

An account of the loss of the ship *Blinden Hall* free Trader Captn Alexr Grey on her outward bound Voyage to Bombay which ship was wrecked on the Island of Inaccessibile on the morning of the 23rd 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 *Nerinde* of London Captn H. Lauchlan.

We left Gravesend in the ship *Benden Hall* Captn. A. Greig 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, there we laid wind bound till the 13th May, when the wind favoured us, we then set sail, having on board the following Ladies and gentlemen passengers, Mrs Captn Keys, quartermaster and Mrs. Gormby Lieutenant and Mrs Pepper, Miss Harris, Messrs Saw, Mctavish MacLennin Liddel and Patch assistant Surgeons H.C.S. Mr. Giberne Cadet, Mr. Furlong Free Mariner, Lieut. Harris, Mr. Newnham 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 pm we lost sight of the Lizard lights, on the 23rd we experienced a hard Gale.

On the 29th May Made Madura, on the 3rd of June the Peak of Teneriffe, and on the 4th the Island of Palma, having mostly favourable weather for several days, when we fell in with and spoke the H.C. Flo. Thomas Grenville and a few days after the Manguis of Wellington for Calcutta, running down the N.E. trades. N.E. trades met with the private Ship *Daphne* for Madras communicated then parted company.

On the 29th of June we crossed the line, weather very Sultry, 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 ascertain 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 seaweed and land, the former being very common on the near approach of these Islands. The wind being light from the northward and eastward accompanied by a very thick fog. Keeping well to the southward in hope of falling in with the stronger westerly winds. About 10 am the greater part of the passengers and crew being upon Deck One of the Seamen on the Forecastle descried Seaweed ahead the helm was immediately put a starboard and in a few minutes a cry of Breakers and land ahead, the alarm now became general and everything in confusion, the jolly Boat was lowered 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 rudder useless, not leaving us time to get our cutter out before the ship struck, the Jolly Boat cut the tow rope and stood to Sea, we then endeavoured to get Out the cutter and at length succeeded being manned with four Seamen and a passenger she shoved off; after which the Breakers being very high She was unable to gain the ship but joined the jolly Boat : to save their lives now became the object consequently the men were taken into the Cutter and made the best of their way on shore through the 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 dependance centred on the launch which still remained on Board, but it was a matter of difficulty how to get her over the side, since the the leaving of our Boats considerably weakened us of some 3 of our best working Hands.



Everything now wore a very alarming appearance. Great praise is due to Mr. Symes the Second Officer for his unremitting exertions at this moment in going aloft reaving tackles etc. 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 attempting to swim ashore with a line in hopes of being thus enabled to save the lives of his fellow sufferers, which example was followed by two of the Crew, but they failed in the attempt the draw-back being too strong to land. The sea beginning to make a Breach over us at very short intervals and the water coming in at the 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 thus employed we observed several men running along the beach, making signs which we could not understand, and we hoped that Providence had not cast us on 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 enlivened to see their lives preserved, our endeavours 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 alongside dashing against her Bottom rendering her completely useless, Allround was now a scene of approaching dissolution, while every moment our shattered Bark weaker 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 the heart rending scene required. Everyone were taking final leave of each other Husbands of their wives and Mothers of their poor infant offspring, : being within half a Cables a hundred and eighty yards from the shore, the greater part of the passengers and crew who could swim were making the best of their way on Shore and happily succeeded, with the exception of Mathew Tom Manuel a youth between sixteen and seventeen years of age whose correct and obedient conduct had secured to him the good opinion of the Captn. officers and passengers, and his loss was universally regretted. It is supposed that an accident he met with a few minutes before by falling down the after hatchway had lessened his strength which in some manner may account for his death. About this time the ship began to Break up and soon after parted amidship's the stern most part floating out to the sea, those still remaining on Board crowding to the Fore part of the Wreck. While thus forward a tremendous sea washed Captn Greig overboard, but by his presence of mind and exertions 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 deplorable state, a raft was constructed from the Bunks that were roaming 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 Breaker came and washed the people off, and lifted the raft over an eminence Rock between it and the shore, when regaining it they were safely thrown on shore with exception of a Mariner named John Bailiff who sunk to rise no more. This sight was truly melancholy to see these poor despairing wretches struggling with with the waves with faint hopes of reaching 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 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 about 4 oclock pm being 6 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,  
 Hopes revived and gladness dawned  
 within us"

