

*The Life of William Stirling, and his account of
the Wreck of the Ship, 'Tiger', and the two
months spent on Anstove Island in the
Seychelles, in 1836*



Edited by Sarah Harrison



INTRODUCTION

I have described the life of William Stirling and his family mainly using family letters from the 'Graham of Airth' papers in the National Library of Scotland -

STIRLINGS OF ARDOCH AND GRAHAM'S OF AIRTH. FAMILY LETTERS: A PERSONAL VIEW OF THE VALUE OF KINSHIP. pub. Amazon 2016

However, this is a large book, so I have extracted the relevant pieces of family history to make it easier to understand how William and his wife found themselves shipwrecked on Astove Island, an atoll in the Indian Ocean, in 1836. It will also explain something of the Hockin family to whom letters were addressed from the island in the hope that they would reach them at some point in the future.

So, to begin at the beginning. William Stirling was the youngest of three sons of Charles Stirling of Ardoch Penn, St Ann's, Jamaica and Rebecca Ash, spinster, a white girl. The discovery that the children existed was only revealed in Charles Stirling's will after his unexpected death on 17th January 1795. It was a particularly shocking piece of news for Charles' older brothers - Sir William Stirling, 4th Baronet of Ardoch (c1729-1799) and Maj. General Thomas Stirling (1731-1808), as they had bought Ardoch Penn for their youngest brother to run on the assumption that their investment would be returned to them during his lifetime, or on his death. What was very bad luck for them was extraordinarily fortuitous for William and his brothers. Charles Stirling made his will on 9th January 1795 and died eight days later on 17th, in what was describes as an unexpected death.

Will of Charles Stirling¹

House of Lords Sessional Papers 1875 Vol. XII

Exhibit No. 126

Jamaica "S.S"

A.

Stirling, Charles.

Proved

12th February 1795.

This is the last will and testament of me, Charles Stirling, of Ardoch Penn, in the parish of Saint Ann, in the county of Middlesex, and island of Jamaica, Esquire. Imprimis, I will and direct that all my just debts and funeral expences be fully paid and satisfied as soon after my decease as conveniently may be by my executors herein-after named, for payment whereof I subject, charge, and make liable all my estate, both real and personal. Item, I give and bequeath to Rebecca Ash, of the parish of Saint Ann, spinster, the sum of three hundred pounds sterling money of Great Britain; and I also give and bequeath to the said Rebecca Ash my gold watch, chain, and trinkets, my riding horse and wearing apparel. Item. I give and bequeath to the said Rebecca Ash during the term of her natural life, or for so long as she shall remain single and unmarried, and without forming any connexion as housekeeper or mistress to any man, the annual sum of twelve pounds current money

of Jamaica, to be issuing and payable out of all my estate, real and personal; and I do hereby sincerely request, and as far as in me *lays*, do direct that the said Rebecca Ash, with her house, servants, and slaves, so long as she shall be entitled to receive the said annuity, be permitted to reside in the mansion or dwelling-house upon a certain penn herein-after mentioned called Charles Town, and to receive and take such advantages therefrom for her maintenance as the produce thereof can admit and supply her with. Item, I give and bequeath to each of my executors herein after named the sum of fifty pounds current money of Jamaica. Item, whereas I am now seized and possessed in trust for the use and behoof of my three natural reputed sons and children, Charles Stirling, Thomas Stirling, and William Stirling, begotten by me on the body of Rebecca Ash herein-before named, and for the use and behoof of all and every such child or children as shall hereafter be born begotten by me on the body of the said Rebecca Ash, of and in a certain penn, piece, or parcel of penn land called Charles Town, situate, lying, and being in the parish of Saint Ann, and formerly my property, with the slaves, cattle, and stock thereon : Now I do hereby direct, authorize, and request and empower my executors herein-after named, or such of them as shall take upon himself or themselves the burthen and execution of this my will, to apply, invest, and lay out the annual rents, issues, and produce of the said penn, slaves, cattle, and stock in the purchase of negroes, to be put and placed upon the said penn, and in other necessary and proper improvements of the said penn, and to uphold, support, and maintain the same in the most advantageous manner for the use and benefit of my said children. Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my brothers, Sir William Stirling of Ardoch, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, and Major General Thomas Stirling, my nephews William Hamilton of the parish of Saint James's, gentleman, and Henry Hamilton of the parish of Saint Ann's, gentleman, and Alexander McLeod and James Finlay, of the parish of Saint Catherine, esquires, their heirs, executors, and administrators and assigns all that my plantation, penn, piece, or parcel of penn land, called and known by the name of Ardoch Penn, situate, lying, and being in the parish of Saint Ann, in the county of Middlesex and island aforesaid, with all and every the slaves, cattle, and stock thereupon and thereunto belonging, and all other my estate, real, personal, or mixt, to hold the same and every part and parcel thereof unto the said Sir William Stirling, Thomas Stirling, William Hamilton, Henry Hamilton, Alexander McLeod, and James Finlay, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns of such survivor for ever, in trust nevertheless and to, for, and upon the several uses, trusts, intents, and purposes herein-after mentioned, limited, expressed, and declared of and concerning the same; that is to say, in trust and to and for the sole and only use, benefit, and behoof of my said three reputed natural sons and children, Charles Stirling, Thomas Stirling, and William Stirling, born of the body of the herein-before named Rebecca Ash, and to the use and behoof of all and every such child or children as shall hereafter be born, begotten by me on the body of the said Rebecca Ash, their heirs and assigns for ever, to be equally divided between them, share and share alike as tenants in common and not as joint tenants: and in case one or more of my reputed children, begotten or to be begotten as aforesaid, shall depart this life before he or they shall attain his or their age or ages of twenty-one years and without lawful issue, then, as to the share or shares of him or them so dying, in trust to the use and behoof of the survivors or survivor of them, their heirs and assigns for ever, share and share alike as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. And in case all such children but one shall happen to die under the age of twenty-one years and without lawful issue, then as to the whole of my said estate in trust to the use and behoof of such one surviving child, his or her heirs and assigns for ever; and in case such surviving child shall also depart this life before he or she shall attain the age of twenty-one years, and without lawful issue of his or her body, then in trust, as to the whole of my said estate, for my own right heirs for ever. And I do hereby fully authorize, impower, and direct my said trustees, or such of them as shall act under this my will, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns of such survivor, forthwith after my decease, to send my said three sons to Scotland, as also all such child or children as shall hereafter be born, begotten by me on the body of the said Rebecca Ash as aforesaid, and there to be liberally and genteelly educated and maintained by and out of the annual rents, issues, and profits of my said penn called Ardoch Penn, with the slaves, cattle, and

stock thereon, and I do earnestly recommend my said children, during their respective minorities, and their rights and interests to the care and attention of my said trustees. And I do nominate, constitute, and appoint the said Sir William Stirling, Thomas Stirling, William Hamilton, Henry Hamilton, Alexander McLeod, and James Finlay to be executors of this my last will. And I do hereby, revoke, annul, and make void all other wills by me heretofore made, and do declare this to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and affixed my seal, this ninth day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five.
CHAS. STIRLING, (L.S.)

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by Charles Stirling, the testator above and within named, as and for his last will and testament, in the presence of us, who, at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

R. FINLAY². JNO. KELLY.

Wm MCROBBIE³.

B.

Jamaica S.S. -This is a codicil to my last will and testament as above set forth, and as I have not or neglected to make any disposition of what real or personal property I may die possessed as to the residue and remainder thereof, it is therefore my will and desire, and I do hereby, give, devise, and bequeath the same in trust to my executors mentioned in my said will, to and for the same uses, intents, and purposes as mentioned in my said will; that is to say, to be equally divided between my three reputed children, begotten on the body of Rebecca Ash, share and share alike, as tenants in common and not as joint tenants. And whereas I have not in my said will given any power to my executors to sell and dispose of my lands and negroes in the parish of Saint Ann that I may die possessed of, it is therefore my will and desire, and I do hereby grant and empower the majority of the executors mentioned in my said will to sell and dispose of all my lands and negroes; and I do hereby authorize the majority of my said executors to grant and convey good and sufficient titles for the same, as the law may require or be found requisite or necessary. I also give to each of my sisters twenty guineas to buy them a mourning ring, as a token of my esteem.

CHAS. STIRLING, (L.S.)

Signed, sealed, published, and declared by Charles Stirling, the testator above and within mentioned, as and for his last will & testament, in the presence of us, who, at his request, and in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have subscribed our names as witnesses to the same.

R. FINLAY. JNO. KELLY. Wm MCROBBIE.

Jamaica S.S. Memorandum.

This 12th day of February 1795 personally came and appeared before me, Robert Finlay, and made oath on the Holy Evangelists that he was present and did see Charles Stirling, the testator within mentioned, being then of sound mind and memory, sign, seal, publish, and declare the within written instruments, marked A. and B., to be his last will and testament and codicil thereunto subjoined, and which he desired might be deemed and taken as part and parcel of his said will; and that at the same time John Kelly and William McRobbie were also present, and together with him subscribed their names as witnesses to the same in the presence of the said testator, and further that he knows nothing of any other will or codicil since made by the said testator which may tend to the disadvantage of the will and codicil within written, marked A. and B.

Adam Williamson. (L.S.)

Letter from James Finlay to Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f. 3

Spanish Town 7th March 1795

Dear Sir

By the last Packet I wrote in a very hurried manner to Sir William of the 18th Jany informing him of the melancholy Death of my late Worthy Friend, Your Brother, which happened the preceeding day – By this opportunity I have wrote Sir William fully, to which I referr. From some impropriety in Mr Harry Hamiltons conduct, who is probably ill advised on the occasion, & which I have explained – neither Mr. Macleod nor myself intend to Act as Executors under your Brothers Will – with respect to myself, as I intend leaving the Island by the June Packet or Fleet, all I proposed to have done, was to have given my Advice when Consulted, relative to the future management of your late Brothers Affairs, & to have seen Inventories

and

General Stirling

and Apprisements of All His Personal effects taken & Recorded in the Secretarys Office – and to have Viewed & Valued Ardoch & Charlestown, for your and my own satisfaction – Your Brother had formed a very unfortunate Connection with a Young white Girl previous to my Arrival, which no persuasion of His Friends could dissolve – I attempted it often – Three Natural Children (all Boys I believe) have been the consequence of this unlucky Connection, and They are His Heirs – to Charlestown absolutely, without being subject to Debts - & to the Reversion of Ardoch after All Debts are payed – It is absolutely necessary that you should send a Power of Attorney that Your Demand may be Secured – and as Mr Harry Hamilton hath Proved the Will, no Time is to be lost, that you may be put on a footing with the Creditors in the Island in point of Priority – They will take Judgements of course as soon as the Law admits – But the Rule of Executors can be pled the first Court, in Bar to

to any Judgement being obtained – this gives four Months delay; & there is a Law in favor of the British Creditor, which gives another Court or four months additional delay So your claims may still be Secured, on an equal State with the rest of the Creditors – As far as I can form a Judgement of the Value of Ardoch & the Debts affecting it, there will be little or no Reversion – And if the Creditors Issue Venditiones⁴, & make Levys on the Negroes & Stock, & They are Sold by a Marshall below Their Value, a Deficiency would ensue – It is therefore for the Interest of the Creditors, that the Property should be Sold for its real worth – but if They want Confidence in the Acting Executors, every Claimant will push for immediate Payment – This is the Risk in Mr. Macleods not acting, as He is a Man of much consequence, credit & respectability in the Island – Please name any Person You please in the Power – I have recommended Mr. Macleod, & Mr. Donald Davidson as two Gentlemen well Qualified in all respects to do you Justice – Please offer my best respects to Mrs Campbell, and All your

Numerous

numerous & respectable Connections – being with much Esteem and Regard

Dear Sir

Your most Obedt. & Faithfull Servt.

James Finlay -

P.S. I have directed this to Sir Williams care, as
I dont know your present residence

Addressed: General Thomas Stirling
to the care of
Sir William Stirling of Ardoch Bart.
Near Stirling
North Britain

stamped: AP 27

N.B. The Power insist to the Gentlemen Jointly and Severally with full powers to Sell & Convey Lands, Slaves &c to Sign Seal & deliver the same – J.F.

[note inserted with the letter]

Charles Stirling

Born May 29th 1791...

Thomas Stirling..

Born October 5th [sic] 1792

William Stirling..

Born June 5th 1794...

Rebecca Ash did not stay at Ardoch Penn for long after Charles' death as she had a son by a William Galbraith in 1798, by which time Charles Stirling's three boys had been taken to Scotland. Sir William Stirling's eldest sister, Mary Campbell, took charge of the boys whom she put into the care of Mary Hamilton, the youngest daughter of her own sister, Isabella, the disgraced wife of John Hamilton whom he had divorced for adultery in 1772, the year of Mary's birth. Henry Hamilton, who had proved Charles' will, was her brother.

Sir William Stirling died 26th July 1799 with no male heirs of his body. The following letter indicates that his younger brother, Lt. General Thomas Stirling, inherited the Baronetcy and had also become the guardian of Charles Stirling's sons.

Letter from Mary Hamilton to Sir Thomas Stirling

ACC 12290 f. 20

Stirling Jany 13 [1802]

My Dear Uncle

I received your very kind and freindly letter and I trust I shall never do any thing but what shall merit your kind Protection and care many good advices I received from my dear and much Revered aunt⁵ which I shall treasure up in my heart She was more than a Mother to me and her loss can never be made up - but we must not Repine she is happy, we her Mourning friends are left to deplore her loss. two years ago she sent me a hundred pound Bill on the Airth Estate and said as her Life was very Precarious and that I might not be left destitute when that happned she sent it that I might receive the intrest every year which is £4 10. - if my Brothers Legacy⁶ turn out as he intended, it was more than I could have expected but all I owe to my worthy Aunt and your recommendation as to my Situation I could not be better in any Boarding house than I am with - Miss Baird as I have been longe under her care and she has taken such a charge of me even in my destress that my dear aunt put intire Confidence in her --

as to the Boys they are perfectly happy they are good schoolars and good boys Williams Master expects he will be ready to go to the Gramar School next vacancy, poor things they have lost a good friend as she gave them every thing that would make them happy there shall be nothing wanting on my part towards the dear boys - by her leaving me so much it will enable me to pay that attention to them that they would require I would wish to know what you chuse to give the Boys for ther Masters Candlemass gift as my aunt gave half a Guinia to each of the two boys to the head Master and a Crown to each for the second Master likewise to the Writting master each and the same to Williams Master as the time is drawing near I think it proper to inform you how every thing went on

in her life time you will receive the forty Bills and have kept six which shall be done as desired
the Boys join me in Duty to you and my aunt

I ever am my Dear Uncle your Dutyfull Neice
Mary Hamilton

Sir Thomas Stirling was unmarried so he took his nephew, a younger Thomas, son of William Graham of Airth and his sister Ann, as his heir. Thomas Graham, an East India merchant, added "Stirling" to his surname after his uncle's death in 1808, and he also took on the guardianship of Charles Stirling's sons for the rest of his life. Most of their surviving letters are addressed to him.

Charles joined the navy as a midshipman in 1805 and was commissioned Lieutenant in 1812. Thomas followed in his brother's footsteps on 15th February 1809, and was commissioned Lieutenant 20th September 1815. William was sent to school in Perth and became a East India Company Bombay Cadet in 1811, achieving the rank of Major in 17th Native Infantry.

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 214-215

Perth May 21st 1810

Dear Sir

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines to let you know that we are all well here and I hope you are all the same @ Airth. I received Miss Hamiltons⁷ letter a few weeks ago which informed me that you are not willing to buy a commission in the army and if you will not buy me a commission in the army I will thank you to get me into the Navy, but if you can get me into the army I would like it better. I had a letter from My Dear Aunt & last week she is in good health. I had likewise a letter from Charles he is quite well he is off Cadiz he says he expects to have a slap at the French before they quit that place he had never received a letter from a friend since he left England last February till he received mine in November last I shall give you an account of what I have been doing since I came here this year

I began with Geometry, Arithmetic, Book Keeping Right angled and Oblique angled Trigonometry Mensuration of Heights and distances. Mensuration of Surfaces and Solids, Landsurveying &..... We have gone through these at the Academy already this year and we have to go through Conic Sections Navigation, Fortification &c yet before August. besides these we have learning French Geography Chemistry &c the two latter Mr Anderson⁸ gives us at the Academy⁹ Gratis. I add no more at present Dear Sir

Your afft. Cousin
William Stirling
Write me soon

PS. Excuse bad writing for I am so closely employed I cannot really get time.

Perhaps you are acquainted with Mr Anderson the rector of the Academy he comes from Kincardine

W S

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth House
Falkirk
In another hand: Mr Bills Schoolmaster Stirling

Stamped: MAY 22 1810

Letter from Charles Stirling to William Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 275-276

H M Ship Dreadnought Lisbon
Janr 9 1811

Write as often as convenient but mind have the
Postage Paid as I will never get it
the Packet sails tomorrow from here

My Dear Brother

I have this evening received a letter dated the 12 Nov. from you by which I am glad to find you and all our friends are well. nothing gives me greater pleasure in this line of life that I have chosen than to hear from my friends and likewise of there welfare, but I am sorry to think that our dear Tommy seems to neglect that little fillial duty which we owe to one another, but surely I cannot attribute that to any neglect on his part, no, it surely must be some mistake in the conveyance which very frequently happens, I have written to him frequently but have never heard any thing about him, but I hope & trust there is no unfortunate accident happened him, Vessels arrive here every so often from the Mediterranean & I look anxiously for a letter but, alas, I am deceived

I just arrived here when all the Gun boats had been called down the River, from annoying the Enemy, they having retreated further into the interior of this country out of reach of the Gunboats , and our army advanced, but at present there appears every likelyhood off a reetreat on our part and we have received orders to prepare the Boats again to go up the River to annoy the enemy as much as possible, and my self being a great friend of Capt Linzer I have no doubt but I will go to command a boat, and if I do I will pepper the fellows well with Shot. but I must likewise take care they dont give me a thump on the head with a Shot. (but they Say the Devils children have devils luck).

I am just fancying what fine cold weather you have in Perth at Present and I dare say plenty of Snow, no doubt plenty of battles with snow ball, but your balls are not so hard as those

on Deck for me whilst I wrote this short epistle to you It has just struck 7 Bells or ½ past 11 Oclock & hear the Sentinals proclaiming, All's Well, round the Ship and every boats that that passes hailing her, What Boat Ahoy, in about half an hour more I will be realeved by Lieut. Head who is the Officer who realives me at present, because I am doing Lieuts duty, for a few days the rest being employed on different services, or my Mr Porter Mid who used to relieve me before, then I will return to my Hammock & take my nocturnall repose until some one comes to me at 7 Oclock tomorrow morning and tells me Mr Stirling you must turn out the Hammocks are piped up Sir if you dont turn out I will cut you down, Well then I generally give the fellow a good damn and then turn out wash myself and decorate my person for the day then at 8 Oclock a Boy comes. Breakfast is ready, Sir, well I go down to Breakfast (if we may allow it that appellation) & before I have sat down some one tells me it is my Forenoon watch I am wanted on deck immeadeatly. I am oblinded to attend the Summons & go without breakfast. at 12 is our dinner hour the same happens again I am now released & go to dinner if it may be

be so termed Salt Horse and Dogs Body the latter is a Mess I suppose you are not very well acquainted with, it has just struck 12 Oclock I must repair on deck to receive the Officer who releaves me. Give my kind love to all the ladys when you write to them & believe me to be Your ever Affectionate Brother

Chas Stirling

I wish you many happy new years & if I was in England I should send you a new years Gift but it is to far and such a thing from this place about 1,000 Miles from Perth besides the risk of your not getting it, but at some future period I will give you some thing out of my Prize money that I have to receive for the ship which is not a very large sum, but sufficient to raise a foreign [unclear] as we term it. Write as often as you can but pay the postage C Stirling

Addressed to:
13 Jany 1811

Mr William Stirling
[c.o. Mr Dick Perth]
Care of Thomas Graham Esqr of Airth
Falkirk

N.B.

