

THE DIARY OF CHARLES JOHN KINGSNORTH.

**A RECORD OF A JOURNEY OF EMIGRATION TO
NEW ZEALAND.
1874 - 1875.**

**Taken from a copy given to Elihu Kingsnorth..
Copied with original spellings, etc. as far as possible by
Maurice W.Kingsnorth in 1961.**

***This particular edition has been taken from a previous transcription and
arrangement compiled by Margaret Culham (nee Kingsnorth) in 1985.***

INTRODUCTION.

Dear Father, Mother, Sisters and Brothers and all friends who may chance to read the following. I hope you are well and may all you be living when I return if I am so spared.

There was a time when I thought I should never trust myself on the face of the mighty deep but having recently made a trip to France and having a desire to travel and see something of the world I asked him who plants his footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm to bless me in the undertaking of the long voyage to New Zealand.

My mother having suggested that I should keep a diary of it I shall endeavour to give an account so as to give you as correct an idea as possible of what such a voyage is and trust you will look over all the imperfections.

Believe me,

Yours affectionately,

C.J.Kingsnorth.

DIARY

Thursday, October 15th 1874.

Embarked board ship Berar, 902 tons Registered Sailing Vessel, Captain Heigho, bound to Wellington, New Zealand with a party of emigrants, weather fine.

Towed out of West India Docks by steam tug, arriving at Gravesend in evening. We stayed two days to get compasses tested, take in luggage etc.

Sunday, October 18th, 1874.

Started about 7.30 am, arriving at Deal in the evening, dropped anchor and the River Pilot took leave of us.

Monday, 19th October, 1874.

Weighed anchor early and started with Sea Pilot, wind being against us we were still towed along by the tug, reaching Beachy Head in the evening.

The tug left us and we spread sail, sea becoming rather agitated and staying on deck rather late watching sailors who were very amusing.

On going down to bed I began to reach and vomit but at length I got in bed and slept very well.

Tuesday, 20th October, 1874.

Got up and found ship in full sail but wind being too much ahead of us we were not going more than about two miles per hour, towards the latter part of the day, however we had a good side breeze that sent us along nearly ten miles an hour.

Towards the morning of Wednesday, 21st October, the wind blew harder and by daylight it was a perfect gale. Did not have any breakfast except a little coffee to drink, we all lay in bed nearly the whole of the day, ship rolling fearfully sometimes nearly flat on her side, mess utensils, brooms and stools flying in all directions and we were drifted back as far as the Isle of Wight, a days sail, by night, however, the raging billows had somewhat ceased.

Thursday, 22nd October, 1874.

Sea more calm, but made very little progress until the evening when we made about one hundred miles during the night, have not eaten much since Monday but have better appetite today.

Friday 23rd October, 1874.

Pilot left this morning when I sent a letter ashore by him for home as I did by the River Pilot.

A fine lovely morning, feel quite myself again; made but very little progress, beautiful moonlight evening, sea calm as grass, music, singing and dancing on deck.

24th, 25th, 26th and 27th.

Wind against us and rough sea; being obliged to tack we made but little progress. I was very sick and poorly, could not eat scarcely anything, water, a little salt through some defect in pump which made my throat sore.

Wednesday, 28th October, 1874.

A fair wind sprang up last night sending us along at a good speed, we are past the Bay of Biscay, are now on the Atlantic Ocean.

Thursday, 29th October, 1874.

Fair wind, fine day, we passed a shoal of Porpoises or Sea Hogs about ten o'clock this morning, about four feet in length, all going the same way as our ship, sometimes taking a leap out of the water; in the evening we ran against a shark, knocking it out of the water.

Friday, 30th October, 1874.

Fair wind, feel better, and eat better.

Saturday, 31st October, 1874.

Very fine sunny day and very little wind, not going more than five or six miles an hour, don't think we are far from Cape De Verd Islands.

Sunday 1st November, 1874.

Side wind blowing strong, but the weather is very warm and showery. Two little girls died last night, one nine years old and the other one and a half years old, they were put into their grave about eight o'clock this morning, sown up in canvas bags with a stone tied to their feet and laid on a board, the Captain reading the service, and at the proper time the board was tipped up and they slid into the sea.

There was a service in the evening on deck, the minister was one of the sailors, a nice old man of the Wesleyan persuasion, he has been to the New Zealand gold diggings and he said it was there that he found a pearl of great price, he also preached last Sunday down in our room.

Monday, 2nd November, 1874.

Fair wind, warm and showery, thermometer staying at sixty eight degrees.

Tuesday, 3rd November, 1874.

Fair wind and warm weather.

Wednesday, 4th November, 1874.

Very warm, not much wind, thermometer standing at seventy degrees, a child about a year and a half old died at ten minutes to twelve o'clock, it had the measles, and then inflammation of the chest.

Thursday, 5th November, 1874.

