

On Board the *SCHAH JEHAN* - August 1860

... on deck directly after. I have been sewing very busy all the morning and making up my plaid dresses to wear, for I feel it so very cold. Some of the girls behaving very ill indeed and very noisy. And some woman came on board with Apples and Lemons to sell. I received a letter with a Post Office order of one Pound from my dear Mother. I pray God to bless me that I may pay it back a hundred fold. They had an early tea for the luggage came here directly after and the men had as much as they could do. We have been eating onion stew and carrots and apples ... we closed the day with a prayer meeting. Good night.

21st August

We were dressed and went on deck before breakfast and the remainder of the luggage was brought. A woman came on board with a variety of things to sell and we were all very pleased to buy. A gentleman distributed a number of books amongst us. I had a very nice hymnbook given me. I am quite pleased with it. After the gentleman gave us the books he read to us a Chapter of St. John's Gospel about Jesus Christ asking water of the woman of Samaria and then he explained to us the Chapter and told us we ought to

search for the living water, and then we should never thirst.. and that the sea is like the pleasures of the world, the sea will never quench our thirst neither the pleasures of this our desires. They may for a while, but what will the end be? Everlasting punishment makes all very anxious for our bodies but are we half as anxious for our souls. No I am afraid not. I pray God will put good thoughts in my heart and good desires and teach me to do unto others as I would be done by. Three ladies came to visit us in the evening and I promised to write to one of them. Her address is Miss Richards, Hampton Road, Plymouth, Devon. Miss Richards is a very amiable lady. I should like to know more of her very much. There is one young woman that keeps a day school for the children. I think it's very kind of her, her name is Sarah Chambers. It has not rained at all today. The wind is rather cold and there's not been any sunshine. The young woman that fell downstairs is much better. She has been on deck today. The sailors have been industrious today preparing the sails and putting new cord. A great number of the men are at work and doing their duty like men. Some of the girls are very noisy, I am afraid we shall be ordered below if they continue so. The girls kept a great noise as they were going to bed

and one girl's bed was taken from her and given to another. We were obliged to send for the constables and doctor to settle it.

22nd

A very windy morning but the sea was quite calm, A great many of the girls were very sea sick. The young woman returned home that fell downstairs. I have been sewing in the morning and reading in the afternoon. Mr. Dashwood was in the vessel and called our names to see if we were all here. I received the change of the order from the Postman and wrote a letter to my mother.

23rd

The vessel sailed. The weather was very rough, nearly every one on board were very sea sick. The wind seems quite contrary to our sailing. There are a great many of us wishing we were at home instead of here. There's another matron here, an Irish woman. So we must stay for the Irish and Scotch to be served in every thing first. All the men are very busy pulling the ropes, all the women having been ordered below and the best thing we can do is get into our berths as fast as we can for we are all very ill.

24th

Not anything in particular except that the vessel is not many miles from Plymouth. None of the girls seem any better. The doctor has allowed us to stay in our berths all day. I was on deck a short time in the morning, but it was very windy and very hot. My sister is very sea sick.

25th

The wind is yet against us and all on board appear to be suffering more or less from sea sickness.

26th

Sunday morning, All of us that were able to get up are on deck. It does not appear anything like Sunday. There's no prayers been kept amongst the girls, I do not know about the men, whether they have or not. The sea is very calm and the wind fair. The vessel does not proceed very fast. The afternoon seems to be like rain.

*Go with us Lord, our vessel guide
Across the pathless sea;
And grant whate'er we leave beside
We never part from Thee.*

I attended at the young men's prayer meeting in the afternoon and the English and Welsh young women kept a prayer meeting in their apartment and they all seemed more serious than usual.

27th

The Lands End was in sight in the morning. I assisted in cleaning in the morning and making dinner. The girls appear to be very industrious today and they are nearly recovered from sea sickness. There are about half a dozen girls here get very ill. We have seen several schooners today at a distance and one small Cornish schooner came rather close to us. The weather is very fine today and the vessel has sailed 8 miles an hour but she has not gone far on her voyage yet. The Lizzards Sand is in sight and I can see their light house. The Captain appears a nice gentleman, there are three mates here, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd mate. They are very civil and will explain anything about the voyage if we will enquire of them. We are ordered to put up our berths so I suppose I must say good night.

28th

The sea is very rough. A fine vessel from Germany passed us this morning, they hoisted their colours and then we hoisted our colours in answer. Another foreign vessel passed us, but I do not know from

what port it came. The waves dashed against the vessel in the afternoon and it rained very much. Nearly all the girls are ill again. All the things have fallen off our shelves and the pails of water are all upset, So we have a fine mess here.

29th

It's very windy this morning. We are nearly all of us sick again this morning, but we have managed to crawl up on deck. The girls are unable to do much of any thing today because it is so rough.

30th

It's still rather rough but not so rough as it has been, I feel very ill this morning. The young men cleaned our apartment for us. Some of the men were very unwilling that they were put to do it. My sister Jane is much better today. Some of the girls have taken the pudding belonging to our mess. The girls are very quiet here today. We have had no prayer meeting these three nights for we are too ill and it's too rough to stand to read. We were very merry in the afternoon. Eliza Tucker and myself have been walking up and down the deck and playing about. John Williams came to sit near me, but the constable soon ordered him to his own quarters. The Doctor has a great deal to do here, between the sick and the unruly ones for

every little grievance is told to the Doctor, We had prayers this evening, but a very few of the girls attended prayer.

31st

A very fine morning, the sun shines very bright. we have sailed 5 miles an hour. I have finished the 3rd Chemise this morning. My sister is much better. There is but one girl in bed this morning. Laura Rogers. She looks very poorly. A fine vessel passed us. They hoisted colours and then we hoisted colours and said good bye. I have been playing some tunes on the concertina. It has rained a shower in the afternoon and there is a beautiful rainbow in the sky. There's an Elderly person from Wales that has not been from bed since she has been here. I did not know any thing about her until this afternoon. We enjoyed ourselves very much this evening in singing songs. One sang Annie Laurie and Good News from Home and Beautiful Star, and my sister sang Robin yn Sisyl in Welsh, and some other pretty Pieces. We ended with a prayer and the hymn Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah. The girls are very quiet to night. Nos dda y chwi fy mham. A Bendith Dduw fod gyda chwi. Yn cadw chwi bob amser.¹

¹ Roughly translated 'Goodnight to you, my mother. May God's Blessings always be with you. Take care, always.'

