

5. Norfolk Island 1

18/19 Mar 1856

18th March

The Island is about 20 miles in circumference with an average breadth of 5 miles. It is beautiful diversivied (ed. diversified) with hills and dales and low lands are extremely fertile. On the same spot of ground were growing fine apples, figs, lemons, cape gooseberries, guavas, pomegranates, bananas, peaches, grapes, strawberries, quinces, chilies which when dried and ground up fine makes first rate cayenne pepper, potatoes, cabbage peas and bean. Cinnamon and other spices abound while tobacco, arrowroot, and sweet potatoes can be cultivated to any extent.

Maize, barley, wheat and rye grow on higher ground and more level land, but unlike all this beautiful fruit that my mouth waters for when I think of them use sort fife what a pity is not woulden (ed. would not) you like to have some now. I wish the fruit would keep ripe all the year around then I might have a chance to satisfy my watering mouth.

The Cap^t and Mr Gregorice went ashore in the whale boat. We stood off and on under Top sail and Fore sail and in the evening stood out to sea.

19th

Ships very seldom anchor here although the next day (ed. 19th) we came in and anchored with a stream anchor to keep her quite whilst discharging Provisions for the Convicts. There are only ____ on the island.

Mr Thomas though there might be some fish here so he put a line down and just as he put it down he had a bite and then another and then he pulled up a very large fish like those you see in Fishing Rod shops in London stuffed. I got a line and the Capt got one and we caught enough to last all hand for two or three days.