Stamped: FE 7 1811
FE 2 1811

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 216-217

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
Falkirk
NB

Stamped: FE 19 1811

London Feby 13-1811

Dear Sir

I arrived here on Monday Morning at 5 o. clock in the Mail without stopping at York or any other place when I arrived here I was not a bit [c.o.] tireder than what I was when I set out from Edinburgh. Yesterday I passed at India house and am getting myself rigged out as fast as possible. I was like not to get past because in the oath that I took at Falkirk [c.o. it was] we left out caused search for a parish register but however Mr Abbington¹⁰ did not take notice of that I have written Charles Mr Dick & Day Macdowall I expect to sail on the Union Capt Sanders about the beginning of next week it has been in the Downs since the 10th of Jany. Capt Sandiland left town the friday before I came I have seen Patrick Stirling several times and I went tonight and saw Davy Dundas¹¹ I [sic] did not know me at first he said because I had grown so tall

I hope your mother is quite well and I hope Mrs Graham Stirling is better than she was My trunk has never arrived here yet I can not think what is the matter the day that I left Edinburgh I had a line from Gibb saying that I might depend upon it that he would send it by the mail that day it did not come and Mr Dundas said that that [c.o.] he would send it on – to London in the mail as

soon as it came be so good as write Mr Dundas about it and when you write him be so good as to tell him with my kind compliments that he gave me too little money after paying the carriage of a trunk Guards and drivers &c I had only £1.12.6 to eat drink and be merry with [above: I had to pay some shillings out of my own pocket] Begbie¹² and all other friends quite well I add no more at present Dear sir

Your afft Cousin

William Stirling

remember me to all my friends in the Pigeon house and all other houses

since I have written you this far I have seen Patrick Stirling and his wife; they say in Scotland that Mrs Patrick¹³ does not speak but I assure you she speaks quite enough here Pat. Sent his servant with me to shew me

some of the places about here I went to see the King's palace which looks as like a prison as any thing else I likewise saw the Queens palace but I think very little of either I saw the King's stables and [torn] through them and saw his state [torn] coloured horses beautiful animal [torn]

I had the pleasure of stroking each of them they are eight in number I likewise saw the state coach the man told us that it weighs 4 Tons it is a very elegant looking machine – [illeg] I have been in Hyde Park St James's Park Westminster Abbey &c tell Mrs Home that I delivered her letter to Mr Forbes¹⁴ and have sent Mrs Grahams letters off

I remain

Wm Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 218-219

H C Ship Union¹⁵
Bay of Biscay

18th March 1811

My Dear Sir

I take this opportunity of writing you a few lines by a man of war going to Lisbon (the Comodore has made the signal) to let you know how we are coming on in this part of the Globe. We left St Helens on Tuesday with what the sailors call a brisk gale and has continued till yesterday when we were almost becalmed they told me I should be tossed about in the Bay of Biscay but we are quite the contrary since I have come on board 2 or 3 fellows have got flogged and 2 soldiers began a fight with their fists they were tied together and got leave to fight with ropes the Capt (Rankine) says that he knew you and he was asking very kindly about you. In India an Ensigns pay is

from 3 to £400 a year very good pay for a younker¹⁶ of 17 I may say. On thursday the Comodore (Tower) of the Curazoa hoisted American Colours and made all sail after a schooner man of war taking her to be a frenchman but she turned out to be an English ship of war we have 10 passengers on board two of whom besides myself are Cadets englishmen you may be sure because they are so [c.o.] surly The Capt has been very ill since he came on board I have not been sea sick yet but all the rest have been there are 3 ladies on board 2 of whom are young unmarried ladies. The officers and other passengers are very kind to me and tell me that their Cabins and every other thing are at my service when ever I please the other two Cadets being what I call surly fellows have to stay in the steerage and Curse their bad luck yesterday we passed a dead whale a nasty looking animal it was

I have not seen Capt Sandilands¹⁷ since I have come on board but we were detained for about a fortnight or more by foul winds at Spithead after I wrote you at Motherbank¹⁸ I had a letter from Day Macdowall enclosing a letter to Mr Money¹⁹ I suppose it was from you he did not mention [torn] word about where it came from [torn] any other thing the order for saili[torn] orders us to be last and we kept while we were going before the wind but when the wind got a little to the westward we could not help getting before they have been just giving us a place to stand if an enemy comes alongside I am stationed to the poop the boat is just going away
so add no more!!

remember me Dear sir to all my friends your afft Cousin
Wm Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr of Airth
Airth Castle
Falkirk
NB

Stamped: AP 12 1811

MS. 10952 ff. 220-221

H C Ship Union May 9 1811

My Dear Sir

I take the opportunity of a brig going to Rio Janiero to write you a few lines to let you know how we are coming on in this part of the world On the 21st March (all in the Bay of Biscay) we had a heavy gale of wind The Comodore made signal should we part convoy to put into Madeira the gale still increasing we parted convoy and no ships in sight from the mast head after two days the gale moderated when we were completely becalmed I suppose you people in Scotland will think that us in the Union have all gone to glory but all is allive we staid 4 days at Madeira we went ashore and the captain introduced me to several people at Madeira among whom was a gentleman who had been at Perth Academy he was very kind I staid all night & dined with him

I was likewise introduced to some very beautiful scotch girls – Yesterday we crossed the line (after being 2 months out) the usual operation of shaving was performed & yesterday the captain asked us to pay a couple of dollars each and we would get past we did it and stood on the poop to see the next of the people shaved upwards of 20 were shaved I have written you several letters since I left Old England I suppose you received them. I did not think of the enjoyments I had while I was in Scotland If I had known then what it was as well as I do now I would have done it so [unclear] much more advantage there to think of what liberties I had on shore now shut up as in a prison where you can neither go from one place to another without being knocked about as the officers like best you knew that yourself that they like to run down the cadets but we never mind them a midshipman on board

the Bonne Citoyenne (the comodores ship was an old school fellow of mine he wrote me a line the other day and told me to write heme for the bodies in Scotland would be mighty glad to hear frae the fold sae far awa Be so kind as remember me [c.o.] kindly to your good old mother and Mrs Graham Stirling Mrs Home Mrs Dow Miss Graham's Mrs Erskine Davy²⁰ & Christy²¹ Day Macdowal Wm Dundas & all the rest of my friends Orchill²² &c

I remain Dear Sir you most
sincere friend

Wm Stirling

When you write me tell me if there is any appearance of a young pigeon -

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Gordon Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk
NB

[not stamped]

A problem that dogged Thomas Graham-Stirling throughout his life was the management of Ardoch Penn in Jamaica for the benefit of his wards. A difficult task, not helped by the perceived interference of their mother, now wife of Henry Longbotham,

Letter from Rebecca Longbotham to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 202-204

Friendship, St Anns, near the Moneagues, Jamaica
15th May 1811

Sir

I beg your pardon for taking the Liberty of the trouble I give you with this, which I hope you will forgive as it is natural I should be anxious to hear concerning my three Sons, of whom I understand you are the Uncle, and of whom you have the chief management by the old General's Will – whose names are Charles Stirling, Thomas Stirling and William Stirling – I understand the eldest has been a Midshipman some time past on one of his Majesty's Ships and that the Second has been likewise in the same Capacity in the Mediterranean – but I do not know

Please turn over

either of the Ships they have served or are serving in – I understand the youngest is studying in an Academy in Perth.

I will be very much obliged and will esteem it a particular favor if you will be kind enough to let me know the particulars concerning them, and to tell them I am alive and doing well

I have a little property of my own (unincumbered) in Land and Negroes

I shall be happy to hear of them and if it should please God that it was convenient for them or either of them to see me – and likewise it will be a pleasure to me to leave them something handsome after my decease – I am married to a Mr Longbotham who is a sober industrious man – I am very respectfully

Sir your most obedt Servt

Rebecca Longbotham²³

Inland postage paid for
Addressed to: Thos Graham Esquire
of Airth near Stirling
North Britain

Packet

Stamped: JAMAICA 17 MY [unclear]

JUL 8 1811

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 222-223

Lat 13 S. Long 27 May 19 1811

My Dear Sir

I take the opportunity of writing you a few lines (by the Bonne Citoyenne going to the Cape of Good Hope) to let you know how we are all coming on board the Union – The other day I wrote you a few lines by a brig going to Rio Janiero you see that I loose no opportunity of writing to old Scotland. We have never see or heard any thing of the Rose or any of our old fleet – I suppose that you people in Scotland will by the letters of the Curazoa & her convoy think we have all gone to glory on board the Flying Union – Captain Rankine enquired kindly after you and desires I will [c.o. give] send you his compliments we part convoy tomorrow and proceed by ourselves through the Mosambique channel we have had the commodore dining several times & he is to dine here to day again if the weather

will permit. The rest of the fleet will be obliged to put in some where for water for when we were at Madeira the people told us that the comodore would not allow them to anchor and some of the ships were in very great want indeed I have very little or no news for we are not like people on shore seeing novelties every day I only write to you to let you know that we are all alive - & I beg to be most kindly remembered to your Mother – Mrs Graham all the Miss Grahams & Orchill – all the abercaerney people and tell Mrs Moray I have taken great care of her box she sent to her son²⁴ at Bombay when you write me tell me if a young pigeon has come into the world yet or not – we have got a pigeon house on the main top [c.o. one of the midshipmen of the Bonne Citoyenne being tired of salt junk killed a pair of our pigeons for his dinner]

the captain and all the officers are very kind to me and take me into their cabins the other cadets are too great men to speak to the officers -

I remain my dear sir
your afft. Cousin
William Stirling

have you heard any thing of my brothers since I left you when you write [c.o.] them tell them in what part of the world I have got to now -

I am geting on in speaking English The cap[torn] tells me [damaged] in India it is better to speak [torn] than English

William Stirling
Flying Union
[illeg. Smudged]

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
near Falkirk
Scotland

Stamped: SEP 19 1811
SHIP-LRE

Bombay Castle²⁵ July 29th 1811

My Dear Sir

I arrived here on the 25th of this month and now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines by the Carmaerthen (Extra) Capt Cross – I [c.o.] am very well settle and quite happy here we have a room table chair &c & 130 Roopees per Month as pay next month we go out and encamp on the esplanade – I had a very happy passage out every one of the officers & passengers were my friends and now the officers and passengers come to call on me the capt. was to come to day to call which is a very high compliment paid to a cadet. The other two cadets had not a single friend on board. And now Capt Marshall²⁶ (who has the care of the cadets) and all the people to whom I had letters [c.o.] have been very kind indeed to me. I thank you for your letter to Mr Money he has told me what was in it – Since I arrived I have been dining breakfasting &c every day yesterday I went out to the country with Mr Erskine²⁷ in his carriage where I was introduced to Mrs Erskine &c

We rise at 5 every morning to drill we breakfast at 8 and dine at 3 drink tea at 7 and the gates are shut at 9 we study two hours at the language every day and are all very comfortable and happy. Be so good as remember me kindly to All my relations & friends I have a small favour to ask of you that is to send me by any opportunity a seal with my arms on it. it is a small thing but a thing which every gentleman ought to have I expect to be here till April next before I join a regiment. Our dress is a plain round hat with cockade and feather red jacket with sword belt and sash white jane²⁸ trowsers and gaiters When ever you write to any of my brother's be sure to remember me most kindly to them as I can not always know where they are or I would certainly do it myself Are there any young pigeons come into the world yet or any more young Grahams when you write me I expect you to give me all the news – yesterday morning I was introduced to Capt Kirkpatrick²⁹ of the Henry Addington by Mr Money and old friend of yours - I hope [c.o.] Mrs Graham's quite well remember me kindly to your Mother Sisters &c

Capt Moray is not here he is at Surat³⁰ but I will forward his things as soon as possible

I add no more at present my Dear Sir -

Your most afft Cousin

William Stirling

In the addington they had a Cadet³¹ on board a Son of Sir John Stirling who was killed at the Cape - there are only 11 of us all together here - WS

I went to the country with Comr Dundas³² and spent a very happy evening with Miss Dundas³³ and 2 Miss Pitcairns³⁴ who came out in the union -

WS

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.

Airth Castle

Per Carmaerthen

Falkirk

Nth Britain

Stamped: JA27 LONDON

JAN 31 1812

MS. 10952 ff. 226-227

Bombay Octr 28 1811

My dear Sir

I am extremely sorry indeed to say that I have never had a single note from any of my friends since I left England when so many opportunities have occurred I expected letters by the Scaleby castle or Dorsetshire and now when the Moffat and Mills have come I have none either but perhaps by mistake Commissioner and Miss Dundas intend going home before next rains they have been very kind to me indeed I send these few lines to you by the Caroline – Capt Wm Moray is at Surat we are at Bombay encamped [c.o. on the] outside the walls I have had a very polite letter from him offering to do anything for me that lays in his power by the first opportunity I shall send you some thing for Mrs Graham and Sisters

I need not say much in this letter for the Ship is never expected to reach home Sir James Macintosh and a few more of our greatest men are going home in her
be so kind as write to me for you know that it is a great gratification to receive letters from our friends

I remain
Dear Sir
your Afft Cousin
William Stirling

If you dont know how to direct to me) care of Capt Marshall in charge of the Cadet Establishment altho' I have left it I can always be found

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

N Britain

Stamped: AP 30 1812

Letter from William Stirling to James Begbie and sent on to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10873 ff. 31

Bombay 18th April 1812

My dear Sir

An opportunity offers to send letters to the Mauritius by which I suppose they will very soon reach you - There is very little news here but what I hear I shall endeavour to give [c.o. it] you. I am just recovering from a bowel complaint which I have had these 10 weeks very bad indeed. I am living with Mr Wedderburn³⁵ who Mrs Patk Stirling was kind enough to give me a letter to As soon as he heard I was so unwell he came directly and asked me to live with him which the Doctor's strongly recommended. We have had a good deal of War going here 6 or 7 black fellows have been executed and afterwards hung in chains. I am now posted to the 1st Battn. 9th Regt. N I attached at present to the Poonah subsidiary force now at Poonah. I have been obliged to get 2 months leave to remain at the Presidency for the recovery of my health but will leave this to go to my regiment about the 1st of May. We have just heard of the Africaine frigates arrival at Ceylon and that of the Owen Glendower at Madras they bring very little news. Enclosed I send letters to my brothers do they still continue at sea if they do pray to get them out on an Indian station the Men of War have got a little prize

money here about Java the other day the Hussar made a most valuable capture (laden with Spanish dollars). I was obliged to draw for 400 Rs to fit myself out for my regiment for which I gave Mr Money³⁶ a bill on you he is the partner in Forbes³⁷ house which cost me a great deal more which I had saved from my pay Write by every opportunity and remember me to Mr and Mrs Graham Mrs Graham Senr. Miss Grahams and all the rest of my friends. When I wrote you last I told you of an expedition which sailed from here it went to Thattyywar where they took Nowuggar the Capital of the Jam Rajah there is no news except in China the cotton is selling for prime cost or under it. Direct to me Ensn. WS 1st Battn. 9th Regt. B.N.I. Poonah Bombay be so good as tell Mr Graham my address I add no more at present my dear sir Yours very Afectly
William Stirling

last night I shot some flying foxes

[another hand] I think the above may interest you So I send it - I trust you will make out a jaunt to Town this Winter -

Adieu very affy yrs
J Begbie
Octr. 27th

I hope you have voted for Old Will. Chs Stirling is at Cadiz

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 228-229

[bottom: Camp near Poona 29th June 1813]

My dear Sir & Friend

I have been waiting this long time for the Java Frigates arrival at Bombay from England but we have given her up as lost and by the Carmarthan Indiaman. I wrote you from here to assure you of my sincere sorrow for the heavy loss you have sustained by the death of Mrs Graham in which your friend Mr Money joins me and begs that I will remember him very kindly to you I hope your Mother and Sisters are quite well and have been so for some time past We have been put [unclear] on the alert here for some time past the Maharatta Jaghisdan lately [unclear]

to the Peishwa has come here to settle some business with him but they dont seem to agree well and it has been supposed that he would or perhaps could make an attack on Poona (the capital) where we are now encamped The guards have been increased and the sentinels ordered to be most careful not to admit any one into camp before they give a proper account of themselves – The Gurkawans Subsidiary force consisting of the 2d Battn 1st Regt. Left using 2d Battn 9th Regt. (commanded by Lieut Pedler) 300 men from H M 56th 3 squadrons H M 17th Drags. 10 [unclear] companies from Baira [unclear] with the N Cavalry [unclear] all under the command of Colonel Holmes Bbay Est. with the Compys European Artillery with a [unclear] troupes consisting of 2 – 12 prs. & 2 – 24 prs. March immediately after

the first fall of rain (none having yet fallen in Guzerat) to Ca [unclear] the place of rendezvous from whence they go into Jhally was to try what their Bayonets can do against the Arabs & Patans who seem very resolute -

You must have known long ago that I belong to the 1st Battn 9th Regt. B.N.I. [unclear] we have been here at the Quarters of the Battrry since Febr. 1812 but our [unclear] Flank companies to [above: the Grenadiers] which I belong marched with some others and formed a Flank Battn. together with the Subsidiary force from Seroor [above: amounting to 9070 men] to the southward to attack some refractory gentlemen but as we were just going to [unclear] camp there to show we [unclear]

thought it better to come to our

[page illegible]

I have been now nearly 2 years an Ensign and have only got 3 steps I am now [unclear] I may think myself lucky if I am a Lieut in 4 years more 6 and 7 being the common [unclear] thing now for an Ensign. We have had all the news from Russia by the Chinese fleet likewise our land dispatches which was so good that we could not believe it at first. We were likewise surprised to hear that the Americans had been so successful Charley my brother used to say he should like an American war to get some prize money but I think if he gets into such a Frigate as the Macidaman [unclear] or Gueriare [unclear] he

will better take care of himself – I was sorry to hear by Miss Graham's letter of last year that Tom was not on board the Victorious where she had so fine an engagement and think he was very forgetful not to give me a single line to ask me how I got on & wish you you would give both of them a good lecture I have never heard from either of them since we first parted altho' I have at least wrote a dozen times -

We have had a good deal of rain in the Dekkan this year altho it has only set in about a fortnight ago – I suppose Ralph & Willy Dundas have been enjoying themselves in the country this year have they

caught any fish in Strowan Basin or Airth Mill stand the [unclear] or sail [unclear] places we have elegant shooting here – plenty of wild ducks, quail, partridges, hares and snipe in great abundance the property of whoever likes to kill them as it is contrary to the religion of the Hindoos to kill any animal unless for their own use very few are killed except by the Officers from Camp – We have sometimes Hunting and shooting parties the ladies going out too pass the day with us we have in our regiment a large society of ladies 15 married men and we each [unclear] to be married soon after

We at the bottom of the Subalterns wish they would [unclear] put all the married men into the invalids as noneffective for they get too many indulgences [unclear] them – I hope the Miss Erskines are quite well remember me to them – Which Regt. is Day Macdowall in I hope he come to India for he must never be so well off at home. Salam to all old Friends I will see you all well I hope in 8 years more -

We are going to have a new Regt. Of Cavalry in this Establishment. I applied to Mr Money he says he will do every in his power but I don't expect any thing of the kind unless I am on the spot to bore and plague him every day about- that is the only way to get on in this part of the world but if I cannot get one without that I'll leave it alone and be content with what I have got for we have no reason to complain.

I expect to hear from you soon & believe me to be ys very truly

W Stirling

Ensign [unclear]

Camp near Poona 29th June 1813

I saw by a Perth newspaper the marriage of Miss Moray [unclear]

[illegible]

I mentioned in the enclosed that I had seen the marriage of Miss Moray³⁸ Altho' I did not expect it I [unclear] your anniversary in the papers which was the Perth Dundee & [unclear] Advertiser which my friend Mrs ...nyce [unclear] lent me – I read many things in this which make me think of my younger days again such as an[unclear]...by the magistrates &had the right rod of thefar from them Inot to say that I ...to pay what Ias a good friend of mine Dr Carnegie or rather

Mrs C: of this establishment) at this place Boregaporehas got very good library which I take care to profit by as much as possible as it is perfectly at my servicewith the above Mrs Carnegie and her younger Sister Miss Pitcairn

who came from Dundee I know many of their acquaintances at home as do I some of theirs – I was nineteen on the 5th of this month [5.6.1813] The Resident Honble. M Elphinstone³⁹ a Brother of Lord Elphinstone a neighbour of yours has been very kind to us all he often asks me questions about Drummond Castle Falkirk &c but I can tell him very little about the latter we all dined there on the king's birth day and some of them kept us up until gunfire in the morning we sat down about 40 people after we had [illegible]thing with three times three – he is a very good man he is always sure to pay the greatest attention to the young officer there

yr [illeg]
W Stirling

Letter from Henry Longbothom to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 f. 209

Friendship Moneague July 15 1813

Sir,

I Beg leave to inform You I have seen Mr Finlay⁴⁰ from Ardoch who informed me of His having Received your Letter wherein you mentioned of your having provided for the Three Sons of the Late Charles Stirling for which Mrs Longbotham desires me to return You Her most Sincere thanks myself Also for that part wherein you are good enough to enjoy and Remain on that part of the property called Friendship. Mr Finlay mentioned to me it was Your wish that Mrs Longbotham should not Insist upon taking the Legacy left Her by the late Chas Stirling, but rather

to let the Children enjoy it. If the Children where in want she would no doubt do so. But she wishes to have the pleasure of distributing it herself. But as Mr Finlay

P.T.O.

Inform me they are to be supported from the Property which I am very possitive will very Handsomly maintain them if properly managed and more than that. It is well-known that Ardoch is capable of Remitting Five Hundred Sterling a year perhaps more. I trust you will excuse my freedom for troubling you with so long an Epistle. But considering myself somewhat Interested in the welfare of Mrs Ls Children – If it as Intruding to much on your goodness Mrs L. could wish her Eldest Son was under some one destined for this Station that she might once more have the Happiness of seeing Him. I am with the greatest Respect

Sir Your very Obed Huml Sert
Henry Longbothom

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth
[c.o. North Britain
Strowan Crieff]

Paid to Crieff
At home at Airth Castle

By the Middlesex
Capt. Barkle

Stamped: GLASGOW 11 OCT 1813

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 231-232

[illeg.]

Camp near Poonah 8th April 1814

My dear friend,

I have just returned from Outpost where I have been commanding for four months past distant from our Head Quarters 115 miles. I have no sooner returned than I am ordered to march with my Grenadier Company on immediate service but where I cannot exactly learn reports say to Hindoostan where Meer Cawn⁴¹ is at the head of 70,000 men threatening our frontier we shall join the Hyderabad Subsidiary I suppose at Jaulnat⁴² (near Assaye⁴³) or as others say at Jaffierabad⁴⁴ but I think the former most likely. On the beginning of next

year our Corps will be relieved from the Deccan when we shall most likely go to Surat (the best Station in the army) but at there is to be a war in Cutch⁴⁵ people seem to think that we shall form part of that force which I hope is true as few Europeans have been in that Country – At present the prospects of the Army are bad actually in Bombay & other garrisons they have not men for the common duties of a Peace Establishment & they wont even give us another Regt. We expect some addition to the Cavalry which we are much in want of not a single Regt. on the Establishment the 17th Dragoons⁴⁶ are a great eyesore or Gargancastle [unclear] – They talk [above: the common report] of cutting our allowances on the three presidencies the consequences are plain enough: I am afraid dreadful. Since I left Scotland I have grown so much that you would

hardly know me I am 5ft 11¾ when I saw you I was nearly 5.6 I have been in the Grenadiers for 2 years past -

We heard all the last glorious news by over land dispatches – I hope all my friends are in health & spirits – Remember me to all & I remain

My dear friend

Yr very Afft

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.

[No address or stamps]

Letter from Henry Longbotham to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 211-212

Moneague St. Anns April 20th 1814

Sir

I Beg leave to trouble You again on the Subject of my Demand Against Ardoch Penn in this Island the Property of the late Charles Stirling Esquire. I hope You will not think me troublesome. But as I fear great hopes are entertained that the Children will ever reap any great Benefit from the Property I consider it would be wrong in me not to endeavour to get the Small Legacie So long been due and I most earnestly Intreat you to Request Mr Finlay to send His Son Mr David Finlay an Order to pay the Sum to us thro Ardoch, as I would be truly Sorry to put the Childrens Property to any Expence

But on the

P.T.O.

