

## 23. Manila to Sydney 2

17 Sept – 30 Dec

Came to anchor in, next morning weighed anchor and about noon we were outside of the cottage door ( ----- ). The old Dutchman sails as well as we do.

I think it would be a first rate speed for a young Dr to come out here as he is coming money and doused cheeky. The Capt. had a hard job to get him to come and see me. I must say this, the Capt. is very kind to put me in his own cabin.

I can fancy what dear old mother would say to see me lying half out the stern ports and in a tremendous draft. Watching the ships and houses tossing and tumbling about.

Well we left on the **17<sup>th</sup> September** in company with a Dutch barque. Cornelius Werner Edwards bound to Sydney, she kept close to us until the **23<sup>rd</sup>** when she kept away for the Looloo Passage.

**25<sup>th</sup>** S West gale of wind, reefed the Topsails, lasted until **30<sup>th</sup>**.

### **October 6<sup>th</sup>**

Observed a curious coincidence in natural philosophy. The sea covered with a substance resembling sawdust also observed the stars rising out of the sea. Number of birds alighting on the rigging in a state of great exhaustion, can catch as many as you like, they fly in the cabin and out again and seem quite at home. Kitty (ed. a cat?) has great fun watching and catching them. They are long birds of all sizes and descriptions.

**15<sup>th</sup> October** Thermometer in shade and draft 89 far (ed. farenheight). Boarded by the ship Independence of and for New York 47 days out from Macao.

**18<sup>th</sup>** A screw steamer passed us, we signalized but she took no notice of us.

**20<sup>th</sup>** Sighted Pulo Arr and Pulo Timoan and Pisang.

### **21<sup>st</sup> Oct**

My 20<sup>th</sup> birthday true tis a pitty, pitty tis it's true.

That I am out of my teens and in such a place to step out of them, no one near to love me. How lonely I feel, would to God I were home, the sweetest part of life is now and am I doomed to spend in this Cage where I can only look through the bars and long to be free and with those I love.

For now love is a passing that is fast gaining ground within me.

Castles of my own building, this one was built on the passage down to Pitcairn, I was 4<sup>th</sup> of the Victoria, she was laying off scutare (Constantinople). One day whilst I was standing in the gangway a Caique came alongside with a man

dressed like a Greek Merchant. He came up to me and made a sign that he wanted to see the ship. I said Bono and pointed the way to the Cuddy. The Caiquegle came to me and whispered Sultan. I twigged at once and went after him and showed him all around the ship, when he was going away he turned around and looked at me, took a piece of paper out of his pocket and wrote something on it, gave it to me and left.

Two or three days afterward, I got it translated and found that this had given me a Palace up the Bosphorus. The interpreter took me up to see it, such a bustle was there about a hundred workmen transmugleing the old Palace into a new one.

Got my discharge from the Victoria and at the time appointed a Caique with six men in her came alongside for me and carried me to the Palace. My interpreter showed me all over it where there were grown Greek Georgian & Albanian Roses in full bloom, I was delighted with the flowers after being so long on salt water and only seeing wild flowers and trees at a distance.

The next day the Sultan came to see me. He confired a name and 2000 a year on me.

I who have to have everything in the English fashion, English cook &&. He would come up very often and take dinner and tea. When the London arrived I was the first with my splendid Caique and 6 men. How I surprised the dear boy when he saw me come to him dressed like a Turk.

John and Lord Ward used to meet me often when they left for home in a Steam Yacht and to send me home to superintend the building of her and bring her out again.

A big head looks up from the front of the Poop. The bright visions of future days vanished and I find myself face to face with stern reality, oh what a change being my own master with plenty of money to be a slave and treated like a dog & that black cloud rising, Yes Sir. What is going six knots sir, he walks up and down, two or three times then goes below and I see no more of him , such is life but every dog has his day.

Built in October 1857

The Morayshire was wrecked on an unfrequented island. All hands saved, myself was nearly drowned. A ship passing took them all on board but myself. The King took me under his own charge, in about a fortnight I was quite well again. He had a very pretty daughter (ed. Kaiki), I fell in love with her of course and was married. I was on the island six months during which time I amused myself going with the natives. Fishing for diamonds. The largest and best are given to the King. At the end of six months a ship hove in sight. I got the Capt. to heave for the night and I would be ready first thing in the morning. He did and in the morning my wife and myself went on board. The King loaded me with the best of his diamonds. I had a native servant for myself, Kaiki had a little girl for herself. Had a pleasant passage home. When I arrived in London I hired lodgings in Queens Road, Bayswater saw that all was right at no19 but did not show myself. Next morning I went home the rest can be imagined than today.

In the afternoon John and I went out for a walk, as we were passing my lodgings I got him to go in with me as I wanted to see someone living there. I took him in the Drawing Room and told him about it and introduced my wife to him. He couldn't believe it at first but when I showed him my immense wealth, he set too kissing both of us. Then we all set out from home to surprise mother and indeed we did surprise her. She said, what my little George the son in law of a King, impossible.

