abounding
in Flop Grounds Meadows &c. We were much gratified by the
expressions of pleasure it gave our Neighbours That we had



Jones.

A pet Magpie from Hobart Town
Highly Talented

located there - A Whale came up the River and was killed about three miles from our Ship one of our boats joined in the pursuit and assisted in killing the huge Monster. Capt^n visited the different Public Establishments and found them in the highest order particularly the Prison and the Factory for Female Convicts when their conduct was not good enough to entitle them to a ticket of leave. The place is wonderfully advanced altogether considering the short time it has been settled - Manufactories of of almost any kind being in operation some with Steam &c

The Bread is the best & sweetest I ever ate I presume from the excellence of the Wheat the Mutton is delicious and plentiful I did not think the beef so good as at home. Poultry is generally good and cheap. Butter Eggs & Cheese very dear. A Caravan runs every day to New Norfolk and it is in contemplation to run a Stage Coach. The roads are excellent being chiefly Mc Adamized The Country Gentlemen are extremely hospitable and kind not

withstanding the numerous calls made upon them in a Country where Inns are scarce and visits made solely for refreshment and shelter. The oysters are very fine and cheap fish plentiful English fruits the same as in England and many tropical luxuries are occasionally found here. The houses vary much in their style of Architecture but are principally English. The discovery of Lime Stone has added much to the convenience of Persons building Houses bricks are much used are good and cheap, though they have large quantities of Stone the appearance of the country in the interior is varied but almost universally beautiful hills dales Mountains crowned with trees & plains with verdure are the general prospects that meet the eye at every turn the plains are partially studded with trees & exactly resemble a Gentlemans Park in England the Mountains are occasionally precipitous & craggy forming deep ravines between them frequently with a rill of water flowing into a river at the base. Gentlemans houses are of the villa kind

and present a remarkably fine relief in the natural beauties around them nor are the cultivated spots uninteresting of the interest. Oxen are chiefly used in Agriculture Horses are kept for the Saddle and for Carriages they have been very dear but the price is now rapidly falling a Pair of Draft Bullocks well trained are worth £20 a large sum considering the vast quantity of Cattle in the Country Large droves may be met in the woods in almost a wild state and not unfrequently will make a furious attack upon the passing Traveller who has no resource but to climb a tree. Nature appears to have denied nothing to this highly favoured spot. An industrious Labourer is not only certain of good wages & employment sufficient for the necessaries of life but can enjoy luxuries entirely out of the reach of persons in England many grades above them in life the principal exports are Bark Oil & Whalebone and Wool the Bark is procured from the Black Wattle Tree a beautiful shrub of the Mimosa kind

the oil. the produce of the numerous Whale Fisheries. they have also several vessels belonging to the Port who collect the Sperm Oil. these are sent to Europe and have also great gain from supplying the neighbouring Colony with Wheat &c. Sydney occasionally suffers much from drought in particular seasons. blighting the hopes of the year. a great advantage is also derived from Chinese Trade. also Country Vessels from India

Saw the Breakers at 8 Am and Torres Straits

Thursday 22nd Entered the great barrier about three O'Clock it was very narrow, but fortunately we had a very fine day. the passage could not be more than a quarter of a mile wide, on either side we saw the sand bank, and breakers in every direction. Anchored inside the barrier reef with Murrays Island. To the right, bearing it was so dark could merely see the outlines of the Island. was awoke about two in the morning by the intelligence that the Ship was drifting fast on the reef, was much alarmed the Captain was obliged to slip the Main cable. Came us & bore up for the Island until morning the first sight of the land was enchanting, the bright green of the trees, the vivid yellow of the Sand. & the lovely blue of the sea formed one of the sweetest scenes I ever beheld. I could fancy all that Poets have sung of enchanted Islands &c. We perceived the Island was thickly inhabited & saw a fleet of Canoes at least 20 in number Some

Some of the natives ran into the water & waved boughs
as we passed – saw several Islands in the course
of the day all with the same beautiful appearance
Anchored about four O'Clock opposite Half Way Island
as we anchored saw several Natives enter a large Proa &
push off Capt. F. sent a boat on shore found some rude
Huts formed of branches of trees also some large shells & a kind
of potatoe – Here Capt F sowed a quantity of potatoes – in different situations on the Island
barley & other seeds.
Saturday 24th The men were so tired having had a great deal of
heavy work that Capt. F. determined to stay until tomorrow
Saw the Natives at a distance in the surf they appeared afraid
of us – Went on shore with my Gun much pleased with my
excursion The Island is about 1 Mile long & 3/4 miles wide
covered with trees and Shrubs the soil chiefly sand with occa-
sional patches of good vegetable soil a spit of sand extends on some
point some distance into the sea found some Nuts, Cocoa



Murrays. Island. Torres. Straits

Spears &c. left them hanging on the boughs before their houses some
heads &c Great quantities of birds they had shot too, one a species of Emeu
found a few of the Pearl Oyster Fish. We Night saw the Natives
return to the Island & light their fires
Sunday 25th Sailed at day break Anchored at "Goat Bay" near
Possession Island in the evening saw the Main Land of New
South Wales - soon after we had anchored to our amazement saw
a Ship come round one of the Islands, then another & another
until we counted Seven large Ships + Such a sight was surely never seen
before in these seas they came and anchored near us This fleet
proved to be the Crocodile Capt Montague (whom we had known at
Hobarton) from Sydney conveying 6 Merchants Ships up the in-
ner passage they were quite surprised to find we had come
through the Straits by ourselves they were very glad to see us &
we joined company & sailed the next morning keeping company 'till we
passed the Barby Islands when those Ships that sailed best

parted company & proceeded on their destination on passing the
Island we perceived a Flag Staff had been erected by some Ship
which had recently gone thro the passage we should have followed
our route alone but from the friendship of Capt Montague who
kept company with us. My husbands opinion is that the passage
through Torres Straits may certainly be considered dangerous
and should not be attempted in a single Ship if it could be
avoided a good look out from the Mast head & the lead kept
constantly going are essential precautions the shoals are very
perceptible and may be easily avoided if taken in time. Several
little Islands are occasionally met with all with the same appearance
as Half way Island on many of them were saw Natives but judge they
are of a wandering description who have almost as much use their
boats or proas. It is to be regretted there is not a British Settlement
in the Straits to which Ships wanting Seamen might repair in
case of accident



Half Way Island Torres Straits

Coupang Isle of Timour

Anchored in Coupang Bay on the 4th August & left on the 6th late in the evening - The Crocodile & one of the Merchant Ships arrived within a few hours of ourselves The appearance of the Town is poor - some of the Houses are in the Dutch style built with red tiles others Chinese & Malay - this settlement is under the Dutch they export Sandal wood, was & Ebony and are very noted for their Ponies there is a very poor fort to the right as you enter Capt Montague of the Crocodile came and invited us to dine with him - but was obliged to decline our stay being so short - Matthew went on shore with him to call on the Governor - they were afterwards informed that the Governor imagined they had come to take the Island, & that they were spies sent on shore to reconnoitre - it being a very unusual thing for three Ships to be laying in the Harbour - Went on shore the next day was rather nervous at first the Natives with boating Malays followed us in crowds

they were nearly naked, & extremely dirty, they were all much frightened
at the appearance of a large Newfoundland dog we had with us
Made some purchases, Country baskets &c & walked about the
town - Went into the Church which is a tolerable edifice
was much struck with the appearance of the Pastor whom
we found in the act of expounding the Scriptures to a few
converts. he was a Dutch Missionary of the name of "Terlingen"
He was
Middle sized, fair haired, Blue & Jolly I was much pleased
with his manners - he appeared so truly pious and devoted
to his cause, My Husband was even more delighted with him
than I was, he brought him off to see me - he told me that
he had married a Native Girl whom he had first converted
& that she was indefatigable in her exertions to aid him
in his religious pursuits - I regret to say from his appearance
I should not imagine he would not be long-lived -
A few days after we left Timor we fell in with a Whaler in
Albion Capt Mott



Coupang. Island of Timor.

the Captain.
great distress having broken his Chronometer - Matthew lit him
have one of his The Capt. made me a present of a great many
shells - and was most grateful for the Chronometer
We came through the Straits of Lombock & I never beheld
such a current as that opposed to us & the wind was fair & we ought to have been
going eight knots the hour, instead of which the current was
so strong, the Ship did not move a step in advance, but was
tossed about in a most extraordinary manner - & the sea was
covered with froth
Whilst at Coupang a Ship came in from South America
brought from her that the Marias for Swan River had even
extended there
As we passed up the Straits of Lombock we perceived the Islands
on either side
were thickly inhabited and in a state of cultivation Nothing can
be more beautiful than the passage through these Islands at this
season of the year the Sky is serene, the water smooth & the verdure
of the brightest hue It caused us to regret having passed them

Singapore

Arrived on the 21st August was rather disappointed with the first view of the place which I do not think at all pretty – Went on shore (Monday) in a Sampan boat was surprised to see such a busy scene – The river completely covered with boats in most of which Natives reside, in the evening when they had their lights it had a singular appearance – passed close to a Chinese Junk the first I had seen it appeared to me a huge misshapen mass & I am surprised how they can live at sea – It is wonderful the Chinese do not improve in their Ship Building having such fine Ships constantly before them, the town is not at all striking and the Houses have an ancient appearance although only erected 12 years – as at that time the Island of Singapore was only bush it was purchased from the Rajah by the E.I. Company. The inhabitants are chiefly Malays and Chinese The Island being so small nothing of consequence is raised upon it –

but it is the general depot for goods from almost every part of the world British goods can be purchased cheaper than at Home. I mean retail every thing is done by way of barter. Received a great deal of kindness & hospitality from some families here. Mr C. Crolly drove me & Mrs R. out in his Barouche through the Malay Town and round the environs there are an immense number of Chinese their appearance strikes one as very singular — The Palanquins they use resemble the Brighton Chys drawn by a Pony — I heard a great deal respecting the Pirates during our Stay a great many piracies have been committed by the Rajah of Borneo. H. M. Ship The Zebra is sent in pursuit of them I admire the appearance of the Oriental Servants very much & think they give an elegant appearance to an establishment far before our Servants at home Their dress generally consists of a scarlet turban & white flowing robes with perhaps golden rings upon their fingers & toes The Punkahs are now to me, and give a

delightful freshness Sailed on the 28th. August.
Wherever we go we have such constant enquiries about
The Swan quite tired of talking about the place. Whilst here
some of the Vessels that had run away from us in Torres Straits
thinking we should detain them now arrived proving the fastest
Sailor does not always first reach the end of the journey
This Island promises to be a place of great importance & many
Store houses & Wharfs are erecting which has created great jealousy
between them and the rival Settlement "Pulo Penang"

Prince of Wales Island. or Pulo Pinang

so called by the Natives, Pulo signifying Island. Pinang - Betle nut

Arrived Sept 6th after an unpleasant passage up the Straits

of Malacca calms & tremendous squalls accompanied by Thunder

Lightning & Rain - Anchored every day on account of the tides

did not expect to find the Island so small - the appearance of it

is extremely beautiful, the more I see of India the more I am

pleased with it; so much hospitality appears to prevail

The Admiral Sir Edw Owen & his lady are here Went to see them

Sir Edw being an old friend of my husbands The first day I went

on shore I spent at Mr Andersons - Went before breakfast

in a Palanquin to see the Waterfall, it was wet & damp, I could not go

very near - towards noon went shopping Chinese & India goods

more expensive here than at home - Went to the Public Library

& Chinese Church, drove all about the town - I am much

surprised to hear with how little expence, establishments are kept

up – a Gentleman we know here one of the first merchants – assured me that he kept his house 7 Servants 5 Horses Buggy and Palanquin for five hundred a year – such an establishment at home would at least cost £1500 Had the pleasure of meeting Mr & Mrs Dyer old friends of my husbands they are out here as Missionaries Mr D. I was much pleased with – She studied Chinese for five years previous to coming out & is devoted to the cause in which she is embarked – I found her a clever intelligent unaffected young woman I regretted to hear from her that although she had been three years indefatigably employed, she considered as yet that little good had been done – On their first arrival they had found but little trace of the former Missionaries labours – Mrs Dyer immediately set about forming a Chinese Female School but found the obstacles to it insurmountable – The Chinese in the first place estimating their women at so low a rate as not to think it worth while educating them at all & so idle



Prince of Wales Island or Pulo. Penang

that no inducement would make them send them — Mrs Dyer gave the Mothers a rupee a month for every child they sent — Still they came so indifferently, that she hired an old Woman at so much a week to go round & collect the Children — by these means she had 26 who attended, and all went well for some time, until one morning the old woman came & said she had made money enough & would not continue her occupation any longer — Mrs Dyer tried in vain to supply her place, the school gradually declined & at this time in spite of every exertion, was totally at an end — Mr Dyer has been more successful with the Chinese boys he has a small school & one boy he has hopes of — they Mr & Mrs D. are excellent people & have adopted four children whom they are bringing up. The Malays are under the care of another Missionary who is obliged to go round to the different Compounds & teach them I did not hear with what success — Pinang at present is in a very unsettled state — the E. I. Company making great changes in their