Men women and children amounting to 50 souls were thus preserved from a Watery grave and landed in a most miserable condition, some with clothy and others scarcely where withal to cover their nakedness, etc that to on a desolate Island, and only know as a mark in the middle of the ocean to be shunned by Navigators, etc wet and fatigued as we were we spent 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 thus effected our escape from the dangers of the deep, we were fearful of having to 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 Inaccessable, 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 Breakfast the previous day. We had not proceeded far before we found some some Bales of Sea cloath that we were taking out to the East India Company. This was an unexpected Godsend and each took sufficient to make wearing apparel, and tents, wrapping ourselves round with some to keep out the intense cold we were suffering. Proceeding further on our journey we picked up a few Cheeses, Bottled Pickles and Hams, with which some of us sat down and made not a very comfortable but a Hearty Meal after which we commenced our journey and found a punchion of Gin, one of Brandy and a pipe of Madeira Wine. The two latter however were stove and mixed with salt water. The Gin which was perfectly good . x .5 we rolled up to the foot of the Hill, and there knocked in the Head of the cask, everyone taking what ever quantity he pleased. Fortune seemed to have favoured us, for we picked up several casks of different Kinds of wine, such as Port etc, Two Cases of Cyder and 52 pieces of Beef, Pork, Hams and Pickles but no Bread.

Having pitched upon a part the best we could find, though up to the ankles in sand, for erecting our tents, all hands removed from the place where we first landed and before dark, provided a temporary tent for the night in which we all crowded laying as close as we all could, even this was a feather bed to what we had the night before, tho suffering greatly from the cold and Rain which obliged us all to have resource to liquor, being unprovided with implements to Kindle a fire, and the wood too wet to procure one by friction.

Having saved a prayer Book I this day read the funeral service over the dead body of John Bailiff that had washed on shore.



Wednesday 25th. This day was partly employed in a similar manner as to the preceding, in erecting proper and more comfortable Tents and before night a general one was built about 22 ft. long and 8 or 10 Broad but it Barely Kept out the Raine, of which there was a great deal with vivid lightning and thunder. About 28 or 30 people slept in this tent and were nearly suffocated before morning.

Thursday 26th July. This morning we we succeeded in getting a fire fortunatealy having found a flint and one of the Seamens Knives. This was a truly cheerful sight for us having never been oneedry 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 broiled every one eat with a most voracious appetite. This Island most fortunatealy for us abounds in Wild Celery. Penguins, Sea Elephants and Seals; a description of which animals I shall endeavour to give in apart of this narrative. An Iron buoy that drifted on shore was picked up, cut in two, and converted into Boilers, in which we all took by turns to cook soup. 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 of the 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 and to provide wood, another 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 D'Acunha and Nightingale, their efforts were fruitless in trying to get down on the opposite side and they were obliged to return without any other Information. Mr. Symers the Surgeon of the ship was one of the Party.

Saturday 28th July. The following gentlemen went up the Hill Messrs Thos Symers 2nd Officer Mctavish, and Law, assistant Surgeons the Carpenter and a seaman, the ascent being so difficult that all but the first five mentioned gentlemen returned. Messrs Symers and Mctavish 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 albatrofses, but did not bring any with them. Picked up several cases of surgical Instruments.

Sunday 27th. 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 deliverence and put our whole trust in the goodness of that God 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 found that she had sustained very little Injury, this we all hailed as a happy omen of a speedy release from our present wretched situation, being in sanguine expectations of seeing a Ship, which would enable us to send the Boat out or going to Tristan D'Acunha should our resources fail on this Island. We therefore se t the Carpenter to work repairing her. The Dead Body of our Cow having come ashore, 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 to our now depraved palate very good, tho a week had elapsed since she was drowned. We were also happy to find



another of our live stock, a sheep and three pigs had succeeded in swimming ashore, these we economically preserved feeding them with strictest care since the sow was likely to afford us with a plentiful litter of Young Pigs. We were all anxiously looking out for a ship being now possessed with the means of getting off to her.