Contrary, would wish to Render them every Service in my power. I hope you will please excuse the Liberty I am takin and trust You will be so good at to Return me a few lines by the Next Packet I am Sir with the greatest Respect Your

very Obedt Huml Servt

Henry Longbothom

P.S. Mrs Longbotham & Self would be truly happy to hear of her Sons Charles William & Thomas Stirlings

Thos Graham Stirling Esqre

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth Stirling
North Britain

Inland postage paid

Pr Packet

Stamps illegible

Letter from Rebecca Longbotham to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 213-214

Moneague Novr 9th 1814

Sir.

I Beg leave to trouble you on a Subject with naturally concerns me as Mother of the three Stirlings I feel very Anxious to hear from them as well as to know if any of them have any Idea of Coming to this Country. The Property left them by their father and now under the Management of Mr David Finlay whose health I am Sorry to Say renders it Necessary for Him to be at this present time under the Hands of Medical Gentlemen and

the Climate at this Season being very unhealthy Renders it doubtful of this Gentlemans ever being Restored to his former Health. should any thing happen to Mr Finlay The property must Suffer Inconsiderably by not having some one to take Immediate Charge of it I would most earnestly recommend Your Seeing Mr McCloud⁴⁷ as One of the Executors to Consult what is most right to be done. I trust You will excuse the liberty I take

P.Turn over

But as its the nature of a Mother I wish their Affairs in this Country to be in a fair way So that they may reap some benefit hereafter. I am well aware of the numerous Obligations they are Under to You for the many past favours – and I hope they will ever prove worthy of them. As I am residing so near the property my Husband whose thirteen Years residence in this Country as a planter would be extremely happy to Attend to these Concerns should it meet Your approbation. I shall feel greatly Obligated to you to be so kind as favour me with a few lines Informing me how all my Boys are as Mr Finlay mentioned to me some time ago that you had not heard from William who was gone to the East Indies, be pleased to give my kind love to them and Accept my Sincere thanks for your

Kindness to them and I remain Sir with the greatest Respect Your most Obt Huml Svnt
Rebecca Longbothom

Thos Graham Stirling Esquire

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
of Airth near Stirling
North Britain

Single Inland postage paid
per Packet

Stamped: ...A.. 11 NOV 1814

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 f. 91

[copy]

Airth Castle 24th Novr 1814

Dear Sir,

I have now to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 3d July with the duplicate of yours of the 3d of June and the 2d of a bill of exchange drawn by Messrs. J.T. Harries and Co. on John Burke & Co. London for £150 Sterling on account Ardoch Penn which has been duly honored – Also that of the 5th Augst 1814 with the first & a set of bills of Exchange drawn by Al. Peterkin a 90d/St on Edwards Clarke Esqre in your favor and endorsed by you to Jas. Dundas or myself for £218.15.7 Sterlg – These remittances have been very acceptable as considerable advances had been made for the young men -

The favorable accounts you give of the penn are very agreeable and from the conversations I have had with our friend Mr Archd. Stirling I find you have done much on it

I had hoped to have received

the accounts by this time as I cannot well call the Trustees of Sir Thos. Stirling together until I have them

I shall look for them soon -

Mr Dundas and I both think we should endeavour to obtain a settlement with Mrs Longbotton as soon as you can conveniently she has been writing to me on the subject, it will not be necessary to trouble your Father or Mr MacLeod further on the business, and whatever arrangement you may make will be approved of. She ought not to take any thing from her children but if she insists it will be better to pay the principal sum than have any Litigation, I presume that is all she can ask -

The Lieut Chas. Is in the Spencer 74 in America, Thos. a Midshipman in the Glasgow with the honorable Capt. H Duncan, on the same Station Willm an Ensign in the East India Co. service at Bombay, I heard from them all well very lately, I have nothing more to add

but remain dear Sir

your very obed.ly

(signed) Thos. Graham Stirling

David Finlay

Copy of a Letter from Thos. Graham Stirling Esq. to David Finlay Esqre. 24th Nov. 1814

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 [page numbers torn]

Camp 4 miles from Poona
10th Sept 1815.

My dear Sir,

I arrived here on the 8th Inst, forming part of the Advance of the Army in the Deccan, to carry into effect some insurances to be immediately adopted by the British Government, in consequence of a plot which was executed during last month by the creatures of the Peishwa's Prime Minister, and which ended in the murder of an Ambassador⁴⁸ from the Guicawar Government, and under our protection.

This Advanced is composed of the following troops and we are formed thus:

Left.P	P	p	P	P	P	R
Light Battn.	Grenadiers	People of	Pioneers	3d Light	Bombay	
composed of	Battn:	Lt. Compy		Cavalry	H. Artillery	
the Lt. horse	composed of	N inv.				
of P.S. ForceComps.	56 regt				
	P. Subsidiary					
	Force					

The above Force is under the immediate Command of the Officer Commanding Poona Subsidiary Force who with Huff [unclear] & advanced with us.

We are in daily expectation, of an Order to commence hostilities, and a general Mahratta war will likely be the consequence

We are in a most efficient state, and everyone in high spirits at the prospect before

us - The remainder of the P.S. Force is at Seroor, 40 miles in our rear, and ready to move at a moments notice.

I wrote Miss Graham a few days ago, which she will I hope receive.

The Resident here held a levee yesterday which we all attended.

I suppose by the next letter I write you, you will hear of my promotion - As it goes by seniority, and none above me dying of late I have been rather unfortunate, but I hope to be more lucky in getting my Company. However I need not grumble, as I have been lucky in getting Commands & here I have now Command of our Grenadier Company, and before I left Hd Quarters of the Corps, my Comming. Officer told me that I had only to mention any thing I wanted for the equipment of that Company, & if it could be had, I should have it.

I have been disappointed by not getting any letters by the many late arrivals from England. It is now 8 months since I had one.

I have now a question to put to you, which you will I trust, not look upon

as in any way ungrateful towards you. It is to know in what circumstances my Father died; and, if our Uncle made any kind of provision for myself and Brothers; and if so, what it might be. - I have often received hints when I was in [c.o. England] Scotland, that something small had been left us, but the delicacy of the case prevented me from ever making enquiries regarding it. Indeed your kindness, and friendship, rendered such unnecessary, and would have then been unpardonable. - Now, that I have been upwards of four years, my own master, and from which I conceive that I am in no way unqualified to become acquainted with my own circumstances, I humbly beg you will thus satisfy me, that, tho' it is not my intention ever to touch it - still some very urgent case, such as

ill health or the like, may render such a thing necessary, tho that I hope may never happen.

Remember me to your Mother and Sisters - & Davy Erskine the Dundasses &c &c
The weather is miserably damp and cold. - My Tent is pitched in a cotton field very deep, and my horse and other cattle poor brutes standing night and day very deep in the mud. -

I have nothing more to add at present. I hope you will sometime write me; and give my Brothers a hint, at any time convenient, that they have a Brother in India, and that it would become them much, to take that into their consideration

That, distance as an excuse can be of no avail; that illness is an aggravation of the neglect; and that they intended at different times to write, will only tend to confusion, an opinion, that I have begun to form, and which, tho' better at some future period, shall certainly me made know to them. -

I remain at present
Yours most affectionately and ever obliged -
W Stirling

MS. 10952 [illegible page numbering]

Camp near Boodan⁴⁹ 8th Decr. 1816

My dear Friend.

You will have heard by my different letters how I have been getting on and, what are my prospects in life. -

The predating mischievousness of the Muharuttas, and Pindaries seem to have revived in some degree, in Lord Moira⁵⁰, the failing of Marquis Wellesley⁵¹. His plans were all on the grand scale, resembling, in his distribution of Forces, [unclear], and money, that celebrated noble man. However, many note, which wars a few years back seemed politic, have not it appears, answered the ends expected.

I saw many considerations, tho I believe chiefly to chasten the Mahrattas, and to support by force, the prevailing disaffections to our government, and alliance, which is certain Throughout this vast country, the whole disposable force in India has taken the field but no doubts seem to have arisen in the mind of the Governor General, as to the proposing orof immediately in signing into effect his plans, a reference was sometime ago made, to the Government at home, begging permission to [unclear], as, advice to [unclear] not are so important an occasion

We have heard nothing of the answer, but Lord Moira has again set out for the upper

Provinces, and on his arrival at a certain point, this Force will with all the others be put in train. It is supposed that our Route is towards Jaudpore⁵², the Capital of Marwus one of the most important states of the Ratahpoots.

The present parsimonious system of Government, does not seem to people in general well suited to the times – Money does not appear to be spared, but it might be better applied. - Some things are provided in profusion, others more material neglected. I imagine this Force scarcely amounting to 4,000 men, but with an addition of 30,000 followers, to penetrate to the centre of Hindoostan thro' a country inhabited by a most war like people, but scarcely affording for hundreds of miles, provisions, or, supplies even of water, for half the number – one reverse must be our ruin, for there is not a man to support us, or recruit the losses we should sustain. So much for Politics. -

I have had letters from Tom, and your sisters lately. - They spoke of your Mothers health as good, and thriving condition of your family – I need not express to you the satisfaction I felt. Favor me with a letter now and then. How are all our friends? Orchill & family I hope are

well; offer them my respects, and say, I have not forgotten their kindness. Mrs Erskine and Mrs Dundas, are I hope well – how is Davy? I have not heard of Wm Dundas's arrival in India; I must

suppose he has relinquished the idea. I had a letter a few days ago from Mr Erskine in Bombay, he tells me James Erskine Esqr of somewhere, has been again unfortunate in his family, owing to some defect in their information. He tells me his new wife, and Sir Wm and Lady Wiseman⁵³ are well – do you ever meet them?

This country has of late been very sickly, but I have with my usual luck escaped. The weather has however of late been pleasant enough, the mornings delightfully cool & a fresh breeze throughout the day.

Charles has I understand been trying to get a wife – I am not surprised – when there are so many temptations – I have not even seen a woman, with a white face, for 6 months! You must therefore conclude that I was a perfect Goth I believe so, as much as ever, & shall remain so, to the end of the chapter.

I shall feel greatly obliged by your giving me some sort of idea how money matters stand between us – whether, I have been indebted to you, for the amount of expences incurred in time past, or whether they have been defrayed from my patrimony, or from what source?

Offer my kind regards to those of your family, to Mr & Mrs Dow & to all those with whom I am acquainted believe me to be yours ever sincerely and obliged W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr. Of Airth
Airth Castle
Falkirk
Stirlingshire

Stamped: MAY 31 1817

Letter from Thomas Graham Stirling to David Finlay

MS. 10952 146-147

[copy]

Airth Castle
March 5th 1818

Dear Sir

I have to acknowledge your Several favors of the 10th of Decr & the 15th of Janry 1818 – The Bill for £100 reached me on the first, and by the Stanmore Packet (along with your last) I received your bill for £150 -

It will give me pleasure to receive the Valuation of the Penn as soon as convenient, as I should like to take Steps for the sale of it. I had a letter from some person of the name of Brown wishing to take it on lease; I thought it unnecessary to answer, as I never had any intention of selling it.

- Our young friends are well, Charles is gone to France and Italy for two years - & Thomas is prosecuting his Studies in Edinr – William is gathering Laurels in India. -

I shall be glad to receive your acts. when you have an opportunity - & remain

Dear Sir
yours truly
Signed Thomas Graham Stirling

To David Finlay Esqr.

Addressed to: David Finlay Esq
Jamaica

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 239-240

Ahmednagpur⁵⁴ 18th August 1820

My dear Friend

The uncertainty in which I have been for the last some month involved, with regard to my appointment in the service prevented my acknowledging the receipt of your friendly letter delivered by Mr Hagaden I have now the satisfaction of doing so and of informing you that our Governor Mr Elphinstone has provided for me in a far more handsome manner than I could have anticipated – The Poona Auxiliary Force has been broken up, and two Extra Battalions (as they are called) raised in their stead. They have only a Commandant and Adjutant to each and I am Adjutant to the 2nd Battn. In it we united the usual duties of Adjutants, [c.o.] Quarter Master and Paymaster, so you may gauge they offered me abundance of employment – The Allowances granted for performing so many duties are more handsome than I [c.o.] hitherto received, and I have consequently relinquished, for the present, all my former plans of visiting Europe, and have made up my mind to remain in the country till promoted, an event which I sincerely hope may not [sic] speedily happen -

Your young friend had the good fortune to be appointed a Lieutenant in the B, bay European Regiment, on his arrival in India, but preferring a fine laced jacket and plumed helmet to the more humble uniform of the Infantry, he has been at his own request transferred to

the newly levied Cavalry of this Establishment as fifth Cornet!!! Should it ever be in my power to be of service to him, you may depend upon it, nothing shall be wanting on my part to afford him any support -

I lament accordingly that our affairs in the West have not been brought to a conclusion – Tom wrote me [c.o.] he had spoken to an Attorney on the subject & that I might expect a Power of Attorney out for signature immediately -

[c.o.] Wishing to save delay I applied to a professional Gentleman in the Presidency, but being unable to furnish the information he required I was reluctantly compelled to abandon my [c.o.] object – and I have heard no more from Tom about the business though upwards of a year has elapsed -

Our War in India having ended triumphantly, we are on the way of engaging in another, more distant, and probably on that account, apparently more difficult – Immense Armies, the resources of the three Presidencies are, we are informed assembling in Cutch and the countries bordering on the Indus – Bombay furnishes under the personal command of Sir Charles Colville⁵⁵ 10,000 men – You have perhaps forgotten to write him, as you intended, When he had given me my appointment, not from any knowledge of me, but in compliment to Mr Elphinstone, I thanked him and enclosed your letter for his perusal, remarking that I should do myself the pleasure of bringing his kindness to your notice, which would be equally gratifying to your feelings, as if [c.o. it] this Eng. and [c.o.] seemed one [unclear] in compliance with a request – The enclosed is Col. Blair's reply by command of the General, which through too flattering (on your account) will offer you and family under whose auspices, I was ushered into the world, I am persuaded, much pleasure -

My chief support in the country, is Mr Erskine, and all Mr Elphinstones attention to me has been on account of the partiality shown towards me by him – You

will doubtless have an opportunity of acknowledging what I told you, and I beg you will not suffer it to pass by unnoticed -

I sincerely hope your much respected Mother continues in health as well as your Sisters and Children – By the Bye, I must not call them children now, for now two years have passed over us,

since I saw two of them suck – However, many [illeg] things have happened within that period, and were we to endeavour to figure them in our minds, it would be more than enough for [c.o.] us – Forgive me, this is a cold, rainy melancholy day – Can you afford me information about my Brothers – I heard from Tom several months ago, but the same reasons which induced me to defer replying to your letter prevailed with regard to his - [torn] my old play fellow Davy [lines through but not crossed out] Miss Erskine? Is she as b[torn] cheerful as ever? - The MacDowalls and Dundas[torn] [unclear] by this time eminent in their professions – The time seems long since I left all these people, but it will [torn] longer ere we meet perchance.

Are my old friends Roderick Henry [torn] Tom Robertson, Sarah, Peat Graham & [torn] still alive? Pray tell them I enquired after them?

Do you still amuse yourself shooting? You know I shoot with both eyes shut, so I have lately taken to hog and [illeg] hunting at which sports I am more successful -

Be obliging enough to write your friend Sir Charles Colville a few lines on my behalf without loss of time – With best and kindest regards to your Mother Sisters and friends,

I remain, my dear friend

Yours ever Sincy

W Stirling

A fellow, whose countenance I remembered came to me at Poona, and said he came from near Polmaye (or what do they call it) that he had long served Keir, Kippendance &c as coachman – As I thought he could – not have been discharged for doing any good, particularly after seeing him a Private in the Europ. Regt. I took very little notice

of the gentleman – I forget his name -

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire of Airth
Airth Castle
Stirlingshire
Scotland

[?] 128
P. Phoenix

Stamped: INDIA LETTER DEAL
JAN 18 1821

MS. 10952 ff. 241

[bottom: Bombay 19th April 1823]

My dear friend,

I take the opportunity of the Ship Triumph, which will sail tomorrow for England, to write these few lines to express my hope that you and all your family enjoy good health & happiness – I was a little out of sorts last year, but a trip to the Concan & Malabar⁵⁶ quite restored me Indeed I have not felt so well these four years as I have since my return in January

Mr Earle⁵⁷ who you recommended me to see is now in Bombay – I have done all in my power for him viz: I have given him a deal of good advice, & I have introduced him to the Governor, Mr Elphinstone, who is, as you may have heard

an old acquaintance of mine – He tells me Lady Perth is dead -

I saw your name in the papers as a conspicuous character, at the Kings Levée as processioner – I trust he will make you Baronet of the United Kingdom -

Mr Huguet is also in Bombay, but I have not seen much of him lately – He is laid up with a disease, occasioned, I believe, by the effects of mercury on a scrofulous habit -

My Brother Tom tells me he intends to marry a Miss Dobie⁵⁸ I daresay he has weighed the subject, & the arguments pro & con – Pray tell me without reserve, what you think of his conduct -

I have made application

for an appointment which must soon fall vacant, & if I succeed which, by the bye, I am somewhat indifferent about, I shall make up my mind to remain three years more in India – but should it be given to another you may expect me in the summer of next year – I am quite keen for a good feast of your gooseberries & strawberries now that I have had enough of the Cocoanuts & plantains, which I used to long [c.o. to] for, & of which you truly predicted I should soon tire -

[c.o. Pray] With the most sincere wishes for your happiness, & that of all your family believe me

Your sincere friend

W Stirling

Bombay 19th April 1823

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr of Airth
[c.o. Stirlingshire]
Europe

Readdressed: Strowan Crieff

MS. 10952 ff. 243-244

[bottom: St Helena 22nd April 1824]

My dear friend,

The Lotus is on the point of sailing for England & I take the opportunity to tell you that I have arrived here – I expect to be in England about the 10th of June – We have had a most boisterous passage from India, four gales one of them an Isle of France hurricane in 12oS. 85 E – I hope you

and family are well – My health, I am glad to say is quite restored -

Pray remember me to all friends - & excuse this hasty scrawl..

Believe me

Yours most sincey

W Stirling

St Helena

22nd April 1824

Addressed to:

Per Lotus

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr. Care of James Dundas Esqr.
25 St Andrews Sq.
Edinburgh

Stamped: JUN 20 1824

INDIA LETTER HOLYHEAD

MS. 10952 ff. 245-246

Cheltenham 16 July 1824

My dear Friend

Before leaving London I had the pleasure to receive both your letters & one from Mr Dundas enclosing a bill on Coutts & Co for £200 which was duly paid. Accept my thanks for the readiness with which you met my wishes, as well as for your kind invitation to Airth & Strowan which I hope to be able to avail myself of next month -

My health is much improved & Dr Christie⁵⁹ the most eminent physician in [c.o. London] Cheltenham who I have consulted promises me perfect strength in three weeks

I am very pleasantly situated here in a boarding house with a party of twenty five – consist half ladies & half gentlemen, some in pursuit of health, some for amusement, but all equally inclined to be agreeable, & to make

the party comfortable – the lady of an Irish Judge is one of us, & as I am, [c.o.] as she says, the very image of a deceased friend, she has formed a great friendship for me - & is particularly anxious that I should accompany her to her seat near Dublin – As an inducement she promises me the pick of Ireland for a wife – but though a strong one, I must decline her invitation for the present -

On my way from London I spent two very pleasant days at that beautiful place Oxford – I had the good fortune to make the acquaintance while travelling of a Lady of family who having been at Oxford before kindly acted as guide – Her husband then joined us from the country & we took a post chaise to Cheltenham, it being more comfortable as well as more economical than the stage coach -

I went to spend a few hours at Gloucester , & in the Cathedral

I discerned a monument to the memory of Christian Erskine⁶⁰ of Cardross [c.o. in the Cathedral] – ob. 1805

I called on Mrs Oliphant in London & am happy to say she behaved with much kindness, I was sorry my limited stay in town prevented my repeating the visit -

If my physician allow me, I will leave Cheltenham on the 2nd of August & proceed to London by way of Malvern, Warwick, Leamington, Blenheim, Oxford & Windsor. Then I will embark for Leith, & hasten to see you - The weather here is very hot, & reminds me of India – I have put off my visit to Wales, as I must be in Ireland in October – the Duke & Duchess of Guiche⁶¹ are here & the Dukes of Gloucester & Wellington are daily expected -

I trust you have by this time got your family together, & that the younger part have made progress in their education -

Miss Graham Senior & Miss Jane I heard from – Mrs Oliphant was well – Mrs Pat. Stirling is at Brighton, I was told, for which I was sorry as I wished to have the pleasure of thanking her for a very serviceable introduction she gave me to a friend of hers in Bombay.

