

Memoirs: Donald Mackay , Voyage of the “Aspasia”

Transcription:

Memoirs

Of a Voyage around the World in the

Ship Aspasia

Capt. Fanning

by

Donald Mackay

1800

“What is this world? thy School O misery!”

“And he who knows not how to suffer”

“Was born for nothing.”

Young

Thursday, 20th February, 1800

Left home without taking a formal leave of the family and proceeded to Old Greenwich, on my way to N. York the intended port of my departure for the South sea— Visited most of my friends at this place, particularly Dr Bayeux's family & Mr Lockwood who is to join me on board the Ship in about 3 weeks – In the evening sail'd for N. York with Capt. P. Lockwood where we arrived on Saturday night – Monday 24th took my station on board the Aspasia as Steward –

April 7th Most of the stores being on board the Ship was drop'd off from the Dock, & Moar'd opposite **Curlur's** hook where the Frigate President was building –

Commented [pg1]: Curleur's

Commented [PO2R1]:

10th The President was this Day launch'd, our situation afforded us a most delightful prospect – The shoars, and the tops of the houses were crowded with people – The harbor cover'd with Boats, fill'd spectators, eager to behold the majestic Scene – At 10 A.M. she slid with majestic grandeur from the Stocks into the arms of Neptune – The Portsmouth Sloop of war 1st saluted her, the Aspasia fired the 2nd the Revenue Cutter & the Artillery on shore the 3rd – The remainder of the Day was spent in the greatest hilarity the juice of Baccus was so freely circulated among the Officers Visitors, & Crew, that many of them were at the highest pitch of happiness –

11th Drop'd down opposite Peck's Slip – My Father & Brother pay'd me a visit on board – On the 13th they left town **[piece missing]** on 17th Receiv'd a line from my Brother in which he mention the the evening before he left N. York, he "was in company **{of?}** Mr Menzis a son of Major Menzis, who inform'd him the he had seen our Uncle Hugh a few weeks ago, the he was then healthy, was still a single man, a Judge of the Court, a member of the Legislator, & in good circumstances"—

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March 23rd Unmoar'd and stretch'd down as far as Gibbet Island – On our return came too opposite the Frigate N. York in order to give her a salute when launch'd –

24th Was launch'd the Frigate New York we gave her a Salute – Spent the after part of the day very agreeably, most of the Officers being on shore –

May 3rd Got underway, and drop'd down Opposite the watering place at Staten Island – Here I had the pleasure of going on shore almost every day during our stay at that place which at this season is delightful--

13th Sunday got underway and beat out in company with the British Frigate Cleopatra—

July 4th This day so dear to the patriotic American was spent in joy and festivity – at 8 A.M. we descried Land to the one of which we boarded on a nigher approach saw several fishing boats and took the man out for ad Pilot –

6th Sunday came too off Pernambuco on the coast of Brazil – Several Officers came on board and suspecting that we were either Englishmen, or smugglers were very shy of us, but finally consented to our getting some water and refreshments – It appears that we were the 2nd American ship ever here – We receiv’d presents of excellent fruit almost every day of our stay here which was 7 Days – The Town is very pleasantly situated on the border of the sea, to which the harbor is very much exposed, by its lying entirely open to its waves—it makes a handsome appearance from sea – expo[orts] a large quantity of Sugar, some Coffee & Cotton to [Port-] ugal – The town is fortified by several forts , or Cai[ssons?] The weather was very warm, and showers of rain fell during our stay – and so great the swell of the [piece missing] that we were riding our spritsail yard under [piece missing]

“ 13 On weighing our Starboard Bower Anchor found [it] “ 14 badly bent – Weighed the larboard Bower, both flu[kes] gone and the Cables badly chaf’d -- Put to sea again --- We are now bound for Saxemburg Lat 30° 41’ South & 19° West Lon.

Commented [pg3]: Phantom island in S. Atlantic.

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July 21 Invited by the beautiful serenity of the Evening I was walking the Poop-deck, and viewing the starry sky particularly that part under which I fancied that I had spent so many happy hours – The sky was very clear, the air cool & refreshing, gentle breezes wafted us rapidly from our native Country—The North polar star was sunk below the Horizon, and the perpetual Cloud* which designates the southern pole, was rising to our view—I reflected with a mixture of pleasure and pain on past happy scenes, and the troubles of my life – I regreted the length of time that I chose to be a stranger ^{to} the charms of society – From this train of ideas I was roused by Mr. Utt’s Violin I retired to enjoy those sweet sounds which in some measure compensates for the loss of Society –

- They are usually called the Magellanian Clouds & resemble the Parhelion, or Milky-way in Colour.

Lat 20° South

August 1st

Gave up looking for Saxembergh, and conclude that there is no such Island in existance—

“ 9th Made land to the windward for which we sailed to windward till the 12th against a strong gale and rough sea –

12 Mr. Sheffield 1st Midshipman fell overboard from the Poop-deck—Every effort to save him proved ineffectual – The ship at the 1st alarm hove too—the Mizen top Gallant was hove

overboard as was also a hen-coop and other things that would float The Boat was let down, which immediately filld Capt E Fanning, Mr Laurence, the Boatswain, Cooper and three men who were in the Boat very narrowly escaped with their lives –

We sincerely lament the fate of this young man- he was about 1- years of age of a good family on Rhode Island, possessor of [illegible] on property, and many amiable qualities but was [illegible] to a falt—

