

My dear Father.

Here we are, nearly arriv'd at the wished-for Port at last, and as we are in hopes of anchoring in Port Jackson in about 10 or 12 days from this period, I do not think it acting amiss, if I commence a letter to all my dear Friends at home; though I have little news to communicate. — We have run over nearly the same track since leaving Rio Janeiro, as I did when in the *Horatio*, with the exception of the last 3 or 4 days, therefore nothing new has presented itself. — We sailed from Rio on 11<sup>th</sup> June, had a very pleasant passage to the Tristan de Acunha Islands, which were seen on night of the 25<sup>th</sup>, and we passed through the Channel formed between the 2 Southernmost, which is 18 or 20 miles wide. — Being night we could not discern what sort of islands they were, but by the imperfect glimpse we had of them, they appeared very steep, and did not proffer us in their favour. — At noon next day, the largest island, called Tristan de Acunha was just visible through the haze, at the distance of 50 miles. — Nothing material occurred, till the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> when we passed the meridian of all our friends in England, and I once more got into East Longitude. — The health of all absent friends, was severally drank, as we passed the meridians of our respective Towns; and on July 8. the Cape of Good Hope was doubled, at about 100 Leagues distance. — It being then the depth of winter off the Cape, strong gales were to be expected, and were accordingly looked for by us; as since leaving the last seen land, we had experienced nothing else but strong winds & bad weather, which had completely tired the Officers of the voyage, and they sincerely wished it was over, being in no small awe, at being then off that dreadful Cape, of which they had received such disheartening accounts, before they embarked. — We had not such bad weather as was expected, though it blew hard; for on Augt. 2. were close to the Island St. Paul in the Indian Ocean, having been 5<sup>2</sup> days running 5500 miles, which was done by the *Horatio* in 35! — The weather was very thick & hazy with rain on 2<sup>nd</sup> of Augt, and although we passed within 6 miles of St. Pauls, it was not seen; ~~and~~ it was not thought fit to lose a fine breeze by laying too late the weather cleared up, so we stood on without seeing the island; intending to make King's Island, (named after St. King's Father, the then Governor of New South Wales, but now dead,) in Bass's Straits; to pass through those Straits, formed between Van Dieman's Land & New Holland, from thence to Port Jackson. — Our distance to day from King's I. is about 1200 miles, and from St. Pauls to King's I. 3100; therefore we have been 1<sup>2</sup> days running 1900 miles — pretty fair for a merchantman, but it would not do for a man of war. — Since passing St. Pauls, we have had 2 gales, that have greatly heated to drive the old Ship along; in one of which we were so unfortunate as to spring our fore topmast and main topsail yard, besides blowing away 2 or 3 sails; and on the night of the 5<sup>th</sup> an accident happened, which might have been attended with more serious consequences, though fortunately no ~~real~~ material damage was sustained. — The gale was at it's height, blowing very hard from the SW, and in a heavy squall, the Tiller which the vessel is steered by, broke short off like a stick, close to the Rudder head. I happened to be upon deck at the time, looking out for the issue of the squall, & was standing close to the helmsman when the accident happened. — The sea was running very high, and the ship was left entirely to its mercy for a few minutes, till a spar could be brought to supply the deficiency of a tiller, which the old one was fitting again. — Very fortunately the sea did not strike us & in this interval, which was an anxious one, & appeared very long, or it might have swept the decks. — In an hour the Tiller was again fitted, but the ship had hardly time to feel the benefit of it, when a heavy sea came roaring and rolling along towards us — we saw it would fall aboard, & all hands but 2 poor Soldiers, laid fast holds of the first rope they could snatch at; just before it struck the ship on the starboard quarter — it gave us a tremendous blow which made all sneer again; upwards of 6 Tuns of water washed on board, completely drenched us all, unfortunately for the 2 Soldiers & myself, it washed them off their legs, and carried them with great force about 2 yards, slap against me, which obliged me to let go my hold, and we all 3 fell into the water on the lee side of the deck. — The Soldiers thought they were overboard, & began singing out very loudly for help, as soon as they could fetch breath, which brought some of the sailors to their assistance, who naturally supposed they were severely hurt — for my part, although I was hurt at the time, I could not help laughing when one of them laid hold of me by the arm, just like a drowning man catching at any thing that came within his reach, and was trying to sing out, but except of fear completely choked him. — All happened in the course of 10 seconds, and having got a complete soaking, I picked myself up, and felt very happy that the same sea had not struck us 2 minutes before; as it would then in all probability have been followed by 2 or 3 more; which on account of the ungovernable state of the ship, would have swept every thing off the decks, carried away the masts, & endangered the vessels safety. — As it turned out, it was a very providential circumstance, & we were all thankful that it was no worse; only a few things having been washed overboard. — To say nothing about the 6<sup>th</sup> & Soldiers, the Ladies in the great Cabin were in a sad plight. — The tiler broke directly over their heads — I heard 2 loud shrieks & 2 of them were off in hysterics in an instant — the others, in the next part of the officers were completely panic struck, and it was not till 4 or 5 could be persuaded there was no danger. — The fall of

