

Aboard the "Bombay" Extract from the Diary of Richard Moffatt, November 1852.

6 there is one birth today, and one death a married woman who died of fever she has left a husband and 3 children below 3 years old there was an accident happened to a young man today, a few of them was making some fun for there is always plenty of that on board, he fell and some of them above him and put his loin out of joint, but the Doctor (not being far to seek) soon put it to rights again, but he suffered a good deal by it, I hear from the Captains Clerk that we are in the same Latitude as the Cape today

7 **Sabbath**, heavy sea today, about 8 o'clock the remains of the woman was put over board after it was over they sung an hymn, from yesterday at 12 till this day at 12 we have sailed 277 miles and I hear that one day she sailed 296 miles

8 the weather is rather rough today there were 4 cape pigeons caught today

9 There was another child died this morning and it was put overboard at 8 o'clock, the sea is very pleasant

10 We are sailing about 7 or 8 knots an hour till 3 o'clock when we had a gale the sails were all clued up excepting the main top, foretop and mizzen top sails, 2 of them had three reefs taken in and the other had 2 reefs taken in, the gale continued all night, several times the waves broke over her she roared fearfully through the night boxes & dishes flying about in all directions some of the passengers especially the women were in great terror some never went to bed and them that did go could not sleep we was like to be thrown out of bed

11 this morning the wind is greatly fallen but the sea is still heavy, about midday the wind got favourable so all is well again

12 & 13th we had good winds, sailing south-east we sailed 212 miles in the 24 hours. the reason of our sailing so far to the south is to get quit of the fever which has proved effectual for there are no more taking it and those who have it are getting better.

14 Sabbath. We are quite becalmed today, we have no service heald our Chaplane is very little worth he visits neither the sick nor the dying, the Captan and Doctor are fishing for n birds there are a great many flying about, we passed St Pauls island on the 13

15 We have a good breeze today there is also another birth

16 The breeze still continuing the same as yesterday till about 6 o'clock p.m. when it freshened to a gale they got all in order for the night the gale continued all night

16 The wind still blowing hard accompanied with rain, till about midday when the storm abated, it was a beautiful afternoon with the sun shining bright and the ship sailing well

17 There is another Birth on board today which concerns myself more than any of them that has come yet (This was the birth of my Great Grandfather. I am glad he survived)

18 there is another Birth today

19 I saw the men in hospitle today they are all recovering but very slowly

20 This day we are in 42 degrees 23 miles south Latitude, and 70 degrees east Longitude at Midday

21 Another Sabbath, this morning there is another death, a man who has been ill for some time he got a very severe cold coming between London & Plymouth which brought on Consumption and has terminated fattally he was married

22 There are a good many of the Sailors unwell today owing I think to their hammocks being in a very damp part of the vefsell they stay under the forecastle on the lower deck, it is both damp, and bad for their health.....