Government & reducing all the situations - Dined at Mr Tamms
met Mr & Mrs Carnegy they leave Penang tomorrow for dear Eng.
land - Stad with Mr & Mrs Dawson one day and two nights -
received great kindness from them - Matthew made me a pre.
sent of a beautiful Chinese Gold Chain - The Native Jewellers are
the greatest rogues I ever saw, a great many come off to us every
day with great variety of Jewellery they would generally take a quarter
the sum they asked, would sell mock stones for real ones & brass
for gold - We leave this Place for Nicobar where we are to take in a cargo
of Cocoa Nuts & proceed to Rangoon where the Cocoa Nuts will
be disposed of & wood taken in for Calcutta - Washing is very
cheap. 100 pieces for 1 dollar. Constant enquiries about Seaman
River. Sailed September 17th - The greatest pleasure we felt
here was in a visit to the Governors Garden where we saw the
Spices in full vigour the Nutmeg was in full luxuriance
bearing the fruit in all its Stages. It resembles a Bay Tree

or Laurel and the fruit may be mistaken for a Peach this opened when ripe, exposes the Nut inside covered with a beautiful Vermilion cuticle which when taken off forms the Mace used in England. you next crack the Shell of the Nut & inside is the kernig the Aromatic flavour of the Nutmeg & Mace pervade the tree, leaves & fruits in all its parts and stages. the outside pulp or fruit like part of it forms with Sugar a most delicious Sweatmeat

The Cinnamon & Clove were also in great abundance & gave good notice by their fragrance what sales they were. The Island may be considered as one of the finest in the world its climate excellent & healthy, the Harbour secure & easy of access. & in a Military point of view is quite the key to the Straits of Malacca provisions are reasonable and it is a place of considerable trade not withstanding its formidable rival the new Settlement at Singapore. Geraniums and most of our exotic plants grow wild the Pine Apple in particular abundance & fine flavour

At an Armenian Gentlemans house there was a quantity of China Vases or Flowers Pots ranged in the Verandah which on inspection proved to be the common English Cabbages preserved with great care as curiosities

Pedir. Coast of Sumatra

Contrary winds & bad weather anchored here for a change. to stop tide
Matthew went early on shore the day appeared long and tedious
until he returned which he did towards four o'clock brought off
some small square Mats such as the Natives sit upon
The Poultry is remarkably cheap 16 for 1 Dollar Ducks nine for
the same sum The butter is quite sour, must like curds
but has a smoky taste Matthew was much pleased with
his visit on shore he had an interview with the Rajah
who he invited to pay us a visit, he willingly accepted the invite
& proffered to bring his Lady had he been well enough The hut
he saw him in, was a most miserable place & was part of the
Custom House he was seated on the ground but immediately
arose & had some chairs which were suspended to the roof
lowered for his use & took one himself Matthew enquiring
about precious stones, he sent one of his attendants to

bring some of his jewels – he had some valuable diamonds
one ring alone was worth £4000 it was larger than a hazel
nut, & had been presented to him by the Rajah of Achin –
some of his rings appeared very ancient – he was much amused
at Matthews Ivory Tablets said "he never saw any thing like the
English people even made paper of an Elephants tooth – he
was astonished at his gloves said they were the first
pair he had ever seen, begged to examine them & then
expressed a great wish for a pair he sent a Chinese man
off to the Ship to examine some things, & by him
Capt F. sent a few presents
Sept 28th. Made preparations to receive the Rajah he came
off one with Capt F. in his Whale boat escorted by two other boats
as soon as he was on board, nine guns were fired
as a salute he was armed wore a Sword & a Crease
and all his attendants wore Creases His Serene Majesty



Golden Mountain of Achen. Seen from Peder

was dressed for the occasion as follows. A pair of common English Shoes - no stockings then Black legs - a Sash round his waist & a dark Cloth Jacket something resembling a Fireemans Jacket with two broad rows of silver round it & a scarlet turban on his head - his Name carried over him a Pink Silk Parasol of French make - he was pleasing in his face & manner had an uncommon dignity about him & the air of a man evidently born to command - he was evidently much pleased with the Ship & when he came into the Cuddy where the tiffin was laid out he appeared quite astonished & could not take his eyes off Miss R. & myself I suppose being the first English Ladies he had seen - he was very attentive to Jem. - Chase our Silver Spoons & Forks & we were informed by the Interpreter that he had an immense number of English things laid up in Chests - he has about 5000 Armed Men

he appears to be a good Merchant brought off some handsome
Silk made at Pedir for sale, but asked an enormous price
His Majesty had a fowl carried after him tied in a handker-
chief which much excited my curiosity after tiffin he called
for it & I found it contained every thing necessary for
eating Betle but the boxes were of massy silver. he prepared
it himself, he offered me a dose. & I not liking to refuse took
a small piece but made such a face that the Rajah was
convulsed with laughter when he left three guns were fired
he brought off some handsome presents. such as Goats, Poultry
Fruits &c. After he left he sent a Messenger to wish us
a good voyage & to say that of all the Captains he had ever
seen he liked none so well as Capt. F. & of all the Ladies
he liked Madame the most so much for his gallantry
Whilst we were here the Cook brought us a fowl he had just
plucked the plumage had been the same as other Poultry

but when picked the fowl was perfectly black a Native Servant told us they were quite common in India & considered a delicacy when cut at dinner the meat was white but the bones were like ebony. The Rajah afterwards sent us another Message begging us to stay until the next day wishing to purchase all our Silver Spoons & Forks & was much disappointed when he saw us get under weigh. The town of Pedir is small the Streets regular but open with considerable trade which they carry on in barter for Betle Nut with which article they supply a great part of the East this Nut so universally used grows in large clusters on a high tree much resembling a Cocoa Nut Tree and is of the size of a small Apple. it has a yellow stringy covering this is cut off & the Nut (much like a Nutmeg but rounder) is the luxury so highly prized it has a bitter taste & is chewed with Lime & the green leaf of a plant it makes the teeth of a reddish black colour & is most disgusting to European eyes

The annexed sketch is a distant view of the Golden Mountains of Ashen
seen from Pedier - it contains gold but is not suffered to be
worked by the Rajah of Ashen - Our friend the Rajah of Pedier
is quite despotic but bears the character of being very just he is
summary in his punishments a short time before we arrived
a man was brought before him charged with some crime he
enquired into the matter pronounced him guilty & sentenced him
to death & instantly drawing his Creese plunged it into his breast

Chowra. Nicobar Islands

Oct 4th The anniversary of my wedding day – Last evening two Proas came off to the Ship – Miss R & myself were shut up in the Cabin & all the windows closed – in consequence of the Natives not wearing any clothing – I heard a great deal respecting them from my Husband he describes them as a finer set well built race. Good humoured, confiding & exceedingly honest – he bought 550 odd Cocoa nuts of them & found them strictly correct even to a Cocoa nut, he was extremely pleased with them – at first they were only "hungry for Tobacco" & would give perhaps 20 Cocoa nuts for Tobacco that had not cost 1/2. afterwards they became "hungry for Cloth" Knives &c they had quantities of fruit Poultry Pigs &c some of the Pigs were bought for the value of two pence or threepence – their Canoes have a singular appearance – the Natives are quite unarmed & appear active and industrious, some of them were dressed & brought

in to us. two women were also brought, to whom we made
presents they were much astonished at the looking Glass
but when they found it was their own faces they saw
in the glass they would not look again, The Island is the
most lovely place I ever beheld I could indeed fancy happiness
to dwell in such a place, it appears like a luxuriant Garden & is
I make not above 5 miles in extent The Native huts are the best I have
seen & are remarkably well made, they are raised from the
ground about twelve feet & you ascend to it by a kind of
Ladder the only light they have is from the crevices of the floor The Island
I should imagine is very thickly populated
Oct 6th Matthew shot several birds the Natives were much
astonished at the Gun some of the Children had never seen one before the Pigeons
are the finest birds of the kind I ever beheld. I should think
each bird at least weighed two pounds we found them
excellent eating. he likewise procured a dark bronze green



Chowra

Islands of Nicobar

bird between the Pigeon & the Hen. it is mentioned by Sir Stamford Raffles. the plumage is exceedingly beautiful. I had also a splendid yellow & black bird something of the Mino kind. I was much vexed we could obtain but little insight into their manners & customs — not speaking their language & the Interpreter we had, "class" had no sort beyond Cocoa Nuts, it was quite in vain we asked him & put questions & then. We found out that they plan their dead in their Canoes. put them fishing utensils & paddles in with them & then voice the Canoe about 30 feet from the Ground on poles. & hang Cocoa Nuts round them which Cocoa Nuts they at times replenish.

Friday 8th. My husband this day went into the interior of the Island & found a fine plain of the richest soil he should imagine 20,000 Acres bearing a fine Grass about the height of wheat. With respect to their religion all we could

discover was, that they believed in a God. when we asked them where their good people went to, they pointed to the Heavens & said God. & where their bad people went to they shook their heads & said no bad people at Chowra. all good.
I procured a pritty model of one of their Canoes.
The women on shore I find are all dressed they wear a handkerchief tied on their breasts & another round their waists which almost reaches to their feet, the men unlike other savage nations appear very kind to them
A boat came from Tenasan a neighbouring island to barter & to induce Capt. F to take the Ship there. I did not at all like the appearance of these Natives & the natives of Chowra appeared quite dismayed at their coming, as if they were afraid of them. they had daubed their cheeks with a thick red paint which gave them an unpleasant appearance wild & savage. At Chowra first saw the Birds



Chowra. 6th Jan. One of the Nicobar Islands.

Nests so celebrated in India they resemble small pieces of Isinglass & are worth their weight in silver about two wild weighs a dollar. Left Chowra Oct 10th A remarkable proof of the known honesty of these innocent Natives you may have in the custom of Ships calling here who are acquainted with their character. they come on board in their different Canoes & purchase the Cloths, Knives, &c & take them away with them upon promise of having a certain number of Coco Nuts ready by a given time which promise they never fail to keep - Should a mistake occur in their calculations they would immediately on discovery acquaint you with it however they might lose by their candour they are remarkably faithful to each other & domestic their houses are quite open - whole villages are occasionally left without inhabitants who go out to gather Coco Nuts yet I could hear of no theft ever having been committed Some of the houses in the native Town are surrounded by a Bamboo fence forming a yard for their

Poultry. Pigs &c for these last they are famous producing the finest
Pork in the world being entirely fed on Cocoa Nuts which is
indeed also the principal food of the natives We left them for
Cocos Islands with regret. consider it a loss of the Island and one
of their Villages

Car Nicobar

Arrived on the 11th the Island very beautiful but do not like the Natives so well as at Chowra. They have evidently mixed much with Europeans and I regret to say it does not appear to have improved their character. They suffer their dark hair to grow long & some of them have a most fantastic appearance some of them you see with nothing on but a pair of boots others with only a hat or perhaps a Coat or a pair of Pantaloons some wear nothing but a shirt others go without even that covering. The women were mostly dressed wearing a large handkerchief over the bust with a large blue wrapper or petticoat Tasted here for the first time the highly prized Butter or Oil Cocoa Nut it is delicious but extremely rich When we arrived we found the Natives in great distress on account of one of them having died the preceding day from the bite of the Cobra da Capella or hooded snake - for four nights about ten O'Clock we heard the most dismal howlings and wailings from the shore, and saw the Natives run up & down waving lighted branches

as a sign of their grief - We heard from some of them that on such occasions all the inhabitants from the neighbouring villages meet where the dead man lived & join in the sorrow, they break all their plates & different things, they bury the dead close to their houses & erect a kind of monument over them in the form of a cone, about three feet high made of wood (many of them are of a cylindrical shape) which they cover with shreds of blue white & red cloth interwoven tastefully like a Mat giving it the appearance of a scotch plaid - this they carefully protect from the weather by covering with a case of Palm leaves on the approach of rain these give a very pretty appearance to the village having little streamers resembling pennants from most of them, & are placed close to the huts these remain for one year after the death of the individual when they are broken up the bodies exhumated & the bones placed in a Canoe at the back of the village distants about a Stones throw - Of their religious sentiments we could gain but little in



Car. Nicobar.

formation from not sufficiently understanding their language. when questioned as to where the dead went. they pointed to Heaven & said to God. to our question as to bad man they answered as at Chowra all were good. that there were no bad men. of their marriages we elicited the following trifling particulars When a man wishes to be married he goes to one of the Captains or Chiefs houses & sits down and waits days & days until the Chief is quite tired of seeing him, he then asks him why he always sits in his house & what he wants. upon which the Suitor replies that he wishes to be married, when the Chief gives him one of the young women in his village & he takes her away without further ceremony — We got heartily tired of this place long before we left, the people were so encroaching wanting every thing they saw, they would bring a yam or fowl & expect things a hundred times the value in return, their constant cry was You give me present, me give you present, me good Man you good Man all brothers, same Father same Mother. As to Gowns & Petticoats

the demands was so great they would soon have deprived me of all
I had, they were likewise very anxious after Silver Spoons & Forks.
One day when Matthew was on shore all at once a small whirlwind
came on it carried his hat some distance the Natives were much
terrified & ran screaming away. the whirlwind was quite local
My Nephew Chas Friend taken very ill with Hepatitis & gave us
very great uneasiness for several days we despaired of him.
We had no medical gentleman on board his Uncle was obliged
to attend on him Oct. 22nd Friday The natives I find do not
make their best Canoes but purchase them at Chowra It appears
that the Islands of Non Cowra & T do not produce Cocoa Nuts
but their inhabitants are very ingenious and make the Canoes
which they take to Chowra - where the Natives from the different
Islands meet, trade & barter with Cocoa Nuts, Cloth &c The Natives
of Car Nicobar & Chowra are very partial to each other but do not
like the inhabitants of the other islands say they are bad Men

and kill each other – I quite regret I have not been on shore having had such interesting accounts of the Natives from my Husband. their Huts I understand are beautifully made the insides are fitted with great exactness and neatness, the roof is formed of split Bamboo. laid closely together – the huts are raised from the ground as at Otaha but above the first room they have a small second one where they keep their valuable property The greatest unanimity appears to prevail among them & they never interfere with each others bargains – It is the custom when they first come on board to trust them with whatever goods they may fancy, perhaps to the extent of 30,000 pair of Cocoa nuts. they were found extremely punctual in their payments. Many of them speak tolerable English & there must be considerable traffic, as during the short time we were here three Ships came in for Cocoa nuts – In 1688 Dampier was left on one of the Islands with two other persons. they were treated with great kindness by the Natives & pen.

for an axe

chased a Canoe of them, went towards Achem & landed near the golden Mountain Their language is partly Native partly Portuguese the modulations are soft and agreeable. My dear Husband made some little progress in their language & has given me the following as their numbers. Say kóok one. A gnat two Lu. ay three Feam four Tan èe five Tak fook six Tzat ar tak. seven Hay o way eight (Marquatary nine) Som-ten Hung one hundred I observed that almost all the natives had severe coughs indeed we all took cold. At Chaowa many of the Natives suffered from an enlargement of their legs and Arms. a disease I believe called the Elephantiasis, here they had no such complaint. indeed when they used to ask after "their Chaowa friends" Capt Wallbrook they used to laugh & say "Man with the big leg" I understand a European of the name of Worthington resided two years among them at Ian Chaowa & was made their Chief he has written an account of the Natives. The inhabitants resemble the Chinese from whom they are doubtless descended they have an idea that they came over the ocean carried on their



Rangoon.