2) The fall I received, was not the slightest I ever got; and I hurt my left arm, or rather the soldier built linker damaged it for me; but it was nothing of consequence, and has now nearly gone off. — I have been writing part of a long letter to Tom, in readiness to send by the first conveyance to India, which may probably be by his ship; as she conveys the 46<sup>th</sup> Regt to Madras, after her arrival at Port Jackson, from thence is at liberty to look out for a cargo to return to England with. — I think it not unlikely that Tom & Geo. may be pretty near each other, therefore have made one letter answer the purpose of 2, by requesting Tom to enclose it, or acquaint Geo. of its most particular contents, for I don't know how long it would take me to copy it, or write a similar one, as it is already assiduous at the size of 2 sheets written quite close & full, and it shall be 2<sup>d</sup> as large if I can find matter to fill it up with. — Aug. 31. 1817. — 7 P.M. — It gives me great pleasure in once more taking up my pen, to add a few lines, having been prevented from doing it lately, by a slight attack of illness, which confined me below for several days; but through the kindness of my superiors, I am now happily recovered, though not so strong I fear, as I was a month ago. My first complaint was a cold in all my limbs, which brought on a fever next day, and the doctor took nearly a pound and a half of blood from my arm; which did me a great deal of good, gave a decided check to the fever, from that moment I felt recovering, though I was so weak as to be scarcely able to walk without assistance. — I watch about 10<sup>th</sup> less for this affair, but am in hopes of fully recovering it this strength before we sail from Port Jackson. — I'm not the least doubt but it will give you great pleasure to hear that we expect to be in that Harbour tomorrow, being now no farther off than 70 miles, with a fair wind; in case of over-running our mark, the Captain will run that distance, then lie to, till daylight. — I will defer writing more on that subject till we have arrived, when I hope to give you a good account of our Proceedings. — Upon the whole, our voyage has been very good for a Merchant ship; instead of 6 months & a half, it appears more like 1<sup>st</sup> that I have been on board the Dick the time has glided away so quickly. They are I believe, happier days than I shall spend for a long time to come, for I have had no watch to keep, and no compulsive duty to perform, notwithstanding which, I my time has not been mispent, for I have completed the sketches in both my Log books, & nearly finished my Journal of the last voyage, besides having kept a Log replete with views, &c. of the Land, during the Dick's voyage. — I have improved considerably in my Drawing, since leaving England, & hope to make a great deal more, by the constant practice I shall have hereafter. — The Officers and their Ladies are in high glee with the thought of going on shore tomorrow; for their sea stock of every article (patience amongst them, long ago) was expended, and for the last 3 weeks they have been living on salt junk, without any vegetables; and they do not half relish the line bread. — I am more sorry for the females than the others; yet they have had about 2 fowls a week lately, kept & cooked on purpose for them, which ought to keep the scurvy from making its appearance amongst them for a short time, though they have been expended upwards of a week. — We have been more fortunate in our mess, having had fresh meat ever since leaving Port, with very good wine, porter, or spirits, of which we take as much as we like, and I think are welcome — for although the Captain has now fed us more than 6 months & a half, by which he must evidently be a loser, considering the Table he has kept, I do not entertain such a bad opinion of him as to think he grudges us our victuals, but far from it — had some one else been in his situation I cannot say how matters would have stood — but far otherwise, I am convinced, than they do at present. — The Lord deliver me from scoldermen, if such is the specimen, though I am happy to say I do not form a general opinion from such a mean, petty scoundrel! — Since leaving Rio Janeiro, we have found 3 new shipmates, in 2 girls and 1 Boy, born into the world, some time since, the 2 former presented to their husbands in the 46<sup>th</sup> Regt, by their wives, & the latter by a female servant belonging to the Quartersmaster's wife. — She is not above 18 years of age, has allowed her fellow servant, a Portuguese lad, to take more liberties with her than was consistent with decency, till at last he effected her ruin, I had now some idea of massaging the poor girl, as soon after our arrival as possible. — Besides our former loss of a mother & child, before our arrival at Port Janeiro, we have since experienced a melancholy loss of one poor Soldier, killed by Lightning on this side of the Cape of Good Hope. — The unfortunate circumstance happened on the night of July 17. in a hard gale, with tremendous thunder & lightning. — The wind happened to change suddenly, and the Soldiers who had to keep the watch on deck, were called to render assistance in bracing round the yards. — They came on deck accordingly, but were so completely terrified, that they could not do any thing but hold on, and were just being ordered below, when 3 very vivid flashes of Lightning followed each other in quick succession, and were followed by a total darkness, in which nothing could be distinguished at the least distance from the eye, for several minutes. — In this interval of darkness, the unfortunate Soldier rolled as the ship moved, from one side of the deck to the other and was last caught hold of by one of the sailors, & carried below. — Blood was immediately taken from him, but to no effect, for he never opened his eyes, or shewed the least indication of life, but was quite black on his head & right side. — He was a very good man in the Regt, we understood from the officers; it was unmarried. — No other accident worth notice has occurred since, four sick, to the number of abt. 20, mostly with fevers similar to my own, are happily doing well. —

