

still hoped that I should land in England before the passengers in the *Brilliant*. His prediction proved true.

The wind having turned right against us, and blowing fresh, the Captain resolved not to work against it so late in the evening, and returned with the Governor. I would not go again on shore, but spent the evening in writing.

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## CHAPTER XXIV.

*Departure from Table-bay. View of the coast and mountains. Reflections. Contents of the Zebra. General Bonaparte's part of the cargo, Officers. Convenience of a private cabin. Letter to the Rev. Mr. Hesse, respecting the Church of the United Brethren. First appearance of St. Helena. Its rocky coasts. Visited by Captain Wallis of the Podargus sloop. Landing. James-town described. Sir Thomas Reade. Invitation to Plantation-house. Ladder-hill. High-knole. Volcanic appearances. Beauty of the interior. Sir Hudson Lowe, Governor of St. Helena. Mr. Brook. Morning-walk through the Governor's grounds.*

**O**CTOBER 17th. About eight o'clock, Captain Forbes came on board with Mr. Somerset, Captain Cloete, and Major Blake. The two officers soon returned to shore. Every thing being prepared, we immediately set sail, and beat out of the harbour, the wind being right against us. The sky looked wild.

I stood on deck, engaged with various contemplations, but having so often, in the course of this narrative, expressed my feelings, they may be guessed at without the necessity of a tedious recapitulation. Though the heavens were beclouded, the air was clear, and the surrounding objects presented themselves distinctly to view;

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Capetown, with its immense back-ground of mountains, or rather huge cliffs, shelving off towards the south; and to the east, the beautiful outline of mountains from the Hangeklip to the Piquetberg, enclosing the Tigerberg, Kuhberg, Blauberg, and Groenekloof hills. On the latter, my spirit seemed to hover with a mixture of pleasure and pain, and my prayers arose for a blessing on all, whom I have there left behind. My spirit then fled over the mountains of Hottentot's Holland into the sacred groves of Gnadenthal, and I felt a pang on reflecting, that, by being kept in constant suspense during the last two months, I have been prevented paying another visit to those who dwell under their shade.

As we were a long time working out of the bay, I quietly enjoyed these reveries for some hours, till the more restless waves of the open sea began to affect me; and feeling myself quite overpowered by a kind of giddiness, I was glad to reach my private cabin, and take to my bed, out of which, after a restless night, I could hardly crawl into the great cabin on the

18th, when I felt only half alive. Meanwhile the wind had turned in our favour, and we had made one hundred and twenty six miles by twelve o'clock, going at the rate of nine and ten knots an hour. I began already to comfort myself with some faint hopes of our being not much behind the Brilliant, when she reached England.

19th. I had spent a miserable night; the breeze freshened so much, that the rolling of the ship became very troublesome. A soldier, who had obtained a free passage as Captain's servant, was particularly anxious to render me every assistance; and, during the whole voyage, considered himself as attached to *me*. He attended me every morning, and seemed even to watch my wishes, that I might never want any thing. His name was John M'Klosky. By twelve o'clock, we had made two hundred and twenty miles. Thankfulness for such swift progress, made me quite satisfied with all the tumbling and rolling we had to endure. The wind abated a little, but remained fair.

20th. The articles of war were read, and a general muster and inspection of the crew took place, as is usual on Sundays.

21st. Being restored to a tolerable state of health and spirits, I began to notice the contents of our ship, and the heterogenous nature of the objects brought together. General Bonaparte's property filled great part of the déck, and as it has been insinuated, that he was left in a starving condition, it may not be uninteresting to know, what the Zebra alone added to his store, of which I took some account, a hundred bags of corn and oats, twelve bales of hay, ten casks of wine, six barrels of butter, and forty or fifty sheep, several of which died on the passage. Every man of war, sailing from the Cape, was charged with some articles, either of provision or manufacture, for this celebrated captive. But how are the mighty fallen! Fallen indeed, in every sense, even in mind, so as not to be able to restrain a species of fretfulness, which leads him to encourage complaints, founded on falsehood. Bonaparte's goods were all marked with a Bp, by his own direction. Among other live stock on board, was a young jackal. This savage cub, a moment after he was brought on board, seeing an unfortunate cock walking on deck, siezed it by the neck, and sprang with it overboard, supposing the green ocean to be a field. The boat being out, both were soon taken up, and the jackal saved.