Head wind, seventy two degrees of heat. Have not tasted bread since I have been at sea till now one of the passengers have taken the baking job, it is a little sour.

Are now passing the Tropic of Cancer. Have got a bad cold.

Friday, 6th November, 1874.

Beautiful clear sky and warm sun, very little wind, seventy three degrees of heat.

Another child dead between three and four years of age.

Saturday, 7th November, 1874.

Wish in all the world the wind would blow and that the ship would go.

Very hot sun and the ocean as calm as a pond.

Seventy six degrees of summer heat.

Saw a gang of Porpoises at a distance, but they turned off and disappeared before they got very near.

Saw the various colours and beauty of a tropical sunset in the evening, it was remarked that it would have made a beautiful painting.

Sunday, 8th November, 1874.

Beautiful fine morning and very little wind, ship going slowly.

Thermometer standing at seventy five degrees.

General divine service has not been performed on the voyage yet, today it is not to be on account of some disease in the after part of the ship.

Two sheep died in the afternoon.

In the evening a fresh breeze sprang up from the north-east sending us along at a fair speed.

Monday, 9th November, 1874.

Fair wind, seventy five degrees of heat.

Two more children dead, one about two and a half years old, the other a baby.

Tuesday, 10th November, 1874.

Fair wind, seventy five degrees of heat.

Are now where fish fly, this is a fact as well as a saying, they come up out of the water and flit about in swarms having the appearance of swallows but in closer view of them they are something like Mackerel with bat's wings, and the smaller ones like sprats.

Ten o'clock in the evening, we are now abreast of Cape Verde but are not within sight of it or the Isles.

Wednesday, 11th November, 1874.

Fair wind, seventy five degrees of heat, my cold is getting better, new moon.

Thursday, 12th November, 1874.

Strong embracing side wind from the coast of Africa.
Heat seventy five degrees.

Friday, 13th November, 1874.

Wind the same, the weather thick and hazy.
Saw another lot of Porpoises about one thirty o'clock about four feet in length, going the same way as we were, those at a distance as well as those about the ship, and leaping out of the water, an amusing sight for about five minutes.
In the evening there was a bit of a squall with rain lightening.
Heat seventy five degrees.

Saturday, 14th November, 1874.

Heat seventy eight degrees.
Had a very hot night last night.
Weather showery.
Side wind first part of day, then a calm and head wind in the evening.
Met a French Barque in the afternoon homeward bound.
Another child dead.

Sunday, 15th November, 1874.

Very little wind nearly ahead of us.
Heat seventy five degrees.
A short service in the morning by the sailor.

Monday, 16th November, 1874.

Wind the same.
Eighty degrees of heat.
A birth took place this morning.

Tuesday, 17th November, 1874.

**Strong head wind.
Heat seventy eight degrees.**

Wednesday, 18th November, 1874.

**Head wind, fine lovely day.
Heat seventy eight degrees.
Saw a rock, St Paul's rock, it seemed like a small island presenting a white, black and rugged appearance and forming a very picturesque and interesting object in the sun.
Also some large birds and several ships in sight, flying fish etc.
Are now somewhere about the Equator.**

Thursday, 19th November, 1874.

**Head wind, bright fine day, seventy eight degrees.
This head wind has sent us too much west.**

Friday, 20th November, 1874.

**Strong wind a little more to the side.
Seventy seven degrees of heat.**

Saturday, 21st November, 1874.

**Wind the same.
Heat seventy seven degrees.
Saw some more ships, flying fish and rather a pretty kind of shell fish that floats on the water, it is about the size of a large potatoe, of a reddish colour, and has the peculiarity of raising a part of itself up to the wind so as to act as a sail, called a nautilus or Portuguese Man of War.**

Sunday, 22nd November, 1874.

Wind and heat the same, at two o'clock this morning we had been forced to steer so much West as to be almost in sight of the South American coast, had to make a tack of from 20 to 30 miles to the east.

Divine service morning and evening on main Deck by the Sailor, and on the Poop with the single women by the Captain.

In the evening there was a distant show of what appeared to be a fire in the west, attracting general notice, some said it was a Steamer, others that it was a ship on fire, but the Captain said it was something burning on shore, or the lighthouse of Pernambuco on the Brazilian coast.

We then made another tack eastward.

Monday, 23^d November, 1874.

Wind a little more favourable.

Seventy eight degrees of heat.

Nothing particular fresh today excepting other ships, nautilus, flying fish etc.

We have beautiful moonlight evenings now.

I get more used to my rocking house now, and almost forget what land scenery is like.

Tuesday, 24th November, 1874.

Wind the same.

Seventy seven degrees of heat.

Scarlet fever still prevails. It is said that one of the children that are dead was infected before embarkation. A young married man died last night leaving a wife and one child. Another child died tonight.

We are now in latitude 12(degrees) South and Longitude 34(degrees) 41 (minutes) West, or about 140 miles off St. Salvador on the Brazilian Coast of South America.