Tuesday 31st. Employed picking up oars for the boat. and carrying Tar for paying her, and other necessary articles towards completing her for sea. Wednesday 1st. August. Today the Carpenter 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 too tedious and likewise useless to relate our daily occurrences sufficient to say that our labours were directed towards picking up anything we could find about the Beach tending to make this 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 providing ourselves with provisions for which purpose we generally equipt ourselves with large clubs and Doctors scapels and sallied forth in search of seals and sea elephants and often had to travel two or three miles over large sharp stones without shoes ere one 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 give to the best of my power endeavour 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 at 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 difficulty is made up by their great swiftness in their swimming, and are fortified against the effects of long continuence in the cold 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 on shore they are very helpless and Keep tumbling amongst the Rocks, on being pursued they bite severely and when irritated very savage often 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 course food wad daily decreasing our Strength, our Sanguine expectations were in a few days realized and every one commenced egging egging egging rising always by daylight, when many before Breakfast brough from ten to twelve doz in each; thus of course preventing a supply in the next years Brood. While thus employed we were obliged to use long sticks to throw them of their nests to get at the Eggs when we were regarded as intruders with side long glances but we carried no terrors with us. The eggs are longer 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 of the passengers and among the rest myself have eaten 3 dozen during the day, Fried Boiled and Made into milk. Not having any culinary articles it is necessary I should now give my readers an Idea of our substitutes for these useful articles. It has already been noticed how we provided ourselves with Boilers for making soup having so far advanced in luxury we became anxious to have fried as well as boiled and for the purpose we picked up



pieces of tin and copper off the Ship's Bottom converting 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 practised in Cooking their Meat and making their Gravy, the latter was always done by mixing salt water with the Oil while frying the meat minced chops boiled and fried roots with eggs being our usual repast and raw roots for desert for the last mentioned article we were obliged some times to climb half way up the hill and bring them down in Bags. Latterly they became very scarce and when a spot was found where they were plentiful the greatest secrecy was observed by the persons, lest they should be plundered or their larders plundered with poachers. Thus we paused away our time. Killing sea elephants getting eggs and other eatables, the elephants we Killed with large Clubs going up to them while asleep, knocking them on the nose and stunning them them, when we commenced Butchering, taking out the Heart 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 trouble and distrefsefs we never lost sight of the Merciful Being who has placed us in this situation and our supplications and prayers were regularly offered up every Sunday, Mr. Saw and myself officiating the former in the Scotch and myself in the English form; many of the crew joining.

Wednesday 15th. Augt. During last night we experienced a severe gale from the S.W. with a tremendous swell from the same 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 the liver, heart, kidneys and roots up into small pieces, mixing it with Penguins Blood, this we found to answer very well, some casks 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 drinkables - weather moderating.

Monday 20th Augt. 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 pafsing 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 Blenden Hall who were wrecked on the 23rd of July 1821 should this fall into the hands of human persons we hope by the assistance of God they will do their best endeavours to render every assistance towards alleviating our present sufferings and the prayers of many unfortunate sufferers will be offered up for them.

(signed) Alexr. Greig commander."

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 fire one for the purpose of catching them, placing ourselves round it with long sticks and when they alighted knocked them down, we Killed in this manner several Basketfuls and found them good eating.

Finding that the fleas were very numerous in our present abode we commenced shifting our Tents since some were obliged to keep their Beds from the severity of their sting. Several Boxes of perfumery having drifted on shore it was laughable to see the Sailors actually washing themselves with Lavender and Honey waters, rubbing their faces hands and feet with Milk of Roses and indeed perfuming themselves all over with many jocular reamarks about Beaus and Dandies.



Friday 24th. All hands employed laying in a stock of eggs against the day of need. It will hardly be believed when I say this day one of the crew eat 5 dozen eggs the general average being from 3 to 4 dozen each during the day. Several of the men went down to the Beach to live separately themselves from the Captain and passengers giving the former to understand that they had no objections to provide provisions for him and his son but declined assisting the passengers several of whom made offers of remuneration offering any of them 3£ a month to 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 was now felt and everyone became much recruited and stronger. I thank God they had not the property of fowls Eggs. I believe his Eye was upon us in this dreary wilderness. Joseph Harris seaman commenced building a canoe the ribs of which he formed out of wooden Hoops of Casks over which elephant's skins were lashed. and Tarred this this laudable example was followed on the 4th of September by Joseph Nibbs and two others by their building of a Boat 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 web footed color Black with a white ring around the Head, their nests are underground and generally with a pool of water in front before them - Employed as usual Killing Elephants ec. 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 Septr. 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 Septr. Another species of Birds made their appearance on the Island which answers to the description of the Petrel Tribe, being about 18 inches long the Bill an inch and a half long Black and forked at the end the Body of a sooty 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 although mute by day are very clamorous during the night. The whole island was as full of holes as a Rabbit warren - They burrow in the ground like Rabbits. We caught them just at dusk in considerable numbers for the wings of many sea fowls are so long as to prevent them 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 -.

