

George Lyman

An account of the loss of the Ship *Blenden Hall* from
Traders Capt. Alex. Grey on her outward bound Voyage to Bombay which
Ship was wrecked on the Island of Inaccessibles on the morning of the 23^d
July 1821. giving a full account of the miraculous escape of her Crew and
Passengers, and of their safe arrival at the Cape of Good Hope, in the
Brig *Arunde*, ^{of London} Capt. S. Faulkner —

We left Gravesend in the Ship *Blenden Hall* Capt. A. Grey
bound for Bombay on the 7th of May 1821 the same evening, brought
up in Margate Roads, got under sail next morning, and on the following
day arrived in the Downs, to take the remainder of the Passengers on
board. On the 9th left the Downs and arrived at Dungeness, then a
fair wind bound till the 18th May, when the wind favoring us, we
went to sea, having on board the following Ladies and Gentlemen
Passengers, Mrs. Capt. Grey, Quarter Master and Mrs. Gornley,
Lieut. and Mrs. Pepper, Miss Harris, Messrs. Saw, Motavish,
Maclean and Tiddel and Patch Assistant Surgeons R.C.S.
Mr. Liborne Clerk, Mr. Farlowy Free Marine, Lieut. Harris, Mr.
Monkham Bombay Marine, 3 Children and 2 Native Servants.

We proceeded down the Channel in company with several vessels
Wind North. On Sunday 20th at 11 o'clock P.M. we lost sight
of the Lizard lights; on the 23^d we experienced a severe gale
in the Bay of Biscay, nothing of consequence occurred
during the Gale, on the 29th May made Madeira, on the 3^d of June
the Peak of Teneriffe, and on the 4th the Island of Palma, having
mostly favorable weather for several days, when we fell in with
and spoke the S. C. S. Thomas Grenville and a few days after
the Marquis of Wellington for Calcutta, running down the
S.E. trade

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Mr. Braden met with the private Ship Saphire for Madras, com-
municated and parted Company. On the 29th of June we crossed the
line, weather very pretty, but on approaching the latitudes of
the Cape of Good Hope the change was sensibly felt. Nothing
particular happened till the 23rd of July. Being anxious to as-
certain the correctness of our Chronometer, we were running
we supposed from our reckoning a direct course for the Island
of Tristan d'Acunha. Orders having been given the evening
previous to keep a good look-out for Sea-weed and Land, the former
being very common on the near approach of these Islands. The
wind being light from the Northward and Eastward accompanied
with a very thick fog. Keeping well ^{to} the Southward in hope
of falling in with the stronger westerly winds. About 10 A.M.
the greater part of the Passengers and Crew being upon Deck
One of the Seamen on the Fore-castle discovered Sea-weed when
the Alarm was immediately put on Star-board and in a few minutes
a sea of Breakers and Land was seen as the alarm given
general and every thing in confusion, the jolly Boat was
down and a rope made fast to the Bow of the Ship to tow her
head round, the wind being so light as to render her useless
we lay, not leaving us time to get our Cutter out before the
Ship struck, the jolly Boat cut the two rope and stood
Sea, we then endeavoured to get out the Cutter and at
length succeeded being manned with four Seamen and a Surgeon.
She shoved off; after which the Breakers ~~after which the Breakers~~
being very high she was unable to gain the Ship, but from
the jolly Boat: to save their lives now became the object
consequently the men were taken into the Cutter and made
best of their way on shore through a tremendous surf; the
fog cleared off and we found ourselves within $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from
the Beach, being now without our two Boats our dependence
centred in the Launch which still remained on Board, but it
was a matter of difficulty how to get her over the side, some

the leaving of our Boats considerably weakened us of some of
our best working hands. Every thing wore now a very alarming
appearance. Great praise is due to Mr. Symms the Second Officer
for his unremitting exertions at this awful moment in going aloft
carrying tackle &c. for the purpose of getting out the Long Boat,
the Breakers being so heavy as almost to prevent his getting
up, and likewise for his hazardous undertaking in attempt-
ing to swim on shore with a line in hopes of being thus
enabled to save the lives of his fellow sufferers, which ex-
ample was followed by two of the crew, but they failed in
the attempt the crew back being too strong to land. The
sea beginning to make a Breach over us but very short inter-
vals and the water coming in at her Bottom necessitated
us to desist for the present at any attempt to get out the
Long Boat, and for our better security cut away the lower
masts which fell with a tremendous crash along the
starboard side, while that ~~side~~ ^{side} we ~~observed~~ ^{observed}
men running along the Beach, making signs which we
could not understand and we hoped that Providence had
not cast us upon an uninhabited Island, but to our grief
and disappointment ^{we} discovered them to be the men that had
succeeded in making good their landing; tho' at the same
time we were entreated to see their lives preserved. Our
efforts were again turned towards an attempt to get out
the Long Boat in which we succeeded, but our attempts were
frustrated by the main mast which laid along side washing
against her Bottom rendering her completely useless. All around
was now a scene of approaching dissolution, while every
moment our shattered Bark became weaker ~~every~~ ^{more}
from the severe shocks of the surrounding Breakers and we
had nothing to hope for but the all powerful hand of
Providence to render us that aid and assistance which this
heart rending scene required. Every one were taking final
leave

