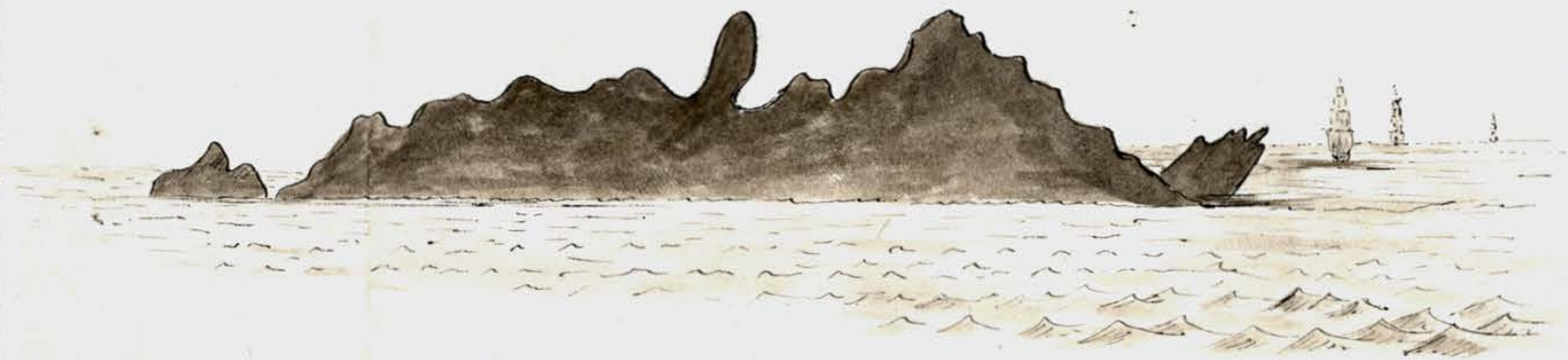
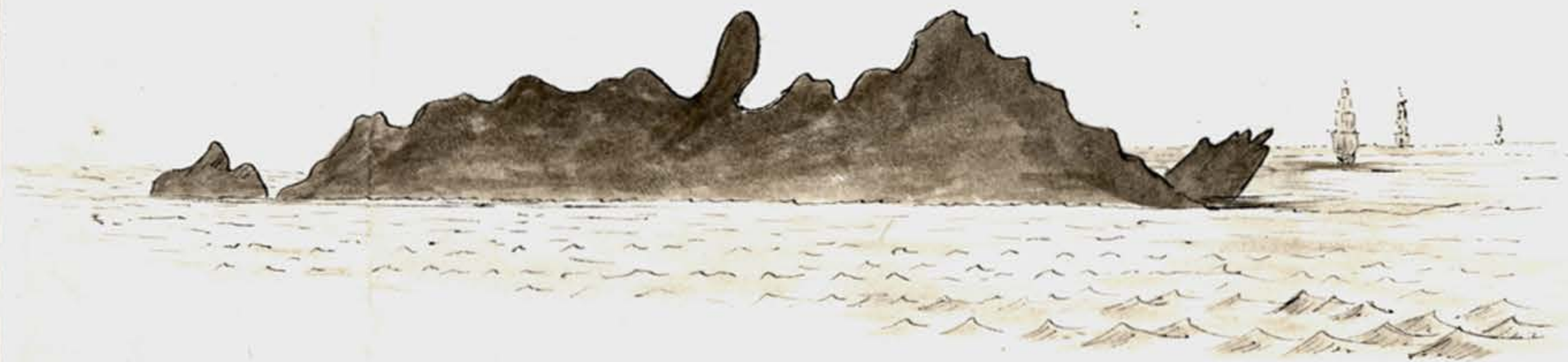


A
JOURNAL
OF A VOYAGE,
TO- & FROM
THE
CAPE of GOOD HOPE:
With some Sketches
Of the
Interior &c.^a of that Colony:
Part the third.



The Island of Saxenberg NE by N:
Seven leagues distant; as laid down in the Charts.

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Oct 24th
1818 - Letter No 1st

1

Cape of Good Hope

Peak of Table Mountain 44630 feet 7230^{ft} higher
Peak of Lion's Head 22240 feet 18722^{ft} higher } from Table Mountain
consequently about 16000 feet higher



The Cape of Good Hope bearing S.W. & S about 8 miles distant

Table Mountain Buffen's Head King's Head Lion's Head Castle Cape Town The Kloof Lion's Head Signal House Anchor Bay Little Lion's Head Robben Island
Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head Lion's Head

... the most parts of the ...
which I had accidentally learned, & the only work of L. P. ...

Lake Mountain 3,500 feet
Lions Head 2,100 feet

Oct 24th
1818 -

Letter No 10th

1

Canada Indiaman

Dear -

After a fortnight's stay in Cape Town, I embarked on board the Canada Indiaman (free trader) bound for London with a cargo of Cotton, Indigo, Camphor, Wax, Vernice &c. She had been two years out, having sailed from Cork to Port Jackson, New Sth Wales with female convicts; her next destination was Batavia, where they lost the Captain & twelve of the crew in the course of a few days by a fever, & lastly Calcutta, which she had left 15th June and after having encountered dreadful weather in the Bay of Bengall, anchored in Dubla Bay Oct^r 14th.