Tuesday evening — Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> 1817. — My dear Father, I could not make any addition to my letter till I could inform you something about this man to which I alluded, I am

3) we have now been here nearly 3 weeks, I am afraid of having too much to write at once, if I let it run on too long, therefore have once more with the greatest pleasure taken up my pen. — We are surrounded on all sides by Convicts with grey jackets & yellow trousers, & do not know which way to turn without staring one or more of them full in the face. — These are certainly the most complete set of scoundrels & villains in Sydney, that ever breathed, not a day passes but I hear of some of their handy works. — It was not long since, that a ship lying here, was landing some officers' baggage at a wharf, & a set of these gentry that are ever on the lookout, were prowling about the spot watching their prey, & took an opportunity when a large case of clothes was being landed, to pretend to fight amongst themselves, with a view of drawing off the Centinel's attention, but he was too deep for them, finding that manoeuvre did not succeed, they pushed a child ~~off~~ the wharf into the water, which immediately attracted the attention of every one — away went the Case, when the child was picked up, no intelligence or traces of the property could be discovered, & the villains have not since been discovered. — To enumerate every circumstance of the kind, that takes place here, would be an endless task, therefore I will not attempt it, <sup>but</sup> will leave you to judge of them from the character of those who are sent here. — You will perhaps be surprised to hear that the Lloyds arrived here before us, having anchored a week before our arrival. — Her stay at the Cape of Good Hope did not exceed a few days, instead of a few weeks, & accounts for her short passage. — Since her arrival, it has grieved me not a little, in being obliged to dine at the same table with my old friends, &c. — He recognized me in an instant, & I turned I would not speak to him, as he seemed half ashamed to fire first broadside. — I triggered him several times during dinner, eyeing me with great attention, & seemed to have a malicious grin on his countenance, which in my idea at the time appeared to say "Ah, you dog, you slipped thro' my fingers at last, did you, aye?" — I enjoyed the Scotsman's spleen, though I was at the same time rather uncomfortably situated, in being placed at table near a man I could not think of speaking to, for had he opened the conversation, it is very likely we should have parted, not better friends than we met; & had he asked me to take wine with him, I should assuredly have refused; so I think matters turned out for the best, and we now meet & pass each other as if entire strangers, not having exchanged one word. — I first met him at a large dinner given a little way out of the Town, by the Naval Officer of the Port, Captain Piper, who is in reality no sailor, but a captain in the Army. — He is a man very much respected by all who have the pleasure of his acquaintance & has given us a general invitation to go & see him whenever our avocations will permit, but I have only breakfasted once with him. — Our dinner party consisted of upwards of 100, Ladies & Gentlemen, who dined under tents rigged up on a green spot, & after dinner dancing commenced for about an hour & a half, when the evening began to close in, & all hands repaired on board a very fine brig, voluntarily used upon the occasion by her Captain, and has a beautiful sail back to Sydney. — The distance about 5 miles. — You are perhaps very anxious to know if we have got a vessel yet; therefore to clear up all doubts & anxieties, I am sorry to say we have not, as there is no vessel at present belonging to the Colony, that will answer our purpose, except a small Brig called the Lady Nelson, which is now out of repair, and wants a great deal doing to her. — Although small, she is a vessel very well calculated for the service, having been used by Captain Flinders, as an assistant, in his Survey of part of Terra Australis in 1802. — She is now hauled up into a dock ready for being surveyed by proper persons on Wednesday next, and if the report of her condition is so far favourable as to admit of her being repaired, the Governor has promised Mr. King, that he will set a great many hands to work about her, & that he may make whatever alterations and additions he thinks proper, in her refitment & accommodations. — At present we are living in Lodgings on shore till a house is repaired in another part of the Town, which the Governor has appointed for us, & which Government will defray the expense of. — Every thing is most confoundedly dear here, especially at the present juncture, when great apprehensions are entertained for want of corn, the overflowing of the Rivers having destroyed the most part of it; & the prospect of next harvest is very discouraging. — Arrivals of corn from the English Colony at the River desvent, in Van Dieman's Land, are shortly expected, but cannot be trusted to, as the time of the arrivals, if at all, is very uncertain, & allowance is to be made for the probable loss of vessels. — The people employed & victualled here by Government are on short allowance of wheat, the proportion for 1 man p. week being 5 pounds, whereas not many weeks ago it was 11 pounds. — We all fare alike, which makes it very expensive to us, in keeping our mess, as Bread is consequently very dear, & every other article in proportion. — Pork is sold at 13 p. pound — Mutton 11 — Beef 10 — 2 middling sized fowls 4 — 2 do ducks 7 — a goose 7 — a dozen eggs 4 — a lb. of Butter 3.6 — of Cheese 5 — Candles 2.6 — Tea 10 — very bad sugar 12 — no such thing as sweet sugar sold here, or Mustard, indeed every article of provisions, utensils, furniture, &c. is at such a confounded price, it is