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August

14th Close in with the Island Inaccessable – Let down the Boat and attempted to land but found it by nature as by name inaccessable—After killing numbers of Sea fowls of which there are great numbers, the Officers came on board – Stood on for Tristan da de Cunha -- “15 At 7 A.M ran in with Tristan de Cunha, the weather cloudy, about 12 O’Clock the sun burst from the Clouds and presented one of ^{the most} sublime , & beautiful scenes that I ever witness’d – The Island rises perpendicularly out of the sea to a vast height and terminates in a point – Though it is quite a small Island it is calculated to be 2600 feet high, perhaps more—

the foot of

At this Mountain was a handsome rainbow, the middle concealed in clouds, and ^{on} the top which was cover’d with snow, the sun shone in his full splendor – Landed 2 men to search for Seal, but saw no appearance of any returnd on board and bore away for South Georgia – The weather is greatly altered of late it is now quite cool – Lat. 37° 10’ South—

Lon. 13° 20 West –

24th Sunday experienced a most furious Gale, attended with rain – At 8 A.M. we were before the wind when she ship’d a tremendous sea which fill’d our waist and Cabbins – Hove the Ship too under her Mizen, and Mizen Stay sail; finding she would not scud with safety.

Lat. 44° 15 S.—Lon. 18° West

Sep^{tr} 5 Since the 14th of last mounth we have had frequent Gales, Squalls of rain, snow & hail – The weather very [piece missing] Our Decks, and weather side of the Ship were this morn[ing] couver’d with snow, and ice, to a considerable thickn[ess]

Sep^{tr}

Commented [pg4]: Tristan da Cunha group

6th The thermometer stands at 28°-- Lat. 52° S -- [piece missing] The rigging so loaded with that We have now to employ'd 10 or 12 hand constan[tly] to clear the Ship of snow and ice

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Sep^{tr}

15 The weather more Moderate, at 6 P.M. made the Island of Georgia baring E.N.E stood on for Sparrow Bay the place where the Schooner was cast away -- In the afternoon close in with the Bay -- Capt. E Fanning went on Shore in expectation of find^{ing} the Crew of the Schooner, but was greatly disappointed to find the huts abandoned -- Return'd on board -- and stood to the Eastward under easy sail --

16th during the night which was quite pleasant stood off, and on -- in the Morning made sail and ran along in with the land -- About 11 A.M Off Crow's harbor hoisted out our boats and warp'd up to the anchorage. About sunset came too with both Bowers ahead -- During the Night the watch employ'd sending down yard, and masts -- Found the Ship Morse a London Oilman in the harbor --

17th All hands employ'd at mooring Ship with 3 anchors a head one astern D° & a larg Cadge astern Sent on shore the Spare spars and yards &c -- The appearance of this dreary region was very unfavorable to our ideas of procuring a Cargo of skins -- The Morse inform'd us that the Schooner's ^{Crew} had taken passage in an English Ship -- this was an unexpected stroke to us, we had flatter'd ourselves that they would have half a Cargo ready for us -- Our prospects were gloomy -- Not a Day pass'd but we experienced storms of Snow -- the weather severely cold -- and the sudden gusts of wind seem'd to threaten destruction to any Boat ventured from the Ship -- To all these difficulties and dangers we soon got accustomed -- In about 5 weeks built a Shallop -- bought another of Mr Cheney who was cast away here in the Minerva from Hudson, Mr Cheney with his crew of 9 hands joined us -- Our gangs were distributed about the Island at the best stations for taking seals, & our Officers put on the most favorable appearance --

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Capt E Fanning, Dr Smith, Mr Utt, the Carpenter, myself & Chacey[?] Daggett were all that remain'd on board -- We receiv'd the skins on board from the Shallops, and salted them away. When time would admit, we made excursions around this & the neighboring Bays, when we kill'd sometimes 70 or 80 seals in about 4 hours, not venturing ourselves not long away from the ship in the Barge, as it would be impossible to row her against the gales of this country, nor could we hawl her upon the Beach to prevent her staving in the surf -- In the evening, and in stormy weather when nothing to do (which was seldom) Mr Utt am^us'd us with his violin--As I kept a daily Journal I shall not mention particulars, it is sufficient to mention that the Crew endured the inclemency of this cold and boistrous rigion with astonishing Spirit for 4 Mounths

and 23 Days – With incredible fatigue, and danger we procured a Cargo of skins without the loss of a Man, or Boat a circumstance that occurs to few Ships that get a Cargo here –

Feb^{ry}

8th Attempted to get out the harbor, but was becalm'd just within the 2 points which form the mouth of the Bay – A heavy sea was setting in which was driving us rapidly onto a lee Shoar – Let go both Anchors, and handed the Sails by this time night came on attended with a violent Storm, the Ship appear'd to be no more than her length from the shore – In this critical 9th situation we rode out the Night, and about 10 the Day following got under way and with joy saw ourselves clear of the horrid shores—

This Island affords many natural curiosities which if discrib'd would hardly be credited by one unacquainted with those Southern Islands – Georgia itself is a curiosity – It is about 30 Leagues in length and has not a foot of soil on its whole surface – It is an amazing mass of rocks which appear to shoot up to the clouds in the most wild, & frantic shapes – At the breaking up of winter large bodies of those mountains seperate and fall to the Vallies on the sea shore with the noise a the loudest thunder – The Mountains are constantly crumbling to pieces and rolling down the sides, which renders it dangerous traveling over them, but ^{we} were almost daily obliged to encounter greater Dangers

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The only vegetable substance worthy of remarks is a kind of corse grass call'd Tussuck this generally grows nig[h] the shore sometimes to the tops of the Mountains the roots extends to the rocks below – This tussock by rotting and mixing with the gravel which is washed from the mountains has in length of time form'd a body of considerable depth, resembling a rich mould, but was the climate favorable I doubt wether it produce kind of Corn—

There are numerous bodies of Ice & snow which have probably ^{been} collecting from time immemorial, the heat of the summer being insufficient to melt the snow that falls during the lengthy winters – Those mases of Ice are call'd Ice bergs – they are of great extent and amazing depth one at the head of Possession Bay nigh where our Ship lay is eight miles in length, and 500 or 600 feet deep – on the tops of them are cracks of astonishing depth so that the bottom cannot be seen from the surface of the ice – There was an instance of a man's falling into one of those crivises where he remain'd till his companions went to the Ship brought whale lines, and let down to him, to the distance of 20 fathoms, those lines he made fast to himself, and was drawn out, almost perished with cold.

