

12. Sydney 2

12 Aug to 21 Sep 1856

12th August

Came to anchor off Pinchgut (ed. now Fort Denison). The 4th mate, the little Capt, and E Weeks (ed. Esther) came down to have a look at us.

13th August

Moored in the Cove (ed. Sydney Cove). All men have left except 3 men and 4 boys employed unrigging the Main Mast, to lift the Top to extend the Cheeks of the Mast so as to have more support to the Top and Crosstrees. Painting the ship inside and out and getting ready for sea.

I am anxiously watching the newspapers every morning to see whether we are advertised for home but no such luck although for two or three mornings we were advertised for London but taken off again.

You can fancy my dissapointment added to which received no letters from home, it almost makes me go careless and not care what I do or what becomes of myself, but hope, unfading hope, leads me on from day to day and keeps my sprits up and I say to myself Cheer Up, there is a good time coming boys, only wait a little longer. It may be for years but it wont be for ever.

From sun ruse to sun set, where ever I am or whatever I am doing, my eyes are ever turning towards the Flagstaff to see the long looked for signal (The Mail from England) but no, I am doomed to dis-appointment and as there is no alternative, I must wait and hope it is all for the best. If it was only a newspaper with their hand writing, I should then know that all was right.

The Mail of 25th May is in and the 26th June, but 5th of June has not arrived yet I suppose my letter must be there. If is not what shall I do as it will be nearly six months before I shall have the slightest chance of having anything of my dear little home.

The Capt has taken up a charter from the Lugan Company to go to Manila for a cargo of Lugan £3.10 per ton (ed. Lugan = Mandarin). We leave on 20th of September and expect to be back in the beginning of March.

Employed in the day time getting ready for sea. Every other night I go shore sometimes for a walk, sometimes to the theatre and sometimes to Gooches, one of the Emigrants we brought out with us, he is living out at Red Fern Close to where Mr Pownsell lives.

Brown the Emigrant Steward and Gooch have put their heads and pockets together and brought a little plot of Ground and built three wooden houses one of which is for Gooch to live in and the others they have let.

When they are finished and let , they are going to Digging to try their luck. I wish them it as they are very nice kind people.

Jenny has left the Cowpers and has set up Dressmaking at home. Ellen Spratt goes to Sydney every day in a shop dressmaking; she was living with the Gooches.

One Sunday Brown and I went to Kissing Point to see Mrs Kendall, as we were going down to the boat we met Jenny Kendall going there which made it much more agreeable. The scenery up the river is most magnificent. I was delighted with ...

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21st Sept 1856 Left Sydney