Believe me

My dear friend with best respects to all your family

Yours very Sincerely

W Stirling

I forgot to tell you of my promotion

WS

MS. 10952 ff. 247-248

My dear Friend

I have communicated your proposal of £2400 to my Brothers and tho' they think the sum little still they say they cannot afford to lose it, would rather than push the business further will accept your offer – We understand it to be £800 to each of us clear, and free from all ex-

pence whatever – I agree to that too, and as it is a most disagreeable business to all parties we trust you will put an end to it before you leave town. I am the more anxious as I have some urgent business that will take me away from Scotland for a time, and as soon as circumstances will admit of my going -

Believe me

My dear friend

Yours always Sincy

W Stirling

Edin. 21st Octr. 1824

Addressed to: T. G. Stirling Esqr
24 Abercromby Place

[Not stamped]

Summary of the Trustees Account Martinmas⁶² 1824

ACC 12290-1-7

View of the Sums received from the Estate of Ardoch Penn Jamaica

And

Application thereof

Introduction

The late Sir Thomas Stirling died on 9 May 1808 and by his Settlement he directed his Trustees to make payment to Charles, Thomas, & William Stirling reputed sons of his Brother, Charles Stirling, equally among them, such part of the Sum of £3000 Sterling due to him by his said Brother Charles Bond as may be recovered from his Estate and Effects in Jamaica with the Interest that may be due on the Bond.. As also to pay to them such part of the Sum of £4002 Stg which Sir Thomas had paid to the Executors of his late Brother Sir William Stirling of Ardoch for an Assignment of a Bond of his brother Charles to him as in like manner might be recovered from his Estate in Jamaica, the said Thomas drawing one half of what might be recovered of said Bond to Sir William Stirling and Charles & William Stirling drawing the other half equally between them - And in case the Estate or Penn should be sold that they should draw the price

price in the proportions of Three Seventh parts to Thomas and the remaining Four Seventh parts equally between Charles and William - But in case his Brother Charles's Estate or Penn should

remain unsold or in the possession of him or his Attornies in Jamaica at his death - Then in place of the proportions of the above debts his Trustees are directed to make over the Estate or Penn in Jamaica in the proportion of Three Seventh parts to Thomas Stirling and the remaining Four Sevenths between Charles and William Stirling equally - The Share of any one dying to go equally to the Survivors, and if Two die, the whole to go to the last Survivor Declaring that they should not be entitled to their proportions of the provisions till they should respectively have completed their Twenty fifth Year - Nevertheless the Trustees (who are Appointed Curators to them) are Authorized to lay out what part of their provisions they may think proper for their maintenance Education and Apprentice fee &c previous to their attaining Twenty five

And further Sir Thomas Stirling directs Thomas Graham to pay (while he possesses his Estate) the Sum of £300 Stg Yearly for the Maintenance Education and Outfit of Charles Thomas and William Stirling untill a like Sum shall be annually remitted for their behoof from the Property in the Island of Jamaica

The Interest of Thomas Graham Esqr. in the Estate of Strowan ceased at Martinmas 1811 in consequence of the Birth of his Second Son previous to which time the Remittances from the Estate exceeded £300 per Annum as appears from the following State No 1. And after that time he could only be responsible for the Sums actually remitted from

from the Estate of Ardoch Penn, deducting the Amount paid for Supplies Sent out to it - A State of the Sums received from the Estate is exhibited in the State No. II which as provided by the Settlement has to be divided in the proportions of 3/7th parts to Thomas and 4/7th equally between William and Charles Stirling

Certain Sums were also received on account of debts due to the Estate of the late Charles Stirling which also belong to the said Thos. Charles and William Stirling the particulars of which appear in State No III and fall to be divided in the above proportions

Mr Graham Stirling advanced Money to the said Thomas Charles & William Stirlings from time to time, and the State of his advances are exhibited in the following States No. IV. V. & VI.

On the above date the States of Accounts are made up and Stand as follows

Viz:

I State of the Sums received on Acct: of the Produce of the Estate of Ardoch Penn - previous to Martinmas 1811 -

Balance of the Remittance of £800 received 7th July 1810 so far as it is on account of Ardoch Penn - £78 11 10.5

Nota - the rest of this Remittance is for a debt due to Charles Stirling and provisions sent out to the Estate - See State III

Balance of Remittance of £1600 received 1st February 1811 - £184 8 11

Nota - The rest of this Remittance goes as executry of Sir Thos. Stirling and for the a debt due to Charles Stirling - See State III

Balance of Remittance of £701.3.7 received 21 Sept. 1811 - £466 1 5

Nota - The other part is for a debt due to Charles Stirling - See State III

Remittance received 16 Decr. 1811 being for produce of Estate prior to Marts, 1811 - 401 1 11
Sum received on Acct. of the produce of the Estate prior to Marts. 1811 - £1130 4 1

Nota - This State is intended merely to show that the Sums received from the Penn for the 3.5 Years previous to Marts. 1811 exceed £300 pr Annum, which Mr Graham Stirling was bound to make up to Thomas Charles and William Stirling for that period. And that they have therefore no claim upon him on acct. of that allowance. But it may be mentioned that the 1st & 3rd of the above Sums do not appear in the following State of the Sums for which the Young Gentlemen get credit because they are contained in Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Cos. Acct. the Balance of which with the periodical Interest is Stated when paid over to Mr. Dundas

II State of the Sums received from the Estate of Ardoch Penn with Interest to Martinmas 1824

Balance of Remittance of £1600 from Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co. on 1st Feby 1811 - £184 8 11
Interest to Marts. 1824 - £127 „ 10
Remittance on 16 Decr 1811 from Liverpool - 401 1 11
Int. to Marts. 1824 - 245 15 9
Ditto on 19 Octr. 1814 & Exchange - 150 4 „
Int. to Marts. 1824 - 75 11 5
Ditto on 30 Decr. 1814 - 219 7 7
Int to Marts. 1824 - 108 4 4
Balance of Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co
account on 2d June 1815 - £453 16 6

Deduct. Applicable to Debt due to Chas. Stirling - 218 13 2 -----172 3 4

Nota - This Balance arises in Messrs Stirling Gordon & Cos Accounts after applying the 1st & 3d Sums in State I & includes periodical Interest -
The debt due to Charles Stirling appears in State 3d
Int to Marts. 1824 - 81 5 11

Remittance on 10thAugt. 1815 - 150 4 2
Int to Marts. 1824 - 69 10 1
Ditto - on 30th Decmr 1815 - 100 „ .
Int to Marts 1824 - 44 6 7
Ditto - On 30th May 1816 - 180 7 9
Int to Marts. 1824 - 76 4 7
Carry Over £840 19 6 1557 17 8

Sums and Interest thereon received from Ardoch Penn			
Continued	Brot forward	£840 19 6	£1557 17 8
Remittance on 21 March 1818			100 2
Interest to Marts 1824		33 5 1	
Ditto on 6 June 1818			150 3 8
Int to Marts 1824		48 6 1	
Ditto on 1 June 1819			200 6 6
Int to Marts 1824		54 11 1	
Paid into Coutts & Co London on 16 Sept 1819 being proceeds of Sugar in 1812 with Interest - less Commission			215 17 -
Int to Marts 1824		55 12 4	
Remittance on 29 June 1820			100

	Int to Marts 1824	21 16 11	
Ditto	on 30 Oct 1821		140
	Int to Marts 1824	21 4 7	
			<u>2464 6 10</u>
	Add Interest		<u>1075 15 7</u>
	Sum with Interest at Marts 1824		£3540 2 5

Deduct the following Sums being the price of Provisions sent out to the Estate by Stirling Gordon & Co

1816 May 4		£184 1 -	
	Int to Marts 1824	78 8 8	
" July 13	David Finlays Bill on James Dundas to Rebecca Longbottom paid of this date	100 -	
	Int to Marts 1824	41 13 1	
1819 Apr 24	Provisions for the Estate	183 9 -	
	Int to Marts 1824	50 18 3	
1820 Feby 29		182 18 5	
	Int to Marts 1824	42 19 11	
	Proportion of James Dundas Law Accts chargeable against Ardoch Penn	24 10 8	
	Deduct		<u>888 19 -</u>

Balance to be divided in the proportion of 3/7th parts to Thomas and 4/7th equally to Chas. & Wm. Stirling £2651 3 5

III State of the Sums received on account of Debts due to the late Charles Stirling with Interest to Martinmas 1824 - And the Division of the Funds

Part of Remittance of £800 on 7 July 1810 on acct. of debt to Chas. Stirling		£353 2 5.6
	Int to Marts 1824	£253 6 7
Ditto - of £1600 on 1 Feby 1811 on account of do.		363 4 7.6
	Int to Marts 1824	250 3 7
Ditto - of £701 3 7 on 21 Sept. 1811		235 2 2
	Int to Marts 1824	154 9 4
Ditto - of the Balance of £453 16 6 due on Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Cos. Acct for debt due Chas. Stirling received 2 June 1815		281 13 2
	Int to Marts 1824	132 19 11
		1233 2 5
	Add Interest	<u>790 19 5</u>
Sum on Acct. of Debts due to the late Charles Stirling		£2024 1 10
Add Balance of Sums received from Ardoch p State 2d		2651 3 5
Sum to be divided among Thomas Charles & William Stirling according to their proportions		<u>£4675 5 3</u>

Thomas's Share whereof being 3/7ths	£2003 13 8.2
Charles's do. being 2/7ths	1335 15 9.5

Williams do.	being 2/7ths	<u>1335 15 9.5</u>
	<u>Sum as Above</u>	<u>£4675 5 3</u>

IV State of Payments to and on account of Lieut. Thos. Stirling at Martinmas 1824

1809 Feby 18	For Shirts		£21 4 10
	Int to Marts 1824	£16 18 7	
" Mar 6	For Six Months Education		21 10 -
	Int to Marts 1824	16 17 3	
" April 4	Grant & Cos. Bill		51 6 -
	Int to Marts 1824	40 - 7	
" Oct 19	Coutts & Co on account of Captn Hammond		19 10 6
	Int to Marts 1824	14 14 1	
" Nov 27	Bill to Hammond		40 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	29 18 3	
" Dec 31	Pages Bill		15 12 6
	Int to Marts 1824	11 12 3	
1810 Sept 1	Stirlings Bill ⁶³		25 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	17 14 10.6	
1811 Jany 31	Bill to Capt. Talbot		15 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	10 6 8.3	
" July 12	Ditto		25 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	16 13 4	
" Oct. 1	Ditto		25 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	16 7 10	
" Decr. 19	Ditto		25 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	16 2 5	
1812 Feby 12	Part of Bill on Begbie for £50		25 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	<u>15 19 3</u>	
	Carried Over	£233 5 4.9	309 3 10

Payments to Lieut. Thos. Stirling. Continued

		Brot. Over	£309 3 10
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£223 5 4.9
1812 May 26	Bill on Begbie		35 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	21 16 2	
" 27	Ditto		15 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	9 6 11	
Sept 3	Ditto		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	12 3 9.6	
1813 April 13	Ditto		15 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	8 13 9	
1814 May 9	Ditto		30 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	15 15 3	
Aug 23	Thos. Stirling Own order		25 - -
[pencil in margin: Aug 30 £95]			
	Int to Marts 1824	12 15 6	
1815 Sept 13	To Receipt		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	4 11 7.6	
1816 Jany 11	Ditto		25 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	11 - 10	
April 1	Ditto		25 - -

		Int to Marts 1824	10 15 4	
June 10	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	12 12 8	
Nov 12	Ditto			15 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 - -	
1817 Jany 17	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 16 4	
" 31	Ditto			27 2 -
		Int to Marts 1824	10 10 9	
May 17	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 4 8	
		Carry Over	£378 8 1.9	631 5 10

Payments to Lieut. Thos. Stirling Contd.

		Brot. Over		£631 5 10
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£378 8 11.9	
1817 Augt. 13	To Receipt			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 4 11.9	
1818 April 2	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	9 18 4	
1819 Feby 3	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	8 13 4	
1823 June 30	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 7 4	
" Augt. 1	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 18 4.9	
1824 Jany 30	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	- 15 7.6	
" Mar. 2	Ditto			30 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 - 11	
" July 1	Ditto			25 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	- 9 1	
		Add Article in Mr Dundas's Business Acct. chargeable agt. Lieut. Thos. Stirling		- 1 7.6
				£836 7 5.6
		Add Interest		409 16 11.9
		<u>Amount of Payments with Int to Lieut. Thomas Stirling</u>		<u>£1246 4 5.3</u>
		His Share of the Receipts from Ardoch Penn &c P State III		£2003 13 8.2
		Deduct Payments as above		<u>1246 4 5.3</u>
		<u>Balance due to him at Martinmas 1824</u>		<u>£757 9 2.4</u>

Nota - Lieut. Thos. Stirling gets credit for his Share of the £500 liferented by Mrs Dow on Page 18

V State of Payments to and on Acct. of Lieut. Charles Stirling at Martinmas 1824

1808 July 25	Charles Stirlings Bill			15 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	12 4 6	
" Oct 29	Ditto			10 1 6
		Int to Marts 1824	8 1 7	
Nov 25	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 19 7	

1809 Feby 25	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 17 1	
June 30	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 13 11	
Oct 19	Ditto			5 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	3 15 4	
Nov 11	Ditto			15 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 4 9	
1810 April 7	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 5 11	
July 13	Ditto			5 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	3 11 8	
" 15	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	7 3 3	
Nov 2	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	14 - 6	
8	Paid for Clothes			3 5 -
		Int to Marts 1824	2 5 6	
10	Bill			5 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	3 10 -	
		Carry Over	£96 13 7	128 6 6

Payments to Lieut. Chas. Stirling. Contd

		Brot. Over	£128 6 6
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£96 13 7
1811 April 4	Paid Chas Stirling		15 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	10 4 1
May 25	His Bill		15 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	10 1 11.9
Augt 13	Paid for Certificate of his Service		1 8 6
		Int to Marts 1824	- 18 1
1812 Jany 12	His Bill		10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 8 7
27	Ditto		10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 7 11
31	Bill to Gilbert		20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	12 15 7
Mar 9	Paid C Stirling		10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 6 9
June 16	Dos. Bill to Gilbert		10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 - 1
July 16	Ditto		10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 3 3
Oct 10	Ditto		5 8 -
		Int to Marts 1824	3 5 3
Nov 9	Ditto to Duff		10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	6 - 1
1813 Jany 31	Ditto		20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 15 7
Mar 2	Ditto to Linzie		20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	11 13 11

June 25	Ditto to Wilson		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	<u>11 7 7</u>	
	Carry Over	£202 2 3.9	305 3 -

Payments to Lieut. Chas. Stirling. Continued

		Brot. Over	£305 3 -
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£206 2 3.2
1813 Oct 19	Bill to Chas Stirling		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	11 1 3	
Nov 5	Begbies order on C Stirling		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	11 - 4	
1814 Feby 24	C Stirlings Bill		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	10 14 3	
25	Paid R Cleoburgh		5 5 -
	Int to Marts 1824	2 16 2	
Mar 15	Bill to Gilbert		80 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	42 12 10	
20	Ditto		30 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	13 19 5	
Decr 5	Ditto to James Foreman		30 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	14 18 -	
1815 Sept 27	Paid C Stirling		10 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	4 11 2	
Decr 20	Ditto		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	8 17 10	
1816 Feby 15	Ditto		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	8 14 9	
May 23	Ditto		30 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	12 14 2	
[pencil in margin: To Coutts & Co £100 12 6]			
1817 Mar 18	Paid Treasurers Account		15 9 -
	Int to Marts 1824	5 18 3	
Feby 28	Sum orders to be placed by Coutts & Co. to Chas. Stirlings Credit		100 14 6
	Int to Marts 1824	38 15 8	
Oct 28	Ditto		100 14 6
	Int to Marts 1824	<u>35 5 11</u>	
	Carry Over	£430 2 3.2	807 6 -

Payments to Lieut. Chas. Stirling. Continued

		Brot. Over	£807 6 -
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£430 2 3.9
1818 Decr 31	Paid		100 19 -
	Int to Marts 1824	29 11 11	
1819 July 26	Ditto		25 3 -
	Int to Marts 1824	6 13 2	
Sept 6	Ditto		25 3 -
	Int to Marts 1824	6 13 3	
1820 Feby 17	Ditto		40 2 2
	Int to Marts 1824	9 9 9	

Mar 13	Ditto			20 1 1
		Int to Marts 1824	4 13 7	
April 3	Ditto			20 1 1
		Int to Marts 1824	4 12 4	
19	Ditto			20 2 7
		Int to Marts 1824	4 11 11	
1821 April 2	Ditto			40 4 7
		Int to Marts 1824	7 5 4	
4	Ditto			20 2 3
		Int to Marts 1824	3 12 6	
May 14	Ditto			40 4 6
		Int to Marts 1824	7 - 7	
Nov 30	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	12 14 2	
[pencil in margin: 1822 Payts paid by Thos Graham R Aw Hutton ⁶⁴]				
1822 Mar 3	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	2 13 10	
June 17	Ditto			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	2 8 1	
Sept 30	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 1 2	
Nov 5	Ditto			10 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 - 2	
		Carry Over	£522 17 4.9	1229 9 3

Payments to Lieut. Chas. Stirling. Continued

		Brot. Over	£1229 9 3	
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£ 522 17 4.9	
1822 Nov 23	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 17 4	
1823 Jan'y 7	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 16 11	
May 5	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 10 5	
Augt 23	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 4 5	
Nov 7	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	1 - 3	
1824 Feby 28	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	14 -	
May 4	Paid			20 - -
		Int to Marts 1824	10 6	
Add Articles in Mr Dundas's Business Acct chargeable agt. Lieut. Chas. Stirling				8 6.6
				1369 17 9.6
		Add Interest		531 11 2.9
Amount of Payments with Int to Lieut. Chas. Stirling				£1901 9 - .3
Deduct his Share of the Receipts from Ardoch Penn &c p State III				1335 15 9.5
Balance due by him at Martinmas 1824				£565 13 2.10

Nota - The Sum of £166 13 4 being Lieut. Chas. Stirlings proportion of £500 liferented by Mrs. Dow appears from Mr Dundas's Accounts to have been paid him with the Interest on 27th Feby 1818

VI State of Payments to and on Acct. of Lieut. William Stirling at Martinmas 1824

1809 Aug 22	Paid Balance of Account to Wm Dick for Board &c		£47 16 9.6
	Nota - This Account Amounts to £77 16 9.6 but as part of it was due prior to Marts 1808 which falls upon the Executry, the payment of £30 made upon 16 Jany 1809 has been deducted on that account		
	Int to Marts 1824	36 8 2	
28	Paid Miss Graham ⁶⁵ for Sundries		4 13 11
	Int to Marts 1824	3 11 4.6	
Decr 23	Mr Dicks Dft		30 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	22 6 7	
1810 May 2	Ditto		20 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	14 10 7	
Augt 6	Ditto Balance of Acct		32 9 7
	Int to Marts 1824	23 3 4	
Oct 10	Paid Miss Graham		3 4 -
	Int to Marts 1824	2 5 1	
Nov 7	Paid Mr Dick		30 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	21 - 4	
1811 Feby 4	Ditto		30 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	20 13 -	
9	To William Stirling		17 5 -
	Int to Marts 1824	<u>11 17 3</u>	
		155 15 8.6	£215 9 3.6
18	Paid his Passage to India		112 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	<u>76 17 7</u>	
	Carry Over	£232 13 3.6	327 9 3.6

Payments to Lieut. Wm. Stirling. Continued

		Brot. Over	£327 9 3.6
Interest Continued		Brot. Over	£ 232 13 3.6
1811 May 14	Part of Expense of Outfit		54 16 -
	Int to Marts 1824	36 19 7	
Augt 21	Balance of Mr Dicks Acct.		- 6 8
	Int to Marts 1824	- 4 4	
1812 Feby 14	Wm Stirlings dft on Begbie		50 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	31 16 11	
May 23	Paid Welch & Stalker		77 17 9
	Int to Marts 1824	48 11 4	
Nov 24	Wm Stirling dft on Begbie		50 - -
	Int to Marts 1824	29 18 3	
1824 June 21	Ditto		200 15 6
	Int to Marts 1824	3 18 8	
Augt 18	Ditto		100 - -

Add Articles on Mr Dundas's Business Accts. chargeable agt. Lieut Wm Stirling	- 11 11
	£861 17 1.6
Add Interest	385 5 7.6
<u>Amount of Payments with Int to Lieut. William Stirling</u>	<u>£1247 2 9</u>
His Share of the Receipts from Ardoch Penn &c. p State III	£1335 15 9.5
Deduct Payments as above	1247 2 9
<u>Balance due to him at Martinmas 1824</u>	<u>£88 13 - .5</u>

By Sir Thomas Stirlings Settlements it is provided that besides the Sums contained in the previous States

States, received from the Estate of Ardoch Penn Thomas Charles & William Stirling shall be entitled to the Sum of £500 on the death of Mrs Mary Hamilton who was provided in an Anny of £50 p Annum - it appears from the Accounts of Mr Dundas that Chas. Stirling on 27 Feby 1818 received the Sum of £166 13 4 with Interest from Whits 1817 as his proportion of the Sum of £500 said to be liferented by Mrs Dow. which is presumed to be the Sum above mentioned - But the proportions thereof belonging to Thos and William are still unpaid, and which being added to the Balances already in their favor will make the Sum due to them by the Trustees as follows Vizt.

Balance due to Lieut. Thos Stirling as p Page 10	£757 9 2.4
Add one Third of £500	£166 13 4
Int from Whits 1817 to Marts 1824	62 10 -
Add	229 3 4
<u>Sum due to Lieut. Thos Stirling at Martinmas 1824</u>	<u>£986 12 6.4</u>
Balance due to Lieut. Wm Stirling as p Page 17	£88 13 -.5
Add one Third of £500	£166 13 4
Int from Whits 1817 to Marts 1824	62 10 -
Add	229 3 4
<u>Sum due to Lieut. Wm Stirling at Marts 1824</u>	<u>£317 16 4.5</u>

[in another hand] Edinburgh 1st May 1828 This is the account referred to in the Discharge granted by me of this date as Commissioner for William and Thomas Stirlings Esqrs. in favor of James Dundas Clerk to the Signet and Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire of Airth

M W Robertson⁶⁶

[title of bundle: View of the Sums received from the Estate of Ardoch Penn and Application thereof - At Martinmas 1824]

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS 10952 f. 249

My dear Friend

I have been thinking for some time past of making application to the Court of Directors to put me

in the Company's Recruiting Establishment in Europe, and as I have, in the event of a vacancy occurring some hopes of success, might I beg the favour of your assistance to promote my views. A letter to Mr Money⁶⁷ would perhaps be of more service than to any other person at the India house as he is entrusted in the Bombay Establishment from his long residence there. Tho' we exchanged calls in London I have not the good fortune to meet him, but it is probable my wishes have been [unclear] to him from India – If it would be too much for you to ask him to assist me in my particular object you would perhaps have the kindness to do so generally, & the rest I will explain myself. I have some claims on the Company, but more especially on the score of my having, with the assistance of only one other Officer raised and disciplined in Regiment for them in a few months which according to high authority, would have done credit in the oldest Regiment in the Army, and that after having done so, & lost my health in doing so I was obliged to leave India to save my life, thereby losing the fruits of my labour.