September 1st

A fine morning, the sea is very calm. The captain was very angry with the Cabin boy for not doing his work soon enough in the morning. The man answered the Captain rather impudently and so the poor man was beat about the head and put into irons. After the Captain's passion was over he soon forgave him. Two of the young women had a fight this morning before breakfast. No 4 Mess. I suppose they wanted a little more appetite for their breakfast. Two of the sailors have had a fight as well so I think there has been sufficient wars in the vessel for this month. The girls are busy now sewing. We have all made a good dinner, all my mess mates were at dinner today. We had pea soup and a rice pudding and boiled rice. Our meat was lost today. Some of the greedy ones had two pieces, but I enjoyed my dinner nicely with out it. It's a lovely afternoon the sea is so very calm but the vessel seems to sail very slowly today. My sister has been assisting to clean our apartment today. They have the shelves and Post and tables to scrub Saturdays. They all seem very happy this afternoon with no remains of the morning storms, so I suppose it's forgive and forget with us all today, a famous motto. Our constable George has been very ill. He was very kind to us when we were ill, making gruel.

He was a famous old nurse and as good a tongue as any old woman, making tea or any thing we wanted. The Captain told us that we are on the Bay of Biscay, We have a little more wind now than in the morning. The Captain has been reading some of Eliza Tucker's songs to Mrs Davies. They were both highly amused with her writing and spelling. Mrs Davies is a Cabin passenger I suppose. I am not certain. We kept prayers before going to bed and then some of us repeated pretty hymns and verses from memory.

2nd

A fine morning. The Doctor complained of our late rising. We were rather late, as it was near 8 o'clock when some of us rose from bed. I spent the first part of the day in cleaning our room out and at 11 O'clock we had prayers read by the Captain. Indeed the Captain read the lessons well. Many a clergyman would have almost envied him, his voice was clear and earnest, but I think many of the listeners would have preferred an extemporary prayer with a Chapter from the Bible and a hymn or two well sung. We had a good dinner and then when it was clean in our room, the Doctor read the Evening service to those who wished to join and we had a little singing. It seems really like Sunday to day. We had plenty of nice

cake for our tea, but the water was very salty to day. I went to bed early for I had a bad headache, but the girls were singing until it was rather late, which occasioned a little disagreement between them. Laura Rogers is very ill and has had a night, poor girl she suffers a great deal but she has been on the deck to day, she was carried up and her bed was put on the deck and she has been there the best part of the day. She is an English girl about 18 years old. There's a married woman very ill also, I do not know her name. The Doctor pronounced the girls well behaved this evening so we have been very good to day.²

A fine day and the wind is in our favour. Not any thing in particular has happened this morning, The girls are all busy reading or sewing or chatting. The sailmaker has been repairing the sails, and the Captain has been assisting one of the girls to wash his Dog. I think the Captain takes more interest in his Dog, Fanny, than any one else on board. There has been some confusion to day downstairs. Laura Rogers has lost her Bible and all our Bags and boxes have been searched to try and find it, but it has not been found yet. It is a lovely afternoon and the sea is very calm. Some of the girls have been quarrelling about religion and one poor Irish girl cried because

² 'Today' is spelt 'to day' throughout the diary.

she was told she should never go to heaven if she remained a Catholic. The Irish Matron consoled her and dried her tears. Our messes were put to rights this afternoon, 8 or 9 to each mess. Jane and myself had our names put in No 5 mess, the same mess as Eliza Tucker. I am very glad we are changed to that mess. There has been vessels seen about 5 miles off but I have not seen any passing close to this vessel. The *Sehak Jehan* is in full sail today and she looks beautiful. I have finished a petticoat to day. I commenced it Saturday. I have walked about since tea. We had prayers but three quarters of the young women were romping about and keeping a noise, Adieu for tonight.

I forgot to say that we had only meat for dinner, neither vegetables, biscuit nor bread with it. It was too late to make the pudding when the flour was given out, but we had a nice cake for tea. The Captain told the sailmaker that he should be put in iron, if he the Captain would catch him talking to any of the girls as he was in command here. We are now crossing the Atlantic Ocean, we are on the deep blue sea. I am at home every night and have such good thoughts with my dear Mother, good night. One girl saw a beetle on her bed. She screamed out and said it was a mucle baste as big as a wee canary bird. It's getting late good night.

4th

A fine morning the wind is still in our favour, the vessel has sailed 7 or 8 miles an hour today. The children's school is kept on deck today. I think it is much more pleasant than downstairs. The young men have commenced their school today and I believe the young women that wish to learn to write will have copy books and slates given to them. There is a box full of different sorts of needlework to be given out to us girls this afternoon. The girls have been singing songs this evening. Some of the Scotch sang very pretty songs, one English girl named Caroline Type sang a very vulgar song. She is not fit to be with respectable girls. The vessel sailed 10-miles an hour in the night. It's a lovely moonlight night.

5th

A very nice morning. The wind is in our favour Laura Rogers does not appear very well today. The needlework has been given to the girls. Some have had calico and others have had cotton for making Jackets. My sister has had 2 yards of print. I chose some knitting cotton. I think the girls are well pleased. The vessel sails 8½ to 9 miles a day.³ The sun shines very bright and it's warm enough

³ This should be miles an hour.

without shawls on deck. Mrs Thompson was confined to her bed this morning and gave birth to a little girl, I believe she is to be christened *Schah Jehan*. The Girls have had Prayers each end of the room this evening. The Doctor has put an end to the songs. We were allowed to remain on deck until it was dark. Miss Jane Davies from mountain Ash has been cutting out the work for the girls.