Saturday Oct. 30th Arrived at day break in sight of the Pegu Coast and entered the River, we were particularly fortunate in having a quick run from Nicobar, having been only a week out & now having a fair wind & the tide with us — we were but a few hours reaching Rangoon — The entrance of the River and the appearance of the land on either side is pretty, the country is low, and the villages are built quite on the banks of the river — almost indued in it — My expectations were raised to the highest pitch by the distant appearance of Rangoon and anticipated a splendid City — The Pagodas have a noble appearance and are generally entirely gilt & the sun glittering on the two the one near Rangoon called The Dagon forcibly reminded me of St Paul's and is I understand nearly as high, only wanting 17 feet — fancy my disappointment in reaching Rangoon in finding the city more like a

large Malay town than anything else, nothing but Bamboo huts covered with thatch, with two or three wooden houses the only good buildings are the Pagodas, which are magnificent- they are of a stupendous size and are solidly built with bricks covered with chunam - and afterwards Gilted; a wooden wall extends round a part of the town which is called the "Stockade Capt Friend when on shore this day, saw the Rajah go in procession to the Pagoda - it was nearly three quarters of an hour passing the house where he was staying - The Soldiers he describ as a powerful race of men tolerably armed with muskets &c. The chief Burmese had different things carried before them, indicative of their rank some had a kind of Coronet carried before, placed on a cushion with golden umbrellas, they all had numerous Servants following - some carrying Chairs, Carpets, Fans & Boxes two were mounted on Elephants, but afraid of the

or Woongee

Jerior rank The Rajah was in an English Buggy & I must confess it appeared sadly out of place – in the evening all the town was illuminated & had a very pretty appearance Numerous Rockets were let off & the best I ever saw – I never witnessed a more beautiful night than this, I never saw the moon in more splendid Majesty, the river was perfectly calm & the scene so silent – only disturbed by the distant hum of voices & the occasional noise of the Rockets – The water is quite fresh although only 25 Miles from the entrance of the river – it is rather muddy but the taste is extremely good We find a great many Musquitas and the heat oppressive Thermometer at 85.

Sunday 31st An immense number of canoes paid the Ship a visit this morning, & kept up an incessant cawing they were so bold as actually to enter the Cabin – and endeavour to take the things out of the Saucepans, I could not help laughing to see the Cook in a rage flourishing his

Poke, and vainly endeavouring to drive the intruders away - soon afterwards some Brahmina Kites joined them & they continued with us during our stay - The Steward brought us off a sad account of the place, it appears we are here at a bad season and he can scarcely procure any thing - Milk & Eggs are plentiful and cheap - Butter scarce and bad and fresh meat but once a week - Went on Shore to see a procession - the rejoicings are in consequence of the termination of the rainy season, the cavalcade was not so grand as on the preceding day the first thing we saw on landing was a figure of an Elephant with three men on it - the procession was just commencing as we landed we went to Mr Manock's house where we had an excellent tiffin, I was much gratified, it was the first Eastern Spectacle I had ever witnessed some of the men of Rank had something like a Coronet carried before them, as before mentioned according to their rank they

were followed by a great many Servants carrying different things belonging to their Masters - one carrying a common Wooden English Chair another a Golden Cup - one a Cabinet another a Mat, another his Jewels &c &c It was a most singular sight there were three Elephants in the procession I could not but gaze at the immense animals & wonder how they could move with so much ease - We walked to the Buddah Pagoda which is in the town, It is surrounded by houses with Guadmas in it, and there is a house with a Colossal figure of Guadma which I have drawn fronting the Pagoda - the chief street is wide paved with a kind of brick resembling our Bath brick, laid on their edges - on each side are ranged the houses which are detached, and appear clean and tidily arranged. They are built of Bamboo and generally placed in marshy ground with green stagnant water under them. which kind of situation they generally prefer, the houses are open in front and

have a light Lambo fence before them, these fences on account of the festival were ornamented with flowers and green boughs - I was much surprised to find the Pagoda was a solid building it had been gilt but was rather the worse for wear - Some of the colossal figures of Guadama were covered with gold, others partly so - and some were much mutilated not having been repaired since they were so roughly treated by the English - who imagined they might have had treasure concealed within them - they had a great many offerings deposited about consisting of flowers stuck on a stick, lighted candles in small earthen saucers of paper, and (some cakes were over devoted) heaps of leaves of Gold Leaf and pasted on the figures or Pagodas - they had a great many fireworks prepared for the evening Many of the children had two or three small gold necklaces on, with silver anklets and bracelets We found the people

extremely civil and well behaved - and we were not in the least
molested although much stared at and followed - the
evenings are most delicious - The Burmese are a fine
race of men and some of the women are extremely pretty
they have an arch expression of face - 2nd November. The
illuminations were very pretty this evening. the floating
lights on the river had a beautiful effect - they appear
to be small pieces of wood placed crosswise, on which the
lighted candles are placed and then set floating to the short distance from each other
some thousands was taken very ill - suppose it is owing
to the continued rains

Friday 3rd March arrived this morning by a visit from the
Captain of the Cochin China Ship, it appears she is a man of
war - he was attended by his Padrejeter who appeared to be an
intelligent man - but I was told afterwards he bore a
most indifferent character he happened to die one of

my drawings and asked to see my collections, my husband made me bring them out this led to a discussion on Swan River on which he asked a great many questions Wanted to know why the English had taken possession of it? & what it produced? if Gold, Silver, Precious Stones, Paddy or Corn on hearing none of these things he again asked why the English went there? We looked rather foolish not wanting to enter into all the why's & wherefore's of Swan River We informed him that the Bukke la Nure so celebrated in China was to be found in great quantities on the beach and that as yet it was unknown to the inhabitants he made many particular questions about it, the Harbour at Swan River &c & said he should immediately on his return endeavour to persuade the King of his Country to send down persons to collect them. he also

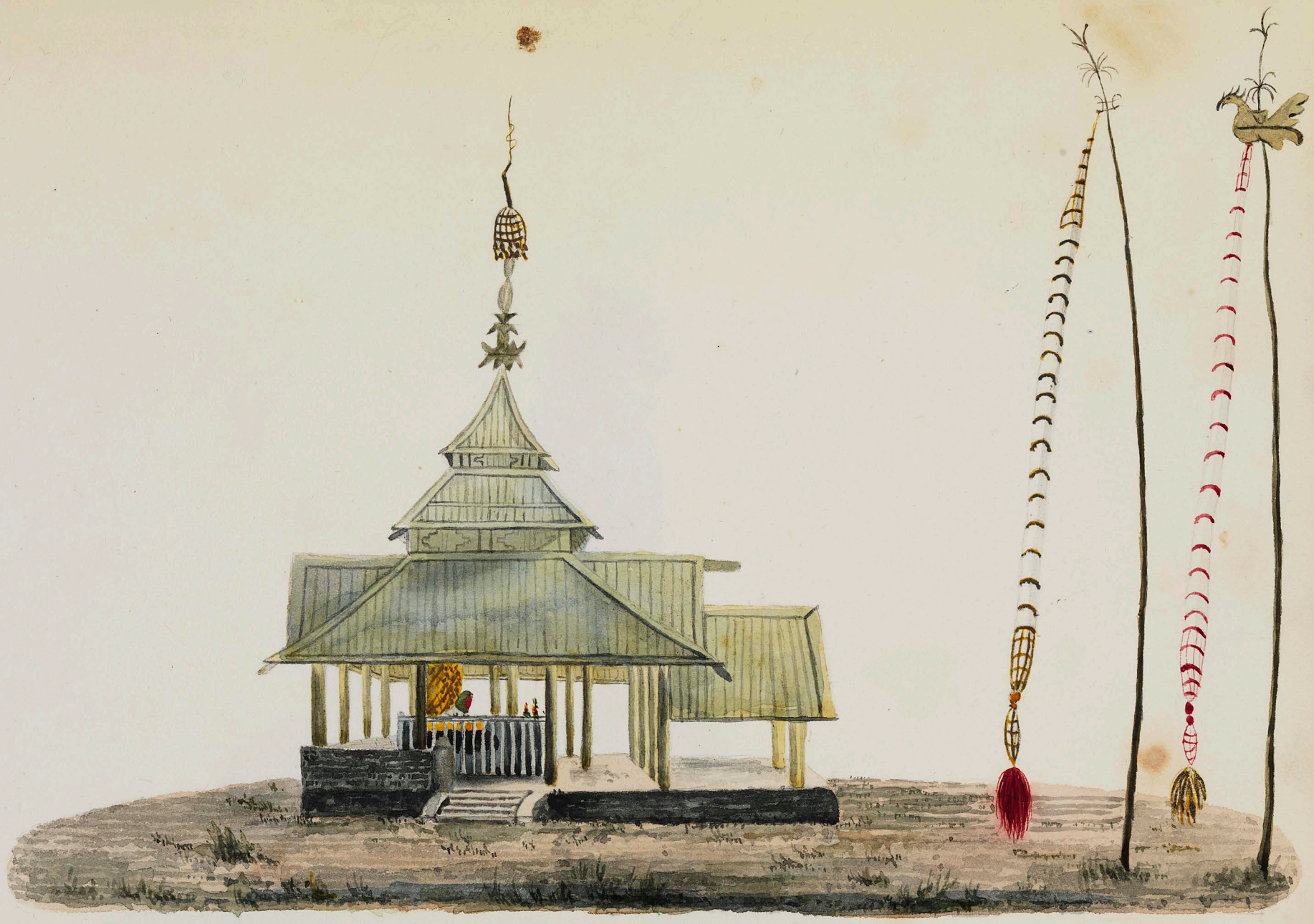


Rangoon



Gaudma?

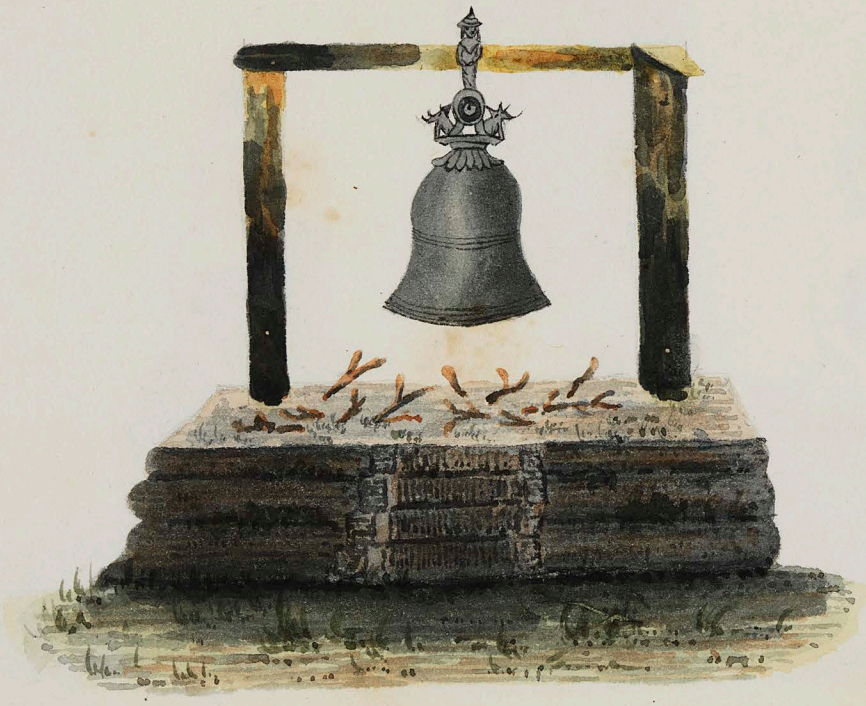
Burmese God



Gaudma's House.