The Bird that inhabit this Island are innumerable, but the Penguin of all others is the most beautiful, and affords the greatest curiosity of this Country – They are about 3 feet high—their backs of a blue intermix'd with grey—their bellies white under ^{their} throat a bright yellow – they have short legs and no feathers, or quils in their wing consiquently they never fly, their wings only being only serviceable to them in swimming which the[y] do with as great velocity as a fish

when at sea – the[y] are often seen 15 Degrees from Land – in the spring they come onto land, to lay and hatch their eggs – They gather in flocks of perhaps 500,000 which are called a rookery – In this situation when view'd from a distance the[y] resemble an army of soldiers in complete uniform. They stand upright as a man, (and the la^r gest kind call'd King – penguins there being several kinds) carry their egg between their legs till it is hatch'd – The other species are much smaller and make a nest of stone and if their eggs are taken from them will continue laying some mounths – The Kings will suffer no one to go in among them and take their eggs from between their legs—

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Feb^{ry} At sea we saw great numbers of Mountains of Ice though they were a great distance from us they appear'd very large and much higher than our Main top Gallant mast head – One day we saw 9 of them at once They chill the air for many leagues distant – As we gained longitude westward we lost sight of them – The are seen more frequently to the Eastward of Georgia ~~than westward~~, and render the navigation dangerous in the night It is customary for Ships to lye too during the night We now steer'd for Cape Horn ran very nigh the Falkland Islands but did not see them – Nothing

29th worthy of remark happned till we made the Main land to the southward--- A fresh gale blowing from the N^d & W^d stood away to the southward. About 10 A.M. Saw land a head—the Gale continuing – found ourselves in danger of going on shore, unless we caried a great press of Sail which was affected—The ship was immediately close hawl'd, and almost every sea broke over us, from the Bows to the Poop Deck—

On our passage from Staten Land around the Cape we experienced much such weather as on the coast of Georgia though not so severe—We had the wind ahead till

March this date when we had gain'd the Latitude of 40° S. and 76° West Lon- The weather 25th was then pleasant, and wind very favorable—we often saw the Main, the land of which appeared very elevated, and barren –

St. Mary April 3d

Came too in this Bay, found 10 American ships & 2 English all Whalemens, or sealers—in the harbor—This Bay affords a commodious harbor for shipping – it resembles a small sound, lying between the Island St. Mary and the Main it is at least 4 Leggues in the broadest part 5 or 6 in length from N. to S. – Nigh in the Anchorage on the Island is a fine place for watering, and cutting fire wood – The Island is a very fertile, and beautiful piece of land, about 10 miles in length – The climate is mostly delightful, there never is much frost on it, & the sea breeze mostly temperates the heat of Summer---

Commented [pg5]: Isla Santa Maria, near Coronel and Concepcion, Chile

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The Spaniards had once a fine settlement upon this Island, but it being much exposed to the English – the inhabitants removed to the Main, and to prevent their enemies from procuring refreshments they destroy'd their cattle, goats, &c of which it appears that the Island abounded from the vast quantities of bones that are Still to be seen – Some fruit trees are still remaining and many wild hogs – Here we dried about 10,000 skins, the season growing late a heavy dew fell during the Night which made difficult to dry any more to advantage – Fill'd our 29th empty water casks with some wood and in the Morning of the 29th sail'd for Valparaiso for the purpose of procuring refreshment

Valparaiso May 1st 1801 ---

May 1st Moar'd ship in this harbor about sunset – Cap^{ts} E & H Fanning went on shore to the Governor with the papers of the Ship – They return'd in the evening, and brought some excellent Apples, Peaches, Grapes &c – A guard was sent on board during the Night to prevent smuggling---

2nd Pleasant weather – Mr Williams on shore for refreshments sent on board a Bullock, some potatoes & Onions – The Governor and several other Officers on board to examine the Ship and papers – In the Afternoon Cap^{ts} Fanning, Cap^t William[s] and D^r Smith on shore – In the evening we were spectators of a number of religious ceremonies - though at such a distance that we could not understand their import –

4th This part of the day cloudy, with some rain – Receiv'd from Market Fruit, Eggs, Mutton & Water melons – The Gentlemen on shore –

5th The weather pleasant – Fresh breeze from the southward. M^r Lockwood & M^r Thompson give a favorable account of their polite treatment by the Spanish Ladies ---

In the evening an unhappy affair transpired which threatened an open mutiny, in consequence of which James Miller an Irishman is confined in Irons with the charge of laying hands on M^r Williams—

6th Very pleasant weather – The Gentlemen on shore, in the evening they were invited by a select company of Gentlemen and Ladies – They spent the evening very agreeably in dancing

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May 6th continued This collection of Ladies & Gentlemen was intended a compliment to our Gentlemen, and as mark of great respect the Ladies were mostly dress'd in the American fashion.