There were 2 nice fishes caught by the sailors. There has been Paper and Slate given to the girls to learn to write. The girls are playing, several of them are turning head over keel, M. J. Coombe Matilda Brisband and several others. There are good sized brown beetles here, they are an inch and a half in length, it's what the Scotch girls call *mucle Beasts*. The Doctor has been looking down our skylight to tell us it was getting late, so good night. Sarah Chambers is in trouble for she has lost her Diary, I hope-she will be able to find it. The vessel has sailed 180 miles to day.

6th

It's very warm and very calm. The vessel sails very slowly. I have finished one piece of embroidery. We have seen some very nice fish today, but none were caught. We have seen a steam packet⁴ about 8 miles off. One of the young men boiled Sugar with the preserved

⁴ A ship that sails on a regular route carrying passengers or freight.

potatoes for dinner. I suppose he thought to have a nice pudding. There were some beautiful little birds flying over the sea. Laura Rogers seemed much the same as she was yesterday. We had a general muster on deck to day before the Captain and Doctor. The young women passed first and then the young men, 3 of them were sent to put clean shirts on and if they did not change directly their sugar and tea was to be stopped for a week. We sang some pretty songs and amusing pieces of poetry and then had a hymn sung and a prayer.

7th

It is still very calm but there is a little more breeze than yesterday. The vessel sails about 4 miles an hour. There was another little girl born this morning. There is a fine vessel in sight. We do not often see many vessels now that we are on the ocean. The women have been washing and there are lines filled with clothes on both decks all washed in salt water. The weather is not as warm as yesterday. The girls are sewing or reading on deck and many are very idle. The invalids are recovering wonderfully. They have been sewing and knitting to day. We had prayers early and soon after some of the girls had a quarrel and Ellen Shewbridge

and Ellen Lloyd had a fight, they did not make much noise about it. Mary Coombe complains of being too tired to undress and get to bed, but the Irish matron makes her do it. Last night she let her berth on the floor all night too lazy to tie it, and we have not anything to tire us except it's sitting down too much. There is an elderly woman that does nothing but eating and drinking and sleeping and yet this old woman is never quiet, but always grumbling. I blush to tell you she is a Welsh woman. Some of the girls have been teasing Anne Phillips, she is such a queer girl, she fancies that every girl is speaking about her when no one notices her. The girls have been jumping from bed for there are a number of beetles crawling on them and Selina Thompson saw a large rat on Elizabeth Vaughn's berth. Adieu.

8th

A fearful storm, it commenced in the night. Everything has been capsized here. The form⁵ fell on one girl's face; she hurt her nose very much. They are mostly ill to day and one fell down stairs. The Captain and mates and all the men were down all night. I did not sleep at all for the vessel rocked so much, and the waves made a great noise. One of the masts is cracked with the wind, the

⁵ A wooden bench.

vessel sailed 9 miles an hour in the afternoon and more than that during the night.

9th

If we were to be wrecked, I am afraid that very few would be found with their lamps trimmed. God be merciful to us all and whenever Thou pleasest to call us way we be prepared to meet Thee. It's a fine morning and the wind is in our favour, we are all able to get up as usual and all feel well and strong. How grateful we ought to be to God for taking care of us, but how soon we all forget. Oh strengthen us O Lord and teach us to love Thee. The Captain read the morning service but not many were present. We had Pea soup Pork and pudding for dinner. A fine Vessel passed close to us to day. It's very pleasant to see a vessel now on the broad ocean. Selina Thompson has taken some pudding. I attended prayers with the married people in the afternoon. There were a good many present. One of the girls had her Hat blown off her head, her name is Jane Bennett. We had prayers before going to bed. Good night and may I be prepared to meet my God. Caroline Type and Catherine the matron had a quarrel. Mr Plumb the Constable gave Caroline a good lecturing and told her that she and

½ dozen besides her were not fit to be amongst other girls. The vessel sailed very well in the day and also in the night. Selina Thompson got into disgrace amongst us, she went with one of the married people's pudding from the bakehouse and hid it, but it was found again.

10th

A fine morning the wind rather too calm but it is still in our favour. A Bark⁶ passed at a distance this morning, we can see 3 others at about 10 miles distance. We can only see the sails. The Schak Jakar's sails are all up again. They were all down when it stormed so very much. Some of the girls are industrious and some are very idle. I have done another piece of embroidery this morning. I do not think that anything particular has happened to day. The clouds are so beautiful this evening. I never saw them so beautiful in my life before. The girls have been allowed to stay on deck until 8 o'clock. They have been very good to night. The vessel sails about 4 miles an hour.

⁶ A bark (correctly spelt 'barque') is a sailing ship.

11th

A fine day. We were agreeably surprised this morning when we went up on deck. There was a nice thick tent put on the poop⁷ to shade us from the sun. We are treated very well here and the Cook is improved in cooking lately. There is an old woman here that smokes. I was so surprised to see her one night smoke in bed. She has promised not to do so again. The young women are going on the same as usual. The *Schah Jehan* sails rather slow, the wind is very calm. Adieu.

12th

A lovely morning. We all made a good breakfast. After breakfast we had a sailor's treat. All our boxes were carried to our compartment and we had plenty of time to take out what we wanted and had a good view of everything we had. They all seemed overjoyed. We must now look out our summer clothes. We shall see it very queer to have two summers in a run something like two Sundays in a week. we had for dinner Pea soup Pork and Cabbage, for tea some nice cake and some tea I brought from home. The Captain's Black Cook was allowed to play the violin to us on the

⁷ The 'poop' is the aftermost deck of a ship.

poop and we danced to the music, Scotch reels and Polkas. We enjoyed ourselves very much. We danced on each side of the deck. The Captain was highly amused. We had some singing as well so it's been quite a holiday, Good night.

13th

A very fine morning. Our ship sails much faster to day. We have been all very happy to day. We have seen 2 ships at a distance. The violin was played tonight and we danced. It was very, warm during the night. I could not sleep with the heat and some child cried a long time. The child had been drinking lemon juice.