Colossal Figure at the entrance of the Pagoda. meant to
represent a Lion



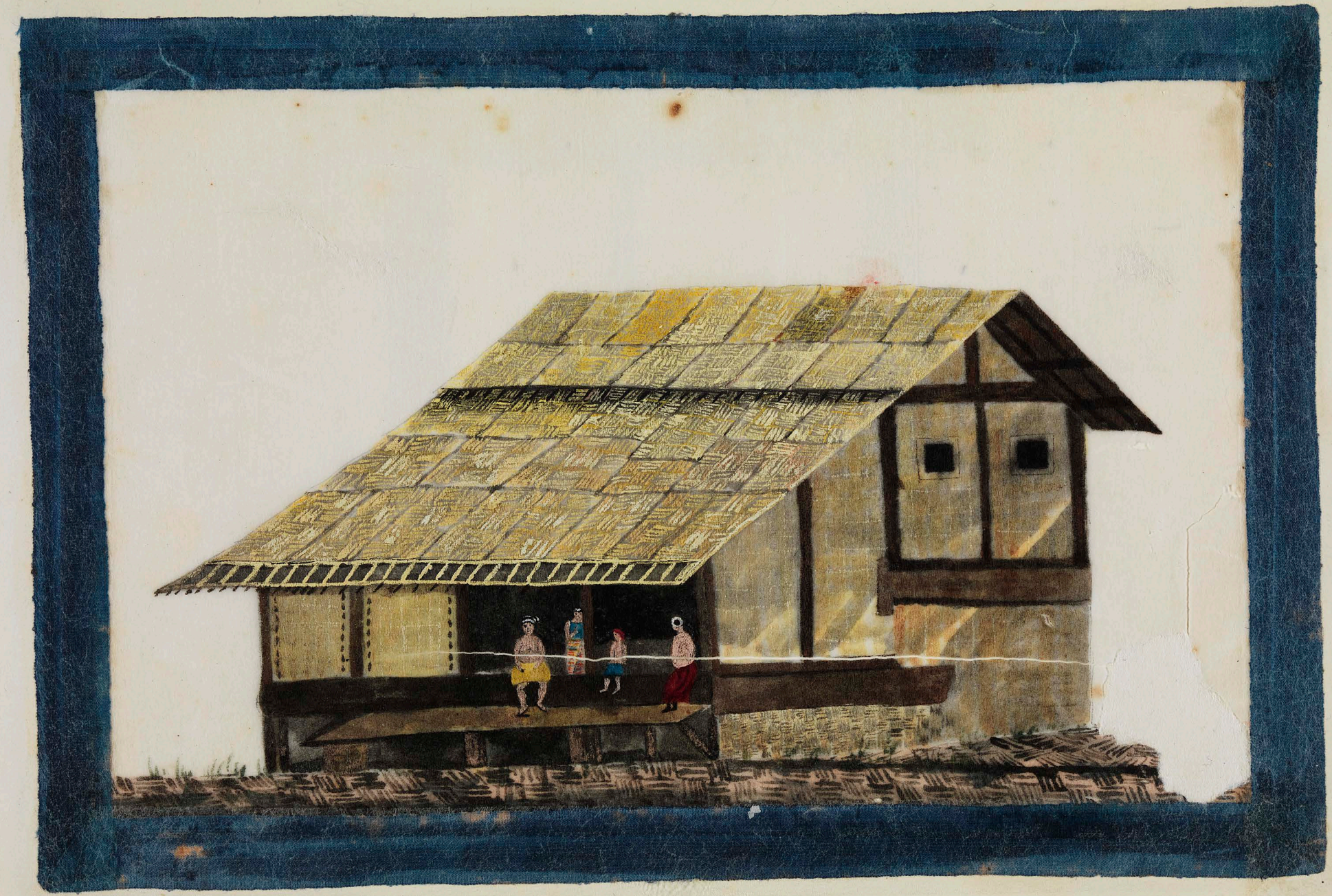
Small Bell at the Tsoliah Pagoda.



Dee Ping ē ah and two Guadmas.



Tsoliah Pagoda



Burmese House



Great Bell at the Dagon Pagoda



Colossal Figure at the corner of the Dagon Pagoda

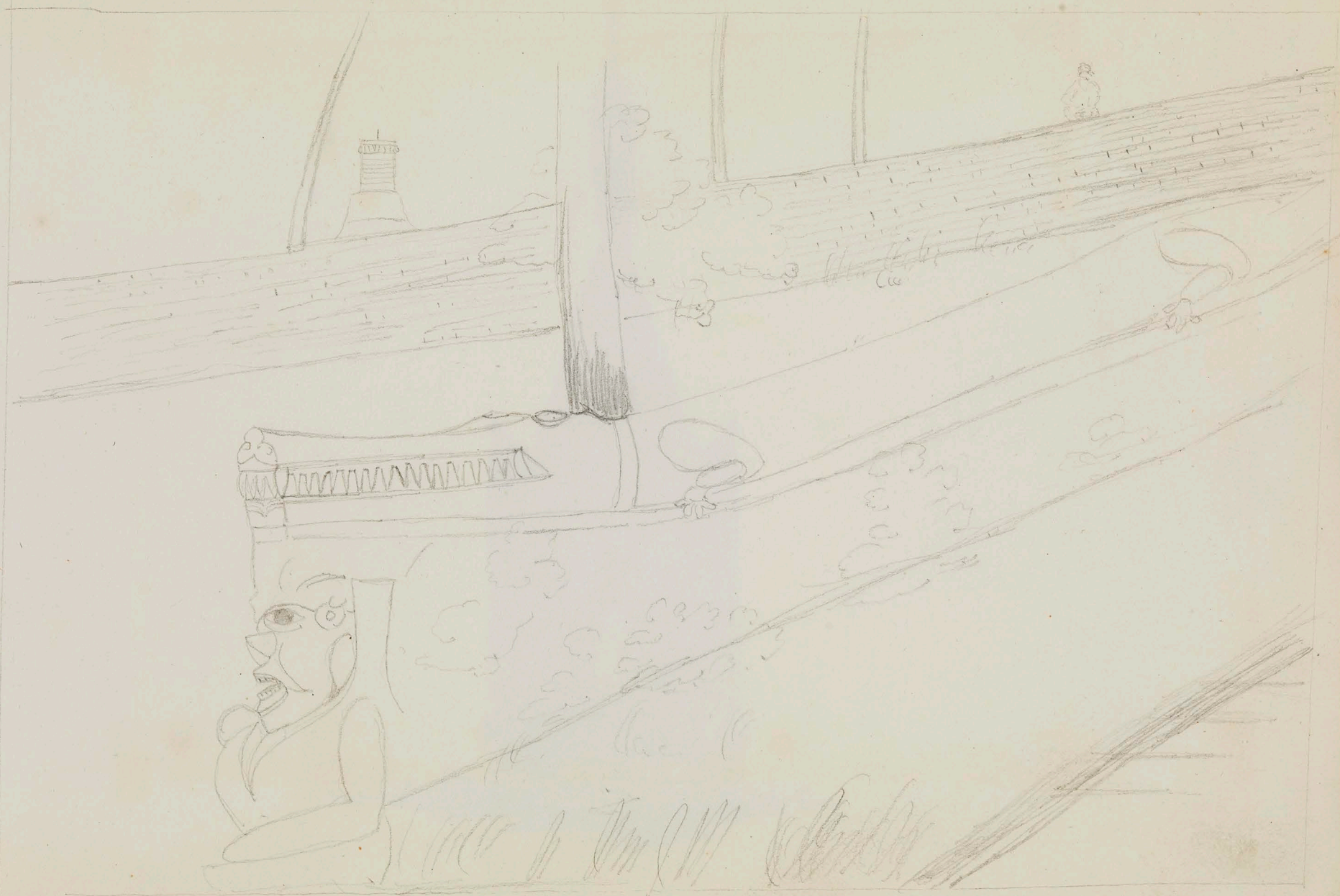


Colossal Figure at the Dagon Pagoda ... stand
... cups in which the offerings are



Teo. or. Umbrella. placed on the top of the
Dagon. Pagoda about 240 feet in circumference





Part of the Gateway leading to the Dagon Pagoda



Small private Pagoda



Butterfly caught at Rangoon

Mask



Mask.

Mask

Ky Woongee The Second Main in the Burman Kingdom during the War.

From an original sketch Taken by an English Officer.







-cribed the manner of preserving them as extremely simple - the animal is opened, the inside taken out, and rubbed with Chunam & is then left on the beach to dry - The Cochin China Captain mentioned having a horn to dispose of which possessed wonderful medicinal properties, the question naturally arose as from what animal the horn had belonged, when he asserted it was an Unicorn, which occasioned much discussion, Capt Friend not believing that such an animal existed The E. I. Captain sent for a native artist they had on board his ship & he under his inspection sketched the animal, also another which had a horn on his forehead - The first was rather longer than a Cow & had a horn upon its nose with just like an Elephant & was playful, mild and tractable this was evidently the Rhinoceros. his account of the other was almost fabulous he said it was twice the size of an Elephant that it had scales like a fish but that each scale resembled a tortoiseshell its

feet were like a horses and it had a horn which projected from its forehead he described it as wonderfully strong and that it required a net of Iron to catch it he told us that he had often seen them, but that once in particular he was out shooting when he saw one advancing followed by a young one - he immediately in fear and trembling took refuge in a tree & watched its movements, as the huge Monster advanced a tree impeded its progress - he bent his head & with his horn raised it from the ground & throwing it over his head quietly continued his route - they have never succeeded in taming them - but they continue perfectly passive in confinement My husband closely cross-questioned him, but could elicit no contradiction of any moment - but still remains immediately satisfied from the entire description of the Animal which accords to the laws of Natural History is a complete anomaly - I forgot to mention he said he had teeth in both jaws - the general

description would class the animal with the Equine tribe but with many discrepancies Nov 5th We have this day made a great sensation among the Burmese the Sailors had amused themselves by making a Guy Fawkes which they suspended from the yard Arm - the people on shore were quite annoyed and crowds were all day looking at the Ship and boats exposing & exposing and every person that left the vessel was immediately surrounded by anxious enquirers - What had the white man done that he was hanged even Mr Manook the Armenian Merchant to whom the Ship was consigned, sent a message to a neighbouring Ship to enquire why Capt Friend had hanged one of his men, I have had several works on Ava sent to me - Colt Symes Embassy to Ava in 1795 Havelock . . . & Mrs Judsons Memoirs Nov 7th Rose at five and went with Capt Rawlins to the celebrated Golden Pagoda of Dagon was carried in a Tonjohn which is a conveyance something like the head of a Buggy

borne by four men I was much gratified at the sight of the Pagoda, it is an immence building & is 360 feet above the level of the sea it must have been extremely beautiful when first gilt it is situated in the centre of a circle, and surrounded by many Pagodas some of them are quite new and glittering with gold, others in a state of decay - the large Pagoda is much frequented by votaries, and numberless offerings were placed before the gigantic figure of Gaudma - these offerings are of the most simple nature a single flower a plate of rice, a Cup a Fan &c. a small wax lights, the food generally serves as a repast for the Crows, and the other things are taken by the Priests. We also saw the great Bell - On the ground about it, was a great many Deer-horns which are used for the purpose of striking the Bell - Returned and breakfasted with Capt Rawlinson, purchased some Rangoon silks

which are handsome but dear Nov^br 9^th Finished reading
Mrs Judsons Memoirs & have been much gratified - her sufferings
during her husbands captivity must have been dreadful
Nov. 14^th. Called Rev^d Dr. Judson the American Baptist Missionary was
extremely pleased with him & viewed him with feelings of peculiar
interest, from having just perused his wifes (Mrs Judsons) Me-
moirs. he has indeed drank deeply of the Cup of Affliction his
sufferings during his captivity at Ava were great - he would have
died, had it not been for the exertions of his excellent Wife
& a short period after his liberation, she died leaving a little
girl who shortly followed her Mother - Since this affliction
he has entirely forsaken the world, and devoted himself
entirely to the service of Him who can alone give comfort
to the afflicted - he has made great progress in the transla-
tion of the Bible into the Burmese Language and dedicates

much time to the instruction of the Burmese. he has also written many tracts comparing the two religions, he told us he rose early every morning & took a walk, returning by day break, and that he distributed tracts during his excursions on his return he sits in his chamber and receives those who wish for religious instruction, and that he has a great many visitors – he will scarcely suffer himself to have any wants and lives on the smallest means possible – his house to European eyes is a most miserable place for himself he is a perfect gentleman in appearance and manners – he is extremely thin and pale but with a clear intelligent cheerful countenance and a highly satirical expression, he has a peculiar air of dignity from the manner in which his head is placed on his shoulders.

I felt quite pained as I conversed with him & tears

started in my eyes as I viewed the desolate state in which he was found (he does not at all mix with the Europeans at Rangoon) - he was evidently much pleased at our calling on him and I was much astonished at his saying in a cheerful manner that he much regretted Mrs. Judson was not here to receive me -

Every time I go on shore & sketch; numbers of persons follow us they crowd round me so much, I can scarcely draw - I observe the persons are chiefly priests they appear quite astonished at what I am doing, & I find myself occasionally obliged to shew them what progress I have made - they always point to the Pagoda and want me to sketch it. & sometimes they ask why Capt Friend does not draw -

Wednesday 17th Heard the Rajahs first wife was unexpectedly coming to town - two splendid gilt boats went up to meet her - each boat was rowed by 24 men.

a mark of hostility

and the chief men had gilt umbrellas held over their heads. Went to Capt Ramsisons house to see the procession but was much disappointed as but few persons went to meet her - She would not ride in the Buggy sent by her husband but was carried in a gilt Palanquin, she had the curtains closely drawn - we understand that she was in a great rage at not having more attention paid to her - Altho' she was the Rajahs chief wife it appeared she was not his favorite one, she had been residing for the last two years at Ava - and had now made request (and to her husbands great discomfort) taken it into her head to pay him a visit - he soon knew when she arrived - went to bed sick and no persuasions could induce him to rise -

Monday 22d - Went on shore this evening to sketch - the instant I appeared at the Pagoda the priests came flocking

about me and wanted to see my drawings I shewed them
a Butterfly I happened to have with me when they
really uttered screams of delight – I heard a most interesting
account this day of the manner of them hunting the Deer
it appears they go at night to the bush, one person then
places on his head a Basan filled with combustibles
and as he advances he moves his head from side to
side to give the light a waving or flickering appearance
he and all the party carry sticks & with small bells are
suspended – the Deer being passionately fond of Music –
are attracted by the sound of the tinkling of the bells
and advance towards the light – the man who carries the
light having it on his head is not seen by them, and the sports-
men who are near at hand know what animal
approaches by its eyes – if it is a tiger the danger is
great, but if as they expect it proves to be a Deer they

immediately strike at it with their swords & soon destroy the ravenous prowling animal — The Deer are very plentiful and is to be purchased every day in the Market at about 1½ the lb. — The tigers of this country are a great size sufficiently large to kill a Buffalo.