7th The weather continues pleasant – Three Nantucket Whaleme[n], their names I have not learn'd – The Gentlemen on shore (as usual) enjoy the pleasures of the place I have not yet been of shore – We have a fine prospect of the ladies (from the ships) on their walks. A little higher view would be preferable ----

8th The Govenor has issued orders to the Commander of the Port to detain our Ship, under suspicion of being English – We are prevented from procuring water, and necessary sea stores – Chile for examination – Cap^t Fanning has laid the Govenor under an Obligation of Demurrage for 1500 Dollars per Day while we may be detained –

9th Nothing remarkable transpired the Day – Cap^t Fanning was permitted to come on board, but he returned in the evening -- The Officers have the privilege of going on shore yet but return on board by 10 O Clock Night –

10th Dark foggy weather – Our Officers remain in the same situation, though the Govenor appears to be convinced of our being Americans –

11th It appears that our detention is in consequence of the information of a deserter from an American Ship, who made oath that we are English, that he belonged to our Ship, and that we had taken several Spanish prizes on this Coast – The Rascal is apprehended, and as a fee for his information has receiv'd a hundred lashes at the Gun of a King's Ship lying in this harbor – He is now to be sent to Lima for trial where he will most probably be sentenced to the Mines for life-

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May 12th The weather thick & foggy, in consiquence of which most of us have taken colds – We understand that dispatches received by the Govenor from the President of Chile respecting Our affairs, their purport we have not lern'd – Cap^t How in the Schooner Oneco off the harbor, he came up to the Town in his Boat, and has receiv'd orders not to come to anchor, as he has been in here twice before, which creates suspicion that he is on no good design –

13th Our affairs are much as yesterday – We are in hopes of getting our papers tomorrow, after which all possible dispatch will be made to get away from here –

14th This with the Spaniards is a hollow-day which has prevented us from receiving our papers – At sunset a salute was fired by all the Ships in the harbor except ours – Cap^t Webb in the Brig Susan of Philadelphia gave the Town federal salute – During the discharge a charge of grape pass'd over our Poop where most of our Officers were standing In the evening the Town & shipping were handsomely illuminated –

15th Receiv'd our papers from the Govenor – fired a gun and set our Ensign, & Pendant – We had not wore our flag before since our detention -- -- --

16th The Larboard watch on shore, on liberty – The Starboard Watch are tomorrow to have the same privilege –

17th Foggy weather – the wind at North – The Starboard watch on shore – Returned in the evening all drunk from the oldest man to the youngest boy, except three who did not come on board – It affords no small diversion to see the Fore-Castle in its present situation. –

18th Employ'd at receiving on board the ship's stores – hands at painting the Ship – Cap^t How on board in the evening. M^r Utt in the Cabin playing on the Violin –

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May 19th I Was on shore in company with M^r Utt & M^r Packer – We visited all parts of the Town worthy of notice – In the Evening attended a Ball at which was assembled about 20 Ladies, & as many Gentlemen – One of the Ladies played on a Piano Forte – Another on a Violin and most of them on a Guitar. They are passionately fond of music, & are good judges of it – They dance mostly minuets, & some handsom country dances, the former they perform well – The Women are small, and very handsom featur'd – They are particularly fond of the Americans Some of them we saw dress'd with hoops who made a droll appearance – I return'd on board about 11 P.M. not perfectly sober, not being accustomed to drink their wine & Auguadent

Commented [pg6]: aguardiente

Valparaiso is situated at the foot of a Mountain nigh the sea- it is of great length, but of little bredth – in some places only affording one row of houses and a street in front – It stands on uneven ground, and the houses are built of unburnt brick, with tile roofs they contain but little Furniture but n abundance of Plate – The Dwelling houses are only one story high for the greater security against Earthquakes which are very frequent on this Coast – Building materials are very scarce for many Leagues from this place -- It appears to be a place of considerable trade from the numbers of horses, and mules, that arrive here daily laden with the produce of the Country – We calculated that not less than 2500 of those Animals arrive here daily – There are now 10 Spanish Ships loading with this produce – The Porte is fortified with 4 Batteries, and a Castle,-- The latter was built at a great expence, but is of no great strength –

In all parts of the Town may be seen swarms of Friars of the most dissolute characters, who are openly guilty all manner of dissipation – Yet it is surprising to see the influence those debauchees possess over the minds of the inhabitants—

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May

The harbor is commodious and safe, except with a North wind – A Ship may ride within 20 rods of shore with 20 fathoms water –

20th Pleasant weather Wind from the North^d in consequence of which heave swell heaves in the harbor and renders it difficult landing with a boat – Run out a Cadge for the purpose of warping out – Hove ^{up} one of our Bowers –

21st Cloudy – All hands employ'd at making preparation to sail – M^r Lockwood, & M^r Thompson on shore for the purpose of clearing out – It is needless to mention that the[y] had a high Scrape [?]-

22nd With a light breeze, about 7 A.M. got underway and tow'd ship out – At 12 a fresh breeze from the N^d with rain Double reef'd each T. Sail –

Notwithstanding my impatience to prosecute our voyage I felt a painful sensation as at We took a last look at Valparaiso – But who can bid adieu to a place where he has been treated with hospitality, and politeness, has formed an acquaintance, and while fancy paints the improbability of ever more beholding them, can suppress those feelings

We now steer'd N.E intending to put in Coquimbo to deposit of our Goods, keeping in sight of Land – The serenity of the air afforded us a scene beautiful , and sublime beyond discription – A Monarch might envy the enjoyment of such a prospect – About 15 miles from land we were plowing the gentle waves with inconceivable velocity – The Majestic Andes appear'd not more than eight, or ten miles distant, though they are in reality not less than 60 miles from the sea shore – Far as the eye extends from from North, to south they raise their snow-capt summits to the heavens. – Around us were innumerable scholes of fish, and seal sporting in the rolling surge – All nature seem'd to smile upon us & to compensate for her former frown, fortune promised her auspices in crossing the vast Pacific –

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May Coquimbo, May 27th 1801

At Meridian moar'd Ship in this Bay – In the Afternoon all hands employ'd at rigging in the Jib boom fishing the Foremast, and sending down fore yard – we had previously launch'd topmast, and sent down fore, and Mizen Top Gall^t Masts – making a feint of distress pretending that we had sprang our fore mast and had put in here to refit – The Custom house officers came on board examined our Ship and appear'd satisfied – But as the Spaniards are a very zealous Nation there is no Doubt but they suspected that we were smugglers –

Commented [pg7]: jealous?