14th

A very nice morning. There is a favourable wind. This ship sail 8 or 9 miles an hour, that is very good. One ship passed us quite close, it was not so large as the *Sehak Jehan*. She was from some part of France. We are delighted at the sight of any vessel. A great many of the women have been washing this morning. They are allowed to wash Tuesday and Friday from 5 to 10 A.M. They wash all sorts of clothes and there are lines put up on purpose. I would never believe everything to be so compact for our convenience as it is here. Agnes Trotter has been teaching the children lately.

S. Chambers felt indisposed to continue so the Doctor has put A Trotter in her place for a short time. We had for dinner Beef Preserved potatoes and rice pudding and cake for tea. We have plenty of oatmeal, treacle, sugar, Butter, Tea and coffee. We have pickles and lemon juice given us and flour and suet to make pudding every day and we have raisins 3 times a week and we have bread twice a week. We have plenty of biscuit every day. The Black Cook played the violin to us this evening and there was a great deal of dancing with us girls, they were mostly Scottish dances. Catherine May sang a song called the bonnie wee window, a very amusing song. The thermometer is 80 degrees so it's very warm but we shall have it much warmer than this if we live. The new babies are thriving wonderfully and the Mothers are quite strong. The young women are very quiet this evening. I do not see much of the married people but I know they are very comfortable. There are several of the girls lying on the floor because it's so warm. The ship rocks very much, perhaps we shall have a rough sea again. Laura Rogers is quite recovered. Our old constable George also looks much better. One of our present constables is called Noah, the other I do not know his name yet, but I will find out. The Principal is A Mr Lloyd, but we generally call him Mr

Grumble. The head of all is Mr Plumb. There are several eccentric characters here. It is a pity Mr Punch could not visit us for a day or two. S. Chambers intends to give lessons in singing to some of the children. She wishes them to be teetotallers, there's no danger of getting drunk here except with drinking water or lemon juice, but a little weak tea excites some kind of people. The prayer meeting has not been kept up so well lately. For one night Mrs Coleman attempted an extemporary prayer. She became so excited and made such a row. I suppose it was something the same as the Methodists call revival, or something of the sort; very unlike my view of prayer. I never fancy a discontented person being a Christian, but I must not judge others. Adieu.

5th⁸

A fine morning and splendid wind for sailing. The Captain says we have sailed 210 miles in 24 hours. I have seen hundreds of flying fish to day, they are very short, about the length of my hand and 2 birds something like parrots Not anything in particular has happened to day.

⁸ Keturah wrote the wrong dates on the next four entries: For '5th' read '15th'; for '6th' read '16th'; for '7th' read '17th'; and for '8th' read '18th'.

6th

The weather is beautiful. We had a general mustering before going to church. One young man was sent back for not having a clean shirt on. We commenced using the Bath this morning. We had Pea Soup Pork and pudding for dinner. Jane and myself were teaching the children in the afternoon. One young girl fell down stairs and scalded and hurt herself. All has gone the same as usual. We had prayers before going to bed. Bon-sour. We are now sailing about 9 miles an hour. Nos da A new moon the 2nd since we are on the sea.

7th

A fine morning, the vessel sails 9 or 10 miles an hour. Not anything in particular. I have been teaching the children and we had dancing in the evening. The black cook played the violin. I have been crocheting in the evening, a very warm night. I never went to bed, but layed on a blanket and sheet on the floor.

8th

The wind is not so strong as yesterday. The vessel sails about 6 miles an hour and sometimes more than that. Some man has beat his wife very much, so had to make his appearance before the Captain and crew, the Captain questioned all about them, but I suppose he

could not find out the commencement so the Captain allowed the man to be free this time, not without a good lecture. Martha Theobald and Annie Strangeways had a fight about 6 o'clock A.M. I had a nice bath. We take it in turns 2 messes each morning, it's very nice this warm weather.

19th

Mrs Lloyd (one of) our constables wife, gave birth to a son at 4 o'clock AM. A very fine child. We have seen some lovely fish called porpus⁹ or some such name. It has rained 2 heavy showers to day. The weather is very warm, there is scarcely any wind, the vessel sails about 4 miles an hour. We have passed the Portuguese Islands, but we did not see land; the Portuguese Isles are on the coast of Africa. It has been lightning a few flashes. The Captain has been very considerate. This evening we were allowed to remain on the poop until 9 o'clock. Jane Davies from Mountain Ash is lying on the floor instead of going to bed. Good night.

⁹ porpoise

20th

Another little boy born this morning, a very fine child. This is the fourth. We have had 2 heavy Showers this morning. A fine afternoon.

21st

Rather a cloudy morning, the vessel sails about 6 or 7 miles an hour. We had heavy showers of rain in the afternoon. The heat is very oppressive.

22nd

We are sailing much the same as yesterday. Everything is going on much the same as usual. There are several of the girls rather poorly. The weather is very rainy all day. It's too wet for the children to have school this afternoon. Good night.

23rd

A fine morning, but the wind is not very favourable. There was Church this morning; but I was not well enough to attend service. The Captain came to see us have our dinner; the first time I have seen him in our apartment when we were at dinner. Several of the

girls have been singing this evening on the poop, we are generally on the poop until 9 O'clock at night.

24th

The weather is similar to yesterday. We have sailed 180 miles to day, but only about 80 in the right direction, as the wind is against us. I sleep on the floor every night, it's much more comfortable than in my hammock. There is one girl very ill, she is in great pain.

25th

We sail about 6 miles an hour, but the wind is rather unfavourable. We have seen hundreds of flying Porpussies¹⁰, good sized ones, they seemed to be running a race. There is not anything particular here in the afternoon except that No 4 mess have been quarrelling and Mary Coombe has been very troublesome, preventing us from sleeping. Sarah Chambers has been trying to faint and tries to make herself ill. Esther Smith is rather poorly.

26th

The weather is nice and fine, we are sailing about 6 miles an hour. Caroline Type has behaved very badly. She has been impertinent to

¹⁰ porpoises

the Doctor and broke the door to get out of our apartment. The Captain ordered her to bed. We have had the violin played to us by the black cook; and all of us have been dancing.