Went an excursion up the river and were engaged the trip, the river has a very great sameness nothing but Bush on either side I was much pleased with seeing the Monkies playing about there were numbers of them — Went on shore at Rommdine and walked about the village, went into the Chief Mans house & saw his wife, the house being entirely formed of Bamboo. appeared to me of so fragile a nature, that I was afraid least each step I took, should cause it to fall about me — The Chiefs Wife gave me a mat to sit upon, which I made signs was not my fashion of sitting

upon which a small boat was brought me as a seat.
we then sat & looked at each other & laughed - I had some
Betle nut presented Me, which I was obliged to
chuse & took my leave

Nov.r 30.th Came on shore to pay a visit at Capt. Rawlins's
Hey dear Husband not very well - The Natives are all
very busy taking off the thatch of their houses, and laying
on Mats. being obliged to do so. least the thatch getting
dry in the Summer they might catch fire -- the morning
and evenings are delightfully cool, the heat in the mid
-dle of the day intense - I have observed that in
all the boats I have seen they have a bar Lack tied
by the leg in the centre of the boat. Query. Why that
custom

Dec.r 2.d This morning early the Woongie & his Wife Japan on
their road to the great Pagoda, accompanied they

rode in an English Buggy which had a singular appearance among the splendid procession. Yesterday the Woondocks (a Judge's) daughter (who is one of the Kings of Ava's Wives) came down to pay her Father a visit she had a handsome procession & was beautifully dressed - her dress was splendidly worked with gold she had massy gold bracelets and ornaments - her hair was twisted on one side of her head just above the ear and through her ear where there should have been an Earring she had a large bunch of real flowers to finish or rather Dress her appearance she had a Segar in her mouth - Went this day to finish some sketches at the Pagoda, my friends the Priests as usual came out of their houses to meet me - One of them appeared very anxious for us to go into his house making us understand by signs. I did not like to go at first being rather fearful. But my husband and Miss Roberts

being with me we all consented to enter, the house being as usual entirely built of Bamboos. I took very much at each step we took. I noticed it was erected (as by the bye the generality of Burmese houses are) in a green stagnant pool. The birth place I should imagine of some thousand Musquitoes and that the bamboos which formed the floor were placed at some distance from each other for the purpose of spitting through. As soon as we had entered they placed mats for us. and immediately brought us two pictures which they wanted us to copy. they were both different representations of Gaudma — they must assembled rough Chinese Drawings with no attention to perspective. he then showed us several figures of Gaudma & different images which were set out on a kind of sideboard or altar which was on one figure which I took its head off. he evidently expected us to laugh a great deal —

The priest did all he could to be polite and annoyed on our return home and mentioning to Capt Bowdoin & Dr Judson the visit we had paid they were much surprized and said it was the first instance they had ever known of the Priests suffering Ladies to enter their houses as it is expressly contrary to their religion

Decbr 3d Dr Judson dined with us more pleased with this gentleman every time I see him. asked him many questions what figure the Burmese meant to represent by the colossal image at the entrance of the Pagoda - he told me it was meant for a Lion being their eminent idea of one - a short time before the English attacked Rangoon the King of Ava had a very fine lion made him a present, but he was much dispatisfied at it not being like his representations of that animal - Soon after the British entered the River

mese dominions the news spread that the Lion was the English Emblem, and the impression became general that whenever the lion roared (which the King of Ava postponed) it brought success to the British troops, this at length created great dismay and ultimately the Burmese could no longer bear the sight of the animal - When they were hard pressed by the English, they sent their prisoners and the Lion into the interior for safety - On their arrival the Burmese resolved to starve the lion to death hoping it would have an effect on the fate of the War - The poor animal died a miserable death his cries were truly dreadful - his whiskers and teeth were converted into charms and Dr Judson who was confined in the next room was but too happy to leave his cell after the body was removed - I showed him the sketch I had taken of the standing figure with the two Guadamas.

he told me he had met with an account of it in one of the oldest Burmese Manuscripts the Standing figure with his finger pointed down was meant to represent the first god in the world and that his name was Dee Pin gè ăh & that he had foretold the divinity of Gaudma 26 Baodh before it happened. the story related is as follows. Gaudma it appear was a very pious man and had acquired such very great sanctity, that he could fly, he one day resolved to try his powers and rose from the earth, he flew a great distance & at length perceived under his feet a very large city the inhabitants of which appeared busily employed - he descended upon the earth and asked them what they were doing? and was informed they were repairing the road for that Dee Pin gè ăh their great God was going to pass that way, not wishing to be behind hand in good works, Gaudma earnestly

requested to have a portion of the road assigned to him to prepare & accordingly had three cubits allotted to him he worked very hard but still had not finished his task when he heard the God advancing he was terribly perplexed as to what he should do, not having completed his part but at last resolved to throw himself on his face in the unfinished part and let the God pass over him - When Du Pin ge saw him laying in the road, he stopped and asked who it was and on being informed, he saw the position in which he is represented with his finger pointing to Gaudma he foretold that in a future day he would descend him and be worshipped as a Deity and there with his procession went round him and continued his route - Gaudma returned to his wilderness and in process of time was Deified -

Dec. 3. Rose at four O'Clock and accompanied by Bishop R.

and Captain Rawlinson to the great Dagon Pagoda situated about three miles from the town, and from thence to the Tank where the Rajah has a Country house - he was so polite as to lend it Us for the day, and had had it prepared with Nuts &c! for our refreshment - how different our excursions in this country are to those we have in dear England here we were obliged to go in Palanquins & Tom Tokus with such a posse of servants - I should think we had at least thirty in attendance - so much ceremony takes away that delightful freedom we have at home Oh! how I long'd for a bound over the grass - The Great Pagoda is situated the same as the other Pagoda (Isoolah) in the centre of a space surrounded by numerous other Pagodas the entrance to it, and at some distance before you approach it, there are numberless figures of Gladiators Monsters & small Temples some hundreds

I should imagine – The first Sketch I took was one of the great Bell which is of immense size and weight, it has an inscription round it – and report says it has small wedges of gold in it – It is much out of shape or perhaps was ill formed in the first instance – I picked up one of the Deers horns and struck it and was much pleased with its full tone – the religious strike it for the purpose of letting Gaudma know they are coming to pray before him – This is the celebrated Bell which caused so much discussion at the taking of Rangoon – the Burmese now say it would not leave the Country it appears that the British did intend to take it away, and had taken it as far as the beach where it got fast in the mud from which mud they had not sufficient power to move it or perhaps did not much care about having it and left it behind – The Burmese were much pleased at having it

but pretended the Bell would not leave the Country and the next day sent some of their women with a rope to remove it that they might say "that what the English with all their strength could not do the female Burmese had accomplished - they were ultimately obliged to send men and succeeded in restoring it to its old place after Stetching for about three hours - we proceeded to the Fault where the Rajahs boat was waiting for us. we found it very awkward being obliged to set upon the ground. We soon arrived at the house where (thanks to the kind care of Capt R.) we found a delicious breakfast awaiting us. and to my great joy my dear Husband joined us soon afterwards, I was so fatigued I was obliged to lay down after breakfast. dined at three o'clock - at 4 past 5 we reembarked, and returned to the great Pagoda

were we staid some time and then returned home quite fatigued with my days amusement

Sunday Decbr 6th And ashamed I may that this day I was so fortunate as to see a Burmese Play but not down high- born had a large Party. early in the evening his house was hung with Lamps & we could see he had handsome Mats spread in the gallery – in the middle of the street was placed a large bough of a tree & three pieces of trunk of a tree were placed about it they something resembled tripods, on the top of these they had large pieces which gave light to the surrounding scene – these pieces appeared to be made of some kind of earth which they occasionally threw in and the Petroleum or earth Oil. Boys were kept constantly employed stirring and feeding the flames which gave a most brilliant light. Mats were spread round the bough, which formed the stage, and on which

no person was suffered to come two Men with white wands
walked up and down and kept order keeping the crowd off
and not being at all delicate in giving good blows to any
person that might inadvertantly enter the circle - the company
saw the spectacle from the house, but there was an immense
crowd in the street, as ever persons by joined the group at
least for a short time, but I must say they were all well
behaved and quiet - at one end the Musicians were placed
they had a great number of Instruments all of which I regret
to say I am unacquainted with - there was a circular wooden
railing, inside of which, was placed a circle of small drums
of various sizes, which appeared extremely troublesome
to tune, they had also a kind of violin upon which
they gave Long staccatos when the performers were
singing they had also another instrument which in
sound something resembled our harmonical glasses, besides

several wind Instruments – When they were all playing the surrounding persons kept time by clapping their hands – they are excellent Musicists and appeared to have a tolerable idea of Music, although but little variation in their melody – The entertainment commenced with an Overture much in the style of some we are favoured with at home – first a burst of Music as loud as possible almost deafning – it then gradually softened into slow, melancholy soft Music at which time the sonorous stroke of the Violin and the Bells were occasionally heard (this was extremely pleasing) the measure then became accelerated more hurried and at length extremely rapid then came the crash and noise and so ended the Overture The chief female dancer now appeared she was dressed Burmese fashion had on a handsome scarlet and yellow silk a scarf and clean muslin Jacket, her Dress was at least

half a yard two long. trailing on the ground. Next to this I was told was the Court fashion. She had a profusion of white flowers in her dark hair and many gold anklets bracelets necklace & Earrings + She looked remarkably fair in the face, and I was informed that the Burmese Ladies are very anxious to be white, and put a kind of Paste on their faces which they suffer to dry & then rub off which answers two purposes cooling the skin and gives a degree of whiteness to the complexion - A box of flowers was placed before her, out of which she selected two small green boughs one of which she had in either hand and She then began to favour us with the Devils Dance She was first possessed with the Burmese or Jungle Devil which was a very slow dance scarcely moving from one spot - the dance consisted of a series of bending the Ankles, Knees wrists & elbows with occasional bending of the

body and waving of the branches, to European eyes it was a painful laborious exertion — She then went on her knees as if at prayer and we were told the devil had left her, She was then possessed with the Tallien Devil; this dance was much more animated than the last, and reminded one of the dances of the Bantus she was accompanied by Music, and the time kept as usual by clapping of hands. — After She had retired the Play commenced they had Music occasionally during the performance; for instance, when on a voyage; when the King came in; & when they were singing — I must here observe that all I know of the Play is through the medium of an interpreter. The Play commenced by six Men (dressed in different costumes) coming on the mats, they had a long conversation and at length agreed to pay the King of the neighbouring Country a visit, which they did; accompanied by a beautiful lady (the Prima Donna) and her five attendants they represented

the journey by following each other several times round the circle formed by the branch in the centre in a kind of shambling pace - A common English chair was placed for the King, who entered with some thing like a bow in his hand as an emblem of his authority - he was handsomely dressed in Green Velvet - The visitors squatted down on the ground as a mark of respect & a long conversation ensued in which the King enquired into the state of their country, if they had any robbers in it &c & told them he was very flourishing in his affairs, after replying to these questions they told him that they had a very beautiful lady with them & upon his expressing a wish to see her, she came in fell on her knees & bowed three times before him - he asked her to sing, the Orchestra gave a flourish! and she began a kind of recitative in a little thin screaming voice

executing many cadences. when she had finished the King said she was the most beautiful creature he had ever seen & in order to immortalize her beauty a Pagoda must be built exactly which should cost her weight in gold the King now withdraws and the Queen set off on a journey to fetch the gold. they soon return with it tied in a handkerchief & home they two men on a stick; a long stick is then brought in on one end of which they hang the gold and placing the other end on the Lady's head they pronounce them of equal weight. Some of the men then draw their swords & run up and down waving them to & fro, whilst others clear the ground with branches, this indicates they are cutting down the trees & clearing the Jungle for the erection of the Pagoda - they afterwards proceed to build it by forming a large circle round the branch and throwing the gold in the handkerchief from one to another then

is meant to represent the passing of the books - at first they throw it low gradually ascend until they throw it as high as they can & then the Pagoda is finished this building the Pagoda caused great amusement as they occasionally hit each other and knocked off each others turbans, which raised peals of laughter from every body a Model of a Pagoda is brought in & placed with much ceremony on the stage the Nun then went in procession to it, and afterwards the beautiful lady goes accompanied by her Maids bearing offerings, she herself carrying a lighted taper, when she arrives in front of the Pagoda she falls on her knees, sings, and places the taper on the top of the Pagoda, and then sits down on the Chair placed for her, it happens when she advances to the Pagoda that a Prince (attended by two Servants) sees her they are also respectfully astonished at her great beauty & all three fall in love with her

the two attendants are the fools and make all manner of faces
and grimaces. - After the Lady is seated her Maidens advance
towards the Pagoda with the offerings, during which time
there was a great deal of play which appeared to give
the Burmese much amusement - One of the Maids took
some of the Sweatmeats & offered to one of the fools and when
he opened his mouth to receive it she popped it into the
mouth of the other fool - a great deal of this went on until
the beautiful Lady said she was quite tired of it. To amuse
her two men came on & placing a seat round their necks
formed a swing into which she got as if she were a fractious
child and they gently swung her for some time; her Mama then
asked her if she liked it, when she said yes and getting out of the
swing seated herself after a short time, she rose to return
home and on the road she meets with another Kings Son
who is struck with her beauty & picks a flower off the branch