A Shark about six feet in length passed round the head of the ship in the afternoon.

Wednesday, 25th November, 1874.

Wind and heat the same, passed a Barque in the afternoon.

26th and 27th November, 1874.

Wind favourable.

Heat seventy six degrees.

Saturday, 28th November, 1874.

Wind favourable.

Heat seventy five degrees.

Towards the evening a shower came up in the west with a South West so that we were steering nearly South East.

Beautiful sunset in the evening. Weather very much colder, thermometer down to sixty seven degrees.

Sunday, 29th November, 1874.

Very strong South Westerly wind, weather showery, sea agitated, bright sun.

Heat sixty seven degrees.

Wind dropped off about four o'clock in the afternoon.

Monday, 30th November, 1874.

East wind, almost calm.

Heat sixty nine degrees.

Tuesday, 1st December, 1874.

South East wind, very bright, sunny day.

Boxes got up so that those who choose could air their clothes.

Wednesday, 2nd December, 1874.

East wind, heat seventy one degrees.

Showery in the afternoon.

Thursday, 3rd December, 1874.

Fair wind.

Heat seventy one degrees.

A ship crossed us this morning about three or four miles ahead, making towards the Cape of Good Hope.

In the afternoon another ship crossed us nearly the same way about eight or nine miles ahead.

A subscription has been made around the ship for the woman who lost her husband.

Friday, 4th December, 1874.

South west wind, then calm, dull, damp day.

Heat sixty seven degrees.

There was a concert last night, the instruments were Violin and Bass Viol, a booth was erected for the performers and amongst them was Jack Spun yarn, Gaff Top Sail Bill, Flying Jibb and Tom Starboard.

A lively evening was spent, commencing at 7.30 and breaking up at 10 o'clock.

Dear Friends who may chance to read this, such is life on the Ship iBerari. I was leaning over the side of the ship after the concert was over, admiring the speed we were going, until at length I found I was in the thoroughfare of a rat. As one came along the ship's side and ran over my shoulders. I then turned in to bed.

Saturday, 5th December, 1874.

Calm till about 11 o'clock, then fair breeze sprang up until about 4 o'clock when we were getting going again, weather showery.

Heat seventy degrees.

Another child died last night about two years old, buried at six o'clock this morning.

We are now rounding the Cape of Good Hope, about fifty degrees off.

Had a capital entertainment this morning, a large bird being the first object of interest, attracting the attention of nearly all on board, it is called the Albatross, measures about six feet from tip to tip of the wings, it's beak resembling that of a duck, it kept hovering about the stern of the vessel, and now and then floating on the water for a time, it's wings were dark and it's body grey and a grey spot on the top of each wing.

I think perhaps I am deceived about it's length from wing to wing, an old sailor said it was eighteen or twenty feet, and he never knew any caught less than ten or a dozen.

The Captain threw a line with bait without effect. There was also a number of small birds something like swallows, called by the sailors, Albatross Chicken or Capeswallows.

Went a little farther and met with a species of fish called Grampas, black fish, but probably some of them were small Whales, as I saw them squirt water up in the air, some came straight up to the side of the ship, they vary in length from four to ten feet.

Sunday, 6th December, 1874.

Strong South West wind.

Heat sixty eight degrees.

Another child died at four o'clock this morning and was buried at five.

Divine service morning and evening.

Sunday School in the afternoon as usual.

Monday, 7th December, 1874.

Very strong South West wind.

Thermometer down to sixty degrees.

The sea presenting a pretty aspect of hill and dale.

We are making good speed.

A Whale was seen this morning squirting up water.

Tuesday, 8th December, 1874.

South wind, heat sixty degrees.

Several Albatrosses of different sizes and colours, other birds etc.

A great deal of gambling going on now a days.

South wind, heat sixty degrees.

Wednesday, 9th December, 1874.

South wind, almost becalmed.

Heat sixty four degrees.

Sold 60zs of tobacco at 5d per ounce.

Thursday, 10th December, 1874.

Heat sixty six degrees.

Warm sun.

Sighted the Island of Tristan Da Cunha at five o'clock this morning of which I have attempted to give a rough sketch on the wrapper of this book, as it looked at eleven o'clock. It is the largest of the three Islands on the South Atlantic Ocean.. Becalmed.

Very lofty and about fifteen miles in circumference, is in Longitude 15(degrees) 40 (minutes) West and in Latitude 37(minutes) South.Ocean. A sailor said that there were five families of people living there when he visited it nine years ago. I should think perhaps it is about eight thousand feet high, and that we were about ten or twelve miles from it. When I first saw it the Base only was visible, the top being buried in clouds. In the afternoon the Captain caught two Albatross measuring ten feet from tips of the wings, their bodies about the size of a large goose.

Friday, 11th December, 1874.

North East wind.

Heat sixty four degrees.

Our fresh potatoes are run out.

Saturday, 12th December, 1874.