leave of each other. Husbands of their wives and Mothers of their
poor Infant offspring, being within ^{half} a cables length ^{about 100 yds}
from the shore, the greater part of the Passengers and Crews
who could swim were making the best of their way overboard
and happily succeeded, with the exception of Matthew Ho-
Manner a youth between ^{nearly} the age of ^{seventeen} 16 & 17 years of age,
whose correct and obedient conduct had secured to him
the good opinion of the Capt. Officers and Passengers, and
his loss was universally regretted. It is supposed that some
accident he met with a few minutes before by falling down
the after Hatchway, had lessened his strength which in some measure
may account for his death. About this time the Ship began
to break up and soon after parted a midships ^{middle}, the
sternmost part floating out to the sea, those still remaining
on board crowding to the fore part of the vessel. While
this was going forward a tremendous sea washed Capt. Grey
overboard, but by his presence of mind and exertion
he was most miraculously rescued from meeting a watery
grave, his son witnessing this awful sight. Despairing of
any other means of extricating ourselves from our present
plorable state, a raft was constructed from the planks that
were floating about and shoved off, with the Second Officer
(his Brother Surgeon of the Ship) a Passenger and 5 Seamen
taking with them a rope, by which means some hopes were
entertained of saving the lives of the Ladies and Children.
The rope they were endeavouring to take on shore unfortunately
broke and the raft was drifting out to sea, when a large wave
came and washed the people off, and lifted the raft over an immense
Rock between it and the shore, when requiring it they were
safely thrown on shore with the exception of a mariner,
named John Bantiff who sunk to rise no more; this sight
was truly melancholy, to see these poor despairing wretches struggling

with the waves with faint hopes of reaching the land, expecting
death every moment. The hand of Providence was never more
apparent than in the preservation of the few passengers and crew
that still remained on the wreck. Scarcely had the raft reached
the shore ere that part of the Fore castle to which they were
clinging drifted closer in shore while the starboard part drifted
out to sea, the larboard side by the force of the surf, was thrown
so near the shore, as to enable those on the Beach to convey
a rope to this small remaining part of the wreck; and by
which means all were safely landed ~~and mutually congratulated~~
~~each other~~ ^{some} about 4 o'clock P.M. being ^{six} hours from the time
the Ship first struck, in a most dreadful state of fear and
anxiety, but being now landed we mutually congratulated each
other upon our miraculous escape and

"Our gloomy souls cheered up,

our gloomy souls
cheered up

Hopes revived, and ~~glaming~~ ^{glaming} ~~arousing~~ ^{arousing} within us,
Men women and ^{amounting to 50 souls} Children, were thus preserved from a watery grave,
and landed in a most miserable condition, some with clothes
and others scarcely withal to cover their nakedness,
that too on a desolate Island, and only known as a mark
in the middle of the ocean to be shunned by Navigators,
and so fatigued as we were did we spend a miserable night. Nothing
for a covering, but the canopy of Heaven, and to increase our
wretchedness the rain fell in very heavy showers, very few
closing their eyes during the night; having, ^{New Paragraph} thus effected our
escape from the dangers of the deep, we were fearful of having
in encounter others no less formidable, we therefore rose with
the dawn on the 24th and found that we were wrecked on the
N.W. side of the Island called Inaccessible, and travelled along
the Beach in search of Provisions, Clothes and any other article
tending to our comfort; none of us having tasted anything since Break
fast the previous day. We had not proceeded far, before we found

some Bales of Red cloth, that we were taking out to the East India Company. This was an unexpected God send, and we took sufficient to make wearing apparel, and tents; wrapping ^{ourselves} round with some to keep out the intense cold we were suffering. Proceeding farther on our journey we picked up a few Cheeses, Bottles of Pickles & Ham, with which many of us sat down and made not a very comfortable, but a hearty meal after which we commenced our journey, and found a punchon of Gin, one of Brandy and a pipe of Madeira wine. The two latter however were at once mixed with salt water. The Gin which was perfectly good, we rolled up to the foot of the Hill and then knocked in the Head of the Cask, every one taking and drinking what every quantity he pleased; fortune seemed to have favored us, for we picked up several casks of different kinds of wine, such as Port Claret &c. Two Cases of Cyder and 52 pieces of Beef, Pork, Ham and Pickles, but no Bread.

Turning, pitched upon a spot the best we could find, tho' up to the Ankle in mud, for erecting our Tents, all hands ^{some} removed for the place where we first landed and before dark, ^{some} provided a tent for the night in which we all crowded, laying as close as we well could, even this was a feather Bed compared to what we had the night before, tho' suffering greatly from the cold and Rain which obliged us all to have recourse to liquor, being unprovided with implements to kindle a fire and the snow too wet to procure one by friction. Having saved a Prayer Book I this day read the funeral Service on the dead body of John Brantiff that had washed on shore.