and offers to her, that she may stay and talk with him, his attendants also offer flowers to her maids but they will not take them and strike the men. the next scene a Physician enters dressed like a Turk, he talks a great deal, boasts he can cure all manner of diseases, says he can is just come from the Jungle where he has a wonderful tree which bears a fruit, one opening of which you will find an inanimate man, who will be restored to life, only by the Lady he is to marry, he has another tree on which grows a golden Lemon which will instantly deprive of life any one who attempts to pick it besides himself — the next scene the King is supposed to be seated on his throne when the first Prince enters and demands the hand of the beautiful Lady whom he had seen at the Pagoda — The King says she is too young to marry being only 13. years of age, and advises him to wait, this the Prince

will not consent to do it then the King says the fact is
he does not know where she is - upon this the Prince
is in a great rage and runs up and down looking
every where for her, and asking every body if they have
seen her, he beats his attendants and appears in despair
and by this he finds her concealed among her women and
immediately asks her pardon, she refuses and sings a long
song in which she tells him that he has behaved very ill
to her as altho' he paid her so much attention at the Pagoda
he has never been near her since and she will not have
him on account of his neglect he defends himself in a song
and then she says he is too old, and ugly, and that his
hair is grey upon which all the her attendants burst out
laughing and echo he is too old her then offers to give her all
manner of precious stones & beautiful dresses if she will go into
his country with him, she still refuses - but is obliged to accom-

pany him, here commences a regular tragedy scene she bursts
into tears, her Maidens crowd around her to console and support her
she slowly follows his train singing a most lamentable
ditty the Prince every instant turns back to look at her
at length he touches her and takes the scarf off her shoulders
and places it round his neck upon which her enraged
Maidens rush from behind her and strike him, at which he
only laughs, they at length arrive in his own Country when
he endeavours to take her hand when she strikes him
herself, and turns her back upon him, they then sing a
Duett together in which at first she says she will have
him in seven years then in seven Months and at last
in seven days they then go off together - and now enters the
other Prince who gave her the flowers on her return from
the Pagoda, he is quite in despair and orders his Elephant
that he may go and get some presents for her that might

induce her to leave his rival A man comes on the Stage
dressed to represent an Elephant he has a brown cloth
thrown over his back he is on all fours, with a handker-
chief over his head and one twisted suspended from
his mouth to give the appearance of an Elephants
Proboscis, the Prince mounts him and the Attendant
gets on a horse to follow him which horse is nothing
more than a Stick upon which he rides the same manner
as children do - the horse is very un- (Esq) and pretends to
be frightened at the Elephant this caused great fun the
horse kicked and plunged and threw his rider several
times which caused much laughter from the audience -
after going several rounds he dismounts and the Prince
continues his journey on foot, at length he comes to the
tree on which the golden lemon grows, he immediately
endeavours to get up the tree (which is the branch in the

centre) where a Concealed Lance penetrates his body and he falls to the ground with it sticking in his side - his attendants pick him up and place him on a Mat, when (seldom right) he sits up dresses his hair, and sings a song complaining that he shall never again see the beautiful Lady, his attendants raise him and he goes several rounds with the Lance in his body and singing!!! Here I was so much I was obliged to leave the balcony and retire to rest we had been sitting from 7 O'Clock to ½ past 12. and the amusement was not over we heard their Music and voices until day broke - they had an Masque afterwards which I regretted I did not see, before me left we saw heads of Deer Horses and Men arrayed in a raw ready to put on they were doubtless made of a preparation of Cheesecloth, the Actors really performed very tolerably, they had no extravagance of action

nothing but what was quite natural and their comic characters were admirably supported - This kindness and politeness of the Burmese was very evident this evening before they commenced Capt. Rabelais sent to them to buy them Brandy a little further that we might see them, which they immediately did. During one of the most interesting parts of the performance a Mate of a Schooner half intoxicated came into the middle of the Stage and stood with his back on and arms a kimbo (all the Burmese were uncovered and seated) after a short time one of the performers either by accident or on purpose ran against him and tripped him up, he immediately arose and resumed his offensive position. they had carried a chair across the Stage and placed it for the King Boat in which the Mate immediately went and took possession of this put an end to the play, the Burmese laughed

heartily and did not offer to molest him, but Capt. Rawlinson fearful of the consequence sent for his Captain to remove him who went through the midst of them and brought him off. An English Mob would not have put up with such conduct for an instant. The singularity of the scene I have witnessed this evening has forcibly impressed it on my memory

We heard a great deal respecting the sufferings of Mrs Judson during the war she was so reduced as to be obliged to wear a Burmese Dress and begged from door to door for subsistence for her husband, and the other prisoners she used to be called by the Burmese the little beggar woman. — When the Burmese capitulated Sir A Campbell demanded the prisoners, & Mrs Judson were among the number, and were treated with the greatest kindness by Sir A & his Lady The Burmese could not at all understand the respect which the ladies received from the English — Sir A C. gave a large Dinner Party to which several Woongees and the great men of Burmah were invited — when dinner was announced the female entered the dining room leading in a well dressed Lady, whom the Burmese fancied they had seen before & at length recognised as Mrs Judson the little beggar woman

When the General first landed Manifestoes were published calling upon the Burmese to lay down their Arms and claim the protection of the British — The person who wrote being no great Burmese scholar instead of saying their goods & property should be respected used a word that implied they should be all confiscated Dr Judson has one of these in his possession —
We used to hear the Burmese daily practising their Arms and we understood they were making great preparations for war; purchasing warlike stores &c indeed during our short stay, we saw a great change they had taken down great part of the Stockade, and were commencing a new one, which was to be a double row the middle part to be filled up with Mud

The Priesthood is mendicant; every morning we used to see the Priests go round carrying jars and collecting

the contributions of the benevolent, which is all they have to subsist on - they generally have boiled rice given them - after they have used what they want the residue is given to the poor - The priests are always dressed in yellow - and whilst the boys are with them (for the purpose of education) they are likewise dressed in yellow. Almost all the Burmese read and write -

The most inferior officers under government never go out without having at least 6 or 8 men in attendance, carrying his Tea Betle - Nut, Water, Mat, Chair &c. -

Innumerable Pariah Dogs, infest the streets running out and barking at every body - I need to be much annoyed at an English Regiment we had with us, who used to set them at defiance - As soon as ever we went out he rushed down the Street and soon cleared it, he would then

returns to my side, and walk gravely along turning his
head from one side to the other, and the instant he
saw the nose of a Pariah Dog peeping out to see if he
had passed, he used to fly with fury at the peeper and
seldom failed to make him rue his temerity. The
Burmese used to be delighted with and almost cheered
him as he passed — left Rangoon Decr. 11th were two
days getting down the river — Monday struck on the
ground — Tuesday struck again owing to the carelessness of
the Pilot; were much alarmed this time, the ship
laid down so much, we were on the ground about
an hour when the rising tide floated us off.

A great many vessels are to be found in the river at all seasons
they bring Cocoa nuts. Indian Cloths & European goods and take
in return Teak timber which is their staple commodity for the
supply of Calcutta & they generally continue to smuggle away

quantities of Gold & Silver (the exportation of it being forbidden)
they have no coins all their transactions are carried on in bar-
-ter or for bullion which is cast in circular pieces of various sizes
and of different degrees of purity. There are a few English
Merchants residing there who must be making immense fortunes
they own to averaging 50 per cent profits but I should imagine
their emoluments must far exceed that average. I judge from
one incident that happened to myself. Capt K. was in a Ware
house whilst they were unpacking some goods recently arrived
among them where some Cuffs which the Mandarin strongly recommended
Capt K to buy for me. he took one pair and brought one for approv-
-al. they were long narrow slips of sufficient size to place at the bot-
-tom of sleeves to take over the hands were made of common
English but Pambound in fact was a kind of thing only
worn by the lowest classes in England & their price
there might vary from 1/ to 1/6. but even to my arrangement

they were modestly priced at £2-0-0



(Dec 1830)

Calcutta

Had a beautiful run up the Bay of Bengal, arrived in soundings on Wednesday 22nd beat about for two days looking for the Pilot Brig on the 25th found three of them at anchor at the light boat received a Pilot on board, and had the news confirmed of the death of the King, and the Revolution in France —
26th Spoke the Princess Charlotte Steam from Liverpool received some Newspapers which were particularly welcome —
27th Still working up the river with the wind directly contrary anchoring every tide — Land began to appear this day —
My Husband much irritated by the Pilot who was a most consequential person and appeared to imagine he was the only gentleman on board — 28th Arrived at Tedjeree received a handsome present from Capt. Watson consisting of some English potatoes, Lime, Cakes Fruit &
29th Were taken in tow by a Steam boat for which 500 Rupees

equal to £50

was given, the wind being adverse it was supposed to
have saved us four or five days - at Rodgers Junkanah
some excellent Mats, remarkably cheap and good - I
was much struck with the dress or rather undress of the
Natives they are enveloped in Cotton, and in cold weather
they put these Cloths about them in a peculiar way
covering every part save the eyes - they had a most Ghost
like appearance we found it extremely cold going up the
river and were obliged to wrap up in Flannels Thermometer
at 66 - At Diamond Harbour received a letter from a
Mr Chase inviting us to dine and sleep at his house
we regretted we could not accept his invite, The Country on
each side of the river is flat but presents a beautiful
appearance - Thursday 28th Anchored off the town of Calcutta
the town magnificent the houses are really Palaces
they are large and superbly white, the view of Garden Reach

is really beautiful. 29th. Endeavoured in vain to get lodgings having unfortunately brought no letters of recommendation had no immediate friends to apply to. 30th Went on Shore quite delighted at the prospect of residing once more on land. went to a boarding house until we could procure a house we were not at all comfortable in our new situation the house being so crowded we were obliged to content ourselves with one room between the three for bed & dining room went about the town for some time endeavouring to meet with a suitable residence went over a great many houses but met with none that would suit — 31st fixed upon a house for which we gave 100 rupees the Month, it was newly painted and matted and in excellent order consisted of six rooms two galleries Cookand Out houses two Posters lodges & Stable & Coach House with a good sized yard. we found it rather out of the busy town, but not so much so as to

(1831)

be of any consequence — Say 1st very busy getting into our house and forming our establishment in which I was assisted by a kind friend, was much surprised at the number of servants I was obliged to keep, even on the most economical plan we could not do without the following number a Kansomee or Steward
. Kedmagar or Table Servant Butler Cook Dumman or door keeper Bhistie
Matrane & Ayah besides which I had my own European
Female Servant and Capt S. his private Man Servant. these
were without the Servants in the Stables — the wages of
these Native Servants in the house amounted to about
50 rupees the month & they find themselves — With all this
Establishment, we should have been better served
at home by two good Servants they were so extravagant
and troublesome as to annoy me considerably, I had al-
ways the feeling that I was cheated on all sides —
these Servants must stay in the house at night and

leave Jane in the middle of the day for their dinners —

2nd Was delighted this day by seeing Dr Watson an old and much esteemed friend added to which he was just from London and had seen all my family the day he left. Dined at Mr Seppings met a large Party and received much kind attention

3d Much annoyed this day by my Servant Mary. She asked permission to go out and deliver some letters, She was absent about two hours and on her return to my great surprise She told me She had engaged another situation and would leave Bowes in the morning. remonstrated with her on her breach of engagement with me

4th Busy all the day in calling upon the Revd Mr Coverdon and Mrs Mercer the persons who had procured my servant the situation they were much astonished at her conduct and suspected little doubt but that "Mrs Matthews" the lady who had engaged her would

being stated

immediately upon the circumstances refuse to have any thing more to do with her

5th Received a letter from Mrs Mercer saying that Mrs Matthews would not give up Mary: had Mary me & remonstrated with her on her conduct she cried and said if I would forgive her she would stay — this was agreed to — my husband thought I had better call on Mrs Matthews and explain circumstances went with him and was perfectly astonished at the reception I met with — I found Mrs M. a Lady like women but most unjustly [illegible] me in not giving up Mary — said I was going to stay and had plenty of time to procure another that she had three children & I had none, that as to money she would outbid me and dared me to retain her — I pleaded her engagement since my recent arrival in the country and the hardship of losing my servant at 12 hours notice left Mrs M. with very uncomfortable feelings, on my return home found that

Mary had ran away taking her things - was quite unwell with the worry I had experienced

6th. Matthew called upon Mr. Matthews disputing Mary and met with a great deal of abuse was told he was no gentleman. I was so much agitated by this event that my husband persuaded me to write a polite note to Mrs M and drop the matter altogether

7th. Went to the Cathedral was much pleased with it the building is light and elegant, and the service well performed. had but an indifferent Sermon —

10th. Went with the Revd Mr Hill to the anniversary meeting of the Bible Society. Matthew was unexpectedly requested to move one of the resolutions and had to make a speech. It was the first public speech I ever heard him make, and I felt in great trepidation as to how he would acquit himself — was much gratified and pleased as to my judgement

he spoke very well.

11th Went to the "seven Tanks" which is the residence of one of the Rajahs — the house is good and the pleasure grounds extensive, but laid out with great stiffness in the Dutch style and had the above number of Tanks in it in which they kept fish, in one of these tanks they were so tame as to come when called to the surface of the water. We afterwards went to another Rajahs, where we saw a fine collection of animals they were comparatively few in number but in excellent order and condition there was a very fine Rhinoceros and an ostrich which had killed a man the preceding year, also a Magpie exactly like my poor pet — "Jones"

Tuesday 18th. Our friend Dr. Ackerman left us for London

Thursday 20th. Called on Capt.d & Mrs Lewis of the Buffs Lewis at the Barracks. they are old friends of my husbands have been so

much engaged I have found it impossible to keep a regular journal

Monday 31st Went to a fancy dress ball at Government House, by Sir Charles Metcalfe the house is large, and also the apartments, but there was not near so much show as I expected, some of the characters were admirably dressed supped at two.