25
26
The Canada is a fine roomy vessel, having a round house which is divided into two good cabins occupied by the Captain (late First Officer) and myself & the remaining part forms our dining room &c. In the two first days we had a foul wind, when it came fair with a fine breeze which carried us on to the Sth Eth Trades.

Nov
6
On the 6th Nov^r we made St Helena 4 or 5 leagues distant, consequently not near enough to form any idea of it: It was rather a singular circumstance I was reading the third canto of Child Harold's Pilgrimage which I had accidentally borrowed, & the only work of L^d Byron on board

and in the pursuit of the 3rd started, when a man
 at the fore top discovered the land. I had never seen
 that part of his Lordship's works before, and con-
 sequently was entirely ignorant of its touching
 upon Bonaparte

"Conqueror & Captive of the Parth are thou

"He trembles at thee still, and thy wild name

"has been more bruted in mens mouths than how

"That thou art nothing, save the fist of Jove

"who wooed thee once, thy Vespal, and became

"The flatterer of thy fierceness, till thou wert

"A God unto thy self, nor left the same

"So the untamed kingdoms all inert

"Who deemed thee for a time what in thou didst assert.

St. Helena.

St. Helena is about 3 leagues in length, or 26. or 27 miles in cir-
 cumference. The steep rocky cliffs present a sterile & unfavoura-
 ble appearance in sailing round the Island, but the valleys of
 the interior are fruitful, as indeed are the hills, except in very
 dry seasons. The principal ridge of mountain in the centre of the
 Island is called, Diana's Peak and is about 2200 feet in height.

The air on the hills is usually cool & pleasant. The fog & clouds breaking
 in then and producing gentle showers, favourable to vegetation
 it is however often extremely hot in the valleys more particularly so
 on the S. side of the Island. Hail is experienced in all seasons
 more in some than others. Thunder & lightning are very rare.
 There is very little level ground, and the whole is supposed at some
 remote period to have arisen from the ocean during a con-
 vulsion of nature.

Cattle are reared for the use of the Company's ships but in very small
 quantities. Fish are very abundant. Tropical fruits, as well as
 those of Europe thrive well, particularly apples, so much so that
 they are loaded with ripe fruit, exhibit also Hopson & fruit in
 its first state of formation — "Horsburgh's Directory..."

A respectable person residing in Cape Town, who had lived ten years
 on the Island informed me that potatoes did not generally yield
 much produce, and that yams were in general use, all live
 stock extremely dear the inhabitants being prohibited from
 killing any without leave, & this was so difficult to obtain,
 that, when they wanted fresh meat they usually had recourse
 to the stratagem of forming a combination, or join in five
 persons, who agreed that a certain calf or heifer belonging

Nov 6
to

to one of the said combination should meet with an accident and
break its neck over a cliff. The conscientious junta could not
possibly think of offering meat so killed in market. so divided
among themselves. He also told me that he never got less for turkeys
than a guinea a piece 5 to 7 shillings for each fowl and squi!
a head for store shop birds. As this was the case ten years
ago when there was a small Garrison & few inhabitants.
I have you to guess what it must be now.

St
Hillens

The weather was now hot; but not oppressively so. and we saw
occasionally some birds as boobies, Mother Careys chickens &c.
and also porpoises. Our fine trade wind continuing as favour-
able as we could desire. carrying the vessel thro' the water
about 150 miles a day. without our perceiving the slightest
motion. Thus continuing our voyage, pleasant in every respect
we made the Island of Ascension on the 13th of Nov. passing
it about 3 leagues distant. —

13.

Ascension Isle.