September 7. Saw several newly Hatched penguins, the Carpenter finished caulking the Punt commenced on the 4 Instant Employed preparing Elephants skins for the canoe and a mast and sail for the Punt.

Septr. 21. We experienced a very severe gale with Rain, Thunder and lightening which prevented those on the Beach from working on the Canoe - Our Stock of Penguins decreasing fast, having been too long Kept they became Bad.

Septr. 25. Accomplished the Canoe and got her ready for launching.

Wednesday 26. The Carpenter laid the Keel for another Boat and from his well known ability as a boat Builder we placed great confidence in her being able to make the trip to Tristan D Acunha with greater safety than either the Canoe or Pont already built.

Sept. 30. Six of the men Killed and Elephant about 12 feet long, this they could not accomplish till nearly 6 hours had elapsed in beating him over the Head with large Clubs.



Thus far we have never had 48 hours without rain, and most bitter cold weather.

October 2nd. Several of the men went up the Hill and brought Albatrosses Eggs which we found to be good eating.

October 4. the weather being mild the Pont was launched and sent out to fish and returned in three or 4 hours having caught about 50 fishes which were distributed among the passengers and men but in a very small portion to the former. The sailors called these fish "old wives" The Pont answering so well for the fishing another was commenced by another party of men and soon finished when both Ponts went out a fishing whenever the weather would admit of their being launched, and those assisting to haul them up got a good proportion of fish but seldom exceeding 7 or 8 each to the passengers, after exulting in their good fortune in being able to fish for themselves better than us their illiberality was certainly conspicuous affording us a very bad specimen of the generally believed true generous character of British Tars.

On the 6th Messrs Liddel, McTavish, MacLinnen G. and F. Symers commenced building a Pont for themselves procuring planks from the Wreck.

Sunday 14th. The Carpenter having finished his Boat all hands went to launch her but to his great mortification and disappointment found her to be very cranky and unmanageable being too long for the Breadth. He therefore determined upon cutting her in half and introducing another plank in the middle.

Thursday 18 Oct. We were all put in high Spirits one of the men having descried a vessel from the S.W. point of the Island, two of the passengers Messrs Liddel and MacLinnen, 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 our ill constructed Boats to venture out, but we still hoped that she was a South Seaman, in which case we were in sanguine expectations, of soon being realized from our miserable condition. I regret to say that even in this deplorable situation some were inclined to steal and pilfer.

Lieut Phipps and his Wife having unguardedly left there some evil disposed person succeeded in getting in and stole his watch and other valuables to the amount of £70 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 Tristan 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 19th. Weather very cloudy and hazy wind from the S. Wand variable. The first boat with the following men left the Island for Tristan d' Acunha, Wm. Taylor, McCulloch, McAllister, Jacob McDougal, Wm. Smith and Joseph Nibby cook the attempt in everybodys opinion was rash and every one tried to dissuade them from risking their lives, before another boat could accompany them, but they had determined upon it and persuasion became useless, they set out with the Heartfelt prayers of every one for their safe arrival. At 12 oclock they were seen considerably to the Northward and doubt became general of their being able to make good 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 Oct. The carpenter finished his boat and we were made happy by seeing her so much improved by widening her six inches more she was found to be quite manageable in a sea way and pulled well.



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 carpenters boat to start. This ship we afterwards learnt was the Providence, from England to Botany Bay with convicts and touched at Tristan for Potatoes and other refreshments the Island afforded.

Monday 22nd. Octr. The carpenter having fitted his boat 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 filled which necessitated them to return to the shore and put off their departure to a more favourable and fortunate day and before evening we had to congratulate her crew on this mishap having happened as it came on to blow severely from the N.W. Some of the passengers and seamen went up the Hill to make a fire and stayed all night and returned in the morning of the 23rd being much fatigued having experienced very bad and cold weather up the Hill; They did not see anything like a vessel - very bad weather - people employed making rope and nets for fishing.

30th. Octr. Weather much finer. The carpenter launched his boat to pull 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 woollen clothes.

Wednesday 7th. Found several Eggs, of the Petrel which gladdened us in again living on Eggs, being the most healthy of all our food.