I was particularly struck with the appearance of the Adjutants which are in great numbers about the streets Sir Chas. M was so kind as to give my husband permission to catch a pair to take home, one strayed into the next Compound Bones and I sent two European boys to try and catch it - the huge creature on finding it was pursued, turned and opening its large beak and spreading its wings prepared for an attack, but the foremost boy nothing daunted - immediately ran in on the bird, and grasping its long thin neck in his

arms, and finding his head in its breast, succeeded in retaining it until the other boy came up - which was a feat of no small undertaking - we were never so fortunate as to be able to procure another. - this extraordinary bird is about the height of a man and from one extremity of the wing to the other measures from ten to fifteen feet, its legs are two thirds of its height and are long and slender like those of a Stork, its body small covered on the back and wings with dark brown feathers the breast imperfectly covered with white, the neck and head bare of feathers & covered with a skin of a disgusting pale red colour with a few hairs thinly scattered on its forehead the neck is long & thin and generally in a curved position its whole appearance resembling a Crane - its habits are of the most voracious kind, devouring every thing it meets with in the shape of animal matter - I have seen it swallow immense bones of such a size you could scarcely

imagine they could pass down its throat — they have the good fortune to be protected by the Government and roam where they like as they are considered as the Scavengers of the City of Palaces indeed any one who molests them is liable to fines and imprisonment. they generally roost on the highest point they can attain, where they manage notwithstanding their fragile appearance to bear the storm by bending the first joints of their legs, and sitting on it which gives them the appearance of a person kneeling with his knees inverted — the bill is an immense large heavy protuberance resembling the Pelican, and of an enormous size, bearing the same proportion to the size of its head, as that of the Toucan —

Had a great many arguments with our Babos. (who was one of the highest class) on religious subjects. He was a very clever intelligent man. his prejudices appeared to have been very much weakened by his intercourse with Europeans

but it had rendered his mind a sad chaos on the subject and I used to listen to him with a painful interest — On some points he was bigotted to excess, on others more reasonable & you could perceive occasionally whilst warmest with his subject, that he was daily [illegible] his judgements being at variance with the prejudices of his youth — He told us there was a tradition extant among the Hindoos that at some future period they would be all converted to Christianity, but that it would not be under the sway of the Europeans — I asked him if the system of education pursued with the native youth had had much beneficial effect, he said among those whom he knew it certainly had produced much good but regretted the effect it had had on the minds of many of the boys, who no longer paid that respect to the difference of caste, and that some of them even laughed at him for

his veneration of his gods, and called him superstitious —
From motives of curiosity he took us one evening to a
temple at the outskirts of the town, to see the God he
worshipped — and which he said was the most splendid
in Bengal — & I confess I was never more disappointed —
The entrance to the Temple was down a narrow dirty
Lane, with Beggars and little Gods on either side, at
the entrance of the Temple he wanted us to take off our
Shoes — but this we refused to do — but consented to give
some money to the high Priest — We first entered a Hall
supported by Pillars, at one end of which a ditch separated
us from another Hall, where the devotees were assembled.
and which was considered as sacred as they would on
no account suffer us to enter without taking off our shoes —
This on account of the damp I was fearful of doing, but
Mr Laird did and went quite near the monstrous figure

We had however an excellent view where we stood —

In what words can I speak or describe this god so horrid to the sight, I looked at it with amazement, and felt bewildered with astonishment that any persons could worship such a production — It was a bust figure of Colossal dimensions, with hideous features the eyes were a bright scarlet, cheeks & forehead black, the nose a piece of gold extending from the forehead over the mouth Scarlet turban and drapery — the place was lighted up with small lamps & each person gave their offerings — Wreaths of Many gold were suspended about, and distributed among the crowd, and the devotees kept uttering loud cries and making prostrations, whilst the Priest oiled the head and adorned the god — the filth and dirt of the place is beyond description, & encompassed by the most offensive smells I was truly glad to get away —

We went one day to see the natives carry their Gods in procession and drove up and down the chief Streets the crowds was so dense, that we were sometimes detained half an hour at one spot - I never saw such a numerous population and could not but wonder how such an immense population were kept in subjection, it was an interesting sight - they were so gaily dressed, and such joy painted in their countenances, We understood they were celebrating the expiration of the rainy season and the commencement of spring — the figures were of all size and were generally represented in the attitudes in which we draw Mercury on tiptoe, they were made of Straw covered with Cheneau & painted — they were dressed in the most gaudy manner, with Feathers and gold, and carried on kind of Cars on about the heads of the people - they were paraded up and down the chief Streets and then taken to the river side, placed in boats and carried to the centre of the sacred Stream, where they

were stripped of their finery and thrown overboard — these were the gods for the last year. as every year they have fresh figures made — and who in turn, share the same fate —

We became acquainted during our stay with the Revd. Mr Hill an Independant Minister and each day increased our esteem and admiration of him; he possesses talents of the first order and comes nearer my ideas of perfection than any Preacher I ever heard, these were not only my own sentiments but those of Mr Friends. he was deeply read, and some of his Sermons where the best orations I ever heard he was totally free from that wind or rant so often met with in Dissenters. he was mild, yet energetic — his action elegant, his appearance gentlemanly — You felt anxious for him to commence — interested in each sentence & when finished regretted it was over — I know for myself that I did not lose the impressions his Sermons made on my mind for some

while they lasted

time after - I was at least a better creature ^ - The Cathedral is a light and elegant building, and the service well performed but the Preacher was most indifferent -

We went with Mr & Mrs Sifting to see the Botanical Garden, which is some distance down the River we went by water & had a most delightful excursion - the weather being mild - the gardens are in excellent order, and are very extensive we saw the celebrated Banian tree which is such an immense size, and their numerous collections of Plants any person upon application may have a list of seeds free of expence - The head Botanist & Superintendant Dr Wallich was in England - - The River is truly beautiful; on either side of its banks as you approach the town, most delightful Villas are seen, Garden Reach is truly beautiful ^ and the first view of the city is grand, and strikes you with admiration giving you a splendid idea of its wealth and luxury - but this is

impression soon wore off with me & I must admit I did
any thing but admire this City of Palaces — The houses
are certainly very fine — you must always grant that —
but they are all much alike & you become tired of the
sameness, and besides among some of the most splendid Houses
you find some of the most wretched native Huts — The state
likewise in which the Coolies are suffered to go about the
Streets is little credit to a civilized city, being as nearly
naked as possible — I met with some kind friends at
Calcutta of whose hospitality, and liberality of sentiment I cannot
too highly speak — but I must confess in candour that I was
not pleased on the whole with the Calcutta Society —
such a demoralizing tone generally pervading it — Scandal
was more prevalent than I ever met before; and among
the Gentlemen, such a tone of levity prevailed respecting
the Ladies that was truly painful to my feelings —

I was considered as a new comer and heard much from every side — The Gentlemen appeared to think that all unmarried girls had no other thoughts or occupations than of drawing them into Matrimony — that all Spinsters were endeavouring to take them in — and that their only safety was in avoiding them as much as possible, and devoting all their attentions to the Married Ladies this of course brought on most unnatural state of things — a fine elegant girl almost uninoticed, a Married Woman surrounded by Attendants — the evil consequence of this may be easily foreseen & there were but few Married Ladies whose names were not coupled with some gentleman or another — I must candidly say I never met with such an assemblage of beautiful Women as at Calcutta; it appeared as if our native land had been culled of all its fairest flowers and transported this sunny land — An unmarried girl was indeed a be in scandal

fitted, &c. She must have attractions of the very first order to ensure at least common attention — India is little truly known at home, were it so I am sure no Parent or Friend would suffer a young female to visit it — putting delicacy and duty out of the question — with the prejudices now existing, they would have fifty times the chance of getting settled at home.

India is much altered from what it was; immense fortunes are rarely met with every body lives beyond or fully up to their income and many are consequently so much involved, that they have little prospect of revisiting their native country — hundreds with splendid incomes, and establishments sigh vainly after the Land in which they were born

Another thing which I particularly noticed was, an indistinct air, (if I may so express it) which ran through their manners, conversation & customs each person, from the Merchant in his Counting House

down to his lowest Clerk, appearing in his own opinion
the greatest man in the world — all with such an air of Pompa-
sity that I could often scarcely help smiling — you would almost
fancy they were cast for playing a part in a Drama where
each endeavoured to make himself the greatest man
in the piece — so different from the simplicity and ease
which distinguishes the highest grades of society at home —
Mrs Maria Graham (whose work I regret I have not yet read)
has strongly excited the ire of the good folks at Calcutta
by her censures. I have often heard her work freely canvassed
We generally used to go to the course every evening & there
was certainly a very fine display of Carriages, Horses — & what most
struck me was the appearance of the natives, many of whom
were in the habit of attending this strange mixture between
European & Asiatic costumes — You would see a Horse
& Buggy that in style & fashion would not disgrace

some of our most fashionable resorts. But the drivers would be some dashing Native in full Eastern costume wearing perhaps a turban or splendid gold & silver cap - flowing white Muslin Draperies & superb Cashmere Shawl - & then again you would see a booted European Stretching his "listless length" in the luxuriant ease of a Palanquin each strongly opposing the convenience of the other.

We received an invitation from Comp Lall Dagore one of the first Baboos to attend the Nautches in celebration of his Brothers Marriage and on the 28th January we accordingly went. Full dress - about a quarter of a mile before we arrived at the house the road on either side, was painted canvass suspended before the front of the houses, made to represent drapery, with a profusion of lamps; near the entrance was a triumphal Arch under which we passed; numerous peons a police men were placed on each side to keep order, and direct the

carriages which way to go — I think such a fairy scene I never witnessed before, it something reminded one of Bacchalls though far far beyond it, but more strongly it seemed to imbody your ideas of those splendid scenes so vividly portrayed in the Arabian Nights — after passing under the Arch we entered a large square, in the centre of which was erected what may be denominated a large hall or temple, purposely erected for the reception of the guests, different small fancy halls were put up in different parts of the square in which were the dancing girls and the performance of different Indian sports. Although we were early, the place was quite crowded and on alighting from our Palanquins we could scarcely make our way through the crowd — the company was of the first consideration in Calcutta, all splendidly dressed and certainly the scene itself was truly magnificent — the apartment was of considerable size & square; the roof was supported

by numerous pillars which the fresh air passing freely through
prevented the heat from being too great. they were painted
pink & gold. the ceiling was profusely ornamented, and
a splendid Persian carpet covered the floor, while numerous
chandeliers added their brilliancy to the splendour of the
scene, at one end was erected a canopy, under which
was a throne - the destined seat of the bridegroom. who
had not yet arrived, it was raised a considerable height
from the ground so as to overlook the company; round
the room were placed benches; with chairs, in the front,
in the centre of the room was placed a very small
sumptuous table, on which were many silver & gold
ornaments containing Attar of roses and other perfumes -
round this table stood different Babas, simply dressed
in white, with turbans and superb Cashmere Shawls
thrown on their figures, splendid rings also covered their

fingers — As soon as we were seated we had Sweets brought us which were rose Gauntfully tied with silver & perfumed with Attar, and during the evening we had frequently fresh Attar brought and poured on them — the band of the Regiment occasionally playing — after a short time distant Music was heard and soon afterwards we saw the bridegroom advance, he was seated in an Italian Car carried by Men, and preceded & followed by an immense number of persons carrying torches — the procession stopped, he was received by the Babaos with great ceremony and conducted to the throne prepared for him — after a short time we went near him he appeared about 15 years of age and rather a fine boy but he appeared as if he had just come from the hand of the Sculptor — every feature being finely fixed & settled down for the occasion had it not been for a faint movement of the chest in his

aspirations and sometimes a slight movement of the eye he would certainly have been taken for a Statue, with respect to his dress, there is no doubt but he was handsome, but he was literally so covered with jewels you could scarcely see what he on, string upon string of the finest Oriental Pearls, Emeralds, Diamonds & Rubies each string increasing in length as it hung upon his figure. the smallest also would have been a fortune to me; on his Arms he had Bangles of every description and his hands which were each placed upon one of his knees & was loaded with rings — one large Emerald which particularly struck my eye. one of the Babaos took off his hand for me to see. & when I placed it on my finger it reached to the first joint of my finger — it was truly splendid. he wore a pink turban also covered with jewels, and on one side of it was suspended, a large Pearl valued at £20,000

The Bride according to the Native custom was not seen but we understood she was about twelve years of age. Supper was prepared in a house near at hand but no Europeans went With — when we drove away the gates were on the point of being opened to admit all the poor, who were permitted To enter & eat the remainder of the feast — This entertainment was repeated three nights and was for the express amusement of the Europeans — the natives had three amusements the following nights — I forgot To mention that the celebrated Dancing girls were there and that I was much disappointed in their performance they have scarcely any movement in the dance and it appeared To me but nothing a continued taking off and putting on of a veil accompanied by the tinkling of the bells of their Anklets — I was also much disappointed in a "celebrated Singer" who was there, but

this is a matter of taste — there was a beautiful exhibition
of skill in the use of the sword which was peculiar but
pleasing they were I believe Abyssinian Jews who performed
and consisted of a series of evolutions placing the point
of the sword in their mouths and then flying round
with the greatest rapidity they had a wild appearance
having a profusion of long black hair hanging about them,
with fierce black eyes & beautiful sets of white teeth
all these people are understood had upwards of £60 per
night each person; and the whole expence of the wedding
from three to four lac of rupees which is divided between
the two families — One Baba Dipsmohammedan told
me that all they cared to get money for was to
spend in Pantiches and that more of them wished
to die rich

During our Stay in Calcutta we went to Barrackpoor.
Sir Chas. Metcalfe kindly gave my husband permission
to select any animal in the Park he might wish for.
provided he did not fix upon any of the Governors
Pets. for the purpose of taking home. We were much
delighted with this excursion — the Park is truly romantic resembling
our English Parks at home, as we rambled about it I could
almost fancy myself in dear England once more, we were
much disappointed in the Animals which were very few
in number & of a common description the only one worth
wishing for was a fine Rhinoceros of enormous size &
apparently very savage, this we understood was a great
favourite of the Governors — This beautiful place which
has been formed at an enormous expence (being made ground)
is in a state of great decay and I believe is not intended to be
kept up any longer, economy being the order of the day.

