

9. Norfolk Island 2

7 to 26 June 1856

7th June

Landed everybody today with the assistance of the Heralds boats. It is a very bad day for them to take possession of their new home as it is raining hard and they must all get wet, and not a single accident happened but were landed safe and sound.

In the night time we stand off and on and in the daytime come in as close as we can, and sometimes anchor when it is calm to discharge and take on board Wool and Tallow belonging to the Government.

The Pitcairn Islanders work the boats and when we anchor, stop on board to assist us if we should want to slip or heave up the anchor.

10 June

The Capt gave me leave to go ashore. I left in the morning in one of the Whale boats, had a long pull ashore when we arrived there, there were several of them standing on the Wharf. They seemed delighted to see me. I had to kiss all the women all around. If I did not kiss then, they would kiss me. Jemima came running down, threw her arm around me and gave me such a kiss after all this was over. They all walked me up to the Settlement (IE Town), 15 or 20 of the F gender. We had not gone far before I saw somebody coming running and nearly out of breath which was Augusta, she had been very busy all morning washing.

I saw a white horse with a bridle and saddle on loose and eating grass, I went up to it and caught it and had a gallop. They couldn't imagine that I could sit on the horse, they would not go near it for sometime until I showed them how the ladies in England ride them and got them to smooth the horse down. They had never seen a horse before they came here.

I rode about and got the men to get up behind me and ride a walk first and go a little faster by degrees until I got a canter. By a great deal of persuasion. I got old Arthur Quintal up by himself and I lead the horse. I would not let him come off for sometime, he was very glad to get off and at last he did not like it at all.

At last we arrived at the Settlement, had a look all over the houses. They are fine houses built by the Convict. There are two very large barracks with house attached to them for Officers. They are all living together in the Barracks. The men, Women and children all sleeping together on the floor like a lot of pigs. There are a great number of houses scattered all about over the Island, some going to ruin and some in very good repair. There is another Town called the Cascades and a little village called Longridge.

At one time there were ____ Convicts and ____ Soldiers on the Island. It was then at its perfection. The Convicts were of all trades.

The farm servants cultivated the ground and looked after the sheep. The Tanners makes leather. The masons burn lime and build houses, the miner dig for what they Island produces in abundance

END OF DIARY 1

The Island produces Lime in abundance and Iron Feltering Stone. The Lime is shipped of to Sydney.

Some Blacksmiths made a Steam Engine with which (ed. unfinished page)

Had dinner consisting of Roast Mutton and Biscuit. All sat down at one table and the meat served up into two dishes. The biscuit was in a heap on the table, everyone hoped for himself, their being no plates or knives and forks, we had use Natures knives and forks and I enjoyed my dinner very much

After dinner we staired off for a long walk, Martha Evans, Kate (ed. Catherine Christian 17), Victoria, John and Augusta Quintal and myself. It is a beautiful day, we walked up to Longridge where (Rogers) the Inspector of livestock lives. Called in, had a chat and a rest. This reminded me of home very much. Mrs Rogers is just such another body as Mrs Tucker, she has two children much finer than Mrs Tuckers. After we left there, had a ramble through the different dwelling houses and their gardens, all of them going to ruin and their gardens overgrown with weeds and bushes. There are no fruit to be had but Lemons and they are in abundance. The first house and garden we went into was something of the style of Newton with some very fine rooms in it, but there numbers of them, peeping out beneath the trees in all directions. What a beautiful island this is to be sure, by cultivation you can grow anything you may wish for.

It is no good my beginning to enumerate anything as I might as well begin and enumerate the events of man. Although the island is but 20 miles in circumference, when the convicts were there to cultivate it they used to export different little articles such as Arrowroot, Caian (ed. cayenne) Peppers.

You can scarcely walk in the grass (ed. written as Grafts) as it is up to your knees, only fancy grass as long as that all over the Island. The Bullocks and Sheep are the finest I have ever seen and the Mutton is the best I have ever tasted. The Bullocks weigh from 10 to 15 or 16 hundredweight. The sheep from 60 to 84 pounds. Is it not tempting now to stop here and end your days where money has not yet taken root but I am afraid it soon will. I shall be very sorry to see it.

What are we in this world for. Where money is, there is nothing but misery from day to day. Friends there are but few, where are they enumerate then My Mother My Brother but those are your relations, have you no friends besides your relations. Alas, where are they to be found, I know not.

These people at Pitcairn, how did they there live. They put their yams and potatoes in once a year and took them out once a year, all the rest Nature

provided them with. Except lately when the Men of War gave them bread, pigs, fowls, goats, two milk cows of which they only used when at work about the farms.

They were all alike, none were better than another consequently there was no jealousy or hatred and money is not wanted because all those that are able, do their share of the work and of course get their share of the proceeds. In fact they are just similar to a large family.

Now at Norfolk Isle each family has so much ground allowed them and each will cultivate their own. Ships often call here for provisions so now they will have a chance of getting money. They have a law amongst themselves that one family shall not sell more than another, if they stick to it, the evil that money brings with it will not be so much felt as one of family will not be better than another family as is generally the case. One is more careful than another and so get better off. I have not seen any jealousy of between them yet.

But I am going adrift from my pleasant walk. In one of the gardens there where several peach trees and one of these trees there were two or three solitary blossoms. I was walking on ahead, I looked around to see how they were getting on, when lo and behold, who should I see up in one of the peach trees but Martha Evans. She had gathered the two blossoms and in coming down again, she caught hold of a rotten branch and of course it broke, and she nastily coming down by the run. I jumped up for the tree and helped her down, the others were enjoying it when very much. Martha had shoes on, Augusta had not. Only fancy one of our large English Girls walking over hills and dales without any shoes on. We gathered at a lot of lemons and returned by way of Longridge again where we had some of the fun in a wheelbarrow. I driving them from the house down to the bottom of the lawn and back and upset them in the grass and they did the same to me.

After that we started for home, we had not gone far before we met Dina Evans, Lydia McCoy, James Nobbs, Jemima Young and one or two of the men. They said they had been looking for us all day. We all marched back together, we have to go down over a steep hill, very rugged but not with stones. I took Martha on one side and Augusta on the other and ran down as hard as I could, I don't know how I did it. I am sure

(ed. In mirror hand)

I had Martha around the waist. lifted most of the way down, she said how strong you are

By the time we arrived home it was nearly dark, we lay down to rest for an hour or so,

(ed. In mirror hand)

I lay with my head on one, legs on two others and Augusta played with my hair, how nice.

then to supper. After supper had a short walk in the moonlight, came in and began to play in all sorts of games, the first was a favourite play of theirs called

John Brown, they used to play at this when any of the Officers of the Men of War came ashore at Pitcairn. We all get in a ring and two stand up in the middle (M & F of course)

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26th June

At noon got under weigh and said good by to all of them never perhaps to see them again. Frederic Young, Johny Quintal and one or two others were the last to say good by. Poor fellows their eyes were wet when they shook hands to say good by, we gave them three cheers and they were soon out of sight. Received a letter from Augusta she is much better and the wound is nearly healed up.