

4. Sydney to Norfolk Island 1

23 Feb to 18 March 1856

23rd February

We weighed anchor and the tug towed us out to sea and let us go. Head wind. We have a Botanist Mr Sheppard and a Gardener and a lot of glass flower cases for Norfolk. Pine and what ever they found. Mr Gregorice lieutenant of the Juno is with us also on Duty. And Mr Robertson as an amateur.

We have a new Chief Mate Mr Thomas of Bristol.

Nothing particular happened except head winds and calm. I don't know when we shall get there.

1st March

Calm and Levic saw several large Sharks about, I put a hook over with a bait of Beef fat but they would not take that so I got a bait of Pork. One of them came and took that away, put another bait over, Mr Shark caught hold of it and cut as fast as he could. I thought the line was made fast and tried to hold it, he ran it out as fast that he cut my hand all to pieces. I was in agony all day after put my hand on any cold thing I could get to allay the pain.

I got savage at this and put the hook over again. I forgot to say that the hook did not catch a good hold and Mr Shark let it go again but would not be disappointed so he came up and took a little hold of it and I took a better hold of him although my hands were so bad and hauled him along side and the men soon got him in board and ripped open found my first bait in him. I have got the jaw bone.

It is laughable to see the sailors after they have cut the sharks tail (it cant hurt any one then except with his mouth) to see them sticking their knives into him and other poking a broom stick down his throat and saying You eat a man will yea.

We have not had half an hours fair wind nor have we seen anything to break the monotony except those sharks. No ships go this way except whalers and then very seldom.

18th March

We arrived at Norfolk Island having had head winds which ever way we went. If we went to the East we get an East wind, to the NE the same, to SE the same.