Wind the same.

Heat sixty two degrees.

Making very good speed.

Sunday, 13th December, 1874.

North Wind.

Heat sixty degrees.

Making eleven knots per hour.

Divine service was not performed the wind being cold and bleak.

There was another concert last night, which was very entertaining, concluding with a nigger performance by the Original and only Berar Minstrels, as they styled themselves, who had never performed out of the Berar.

Monday, 14th December, 1874.

North West wind. Sea agitated.

Still sweeping along at about eleven and twelve knots per hour.

Sixty degrees of heat.

Passed the Longitude of Greenwich about twelve o'clock last night.

We had lost about two hours until a few days ago, when we began to gain.

Our time is about the same as English time now. We are calculated to gain

11, 3/4 hours of English time by the time we get to our destination.

It is daylight from about 3.30am till about 8.30pm.

Begin to perceive the suns course to be in the North.

Tuesday, 15th December, 1874.

Fair wind.

Heat sixty degrees.

Met a band of Porpoises or Sea Hogs in the evening, also some pretty birds about the size of Pigeons, with white spotted wings, called Cape Pigeons.

Wednesday, 16th December, 1874.

Fair wind.

Heat sixty degrees.

Weather thick, overcast and damp air first part of day.

What with the sun peeping through thick atmosphere, the cold wind, the quantity of foam about the ship that she makes in cutting through the water, and white crest of the waves as far as one can see, it is something like winter's day in England when the snow is thawing, with here and there a patch that is not melted.

Concert on the Poop in evening when we single men were invited, also the married people, when several of the young ladies sang very sweetly.

The Doctor who was dressed in female attire, and the Captain taking part, a very pleasant evening was spent.

Thursday, 17th December, 1874.

Very strong fair wind with rain, going along at a splendid rate.

Heat sixty degrees.

Saw an innumerable quantity of small birds, called whale birds, said to be in search of something that the whales leave.

Also two or three large yellow spots in the water said to be whale's spawn.

In the evening it was a little rough, and a few small Porpoises running before the head of the ship.

A child died today.

A birth took place last week.

Friday, 18th December, 1874.

Sea somewhat rough, now and then, running up like a mountain, so that we could not see over it, but did not impede our progress much as it was a fair wind.

Fine weather.

Albatross, etc.

Thermometer standing fifty eight degrees.

Saturday, 19th December, 1874.

West wind until the evening when it was almost calm for three hours, then a strong wind sprang up nearly ahead or east so that we were steering a little too much South.

Heat fifty eight degrees.

Sunday, 20th December, 1874.

East wind blowing very strong till ten in the evening when it shifted a little more to our side.

Thermometer down to fifty two degrees.

Weather cloudy

Divine service not held.

Monday, 21st December, 1874.

Very strong side wind.

Rained all day.

Heat fifty eight degrees.

Wind carried away the end of our Jibboom, and one sail, but it was got on board again.

Tuesday, 22nd December, 1874

Fair wind.

Cold, fifty four degrees of heat.

Saw some more Pigs or Porpoises, one of them perhaps would weigh about twenty scores; they are said to be a sign of rough weather.

Got up and looked out of my window in the night, it was a beautiful moonlight night, and the waters were rushing rapidly by.

Wednesday, 23rd December, 1874.

Fair wind.

Cold.

Fifty degrees of heat.

Sea a little rough.

Another child died.

Thursday, 24th December, 1874.

Strong fair wind.

Heat fifty two degrees.

Sea agitated.

Wet afternoon.

A lot of white and brown fish from three to four feet long running in front of the ship's head.

Friday, 25th December, 1874.

Strong fair wind.

Wet afternoon.

Sea agitated.

Fifty four degrees of heat.

Christmas was kept up as usual in the way of catering, drinking and merry making.

I had a bottle of stout given to me which is the first that I've had since I have been on board the Berar, that is a little over two months.

There was to have been a concert in the evening, but the wind began to be a gale and sea getting rougher it was postponed, the sail was shortened, and ship hove to for the night.

Saturday, 26th December, 1874.

Very strong fair wind, weather thick and damp, temperature of forty six degrees.

Sea running in little mountains, ah! A grand sight indeed, sometimes a wave, or rather a lot of spray came over the side which with people, tubs etc. was running from side to side of ship as she rolled, a laughable sight, but now and then the water ran up to such a height as to look as though it would swallow us up, it was when that it was inclined to make one's heart go pit-a-pat, also a great sensation was caused at meals by the things rushing to and fro the table.

I was sitting astride of a stool, when it carried me nearly across the deck backwards, exciting laughter amongst my companions, and the remains of our plum pudding was gone from off the table when we got up, went a-hunting that and found it the other side of the deck.

Sunday, 27th December, 1874.

Wind and sea the same, rained first part of day.

Heat fifty four degrees.

Shipped one or two seas nearly knee deep.

Two men at the wheel.

Divine service not performed.