Wednesday 25th. This day was partly employed in a similar manner as to that preceding, in erecting, proper and more comfortable Tents and before night a generous one was built about ^{thirty two} 22 feet long and ^{eight} 8 or 10 broad but it barely kept out the Rain, of which there was a great deal with broad Lightning and Thunder. About ^{twenty} 28 or 30 people slept in this tent and were nearly suffocated before morning. Thursday 26th July. This morning

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we succeeded in getting a fire fortunately having found a flint and
one of the Semans knives. This was a truly cheerful sight for us
having never been once dry since Monday morning, or tasted a
mouthful of dressed victuals. Penguins and Seals were caught,
killed and thrown into the fire without being cleaned, and when brought
every one eat with a most voracious appetite. This Island most fortunately
for us, abounds in Wild Celery, Penguins, Sea Elephants and Seals; a de-
scription of which animals I shall endeavour to give in a part of
this narrative. An Iron Bong that drifted on shore was picked up,
cut in two, and converted into Bails, in which we all took by
turns to cook Soup. Penguins and Celery being the ^{chief} ingredients and
salted with Sea water. Some of the Crew who had travelled as far
as the West point, discovered marks of fire supposed to have been
made by some whalers sealing here, which supposition we
afterwards found to be correct. - Friday 27th The
Captain called all hands and divided them into three parties for foraging
to provide wood, animal provisions and the third to explore
the Island. The last mentioned party succeeded in gaining
the summit of the Hill, being three thousand feet high from
whence they distinctly saw the neighbouring Islands of Tristan
da Cunha and Nightingale; their efforts were fruitless in trying
to get down on the opposite side, and were obliged to return with-
out any other information. Mr. Symers the Purser of the Ship
was one of this party. Saturday 28th July. The following
Gentlemen went up the Hill Messrs. Symers D. Officer
Metcalish, and Lane, assistant Surgeons, the Carpenter and a
seaman, the ascent being so difficult that all but the first
two mentioned Gentlemen returned. Messrs. Symers & Metcalish,
having ascended the Hill ~~and~~ after a very ^{arduous} ^{task} got down to
the opposite side, but discovered nothing of consequence having
only met with many young abbatrosses, but did not bring
any with them. Picked up several Cases of Surgical Instruments

8 Sunday 29th Thick hazy weather with rain. After each having brought
Two loads of wood for the General cooking fire. Performed divine service
And returned thanks for our deliverance, and put our whole trust in
the goodness of that God ~~whose~~^{who} had preserved us from a watery grave
to relieve us out of our present difficulties. Monday 30th

This day we found our Cutter above high water mark, and to our
great joy saw that she had sustained very little Injury. This we all
hailed as a happy omen of a speedy release from our present wretched si-
tuation, being in sanguine expectations of seeing a ship, which would
enable us to send the Boat out or going to Tristan d'Akunha should
our resources fail on this Island. We therefore set the Carpenter to
work repairing her. The Dead Body of our Cow having come on
shore. the Skin was taken off and answered the purpose of wood for
the Repair of the Boat and the Beef for that of food which tasted
to our now depraved Palate very good, tho' a week had elapsed
since she was drowned. We were also happy to find that
of our live stock, a sheep and 3 Pigs had succeeded in swimming
on shore. These we economically preserved feeding them with the
best care since the sow was likely to afford us with a pro-
teful litter of young Pigs. We were all anxiously looking out-
for a ship being now provided with the means of getting off
to her. Tuesday 31st Employed picking up oars for the Boat
and carrying Tar for grapping her and other necessary articles towards
compleating her for sea. Wednesday 1st August To day the Car-
penter finished repairing the Boat and got her ready for sea while others
were busily employed picking up what they thought useful. The
weather hazy accompanied with showers of rain. It would be
tedious and likewise useless to relate our daily occurrences so
sufficient it to say, that our labours were directed towards picking up
any thing we could find about the Beach tending to make
this our miserable abode bearable; I shall therefore content myself

and I hope my readers by duly relating particulars that may be thought
Extraordinary or interesting. Our chief employment was that of pro-
ceeding ourselves with provisions for which purpose we generally equipt
ourselves with large Clubs and Doctors Scalps and pulled forth in search
of seals and Sea Elephants and often had to travel ^{two} or ^{three} miles over large
sharp stones without shoes ere we could find one, returning sometimes
highly disappointed in not having a Chop for Dinner, when we were
obliged to make a Meal of that worst of all Meat. Penguins,
A description of which I shall to the best of my power endeavor
to give. This beautiful Bird is nearly two feet in length, the Bill is
about 18 Inches long the upper part a little curved at the end, and the
lower obtuse, the Head, Neck, Back and Sides Black. Over ^{each} Eye
they have a stripe of pale yellow feathers, which lengthens into
a Crest about two Inches long, which they can erect at pleasure,
the wings are Black on the outside, but the Edges and inside are
~~white, the legs are of a fleshy color.~~ From the Extreme shortness of
their wings which are not unlike fins, they are unable to fly, but
this deficiency is made up by their great swiftness in their ~~water~~ swimming
and are fortified against the effects of long continuance in the Coldest water
by an abundance of Fat. They cackle like ducks almost and were
nick named by the sailors Jumping Jacks from their action
of leaping out of the water sometimes two or three feet, when
shown they are very helpless and keep tumbling amongst the
Rocks on being pursued, they bite severely and when irritated very
ravage after violently attempting to bite our legs or picking at our
clothes. Their nests are holes in the Earth which they easily form with
their Bill throwing Back the dirt by their feet. they lay several
eggs and luckily being in the Breeding Season, we anxiously looked
for Eggs, hoping that they may recruit our Health, since our coarse
food was daily decreasing. Our Strength, and sanguine ex-
pectations were in a few days realized and every one commenced
Eating