4) enough to drive any one mad, that goes out to purchase any thing - yet there is no  
alternative - buy, beg, borrow, or steal, we must do - one or the other, & I always  
think it better to do the first. - The house given to us for our residence, is large, has  
3 rooms, besides a detached kitchen; & we go into it on Monday morning, therefore, as it is  
merely the bare walls, we have been looking out for the cheapest & best bargains we could  
make for 2 Tables & a dozen chairs, besides cooking utensils, crockery ware, knives &  
forks, spoons, &c. &c. which so completely drenched me of money, that I was compelled  
to have recourse to what I always avoid till the last extremity, and have drawn  
a Bill on you for 20. at 30 days after sight - dated Sept. 4. 1817. Sydney Cove - It  
was with the greatest reluctance I did it, and had not Mr. K. been put to very great  
expense in his own equipment, &c. I would have had recourse to him, as I doubt  
not he would have accommodated me with the greatest pleasure, had it been in his  
power. - I'm sure it's almost time that we got to Sea, for I am sadly afraid  
before our vessel is repaired, we shall have made rather an expensive trip of it,  
especially if it will take 3 or 4 months to complete her, as is supposed. - The House  
we are now in, is taken entirely at our own expense, while the other is refitting, &  
during the 2 weeks we shall have been in it on Monday, each of us will have 2 guineas  
to pay, independent of our board, which with spinning out, during the greatest economy  
stands us each a guinea & a half a week. - After the first furnishing of our other house  
is over, we shall not find expenses fall so heavy on us; as our cooking utensils will  
answer the same purposes on board as on shore, & the other furniture will sell again.  
It would not answer, to hire furniture, for on that tack, we should be considerable  
losers. - Mr. Bedwell & I lived on board the Dick upwards of a week before we came  
on shore, which saved us something; and decency would not admit of a longer stay,  
or we might probably be there now, though not perhaps with the Captain's good  
will. - We dine out as often as possible, & seldom refuse any invitations. - I have  
dined once at the Regimental Mess of the 40<sup>th</sup> Regt. at the invitation of one of the  
Officers, late paperer in the Dick; I have another in store for some day next week, but  
which day is uncertain, as I am going to spend a day or 2 at Paramatta with  
Mr. King's sister, & his Bro. in law, Mr. Hanibal de Arthur, on Sunday or Monday; so  
for the present I am pretty well off. - Bedwell has just returned from paying them a  
visit of 2 days, & gives a delightful account of the Motherly behaviour of Mr. & Mrs. A.  
& the Hospitable attentive conduct of her husband - as well as of the beauties of  
the Country, & of w<sup>h</sup>ich more by & by, after I have seen it. - We have been in-  
troduced by Mr. K. to General Macquarie, the Governour, who has likewise desired  
we will go to see his seat at Paramatta the first opportunity; & dine with him. - It  
is our intention to embrace his kind offer as early as possible, though at present  
one of us must remain behind to look after the Chronometers, &c. &c. which  
we dare not trust out of sight amongst such a rascally set of fellows. - Mr. K.  
is now in contract for a house near his brother in law, to settle Mr. K. comfortably  
in, before he sails; & when ready, he intends transporting the Chronometers to  
it, which will admit of B. & myself spending several days together at P.  
at the earnest request of those good people. - I have made no use of the half-  
dollar sort of recommendations I received to People in this part of the world, nor is  
it my intention to do so, as I think it better left alone. - A Person here is  
obliged to look 2 or 3 times before he forms any acquaintance with another; for  
a Man may be talking to ano<sup>r</sup>., very respectably dressed, & of genteel appearance,  
& on making enquiries about who & what he is afterwards, finds to his surpris-  
& mortification, that his new acquaintance is a Convict. - What an acquisition!  
I know most of the Officers of the 40<sup>th</sup>, now, having been introduced by those who came out  
in the Dick, and we are on very good terms. - They appear to be a very gentlemanly set of men,  
and are a more sober, quiet set, than any Officers I was before acquainted with.

Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> - No. 1. Cambridge Street - Sydney - You see we are at last in our  
Government House, where we let go our anchors on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and are now getting a little  
to rights, after the hurry & bustle consequently occasioned by getting into a new house. - Its  
situation is a very pleasant one, on a rising ground, but it has the disadvantage of being  
the very outside house, in the Town, of course very much exposed to the attempts of all  
the House breakers; however we have only to prepare for them & keep a good look out,  
with which I've no doubt we shall be enabled to handle them pretty roughly. - Besides  
us 3, there are 3 servants living in the House, who are all going with us in our  
little vessel; and a Man in the kitchen, whose wife we have engaged to cook for us,  
for the accommodation of being allowed to reside & wash clothes there. - The House if  
itself is not a very excellent one, being neither wind or watertight, for when it rains  
smartly, the roof leaks in 5 or 6 places. - A garden is attached to it, in which grow  
little else but Strawberries, with a few figs, grapes, &c. and our time of residence  
here will be so short, that we do not think there is any fun in cultivating it & getting  
it in order, for others to derive the Benefit: -

Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> - We are at present very base of news of any description, but our fate  
appears to be drawing pretty near to a crisis, & we shall I hope very soon know in  
what vessel we are to sail. - The Elizabeth Annetta, a Brig of about 100 Tons, but then  
a <sup>few</sup> days ago, the <sup>Elizabeth</sup> or had an idea of putting us on board of her, thinking  
her the best