Overtook a Barque and past her in the afternoon; the first we have seen for nearly a month.

We are still accompanied by Albatrosses.

Monday, 28th December, 1874.

Steady fair wind, sea gone down.
Heat fifty seven degrees.
Making good speed.

Tuesday, 29th December, 1874.

Fair wind.
Heat fifty seven degrees.
Going 12 knot, or miles.

Wednesday, 30th December, 1874.

Strong side wind.
Heat fifty eight degrees.
Sea somewhat rough and ship again displaying her rolling propensities and occasionally shipping of water, rained all day.

Thursday, 31st December, 1874.

Fair wind, but almost becalmed.
Heat fifty three degrees.
Very red sunset which seemed to have a degree of solemnity with it, especially as it was the last of the year.

Friday, 1st January, 1875.

Fair wind.
Fifty one degrees of heat.
Captain gave us each a half quartern of grog.
A sailor locked up for interfering in a row amongst the married people, he was handcuffed, but got out in a short time, was fetched back offering considerable resistance, knocked a constable down, hit the boatswain and bit the Captain's hand.
A concert in the evening.

Saturday, 2nd January, 1875.

Fair wind.

Heat fifty two degrees.

Going, going and going, there seems to be no end of going, for, as the women say 'we never can get up that hill in front' there always appearing just so much distance in front as far as we can see.

Sunday, 3^d January, 1875.

Fair wind.

Heat fifty one degrees.

Divine service on deck in the morning, in the evening below in married peoples quarters by the sailor.

Wind cold and occasionally a little hail.

Have about 3440 miles farther to go.

Two men working at blacksmithing all day on account of the water condensing engine being out of order, which has been rather a plague the whole of the way.

Monday, 4th January, 1875.

Strong fair wind.

Sea agitated.

Our ship being got rather light they put some salt water this morning for ballast.

A shocking occurrence has happened this evening, the steward, it is believed has committed suicide by taking laudanum.

The sails had just been shifted and people were walking to and fro the deck as usual after tea, when suddenly I noticed they were quiet and a crowd was got together, and two or three were lugging Steward to and fro the deck and shaking him and halloo'ing at him, one cried 'land ho!' but it was of no avail, his eyes were closed and he seemed to be thoroughly asleep, he was taken in the hospital and put in a bath, but died about eleven o'clock and was buried early in the morning without any service being read.

He has left a wife and three children in London, the former was on board at Gravesend before we started and dined with him and I understand she begged him not to come on the voyage, it is said she was about sixteen years of age when he married her, and he about nineteen.

He is now aged twenty eight. Was a jolly and active man, and sang a comical song a few nights ago, some said that he had been drinking and that he took it to sober himself because the Captain should not find him drunken, but it is most probable his intent was suicide as he had several times bid the cooks good bye, and it is said wrote a note for the Boatswain to give to his wife saying he died happy.

Tuesday, 5th January, 1875.

Strong wind.

Heat fifty degrees.

Sea agitated.

Wednesday, 6th January, 1875.

Fair wind.

Weather foggy and warmer.

Heat fifty five degrees.

Thursday, 7th January, 1875.

Strong fair wind, with rain part of day.

Heat fifty six degrees.

Making capital speed.

In Longitude 116 °. East Latitude about 46 °. South.

Friday, 8th January, 1875.

Fair wind.

Weather dull.

Heat fifty four degrees.

Saturday, 9th January, 1875.

Strong fair wind.

Sea agitated.

Weather dull, cold, wet and miserable.

Heat fifty one degrees

Longitude 122 °. East yesterday.

Sunday, 10th January, 1875.

Wind fair.

Sea agitated.

Temperature of fifty three degrees.

Longitude 132 ° at twelve o'clock or 1726 miles farther to go.

Sunday School in the afternoon, and divine service in the evening below in the married people's place by Mr. Pine the sailor.

Yes, it was Sunday, but did not hear the Church bells.

I thought I should like to be at Bethersden Chapel in the afternoon but I suppose the service did not begin till I was got to bed, our time being about nine hours ahead of English time now.

Monday, 11th January, 1875.

Wind nearly ahead, weather wet and dull till about noon, when it cleared off and wind turned fair, so that I took one of my afternoon walks.

Temperature of fifty four degrees.

A woman died leaving husband and four children; buried in the evening.

Tuesday, 12th January, 1875.

Strong fair wind.

Sea agitated.

Weather wet.

Heat fifty four degrees.

Longitude 141 (degrees) 28 (min) East. Latitude 46 (degrees) 32 (min) South.

Wednesday, 13th January, 1875.

Sea agitated, becalmed forenoon.

Fair wind in the afternoon.

Are now in the Straights of Gibralter, oh! No, I meant to say passing Tasmania, originally called Vandiemans Land.

The Captain caught another Albatross this morning.

Saw some more fish of the kind that I saw on the 24th of last month, by which we think there is a plenty of wind in store for us.