22d. The wind continued strong and fair, and all were thankful for the progress we made.

I shall ever remember with gratitude, the civility and kind attention of Captain Forbes and the officers of the Zebra. Many of them had seen much service, and fought nobly in their king and country's cause. Some had travelled to almost every part of the known world, and I could not fail to derive much entertainment and information from their occasional relations of remarkable events, which were always unaffected and unassuming. A passenger, Captain Brabyn of the infantry, who had spent sixteen years in New South Wales, and was obliged to visit England,

to settle some family affairs, gave me much interesting information both of that singular country, and of my friend the Rev. Mr. Marsden. Thus I never felt time hang heavy on my hands. If I was not disposed to write or read, I always found such society and conversation on deck, as afforded me great gratification.

My little cabin was my sanctuary, and the hurry and noise in the gun-room seldom, if ever, disturbed me in my meditations. Whatever is not within my reach or controul, in things not quite consistent with religious propriety, I leave to Him, who judgeth righteously, not being answerable for what is not committed to me, or in my power to alter in the conduct of others. To reprove, in a spirit of Christian meekness and true charity, being more disposed to excuse and make allowances, than to find fault and judge severely, is certainly the duty of a true Christian, but the manner of doing it, with any hopes of success, is not the gift of every one, who feels the obligation. But there was not an officer on board, who would not take in good part, any remark made on subjects, on which we differed in sentiment or expression.

A small shelf had been put up in my cabin, which contained a few books. Every morning, when I awoke, the bull's eye giving me sufficient light, I read the Scripture-texts appointed for every day in our Church, with the two chapters from which they were taken, adding sometimes larger portions of the Scriptures, as I was led on, by the importance of the subjects, and the great delight and comfort I enjoyed in this practice. Never did the Bible appear to me so precious a treasure, when read with prayer, and under the enlightening influence of the Spirit of God, by whose divine assistance I was frequently led into a clearer understanding of many of the great truths contained in it, than I had ever before possessed. To enter largely upon the subject, would be here out of place, but I trust, some abiding impressions have been made upon my soul, during my solitary devotions in that narrow cell.

Every day, two officers were invited by the Captain to dinner,

and, according to the usual practice in a man of war, the Captain dined with the officers on Sunday's, when Mr. Somerset and I were likewise invited.

25th. The wind becoming more moderate, the ship's motion permitted me to spend my time quietly in the cabin, preparing letters to send from St. Helena to the Cape. I began likewise to make a circumstantial report of all my proceedings at the Cape, for the Directors of our Missions.

26th. I wrote to my highly valued friend, the Rev. Mr. Hesse, at Capetown, having been led into a recapitulation of many subjects, which occurred in conversation between us at his house. Part of my letter related to the Church to which I belong. Concessions are the best defence, where we are, or have formerly been, to blame, in expressions or proceedings, founded on mistaken notions. Such concessions have been repeatedly made, but in general to little purpose; and we must be satisfied to hear the old, wretched, and contradictory accusations, repeated in "Accounts of all Religions, Encyclopedias, Notes on Church History," and other compilations. Be it so, since it cannot be otherwise expected; let us *live* them down, since we have not been able to *write* them down. To some, however, who wilfully continue to deal in that species of slander against the Brethren, or other religious communities, the answer of a friend of mine, a nobleman in Saxony, to his brethren, the States of Upper Lusatia, assembled at the Diet at Bautzen, may be given, consistently with truth. With a view to irritate his feelings, or, as the vulgar phrase is, to quiz him, they pretended to believe all the infamous stories, related by certain authors concerning the practices of the Brethren at Herrnhut, representing them as a very profligate and licentious sect; and challenged him to deny them. "Pray, gentlemen," he replied, "do not assert, that you *believe* these things, for I know you all so well, that if you really did believe, that all manner of licentiousness might be practised at Herrnhut."

hut with impunity, there is not one of you, who would not long ago have requested to be received as a member of such a community.”

