

# 3. Sydney 1

19 Jan – 23 Feb 1856

## 19<sup>th</sup> January

We were obliged to lay out in the stream until all the passengers were out of her. I was in the Boat nearly everyday taking passengers luggage on shore.

Other day when I went ashore, a man who was on board the Victoria last voyage came and spoke to me. I asked him if he had seen anyone else out here, he said he had seen Mr Lay 2<sup>nd</sup> on board the Prince of Wales laying at McNamara Wharf (ed. no info), so next evening I went up to see him, he had been sailing about in a boat all day and had just returned. The Cap<sup>t</sup> had had a Picnic down the Harbour and there were wine of every description in the boat, so you guess how he was, he is Boatswain of her. It was dark as pitch when I saw his boat coming, I sang out Mr Lay, he knew my voice in a moment and sang out Hallo, is that you Cur, what the devil are you doing here, well I am damned, went on board and had a chat and some Champaign, Cider (ed etc),

I have seen him 8 or 9 times again, he is going to work his passage to Melbourne and look for his father who is living there. He came on board on Sunday. He had white trousers and shirt on with the sleeves tucked up to his elbows and a red Night Cap on his head, a rum looking beauty he looks like and no mistake.

## 1st February

Weighed anchor and hauled alongside Macnamara's Wharf and discharged our cargo of Railway Iron, Beer, Soda (ed. etc). I work as hard as any man in the ship and keep 10 to 12 watch at night and turn out at 5.30 in the morning so I do not feel much inclined to go ashore much but it will not be for long.

## 14<sup>th</sup> February

We left the Wharf and went around to Lucens Wharf (ed. no info) to take Government Stores. The Cap<sup>t</sup> has entered into a Contract to take stores to Norfolk Island and from there to go to Pitcairn Island and bring all the inhabitants of the Island to Norfolk Island and then take the Convicts from Norfolk to Holbart Town so that will be 4 or 5 month Trip. We lay here until the 25<sup>th</sup>.

## 25<sup>th</sup> February

We hauled out in the stream opposite Pinchgut Isle (ed. now Fort Denison 4000ft east of the Harbour). All our men has left us accept 2 Ab's. Whilst we were laying at the Queens Wharf we had not so much to do so I went ashore more of the time.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> Mrs Bleick gave me a ticket to the Boxes at the Opera. The Capt and several others were there. The piece was Matha (ed. by Von Flotow). The Prima Donna or the person that acted Matha was Madonna Anna Bishop. She is the great rage out here now, she sings very well and has a splendid voice but such a mouth. I did not like to look at her when she was singing, she opened it so wide and turned it into all sorts of shapes but they say all good singers do so, the evening passed off very well, we came home and had Oyster Supper and went to bed.

I have been to the Victoria once and quite enough too, it has fallen off much not worth seeing. And the Prince of Wales, Opera twice, once *Somnanbula* (ed. *La Sonnambula* by Bellini) and once *Matha*.

Other nights if I could not get Mr Lime to go ashore with me, I used to go for a walk with the 4<sup>th</sup> mate and go see some of our old friends. One Sunday I dined with Mr Pownsell a solicitor, he is living out at Red Farm opposite St Pauls Church. Another Sunday I took tea with Brown, he is living with his cousin Mr Elliott No 131 Bathurst St.

I also received an invitation from R Copland Lethburg Esq of Penrith to visit them for a day or two but I could not. One of the Miss Lithbridge was married that day to a Mr Cowper of Camden. These two families and Mr M Clay are the Head man out here. Mr Lithbridge says it is 30 years ago since he saw my Uncle.

The HMS Juno frigate sent a Boat crew to get us ready for sea on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**23<sup>rd</sup> February** left Sydney.