27th

A nice windy morning, the wind is against us. We sail at 9 miles an hour, but not in the right direction. The children's school was kept in our apartment. We were mustered as usual before the Captain and Doctor, I like mustering day very much. About 2 dozen of the girls were locked in their apartment after tea and they made the most of it and played games and made as much noise as they could and Elizabeth Tucker dressed up and came out when the Schoolmaster was calling our names out. We had a hearty laugh.

28th

The weather is much the same as yesterday. 8 of the girls are rather poorly. The girls have been very merry on deck this evening. Godfrey Taylor an eccentric little widower with three poor little children has fallen in love with Jane Davies and Jane Hodges but I ought to have said climbed in love for the two are taller than Godfrey. We have such fun about him; I do not think he is much more than four foot high. Ellen Londergan and Elizabeth

Vaughn have been teasing Catherine MacFee to our great amusement. Laura Rogers is out of temper about her mattress been taken and when it is returned to her: she pouts and cries instead of going to bed. Mrs Lloyd the Constable's wife has quite recovered and her boy is looking so well. There are a great many cockroaches flying about our apartment, they are very harmless. There are several of the young women here very dirty.

29th

A fine morning. One young man attempted to stab another man. There was a vessel seen about 20 miles distance. Everything is going on as usual. There is a nice breezing wind, but it is very much against us..

30th

On the Equator 7.30 A.M. At noon Lat 0, 24 miles S. of the Equator Lon, 21 degrees W of Greenwich. We are very glad we have crossed the line. We went to Church as usual. Mr Greebody the 1st Mate found a small flying fish, its wings were very fine; I do not know what to compare them to; for they are so beautiful and fine, and the shape of the head is very different to any fish that I have seen. Sarah MacCallum is very poorly, very feverish.

October 1st

We were agreeably surprised this morning by a French vessel homeward bound, they were short of provisions. They had been 5 months out at sea; they had not had but half a biscuit since the 16th of last month. Our Captain was very kind to them, he gave them biscuits, Beef Oatmeal and Coffee and many things besides, enough to last them a month. The sailors were quite overcome with joy. One of the women gave them some cake. They burst into tears, they were so grateful. I think it ought to be a lesson to us not to grumble at what we have, in case a judgement comes on us. I have seen so many throw biscuits into the sea. I hope they will not waste anything again. The vessel rocks to day very much. There are several a little sea sick. We sent a number of letters home; there will be joy when they arrive in England. The Captain of the *Lizzie* from Marseilles has broken his leg but we do not know how it happened. There has been an accident this afternoon, a little boy fell down and broke his leg. It was entirely the fault of his mother. Our ship has sailed 190 miles in 24 hours, Lat 3° S. All the emigrants were very kind to the French sailors. They collected all the biscuits they had with them and the cold meat and one young man gave them a whole cheese and Jane Davies from

Mountain Ash gave them a little bag full of oatmeal and some biscuits and coffee. Their little boat was well filled between everything. We sail 9° an hour. We are in Lat 6° S Lon 23° W

2nd

A fine morning. *Sehak Jehan* sails nicely. The vessel rocks a little; the children's school is not allowed on the poop; in case of another accident; it's kept on the middle deck. There has not anything particular occurred to day. The girls are sitting, (sewing some of them) on the poop. There is another little girl born this afternoon. The name of the Mother is Mrs Collick [Collett] a Welsh woman. This is the fifth new baby. The young women are jumping about the apartment, the cockroaches are flying about their heads. We saw the moon rising before we left the poop this evening. It was a beautiful sight, it was 1/2 past 8 o'clock before she made her appearance; she seemed to rise from the sea, the moon shines much brighter now we are getting into the southern climate. We could see the phosphorus very bright on the sea this evening before the moon rose; we can see it plainly when it's dark, There is plenty of fun in our apartment. Two of the girls have dressed up in boys clothes, Caroline Type and Elizabeth Tucker. They both look like

boys. Caroline Type has the name of Tom Sayers. The girls are all out of bed to be able to view them. They have kept such a disgraceful noise that the Captain was obliged to come to our apartment to put a stop to their noise. The girls jumped to bed in a second, about half a dozen remained; the most laughable thing was to see them disappear. We must say good night for it's past 10 o'clock.

3rd

A lovely morning. The girls are mostly in trouble because they kept such a noise, but the Captain has been very lenient, he has not punished any of us for last night's noise.

Lat $8^{\circ} 40$ S. Long $25^{\circ} 40$ W.

4th

Lovely weather, we sail beautiful; we have had a general mustering as usual. We were all clean and tidy. L. $12^{\circ} 11$ S. Long $27^{\circ} 14'$ 30 W.

5th


The weather is beautiful and fine. The young men have been writing letters to some of the girls and one man about half crazy fancies he is in love with one of the six Scotch sisters, and wants the Captain

to marry them. The poor fellow takes it in earnest; the young men carry him around the deck. The girls have been singing and dancing. Lat 15° , 13 S. Long 28° 57W.

6th

The sea is very calm. The young women cleaned their apartment very clean and their tins were very bright. Mrs Davies and the Captain paid us a visit while we were eating our dinner. Mrs Davies is a very amiable lady. The Black Cook played the violin to us on the poop and one of the Scotch men played the violin to the young men generally every night. Lat 17° 59 S. Long 30° 11 W.

7th

The weather is getting colder every day. We have seen five vessels this morning; it's very seldom we see so many the same day. Doctor read prayers to us to day. It is very rough. We have all our port holes shut, and some of us are very sea sick. I have been very sick in the morning. The Doctor has been very kind to me. We do not see all the stars that we did in England. I miss the Little Bear and some of the others that I do not remember now, but we see some that we have never seen before. There are 4 stars that form like this  called the Southern Cross and one of the

stars is very bright. Not anything particular to day. Lat $19^{\circ} 58$
S. Long $28^{\circ} 30$ W.

8th

It is still rather rough. We have seen 2 or 3 vessels one rather
close. We have had music and dancing in the evening. Good night. Lat
 $22^{\circ} 24$ S. Long $32^{\circ} 14$ W.