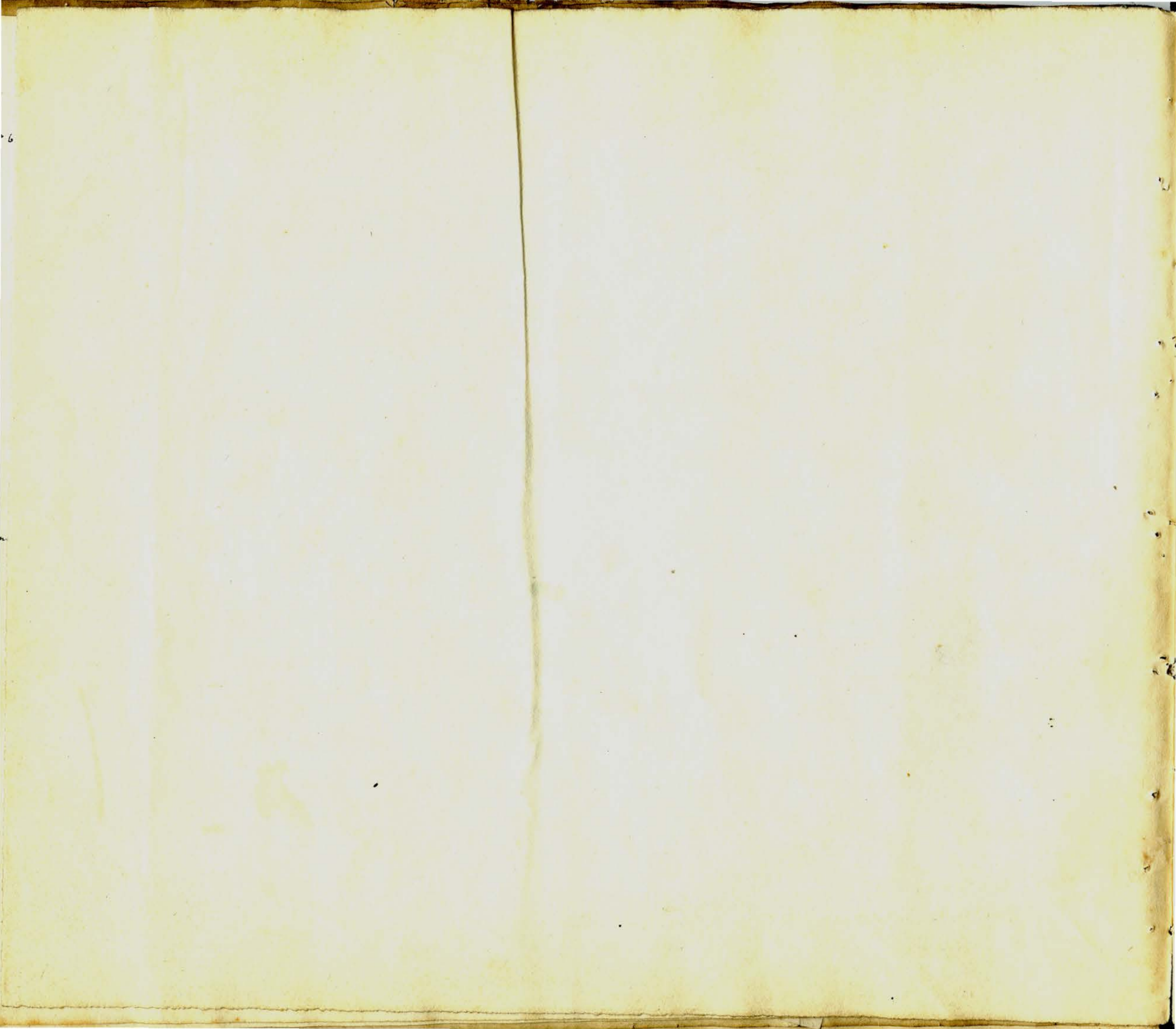
' is about 3 leagues in length from N. to S. and two broad. it may
be seen about 15 leagues off in clear weather. there being several
peaked hills near the S.E. part of the Island, the highest of which
called Green Mountain is about 800 yards in height, and appears



W.P. London

July 22 1819

The Quarter Deck — a fine trade wind :



in some points of view a double peak. The earth is red being a decomposition of volcanic rock of which the Isle is formed — no vegetable is said to be produced except purslane, which is found in plenty in Apr. May & June. Water & some wild goats are said to be on the Island, but this is a matter of doubt — Small rills of water may occasionally flow, from the clouds settling on the mountains, but probably no spring exists, and it seldom rains. Few ships touch at Ascension and those for Justice only, which are very abundant —

Ascension
Isle.

In places where the shores are lined with a sandy beach and this bounded by a coral reef or range of breakers, turtles are most numerous. During moon light nights, the females come on shore in the greatest numbers, to deposit their eggs in the sand — If there is a reef facing the beach & a rise & fall of tide they wait for the rising tide to float them over it, & reach the beach an hour or two before high water, that they may have sufficient time to dig large holes in which they deposit their eggs, and return to sea about high water or before it has fallen much on the reef. If the beach has a gentle acclivity they dig the pits at a considerable distance from high water mark.

among

"among bushes, or sand hills. some of the holes being of considerable
 "dimensions, employing the animal upwards of an hour in making
 "them. The beach should not be frequented by those who go in
 "search of turtle till near high water, the time they are mostly
 "on shore. In walking along silence should be observed, for the
 "smallest noise will alarm them, and those not already on
 "shore will in such case return to sea." Horsburg -

Canada at Sea

Letter 2^d

Dear —

No.
16
to

Our delightful, wind & weather still continued and about
 the 16 we began to fall in with flying fish. one or two of which
 occasionally came on board. They are a nice delicate fish a
 good deal like small whiting in flavor, and would prove
 very welcome visitors, would they come in greater numbers
 but seldom more than six or eight fall on board in the
 course of a day. You see flocks of them rising continually
 out of the water, more or less in number from 1 to 100
 when they exactly resemble sea-larks, or ox-birds, that
 frequent our shores in winter: on the wing. Their flight is
 extremely rapid, and aided by the wind, may extend a

W. D.



*W. D. King's London
1840*

Flying Fish & Porpoises:

July 25 1840