I cut a great dash in London, I don't know what I didn't do but the great draw back was I couldn't speak her language.

November 1857

John introduced me to Lord Ward as soon as I arrived home this time. His Lordship was asking me all about the ship, what builder I liked but I said either Mr White of Cows or Hall of Aberdeen.

What size would you like her if she was for yourself, about 200 tons. When I was leaving, he said go up and pass I shall see more of you yet. I passed and his Lordship wrote to Mr Hall to build a ship not above 800 tons according the instructions he would get from me.

She was finished in about 8 months and a magnificent ship she was too. I am to be Chief Officer of her until I am passed Masters then I am to be Captain and owner of her.

Oh there is that bulley at the front of the Poop. How's her head Mr Karr. SbW Sir. Keep her good full you needen (ed. need not) carry that fore Top & Gall' (ed. Gallant) sail on very long. I am afraid of that Mate, No Sir. Takes a turn or two then dines. This about 9pm.

I am all this castle building ingurios. I think not. For it lifts my ideas upwards and when I think what I am now, I say to myself, this is the hedge that I must climb before I can enter the garden where my path will be strewn with flowers and but ----- Thomas to mar few my happiness in this world.

So let my moti like con creageus be forward. And trust to Aondine for the rest.

I have made up my mind that when I get home I will stop home for six months at least to see whether I can't beat something in my head. Yes some peoples minds open without any trouble and other again must labour heard very heard to spread the tangled web of the brain.

I have found by experience what the dear Boy said long ago that knowledge is power. But Longfellow says

Trust no future how'er pleasant

Let the dear past bury it's dead

Act not in the living present

----- within and God overhead

The chain is heavy on my heart,

Although my limbs are free,

A bitter bitter loss thou art,

o precious liberty.

21<sup>st</sup> October

And oh! That I were home to have something visible to love and someone to return it. F'or youth with its fresh and mantling bloom. But blossoms once, then fades away and sinking in times frosty tomb goes quickly on to sure decay.

So if these golden hours of my youth pass away in this Cage where none can see them that can appreciate them, what would I not give for her and him who taught the child should touch the youth for I feel and know xxxxxxxx require it. This fit of sentimentality began last year, how long it will last I do not know, however I hope the next birthday I shall not be a dog but free as the air we breathe.

You know not the value of freedom until you have been a slave nor the value of home till you have been away from it.

These few leaves interxxxxy showed me that I walk with my head up and hope for better days.

Many young fellows, he would have cowed and broken his spirits, but what he says to me goes in one side and out the other (and only leaves a path which will never be subbed out and I say to myself I don't care a Damn for I have a clear conscience and always do my best. I have never changed my conduct towards him or my duty. But some how or another, he has not said a word to me this voyage, so much the better.

**26<sup>th</sup> October**

Came to anchor at the mouth of Banca Strait. 40 days out from Manila. Seven days working through these abominable straits, have to anchor three or four times a day, sometimes dreadful hard work I can tell you, have to keep watch and turn out two or three O'clock in the morning when there is any wind at last we got through.

**5<sup>th</sup> November** Sighted the Brothers Island also saw a water spout.

**7<sup>th</sup>** Passed Thwart Theway Island and anchored off Angar. Lots of bumboats came off with all sorts in them. Next day brought two mousedeads, Fruit (etc etc). Capt. laid in a stock of potatoes & yams and fowls and also seven mousedeads & a long black mengatong who we called King Richard.

**8<sup>th</sup>** 10am weighed anchor, at about 10pm we were nearly outside.

Next day caught the trade (SE) and held them strong to lat 33.17 long 93.35 on 27<sup>th</sup>

**28<sup>th</sup> November** 7am caught in a heavy squall with Studding sails set low and aloft both sides blew all of them away only leaving the ropes of the lowers and Top Mast Stud sail and also carried away the Main Royal mast.

Reefed the Topsails, sent down all the wreck also the Top Gall' mast. Cut the sheeve hole further down, fitted Stud sail boom iron on the mast head for a

sliding gunter royal mast. Shortened the rigging, sent the mast up and crossed the yards and set up the rigging and knocked off as usual, not a bad days work. Main Royal mast was made out of an old top gall' mast. It was stepped on the top mast head and a good heel lashing it answered first rate. That was a southerly buster.

**15 December** lat 40.00 long 132.30 observed a large dark spot on the NW cisseb of the sun.

**21<sup>st</sup> December**

Sighted King Island, am counting the days and hours and oh what disappointment if there is no letter and if there is no lettler of freedom, I mean a letter from Mr Dunbar which will take me out of the clutches of this vile man, brute I mean. I beg his pardon.

**29<sup>th</sup> Dec**

At 11pm sighted Sydney at light, I was straining my eyes all watch until 11 when I saw light, fair wind, shall be in tomorrow. 4 o'clock in the morning. Pilot came on board and at 6 o'clock anchored off Manowar Cove, so this good night I have only had 2½ hours sleep.