Thursday 8th. November. Fine clear weather, wind from the S.W. being favourable for the Carpenter making an attempt to gain Tristan d' Acunha. All hands assembled on the beach to launch the Boat we now placed so much dependence in, and about 8 o'clock in the morning being manned with the following men, she left us with our sincere and Heartfelt prayers for the successful issue of their dangerous enterprise, here follows the names of the Crew --

Robert Perrie	-	Carpenter
Leonard Hawksby	-	Boatswain
Joseph Thomas	-	Seaman
Thomas Elliot	-	D---
Jas Weston	-	D---
Rich'd Gilbert	-	D---
John Curtin	-	D---
Geo Leggatt	-	D---
Wm Smith	-	D Seaman
Edward Hurry	-	Steward

Three hearty cheers were given on their quitting the shore and we trusted in the goodness of Providence that she might be the bearer of Good news for the miserable remainder of their Brother sufferers - Some went up the Hill anxiously watching her progress, and did not come down 'till her arrival was considered by them to be safe. We all now look forward for a speedy and happy relief out of our miseries and hardships.

Friday 9th. Very fine weather many an anxious eye towards Tristan expecting the Carpenters Boat.



Saturday 10th. This being a very fine day and the wind favourable for the return of the Boat every eye was cast towards the last named Island.

Mr. Law and myself started early in search of Seal for our subsistence, and travelled to the North point. Not meeting with success we sat ourselves down on a large rock and each began recounting our misfortunes while thus amusing ourselves my companion looked seawards and discried two whale Boats; Dropping our clubs we hastened to our habitation to give the joyful news, but in this we were anticipated by one of the seamen to give a description of the many happy faces would be impossible and none but those who have felt a similar release can imagine our extreme joy; Congratulatory words and shaking of hands never ceased till the Boats were landed when the same scene took place with our deliverers. Ere they landed we thought them to be South seamen coming to Seal on the Islands and hoped the ship was on the opposite side but on a nearer approach we saw our men that had gone in the Carpenters Boat and were soon informed of the Boat having safely reached the Island on Thursday evening and on making known our great misfortune and distress to the Inhabitants they most cheerfully manned their whale Boats assisted by the Carpenters party and came over to our assistance bringing with them whatever refreshments they could, Such as potatoes, biscuits, salt, Milk, Butter etc. After the first transports of joy had ceased we were informed that the inhabitants of Tristan d' Acunha consisted of 10 men, one woman and two children, of whom Wm Glafs and John Nankavele 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 removal of the same he volunteered out of the Horse artillery drivers to become a settler and purchased the cattle and stock from Government. The latter was formerly in the Dock Yard at Simons Town, a mason by trade, the others had come at different times and were admitted on conditions that they should assist the proprietors and derive an equal share of the Profits produced from the Elephants Oil Seal Skins Potatoes etc. We were likewise informed of the death of General Buonaparte, enquiry was made regarding the Punt that left us on the 19th Octr but they knew nothing of her. We therefore concluded and gave them up for lost. Three Ships had touched at Tristan d' Acunha since our ship wreck but none came near our miserable abode supposing the Island desolate. How grateful ought we to be to these great merciful disposer of all Events who had always preserved us from the jaws of Death for extending his mercies towards us miserable wretches in thus affording us timely aid and saving us from starvation, for this certainly would have followed in a fortnight or Three weeks from what we learned of our preservers. The day past in questions innumerable and every one was anxious to hear their answers. In the evening it was finally settled wind and weather permitting that as many as could be safely carried in open Boats should be conveyed to Tristan d' Acunha on the following morning. Preparations were therefore made, everyone packing up their Red Blanketts in a small compass as possible the distance being between eight and nine leagues. Caution was requisite in not overloading the Boats, The Women with their Husbands and children Capt. Greig and son were the first party to be removed and consequently they all got ready. How different was our situation this day, from miserable beings we were in a moment changed to happy Mortals hoping once more to have the sweet enjoyment of civilized Society and the endearing comforts of relatives and friends. For this blessing we shall ever feel grateful to the carpenter for his exertions and trust his merit may be rewarded by a successful issue of all his undertakings in this world.

Sunday 11th November. This morning the party already mentioned that were to proceed to Tristan d' Acunha were early down on the Beach with their Bags of Clothes etc. but the weather was very still and hazy. About 7 a.m. the day was thought favourable



for the attempt; consequently the Boats were launched and likewise one of the Punts. The latter was serviceable 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. Glaifs and were as follows viz in the first and largest Boat. Mrs. Captn Keys, Lieut. and Mrs. Pepper, Phillip Harris, Two children and a servant; In the second and smallest Captn Greig and Son Quartemaster and Mrs. Gormly and Mr. Newnham.