I see by the Courier that orders have been sent out to pay me Prize money as well as I believe the thirty three months pay they owe me -

The Company opened a loan in Bombay at 4 p Cent but I am happy to have [c.o.] one would put into it -

With best regards to all your family – Believe me
My dear friend
Yours most Sincery
W Stirling

60 Fredericke St. Edin.⁶⁸ 14th Feby 1825 -

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

[no date stamp visible]

MS 10952 f. 251

My dear friend

I have had the pleasure to receive yours from Airth by Miss Graham. I have seen her & Mary both well -

My object is in applying to the Company to get employment during my furlo' and as success in the Recruiting Service is more attainable, I should feel obliged by your mentioning it to Mr Money – I am obliged by your great willingness to assist me – I shall be in London myself about the end of April as I leave Edin: as soon as the Classes are up – and will have an opportunity of seeing Mr Money.

I dined with your friend Erskine a few days ago. He is quite well -

My brothers give our best regards to you & Miss Jeanie - & believe

Yours most Sincery
W Stirling

24th Feby

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: FEB 24 1825

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 120-121

Dartmouth August 17th 1825

My Dear Airth

Miss Graham must have course have informed you of my Brother William's intention & which I am about to repeat. There is nothing left for me to add but that his resolutions are fixed and the day is appointed the beginning of September.⁶⁹ You have no doubt seen my letter to your sister containing every information requisite for you to know, but I delayed writing you till the present matured stage of the affair enabled me to speak decidedly on the matter. I have said Miss Sybilla⁷⁰ is a very sweet creature & although young & inexperienced is well fitted I think to make a good Wife to Wm.

I deem him fortunate & every prospect looks favourable to happiness.

Mr & Mrs Hockin are gradually becoming reconciled to their Childs departure from the Country & although a severe trial yet being in good hands their minds are much relieved by that consideration. They are also very much pleased with Wms generous & honourable conduct in the first proceeding & he with them & the attachment was matured & completed on our return from Paris. We heard from Miss Graham in reply to the

first communication & although considerable surprise was expressed we felt pleased at the interest she gave in the matter. I have declared my perfect satisfaction in the cause, & you may be assured a letter from yourself will not be unacceptable to my Brother. He is happy & tolerably well & desires me to remember him very kindly to you & to your family in which I very cordially join. I cannot help here expressing my disappointment at not hearing from you on my return from France for except your Sister's letter we had not the scrap of a line from Scotland. We wrote to you from London about Charles but as we were happy to learn he was behaving well you would have no trouble with him. Do you know where he is or what he is doing or any thing about him? He has not answered our letters & we fear he has never seen them. We do not mean to return to the North, at least for some time at all events Mrs Wm will not as her own family are too fond of her to lose sight of her for any time whilst she is in this Country. The family are very respectable & very good people their various friends have testified their good will and approval by innumerable kindness which is as satisfactory to ourselves as to them. The high testimonials which Wm produced from men of high authority as officers distinguished for rank & name were sufficient to prove to the family the high character he enjoyed in their estimation & consequently worthy of any Society into which he might

happen to fall. Mr Hockin has willingly received him into his family & we are quite rejoiced I hope your Boys are with you & well & I dare say you mean to exhibit or Show at the St. Fillans meeting⁷¹ this Season. We had a pleasant trip to Paris & saw many outstanding sights in Palais Royal. We had fine Weather & enjoyed it much.

I have written to some of your friends to communicate the tidings & to hear from them will give us both great pleasure. Now my Dear Airth

With kindest remembrances to you & to your Sisters believe me with much affection your attached friend & Wellwisher

Thomas Stirling

Pray direct to me
Post Office

Dartmouth

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: DARTMOUTH 213
[illegible] AU 1825

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 253-254

Dartmouth 20th Nov. 1825

My dear Friend

I had the pleasure to receive yours of the 15th Inst: yesterday. You astonish me by your appearing not to have heard of Tom's marriage as much as I must do by my mention of it – I took it for granted he had informed you all about it, as I had enough to do with my own concerns, & on enquiry it appears he did write you, but the servant to whom he entrusted the letter for the Post Office, forgot it entirely in the hurry & bustle of the occasion – The letter we found last night in one of Mrs Toms drawers – the circumstance has given us all much pain & accounts of course for our not having heard from any of your family -

He was married on the 6th of October his own birth day to Maria my wifes elder & only sister – She is 22, & very handsome [c.o.] Before they were married she was in delicate health, but she has now quite recovered, & I think the two sisters & the two brothers make two very pretty couples - We are all here much delighted at Toms marriage, as it settles him in this neighbourhood in his own house instead of merely being here as a visitor. I am particularly pleased at it, as Tom had promised before my marriage to fix his residence in Devonshire for the future, as a lack of communication between me & my

wifes family, & the mode he has adopted to fulfil it, is the most gratifying to all parties – I regret his means are so small but Mr Hockin will assist him considerably – Mr H. has also offered him a situation of about £100 a year, which he may perhaps ultimately accept, but in the mean time he declines it. We hope your exertions with Mr Finlay will produce the desired effect – What has Finlay said about the deduction on account of the debt we owed him? We should be happy to assist Mr Finlay in his wishes regarding Mrs Fergus⁷² or in any other way if he would first show himself what he ought to pay by sending the first instalment -

With regard to your kind invitation repeated in you last, I must again [c.o.] pass my fear that it will not be in our power to accept it. It would really give us much gratification to pass a little time in Scotland, but setting aside the distance & the expence, we [c.o.] shall not in the month of May, I fancy, think it very safe to enter on a journey -

We are very anxious about the success

of the Peterborough cause, as Mr Hockin had the management of it, and he [c.o. has] will have every thing he can desire for himself & family in the event of it turning out well - We are afraid Mr Macdermot the candidate [c.o.] did not consult Mr H. nearly enough, as before he was engaged an impression had been made on the gentlemen of the Heralds office rather unfavorable to the claim -

I was exceedingly fortunate in one respect ie in having had three letters was here ashore from the Ogle Castle⁷³ lost on the Goodwin Sands – but I was unfortunate in another, that was in the only

passenger on board & who perished with the ship, Lt. W. Norton having been a particular friend of mine – our friends having been very good in giving us parties all round – We had a very magnificent one last week from Governor Holdsworth⁷⁴, the Colonel of the Yeomanry here – Have you heard of Charles? We heard of him not long ago – He was well in the Isle of Man – Whether he got my letters I cannot say, but as he is a great newsmonger, he no doubt read of our marriages in the newspapers – My new Brother Charles⁷⁵ is a most delightful boy. He is a midshipman in the *Druid*⁷⁶ with the Honble Captn Rodney⁷⁷ who writes the most gratifying accounts of him – Indeed he desires his Brother in Law,⁷⁸ the Member for the County, to wait on Mr Hockin & tell him that he is the finest lad he ever had in his ship.

Mrs Stirling continues well, and desires me to acknowledge in her fondest manner yours, & your sisters, congratulations – I had a letter a few days ago, from my aunt Mrs Hine⁷⁹, a bosom friend of Mrs Moneys. She hopes that it will suit me to go out to India next voyage with her husband Captn Hine⁸⁰ who commands the *Atlas*⁸¹, B.bay & China ship – Perhaps you may know him – Your old shipmate Col (then Ensign) Henderson⁸² of the Royal Engineers, is in this neighbourhood, & as his Brother⁸³ & I [c.o.] the Secretary to Govn. B.bay, have been intimate friends for the last 12 years he has been very kind to Mrs S. & myself. He is now a man of great fortune & has just sold out -

With best wished for your health, & Boys, & that of your Sisters. I remain, My dear friend

Yours most Sincerely

W. Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling of Airth
 Airth Castle
 Falkirk

Stamped: DARTMOUTH 213
 NOV [illeg] 1825

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 122-123

Dartmouth March 1st 1826
Post Office

My Dear Airth

Your Sisters kind letter reached me a few days ago, with your Postscript the contents of which melancholy as they had been fully explained the lengthened silence, that had hitherto prevailed. Willy as well as myself felt much for the alarming situation you had been so suddenly put into but with much sincerity rejoice that you are now so far recovered. I thank you very much my dear friend for your kind Invitation to Mrs Stirling & myself to visit you at Airth. I am sure there is no place where more comfort, more kindness, & more enjoyment are to be found than under that hospitable Roof, but at present it will not be convenient for Mrs Stirling to move about in her present state & we have taken an house in this neighbourhood for a term which will preclude the probability of our gratifying ourselves so far but should circumstances take us North believe me I shall not forget this & many former acts of your friendship. Thank Miss Jeany for her kind letter & give Mrs Stirling's best wishes & my own to her. I am sorry for George Macdowall⁸⁴ as there is little hope of a cure it is better to be removed from this to a happier Sphere If we could but persuade ourselves to it.

Sibella my Brother's Lady is at present not so well that is explained by her having been married six months. They have lately returned from Plymouth whither they had gone for change of air & Scene. I also have been there procuring Furniture for my own house & when it is completed you shall have a good bed & as a good a Beef Steak & a Bottle of Port Wine as Devonshire can produce when you choose to pay me a visit. Mrs S. thanks you very sincerely for your kind expressions towards her & would feel very happy in the acquaintance of one she has heard me speak of so often. I hope your Boys are quite well What is William going to do? Remember me very affectionately to them & to Mary.

My Dear Airth I am very happy in this state of life & one of its most endearing circumstances is the visible & sensible strengthening of the affections of the heart towards each other. It produces an attachment to life & the World that I never experienced before it makes them worth possessing & it shows us we live to some purpose with a rational & a fixed object in view, the Peace & happiness & comfort of an affectionate Wife who has fearlessly entrusted them to our keeping. In all this you will doubtless coincide having experienced them in full, in your own person. I hope you will be well enough to superintend the Farming proceedings in which I know you take great delight as well as the numerous improvements you are daily making this Spring. Our Winter has passed away very quietly & mildly & the Spring is favourable for agricultural pursuits. For hunting

is a favourite Sport here but game is not plentiful. Maria who is now sitting by me begs of me to send her most particular remembrances to you & to your Sister & to assure you how highly she values your affectionate expressions of kindness & friendship towards her husband.

I am glad to hear Finlay has at last agreed to the terms we proposed & I hope the next account will produce a little of something tangible from him. If his letter contains anything worth our seeing it might be nice to send it to me here but probably Mr Robertson would better keep it. Do you think it would be well to send him a very civil letter or an Attorney's about the Payment of his first Instalments because these delays of his are so suspicious. Would you be good enough to write to him a strong letter expressing our surprise at his withholding what has been so long due & at the same time recommending him to come forward as speedily as possible to [torn]ave those doubts which must naturally arise at his seemingly inexplicable conduct. It will probably be better for you to do this as you have already corresponded with him & probably you would do it in as firm but more temperate tone than I should be inclined to do with such a person. To know what you have done will give me great pleasure to hear, & the sooner it is done the better. Willy agrees with me in all this & when you are at leisure & well enough to write we shall be delighted to hear about you & your family Accept my best wishes & believe me ever your sincere & affectionate friend

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: MAR 4 1826

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 254-255

2 Mansion House Place London
27 May 1826

My dear friend

I have this morning received [c.o. your] Miss Grahams most friendly letter, as I did yours some days ago. I return you both my sincere thanks for them – I should have replied to yours sooner but your advice about looking and my wife made me pause a little and to give time to reflect on the subject. I applied for an extension of leave so that I might or might not avail myself of it according to our circumstances – As a certificate was necessary [above: to Maintenance] I had to write to the country for it and I have only this day been able to render my application, & I doubt not but it will be granted – I did not deliver your letter to Mr -

Lindsay⁸⁵ nor to Mr Clarke⁸⁶, nor do I think it will be necessary till I can be certain of my plans -

I was in hopes that Mrs Stirling would have been quite recovered by this time, but she is not – I must tell you that her illness is of no ordinary nature – For the first three months after our marriage there was a constant succession of parties given to us, and tho' Mrs S. caught a cold, as the parties were given in compliment to her we thought as she walked out, & otherwise appeared in public, that she not in propriety decline the acceptance of them – She soon showed symptoms of being in the family way, and about a certain period she was seized with violent pains in her side, which occasioned Medical advice being called in – The Surgeon had just been attending a member of the family who had miscarried which together with some preconceived

notions that my wife was likely to do the same, without due enquiry, tho a very eminent man, he bled & blistered her to a greater degree than she was able to bear – She suffered much from that as well as from her situation & the thought of leaving her baby behind.

In her weak state we were recommended to go to Devonport for change of air, which we did, but instead of improving, she was taken with a most extraordinary malady affecting her mind – She took the greatest aversion by turns, to those she had most tenderly loved before – to her mother sister, Tom – myself, &c – We consulted the most skilful men in the profession, who all assured us that such was not infrequent under her circumstances, & promised that without fail on her confinement she would be well as ever – Her dislike to her friends, shewed itself merely in avoiding them, & in an involuntary shrinking as they approached her – and in not believing that I was myself but some other person who had assumed my appearance – For some time she felt convinced of it, that she would not

even sit in the same room with me – Her confinement not having been as it should have been her recovery has been slow, but now she is I am happy to say, almost well – The first professional men say that her perfect recovery is without doubt, but they cannot guarantee that in case of pregnancy she may not show similar symptoms again – Under such circumstances it is a dreadful responsibility to take her abroad, and I would rather endure a temporary

separation of a few years than subject myself, her & her anxious family in England to the like again – Probably your letters will enable me to settle comfortably in India, when she can join me – but, at present I scarcely know what to decide on – I hope you might now understand our [unclear] more fully. I should perhaps have written it at length [unclear] of the [unclear] days, & anxiety prevented me -

About money matters, my dear friend, I hope you are not offended – As you were ill and no doubt disinclined to unpleasant correspondence I did not write to you direct on the subject, but requested Mr. Robertson to communicate with Mr Dundas as respectfully as possible

To tell the truth funds of five per cent would make no difference to me because I shall want almost the whole of my cash – My wifes illness, my own indifferent health, my outfit, occasional small demands, from my Brothers, besides a settlement that I have made of £25 a year on Charles come heavy on me, & will have little ones – That however is remember entre nous – What I told Mr Robertson is quite the case, however – five per cent being to be had on the best security. & four in

the funds – I hope Finlay will do something without delay – He is a most incorrigible fellow I fear –
As I do not know how soon I may sail, pray sent the letters as early as possible. I shall not now
however sail I think before the end of July – I called last week for your Boys at Westminster, but
Mrs Helfox told me they were with you – I hope to see them soon -

Believe me with love to all

Your sincere friend

W Stirling

Offer my fondest regards to all your family

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
 Airth Castle
 Falkirk

Stamped: MAY 29 1826

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 124-125

Ridgeway Cottage Augt. 16. 1826
Dartmouth
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your note, though very short, was, I assure you very acceptable as it is the only information I had heard of the family for a very long time. I am very sorry for your daughter Mary but should that circumstance bring you South to our neighbourhood so that I may once more have the pleasure of seeing you & introducing you to my rib & provided the Devonshire Air do you all good I shall have reason to be glad of it. Torquay is a delightful Winter's residence situated between two hills on Torbay & perfectly sheltered from all Winds; it is so warm in Winter that fires are seldom required at midday during that Season. Torquay is 12 miles from Dartmouth with excellent roads & a beautiful Country But as that Season few places look well except Airth & Strowan. Your Boys will be delighted with their Trip to France as no doubt they have an attendant well qualified to instruct & to guide their judgements. My rib is doing well & hopes very shortly to present me with a fine little fellow, we are all prepared & beginning to be impatient. Will you my dear Airth be a God Father to that Child? It would give me great satisfaction as well as my Wife who has often heard you spoken of & of the enjoyments we have partaken [c.o.] at your house

With respect to my money I should prefer it being in your hands. Here, five per Cent is given as a matter of Course & I never thought of withdrawing it, conceiving that you would do the same. To me, with so limited an income, the difference is felt considerably & I have no doubt that on this representation you will give the necessary instructions to Mr Robertson. W.S. to allow me the same. Charles is I fear in a very bad way & probably not very long for this World. His habits have increased pains & penalties that he never dreamt were so near at hand & whether his present situation has produced reflection & consequent reform we know not. Willie heard from him yesterday but as he employs an amanuensis he is too brief & hurried & of course confined to speak much of his own situation. Maria joined me in a long letter to him a few days ago which I hope will give him some comfort in his present condition. An old Shipmate of mine has been unremittingly kind to him all along. Morrison⁸⁷ was the master of the Imperieuse with me & married a niece of Mr Fenton's Kippendavie. Friday is our regatta here & the yachts are collecting fast, we anticipate

much pleasure during the day as betting is expected to be employed & amusement at the Ball in the Evening. I suppose you are already preparing for your St. Fillan's amusements I did not hear how the last was conducted but I should not like to lose sight of those things although at a distance. Thank Miss Jeanie for her kind intention of writing & for the Frank & I regret much she was unable to write one herself but I hope without a Frank she will not fail with a history of your family proceedings & every thing interesting about you & that very soon. Were you out on the 12th? I thought

of you as I had remembered well, looking for your return with the game bags as interested as your sportsmen themselves were. I hope you had no returns of you old affair you must remember how much you suffered when I slept in your room. I forwarded your note by post to Willie he is still at the Cottage at Tor a most delightful spot & endeared by every operation of love & affection & every sweet recollections, being the Cottage we each retired to on our marriages. Willie will give you his own history when he writes but his Wife is quite well. I spent a week with him lately & a pleasant time it was indeed. How is George Macdowall⁸⁸ now & all the Family? I should like to hear all about them, & William & his lady & what their plans are he wrote to me & expressed a chance of seeing me this Winter but I fear he has altered his plans.

Good bye my Dear Airth & give my warmest remembrances to all your family & accept them yourself in which Mrs T. joins & Believe me with Sincerity

Yours very truly
Thomas Stirling

P.S. Should you come our way I shall endeavour to find a good bottle of old Wine for you let me hear from you or Miss Jeanie

remember me to our worthy friend Mr Cruikshanks in which Willie would most cordially join me were he here

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
 Strowan House
 Crieff

NB.

Stamped: AUG 19...

Have you heard from Finlay?

MS. 10952 ff. 126-127

Ridgeway Cottage August 20th 1826
Dartmouth
Devon

My Dear Airth

I wrote you a few days ago in reply to your note regretting your Mary was so indisposed but let us hope the best & that care patience & youth may restore her to her health & her friends very speedily. I mistook the word in your note in speaking of the Boys that they were in Force I read in France & it is so like it that every one to whom I have shewn reads France. Remember me very kindly to them & to Mary. I have this day got a letter from the Old Lady in Jamaica she thinks she is dying, she has been confined to bed for several weeks & had three blisters on at the time of writing. She merely said

her Executors (without naming them) will take [c.o.] care that her property will be conveyed safely to us & also that Finlay had written to her to say that he intended sending a large remittance by this Packet. I wish it had come but I wish you, if you would be good enough to take the trouble, to write to Finlay at once respecting Mrs Fergus's⁸⁹ Property to give any hint that might be requisite. She does not have any Person about her but she speaks as if she despaired of recovering & desires me to write at once that if dead her Executors may be instructed how to act. She once mentioned her property amounted to upwards of £6000 be that as it may it is worth

making an exertion to get possession. Finlay I know has a Power of Attorney to act for us but I have always had doubts respecting his honesty, at any rate he may be as honest as any of the Party & as we know something of him it may be as well to let him act. I wrote to Mr Archibald Stirling a few months ago requesting him to write to Finlay he replied that he certainly would to enable me to get what had been so long due & now if he has not remitted any thing would you take the trouble to write to say that after all these delays you thought it time that something should be forthcoming as men who purchase property are generally supposed to possess the means of so doing & it will at all events shew him we have not forgotten him that we are looking anxiously for his money. I ask you to do this as you have been in the habit of writing & corresponding with him & he will understand you well. I thank you for all you have done & whether [c.o.] successful or not I thank you for your Intention. I have written to Mrs Fergus hoping she will receive my letter as I have given her advise about her affairs if it be not too late. Our Regatta went off well, & the Ball well attended. Willie appeared in Uniform & looked well his young Wife looked uncommonly well & was very gay.

I hope to have soon the pleasure [c.o. of] to tell you of the Birth of a little Babe to please & to comfort us but probably ere that I shall be favoured with a letter from you; tell me how George Mac⁹⁰ is & all your friends

Maria who is sitting by me desires to be remembered to you & says she wishes much to see your Hills & Valleys & Lakes & Streams.

If the remittance has come I beg you will again interest yourself in our matters as we are so far removed from the scene of action and you are in [c.o. the] constant intercourse with Edinburgh. I hope to hear soon from you on this point as it has been a tedious & a vexatious business. Willie dined with Mr Hockin yesterday & set off in the Evening in his beautiful Stanhope⁹¹ with his rib for the Cottage. Good bye my dear Airth believe me with Sincerity & Affection

Yours very truly
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr,
Strowan House
Crieff

N.B.

Stamped: AUG 21 1826
DARTMOUTH

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

Abbey Cottage Tor, Devon
27 Augt.

My dear friend,

I wrote to Miss Graham a few days ago, & requested her to thank you for your kind note – My wife is, I thank you, quite recovered, & I think we have no reason to fear a return of her complaint under any circumstances – She never was better in her life than she has been for the last four months - & the pain & struggle of leaving home will be much lessened, if not entirely removed by the different circumstances under which she is now situated – Last year she had in a weak state of health, to endure the thought of parting with her first child, a larger & happy family circle, & to go abroad in the world she scarcely knew where – This year she is well, not fearful of a separation, & she has [c.o.] been longer married, which makes a woman in time think less of her parents & to feel herself at home when with her husband -

We have at last decided on leaving England in December – Captain Hines has given us a passage in his Ship the Atlas, which is to sail for Bombay [c.o.] about Xmas

and it happens very comfortably that a Brother⁹² of my Wifes is going out as a Cadet to Bombay in the same ship, & perhaps another as a midshipman – You know she has a Brother⁹³ a Lieut? in the Bombay European Regiment, so we shall have quite a family about us – Mr Hockin had the offer of a Cadetship for either of the Presidencies, but as the choice depends upon order I cannot but recommend Bombay – as it is doubtless the most rising in our Army, & the most pleasant on our own account -

Dartmouth has been very gay lately – No less than ten yachts including Lord Yarboroughs⁹⁴ at the same time in the river – Tom dined at Governor Holdsworths, to meet his Lordship who is a plain jolly fellow, like any other good man – His yacht cost £60,000 - & is the size of an eight & twenty gun ship. He is President of the Yacht club -

We had a letter from Mrs Fergus lately [c.o.] promising to send us a handsome present, and mentioning that she had heard from Finlay who told her that he had made us a large remittance. It would be very agreeable to me, to fall in with a little of his Lucre, at this particular time – Perhaps you would make some

inquiry about it – Tom made a mistake in reading your letter the other day – He read “My boys are in [c.o force] France” - for “My boys are in force” & answered accordingly!!!