9th

The vessel rocks very much. We have seen large numbers of birds
to day. Lat $25^{\circ} 28$ S. Long $31^{\circ} 57$ W.

We have passed the Tropic of Capricorn.

10th

I was very frightened this morning. Caroline Type came down in
such a rage to Sarah Chambers, and gave her a good shake and a
box in the ear but not without cause for Sarah Chambers has
composed some lines about her calling her Tom Sayers and speaking
of her in a very disrespectful manner; not only of Caroline but of
several other girls trying to break their characters. The Captain
and Doctor were very angry with S. Chambers. Ellen Shewbridge
and E. Lloyd had a terrible fight. Lat $27^{\circ} 46$ S. Long $30^{\circ} 8$ W.

11th

It's very rough, the vessel rocks very much. I have knitted a cravat for Mrs Davies. She is so amiable and kind. As I was teaching the children in the afternoon a great wave came over us, all the children were obliged to change their clothes. The vessel tossed so much as we were having tea, the tables were capsized. Ellen Lloyd and Carry Type were a little hurt. Harriet Type has had a bad abscess in her ear, poor girl she has suffered very much. The Doctor has lanced it for her this evening and she is very faint. Elizabeth Vaughn is very poorly - my sister is getting very stout. We were up rather late and some of us very noisy. Mr G. threw a bucket of water down on us and drenched some of us, we had such a bit of fun about it. The weather is too wet to muster to day.

Lat 29° S. Long $27^{\circ} 20$ W

12th

It is a very wet and rough morning but that's one comfort, the wind is very favourable. We sail 10 miles an hour. The waves splash over the deck very often but nobody seems to mind getting a shower bath. The weather is much colder, it is about 12 degrees colder

this last 10 days. We are used to the heaving of the vessel. None of us were sea sick. The vessel rocks so I can hardly write a word distinctly. The rain came down in torrents in the afternoon; it's just like as if a cloud had broken over our heads.

13th

The weather is unduly damp and cold. I have seen a vessel at a distance of 5 miles. It was a whaler. Doctor was annoyed because we remained down stairs after tea instead of going on deck to get rid of the foul air. I have been making a petticoat for M. J. Coombe. The Doctor gave her the flannel to protect her from the cold. She is so miserably clad and I have made a flannel petticoat for Mrs Davies. We are sent much earlier downstairs now, because it's colder. Jane Davies from Mountain Ash has a gathered finger. Elizabeth Vaughn is much better.

14th

It is a rainy morning. The Captain read the morning service and their has chapel been kept by some of the Scotch in the afternoon. The weather is dull and heavy. Sarah MacCullum is nearly well and strong again. We see a great many beautiful birds now, they are called cape hens and Cape Pigeons. There is one of the scotch

young men very ill. My sister and Mary Johnson are lying in bed, a fit of laziness has taken them very suddenly. We kept prayers in our apartment. M. J. Coombe and Anne Phillips kept a great noise. A Phillips beat M. J. and fought with Ellen Hill. They made a great disturbance.

On a Sunday above all days we ought to endeavour to be at peace one with another.

Lat 33° S. Long 17° W.

15th

A lovely morning. I was on deck before breakfast, the first time I have been so early this fortnight or more; I have been rather lazy lately. The girls' school was kept on deck this morning. The weather is warmer. They caught one of the Cape pigeons and it was given to my sister, she was quite delighted with it and would hardly move from it all the afternoon. Jane was quite annoyed with me because I would not eat my dinner and the bird on the table, Jane brought the bird on, the poop in the afternoon and she was persuaded to let it fly and the bird was glad to fly. Jane is quite miserable after it. We have seen a very large bird to day called

the Albert Cross.¹¹ The sky looked beautiful after sunset. I cannot describe it because it looked so sublime; the colours were Pea green White blue Pink and all of them so bright, I do not think I shall ever forget the sight. Adieu.

Lat 3° S. Long 15° W.

16th

A very rainy day. We exchanged signals with the Lady McDonald at 10 o'clock AM bound from Portsmouth to Sydney. She left Portsmouth two days before we did leave. Harriet Type is very ill, she is much worse than she has been at all. The other girls seem to be much better. We had our boxes to get more warm clothes out; all our clothes have kept very well except a few things have been damped and spoilt. I have made another petticoat for Mrs Davies. I have been on deck nearly all day and I have become very wet. I do not know how to manage about drying my clothes - unless it will be fine tomorrow. We have very nice bread to day, my sisters own making. One man bought a pair of boots of some of the young men for 10/- and promised to pay for them when he could get to his Box, and now he can have his box he refused to pay for them. Anne

¹¹ albatross

Phillips beat my sister in bed. Jane did not touch her back but I gave Anne a box on the face, and it took about four of the girls to hold her. Good night.

17th

Anne Phillips rose early to make her complaints to Captain and Doctor. Harriet Type is much better to day, There is one child dangerously ill, she has a wound under her chin, its in a large hole. Jane Davies from Mountain Ash has a gathered thumb, it's quite as bad as fellum.

18th

A cloudy morning. We can see 6 ship at a distance of 6 or 8 miles. There are numbers of birds flying after this ship. It rains in the afternoon. The girls are busy cleaning tins downstairs ready for tomorrow. It is very cold to day. We passed the small islands called Tristan D-Acurah and the other Nightingale Is. We were all delighted to see them. The Doctor has sailed 9 times passed them but this is the first time he has seen them. The little baby is very ill and not expected to live.

Lat 38° S. Long 13° W.

19th

We have a very favourable wind, we sail about 8 miles an hour. We wrap ourselves as warm as we can, for it's very cold.

20th

We have seen numbers of birds to day, I suppose a great many came from the Island. The little child died about 6 o'clock this evening. All the other invalids seem better. We have been practising singing this evening. Good night.

21st

A lovely morning very like Christmas weather at home. The Baby was buried this morning early; it is very solemn to see any one buried in the sea. We had prayers as usual and school in the afternoon for the children. I saw two large albatross's¹², they were about six or ten feet across the wings. The rain came down in torrents and one woman fainted and several were frightened, the squall was so sudden.