28th Thick foggy weather – light Wind – All hands employ'd at overhalling the rigging – The Gentlemen on shore on business – The Midshipmen broach'd a Barrel of wine, drank one half of it – The wardroom was of course in a fine predicament –

29th Cloudy – Wind from the N^d – This afternoon the Commandant with a train of Civil, & Military Officers on board – Cap^t Fanning has not got permission to visit the Town, for which he has solicited – The Town is situated about 5 miles to the N.E. of the Anchorage where we lie, upon an Opposite side of the Bay –

30th The weather continues cloudy – Hands employ'd [and] send up Fore, & Mizen Top Gallant Mast fore top mast and yard –

In the Evening we had a jovial sitting in the Ward-Room where mirth and harmony reign'd in every Breast – A number of Toast were drank on the occasion and M^r Utt deliver'd an address to the Company suitable to the occasion –

31 The weather very pleasant – Some Spanish Gentlemen on board – Doctor Smith went up to the City to visit a Patient –

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May 31st

^{continu'd} The serenity of the Atmosphere affords us a delightful prospect of the Town and surrounding Country – The Town is situated about a half mile from the shore of the Bay on a large plain – It is surrounded by beautiful fields of meadow, wheat, handsomely wall'd in with a kind of clay wall – Back of the Town runs a river which is of great use, as it affords a supply of water for their Gardens which is very necessary in the season of the Drouth – A few miles back of the city runs a range of Mountains, behind those another still higher, then far above all those appears the lofty Cordilleras – Those mountains raised as it were upon a plain and so beautifully contrasted with Verdure, Rocks, Clouds, and lastly those monuments of eternal snow, present a scene worthy a voyage around the Globe – The City is so situated that it not only enjoys this, but an extensive view of the Sea – The Building are larger than those of Valparaiso, but of the same materials – There are numerous mines of Gold, Silver, Copper, &c. in the Neighborhood of Coquimbo – Grains of Gold are frequently found on the sides of the mountains, and in the sand nigh the Shore Cap^t Brown in the Ship Cato of Nantucket (now lying in this harbor) a few days since found a piece of Gold oar about the size of a walnut as he was crossing a high hill along --

The Bay is large and affords a most beautiful harbor free from danger of Winds or Shoals except nigh the Town it is too shoal to admit Ships of burthen In this consists its principal security, as it is but indifferently fortified – We are inform'd that it has been plunder'd by the English several times The inhabitation send the most of their riches to Lima for the greater security against such events –

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1801

June 1st D^r Smith return'd from Town, quite disgusted at the place ^{from} the quantities of Flies, bugs, and like with which it is infested – By his account it appears that ma[n]y of the inhabitation are infected by diseases, particularly by the Venereal complaint, which here prevails through whole families – We are inform'd by a respectable Character that from the few Physicians in this Country the income of one of that faculty would here ^{be} equal that of the Presiden's of Chili –

2nd Pleasant weather – Nothing worthy of remark transpired this Day, tomorrow we are to sail – We have not had an opportunity of disposing of our Goods, except a few Trifles Being too strictly watch'd by the Spaniards –

3rd Clear and pleasant – Light airs from N^d & Eastward. At 8 A.M. hove up our anchors, & made sail – The wind now headed – Got 3 Whale boats a head and tow'd out in this we were assisted by Cap^t Brown's men, and boats At 8 P.M. a light ^{breeze} sprang up from the Eastward – Cap^t Brown's Boats left us –

5th On the 5th Ins^t fell in with the South-East Trade winds which blew very fresh, and we were favor'd with delightful weather from this date till the 25th When the showers were frequent and the wind hawl'd toward the westward –

27th To our astonishment the Trades contrary to the course of Nature blew from the westward, and were very disagreeable – This wind and rain held us till the 12th of July when it again blew July 12th from the N^d & Eastward, and the weather was again fine --

Lat 10° 54' North

Lon 128° 28' West

August 5th We again met with variable winds, and showers; these hold us till the 7th when we had a fine wind from S. E.

Lat 15° west

Lon, 149° -E-

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Aug^t 7th The weather dark and squally - - About 9 A.M. clearing a little we descried Land on our lee beam This prov'd to be the Island of Saypan situated about 6 leagues to the N^d & E^d of Tinian the Island at which we proposed to stop for water & some small refreshments – From the roughness of the weather it would be imprudent to attempt to weather it in order to run into Tinian rhodes. We accordingly wore the Ship and ran down to the leeward of Saypan, hoisted out our Whale Boat, & Barge -- Cap^t H. Fanning, Cap^t Williams, M^r Williams and the boats crews set out for shore to procure some fruit if it was possible to affect a landing -- In the meantime we stood off, & on –

This Island is diversified with Hills of beautiful verdure resembling young wheat-Planes, extensive Groves of Coco Nuts, Oranges, and lime trees – About 4 P.M. the boats return'd laden with Fruit and a Bullock which they shot – The Gentlemen who were on shore extoll the fertility of the Island to the highest degree – It abounds in fruit, and numerous herds of Cattle, & hogs – Those were left by the Spaniards who had once a considerable settlement on this & Tinian. There are now no inhabitation on either of them – The Natives were formerly numerous but

were inhumanly butcher'd by the conquerors – Our men who were on shore saw several large stone mortars, very curiously wrought supposed to have been the work of the Natives –