My present plans are to leave this about the 10th September, spend a fortnight with Mamma, then [c.o.] go into Cornwall to pay a visit to my Brother in Law⁹⁵, the Parson, examine the Mines & return by Dartmouth, then proceed bidding adieu to Devonshire about the end of October via Exeter, & perhaps Bath & Oxford to London -

You mentioned your intention of bringing Mary South – Poor dear girl, I sincerely think that will not be necessary. I would have you take good advice, before you bring her to Devonshire in Winter – It is proverbially damp, & colds are very frequent, so much do I dread it myself that I shall go somewhere else. I dont know but after all the neighbourhood of London is a very good climate, if not the number of new & strange things that one sees is often beneficial – Might I request you to send me the letters of recommendation – by post – We like them to proceed us, so that if anything fell vacant it might be reserved – It would be of little advantage after I had got 1000 miles up the country, & settled myself, to have an appointment offered me 1000 miles in another direction – Maria Stirling still holds out, I thought to have been Uncle before this time -

Mr Graham of Gartmore⁹⁶, & Mrs Bruce Williamson have sons in Bombay, if you think it would oblige them say I will be happy to carry any little thing out for them

We go to St. Helena – If you could get me a note to Genl.⁹⁷ or Mrs Walker it would be very

agreeable

By directing simply Dartmouth, my letters will be safe for the next two months

With love to your Sisters & family -

Believe me My dear friend

Yours very Sincery

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr

of Airth

[c.o. Airth Castle

Falkirk]

N.B.

Strowan

Crieff

Stamped: AUG 30 1826

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 128-129

Ridgeway
Dartmouth
Devon

Sept. 27th 1826

My Dear Airth

You have most probably ere this heard of the death of poor Charles which took place on the morning of Tuesday the 19th. The name of the person who wrote to me is a Matthew Hanby & speaks feelingly [c.o.] although no particulars are mentioned but that he had been confined to his room for ten days & had never recovered the attack he had in May last. I need not say, my dear friend, how much feeling this event raised to us both here, yet, it was what was rather looked for as a thing to be desired than otherwise, as to himself he had become totally useless & to others as a source of pain anxiety & vexation. He wrote to us some time ago & told us he had made his Will & arranged all his affairs in our favour but we have taken no steps about his Papers (which are all safe as well as his effects list, accounts might have reached you or Mr Dundas sooner & directions been given to act, & our opinions clashed with yours. I answered Mr Hanby's kind letter by return of Post thanked him for his attentions & begged to know to whom we were so much indebted on this occasion & begged he would keep his effects safe for a time till we had heard from Scotland

He was to have been buried respectably on Friday last & we are impatient to know particulars of his Frame of mind, of his bodily sufferings & of his feelings towards us all. Poor Charles was his own & only Enemy generous to a weakness & thoughtless of tomorrow, he loved money but to spend it, & was fond, till latterly of the Society of his Superiors which induced him to live beyond his means & at length to reduce him to his last melancholy & distressing situation. Although we parted from him we always wished to correspond & know his motions & his plans & his generous & feeling Brother Willy allowed him an annual sum to render him less dependant. It appears there had been applications made to Mr F Dundas⁹⁸ for money which might have been forgeries just previous to his decease. Johnny Dundas⁹⁹ wrote to us to know what should be done we had approved of his withholding the remittances for fear of knavery till be heard from the Isle of Man as I wrote to an old shipmate of mine who had been kind to Charles but as yet I have had no answer. Johnny says he believes Charles had not much more that £150 Sterg left, I think if no steps have been as yet taken about defraying the expences of the funeral & doubtless other little things it would be well to have

the bills sent to Mr Dundas who will pay them & the residue

remitted to us as early as possible. In a former letter he said he had no debts & this is likely to be true because he was always most punctual in paying his tradesmens bills. I have written to his Agent in London & expect an answer very shortly. It seems the Duke of Athol's Agent Mr Mcrone has written to some of you about Charles & doubtless he will see all arranged faithfully & justly.

I hope your Poor Mary is doing well & recovering fast before the season changes for the worse. I shall be happy to hear from you & of you all as well as an answer to my last to your Sister & to this as soon as possible.

My Wife is daily gaining strength & my dear Baby¹⁰⁰ is in perfect health. I shall look for your Bib & Tuffet earnestly & thank you as earnestly when your remembrance reaches me. Give our united good wishes to all you family & let me assure you Maria has become very anxious about your daughter Mary.

We propose having all poor Charles's things sent here if you have not ordered any thing to the contrary.

We deem it a mercy that he has been removed from a Scene so much embittered by miserable reflections as life must have been by him & after the first shock we felt as we ought under such circumstances. Good bye my dear Airth & believe me ever with sincerity & truth

Your Friend

Thomas Stirling

Write immediately

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Strowan House
Creiff

NB

Stamped: SEP 30 18...
DARTMOUTH 213

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 259-260

Dartmouth 3d October 1826

My dear friend -

Tom tells me he wrote you a few days ago respecting our poor Charles but in the belief that there was a letter from you on the road he says he does not enter into particulars – We had a letter from Mr Hanby communicating the event, but we are indebted to you for every other information – I received your truly kind and affectionate letter of the 28th Ultimo this morning, for which accept our most grateful thanks – Your feelings on the the occasion exactly correspond with ours. Tho we cannot but deplore that he, poor fellow, has under such circumstances brought himself to an untimely grave, now that it has come to pass all who had any regard for him, after the first constrain of grief, rejoice that it is so, and that his career of joyless intemperance was brought to a close – Had his life been

spun out, he never could from his habits have been either a companion, or even honour to us, but on the contrary a perpetual source of uneasiness. Poor man, I had long desired to place my affections on him, and to do him service, but I felt my inclinations so constantly thwarted by his distressing propensities – He had many virtues but circumstances weighed him down, and he was

prevented [c.o.] from enjoying in our delightful domestic circle here, that kindness and sympathy which a Brother of better habits, but far fewer virtues would have lavished on him – We shall now draw a veil [c.o.] over his foibles, and teach our little children to reverence his memory; and we will tell them of his noble & amiable qualities, as I have often heard them mentioned by his old

and much attached shipmates -

With regard to his affairs – Mr Handby [sic] mentioned Mr Dundas had been written to – After waiting till Sunday last [c.o.] for a letter from Scotland without receiving any I wrote at Toms request to John Dundas, to say we had not had any particulars & desired him to prevent any unpleasant delay or reference at the present time to pay all reasonable demands that might be made for funeral charges &c – Probably as I am about to leave England, and as Tom is on the spot with my father in law Mr Hockin who is a Solicitor, & understands these matters, it might be as well for you, if you approve it, to send, or order Mr Quirk to send, the Will here. At any rate we should wish his clothes papers, & all effects to be sent to us here. They may be sent to Plymouth I should think by sea at any time, & if so let them be sent to “Creser & Hockin” Solicitors 25 Edgecumbe Street, Stonehouse Plymouth. As I intend to give Mr Hockin (Papa) [c.o.] a power of attorney to manage my affairs here in my absence, and as he is aware of all circumstances respecting our Mother &c it will save any distant

correspondence – I did not write to J. Dundas with any other view tho', to save time, as we heard he had been written to from I. Of Man -

[c.o.] Toms daughter is to be christened on friday – I believe you & I are Godfathers my wife one of the Godmothers – the other Mrs W. Hockin the Parsons wife¹⁰¹ -

We leave this on the 10th for London via Exeter, Bath Cheltenham, & Oxford – in our own Stanhope, & as we have several friends on the way, & wish to see the country, we shall probably take 20 or 25 days - Believe me your affectionate friend

W Stirling

My address in London Inglis F: & C:¹⁰²

2 Mansion house place

Tom is well & desires his kindest regards to all – His wife is now up again – I gave her a long drive to day – Your letter has given my wife and all her parents & both grandmothers¹⁰³ who are alive & hale – the greatest gratification -

Would you have the goodness to write without delay to Mr Quirk for as you have already corresponded, your order would be immediately complied with. I hope Mary is better – I shall be in town all Nov. Lading We take out with us my new Cousin Miss Hine¹⁰⁴, Sister of Captn. Hine of the Atlas Thanks for your letter to Mr Elphinstone – We leave on the 9th for Exeter

We have not in any way as yet interposed lest we should clash with you or Mr Dundas. We wrote Mr Hanby bu[blot] was to know particulars about his death & burial.

I follow your considerate plan of sending will [unclear] - WS

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
of Airth
[c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
N.B.

Strowan House

Stamped: DARTMOUTH 213
OCT 8 1826

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 130-131

Ridgeway,
Dartmouth
Devon

Octr. 12th
1826

My Dear Airth

Your letter to my Brother Willy gave us both every satisfaction we could have desired, but for it we should have remained ignorant of every thing relating to poor Charles's end, as not a scrape of a pen has reached us since the first news. You would receive mine [c.o.] after your writing to Willy & I believe he confirmed all I had previously said about the funeral expences & other trifling sums which his melancholy situation doubtless required.

It gave me great satisfaction my dear friend to perceive our ideas had so nearly coincided for surely his life was not desirable to himself or to any about him & it was truly gratifying to know his remains were so respectably & properly attended to the Grave.

I have been in hopes of hearing further on the subject from you, as you may have heard from the Isle of Man, when you do, let me hear, for we cannot but be deeply interested in all that relates to our poor Brother & it was most truly gratifying to read your Sentiments so kind as they were about Charles.

We had been anxiously looking for the last Packet but as we have heard nothing, we conclude there has been

no news. This is the more surprising as Mrs Fergus had written to us under peculiar distress of illness & promised if she got better she would send us a bill of £200 & we think it strange that no letter of any kind or to any purpose has arrived. We think it time Finlay should be coming forward to settle the business in some way or other & propose to proceed in a very effectual manner so as to bring his intentions to light. Mr Hockin who is a Lawyer will arrange the matter & probably show Mr Finlay that although we can forbear for a time yet we may be roused into active exertion.

My Brother & his Lady took leave of us yesterday for London in excellent health & Spirits. They do not sail till January but I shall not see them again.

Mr & Mrs Hockin go up to London to spend a few weeks with them & to see them embark. How is poor Mary? We are much interested in her & trust she will be restored to health & to you all, well & happy.

Mrs Stirling joins with me in kindest thanks to you for your beautiful present. The Christening took place on the 6th of Oct: as intended, all the family were present, & my Brother in Law who married us, also officiated on this occasion. My Brother Willy represented you my dear friend as God Father to my Child & Mr Hockin for himself Mrs Wm as Godmother & Mrs Wm Hockin the same. The Child was

Christened Mary Sibilla Graham after the two Godmothers. Three very pretty names & all parties were pleased. Your Robe & Cap looked very beautiful & all the Ladies have been admiring them & passing just & high encomiums on Scotch industry & ingenuity. The origin of Hockin may be new to you. In days of yore a certain Chief being closely pursued by his enemies took shelter behind a rock with a few followers where they gallantly defended themselves & killed their pursuers. The Chief on gaining the victory, exclaimed Hoc in loco Deus rupes. In this place God is my rock which is the motto of the family to this day.

I hope you are all pretty well & looking forward with just & sound hopes to your poor Mary's recovery. I should like to hear from you as soon as you can give me any additional information respecting Charles's affairs for the sooner matters of that nature are settled, the better. My brother I believe expressed a wish to have the Will or a Copy transmitted to us, be good enough to do this as soon as you can.

Remember us both in the kindest way to all your family and particularly do accept of our best thanks & good wishes for the interest you have taken in our Baby who is quite well & is universally admired she has never had a minutes illness & tomorrow will be 6 weeks old. Let us hear from you soon with all news it is a pleasure to hear from any of the household at Strowan. Good bye my dear Airth & believe me with all sincerity your friend Thomas Stirling

My dear Sir,

I could not allow my husband's letter to be sealed without begging that I might be permitted to repeat my best thanks in my own & my Baby's name, for the very beautiful present which her Godfather so kindly sent her – it will be indeed ever looked on with pleasure as a mark of kindness towards my child, doubly valuable as well as all the interest which yourself & your sisters have ever expressed, as it is entirely owing to her father's account

The friendship which you all so warmly express for him, is, I can assure you fully appreciated & scarcely a day passes but what Airth & its kind inhabitants are spoken of with the most pleasing & affectionate remembrances. I was truly sorry that the last accounts of your daughter were not so favorable as we could have wished, & can easily imagine how terrible must be the anxiety occasioned by the illness of such a beloved object – but we

I hope for better news soon. Desiring that you will present my compliments to her & to you Sisters, Believe me to remain Your's very truly

Maria Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
[c.o. Strowan House
Crieff]
Airth Castle Falkirk

NB,

Stamped: CRIEF.. 452
.... 1826
...RL... 18 OCT 431..

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 261-262

Cheltenham, 24th Oct. 1826 -

My dear friend -

While at Bath, I heard from Tom that Finlay had at last sent a small remittance, a circumstance that appears to be satisfactory, as far [c.o.] as it goes, for I always had a fear that he might renounce [unclear] of the estate because bankrupt, & throw it back on our hands – [c.o. At the same time] I hope you will continue the good work which you have so satisfactorily begun, & write him again in acknowledgement, but at the same time be as severe as you like upon him for not fulfilling his engagement to the uttermost – As I am about to leave England I should like much to leave my

account with the Trustees finally settled, and in order that

there may be no further delay, [c.o.] occasioned by the arrival of this remittance, by referring it to Mr Dundas, as the Accountant – I should be obliged by your remitting my proportion to my Agents in London Inglis Forbes & Co direct – I fear I have drawn, through Mr Wm Robertson W.S [c.o.] nearly the whole balance that was due me by the Trustees, and with the view to setting my mind easy, I should like to have a formal acquittance drawn up between us, for these transactions, are not simple transactions between you & me who know & understand each other, but such, that, if not settled now that we have an opportunity, may occasion trouble hereafter to the babe unborn [unclear] – If you will instruct Mr

Dundas to act upon this, I will do the same to Mr W. Robertson, to whom I gave a power of Attorney, while in Edinburgh.

We have not heard any thing more about Charles' affairs -

My wife & I have come so far on our way to London – We have come up at our leisure by Exeter, Wellington, Taunton, Bridgewater, Wells, Glastonbury Bath, & Bristol – stopping, a day or two at each place, as we felt inclined. As the weather has been particularly fine, more like August than October, but with enough of the latter to tinge the beautifully wood and country we passed thro', our tour has been most delightful – I daresay you have yourself seen many of the lovely scenes, that have charmed us, and the very mention of the above places, will be sufficient to recal to your memory's ie, many a happy, & joyous day – I intend to give Mrs Stirling lessons in singing &c by Braham¹⁰⁵, & Miss Stephens¹⁰⁶ if possible for her voice is charmingly sweet and it would be a pity not to give her any advantage

She has already been taught, & by Hammond (the celebrated master of the Princess Charlotte), who has lowed [unclear] much pains on her from her likeness to the Princess – I hope your dear Mary is improving Tell her how happy I feel to have good tidings of her, and that my Sibella, too has a deep interest in her welfare & happiness. [c.o.] Pray remember

us in the kindest manner to you sisters – I thank you for the letter to Mr Elphinstone – A letter to Sir T Bradford¹⁰⁷ would be very serviceable, and one to Wedderburn would satisfy me much, as it would show him I was mindful of him & his good office always – I received a very friendly letter from him about a month ago – He speaks of coming home in 10 years!!!! His wife had brought him another baby.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk
N.B.

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 132-133

Ridgeway Octr 29 1826
Dartmouth
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your letter of the 10th gave me no small satisfaction informing me of the remittance from Jamaica, howsoever small it was.

The proportion fixed in Sir Thomas's Will will be showed in the distribution, between my Brother William & myself & I have this day heard from Mr Mcrone¹⁰⁸ in the Isle of Man (not sending the Will of poor Charles) but telling me that he had Willed two thirds of his whole property to me & the remaining third to William & that disposition will also be attended to respecting the sum that poor Charles may have left behind. His Whole expences amount to £52.16.5 including every thing and Mr Mcrone says that it was fortunate he met so kind a friend as Mr Hanby (who keeps the best Hotel in Douglas) who took the same care of him as if he had been his own son.

He adds "he knows these debts to be due to those who would not take advantage of his habits, but that all his acquaintances & those with whom he dealt tried as much as possible to correct his Evil habits"! I think if we send £60 Sixty pounds Sterg to Mr Hanby to pay the above debts & the remainder as a present for his attentions to poor Charles it would be quite sufficient & would be gratefully received. If you approve of this adopt the best plans

for settling the matter at once for Mr MCrone says as soon as the debts are paid his things shall be sent as directed. That poor Charles should have left me a greater share of his property will not surprise you when you consider our relative situations. William enjoyed excellent appointments in India & was comfortably off [c.o.] or in the way of realising a sufficiency in a few years. On the other hand I made my Will some years ago leaving to Charles 4/5 of my property & the other 1/5 to William for the same reasons. He was struck with the justness of the idea & has acted accordingly in this his last Will. Besides, I had been at considerable trouble & anxiety about him & had taken great pains to conceal his wretched situation from the World & of this he was no doubt very sensible for the space of two years. It will please me much if you will direct the proportions of the said Sums to be collected by Mr Robertson¹⁰⁹ Thistle Court to be added to my former accounts without delay & should like to hear by Extracts (if a Frank cannot be obtained) what Finlay says, & if he promises to remit any further sums without delay. Perhaps you may have heard from my Brother but when you see the Copy of the Will you will be enabled to act more clearly & fully.

How is your dear Mary? In your last it was painful to learn that she was no better. I can only assure you that my Wife & Self express our hopes to each other for a speedy recovery more than once a day

& as her interest in your family has originated with me she desires me to sent her best & warmest wishes for a return of that health to your Child which the fondest parent could desire. She loves her own treasure with fear, conscious that the slightest breath might extinguish that life which she so fondly cherishes & so she enters into your sufferings fears & feelings.

You no doubt received my letter with a postscript from Mrs Stirling thanking you for your beautiful present. Your God Daughter appeared in it on the 6th & both were much admired. She is quite Well & as at this moment talking away at my side most delightfully.

We had expected to have heard from Mrs Fergus but as the Packet is over due [c.o.] we may well hear very soon.

Let me hear from you soon for independently of business it gives me great satisfaction [c.o.] to hear about such old friends as you & your whole family are; tell me about Mary George Macdowall & all our friends. Give my most affectionate remembrances to your Sisters & tell me how they received the tidings of poor Charles's end. My Wife joins me in all good wishes to you & in hopes of a letter soon I shall now conclude & so good bye & Believe me ever your Sincere friend

Thomas Stirling

P.S. With as little delay as possible please direct Mr Robertson to collect all sums belonging to me in order to the making of my accounts

Good bye my dear Airth

Yours very truly

Thos. Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: NOV 1 1826

MS. 10952 ff. 134-135

Ridgeway Nov: 17 1826
Dartmouth
Devon

My Dear Airth

I wrote you about a fortnight ago & was in hopes of hearing from you soon about the statement of poor Charles's debts. I told you Mr M'Crone had stated them at £52.16.5d including Funeral Charges Doctors Bills &c in short he said he believes they are quite correct, as he was so great a favourite with the public that none would have taken advantage of his evil habits: I gave you my opinion & William (from whom I have this day heard for the first time on this subject) coincides with me that sixty pounds should be given, in order that the surplus might amply reward Mrs Hanby (who keeps the principal hotel) for all her kindness & attention to poor Charles. I wish to know what steps you have taken respecting this business, as it is very desirable to bring it to a conclusion by settling every thing at once. Wm. Sails about Xmas & he is anxious to know how Charles's settlement relates to him & Mr Quick Junr. has never sent the Will or a single line referring to it. Mr Hockin wrote a few days ago & we must wait the result. Mr Mcrone says Charles leaves me 2/3 of [c.o.] his share of the Jamaica property & 1/3 to Wm. With the residue of all his

other Property wherever situated. Without seeing the Will no opinion can be formed on it, but we think here, the Residue means after his debts are paid

Pray give me your opinion as well as a statement of his monies left in Mr Dundas's hands. There is a thing William mentions that in Sir Thos. Will he thinks the clause respecting us & the West Indian Property runs in a way that on either of us dying & leaving no legal Children or Issue we could not Will our proportions away, but that it reverted in certain proportions to the Survivor or Survivors. Be good enough to give me an Extract of that Passage with your opinion from the Will¹¹⁰ as soon as possible.

Has Finlay's Bill been accepted yet? I wrote to Mr Robertson on this business wishing to recover my proportion without delay, if you can give him any instructions in the matter I need not say how much I shall feel, this & all your other kindnesses.

Mr Mcrone gives me a list of all Charles's things & as far as I can remember it is correct & he adds as soon as the debts are paid they shall be sent as desired for this reason it is desirable all should be arranged as speedily as possible.

Now let me ask how Poor Mary is? Believe me although I thus write on business to you it is not without feeling that it may trouble you at a time when your thoughts & affections are interested

on a more tender & a more anxious subject & Mrs Stirling as well as myself have desired to hear from one of the Family to know how your poor Child is doing with very interested feelings. We trust that all is well & that hopes & realities will be perfected in her. My Brother & Lady have met the Macs Houstouns Oliphants; at this I am pleased as it is the first introduction to our Scotch friends & I hope the day is not far distant when I shall be enabled to take my Wife & your God

Daughter to Scotland to introduce her to your Hospitable Castle & others of my old and kind friends there.