I thinking her the best of vessels for our purpose; but a small sloop has since arrived from India, & being exactly the size we want, besides being very strong, & a good sailer. Mr. King is endeavouring to persuade the Governor to purchase her. — She is built of Teak wood, only 9 Months old, & was launched at Calcutta. — Her dimensions, &c. &c. all operate strongly in her favour, & I shall be very happy if we can obtain her, though apprehensions are entertained that the Governor will not pay the sum demanded for her, which is £2200, with all her rigging, stores, &c. as she arrived, & at present stands. — Involved in doubt and uncertainty about it, as we now are, I will say no more, till I can add something more satisfactory. — I returned the day before yesterday, from a visit to Mr. Sanibal, Mr. Arthur & his wife, at their delightful seat, called Vineyard Cottage, about 12 miles from Sydney. — I went with Capt. Harrison of the Dick, in his Boat, & remained 4 days; or rather remained 2, & was pressed for 2 more. — The treatment I received there was truly hospitable, & could be only excelled by that which I always meet at N. M. — Their endeavours to render us comfortable, and to make our time pass pleasantly, were very successful, & I had a fine view of the Country for about 10 miles round. — The face of it wears a far different aspect to that round Sydney; being here a fine low <sup>land with</sup> luxuriant soil, & about Sydney, a mere heap of stones & rocks, thinly covered with earth & verdure; & the Trees growing out from the very rocks themselves apparently, & having very little root. — The most barren soil is here, the tenderer of the largest trees, & they are often seen growing on the edge of a steep rock where a person would scarcely imagine there was sufficient soil for the nourishment & growth of a fusse bush. — The trees all over the country are mostly stripped of their bark, which the natives take away for building their nightly huts, & having no fixed habitation, they assemble in families round a tree that appears pretty dry, & which they set fire to at the foot; it is not long in catching fire, & burns with rapidity, frequently consuming the shrubby, & partially burning the surrounding trees, at the distance of several hundred yards around. — I have seen the sides & summits of many hills that have witnessed this treatment, and present rather a desolate appearance to the neighbouring ones, which are naturally very highly coloured, & covered with foliage to the water's edge. — The Climate appears to be excellent, though a fair judgment cannot properly be formed of it by me as yet, as the spring is now just going out, & the season succeeded by Summer (far different with you) which renders cloudy unsettled weather very frequent, & quick changes of great heat to rather a damp coldness, & chilliness in the air, very common. — However the weather will soon come to some settled point and by that means be rendered more pleasant. — These are some few peculiar constitutions that the Climate of this Country does not agree with; but I feel great pleasure in being able to say, that mine is exempt from that particularity, & that I have been on shore, my health & strength have been considerably improved. — I am very sorry that I cannot give so good an account of my eyes, which neither improve, or get worse, although I constantly apply the eye water. — Dear Mother's Doct of Hungary water being all expended, I have been making use of a mixture which Mr. King has been kind enough to supply me with, and which was made by her Mother for her Daughter's use. — It has she says been approved of by several Physicians previous to being made use of, & is prepared in the following manner, according to Recipe — "Take ½ lb. of Allum, ¼ lb. Salt petre, & ¼ lb. white Coppras, & pound them together. — Put these ingredients into a new glazed pipkin, and place it on a slow fire, stirring it constantly with a clean stick. — When it has boiled a short time, take it off the fire, & stir into it ½ a dram of Camphire. — Cover it close with leather or paper that the Camphire may not evaporate. — Put it in the Chimney corner that it may dry. — when dry, break the pipkin, & place the contents in small pieces in a dry bottle, close corked, & covered with a piece of bladder. — For use — Dissolve a piece the size of a nutmeg in about a pint of spring water, if too strong add more water. — It will strengthen the sight, cure any sore eyes & inflammation in the eyelids, & may be used 5 or 6 times a day, if the <sup>eyes</sup> should require it. — Mother might shew this recipe to any Physician or Surgeon she might think fit, & take his opinion on it, for although I am far from entertaining a doubt of what Mr. King says, it would be more satisfactory to both of us, to be certain of my proceeding on a good foundation; as well as advisable to be set in the right, or a better way, should the above mixture not meet with approbation. — Therefore as Sight is the most precious gift of our Creator, & so it is likewise the most serviceable, I should stand in need of no practicable method to be preserved. — If my Dear Mother can give me a better recipe than the above, I need not be at the trouble of requesting you to communicate it in your next. — <sup>See Red Ink p. 7. Letter June 1818. 7 lines from Prothon</sup> The Natives of this Country have the most quick & penetrating eyes of I think any nation in the World; for the unexampled rapidity & precision with which they will discern any distant object with the naked eye, is truly astonishing, & I have heard it remarked by those who ought to know something about it, that it is not equalled any where. — They are in their persons, the most miserable wretches set of human beings, that ever existed, at least to our judgement; but perhaps in their own ideas quite the contrary. — They are a very ugly race of beings, & built quite out of all proportion; the arms & legs being a great reason cause to the Curang, & that than those of ordinary