Humanity shudders while reflecting on the horrid devastations of the Spaniards on those peaceable, & Inocent Inhabitation, who still might have continued to enjoy every terrestrial happiness, on these beautiful Islands, at present but little benefit to mankind – They stand a monument of Spanish barbarity, and the judgment of heaven who by disease and sword has extirpated those murderers from their conquest –

On leaving the Islands we steared west with a fair wind and pleasant weather which continued till the 14th when we were met by a strong western wind, & frequent squalls, by which we were nearly capsized several times – The vast quantities of rain that fell enabled us to replenish our stock of water which was growing low – The weather continued unfavorable till the 21st we had again a favorable Breeze –

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Sept 1st At 5 A.M. made the Islands Babuyan 5 or 6 in number they are a Cluster of the Phillipines situated in 19° 20' N. Lat. & 122° 45' East Longitude we ran in among them around noon, saw some remarkable rocks resembling a ship, standing 3 or 4 leagues from land – the North^{ern}most Island was very elevated, the others of a moderate height – Stood for Canton with a fine Breeze from the Eastward – For many Day previous to falling in with these Islands we were visited by a great many Swallows & other land Birds they were so gentle as to light in, and eat out of our hands—

5th At 5 A.M. made land which proved to be the Ladore Islands situated at the mouth of the Bay into which the river Tigris empties -- There are a great many of those Islands, many very high and most of them barren –

6th Continued our Coarse up the Bay, among the Islands, with a light breeze and excessive warm weather About 5 A.M. came too opposite Macao – a considerable Town on an Island of the same name, it belongs to the Portuguese, but a Mandarin of China resides here – Cap^t Fanning went to town for a pilot to take us up the river – In the After noon An English Gentleman came on board & gave us some American Newspapers by which we learn'd that Thomas Jefferson is President of the United States, & that a treaty of Peace between said States and the French Republic was actually ratified

[next p.]

Sep^r 7th The Pilot came on board, we weigh'd Anchor and made sail with a pleasant breeze – Stood up the bay – At 10 PM came too at Bocca Tigris, or the mouth of the River Tigris – Here we waited for a Mandarin, & Pilot for taking us to Wampoa – About 8 in the morning they 8th came off to us, with the necessary Chop, and we again made sail, and plied up the river,

Commented [pg8]: Babuyan Islands

Commented [pg9]: Ladrone

Commented [pg10]: Tiger (European {Portuguese} name)

Commented [pg11]: Now the Hu Men. The Boca Tigris meant the mouth of the tiger.

Commented [pg12]: Macau

-- the borders of which were beautified by extensive fields of Rice, or Paddy, and the farther we proceeded on our course, the more delightful became the surrounding scenery -- To us who had been so long from witnessing a cultivated Country, that this appear'd extremely charming -- At the distance of 2 Leagues we were met by a great number of wash girls who came along side in their Boats to engage our washing -- At 5 P.M arriv'd at the place of Anchorage, about half a League below Wampoa 9 Sail of American, 2 English, & one Danish Ships lying at this place -- Here we were inform'd that seal skins sold very low --

9 All hands were employ'd getting down spars & rigging in order to overhaul it -- Unbent, & stow'd away the sails -- Cap^t Fanning went up to Canton

11th The weather continues pleasant but excessive warm -- We find many of our salted skin damaged no Merchant has yet appeared to purchase them --

12th [Saturday in margin] Several merchants came on board to look at our cargo, but they speak very discouraging of the sale of skins -- The Day is observ'd as the Sabbath by all the shipping from America, or Europe We having saild this far around the Globe to the Westward, & they to the Eastward differs one Day in our reckoning --

[next p.]

Sep^{ber}

14th M^r Utt & the Boatswain were badly hurt by a fall from the spars on the Belfry to some casks on Deck -- We hope no serious consequences will attend their wounds -- We are almost daily spectators of human carcasses floating down the river -- this is so common among the Chinese that they notice it no more than if it was a dead cat --

18th The skin are sold, and we have begun to discharge them -- The[y] are receiv'd into Chop-boats or liters and carried up to Canton -- We have not heard at what price they sold but imagine that they went very cheap! -- Many of our hands sick -- The Thermometer stands at 88° above 0 --

Doctor Smith

22nd Doctor Lent the surgeon of the Pegassus, on board our ~~our surgeon~~ -- He was on shore at Massafuero when that ship was taken -- he then took passage in the Dispatch to the N.W. Coast of America, from thence to this port in the hazard [?] --

[next p.]

Oct^{br} 7th This morning I set out for Canton -- arrived there in about 2 hours the distance of 15 miles from the Ship -- Was a good deal disappointed in the grandeur of the place -- The suburbs of the city, where all business is done with foreigners is of vast extent on both sides of the river -- Canton is situated on the N.E. side of the Tigris -- the suburbs lie between this and the walls of the city -- The Factories are built in the European stile, about a hundred yards from the shore,

Commented [pg13]: Framing from which the ship's bell is suspended.

along the front of ^{the} City – Those are the residence of foreigners, and are very elegant buildings – The streets are very narrow, the houses low, without taste or elegance – Both sides of the river is lined with boats a league in length, so that there is hardly room to pass with a boat in the middle – These boats are inhabited by a race of Chinese, Tartars, whose women are never permitted to come on shore – They live altogether on rice and fish – they appear to be a cleanly people – Most of ^{the} Towns, & Villages are situated some distance from the river and surrounded by trees – very few country seats [?] are to seen, all the land inhabitations crowd together in the towns—

The art of Gardening has its origin in China, though the English it is said have improved upon this invention ^{so} that they now far exceed the Chinese – But the gardens, & pleasure grounds of the latter, exceed any thing of the kind I have ever seen – They are in general situated on the slope of a hill and extend from the bottom to the top of it – form'd with vast labor and expence –

[next p.]