22nd

A very fine breezing day. We saw several large whales; the water came up like a spout first; and then we could see the whales. The

¹² albatrosses

girls were skipping in the evening. We have reading classes every evening, we commence at 7 o'clock.

23rd

A fine day. The girls are skipping, some have taken the cord that ties there hammocks to skip with.

Lat $38^{\circ} 41' S$. Long 18 miles E.

24th

I was surprised this morning by the spouting of a whale a few miles distant from the ship. It has been rough all day, the vessel rocked very much all the night and all day. I have been very sick all day, but I do not think many besides me were sick. We had no school for the children to day, but we were able to have a class evening from 7 until 10 o'clock. Three of the lights are taken away at 10 every night. Annie Strangeways was very frightened by a rat running across the floor.

Lat $40^{\circ} S$. Long $5^{\circ} E$.

25th

It is much more calm this morning. *Sehak Jehar* has sailed 13 miles an hour during the night, but this morning she only sails 7 an hour.

We had a grand mustering this morning. Harriet Type was on deck, but she very soon became very faint, and she seems much worse this evening. We have been reading and reciting pieces this evening and we also have had some singing. Jane Davies thumb is not well yet. Margaret Young had a fall down from the closet and hurt her head. Mrs Thompson is not well since the last Squall. It has been a lovely day. Adieu.

Lat 40° S. Long $8 \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E

Two rats have been seen on a berth.

26th

A large Clipper¹³ passed us quite close. We exchanged signs with her, her name is *Parania* bound from Liverpool to Hong Kong, China, she has been out 54 days. She looked lovely; the sun is so bright and makes her sails look beautiful. We were very pleased to see her pass so close, we could see the man at the wheel quite plain. We have caught the *Parania* at 1 o'clock; it shows what a capital sailor the *Schak Jehan* is for the *Parania* has many more sails than the *Schak Jehan*. The children have been very good this morning at school. The Captain and the 2nd mate have been on board the

¹³ A sharp-bowed sailing vessel built for great speed.

Parania, four sailors rowed them over in a boat. She was so close to us that we could see them very plain on board the *Parania*. We were all delighted to see her so close.

Lat 41° S. Long $11 \frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E.

27th

A lovely morning. There are two vessels in sight, the one we saw yesterday is one of them and there's a fog coming on and covers the other from out sight. The birds are following the vessel all the time, and now there is another that follow us, they are called Whalebirds.

Lat 40° S. Long 15° E.

28th

Selina Thompson and M. J. Coombe fought until Selina fell down with passion. It's been very rough in the night and a heavy squall. The rain descended as if the ocean had exchanged places with the sky. I awoke about 2 o'clock in the morning with the rocking of the ship, and the tin plates and pans falling off the shelves. I dressed myself and went on deck about 5 o'clock. The sea is still rough but it's very fine to watch the sea rising like mountains, now and then a

wave dashing over the ship. The School Master read prayers, the Captain could not leave the Deck.

Lat $40^{\circ} 17$ S. Long $18\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E.

29th

A very fine morning. The vessel sails 9 miles an hour. I have been teaching the children as usual in the morning; and I have been busy with the work box in the afternoon. Annie Willis has caused a great deal of trouble to the 2nd Mate, he touched her arm by accident with a cord, and she told the Captain that the 2nd Mate did it on purpose. The girls are improving with their writing. The young women are singing this evening and some are knitting.

Lat 41° S. Long 22° E.

30th

A lovely day. Some of the young women have been practising Arithmetic. I crocheted a bag for Mrs Williams.

Lat 41° S. Long 26° E.

31st

A lovely day. I have a sick headache. The children have behaved much better to day. The Scotch have made a party for themselves,

in honour of St Hallow or Nos glyn gyuaf, they are very merry. I feel low spirited because it makes one think of Mother and home. I was very weak about a month ago, but I am strong again owing to the Doctor's kindness or else I should have been the same now. He allows me a glass of port wine every day, and often sago and many little things besides. They are all kind to us. We had the violin played to us on the poop. I am not quite as strong to dance as I used to be. The Scotch lasses are enjoying themselves (fine) as they express themselves. Mary Anne Wynwood has been in fits nearly all night, 4 of us stayed up with her all night. It was as much as we could do to hold her when one came on. It was heart rending to hear her speak of her Mother and her Brothers. It has been very warm in our apartment because the port holes have not been open.

November 1st

A fine calm day. Schak Jehan sails Very slowly, no wind in the morning. We had heavy rain in the afternoon, one of the gales and then some strong wind. M. A. Wynwood is no better and Harriet Type has had fits and Annie Willis and Elizabeth Tucker ill.

2nd

It's rather colder to day, sailing rather slow. The children are getting on at school. The young women of No 2 Mess have had a tea party, but it did not equal the Scotch tea party and the other young women made such a noise for there are not any of No 2 Mess much liked.

3rd

It's very cold and no wind here. There are 4 Arbutusses¹⁴ following the ship to day. There has one been nearly caught. We have caught two Cape Pigeons. Jane is to have one of them. Doctor has given the two prussic Acid. They died in two minutes and now we are to have them cured and we shall stuff them when we get to Adelaide. The invalids are much better to day. Some little children are ill, one is in a fever. There was a splendid Arbitruss caught this afternoon and we had as many feathers as we wished to have. The Arbitruss measured 12 feet, it was an immense one and the feathers are very downy and spotted nicely.

¹⁴Albatrosses

4th

We are sailing 8 miles an hour. We had service morning and evening and Chapel kept by the Scotch. I had the children for an hour in the afternoon reading. We are sailing beautiful in the night 11 miles an hour; And the sailors are singing as they are pulling the ropes. We sailed 196 miles from 8 in the night to 4 in the morning in the right direction. The invalids are much the same.

Lat 31° S. Long 39° 47 E.

