

24. Sydney 4

30 Dec to 4 April 1858

The Dutch barque has been in 2 days also the Daphser which ship we passed coming out of Manila, she has been here 10 days.
Went ashore for my letters.

Mr Pownall was in the country and the letters locked up in the office but Mrs Pownall assured me that all was well at home. Whilst I was waiting in the drawing room I opened a book and the first two lines I saw ran something like this.

Refrain from useless sorrow,
For joy shall bless the morrow.

I thought it very curious, closed the book and Mrs Pownall entered and told me the good news. You can no doubt imagine my feelings (i.e. my hopes and fears and light breathing etc etc) before I know that all is well. Still as I had no letters, those two lines seemed to say that all I could wish for was in them and so it turned out that I did not receive them until the **8th January** when we hauled alongside the wharf (Campbells) to discharge.

Rumers (ed. rumours) are flying about that we are going home to fill the vacancy of the Dunbar. In the evening I took the precious letter to my good adviser. He told me I had better show it and tell him that if we are going home, I have no wish to leave but if not he must give me my discharge.

The next morning, oh! I shall never forget it. I showed him (ed. Capt) the letter, he turned pale, shook, tried to read it aloud but could not, saw Mr Dunbars signature, said what is this, what does it mean, read it and handed it to me. I was watching him all the time. He did not look at me at all. I read the letter and then said to him. If we are going home I have no wish to leave but if not I wish you to give me my discharge.

What have you been telling Dunbar. I have told home nothing and as proof that they no (ed. know) nothing of it at home but the reasons I gave you when last we were in Sydney. I show you my brother's letter to Dunbar. He (Capt) said, are you sorry you have been this voyage. I said, no I am not, certainly I have been treated better but yet what a life to last particularly young as I am my ----- passions and character fixing themselves to me.

Now is the time whilst the plant is young, if one branch is bent the wrong way where is the Gardener who will send it straight again. He is thousands of miles away by the time the Gardener sees it. It may be too late to straighten the crooked branch so it will remain a disfigurement to this precious plant. From it's own wish the Gardener has left it to grow up among weeds and poisoning plants to be seratdxxxx and pricked and scornfully treated but oh! amid all this, I have kept the branches clear of all and may God grant me power so to

continue as it is the only recompense most acceptable to those whom I live for and love as my life. Bless them. I wish I could always be with them.

It is useless my trying to detail my every nights a dreting, (ed. dreading) the daytime is easily told.

On the ----- we finished discharging the cargo. Cleaned ship, hauled over to Cerailar Quay to receive wool. We have ballasted with stone copper ore and old iron and received 1900 bales of wool.

And as for the evenings, why the names of some of my friends must suffice memory to bring back the feeling of the many pleasant evenings I spent in dear old Sydney.

They are as follows,
Captain JG and Mrs Thomas,
Sally and Eliza Coward,
Mary Dickal and Blind Wall,
Henry Hooper,
Brindley, Cork, Talbot, Peaden, Lett,
Mrs Long, 441 George St,
Buckfield, James Elliott, **Gooch**,
Kendalls are keeping school at Kissing Point. Must buy leather gloves for the gardeners at Kissing Point.
Must write no end of letters.

(ed. Gooch and Kendalls came out with George from England)

Time flew away very fast and pleasantly. Working hard all day but in the evenings, love-making of course, happy hours if I were only home could see my dear mother & brother, it would be happiness indeed but I say to myself, Since life's so short, we'll live to laugh.
Ah! Wherefore waste a minute;
If youth's the cup we yet can quaff
Be love the pearl within it!

As I said before, time slid away until **4th April** when in the morning we got under weigh and left dear old Sydney, my second home.

Of course the night before I said fair well to all my friends and sweethearts. God bless them, I will not say no more about them but when reading these lines let memories paint what was omitted.

This is all I will say, that we are all to go here even cutting out Skippers, our own included.

Mr Levie and I went out to the Opera with some friends of ours. The Capt. happened to be sitting opposite alas with some friends. Well be condescended to come over to our box of course we were obliged to sxxbroderce him. Capt

Harrison who was with him xxxd often joked me about it and say that they were the best looking ladies in the theatre so they were and no mistake.

We left Sydney on 4th April.