The Mate made two or three throws at him with a harpoon but without success.

The Captain was getting steam winch ready yesterday, today the Sailors are cleaning the steps that we are to go down at Wellington which is rather cheering as it looks as though we were nearing our destination.

Thursday, 14th January, 1875.

Strong side wind.

Weather wet, Heat fifty six degrees.

Longitude 150° 38'

Good speed.

A man died leaving a wife and three children, the eldest about four years of age.

I understand there was about £20 collected for the woman who lost her husband on the 24th of November, the Captain, Officers and Crew contributing pretty generously.

Friday, 15th January, 1875.

Fair wind, beautifully fine.

Fifty eight degrees of heat.

Sailors cleaning the ship.

Am now in excellent health, and have been pretty well the best part of the voyage.

Saturday, 16th January, 1875.

Fair wind.

Weather beautifully fine.

Sixty degrees of heat.

The water does not look so black as it did out in the deep ocean, it is looking more of a green colour, which shows we are nearing land.

Sunday, 17th January, 1875.

Wind fair.

Beautifully fine.

Temperature of sixty degrees.

Going slow.

Child died.

Divine service morning and evening, Sunday school in afternoon on Main deck by Mr. Pine the Sailor.

Beautiful moonlight evening.

This makes the fourth moon that I've seen since I have been on the water and appears to be the opposite way upwards to what it does in England.

Monday 18th January, 1875.

Fair wind, but very little of it, not going more than about three knots or miles per hour.

Heat sixty four degrees.

Weather very fine and clear.

Another child dead.

Have just heard our exact position at twelve o'clock today.

Latitude 40° 20'South. Longitude 167° 30'East.

Another lot of fish crossed us from the south leaping up in the air.

A man died in the evening leaving a wife and six children.

Another Collection made for the bereaved.

Tuesday, 19th January, 1875.

**Wind fair going about seven knots per hour.
Are now somewhere off the West coast of New Zealand.
Sixty five degrees of heat.
Water a blue colour today.**

Wednesday, 20th January, 1875.

**Strong south side breeze.
Going a rapid pace.
Temperature of sixty five degrees.
Weather beautifully fine, clear and dry air.
At six o'clock in the evening Land oh! Was the genuine cry, it was just after tea when nearly everybody was on deck for recreation, I had just been up the rigging for the first time to see if I could discern anything but the horizon was quite clear and serene and there was not the slightest appearance of land to me, I had not been down more than a quarter of an hour before the Captain started a general shouting and in a few minutes with a good strain of the eyes we could see what seemed to be a long strip of dark cloud and by the time the sun was set, which was about seven o'clock, it looked very high and mountainous and we passed two rough pieces of timber about eight feet long, afloat.
It was Cape Farewell, the northern part of the South Island of New Zealand about ten o'clock the lighthouse was visible.**

Thursday, 21st January, 1875.

**Very little wind and doing scarce anything; are opposite the Cape, in the Strait with land in sight on both sides.
Weather truly delightful, temperature of sixty seven degrees.
Head wind sprang towards the evening.
There was three or four small trading vessels in sight during the day and one larger ship, also some very pretty land birds.**

Friday, 22nd January, 1875.

Got up and we were off Kupile Island.

Little or no wind before ten o'clock, after that time a beautiful breeze got up.

Temperature sixty seven degrees.

It was a glorious day indeed, I never saw anything half so grand before, from Kupile we were going down the Strait with land in sight on both sides and the weather so extremely delightful that I felt as though I should soon grow ten feet high.

As we approached the end we got out of sight of the South Island and nearer the Wellington side, the land here is very high and uneven, could not see part of the top for being buried in the clouds, some places it was bare, at others it was green scrub, wood and trees, and some of the valleys and sides of the hills there appeared to be a few acres enclosed with green fences and a house or two upon them, I got a view of one of the houses with a telescope it was a very neat and substantial built in the form of two sides of a square thus [] could only see one window for the obstruction of a hill that was an upper one in the end which seemed to be of glass and the frame varnished.

At length we got in sight of the lighthouse on the opposite side of the bay that leads into the harbour as we got to the bay we espied the Pilot coming out in a boat under sail, in a short time he reached us and was heartily cheered on getting on board, this was about three o'clock, he brought some potatoes and newspapers with him, about a quarter of an hour afterwards a smart steam boat the 'Manawatu' came out to us loaded with Ladies and Gentlemen dressed in their holiday costume and their boat was flying all over

with flags, they cruised about around us waving their hats and shouting 'hurrah' for a short time and then went back.

It was the Anniversary day in Wellington of the settlement of the Province. It was a head wind going in which made it difficult.

In consequence of there having been so much sickness on board the ship was forced to go in quarantine and her passengers landed on a small Island in the harbour for a few days before landing at Wellington.

A little before sunset we layed just off the Island which is about four miles from Wellington.