Of than to those of ordinary men, on account of being so uncommonly slender. Great numbers of them frequent the Town daily, bringing fish, &c. to exchange for bread, rice, Tobacco, & spirits, the latter of which they are uncommonly partial to, & are soon quite intoxicated with a very small quantity. I have been greatly diverted several times by seeing frequent battles between them, when in this state, especially their women who are only covered with a piece of a blanket, or old cloth, linen, &c. tied round their middles, in which state they contest long battles with the feet, in imitation of an English boxing match, but without seeing each other the whole time, being afraid of receiving white eyes. Most of the females have conceived a high notion of delicacy from being in the habit of witnessing the inhabitants of the Town always clothed, & generally follow their example, being plentifully supplied with the means of doing so, by presents of blankets, old clothes, &c. but some who have not been bred in the habit of visiting the Town, but live principally in the bushes, walk about with the greatest unconcern & simplicity, with no clothes on whatever; and without even so much as to cover the spot where Eve placed the fig leaf. Some jest & laughing at of course their attendants in all their motions round the Town, till some one presents them with apparel, which they will put on at the moment with the greatest apparent satisfaction, but on entering their old haunts again & in the bushes, they will cast it aside or sell it, & appear again in the Town as formerly, till completely hoodwinked & shamed out of it. The Men appear to have no such an ingredient in their composition as shame, nor do they know. I imagine, what it means, for although most of them are clothed, some will walk about the Town, begging, with nothing on but a short Jacket, others with  $\frac{1}{2}$  a shirt, some with a hat, others with a pair of Trowsers buttoned behind. When they are presented with old blankets, which is their chief favourite dress, they will smother it fast round the neck, & allow it to fly away behind — in short so many ludicrous & uncommon scenes presented themselves on my first walking about the Town, that Bidwell & myself nearly burst ourselves with laughter, on reciting them at home. Although measures are taken to prevent this indecent way of making their appearance in the Town, it cannot be finally accomplished without having recourse to harsh measures, which will not accord with their hasty passionate tempers, & they might in the end entirely abandon the Town, whereas the Governour is holding out every encouragement & inducement in his power to favour their visiting it. I have several of their spears & fuzigs by me, which I will send you by the first opportunity. Some of the former are 12 feet in length, made of the wood of the Country, & pointed very sharp with a hard heavy wood similar to ebony. They throw them with great precision, in which they are assisted by another piece of wood called the throwing stick, which is about 2 feet long, & barbed at one end. Against this barb, the end of the spear is pressed by the left hand; the right holding the other end of the throwing stick, embracing the spear with the thumb & fore finger at the same time. In this position, the throwing stick & spear being held over the right shoulder, or nearly so, the latter is thrown in the same manner as a girl would throw a stone. The fuzig is an instrument with which they spear fish, & is in reality a spear, with a great many barbs at unequal distances from each other. The workmanship is very rude & rough. There are a great many more weapons, &c. made use of by the Natives, which might be interesting in a voyage, but in a letter, & presumed by ~~the~~ so poor a hand, can afford little or no amusement, and will occupy more time & space than I can well spare from what I have hereafter to say about. Talking about times. You will probably enquire of some one, how it can be employed, when I am on shore here with nothing to do, and nothing to draw my attention but projects for my own ease and comfort! But I'll tell you, for a person that is otherwise inclined, need never be idle, for every moment, every hour, that passes will never more return, if spent improperly may at a future period be reflected upon with sorrow. My usual hour of rising is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  past 6, sometimes 7, but I generally am down below before 7, & as the heavy dews which fall during the night, render walking very unwholesome & damp, at that hour, I either bathe in the Cove, or, if unfavourable weather prevents that, finish what I had left incomplete on the preceding night, as I fancy during the morning before breakfast, my head is clearer than at any other times of the day, — at 1 o'clock we breakfast; after which, 3 of the Senie Kepees belonging to different people here, which they have placed under our care, are wound up & manauvered a little, & by nine o'clock we commence taking observations on the sun, in order to find the rates of watches, &c. &c. This generally lasts for 1 or 2 hours, & from that time, to near noon, I either calculate & work the observations taken, or amuse myself with drawing — at this time more observations are made, for noon, when the other 5 Chronometers are wound up, compared with each other, &c. &c. & about 2 hours are occupied as before, when it is time to look out for the afternoon observations on the sun, to correspond with those taken in the forenoon; that is, when he has the same altitudes in descending, as we observed in the morning while he was ascending — This being settled, Bidwell & I take a walk till 4 o'clock, at which hour we dine, & again resume our walk till 7, when Tea, or Scandal broth, is drunk, & the remainder of the evening occupied in working the observations taken during the day. If those are adjusted early, I write  
or read till 12

or read till 12, which is my earliest hour of retiring generally, & I then do ample justice to my pillow by not awaking once till it is time to rouse out. It frequently happens that rainy weather spoils our sport, and prevents us taking any observations. In that case, I amuse myself with writing, Drawing, or Reading, with now and then a touch at easiness. Surveying, on which Mr. King has plenty of books; for being something almost new to me, it is very requisite to be studied, with the prospect of this voyage before me. I have just finished for Mr. M. Arther, a sketch of King's Cottage, which at her request I took while there, but not without many long preambles & prefatory remarks upon being no landscape painter, &c. &c. However that attempt has happily succeeded & given satisfaction beyond my expectations, which is the greatest happiness I can feel; for their kind behaviour to me has been so very kind, that I could refuse them nothing that it was in my power to grant. I must take another time I go there, to make a pair, I hope to be as successful as with the last. Mr. King, who lives with them till her husband can procure a house near theirs, persuaded Mr. M. A. that I drew, which was their sole motive for making the request, & gave them hopes, which were not realized of seeing something very grand &c. &c. but I am happy in having met with their approbation. Mr. M. has since requested a sight of my Logbook.