10 Eggs

Stop at

Eggs, rising always by day light, when many before Breakfast
brought from 10 to 12 dozen each; thus of course preventing a
supply in the next years Broods. While thus employed we were
obliged to use long sticks to throw them off their nests to get at
the Eggs when we were regarded as intruders with side long glances
but we caused no terrors within us. The eggs are larger than those of
a Goose and from the quantity many of us were in the habit
of eating. I should suppose very healthy. I am sure many of
the Crew and some passengers and among the rest myself have eat
3 dozen during the day, Fried Boiled and made into Milk. Not
having any Culinary articles it is necessary to send now for
my readers an Idea of our substitutes for these useful articles.
It has already been noticed how we provided our selves with
Boilers for making Soup having so far advanced in luxury
we became anxious to have ~~as good as~~ as good as Boiled and for this purpose
we picked up pieces of Tin & Copper off the Ships Boston converted
the same into Frying pans, and after a short initiation into
the art of Cookery we became good and expert cooks often
asking each other the different modes they practiced in Cooking the
Meat and making their Gravy, the latter was always done by mixing
salt water with the Oil while frying the Meat. Minced Chops, hash
and fried Roots with Eggs being our usual repast, and ~~raw~~ ^{raw} Roast
for Dessert. For the last mentioned article we were obliged so
times to Climb half way up the Hill and bring them down
in Bays. Lately they became very scarce and when a
Spot was found where they were plentiful, the greatest secrecy
was observed by the persons, ~~lest~~ lest they should be plundered
their Gardens infested with poachers. Thus we passed away our
time ~~entirely~~ ⁱⁿ hunting, killing Elephants, getting Eggs and
other eatables, the Elephants are killed with large Clubs going
to them while a slip knocking them on the nose and stunning them

them, when we commenced Butchering, taking out the Heart, 15
Liver Tongue and Kidneys if old, but the young Cubs we brought
home after being well cleaned, the Meat of the latter is tender
and was generally preferred to penguins, some killed the Mother and
took the young out of the Womb. It is with great pleasure
I reflect, ^{that} in the midst of all our troubles and ~~distresses~~ ^{distresses} we were
not out of sight of that Merciful Being who had placed us in this
situation and our supplications and pray^{ers} were regularly offered
up every Sunday Mr. Shaw and myself officiating, the former in
the Scotch and myself in the English form; many of the crew
joining. Wednesday 15th Aug. During last night we experienced
a severe gale from the S.W. with a tremendous swell from the
same quarter and on going to the Beach found that the surf
had come so high as to dash our Cutter all to pieces; our hopes
were now cut off and many were sadly cast down about this
misfortune. We this day, tried to cook a pudding, by cutting
some liver, Heart, Kidneys and roots up into small pieces, mixing it
with Penguins Blood, this we found to answer very well, some
Basks of Beer were washed off during the night, the ^{waves} having come
up very high and we found our stock of liquor fast decreasing
the men having secured all the empty Bottles they could find, which
they filled and secreted among the bushes, providing themselves with
all kinds of drinkable - Weather moderating -

Monday 20th Aug. A letter was written with Penguins Blood
and put into a Bottle, erected a flag staff at the N.E. part of the
Island and hoisted a white flag made of muslin in hopes of attracting
any ship passing by, the contents of the letter were as follows.

On the N.W. side of this Island are part of the crew of the Ship Blunder
Hall who were wrecked on the 23^d of July 1821 should this fall into the
hands of humane persons we hope by the assistance of God they will
to their best endeavours to render every assistance towards alleviating our
present sufferings and the prayers of many unfortunate sufferers will be
directed up for them (Signed) Alex. Greig commander.

12 Tuesday 21st August. At dark we observed a great many Birds
(not unlike Pigeons only smaller, with web feet, and seeing that
the warmth of the fire, attracted them, made a large one for the
purpose of catching them, placing ourselves round it with long
sticks and when they alighted knocked them down, the killed in a
manner several Basketfuls and found them good eating.

Finding that the fleas were very numerous in our present
we commenced shifting our Tents since some were obliged to leave
their Beds from the severity of their stings. Several Boxes of
perfumery having drifted on shore it was laughable to see
Sailors actually washing themselves with Sassafras and Honey
waters, rubbing their faces hands and feet with Milk of Roses
(and) others perfuming themselves all over with many jocund
remarks about Fleas and Tangles.