Have you answered the receipts of Finlay's letter? I think it would be right to do so expressing astonishment at the smallness of the remittance. Does he say when he intends to remit another Instalment? These are points I should like to be informed on & let me ask you to take the trouble to answer all these queries with your honest opinion on them. Answer me soon & let me know how you all are & what are your plans for the Winter Good bye my dear Airth & Believe me ever truly & Sincerely

Your Friend
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: NOV 20 1826

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 263-264

2 Mansion house place London
17 Novr. 1826

My dear friend,

I am sorry to feel myself obliged to write you again, respecting my accounts with the Trustees of Sir Thomas, and more so at this particular time, when you must feel little disposed to enter on such matters, but you know one of my objects in coming to England was to get my affairs settled, and tho' I have now been nearly two years & a half in the country [c.o.] as far as I can learn little or nothing has been done towards their settlement. I am again about to leave England, and I must request you to discharge the office of guardian which you took upon yourself, by bringing my accounts

to a close – I am not aware of any obstacle to their final settlement, but the culpable neglect of those to whom you have entrusted the duty, and perhaps when you find your Agents unworthy of your confidence, but judging [c.o.] for themselves proper time and place for acting, the best, and most usual, way is to dispense with their services – I however saw that the accounts have been made up to Michaelmas 1824, and as there have been no remittances, or any thing of importance since to cause further delay, nay the simplest

man of business could do the rest, so that we should only have to give and take an acquittance [c.o.] and that is what I want -

I mentioned in a late letter to you my wish, that no part of Finlays late remittance as far as I am concerned should [c.o. in any way] be paid to Mr Dundas. Our estate being sold, and we being of age, (and that many years ago) the Trustees have nothing whatever to do with it – Charles' Will, leaves 2-3ds of his Jamaica estates to Tom, and one third with the residue of his other property wherever situated to me – Consequently his Balance in Mr Dundas's hands, and his share of Finlays remittance, (it having been made prior to Charles's death) fall to me – as as I before requested

you to get the Bill discounted, and my share remitted to my Agents without delay, I again make the request, as I am in want of the Cash -

Tho' perhaps the perusal of this letter may be unpleasant, I trust its

reasonableness will save it from giving offence – I should feel obliged by your letting me have at your convenience the letters for Bombay – With love to all. Believe me Yours Sincerely
W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk

stamped: NOV 19 1826

Will of Charles Stirling

PROB 11/1719

In the Name of God Amen I Charles Sterling [sic] a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy at present residing at Douglas in the Isle of Mann being of sound mind memory and understanding at the execution hereof do make and publish this paper writing as and for my last Will and Testament hereby revoking and making void all former Will or Wills by me made or executed I leave and bequeath to my brother Thomas Sterling a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy two third parts of all my estate lands and premised situate in the Island of Jamaica together with two third parts of the slaves and stock upon or belonging to such estates lands and premises and also two third parts of all and singular the personal property whatsoever and wheresoever the same may be of which I die possessed or intitled unto I leave and bequeath my brother William Sterling a Captain in the Honorable East India Companys service al the remaining third part of my estates lands and premises with the slaves and stock thereon situate in Jamaica aforesaid together with all the remaining third part of my personal property whatsoever and wheresoever the same may be I nominate and appoint Thomas Graham Sterling Esquire of Eirth [sic] Castle in the County of Sterling and Kingdom of Scotland and my said brothers Thomas Sterling and William Sterling Executors of this my Will In Witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this [c.o. thirteenth] tenth day of May one thousand eight hundred and twenty six - Charles Sterling - Signed published and declared by the testator as and for his last Will and Testament in our presence who at his request in the presence and in presence of each other have subscribed our names as in Witnesses hereto James Quick junr. Advocate Douglas Isle of Man - S. Morrison Master R.N. Douglas Isle of Mann [sic] - John Taggart Archt. Douglas Isle of Man.
Proved at London 23rd Decr. 1826 before the Worshipful John Danbary Dr of Laws and Surrogate by the Oath of William Sterling Esquire the brother and one of the Executors to whom Admon was granted being first sworn duly to Administer power reserved to Thomas Graham Sterling Esquire and to Thomas Sterling the brother the other Executors.

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 136-137

Dartmouth
Decr. 2d 1826

My Dear Airth

I received your kind letter of the 22d on Sunday last & was happy to find all our affairs had been arranged. You mentioned my Brother's claims to all Charles's monies & effects including the 2/7 of the Bill which I had written to you about. I wrote to him finding fault for so doing as it was premature & even wrong to prejudge this matter to you as Executor whose mind might have been influenced by the decided opinion he gave. But to prevent all disputes, delays, letter writing & bad feeling I proposed an arrangement of equalizing the whole of Charles's property wherever situated, between us. I daresay you will think we have acted wisely in doing so, & I am happy to say Wm has acquiesced in the arrangement.

I heard from Mrs Fergus yesterday who mentions Finlay's death which took place on the 8th Sept. Last. He made a Will and had appointed three respectable names at least as Executors viz Wm Bullock Esqr Island Secretary, George Fletcher Coward Esq. & Larchin Lynch Esq. a Master in Chancery. But I have no more information on the subject¹¹¹. I do not doubt you have received official news of the event & as five weeks elapsed between his death and the sailing of the Packet you may have heard something of his affairs & what has been done

I am far from being uneasy as this will bring it to a crisis & we shall sooner know what we have to expect. This is perhaps a season of deep mourning for you¹¹² & troubling you thus on our business (particularly that Wm should have written in any style to annoy you may be unreasonable but I hope to hear from you all that you may have heard. Mrs Fergus poor Woman has recovered her health & with the most affectionate love has sent to Wm & myself £200 Stg as a marriage present hoping that poor Charles will excuse her not sending him anything this time but with hopes soon to do so.

Wm & I have settled about the Bill & every thing considered it is better to have agreed about the matter as he was hurt at the distinction made by Chas.

How is you dear Mary? We are very anxious about her & we should like to hear particulars, although painful & the reason that I have not written to your Sister is the well known state of the mind at this period of alarming and dreadful family distress but I hope she will impute it to the proper motive. I hope truly you are all well let me hear about poor Mrs Macdowall & her family. You know I am much interested in them & I was at Bath when poor Ann¹¹³ died in 1808! I wrote to her some time ago but cannot expect to hear very soon.

Wm & his Wife met the Macs¹¹⁴ in London, Sibella speaking favourably of Mrs Mc. in her letters I am glad of it

as it was the first introduction to our Scotch friends & they lamented their sudden departure & the cause of it very much. My dear Wife and Child are quite well the former a good nurse & the latter a healthy bouncing miss she was three months old yesterday Sacre Deo! I hope your boys are well I think Carolus dined with my Brother a short while ago.

Goodbye my dear friend & Believe me with affection & Sincerity

Yours very truly

Thomas Stirling

Mrs Stirling unites with me in the kindest regards to you and yours & desires me to say the beautiful robe & cap are still everywhere admired & by those of experienced taste.

She cannot sufficiently thank you for your kindness.

T.S.

In yours you spoke of being soon in Edinburgh

Whilst there will you be good enough to desire Mr Robertson to send me my accounts & as you mentioned they were above £1200 they ought to be above £1400 Stg Mrs Dow's legacy with Intr

T.S.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: DEC 5 1826
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 138-139

Dartmouth Decr 18 1826
Devon

My Dear Airth

Mrs Stirling & Self hope your Dear Mary is still no worse but mending, & also that you are all better than you were in your last.

Poor Charles's Will reached me yesterday. I hope you have got a Copy of it. You will perceive that he bequeathed to me two thirds of his whole Property wheresoever and whatsoever he may die possessed of & to William the remaining third [c.o.] of his property wheresoever & whatsoever. In consequence of these Claims that Wm had made in his letters to you as well as to Mrs Hockin [c.o.] & also to me, from a rude extract of Mr McCrone's. For the sake of Peace, & good Will, I proposed an equal division of Charles's property, after some feeling & a few letters we came to the agreement which I believe is finally settled. I think such claims in the absence of the Will & from an Extract which in truth had no meaning were ill timed & indicative of a little bad feeling & I rejoice I acted as I did You will perceive the sacrifice I have made & you can judge the matter but it was a sacrifice of a little money for much harmony.

In consequence of the arrangement the Balance

of £110 of Charles's will now remains to me as I have paid William his share £55 Stg. I have written to Mr Robertson to transfer it to my name & to my accounts & I would thank you to do the same that it may be speedily arranged & settled. I hope you understand me

I have paid Willy his proportion of the Residue in order that the whole balance viz £110 may rest in your hands without drawing it on my account & In my benefit with the other monies for which I am now receiving 5 pr Cent Interest. I thank you for your letter relating to Mr Cowards good intentions I hope he is sincere if so we have reason to rejoice. Your letter to poor Finlay did much good, accept my thanks. I wrote to Wm about a power of Attorney in order to secure our interests in the West but he has not yet replied. I agree with you in thinking it right to send one out. Charles's things have reached me with all his accounts & receipts!!

Independently of the £60 remitted to Douglas I sent £5 more to erect a Stone in his memory with a short Inscription. Let me know how you all do how your poor sister Mrs Macdowall is & the rest of the afflicted family. My Wife thanks you for your good wishes & we hope one day to visit your hospitable mansion where I trust all will be well with you.

My Child is thriving very well & talks incessantly & is every day becoming more interesting. My Brother told me your two boys were to have dined with him but hard study & little time prevented them. With kindest remembrances & best wishes to your dear Mary & all your worthy family in which my Wife affectionately joins believe me my dear Friend

Yours ever truly & Sincerely
Thomas Stirling

P.S. Let me ask if there were any sums due to you by poor Charles? I know you have paid all our postages from the West it will give me great satisfaction to know what debt or debts are due to you
Yours truly T.S.

Let me hear soon from you

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: DEC 21 1826

Letters from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 265-266

London 21st Decr. 1826

My dear friend,

I received your letter some time ago, & should have acknowledged it sooner had not your letter to Tom said that you would write me in a few days - As I leave England about the new year, I can delay no longer for if I did there would scarcely be time for an answer -

I received from your Agent Mr George the amount of Finlays Bill, which Tom & I have settled - There is a point which I wish to explain to you, but as I do not intend to say more than to justify myself, in your opinion, I beg it may go no further - & have not on the present occasion said any thing about it [c.o.] to Tom, as it has become unnecessary -

McCrone at the Isle of Man misled us, as to the terms of Charles' Will which occasioned a misunderstanding about certain sums, but to avoid [c.o.] all disputes Tom

& I agreed equally to divide the property - The Will has since come to hand by which it appears Tom is left 2/3d & me one third, but we adhere to the equal division for this reason - which I would not give, (nor have I to any other) were it not that I value your good opinion, & wish you to know why I accept what appears to belong to Tom - While I was in India, Tom made a will by which he left Charles 4/5ths & me only one fifth of all his property & he communicated what he had done to Charles by letter, tho' not to me for several years after - [c.o.] The consequence was, Charles made a will soon after, nearly to the same purport, but which he afterwards destroyed, & substituted that which has now been produced - Now, I consider the offer of an equal division only an act of justice, as I cannot but [c.o.] think Charles was influenced by Toms communication - That is my reason for doing what without the explanation might appear strange

Tom wrote me that you were surprised at my claiming [c.o.] Charles share of Finlays remittance - As [c.o. he] Tom did not at first propose the equal division, which I considered as I said before an act of justice I laid claim - to what I could - & I founded my claim on a decision given in your favour, regarding a considerable sum, under similar circumstances - Pardon me for making so long a story about that -

Since receiving your letter, I wrote Mr. Robertson to desire him to give and take the acquittance mentioned in it. He replies Mr Russell has not yet made up the accounts!!!

Those people are very annoying with their delays

I hope your Boys reached you safe. From being very much occupied we did not see them so [torn] as we could wish, but Carolus the only one we could get an evening with us, has

become a great favourite with Sibella – She was very much pleased with him, & wished to have seen them both often -

I have now to thank you for your letter of introduction to your friend Mr Clarke – He received me most cordially, & indeed I don't think I ever felt so comfortable in any one's society the first time – He has given me two letters, tho' not to the Governor¹¹⁵. Mr Lindsay is laid up with a very bad

attack of gout – Mrs Erskine¹¹⁶ being looked for letters for Lady Bradford¹¹⁷, But not arrived – Would you oblige me by giving her a hint – We sail about the 1st or perhaps as late as the 10th – so if Mrs Erskine Cardross who was anxious to send something to her son¹¹⁸ by me would send it by the Coach it would reach me in time – I will write you before I sail – Can I do any thing for you in town? I hope your dear Mary is doing well – Sibella unites in best wishes for her recovery as well as [c.o.] for health of yourself & sisters, which I regret to hear has not been great Believe me

Yours very Sincerely

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: DEC 21 1826

MS. 10952 ff. 267-268

My dear friend -

I received your last most friendly letter, & should have thanked you for it sooner, had it not been for the bustle of embarking & packing – Here we are in the Downs looking out for a fair wind. I have command of the Troops, & they are as fine a Corps of young men as I ever wish to have under me – I am quite happy at the thoughts of going to India, so is my dear wife, who is well, & very much pleased with her accommodation – We have half the round house, & an excellent female servant, who is quite a treasure to us – Capt'n Hine you know is my wife's Uncle, Miss H. his sister goes out with us & my Brother in Law is a Cadet on board so that we have quite a family party I cannot refrain on this occasion from giving you an extract of a letter from your friend Money to me, which I received lately – I am sure it will please you - “I was pleased to hear of your connection by marriage with one of my most esteemed friend Capt'n. Hine, and judging from what I intimately know of him & his family, I cannot doubt of your happiness with one of so good a sto[unclear] Your proceeding with him to India

accompanied too by his amiable sister, are circumstances for much gratulation!.

We embarked at Gravesend, & there on board we bade adieu to our parents & friends – It was a sore trial for these dear affectionate friends, but they all conducted it with admirable fortitude -

We are as comfortable, & well rigged out as any General [c.o.] was, I am sure. There is not an article, from the smallest to the greatest that we could think of, for the last twelve months that could contribute to our comfort, or enjoyment that we did not note down, & provide -

I received Mrs Patersons¹¹⁹ letter for Lady Bradford two days before I left London, but contrived to find time to visit her Ladyships children¹²⁰ near Uxbridge with Sibella – There are five of them – all very interesting children -

It is blowing very fresh now, so will conclude by wishing you & yours long health & happiness, & in

hope of hearing from you, giving good accounts of your dear Mary
I remain My friend

Yours Sincery
W Stirling
H.C. Ship Atlas¹²¹
in the Downs
9th Jany 1827

We are in luck – Another brother in law¹²² – has just got an Addiscombe appointment – You have been good enough to ask me twice where you shall write to Sir Thos. Munro¹²³ about me? Of course, I cannot be too well fortified but as you have already been so kind, I would not press you to write if you feel the least disinclination to it – Captn. Hine has just recd. a letter from the India House saying that Sir J. Malcolm¹²⁴ is to be Governor of Bombay. If you could get me a letter to him [c.o.] it would be of greater service, & probably it would cost you as little to ask the one as the other

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Falkirk
N.B.

Stamped: JAN 11 1827

Letter from George Coward to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 52-53

Islington Jamaica 10th Feby 1827

My Dear Stirling

Your esteemed Favour dated 4th December I have received, Since my last I have been aranging our late Friends affairs, which from his long indisposition He was unable to attend so consequently in some confusion, I fear a large Sum as £2100 Currency which he claimed against the Estate of Mr Angus and which He calculated on as an immediate remittance will not be realised just now the Parties disputing the same, and from what I can see of it there will be great deductions, Mr Bullock and myself His Executors have agreed to refer these accounts to Arbitration rather than go to Law and so soon as a Balance is Substantiated it shall be remitted with the whole Proceeds of Ardoch as fast as I make Sales and in all Respects the Interest of your young Friends shall be most attentively attended to and any further Instructions you may be pleased to give me – As I said in my last the Security by Mortgage is on Record so that no doubt can arise on that Head - When His affairs are

are arranged you shall have a State of [c.o.] them that you may form an Idea how soon The Debt will be paid – Mrs Fergus who has some connection with your young Friends is still alive tho in Bad Health. She has some Property and have heard Her say it would be theirs nay Instructions about this I will gladly receive – All your Letters that I fall in with shall be preserved with marks

Esteem and Respect I am my Dear Sir
very respectfully
Your Servt
Geo. F. Coward

T. G. Sterling Esq

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq
Airth Castle
Stirling
North Britton

Stamped: STIRLING 27 MAR 1827

Letter from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 140-141

Dartmouth Feby 14 1827
Devon

My Dear Airth

I receive Miss Jane's letter & read with many feelings the situation of your poor Mary. The cheerfulness of that letter was indeed a striking illustration of the power of Religion, in affording that Comfort & that calm of mind which can alone support us under such afflicting dispensations of Heaven. If Dear Mary be not better I trust she is easy & composed, & be assured that my Wife joins most feelingly with me in a warm & sincere interest in your Daughter, as well as in the rest of your Family & you may conclude that any accounts from you will, particularly at this time, yield us much satisfaction. We hope you are all pretty well considering your anxieties, & let us hear soon from you.

We have not yet heard from the Indian party but we hope they are now in milder climates

& escaping this cold & biting North East Weather. We have had no snow but hard frost for about three weeks. I heard from Wm Robertson W.S. & have replied to him relating to the Security required by me for monies belonging to me in your hands. He told me you had offered your "Personal Bond" as such security, which I deem ample, & perfectly sufficient, this, I have told him, & hope it will be speedily arranged. It appears there there are about £1250 due to me Independently of Mrs Dow's Legacy, with Interest due since 1817 which will amount to upwards of £220 to which falls to be added the residue of poor Charles's sums & in case Mr Robertson should not understand all this, during his arrangements with you, I request you will be good enough to instruct him accordingly. I had almost expected you would have heard from Mr Coward by the last Packet but we may expect to hear by the next I think. We have not yet sent out a fresh Power of Attorney to him to protect our Interests, but we have one prepared which shall be sent on hearing from him unless you have any hints or information to give us. I had a letter from Mrs Fergus inclosing a duplicate of the Bill of £200 lately sent to me as our marriage present

She has perfectly recovered, & told us, a public Sale of all Mr Finlay's household effects had taken place on the 5th Decr. & that he intended (Mr Coward) to make an early remittance. We shall be glad to see it. My Wife has been unwell for some weeks past but I am now happy to say she is quite well & strong & when the Weather moderates we propose paying a visit to my Brother in Law, in Cornwall, for Change of air, as well for a little variety. My Daughter is quite well & thriving.

How is your Sister Mrs Macdowall after her severe trials? I hope when she is able she will answer my letter.

Give our united affectionate remembrances to all your family & should we all meet again may it be with pleasure & general satisfaction.

I shall feel pleased to hear every account how you are doing & all about you & Believe me my Dear Airth with affection & sincerity Yours most faithfully

Thomas Stirling

Mrs Fergus had not heard of Charles's death & very remarkably she did not mention him in her letter. She has attended to my advice about arranging her affairs & says all has been so & hopes we shall find it worth our while at her death!

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esq.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB.

Stamped:17 1827

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 269-270

Bombay 22 July 1827

My dear friend,

I take the opportunity of the sailing of the *Triumph*, to tell you of our safe arrival in India – We landed on the 13th of June, having been gratified previously by a message from my old friend Wedderburn to say that his carriage was waiting for us, & that he would be happy to receive me & my family – We lost no time in getting ashore, & he has pressed us to remain with him all the rains – I am very proud to tell you, that my bonie wee wife has been received here with great attention, & marked kindness by all the great & good of the place – Her health, & strength have so much improved by the voyage that tho' we have been out almost every night for the last fortnight she has not suffered in the least – We find Mrs Wedderburn to whom you have not yet been Introduced a most lady like excellent woman - & one who from her own merits, independent of other aid, would adorn any society – When we sailed from England your dear Mary was in a most

precarious state of health – Do oblige me by letting me know all about her – I always had great hopes of her speedy recovery, & I still sincerely trust to hear that my hopes have been realised – Owing to family distress I have long been deprived of the pleasure of your sisters correspondence, but believe me I value it too much to let it cease without an effort to revive it. Her letters were always a great comfort to me in my journey thro' life, & it would entail much regret in me [c.o.] were she not to continue them -

I delivered Major Morays letter to his friend Col. Rainey¹²⁵, who is really, [c.o.] an excellent & truly sterling character. He explained in the most candid manner, the extent of his means to serve me, & assured me that he would do all he could to forward my views - I afterwards presented yours for Sir Thos. Bradford, who has been very attentive both to me & Sibella, & he will I have no doubt be of service to me – Mr Erskines¹²⁶ letter for Mr Elphinstone which you procured for me, will also in due time produce its fruits. At present cutting & clipping is the order of the day, But I fear not – Promotion is not very fast with us – I am third from the top of the Captns so can scarcely expect to be a Major before 5 years, & a Lt. Colonel in less than eight, but even that will do pretty well.

You will be sorry to hear of the death of Sir Thos. Munro Governor of Madras. He died of Cholera Morbus, after a

few hours illness, really regretted – Could you oblige me by getting a letter for me for Sir John Malcolm, who has been lately appointed our Governor to succeed Mr Elphinstone who goes home one overland in November – I dont think you know Sir John yourself but some of your friends I

daresay do, and might oblige you & me. As I am on the look out for any thing respectable that may turn up I have applied for, & passed, an examination as to my knowledge of drawing & surveying, & I have obtained a Certificate accordingly from the Chief Engineer that I am qualified to fill any situation that requires such attainments – I have not heard anything from Jamaica since I left England, but I daresay things are in progress – We have had a very severe Monsoon but it is now much moderated & the country is looking quite beautiful. I began to feel myself quite at home again, among my servants & establishment, that I was obliged to deprive myself of in England - & I have learnt by my travels that England is a very nice place, but that there are others equally good in other parts of the world -

Sibella joins me in best wishes for the welfare of all your family, & in kindest regards to you in particular

Believe me your Sincere friend
W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk
N. Britain

Stamped: DEC 8 1827
6 DE

Letters from Thomas Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 150-151

Dartmouth March 7th 1828
Devon

My Dear Airth

Your Postscript to Miss Jane's letter gave me great satisfaction & I now feel much pleased at your having signed the Bond, as it [c.o.] is a most desirable business to have settled. John Dundas has not written to me on the subject as I had reason to expect he would. Regarding the Sword I shall claim it personally at the first opportunity. I thank you very sincerely for the letters procured for Sir John Malcolm¹²⁷; I have not doubt they will prove highly useful in forwarding his present bright views. Mr & Mrs Hockin also have expressed themselves very grateful for the interest you have taken & I cannot help mentioning to you Mr Hockin's deep feeling, in allusion to the very great kindness & marked attention his Son & Daughter have received in that distant Country, "I am now most truly humbled, for it is not in my power to make the slightest return". I daresay you have heard of Wm's appointment to the command of the 2d Extra Battalion

stationed at Surat, He seems much pleased with his command, particularly as it was conferred on him as an "Officer most meritorious & deserving". He has no Superior but the Commander in Chief & has the privilege of granting Promotion to all beneath him. The last letters were dated Octr. 6th all well, also, that Mr Hockin's two Sons had gone against the Rajah of Collapore¹²⁸.