27th. Evening-prayers were read in the cabin before dinner. While we were dining with the officers in the gun-room, the master came down with the good news, that St. Helena was in sight. The information was received with great coolness by the old mariners, and as we could not anchor there after sunset, we remained under an easy sail all night, standing off and on.

28th. I was early on deck, expecting to find a huge peak rising out of the sea, as St. Helena is often represented. I was surprised, therefore, to see a long, high, and, from that distance, smooth-looking land, exhibiting nothing striking or picturesque; but, as we approached, more of its peculiar features were visible, and its appearance became interesting. No coast I have ever seen, looks more desolate; and one may easily conceive the anguish of the ladies who accompanied Bonaparte, to have been as great as described, when they beheld the black dismal precipices, without a blade of grass or bush upon them, among which they were perhaps to spend the remainder of their lives. Several kloofs, (to keep up the old favourite appellation), divide the masses of ragged rocks. They appear filled with a black mould, the crumbling fragments of decomposed volcanic substances.

We soon discovered the Podargus sloop of war, cruising off the island, and, by signal, sailed towards her. Captain Wallis, her commander, came off in his boat, and paid a long visit to Captain Forbes.

On a nearer approach, several curious peaks, rocks of fanciful shape, and caverns near the sea, attracted my attention. The general colour of the rocks is dark-grey, with fissures and veins of a brown-yellow tint. Batteries are placed on several eminences, forming a line of defence all round the accessible part of the island. As we sailed round the point, James-town burst upon

our view, with a neat church, clean-looking houses, and a row of trees near the beach. Some groves of cocoa and other trees adorn the gardens.

When we had come to an anchor, the officer of the guard came on board, with whom Mr. Somerset and Captain Forbes went on shore, to make arrangements. I preferred spending the day on board, wishing to write letters, and complete my journal. On their return, however, Captain Forbes, who had procured permission for me to land, reported, that having seen the Governor, Sir Hudson Lowe, he had invited him to dinner at Plantation-house, his country-residence, and that I might, meanwhile, find amusement of various kinds on shore. I was thus persuaded to accompany him.

The weather was so mild, that there was hardly any surf, which is sometimes very troublesome, even at the jetty. The landing-place lies under vast, and almost perpendicular rocks. About three hundred yards to the left, an abutment of the rock forms an arch, like that of a flying buttress. To the right, the road passes over a draw-bridge, along the beach, to a battery of heavy guns, commanding the entrance of the harbour. To the left, storehouses and offices range behind an avenue of trees, the stems of which are remarkably crooked and ill-grown.

About the middle of this range of buildings, a gate admits the traveller into the town, without any examination, but he is required immediately to repair to the town-major's office, to sign his name, and declare his business. Our first visit was to Captain Stansfield, the senior naval officer, acting as commodore, in absence of the admiral, Sir Pultney Malcolm.

I was received with great politeness by Captain Stansfield, and, as Sir Pultney had offered Captain Forbes a bed at his house, I was likewise provided with accommodations, as his companion. During his absence, I determined to spend the afternoon in examining the stones on the hills surrounding the town, being

pretty sure, that I should find enough to amuse me for some hours, when the arrival of Sir Thomas Reade, the Adjutant-general, delivered me from the burden of my contrivances. When he heard the plan I had formed, he protested, that I should not quit my company, but accompany the captain and Mr. Somerset to Plantation-house to dinner. With the most obliging opposition to all my remonstrances, he fairly compelled me to join the cavalcade, and we set out with the Governor's adjutant, Lieutenant Pritchard, all well mounted.