Friday 24th All hands employed laying in a stock of
against the day of need. It will hardly be believed when I say
that one of the Crew ^{each} ~~dozen~~ of Eggs, the general average being
from 3 to 4 doz. each during the day. Several of the men
went down to the Beach to live separating themselves from
the Captain (and) passengers giving the former to understand
they had no objections to provide provisions for him and his
but declined assisting the passengers several of whom made
offers of remuneration offering any of them 3 £ a month
engage themselves as Servants but none of them accepted
it which refusal I am now certain they heartily repent.

The change of living from Penguins and Seals ^{to Eggs} ~~were~~ now
and every one became much recruited and stronger. I think
they had not the property of fowls Eggs. I believe his eye was
as in this dreary wilderness. Joseph Harris Seaman commenced
building a canoe the ribs of which he formed out of wood
Hoops of Baskets over which Elephants Skins were lashed and two

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This laudable example was followed on the 4th of September by Joseph Pitts and two others by their building a Port out of the Boards of the wreck. A party went up the hill and caught a few Birds of a different species to what we had seen before. They were such footed colour Black with a White Ring round the head. Their nests are under ground and generally with a pool of water before them. Employed as usual killing Leptons. One of the men met with a severe accident from one of these huge animals. After the Cub and Intestines were taken out she raised her head and bite the mans arm nearly to the Bone. Cold stormy and rainy weather chiefly prevailed during this month. Saturday 1st Sept. This month began with cold, hazy weather accompanied with rain and hail at times which made us very uncomfortable from the difficulty we experienced in procuring food. Tuesday 11th of Sept. Another species of Birds made their appearance on the Island which answers to the description of the Petrel tribe, being about ^{eight} 18 inches long, the Bill 4 inches and a half long Black and forked at the end, the Body of a dirty brown color above and white beneath. The wings when closed exceed the Tail. The feet are webbed, its legs are Black long and slender. These Petrels during the day were at sea but as night approached they returned in vast flocks and altho' mute by day are very clamorous during the night. The whole Island was as full of holes as a Rabbits warren. They burrow in the ground like Rabbits. We caught them just at dusk in considerable numbers for the wings of many sea birds are so long as to prevent their rising till they can ascend some small eminence. These Birds proved to be the best food we had eaten since our arrival on the Island. Sept. 7 saw several newly hatched penguins. The Carpenter finished caulking the Port, commenced on the 4th Instant.

Employed preparing Elephants skins for the Canoe and a Mast and
sail for the Port. Sept. 21 We experienced a very severe Gale with
Rain, Thunder and lightning which prevented those on the Beach
from working at the Canoe Our Stock of Penguins ^{eggs} decreased
fast; having been too long kept they became Bad

Sept. 25 Accomplished the Canoe and got her ready for launch

Wednesday 26 the Carpenter laid the Keel for another Boat
and from his well known abilities as about Bristol we placed great
confidence in her being able to make the trip to Tristan d
Acunha with greater safety than either the Canoe or Port
already built. Sept 30 Six of the men killed an Elephant
about 12 feet long, this they could not accomplish till nearly
hours had elapsed in beating him over the head with large

Thus far we have never had ^{for 5} 48 hours without rain, and
mostly bitter cold weather. ~~October 2?~~ Several of the men
up the Hill and brought Allatropes Eggs which we found to
good eating October 4 the weather being mild the Port was
sent out to fish and returned in three or ^{four} hours having
caught about ¹⁴⁵ 50 fishes which were distributed among the
singers and men but in a very small proportion to the force

The sailors called these fish "old wives" The Port answering
well for the fishing another was commenced by another set
of men and soon finished, when both Ports went out
fishing whenever the weather would admit of their being
launched and those assisting to haul them up got a ^{small} quantity
of fish but seldom exceeding 2 or 3 each to the piece
after exulting in their good fortune in being able to fish for
themselves better than us, their illiberality was certainly con-
spicuous, affording us a very bad specimen of the generally
true generous Character of British Seas. On the 6th of
December, one twelfth of November. G. J. Symes commenced

15th
I sent for themselves procuring planks from the wreck.
Sunday 14th The Carpenter having finished his Boat she hands
went to launch her but to his great mortification and
disappointment found her to be very crank and unmanage-
able being too long for her breadth. He therefore determined
upon cutting her in half and introducing another plank in
the middle. Thursday 13 Oct. We were all put in high
spirits one of the men having discovered a vessel from the
S.W. point of the Island, two of the passengers Messrs
Liddel and MacLennan, went up the Hill, with the
intention of making a fire but the haze was too great
for them to see the Ship, and she was too far off to trust
an ill constructed Boat to venture out, but we still hoped
that she was a South Seaman, in which case we were in
 sanguine expectations, of soon being ^{relieved} realised from our
miserable condition. I regret to say that even in this
deplorable situation some men inclined to steal and pilfer
Lieut Phipps and his Wife having unguardedly left their
some evil disposed person succeeded in getting in and stole
his watch and other valuables to the amount of £70 ^{some hands}
that he had saved from the wreck, Search was made but
to no purpose, but it is to be hoped the thief did not
succeed in making good his Booty as a good lookout
was kept on our arrival at Tustan d'Acunha, and
rewards were offered to detect the offender or offenders
after having suffered the like a second time on the
latter Island. Friday 14th After having Weather very
cloudy and hazy Wind from the S.W. and variable. The ship
with the following men left the Island ^{for} Tustan d'
Acunha, Wm Taylor, McCulloch, McAllister, Jacob McDougal, Wm