I went on deck about half past ten in the evening, the moon was nearly full and shining beautifully, yes, and I could not help gazing around for some time, everything appeared so strange and grand, on one side there was three large fires at intervals of several miles between, along a very

mountainous and uneven country and densely wooded, I afterwards understood it was where they were railway making.

Had not been up many minutes before an object at a distance in the water caught mine and the attention of a few more people who said it was a shark, on it's getting nearer we saw it was a boat under sail with three men in it. One called out 'Berar Ahoy!' it was the harbour master and the inspector, they came alongside to see the doctor; 'How many cases of sickness have you?' they said. 'About twenty' was the reply. I'm sorry yours is such a bad ship, well tomorrow morning get all your sick ashore, there is first rate accommodation, and in the afternoon bring the others.

They then sailed back into Wellington, the Pilot remaining on board, he is said to be the first white man born in Wellington.

Saturday, 23^d January, 1875.

Fine morning and sunshining very warm, we were all very busy packing up our beds, mess ware etc., then rowed ashore on the Island by the sailors. It was quarter to ten am when I first set my foot on New Zealand soil. A short distance from where we landed is a brick built oven, heated by a quantity of old ships fittings, tables, stools etc., that have been cast out of former ships. in it our baggage, bedding had to be baked. The Island is about half a mile in length from North to South and nearly as far East to West, very high and very steep, some places nearly perpendicular, entirely uncultivated except in a piece of what has been a flower garden about the emigrant barracks, but has not been attended to lately through the place not being occupied; and piece of cottage attached to a cottage and lighthouse which is a very pretty spot, also a small kitchen garden, the rest in a wild state and overgrown with long grass, white clover, and a sort of stuff resembling green broom, so there is plenty of keep for stock but there is none to eat it, the only living things being a goat, a turkey or two, and a few small birds, the soil is very rich and deep, and what is there seems to grow luxuriously; at places it is very stony and rocky, especially at the north end where there is a grave yard fenced in with a rough palisade fence, there is a few graves and a headstone or two. In the middle and right on the top there is an extensive and substantial lot of buildings called the Emigration Barracks, they are laid out in three rows built of New Zealand red pine, a very fine wood indeed, are divided into kitchen wash house, hospital and separate dining and sleeping compartments for married people, single women and single men, are two stories high, sash windows, and very compact.

Sunday, January 24th, 1875.

Sun shining warm, with plenty of air, no service today, a child died yesterday, buried this afternoon in the grave yard, the captain reading service.

The harbour abounds with fish, some of us go a fishing sometimes and are sure to meet with success, there is also an abundance of winkles, others go a rambling about the Island with their sweethearts, etc; the living is thorough good, milk, sugar tea, meat, vegetables and excellent bread and butter comes daily in a boat from the city of Wellington which we can see across the harbour.

There is every chance to be healthy here on the top of this high mountain where it is very dry and always plenty of air, with the chance to bath in sea

water, but I do not like to get in farther than up to my knees on account of the sharks which are said to be very numerous, this I do every day.

Monday, January 25th, 1875.

Warm and windy, adult emigrants may be required to do four hours of work daily whilst in these Barracks.

So we single men had to go carrying of bricks this afternoon from the waters edge up over the top of the Island by a zigzag path and part of the way down the other side to a well.

Tuesday, 26th January, 1875.

Warm and windy.

Thirty of us single men had to go road making this morning with pickmattocks, shovels and spades, making a footpath from the Barracks down to the lighthouse, and the married men had to brick carrying.

The married women had the use of the wash house yesterday, single girls today, and single men tomorrow.

Wednesday, 27th January, 1875.

Warm and windy.

Single men road making in the morning and married men brick carrying. Here is the kind of drink that we had today whilst at work, one of us went down to the ship and got some oatmeal, put it in a pail of water with some sugar, then stirring it up with a stick, it was very sweet and nice.

'By George', one say, 'what would our relations say were they to see us?'

No matter what trade one is, almost all have to work; some are carpenters, printers, Coppersmiths, Butchers, Boatmen, Millers, Navvies and Agricultural Labourers; and some from as many different parts, being French, Irish, Scotts, York, Warwickshire, Cambridgeshire, Cornish, Kentish and others.

Thursday, 28th January, 1875.

Weather rather colder with a little rain, Single men roadmaking, married men brick carrying.

We were visited by the board of health officer this afternoon, he consents for the single men to leave the Island tomorrow.

Friday, 29th January, 1875.

Weather rough and wet.

We left Soames Island this afternoon at 4.20 by steam boat Napier, arriving at Wellington a little past five o'clock, it is a very pretty and city like place, greatly exceeding my expectations, but I did not enjoy it as it rained hard all the time and I got wet through looking after my luggage, went into a public house for a glass of stout, it was 6d. for a small glass about a third of a pint; went to some more Barracks.

Saturday, 30th January, 1875.

Wet in first of the morning then cleared off fine.

