

20. Norfolk Island 4

6th May 1857

In the morning sighted Norfolk Island, went close in to the Cascades. A Whale boat and half a dozen of our old friends came off looking as fat and healthy as ever. The more substantial fat not the flabby fat as they use to be.

The Cap^t sent me ashore in the life boat with some provisions for them in return for which suppose we bought on board a dozen sheep.

They were delighted to see me back again, I shook hands with the men and lips with the women until I all near me, then I got on a horse and rode off towards the Settlement but before I got halfway to the settlement I was taken by assault by four young and pretty Girls (Jane, Anne Nobbs, Ellen Quintal and Diana McCoy) who showed me no mercy. But xxx watchful Providence brought me relief in person of our Carpenter and old Evans who were going up to see old Buffet and after I returned the volley of Questions that were shot at me, I was allowed to depart in safety and none the worse for the attack.

Off I galloped full speed and reached the Settlement of Cascades. Old Buffet and Evans with two or three of their youngest children are all that are living here. I called to see Mrs Evans and had a blow out of Guavas.

Then left to go to the Settlement but before I had gone $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile I was again attacked by a strong force and was taken Captive and led back from which I came.

My Captives were Matha Evans, Augusta Quintal (Alias Augusta Nobbs) Dina Evans (Alias Dina Quintal), Victoria (ed. 17) and Dorcas Young (ed. 24).

I dismounted and put Da Bard (ed. Matha Evans) on the horse made it gallop and threw her off 2 or 3 times. Another time she was going along on the edge of a ditch, one of the Girls frightened the horse into it but before the horse reached the bottom, she sprung right off the horse into the hedge. I caught the horse, she jumped up again laughing all the time, all of them and rode on ahead, we thought to get down as soon as her, cut corners and went over several gardens and down over very steep hills. It was just like going down through the steepest part of our wood, only this is twice as steep as any part of it. I could scarcely keep up with them, they had no shoes but they went down like a lot of dears (as they are) until some hurdles brought them up, they all jumped over but Augusta unfortunately was retained behind by the tail of her night shirt. I soon disengaged her and we resumed our descent. I had my pockets full of Guavas and a bundle of lemons. Dina had another hurdle all for me. At last, we reached the bottom near the landing place, could see no Matha. The old ship was standing in and the boat getting ready to shove off.

Then the time came for parting. There were soon 40 or 50 there and I had to shake hands with everyone of the men and kiss all the Females which was not by any means disagreeable as they were only two or three married ones, then the rest were young and blooming maidens with rubie lips and soft black hair.

But one was still missing which was a Tart without the cream. After the ceremony was over, I waited still expecting the Cream but no. I must be content without it and leave without wishing her goodbye.

We shoved off and reached the old ship again. The Cap^t has altered his mind and is going ashore, during the time he was gone I managed to write a note to Matha expressing my disappointment at not seeing her before I left and wishing her good bye.

The Capt was not long ashore as soon as he came on board, made all sail, said good bye to all and left Norfolk Isle with a fair wind. This I think has been a very good days work. About 10pm we lost sight of the Island never perhaps to see it again.