The road up Ladder-hill is a steep zigzag, and were there not a parapet of about three feet in height skirting it towards the declivity, the view downwards would be frightful. At the top of the hill, a battery commands both the road, and the gate leading to it from the plain above. The mass of rocks, and the innumerable fragments lying on the hill, bear evident marks of their having once been in a state of fusion. The traces of that dreadful eruption, by which this singular island was lifted up above the surface of the ocean, appear in all directions. To the right, on the waste above, we were made particularly attentive to a number of gullies, in parallel lines, resembling torrents of burning lava. An attempt has been made to plant a hedge of Indian fig, on each side of the road, but it does not seem to thrive well.

Leaving High-knole, a steep conical hill, to the left, with a fort and guard on the summit, the whole face of the country changes from a wilderness to a garden. The declivities of the hills are covered with short grass of the most lively green, and their summits, with bushes and trees. On a plain below, the camp of the 66th regiment presented itself. It is called Francis-plain camp, and, as the military was just then on parade, the sound of martial music greeted our ears, as we rode along the hill. Plantation-house lies to the right, and is approached between two handsome lodges, with a guard-house, signal-house, and flags. The road leads through a grove to the main entrance. The house is a spacious



building, facing an opening towards the sea, and bounded by low hills, planted with a variety of trees and bushes. An extensive lawn and garden slope down the gentle declivity.

On entering the drawing-room, we met a large company, chiefly officers of different regiments, now stationed in the island, waiting for the Governor. I confess I felt rather uncomfortable, not seeing Sir Thomas Reade arrive, to account for the appearance of a stranger among these military men in full dress. But when Sir Hudson entered the apartment, and Captain Forbes introduced me to him, his Excellency made me truly welcome, assuring me, that he should have felt much hurt, if I had not accompanied my friends. To my astonishment, I found here a gentleman, with whom I had contracted some acquaintance in England, Mr. Brook, Secretary to the colony.

Sir Thomas Reade having joined us, we sat down to dinner, twenty-one in number. The conversation was free, and conducted throughout with the most correct attention to propriety. Sir Hudson had the kindness to place me next to the Secretary, that we might renew our acquaintance. Lady Lowe had been confined about a month ago, and did not attend to-day. About nine o'clock the party broke up, and the moon shining bright, all the officers returned, either on foot or on horseback, to their stations in different parts of the island. Sir Hudson desired us to make his house our home.

29th. I awoke at day-break, and feeling no inclination to waste my time in sleep, in a place, so remarkable in itself, and rendered much more so by recent events, I instantly quitted my bed, and left the house before sunrise, to form acquaintance with as much of the surrounding country, as the time before breakfast would permit.

I first went to the pleasure-grounds. They are laid out in terraces, descending towards a valley, in which some cottages are inhabited by Chinese gardeners and labourers. A flower-garden, in the Dutch style, is preparing for Lady Lowe, who delights

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in curious plants. It is sheltered from the east wind, by a rock of a white gritty substance. My attention was for some time directed to an assemblage of stones, brought together for building. They were varieties of scoriæ, some containing chrystals of shoerl and olivin, and, as I apprehend, magnetic iron, quite similar in appearance to many I have seen from the neighbourhood of Ætna and Vesuvius. Some of the cavities were filled with a bright yellow coating, but I found no zeolith in any of them.

Pursuing my walk, under beautiful groves of trees of various descriptions, I arrived at the hill, which is covered with a young plantation of firs and other evergreens. From the upper walk observing a black rock at some distance, I made towards it, and found it to consist of amorphous basaltes. While I was employed, without proper tools, in knocking off some specimens, the barking of a dog at the door of a neighbouring house, brought out the proprietor, with whom I had some conversation.

Turning down a footpath to the bottom of the rock, I found a quarry, and in it a vein of a substance, by the Germans called Steinmark (stone-marrow), but of so brittle a nature, that I could get but very small specimens. Two hours passed swiftly and pleasantly away, and when I returned to the house, I found the Governor in his library, and we soon met to breakfast. On Captain Forbes requesting, that his Excellency would furnish us with the means of visiting Longwood, he declared his intention of accompanying us thither himself, and, if possible, obtaining for us a sight of General Bonaparte.