16 Wm Smith and Joseph Nibbs) took the attempt in ev-
body's opinion was rash, and every one tried to dissuade them from
risking their lives, before another boat could accompany them,
they had determined upon it and persuasion became useless, they
set out with the heartfelt prayers of every one for their safe
About 12 o'clock they were seen considerably to the North
and doubt became general of their being able to make
their landing: and it is with heartfelt sorrow that I have
to say that nothing since has been heard of these poor fellows.

Saturday 20th Octr. The Carpenter finished his boat and we
were happy, by seeing her so much improved, by widening
her ^{six} inches more she was found to be quite manageable in
sea way and pulled ^{well} ~~very~~. Sunday 21st Octr. A party of Seamen
went up the Hill and observed a ship standing off and on
Tristan d'Acunha but the day was too far advanced for
the Carpenter's boat to start. This ship we afterwards learn
was the Providence, from England to Botany Bay and
convicts and touched at Tristan for Potatoes and other
freshments the Island off order. Monday 22nd Octr. The
Carpenter having fitted his boat for sea and seeing the
yesterday was determined upon making an attempt for
Tristan, in hopes of being able to reach the Island and
stop the ship to afford us assistance, but on launching
the Boat she got broadside on to the Surf, and fitted
which necessitated them to return to the shore and put
their departure to a more favorable and fortunate
day and before evening we had to congratulate her
on this mishap having happened for it came on to be
severely from the N.W. Some of the Passengers and Seamen
went up the Hill to make a fire and stayed all night
returned in the morning of the 23rd being much fatigued
having experienced very bad and cold weather up the Hill; the

They did not see any thing like a viper. Very bad weather. People employed making rope and Nets for fishing. 30th Oct. Weather much finer. The Carpenter launched his boat to sail round the Island and returned in the latter part of the afternoon having discovered a part of a small boat and pieces of a wreck on the S.E. part of the Island.

Thursday 1st November Fine weather. Boats out fishing; several went up the Hill and brought down 15 Albatrosses and a bag full of roots each. [Monday 5th Nov. This was the first hot day we had experienced since our misfortune; we took advantage of it and washed our small stock of ^{dry} clothes. [Wednesday 7th Found several eggs in the Petrel which gladdened us in again living on the Eggs. being the most healthy of all our food. [Thursday 8th November Fine clear weather, wind from the S.W. being favorable for the Carpenter making an attempt to gain Tristan d'Acunha. All hands assembled on the Beach to launch the Boat we now place so much dependence in, and about 1 o'clock in the morning being manned with the following crew, she left us with our sincere and heartfelt prayers for the successful issue of their dangerous enterprise. Here follow the names of the crew -

Robt. Perrie Carpenter
Leonard Hawksley Boatswain
all on Joseph Thomas - Seaman
Thos. Elliot - Do -
Jas. Weston - Do -
Richd. Gilbert - Do -
John Carter - Do -
Geo. Leggate - Do -
Wm. Smith - Do - Seamen and
Edward Perry - Steward

18 These hearty cheers were given on their quitting the shore ^{we} and
trusted in the goodness of Providence that she ^{might} be the
of good news for the miserable remainder of their Bros.
sufferers. Some went up the Hill anxiously watching her pro-
gress, and did not come down till her arrival was considered
by them to be safe. We all now look forward for a speedy
happy relief out of our miseries and hardships. [Friday
Very fine weather many an anxious eye towards Festina
expecting the Carpenter's Boat. [Saturday 10th This being
a very fine day and the wind favorable for the return of
the Boat every eye was cast towards the last named.

Mr. Law and myself started early in search of Seal for
subsistence, and traveled to the North point. Not meet-
ing success we sat our selves down on a large rock,
each began recounting our ~~several~~ misfortunes while the
amusing ourselves my companion took seaward and ob-
served two Boats approaching which we soon found
our great happiness to be two whale Boats. Dropping
our Clubs we hastened to our habitation to give the joy-
ful news, but in this we were anticipated by one of the
Steamers. To give a description of the many happy faces
would be impossible and ^{none} ~~not~~ but those who have felt
similar ~~release~~ ^{release} can imagine our extreme joy. Congra-
latory words and shaking of hands never ceased till
Boats were landed when the same scene took place in
our deliverance. Ere they landed we thought there to be some
Steamer coming to Seal on the Island and hoped the Ship was
on the opposite side but on a near approach we saw our
men that had gone in the Carpenter's Boat and were soon

