

17. Manila to Sydney 1

Monday 8 Dec to 5 March 1857

At 1pm Capt. came on board, weighed anchor and left Manila, had a beautiful breeze of fair wind until the 20th when we anchored in Banka Straights. (ed. Bangka). Banka Straights are between the island of Banka and Sumatra.

24th

Anchored four times and at noon on are in the Java Sea.

26th December

Christmas Day. In the Java Sea. Oh what I give to be home where I might have someone to wish me a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. The Christmas Day where I am is nearly 7 hours before Christmas at home. It is the hour when happy faces smile around the tapers light. Who will fill my vacant place. who will sing my song tonight.

26th Dec Anchored in the Straights of Sunda. Head winds and heavy rain.

27th Dec

Anchored at Anger Point, ----- full of sweet potatoes, yams, monkeys, java sparrow mongoul. (they say that the monqoul is the finest fruit in the world but I don't think so).

The Capt. buys by the boat loads. A box of cigars for a boat load, perhaps according to what they have in them.

I gave 10 cigars for 18 sparrows and 80 more for 3 small cockatoo parrots.

There are several English ships beating through here with us, some going home, some going to Sydney & Melbourne and some running through to China. Dreadful work beating through here blowing strong and squally with heavy rain all the time, we did not get through until the 1st of jan.

1st January 1857 Through the straights at last, I am happy to say. May God grant to my friends at home what I have not here that is a Happy New Year.

3rd Jan Off Christmas Island, jogging along as usual but the days pass away quicker than you can imagine.

22nd January

Whilst at tea, Capt. came in the cuddy and asked me whether I had mustered the buckets, I told him – no, he then commenced as usual cursing and swearing and wound up by saying the next time any of my orders are disobeyed by God almighty I will nail you up in that cabin so you shant have room to lay down and keep you there until we get to England on bread and water. I will starve you and make an example of you. By the Holy God I will.

25th Jan

At 6pm hove the log, found she was going nearly 3 knots, instead of using the 28 second glass I used the 14 and turned it twice which any reasonable person would think was no difference. After I went below the skipper hove the log and made her go 8½ (which I don't believe) he came down asked what she was going, I told him 3, he asked what glass, told him the 14 turned twice. He called be a bloody fool and several other nice expressions.

Jan 27

Skipper looking black as thunder and niggling away at me and trying ----- something to lay hold of me so he might vent his passion.

I was doing something, I forgot now what it was but he was singing out something, I turned around to see who it was speaking to when my eye happened to catch his, about half an hour afterwards I caught his eye again. He watched me off the Poop, as soon as I got at the bottom of the ladder he commenced at me for looking at him. He said he would lash me to the Royal Mast head for a week and keep me on bread and water if I look at him like I did this morning.

I don't know how I could have looked to have made such an impression on him. I must have looked very fierce. I have noticed two or three times before when he has been blowing me up that if my eyes caught his he would almost stop or turn his eyes down and go ahead again. Only fancy your dear little boy cowing a man like that.

February 4th

Skipper told me to go in the cabin and cut 3 fathoms of that stout rope. I did so when I came out he said what the hell have you been doing, God Damn you, I found out afterwards, he wanted ---- ropes instead of manila. It was to tail onto the Main Royal Halyard which was Manila.

9th Skipper 29 miles out in his chronometer, mistake in cosine of half sum.

5th (ed. mistake ?) Abreast of King George Island

12th Latitude 40.19 south which is the farthest this trip. Nothing but head winds and clams all the way again.

Sunday 22nd Sighted Kings Isle, Gale of wind, 56 (ed. ?) days from Manila.

23rd

Heavy gale, head winds caught a dozen Baraeola. We catch them with a piece of red rag tied over the hook. They are about 3 to 4 feet long and eat something like mackerel.

March 5th

Entered Sydney Heads again. Moderate breeze and fine weather. We grounded on the Low & Pigs. Hurlled in the sails, steamer Washington took us in tow and at 1pm anchored in Sydney Cove