Mr. K. will very soon fall to pieces now, & I sincerely hope will be successful in making young Sailors, for they all treat us like brothers - even Mr. King's Mother, in England, who never saw us, desired in her last letter to be remembered, as "we feel great interest in the welfare of every one you are concerned with" were her words to her Son, when she desired remembrance. Mr. M. has 3 very fine children, his eldest about 25 years of age. Her husband abt. 31 or 32. They have got completely in a little paradise with a well cultivated farm & lands all round. The River runs close to their House & has a very pleasing effect. Having no more at present to write, I must conclude till my poor pen can give you some decisive intelligence concerning our vessel, or till the ship Harriet, by which I propose sending this, is ready to sail. She is expected to leave Sydney for England, at the latter end of this month. I dispatched a very long letter to Tom, by the ship Matilda, which sailed for Madras with troops on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of last month. I did not forget the birthdays in Sept. or the one preceding it on 27<sup>th</sup> and suppose mine will be not far off when this reaches you. In May next I enter my 21<sup>st</sup> year - getting an old man, Char, age? It is now now ~~12~~ <sup>11</sup> o'clock, & I must reluctantly bid you good night on account of my ~~eyes~~ <sup>wishes</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~see~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~you~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~again~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~eyes~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~;~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~more~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~properly~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~good~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~afternoon~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~,~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~it~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~scarcely~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~12~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~o'clock~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~yet~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~,~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~therefore~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~you~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~must~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~tetere~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~I~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~keep~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~late~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~hours~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~,~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~as~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~you~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~are~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~going~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~bed~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~,~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~after~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~I~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~have~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~done~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~breakfast~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~,~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~Good~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~night~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~.~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~Char~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~:~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~hear~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~speaking~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~you~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~?~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~Char~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~?~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~It's~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~very~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~good~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~.~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~Do~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~you~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~hear~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~?~~

His Majesty's Cutter Mermaid - Sydney - Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

I will not attempt to describe, my Dear Father, the pleasure which I feel in having it in my power at length, to direct my letter as above. The Mermaid, mentioned before in the beginning of this sheet, was purchased by the Governor's directions, with her rigging, sails, all her stores, &c. &c. for 2000, on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. and we are now fitting her out, with all possible dispatch on our part, though the people at the Dock Yard work so comfoundedly slow, being convicts, that we shall not get to sea in a month, although very little is to be done. She is only 45 feet in length, & 85 tons burthen. The storatio was 1098 Tons - by which you will perceive there is a little difference in the size of the 2 vessels; but although small, the Cutter is a fine little vessel, & will mount 4 or 5 guns for her own defence against any attacks from the natives, &c. The cabins, &c. &c. have been all pulled down, and are now rebuilding with alterations & additions according to our own plan. We shall all sleep in standing bed places, built for this purpose, with wooden bottoms, so with the removal of the four hard beds into the bargain, our bones will be very ease for the first few months. It will take some few weeks before we shall be so far accustomed to it, as to get any sleep. I expect to be very sick indeed on board of her for a short time, but I must grin & bear it, for one consolation will in a great measure soften that inconvenience; that is, a frequent run on shore, and the constant change of scenery, which will take place during our excursions along shore. In so small a vessel the accommodations and conveniences are necessarily so contracted, as to prevent the possibility of our being able to sleep in cots or hammocks, as in a larger vessel: & by the time we return from our first cruise, I shall be able to give you an idea of how we fare, &c. & how I like it. Mr. Cunningham, His Majesty's Botanist here, is going with us, together with a gentleman by the name of Arnold, who is both a Botanist & Surgeon in the Army; he is coming out in a Convict Ship daily expected, (called the Friendship) for the express purpose; which together with Mr. K. - B. myself & eighteen seamen (it is supposed) a native, will compose the whole of the Officers, Crew, &c. on board. Mr. K. the 2 Botanists, & ourselves will sleep together in the Cabin, where there will be as large a table as the size of the place will allow, with a skylight directly over it. (Go on with the no ink. - 1<sup>st</sup> page - 3<sup>rd</sup>)

52 / 6500 / 125  
130  
260  
260

W

The Reverend James Roe  
Rector of  
Leoburg

W. B. B.

L. L. R.

Stephens - on Prober's  
Stability of the Eye

LIBRARY