They left Inaccefsible for Tristan d'Acunha about eight oclock a.m. and arrived at the latter Island about three Oclock in the afternoon. Monday and Tuesday the weather being so unfavourable we could not expect the return of the Boats.

On Wednesday the weather became mild and the wind from the Eastward everyone anxiously looking out for the Boats nor were they long kept in suspense. About half past 11 oclock a.m. they were discried making towards the island under sail and half an hour later 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 favourable we left the Island for Tristan and were arranged as follows..Mefsr. Mctavish Maclennen, Liddel G & J. Symes in the largest Boat; In the smallest Mefsr. Law, Patch and Turlouy. After a pleasant pafsage of nearly five hours we arrived at our place of destination and were most heartily welcomed to Tristan d'Acunha by the Hospitable Inhabitants who immediately conducted us to the Mansion House and set before us what their simple store could 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 were dispatched to Inaccefsible who in there turn could not leave the Island till the following Sunday. In the largest Boat were Mr. Giberne and Sabbaden a native servant. In the smallest Lieut. Harris and Mr. Scrynigeoue. 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 ponts. The smallest however being the best sea Boat 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 d' Acunha the good Islanders did everything in their power to make us comfortable having Killed the Bullocks, Sheep and Pigs of which they had enough for their own use and a few to dispose off 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 on the Island. That however was not the case which will be seen hereafter.

The Carpenter again began Boat building on this Island, but on a much larger scale having proper tools for the purpose, It was calculated to be about 12 tons burden large enough to go between the Islands of Inacefsible and Nightingale and carry part of us to the Cape of Good Hope if necefsity required.

After scrambling over rocks and stones many of us nothing on our feet for nearly four months, What must have been our pleasure when we landed on Tristan to find instead of rugged Rocks and stones, fine gravel walks large green fields and gardens well cultivated. - Scarcely was there a moment in the day if it was possible to get out one or other was walking with a glass under his arm anxiously sweeping the horizon in hopes of



seeing a ship.

On this Island there are plenty of wild Goats and Pigs, supposed to have been left there by the Americans when in possession of these Islands. The Goat are rather difficult to get at living as they do on the summit of the mountain the ascent being by no means easy. The Pigs inhabit the lower Ground where it is covered with Brush-wood and a tall kind of rushes which the Islanders call Tussuck, a party went up the hill and killed a few goats which 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 six 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 vefsel. Thus pafsed the first ship since our arrival here, and to prevent as far as pofsible the like from happening again, we immediately cut down wood, piled large quantities together in order to make fires against the coming of another Ship. After the vefsel had pafsed a party was formed among the Officers and pafsenagers that would agree to it to keep watch for a specified time every clear day that another ship might not pafs by so far unobserved. This however was only of short duration. About this time Mr. Glafs got an addition of a fine child to his Family the third since his arrival on the Island neither of them had been Baptised and he embraced the opportunity of our being there to get them all christened. Mr. Patch Afst. Surgeon H.C.S. supplied the place of Curate. - We had now given up hopes of seeing any vefsel until the time the Christmas fleet pafsed, when we thought one or other of the ship might touch as the Island in want of water, but how agreeably were we disappointed on the 9th January to see a ship standing toward the Island. All was immediately in motion a Boat was launched and pulled off to her tho at the distance of 5 Leagues. Various were the conjectures about her wither she was English Dutch or American. On her nearer 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 did Captn. Greig and Son go off in a Second Boat, on gaining the vefsel however the found the Captain a super cargo had gone on on shore. We rejoiced to see the Boat approach with more people than her own which on her landing the strangers were found to be Captn D. Lauchlan of the Brig Nerineo and Mr. Hertroy supercargo they were from Buenos Ayres to the Cape of Good Hope with Mules.

The Captain with the true feelings of a British Seaman agreed to take us all on board without delay. This was about six oclock 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 received on Boad and the Casks again sent on shore. Soon after it began to blow from the N.W. which obliged the Captain on board to get and leave his casks behind as also a few of our men who had gone on shore in the morning. In this vefsel we were treated by Captain D Lauchlan, Mr. John Hicks, Mate and Mr. Hertroy Super-cargo in a most Kind and generous manner not a thing did we want there was in the ship. All their Beds and their Cabin did they give up for the Ladies, the Gentlemen sleeping on the Hay between decks which made an excellent Bed, better indeed than we had been accustomed to for some months. Thus did our time pafs away eating and drinking of the best till the 23rd of January 1822 when we arrived at the Cape exactly Six Months from the time of our being wrecked on the Island of Inaccefsible.