5th

A beautiful breeze. We are very busy preparing for the treat for the children. The Captain has been very kind to us in giving steward leave to give us provisions for a tea party for the children. There has been 38 children at tea, they seem to be quite delighted. The cake was very nice and we have had plenty of milk for the tea; at 6 o'clock we had a party amongst 3-4-5 and 6 Messes. We have been saving towards it this long time. We invited several of the married women and the Captain, Doctor and Mrs Davies came to see us. The 1st Mate also came to see us and the two midshipmen. The young women all looked very nice. We had made our head-dresses from the Arbitross feathers, they were all

very gay. Captain gave us some grog, and Mrs Davies and the Captain remained some time listening to the singing. Ellen Shewbridge introduced a famous guy and we were delighted for it was quite unexpected. We were all very happy and we broke up our party early, and were all in bed quietly about 11 o'clock. Good night.

Long 44° E. Lat 41° S.

6th

A lovely morning, we are going nicely on our voyage. The invalids are not any better. Mrs Collett the last that was confined is very ill and she is perfectly deaf and very weak. The young men's preserved meat was stopped because they would not clean their apartment.

Long 50° E. Lat 41° S.

7th

The weather is much the same as usual, rather cold. The thermometer is 68° in our apartment. The Doctor is very angry because 2 of the single women went round the vessel to see the sailors' place, when the Doctor was having his dinner.

Lat 42° S. Long 56° E.

8th

A very stormy and rough day but the wind is very favourable, we are sailing very fast. A great many of us have fallen down but none hurt themselves much. The invalids are much better.

Lat $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S. Long 61° E.

9th

It's quite as rough as yesterday. We have had very heavy rain all the morning and it has come through our place and wetted the girls' berths. The afternoon is a little finer.

Lat $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S. Long $66\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ E.

10th

The Doctor was very angry with my sister because she took away Sarah McCullum's mattress from her. Jane was lying on the floor and Sarah had two beds under her.

11th

A rainy morning. The Captain read the morning service to us as usual. Mrs Collet [\[Collett\]](#) is very ill; she is quite delirious. The other invalids are getting much better. The Vessel rocks a great deal. I have been rather sick all day.

Lat $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S, Long 72° E.

12th

The Weather is not so rough now. We are able to resume our duties once more. Four young women were before the Captain and Doctor for misconduct. The Scotch have had a tea party.

Lat $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S. Long $79^{\circ} 55$ E.

13th

Three of the sailors slept in the night instead of keeping watch. They were tried by a court martial.

Lat 43° S. Long 83° E.

14th

The weather is very cold. The two Tuckers have been fighting two sisters.

Lat 43° S. Long $88^{\circ} 15$ E.

15th

We were mustered to day as usual. E. Tucker and C. Type have quarrelled very much. The two sisters were before the Captain and Doctor for fighting.

Lat $43\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S. Long 93° E

16th

The *Schah Jehan* sails very steady to day, the weather is warmer to day. Mrs Collet is a little better, she is in the Hospital. The single man is much better to day. Nearly all the girls were on the poop.

Lat $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S. Long $97^{\circ} 27$ E. John Williams is rather poorly

17th

The *Schah Jehan* sails nicely. It has been raining all day. The invalids are much the same. Mrs Collet is still alive; she seems very feverish. The girls are much the same as usual. Selina Thompson has stolen the half of my black dress to make aprons and sleeves. She is continually stealing. I have lost many things before but this is the first time to find the thief.

Lat $39\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S. Long 103° E.

A little child died very suddenly this evening about 10 o'clock. It was found dead in bed, they do not know what it died of, it was seven months old. Sarah Chambers disturbed us in the night. She said she saw a corpse in Elizabeth Vaughn's face. The girl is raving I think or she would not be so foolish.

18th

A lovely morning. The child was sewn up in a bag and thrown in the sea. Mrs Collet is much the same. We had prayers as usual read by the Captain. There are five of the girls ill. Our pudding was perfect dough at dinner.

Lat 42° S. Long 107° 24' E.

19th

The weather is fine, everything is going on much the same. The carpenter is putting the boats in readiness against going ashore. Mrs. Collet is very poorly. I do not think she will recover. Elizabeth Vaughn is also very weak. The other invalids are much the same.

Lat: 41° S. Long 112° E.

20th

The weather is beautiful and the sea is quite calm. Schak Jehan sails very slow all day. We passed Cape Lewin this morning, but we did not see land. We saw an immense fish this afternoon. I daresay it was 8 yards long, I do not know its name. Its tail was like a shark's tail. My eyes are very sore for they have put such a

quantity of, Chloride of lime on the floor, and our clothes have been completely burnt up with it.

Lat 41° S. Long $115^{\circ} 2$ E.

21st

The weather is rather cold. We are sailing nicely. The Doctor was rather displeased with me for something or other, I do not know exactly what for. One of the single men is in the Hospital. Mrs Collet is a little better. Mary Barr has an inflammation in her side.

(Rainbow) Lat 39° S. Long $117^{\circ} 10$ E.

22nd

We are sailing beautiful in the right way. It's very cold. Mrs Davies is very pale this morning. Euphemia Taylor has a severe cold. Mary Barr has been taken to the Hospital for her side is very bad.

Lat $38^{\circ} 39$ S. Long 121° E.

23rd

The weather is fine and the sea calm. We met a vessel. I do not know where it was sailing to.

24th

The weather is very mild. The sailors and the men have been pulling the chain up for the anchor and it was very hard work.

At this point Keturah Davies's account ends, ten days before the *Schah Jehan* berthed at Port Adelaide. The rest of her dairy has not survived. Keturah died of fever in Adelaide Hospital just twenty-eight days after disembarking from the *Schah Jehan*.

Note (added 24 May 2022): Two errors in Keturah's journal have been drawn to my attention. Her entry for 2nd October refers to a Mrs Collick. Keturah either misheard or misspelt the surname, which is actually Collett. Later in the journal, 11th November, Keturah refers to the same individual as Mrs Collet. Both of these "errors" have now been identified in the transcription above, with the correctly spelt name inserted **[in blue, between square brackets]. My thanks to Angela Cutting (née Collett) for informing me of these anomalies.**

John Ball