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informed of the Boat having safely reached the Island on
Thursday evening and on making known our great misfortune
and distresses to the Inhabitants they most cheerfully manned
their whale Boats, assisted by the Carpenter party, and came
on to our assistance bringing with them whatever refresh-
ments they could, such as Potatoes, Biscuits, Salt, Milk
&c. After the first transports of joy had ceased we
were informed that the Inhabitants of Tristan d'Acunha
consisted of ^{ten} 10 Men, one woman and two children, of whom
Wm. Glas and John Vanhavel were at the head and chief
proprietors of all the stock. The former arrived at the Island
when the Government of the Cape of Good Hope sent a Military
Force under Capt. Cleote to take possession of the Island in
1815 and on the removal of the same he volunteered out of the
Government's money to become a settler and purchased
the cattle and stock from Government. The latter was formerly
in the Dock yard at Simon's Town, a mason by trade. The
others had come at different times and were admitted on
conditions that they should assist the proprietors and receive
an equal share of the Property produced from the Elephants
Oil Seal Skins Potatoes &c. We were likewise informed
of the death of General Buonaparte. Enquiry was made
regarding the frigate that left us on the 19th Octr but
they ^{knew} ~~knew~~ nothing of her. We therefore concluded and gave
them up for lost. Three Ships had touched at Tristan d'Acunha
^{since our ship's wreck} but none came near our miserable abode supposing the Island
desolate. How grateful ought we to be to that great merciful
 disposer of all Events who had always preserved us from the
 jaws of Death for extending his mercies towards us miserable
 wretches.

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wrote in thus affording us timely aid and saving us from sta-
nation, for this certainly would have followed in a fortnight
Three weeks from what we learn from our preservers. The day
past in questions innumerable and every one was anxious to
hear their answers. In the evening it was finally settled that
the weather permitting ^{that} as many as could be safely carried
open Boats should be conveyed to Fustan d' Acunha on the
following morning. Preparations were therefore made, every
packing up their Red Blankets, in as small a compass as
possible the distance being between ^{eight} ^{nine} leagues, Caution
was requisite in not over loading the Boats. The Women
with their husbands and children Capt. Grey and Son were
the first party to be removed and consequently they all got
ready how different was ^{our} situation this day; from previous
Being we were in a moment changed to happy mortals
hoping once more to have the sweet enjoyment of com-
plicity and the endearing comforts of relatives and friends.
For this blessing we shall ever feel grateful to the Commander
for his exertions and trust his merit may be rewarded
a successful issue of all his undertakings in this world.

[Sunday M^o November. This morning the party already mentioned
that were to proceed to Fustan d' Acunha were early down on the Beach with
Bags of clothes &c. but the weather was very dull and hazy. About 7
~~of~~ and the day was thought favorable for the attempt; consequently the
Boats were launched and likewise one of the ^{2nd} ~~Boats~~. The latter was
unsuitable for embarking the people with their baggage lest the surf
should injure the whale Boats in floating them when loaded. The
arrangements were conducted by Mr. Glap and were as follows viz
in the first and largest Boat. Mrs Capt. Keys, Lieut and Mrs. Pepper
Ship Harris, two children and a servant. In the second and small

Captain Greig and Son, Quarter Master and Mrs. Gormly and Mr. Newbham.
They left Inacepible for Tristan d'Acunha about ^{eight} o'clock a.m. and
arrived at the latter Island about ^{three} o'clock in the afternoon. Monday and
Tuesday the weather being so unfavorable we could not expect the return
of the Boats. [On Wednesday the weather became mild and the wind
from the Eastward every one anxiously looking out for the Boats ^{nor} were
they long kept in suspense. About half past 10 o'clock A.M. they were
observed making towards the Island under sail and half an hour
after all were safely landed on the Beach and properly secured. We now
conducted the people to our Tents and laid before them what our scanty
means could afford, but they could not even eat our miserable food.
On Sunday the weather being favorable we left the Island for Tristan
and were arranged as follows. Messrs. Metcalf, MacLennan, Liddell
and Symers in the largest Boat; In the smallest Messrs. Law, Patch
and Turbony. After a pleasant passage of nearly five hours we
arrived at our place of destination and were most heartily welcomed
to Tristan by the ^hospitable Inhabitants who immediately
conducted us to the Mansion House and set before us what
their simple stone could ^{then} produce. Simple do I say! No, it was
a delicacy that we had not been accustomed to see for many
months. [On Wednesday the Boats ~~could not leave~~ were dispatched
to Inacepible who in that town could not leave that Island till
the following Sunday. In the largest Boat were Mr. Lihorne
and Sabbathan a native servant In the smallest Lieut.
Davis and Mr. Stryan. I am sorry to say the day was not so
good as the previous Sunday it being thick and hazy with a
strong breeze: the largest Boat was obliged to put into one
of the Bays on the S.W. side of the Island of Tristan d'Acunha
on account of a very heavy sea as also she had to tow one of
the heavy boats. The smallest however being the best sea boat
was

was able to make the landing place. The weather continuing very stormy the first Boat could not get round till the Wednesday thereafter [Thursday ^{15th} November. All now being arrived at Tristan da Cunha the Good Islanders did every thing in their power to make us comfortable having killed their Bullocks, Sheep & Pigs of which they had enough for their own use and a few to dispose of to any ship that might touch at the Island in want of provisions but coming so unexpectedly upon them as we did would have soon consumed all, had we remained long at the Island. That however was not the case which will be seen here.