We dined in our boat and left the place with feelings of regret as we passed the banks of the river on our return home; we perceived a large fire on the beach and was informed that the natives were busy in burning the body of a Hindoo by husband being desirous of seeing the ceremony landed, and from the boat I perceived the corse was brought on the bedstead on which he had died and was then laid on the pile of wood which was set fire to by his friends they appeared to view the ceremony with the greatest indifference busily employing themselves in throwing fresh wood on the fire &c. &c. to us I perceived apparently some dead animal upon which two hungry savage dogs were feeding but upon nearer inspection it proved to be a human body thrown on the beach to decay or be washed away by the tide I was much shocked and my husband went and asked the natives to

house. the remains with those of the other persons, but they would not hear of it and quite laughed at him saying he was not one of their cast—

about a week before we left Calcutta we broke up housekeeping and went Board Spencer Hotel and on the 26th Feb. we at length set off with a fair wind for dear England

Madras

Arrived at Madras on the 6th of February. a great many Natives came off to the Ship with their goods for sale. Went on shore with Miss Roberts the landing truly terrific the breakers of such an enormous size I was more terrified by this than almost any thing since I had left home — We staid at Grants Hotel of which place I cannot speak very highly — Hired a Carriage and drove to the mount and on the course to hear the band. the drives are very excellent, far surpassing those at Calcutta. tho' altogether the place had more the appearance of a Country town after the busy gaiety of Calcutta — My husband dined at Government House and received much kind attention from Mr Lushington the Governor. Mch. Capt Boyle and old friend

St Helena

Anchored late in the evening June 1st the first appearance of the Island is very desolate and its barren appearance fills us with melancholy feelings, for who can see this spot without bringing to mind the great Warrior who has found a tomb there — The Island consists of a succession of barren hills of immense height, and of ravines apparently equally barren — James town is prettily situated in one of these ravines and the few green trees that adorn it are a pleasing relief to the eye after it has wandered over its brown & sterile Mountains — The Island appears to be very strongly fortified and I should suppose impregnable — Early on Thursday morning my husband took myself & Miss Roberts on shore we staid at a Boarding house kept by Mrs Eyre where we were extreme ly comfortable and the expence moderate — Rose at Friday at 6 in the morning and went in a Chaise with my

husband Rose Bonaparte's tomb. I think I never enjoyed myself more than I did this day. The ascent was very steep being by a winding road cut out on the side of the mountain the prevailing feature of the country through which we passed was a sterile barren desert with an occasional green patch. We first visited the tomb which is situated in a ravine. An old Sergeant has a Sentry box stand near the entrance in which he keeps a book for visitors to place their names. I do not think the general sketches of this tomb faithful. The tomb is enclosed in a square iron railing and is a large plain stone without any inscription. the whole is again enclosed in another railing at some distance from the other the intervening space is planted with willow trees. the original willows from which the Coffin was lowered into the earth are in a state of great decay partly I should presume from

the vicissitudes of the seasons and partly from the numerous visitors that visit the tomb carrying away pieces of them as mementos they are almost bent to the ground - The tomb is prettily situated in a narrow Ravine on either side of which are tremendous mountains I was persuaded by the Serjt to take a near cut and instead of returning to our Chaise to mount the opposite mountain but soon bitterly repented as the ascent was so steep I could scarcely mount it We next proceeded to Longwood and every step we went the country became more decay and barren and at length upon the extreme point of one of the mountains unprotected by trees and almost destitute of verdure we beheld the house that had been the residence of Napoleon Buonaparte the house has been converted into a Farm House and the the room in which he died there is a large Mill erected the bed rooms are converted into Stabling and altogether it has a desolate ap

-lected appearance - I am surprised the present occupier does
not keep it in better order as he must make a considerable
sum by shewing strange persons visiting the island without
making a pilgrimage to it - by way of refreshment you may
obtain milk & Beer. We did not go to the one house which is
erected in a valley close by and is prettily situated but went
to Mr. Scales. To inspect his Museum. Mr. S. is I believe a
gentleman of private property and most liberally permits
strangers to see and to his collection of curiosities which
we were surprised to find so large & so well arranged.
His daughter a charming little girl about two years of age.
shewed it to us and displayed an intelligence far be-
yond her years. As we descended we saw our large
party winding up the hill & it had a most picturesque effect
the Ladies in a Carriage & the Cavaliers on Horseback -
I was extremely tired when I arrived at Mr. Eyres & the

sight of breakfast was most welcome. Saturday Dove at six and set off with my husband and Capt. Vandenburgh to ascend the Chain Ladder and visit the Observatory. My good man did all he could to persuade me from the attempt feeling certain I had not sufficient strength but woman like I was obstinate and we commenced the ascent by three I was about a quarter of the way I felt myself so exhausted I did not know what to do and I must confess I was quite ashamed when I turned my head and saw the awful precipice beneath me at this moment a bare footed little urchin came singing & skipping up I asked him if I was half way up. Bless you no Ma'am not a quarter there was a man killed last week going up. This was quite enough for me & I was glad enough to yield to my dear Husbands entreaties & return. We then went the carriage road up & soon reached the Observatory.

Mr Bond was much gratified by his visit to the Observatory and pleased with Mr Johnson the Astronomer residing there who appeared very indefatigable in his observations and spoke highly of the state in which the instruments were kept and of their excellent adjustments. he made several observations himself & went again in the evening by appointment Sunday. Went to Church in the morning after tiffin went on board the Ship Sailed on Monday evening June 6th



Ascension

Sit hours at Ascension June 12th Made the Island early in the morning & was pleased with its appearance Matthew intended to lay off and on & send on shore Boat if he could procure some Turtle. As we passed to the N W of the Island we perceived a Barque at Anchor & to our great amazement a pretty little town soon raised its head for had heard that a small party of Marines were stationed there but expected to find them in the rudest state. A Boat soon came alongside to know if we wished for a supply of Turtle & we were informed that they were Government Property and sold at 2. 10. ∴ a head round averaging from 200 to 800 wt. they did not wish to receive money but would rather take things in exchange. I was very anxious to go on shore and after some solicitations my husband consented to take me I was soon equipped & lowered into the Turtle

boat as no time was to be lost & soon safely reached the Shore here to my great astonishment I perceived an excellent Pier with a Crane on it and an excellent accommodation Chair all ready for my reception & I was soon placed upon terra firma. I was almost disposed to rub my eyes and ask if I was awake so much surprised was I to see the numerous erections made on this spot. & little being known of the Settlement I was quite unprepared for it On my landing an Officer in the Marines who had superintended my ascent came to my husband and claimed acquaintance with him having repeatedly met him at Barron Gowrons a joyful recognition took place & we immediately went to his house then Mrs Evans (his Wife) who was the only Lady in the Island on the road I was introduced to the Commandant Capt Bates a most gentlemanly Man he was so kind as to invite us to dine at the Mess hus

my husband declined being anxious to return to the Ship
I found Mrs Evans a most pleasing female She was very glad to
see me it being a rare occurrence for her to have a female visitor
She had a sweet little girl whom I was much taken with
the child was not above five years of age and having only been
eight months on the Island her recollections of England were
very vivid her little spirit cherished its remembrance as the
brightest spot in the world we were soon on talking
terms and I felt almost a feeling of pain at leaving her
innocent prattle & regrets She asked me if I was from
England? and then quickly added dear Mrs Friend of all the
parts of the world I have ever been in I like England
best. but where have you ever been my sweet child I replied
No where but here & England but I like England best
Did you ever taste its cherries & strawberries? and she gave a
loud smack with her little rosy lips I pronounced to send

her some pears. I had on board and was again asked if they were English real English pears sweet pears to which I was sorry to give a negative having brought them from St Helena After taking some tiffin we proceeded to take a walk and see the wonders of the place of which they said there were but few but not expecting to see any thing very thing appeared interesting here We first went to the Tank which is almost finished and consists of three chambers which hold an immense quantity of water I believe 600 tons it has been formed out of the solid rock and must have been a great undertaking At present they are on an allowance of water half a gallon a day the water being brought from the mountain a distance of about seven miles in carts they had made two tanks in the mountains to receive the water as it dropped from the spring but during the heavy rains they were washed away and they were

must alarmed least they should lose the water altogether since then the have loud and have been successful the Staff having four feet & half water. the whole Strength of the Island is now employed in laying down Iron Pipes from the mountains to the tank which is now finishing in the town & then they will put Plans an ample supply not only for their own use. but also be able to supply shipping. We found that they can supply shipping with almost every thing they may want at Government prices not even excepting Vegetables & Fresh Stock. They have 200 Acres in the mountains in cultivation with about 2000 Head of Cattle & Captains & 100 men are stationed there. I need not say there are no shops in the town every thing is Station Stores you take are found for in London. We called in to the see the Mess room which is extremely comfortable & were introduced to several of the Officers

there are eight Stationed on this Island - One of them
a Mr. McCus Chen showed me some sketches he had taken
of different parts of the Island they were exquisitely done
we then proceeded to the Turtle Ponds of which there
are two & saw I should think some hundreds of Turtle
of immense size they take them on the moonlight nights
on the sandy beaches where they come on the beach to
deposit their Eggs they then bring them to the Ponds where
they keep them ready for the shipping the average sent off
the Island varies from 200. to 800 the year they mentioned
as a singular thing that when they first see the turtle they are
very small not near so large as the palm of the hands and that
they then disappear and they never finds them in any inter-
mediate size only returning when they have attained their
full growth which it is supposed they do very rapidly in
five or seven years - Capt Bates gave me a small Jar of them

he also sent on board a fine large one as a present for the king. We went to the place where the Soldiers are stationed and entered one of their cottages which was a perfect picture of cleanliness and comfort altogether there are about 360 souls in the Island. two slaves ships had been taken by his Majestys Cruizers and the slaves had been set at liberty on the Island but they could not get them to work or do anything for their support but took to stealing & robbing the houses so that they have been obliged to send part of them back to Africa and the rest will follow by the first opportunity - We visited the different workshops the Tanning the Cooperage &c &c. not forgetting the Choky or Prison Capt Bates told us he never inflicted any other punishment but solitary confinement - and found the system answered extremely well. We had a great many Geological specimens given us one of them closely resembled the scotch Granite and is found in that part of the Island where they imagine no Volcanic

fine has ever been had also some good Specimens of Lava
The greatest credit appears to be due to Capt. Bates for his
exertions every thing that has been done has been accom-
plished during his residence of three years it is a great pity
they have not succeeded in having a garden near the town
Capt. Bates has also commenced building new Barracks
a Fort and various other improvements - We visited
the Stables where they had a few good horses
Matthew examined the snails Carter and noticed as a pe-
-culiarity the immense size of their heads which is about
one third the size of their bodies and of their fins which
are just two thirds the length of their shells their bone
fins it appears to be their general position to lay on
their backs the top of the shell assumes a Lacerate appear-
-ance which is not the case with the fish grown Around
the shell is marginated yellow and very distinctly notched

The Barque which was at anchor on enquiry we found to be the William Brown of Scarborough - Capt. Read - She went on the Rocks to the Windward of the Island and had sustained considerable damage making six feet water when brought to the buoy they were obliged to take all her cargo out and thoroughly repair her.

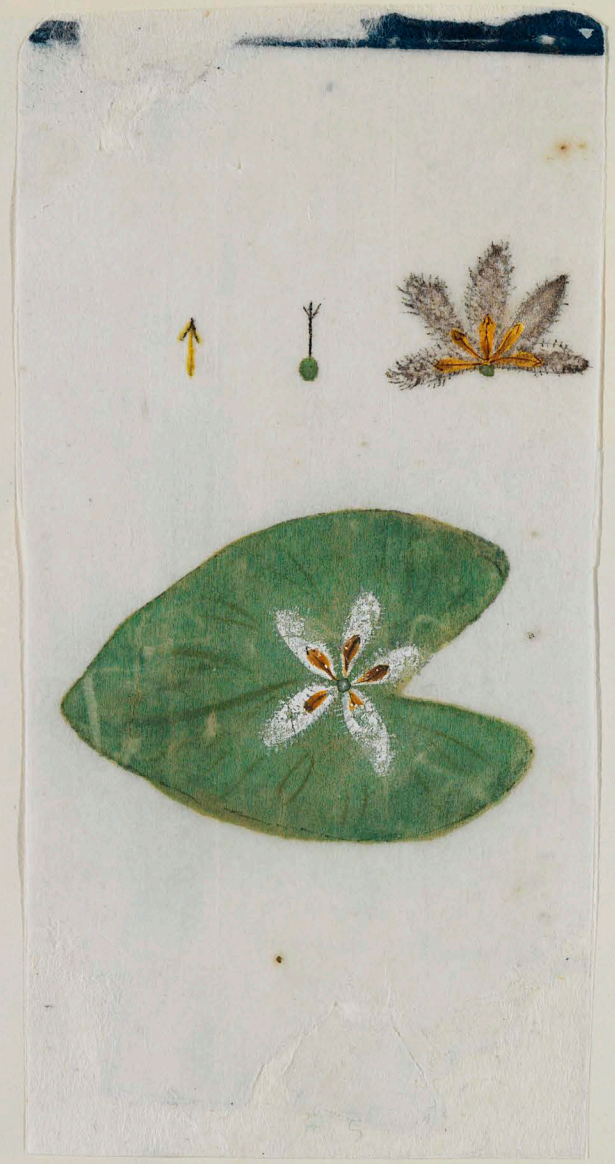












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