October

Gardens -

7th Their principal beauty consists in the variety of so extensive a field cultivated by the hand of art, to adorn Nature – There are seen the luxuriant meadow, barrens, Groves, ancient temples of their Gods, verdant slopes, rugged steeps, -tance (?), pieces of water, all in contrast, and ^{forms} the most delightful natural scenery –

At the distance of 8 or 10 miles from the river runs a range of broken mountains, between which and the River the country is composed of low, and very fertile land –

The Pagodas are stupendous buildings situated on hills nigh the river, about 7 miles distant from each other and serve as Telegraphs, to convey intelligence by signals – They extend in the same manner to Pekin so that intelligence is convey'd to the seat of Government in a surprising short time, in case of an invasion –They are something in the form of a steeple, and have 7 stories each 30 feet in hight –

There are no fortifications on this river, of any importance, that is sufficient to injure a fleet should one attempt the reduction of Canton

The Chinese Government is despotic in a superlative degree; There is no security of Person or property against the avaricious mandarins, who have power to levy what tax, or contribution they think proper, from all classes of Citizens – They don't fail in using their authority over the miserable inhabitation on the water, from they take every farthing they can find in their Boats and in case they can get no money from them Give the poor souls an unmerciful beating –

[next p.]

Chinese

The XXXXXXX are notorious cheats, practicing all manner of ~~arts to~~ fraud in XX their dealing with foreigners – In their religion they are Pagans, gross Idolitars and amazingly superstitious – The[y] are allow'd as many wives as they can maintain but many of the lower class of men do nothing toward supporting their wives – They are so jealous of their Women that they keep them shut up , injustly secluded from the world – The Chinese Women, in my opinion are the most miserable of the human race – Those in the boats are allow'd to come along side of the shipping in the day time, but if caught there in the Night by the by the Mandarain, he gives them a shocking caneing, and if they are caught in, or coming out of the ship, the girl has her head cut in pieces, and the ship is seized – If a foreigner is taken with a woam in their Boats the woman's punishment is the same, and the man is beaten almost to death and carried about the city in an Iron Cage; unless he has money enough to bribe the mandarain –

~~Has money enough to bribe the Mandaren –~~

[next p.]

O ct^{r 23rd} Weigh'd anchors and drop down the river about a mile from our former bith, and wait here for Cap^t E. Fanning who we expect on board 2 Day with the Grand Chop when we will and already for sea Cap^t Holbrok in the Brig Lavena of Bristol is to sail in our company as far the straits of Sundy

Commented [pg14]: Sunda (Java Sea)

25 All hands on board, and the necessary Chop obtain'd, weigh'd anchor and pli'd down the river – after running about 30 miles we were becalm'd let go an anchor – In the course of the following night we experienced a severe gale; Call'd all hands ang got down T. Gal^t Yards – The Brig sent down her lower yards – Our Whale boat which was moor'd astearn parted her painter and went adrift –

26th Clear pleasant weather, with fresh gale, made sail; about 11 A.M. Past the Bocca where ~~there~~ is a fortification – and at 2 P.M. opposite Macoa discharg'd Pilot and stood to sea –

Doctor Lent on board passenger –

N – The Ship's expences du'ing our stay at canton was about 9000 Dollars – We were so unfortunate as to lose 3 of our hand – Chancey Daggett & Royal Clark by Death, and William Cuthbert by dissertion – Our men were very sickly from our arrival at Island of Banca this Porte, and we have now 10 or 12 unable to do duty –

Commented [pg15]: Located in the Celebes

~~Have now 10 or 12 unable to do duty –~~

{next p.}

Novem^r

11th At Midnight came too opposite Monappin hill on the Island of Banca— At Day light in the morning weigh'd anchor and stood into the Strait of Banca Saw three sails standing for us; bore down to speak them they prov'd to be an English 50 Gun ship, and her 2 prizes – The Cap^t of the Centurion desired us to lie too till he sent his boat on board us – to this Cap^t Fanning made no answer, but made sail – She then fired a gun as a signal for us to heave too, we not complying, she fired a shot over us – thinking we could stand the third shot we kept our course – at which ~~we~~ ^{he} gave us another shot, and we rounded too, and suffer'd his boat to come on board – Two officers came in the boat and treated us ^{with} more politeness than is usual for officers of the British Navy –

At 10 saw a Prow, or a boat of war belonging to pirates of those Islands who take every ship they can master – They massacre the crews on the vessels of any nation who are so unfortunate as to be taken by them – Gave her ch[a]nce – she perceiving that we came up with her ~~she~~ ran into shoal water under the shoar – fired 3 shot at her without effect – At 2 PM saw a boat a head endeavoring to get away from us, gave her a shot which brought her too – There were 3 of the natives in her with a great quantity of most delicious fruit – of which we bought what we wanted and took from them two remarkable Daggers – poisoned

[next p.]

In proceeding through the Straits we usually come to anchor in the night, and made sail in the morning—

The Straits of Banca are about 36 Leagues in length lying between the Islands of Sumatra and Banca – from the latter it derives its name on this Island there are 2 small mountains -- The coast of Sumatra along the Straits has no elevation -- As it is cover'd with remarkable large timber the roots of which along shoar are wash'd by the sea Gold dust is procured by the Natives in vast quantities on this Island – A proof of this rich production is that some earthen Pitchers which we bought of the natives in the boat on the 14th had thousands of those particles on their surface

On the 7th Day after our entrance into the strait we past the Island Lucepara at the southern entrance and now made sail on the Java Sea –

November 22nd Came too at the sister Islands in Nortern entrance of the Straits of Sunda – for the purpose of procuring wood, which we obtained in a few hours, and made sail again —

The Land on both sides of those straits is high and rugged, couver'd with wood –

Continued beating through the straits till the 24th When we came to anchor under the N.E. side of **Cracatoa** Island

[next p.]