Went to three Iron and Brass foundries in the City. At two of them I was told that I might look around next week, and by what I could learn I found that I might be getting 8s 0d per day of eight hours, but lodgings are an exorbitant price, what seems to be customary is to pay from £1, 0s. 0d to £1. 5s. 0d. per week for board and lodgings together, then I went back to the Barracks to dinner where I have equally as good dinner as I did on Soames Island.

In the afternoon I went to a Regatta in the harbour it was attended by a considerable number of people.

For a place of truth I resolved to ascertain what they were before I ventured in, so I strolled about a little while until I met an old gentleman, I asked him what denomination met there, he gave me to understand that they were of the Calvinistic principles and he said he was going there, we then sat down by the side of the road and chatted until it was time to go in, he said that he came from Staffordshire and had been away from England twelve years, he said that he knew several places in Kent and Sussex and mentioned Sturry.

Sunday, 31st January, 1875.

Weather fine and warm, got up and dressed and went in search of the Strict Baptist Chapel, after finding a neat structure that I supposed to be it; but thinking it of rather too spacious and prosperous an appearance Chapel, I told him I had been there and told him the Minister's name, Mr Hancock, and he said that he used to know him and asked if a letter would find him there now, I told him that it would.

On going in the Chapel I noticed that he took his seat in the pulpit, so I found he was the Minister and that his name was Mr. Taylor, this mornings service was not attended by many.

On coming out of Chapel Mr. Taylor asked me to his house for dinner, which I accepted.

In the afternoon I went for a walk with one of his sons some distance along by the harbour side up to some tea gardens, on returning I stayed to tea, whilst at tea an elder son of Mr. Taylor's came in and in the course of conversation he, Mr. Taylor Jnr., said that he should have to get a man as his present one was going to leave to go trading with the money that he had saved, when I told him that I would not mind trying his place, he offered me £2. 0. 0. Per week and a room to live in free and the promise of more when I got used to the place; he is a merchant and keeps a store in Molesworth Street, Wellington, a little above the Parliament houses and the house of His Excellency the Governor of New Zealand, and deals in hay, oats, Maize, bran, pollard, wood coal. tools, ginger beer, tobacco and a few articles of grocery, has a set of horse machinery for crushing maize, oats etc., and chaff to sell.

I did not do much the week except in cleaning out my room and getting it ready to go into, was attacked with the diarrhoea the whole of the week, got into my room on Saturday February 26th.

Sunday, 7th February, 1875.

Awoke and heard the cocks crowing, yes, I thought, I am now settled here for a time, wondered how things were going on at home.

Soon I heard a church bell which seemed to sound just like one of old Bethersden bells, I could not help bursting into tears and heartily appealing to God that I might some time again have the opportunity of seeing my parents.

I should also say that I hope I offered genuine thanks to Him when I landed for thus preserving me across the mighty deep when so many fell by the fever.

Now to conclude, as regards the voyage it is considered to be a very fair one performed in 98 days from London, the only blemish being the long list of nineteen deaths.

Here it is but just to state that the Doctor of the ship was not a fit one to send with it, he was but a young boyish looking Chap, and complained of as not being over earnest in attendance upon the patients.

The best way for travellers is to take a small supply of medicine with them, and as little luggage as possible.

As far as the Captain, he performed his duties in every way as well as could be desired, and is considered a very competent and trustworthy man.

Charles John never married apparently due to the then belief that men who had suffered from Rubella, as had Charles, would prove to be impotent. He died in New Zealand in 1927.

The inscription on his gravestone at Ashburton is thus;

**Charles John Kingsnorth.
Native of Bethersden, Kent.
Born August 5th, 1851.
Died June 24th, 1927.
Aged 75.**

THE SHIP "BERAR".

Under charter to the Shaw Savill Company, the ship 'Berar' 902 tons, made three trips to New Zealand, two to Wellington and one to Auckland. Leaving London on February 5th, 1865, she reached Wellington on May 10th, a passage of ninety three days.

Her next voyage was to Auckland. She left London on May 22nd, 1873, and reached Auckland after a passage of one hundred and three days on September 3rd.

On this occasion, she brought out three hundred and eight immigrants, who arrived well in spite of the fact that it was a large number for a ship of her size. There were one hundred and eight children and of that number, three died on the voyage, two babies and a boy of five.

Dr. C.L.Cunningham was the Ships Medical Officer.

According to Mr. Henry Shepherd, of Herne Bay, who travelled on this voyage, she brought out some, if not all, of the fluming for the Thames water race.

Among the passengers on this voyage were the Mills family, several members became well known in cricketing circles, namely, George, Isaac and William.

The third voyage of the 'Berar' was that described by Charles John and as stated in the foregoing, the voyage lasted ninety six days with twenty one deaths aboard due to scarlet fever.

Captain Hall commanded the 'Berar' in 1865, Captain Heigho commanding the ship on the other two voyages. What superb mariners they must have been!