The Carpenters again began Boat building on this Island, on a much larger scale having proper tools for the purpose, was calculated to be about ^{twelve} 12 tons but was large enough to go between the Islands of Inaccessible and Nightingale and carry part of us to the Cape of Good Hope if necessary.

After crawling over rocks and stones many as nothing on feet for nearly four months. What must have been our pleasure when we landed at Tristan to find instead of rugged rocks and stones, fine gravel walks large green fields and gardens well cultivated. I scarcely was there a moment if it was possible to get out one or other was walking with glass under his arm anxiously sweeping the horizon in hope of seeing a ship. On this Island there are plenty of wild goats and Pigs supposed to have been left here by the natives when in possession of these Islands. The Goats are rather difficult to get at living, as they are on the summit of the mountain the ascent being by no means easy. The Pigs inhabit the low ground where it is covered with brush-wood and a tall kind of rushes which the Islanders call Tussack. A party went up the hill and killed a few goats ^{which} and when cooked were found delicious.

delicious to the palate. On the 15th of December immediately after
Breakfast the alarm being given ^{that} there was a Ship in sight and
within ^{two} ^{or} ^{eight} miles off the shore. On account however of a very dark
haze and a heavy sea a Boat could not be launched and the fires
that were lit we suppose could not be seen from the vessel. Thus
passed the first ship since our arrival here, and to prevent as
far as possible the like from happening again, we immediately
cut down woods, piled large quantities of it together in order to
make fires against the coming of another ship. If in the day
we might observe the smoke and at night the glare. After this
repel had passed a party was formed among the Officers and passengers
that would agree to it to keep watch for a specified time every
clear day that another ship might not pass by so far unobserved.
This however was only of short duration. About this time
Mr. Glas got an addition of a fine child to his family. ~~the~~
since his arrival on the island neither of them had ever been
baptized and he embraced the opportunity of now being there to get
them all christened. Mr. Ditch. Apt. Surgeon F. C. S. supplied ~~for~~ the
place of a Curate. — We had now given up all hopes of
seeing any vessel until the time the Christmas fleet passed, when
we thought one or other of the ship might touch at the Island in
want of water, but how agreeably were we disappointed on the 9th
January to see a ship standing towards the Island. All was im-
mediately in motion a Boat was launched and pulled off to her
to at the distance of ^{five} Leagues. Various were the conjectures
about her ~~whether~~ she was English Dutch or American. On her
near approach to the Island we found to our great satisfaction
she was an English Brig. So soon as she came within ^{four} miles of
the shore Mr. Grier and I went off in a second Boat, ac-
companying the vessel however they found the Captain & Super cargo had gone
an

on shore. We rejoiced to see the Boat approach with more pleasure than her own which on her landing the strangers were found to be Capt. D. Lanchland of the Brig Perinoe and Mr. Bertz of supercargo they were from Buenos Ayres to the Cape of Good Hope with Mr.

The Captain with the true feelings of a British Seaman agreed to take us all on board without delay. This was about ^{six} o'clock P.M. and I believe the greater part of us were on board that night.

We laid there all night and sent some water Casks on shore to get filled against morning and twelve full ones were re-
an board and the Casks again sent on shore. Soon after it ^{on board} began to blow from the N.W. which obliged the Captain to and leave his Casks behind as also a few of our men who had gone on shore in the morning. In this respect we were treated by Capt. D. Lanchland. Mr. John Hicks Mate and Mr. Bertz of ~~Cape~~ ^{Cape} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~same~~ ^{same} ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~anything~~ ^{anything} ~~did~~ ^{did} ~~went~~ ^{went} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Ship~~ ^{Ship}. All their Beds and their Cabin ~~did~~ ^{did} ~~they~~ ^{they} ~~give~~ ^{give} ~~up~~ ^{up} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~use~~ ^{use} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Ladies~~ ^{Ladies} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~gentlemen~~ ^{gentlemen} ~~sleeping~~ ^{sleeping} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~Bay~~ ^{Bay} ~~between~~ ^{between} ~~decks~~ ^{decks} ~~which~~ ^{which} ~~made~~ ^{made} ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~excellent~~ ^{excellent} ~~Bed~~ ^{Bed} ~~better~~ ^{better} ~~indeed~~ ^{indeed} ~~than~~ ^{than} ~~we~~ ^{we} ~~had~~ ^{had} ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~accustomed~~ ^{accustomed} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~some~~ ^{some} ~~months~~ ^{months}. This did our time pass away eating and drinking off the best till the 23^d of January 1822 when we arrived at the Cape & a Six Months from the time of our being wrecked on the Island of Inaccessible.