Nov^r 26th The Island Cracatoa has a remarkable Peak, couvr'd with trees, & verdure from the sea to its summit – In the neighborhood of this mount is a remarkable hot spring – and another

Commented [pg16]: Krakatoa

vein of excellent cool water, at which we fill about 40 Casks, the Brig got also a supply at the same place – Nigh the watering place a Prow was lying, the Natives on board of which were making her a new Rudder – we boarded her with a boat's crew all well arm'd found her to be a trader loaded with rice ~~and~~ some Gun Powder and India Goods. The Natives were much terrified at our the approach of the boat, but their fears were dispell'd when they foun'd we intended them no harm – They kneel'd to Cap^t Fanning, and show'd him all their articles of Commerce – of which only bought some rice---

Doctor Lent went on board the Lavina at the particular desire of Cap^t Holbroke who was unwell and is take passage with him to Boston—

On the 26th made sail and parted with the Brig our Consort – Spake a Swedish ship bound to Canton

Till this date had a light western breeze. We then took the Southeast Monsoons accompanied by very fine weather – Steer'd W.S.W. ---

We th-

The wind haul'd round from N.E to N. W. and blew so fresh as to oblige us to close reef our top sails- Latitude 28° 30' S. Longitude 49° E – From this date we experienced variable wind and at time rough weather, till January 3rd -- we were then in soundings on the bank off the Cape of Good Hope

1802

January 5th Spake the Ship Harriot of Boston from Batavia bound to New York—the Cap^t of which said he spake the Lavina our old Consort the Day before – We had now a fine breeze at South crowded all Sail, on hopes of coming up with the Lavina – at Midnight bore away –

15th We have since been favor'd a delightful breeze and remarkable Pleasant weather – but have seen nothing of the Brig -- February

“ 16th Died M^r Charles E. Thomson 1st Midshipman ~~and~~ (son of Nathaniel Thomson of N. London) after a severe illness of upward a mounth – He was at first attack'd by a slow fever which having render'd him very low, a remarkable sore made its appearance on his face – at times he appear'd to mend, but this swelling is supposed to have been the cause of his death – During 2 or 3 days it discharged surprising quantities of blood, in which time he had several most violent fits, after which he continued 3 day in ^{an} almost lifeless state – At intervals he had his reason, and seem'd sensible of his approaching fate – At 5 A.M. nature dissolv'd her tie, and Charles expired without a struggle, or a groan!

At Sunset his body ~~was~~ (inclosed in a Cask was, at the discharg of a Gun consign'd to a watery Gr[ave]

Hale that Ship of wore Drop'd a Shot at his Star[board] and she hove too and we came up to
[next p.]

February the 16th

February the 16th –

Every prospect of a speedy, and pleasant conclusion of our lengthy voyage is at present ours – Language is inadequate to paint the happiness of that long wish'd for period – What joy to be again united to friends, and society, after an absence of 2 years, in which we have Circumnavigated this Globe – Visited distant climes where men and manners presented to our view the baleful effects of the Despots rod – Where gloomy ignorance, or superstitions fully deform the human mind – Where the benign influence of sacred inspiration, nere eradicated the the gloomy soul, nor the torch of Liberty illuminated the political horizon – Els clog'd by Popish bigotry, where man suppose all sins forgiven by a priest, the vilest of the human race, seen more frequent at the Billiard-room or abandon'd brothel – with eyes red with wine than at the house of God –

We have witness'd various unfathomable phenomena of nature-- Explor'd Islands of massy rock, barren and useless to the hand of culture; which at first thought, fancy a ballance to the ponderous weight of the Northern Hemisphere – the residence of monsters of deep – Other Isles of luxurious soil, producing in spontaneous growth, the most delicious fruits and fragrant spices – Many of those of little benefit to the world being equally desolate – Islands that yield that bane of society – that pernicious “root of all evil” – filthy Gold – From our gallant Ship while plowing the Eastern borders of the vast Pacific we have view'd with rapture the awfully sublime Cardilleras Nature can not loft a more majestic scene –

How vast a distance have we travers'd ! What dangers not encounter'd! Yet no hostile enemy has molested us escap'd the poison'd dagger of Sumatra's tawny pirates, and thus far the perils of three boisterous Oceans—

To revisit our native land, the birth place of light, liberty – where we have pass'd our childhood – where we have enjoy'd so many blessings, and so many pleasures with the companions of our youth – Again embrace our families, & friends, again partake of that society from which we have been so long depriv'd, must constitute as great society as is within the reach of frail humanity –

Lat. 30° 58' N

Lon. 74 22 W –

[next p.]

The Ship Cath^e sailed I think about the 3rd of June 1803

Ship Oneida from Canton spoke Ship Catherine – January, February 23rd 1804- 30 Leagues from the Cape of Good Hope – then 6 days from the Cape on a Sealing Voyage – 2nd Feb^y the ship

Catherine from New Holland King Geo. Sound arriv'd at the Cape it is said she sail'd from Tasse bay Feb^y
17 for New Holland

Donald Mackay
Donald Mackay
David Morgen

Livre a M^e M^c McKhie par A. Sils ce que

1816 Suit

20 g ^{bre} une pantalone de Batfries	26 “
une paire de Pants	3 “
una & &	1 “ 90
2 ? a 12 franel ?.	24 “
una ? Veste [jacket]	90 “
une paire de battes [boots]	24
Total p ^r	168 ‘ 90
La 2 p ^r Stockings	5. 0
1 Do --	4.50
2 p ^r Socks	1.50
1 p ^r Gloves	1.50
	<hr/> <hr/>
	181.00

A. Sils