I was glad to find you were continuing pretty well & still going about your fields. I should like to know how the Sea Dykes have stood this very stormy & rainy Season? It also gratified me much to know that Wm. Macdowall has been so well for I had feared much from the attacks he had had that he could not have been strong. I hope he will improve in health for his Wife & family's sake.

I am sorry you did not mention what you had said to Mr Coward as I have been intending to write to him. I am glad you have written him & I hope exhorted him to make good his Promises about Remittances but you will mention this in your next to me.

Mr Arthur Hunt¹²⁹ a gentlemanly young man of most respectable family in this Town is travelling in your neighbourhood. I have taken the liberty of giving him a letter of Introduction to you being assured that accounts of us from one who has seen us so recently will not fail to afford you all some interest. His stay will be very short & I know he will be greatly please with your Country side as well as with his treatment at your Board. I hope he will deliver his letter to you himself as it will afford us all here much pleasure to know all about you on his return. I shall feel truly obliged by any kindness you may show him. My Wife & Children¹³⁰ are quite well & I have never seen her so strong since our marriage & we have felt your kind enquiries. I am sorry to say Mrs Hockin has been very poorly these two months past & we hope is now getting better, she is still very weak. Remember me very kindly to your Sisters thank Miss Jane for her last letter. I shall write to her soon. Mrs Stirling unites with me in kind regards & best wishes to yourself & family hoping you will all keep well & believe me my dear Airth

Yours very sincerely

Thomas Stirling

Addressed: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: MAR 10 1828

MS. 10952 ff. 186-187

Dartmouth Augt. 21st 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

I received your Frank yesterday enclosing your Sister's kind letter with which we were much gratified.

Respecting the transference of the mortgage of the Penn, I have consulted Mr Hockin, who advised that this mortgage should be made over to me & not jointly with William, as the transactions may be more easily arranged & that delay may be avoided by having to write to India. He also suggested that it might be well to have two Powers made out, one, making it over to me, singly & another making it over to us jointly, as, to use Mr Hockin's own expression, there is no use in mincing the matter, we must place the most implicit confidence in Mr Forsyth. When you send me the Power I think it would be proper to write Forsyth informing him of the making over the mortgage & giving any explanation that you may deem requisite & the sooner all this is done of course the better.

Respecting two Powers being made out Mr A. Stirling may be able to advise about the propriety but if it may be approved of, a little additional trouble or expense ought not to be considered, when bringing so vexatious & so harassing a business to a close. It was always my decided wish that Finlay should retain the Property provided he would make some engagement about paying up the debt in full, & this he may have done in his letters to your as he speaks of hoping (in your note) to be able to pay all up by 1832. I shall be much pleased when I see the money!! Mr A Stirling did not state precisely to me the cause of his determination regarding Finlay, but I suppose it arose from a conviction, that Finlay was not acting a very honest or straight forward part in this business. I shall be glad to know what were the Contents of Finlay's letters to you as he did not deign to give me the least hint of his proceedings although so deeply concerned in the matter. Mr Hoskin has I believe a

Power of Attorney from William which must add some weight to his opinion, perhaps.

I have not heard from India lately nor in reply to the news of Mr Coward's death but there can be no doubt I should think of transferring the mortgage to me holding as I do such

a large proportion of the Property viz 3/7th by Sir Thos. Stirling's Will & 2/3ds of Charles's proportion by his Will. The equalization which I formerly explained to you is a private & distinct arrangement & cannot affect my general claim to the above share of the value of the Debt.

I wrote Miss Jane a few days ago I was afraid by your long Silence you were ill but was happy to find you capering away, I dare say as young as ever, with your Yeomanry Corps. I hope the gout has left you at least for a Season. My Wife & Bairns are quite well & the Weather is now truly fine & harvest like which [c.o.] allows us the Indulgence of the open air. The Crops here promise well although the heavy storms of Wind & rain last Week did considerable damage. I thank you for not forgetting my Ld. Melville. The King is about to pay Portsmouth & Plymouth a visit & it is likely also Dartmouth, if he does, I may have a little talk with Majesty. I was very glad your lads had been with you & so well. I dare say Airth is looking very beautiful & as I feel a great Interest in it I should like to know what Improvements you are making in the way of roads or Cottages or Lodges &c &c I was glad to hear your garden has got on so well. Mr Hockin who is a

a great gardener as well as a Farmer spoke much of it as well as of the fine state of Cultivation he saw, through your rich & beautiful Carse. He desires to thank you for your remembrance of him. We are very sorry for poor Mina¹³¹ & hope she will get speedily over it. So Silvester is going to be linked in the bands!! Mrs Hockin is still an Invalid having been much annoyed for four or five months with an inflammation

in the Shoulder joint giving her sometimes on the least exertion the most dreadful pain. Remember us most affectionately to your family Circle & to your boys & Accept our best wishes for yourself & them & believe me My Dear Airth

Yours very Sincerely
Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: AUG 21 1830
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 188-189

Dartmouth Sept. 21 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

I received you packet containing the Power & your letters to Forsyth yesterday they appeared to be quite satisfactory in every respect. I had the day before received a letter from Forsyth containing a Bill for £349.12.7 Sterling for Stock sold to Frontier, drawn on Stirling Gordon & Co. & with favourable extracts from Mr Bullock's letters. Viz "I have at last settled with Dr. Coward on acct. of the Balance due from his late Father's Estate, to the Estate of D^r Finlay. I am to receive from him an Acceptance at 90 Days bearing Interest, the amount is about £700" "there are other funds coming

forward viz about £400 due in Augt. by Mr McDonald. There are also £170 due from young Mr Core [unclear] &c &c” Mr Forsyth has replied that he has no objection to receive the above Bills as part payment; Mr Bullock having requested to know whether Mr Forsyth would accept them as such. Forsyth concluded his letter thus “It is out of my power to add anything beyond what is herein stated further than you need not give yourself any uneasiness about your Concerns here as far as it is in my power to do you Service & as I have in my former

letters stated that whenever any money comes into my hands on your Account, I will as early as possible remit it to you”. All this is most satisfactory & I have replied to it in a proper Spirit. It is no small point to find Mr Bullock coming forward, apparently willing to bring the business to a close & I have now great hopes that we shall at last recover the whole. Your letter to Forsyth was most clear, the Immense charge of £3298 was most unjustifiable & which I enforced to Forsyth, the Commission on the same was also too bad & I requested he would exert himself to discover the mistake. Also the Claims of Mrs Fergus they were settled in 1817. I was at Airth when we agreed it was better to settle then at once by sending a sum out to Finlay for that purpose. I have not Mr Dundas's Accounts or Papers but my memory is good & I have expressed myself strongly to Forsyth on this subject urging him to procure the Documents relative to the transaction through Dt Coward as Executor to his Father.

I sent off your Power & letter today (taking a Copy of your letter) & I thank you most sincerely for the trouble you have taken. Mr Hockin fully concurs on the propriety of transferring the mortgage

to my name & in his receiving an acknowledgement from me concerning William's share of the proceeds.

My Wife received Miss Graham's very kind letter, & was much gratified by it; she desires her kindest acknowledgements. We hope Miss Mina Macdowall is better; her severe illness must have been a heavy additional trial to her poor mother. Mrs John Dundas's¹³² approaching crisis must be most interesting to all her friends & we shall be particularly delighted to know the result. I was much pleased to learn the progress of the garden. I hope it will prove to your entire satisfaction & that the grass will turn out well as I had selections from the best gardens & by the best gardeners in this gardening neighbourhood. I have thoughts of going to wait on Ld. Melville but if you could give me any satisfactory intelligence on the point to supersede the Inconvenience & trouble of so long & perhaps so useless a journey I should feel much gratified. I shall defer my journey till I hear from you, as I shall be guided in a great measure by your opinion & by your news. Should Tom¹³³ come to Plymouth on his route to Gibraltar say we are but 30 miles with a fine wind & a beautiful country to travel through from there & that it would give us a great deal of real pleasure to show him something of his Father's

hospitality in this distant corner of the land. We boast of good mutton & good Port & wholesome air & as our Borough politics are now running high our feelings are warm and steady. My Bairs are quite well & your two friends often speak about you & the man with the gun (Tom Robinson).

I shall be glad to hear from you when convenient letting kind Miss Jeanie complete the family & domestic news.

With kindest & best wishes from my Wife & Self to your family circle believe me my Dear Airth
Yours most Sincerely

Thomas Stirling

P.S. Should you ever have occasion to send a Packet like the last it would be better to send it by Post as two double letters (the size of it) would have cost but 5/ & that Packet cost 10/6 by Coach
You will understand me I know T.S.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
[c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
Strowan Crieff

Stamped: SEP 24 1830
SEP 25 1830
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 190-191

Dartmouth Nov. 10th 1830
Devon

My Dear Airth

Miss Jeanie's very kind letter reached me a few days ago, return our best thanks. We were glad to learn that you were all pretty well. Tom's setting off for the Rock must have given you all much pain I hope he saw his Brothers before Sailing. We have also heard from Mrs Wm. Macdowall¹³⁴ they seem to have been wonderfully well this whole very bad & variable Season. It is the first time they have written since we left Scotland.

I shall be glad to hear Ld. Melville's answer but should the prospect of a Cutter be very distant I have no hesitation that I would go off to a foreign Station at once as, although a great Sacrifice, it is the surest method of promoting my views. Officers Afloat in case of War would doubtless be the first selected for Service & I feel that I should be doing a duty by my family in thus accepting of foreign Service. I particularly request you will do your utmost to gain my object either

for a Cutter, which would be the most desirable, or for a frigate if more easily & immediately obtained. At all events I should wish you to write Mr Drummond¹³⁵ to know what he has done as in the midst of the great Bustle & Confusion in London with the Sinking of the funds & the probable change of ministers, our smaller matters may be passed by. I am of course anxious to know the Result of your application as a man parting from his family & home involves no slight considerations.

We have heard from India this morning of the date 15th June Wm. not well loss of voice from hoarseness by Cold to be blistered on the Chest if not soon better but well in other respects & writes in tolerable spirits. His Wife & Bairn very well & strong & they talk of coming home in Seven years. He is with his regiment at Bhewandy¹³⁶ about 40 miles from Bombay with an appointment. He heard from Miss Graham of date 15th February with which he was much pleased. My Wife has been a greater Invalid for some time past than I ever knew her but as she is not under the Doctor's hands I trust some good may be done. She begs I will not omit her kindest

remembrances to yourself & Sisters. The Children are quite well. Capt. & Mrs Hine are now here, very delightful people. He is appointed to the Marquis of Huntley to be in the Downs end of Jany. Bound for Bombay this is very fortunate as he will see his Indian friends & give a complete account of us all to them.

Accept our best wishes & with kind regards to you to your Sisters & Boys

Believe me my Dear Airth

Yours very affectionately

Thomas Stirling

P.S. I shall be glad to hear the earliest news. Is Silvester Stirling married yet?

T.S.

Addressed to: T.G. Stirling Esqr.
Strowan
Crieff

NB

Stamped: NOV 1.. 1830
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 f. 193

Dartmouth Feby 21st 1831
Devon

My Dear Airth

The enclosed will speak for itself if you have anything to say on this subject you can write me. I am not quite clear of the charge of Commission for if I remember rightly the sum of £3298.10.4 was the debt charged against the Penn which we all complained about as being most unjust but you have the Papers I believe which were forwarded by me some time ago to Mr A Stirling & you can examine. I have not heard from Forsyth this Packet but by the former I did, acknowledging receipt of your Power & your letter. He said he had submitted them to the Attorneys at Spanish Town who seem to be clear headed fellows & that he would write by the first Packet.

I am sorry, Airth, to hear you have been so poorly & from knowing you were ill I would not trouble your with Forsyth's letter. I wrote to your Sister some time ago but she has not yet answered my letter but I hope I shall soon have the pleasure from yourself. A letter a few days ago from Mrs Chas. Stirling¹³⁷ told us you had been very ill, it was her first to us since her Widowhood & of course it was full of much religious consolation & feeling & we trust she will recruit her health & strength as time advances & the fine Season appears

How are your Sisters & your Boys? Let us hear, it has been a great blank not hearing from any of our Scotch friends for so long a time. My wife is in Cornwall for a little change she had enjoyed these three weeks much the Weather has been rather good & the air is more bracing than Dartmouth. I go the end of the Week for her & we remain for a few days at Plymouth. Mr & Mrs Hockin are pretty well then have been sorry to learn of your illness & desire their best wishes for you. Our Indian friends

were quite recovered Octr. 2d. they were at Bombay almost next door to the Wedderburns¹³⁸, who are their great friends. They had no appointment & from the Signs of the times had no expectation of one. I have given up all hope of employment now, seeing it has been a harassing & vexatious business. Mr Hockin's influence is gone also, he who had by his exertions always sent one County member to the House was overthrown by Lord Ebrington's¹³⁹ unexpected & sudden appearance at the late election. I think of leaving this neighbourhood in the Summer but have not yet decided where we shall go. The Children are quite well & do not forget their old Scotch friends for

unexpectedly they bring something out which had almost escaped our memories. I hope you will find yourself sufficiently strong to write, it will give me much satisfaction to hear from you & were my Wife here she would very cordially unite with me in every good wish for yourself your Sisters & your Sons Believe me my Dear Airth Yours very Sincerely

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thos. Graham Stirling Esqr.
Strowan
Crieff

NB

Stamped: FEB 21 1831
DARTMOUTH 213

MS. 10952 ff. 194-196

New Romney
Kent

July 20th 1831

My Dear Airth

I daresay you are quite unprepared for this new address but having girded on my Sword for the fight I have hastened to this my destination. I took possession this afternoon of No 1 Battery Dungeness a station on the Coast for the prevention of smuggling. I left my Wife & family on the 12th caught a severe cold on my way to Town from exposure to the heavy rain during the night, was laid up at Folkestone with a slight attack of inflammation on the Chest for three or four days waited on my Commander Capt. Mansell¹⁴⁰ & on the following day repaired to this dreary spot.

About three months ago I had applied for the Coast Guard Service & received a favourable answer from Sir J. Graham¹⁴¹ & about a fortnight ago I renewed my application which was answered by return of Post by [unclear] my appointment. Romney is about five miles distant & between that place & 4 miles all round it is one extended desert of Sand & Shingle having been formerly covered by the Sea no vegetation save some stunted thistles here & there & a few patches of long sorry [unclear] grass peculiar to such a surface are only to be seen. I left home without an article of furniture & yesterday I was occupied in procuring every necessary

for my Barrack room, Government allowing only two Chairs & a deal table. I set off at 3 O'clock yesterday this being the 21st on foot accompanied by my Cart loaded with all sorts of stores. I am three hundred miles from home, my Wife expects to be confined early in Sept., & here am I in the desert, (for the Baker & Butcher visit us only twice a week) & likely to be all alone during a long dreary Winter, unless Capt. Barrington¹⁴² can get me removed to a Station neared Dartmouth through Capt. Wm Bowles¹⁴³ R.N. Comptroller General of the Coast Guard at the Custom house London. Our duties are various & Severe & as the night Service is peculiarly so, being obliged to visit all the stations in my Guard twice ever night once before midnight & once after, I fear it will try me very much. My District extends three miles, I have three men & last night I began by walking 6 miles over the Shingle which sinks deep every step & is consequently very fatiguing I slept well after it I assure you & being rather weak from the effects of the cold I had so lately caught. The pay is from four Shillings a day in addition to the half pay. Dungeness light house is about a mile to my right.

I hope you are all recovered from the Influenza which has been so prevalent, many at Dartmouth & neighbourhood were very ill, I among the number, & in one parish at Plymouth thirty Seven were buried in one week through that disease.

The Smugglers on this Coast are a desperate set coming down to the beach in parties of 100 or 150 all well armed & determined to fight, or land their Cargoes. Many used to come close to the stations a night with long Duck Guns loaded with Slugs & shoot the men on their posts & we never go out on watch or to visit the patrols without two brace of pistols & a Sword & for better protection I add my Dirk in case of being seized by the Smugglers. Winter is the time that we may expect them.

I shall be glad to hear how all our friends are going on in the north as it is long since we had the pleasure of having any accounts. Henry Seale told me he had expected your Son William this Summer, it would have given us great satisfaction to have seen him. Have you heard of Carolus¹⁴⁴ since his departure? We have had no recent news from Bombay, but they were well & happy when they wrote from Poonah, their little girl Marion¹⁴⁵ very well & growing away finely. I hope the new garden is in a fine state of cultivation & that the grafts are thriving & likely to be productive. I shall be much pleased to hear that they are so, as some of a very valuable kind, the owners being unwilling to spare them Even the gardeners were reluctant to part with them. I have not heard from Forsyth lately. Have you heard any thing more from Finlay about settling the debt of Ardoch Penn. By the bye would it be agreeable

to you to receive any monies that may arrive for me from the West at the usual rate of Interest. If so, I suppose John Dundas will manage it & indeed I think I could sent £100 through from the bill in Sterling & Gordon's hands due the end of Augst. if agreeable to you. Write me if convenient & mention this & be assured I shall have much pleasure at all times in hearing from the members of your family to whom give

my kindest remembrances Mrs Stirling was of course much affected at my going on such a dangerous service but I hope to be removed elsewhere to a near & better station & she will become reconciled seeing that our Children demand every Sacrifice. My little Mary promises to be tall & still is interesting but shy, good bye My dear Airth & do let me hear from you & you all are Believe me very truly yours Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling
Airth Castle
Falkirk

[stamp indistinct]

MS. 10952 ff. 198-199

New Romney
Kent

Sept: 18th 1831

My Dear Airth

I was much gratified by your good wishes & the feelings of satisfaction your kind Sister expressed at hearing of my appointment to this Service. I got it entirely through my interview with Sir James at Christmas & I was not a little pleased to think I obtained it by return of Post to my application well backed up with good promise of zeal &c &c Capt. Bowles our Comptroller General visited this District lately & was pleased to give us all much praise in general orders. I perceive he is appointed Aid de Camp to the King £200 a year in addition to his already £1500 & 5 guineas a day travelling allowances. He married a Sister of Lord Palmerston & has no family. I am happy to say Mrs Stirling was safely delivered on the 8th of a fine handsome healthy girl¹⁴⁶, both continue

to thrive & if possible I hope to have all hands removed to this Station by the end of October. Although 300 miles, I have no doubt that she who proved herself so strong on her long journey from Scotland two years ago will perform the present with equal strength & firmness.

I have lately had most discouraging letters from Forsyth he sends me a Copy of a letter from Mr Bullock saying that there being no possible chance of any remittances he can hold out no hope but on the Contrary charges the Penn with a debt of a Thousand Pounds! This you will believe after all the former promises, is very disheartening, Can any thing be done by your writing to Alex. Finlay

or do you think he will fulfil the promises he held forth in the letter you enclosed to me the Copy of which I returned to you. It would be a very gratifying circumstance to know his real intentions & if you think it advisable to do so by all means lose no time, to shew that we are

thinking about him & his engagements regarding the Jamaica Affairs. I beg you will write me soon and let me know what you think or what you have done. I ordered Messrs. Stirling Gordon & Co. to remit you £100 which by their account I perceive has been accordingly done. Will you be good enough to send me the proper document or receipt for that Sum. Its being paid about the 20th Augt. I suppose the Interest will commence on the 1st of September.

Wm Wife & girl were quite well when we heard lately. They were at Poonah. They talk of paying Europe a visit in 1833. As it is long since I heard from Scotland a letter with all news will give me much satisfaction. Are your Sisters quite well & your young men? Have you heard of Carolus & Tom lately? How is the game this year with all its accompaniments of friends &c. I daresay you are all at Strowan as usual at this Season, our Weather here has been very fine but on our Shingle 14000 acres of which we have there is little variety. I desire to be very kindly remembered to your household & shall

shall be gratified by hearing from you soon with your news. My Brats have got the measles & in a few Weeks a Change of air will be of great good especially to the Cool breeze of the Sea & Shingle. Thank Miss Jane for her letter I felt for the Laird of Keir¹⁴⁷ & but for her kindness I should not have heard of it. An officer appointed

a few days ago to a neighbouring station who was with me in France called on me yesterday of of whose first questions was where is Jack (Charles) he was a good deal struck on hearing the fate of poor Charles who died Sept. 19th 1826 Good bye my dear Airth & Believe me yours very sincerely

Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
[c.o. Airth Castle
Falkirk]
Strowan
Crieff

NB

Stamped: D 20 SE 20 1831
FALKIRK SE 22 1831

[noted in another hand at top] Tom Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 200-201

New Romney
Kent

March 1st 1832

My Dear Airth

I have been anxiously looking for a letter from you will all your news as well as for the Frank containing the acknowledgement or receipt for the hundred Pounds. This last I should like as soon as possible & I hope it will be convenient by an early day. I wrote to John Dundas some time ago for information about the Payment of Mrs Fergus Legacy which would be most satisfactory could the Papers be found and copied for me. I have not heard from him & I would thank you to apply to him for that purpose if quite convenient. The accounts from Jamaica are melancholy but all seemed

quiet in our part of the Island, yet I suppose we shall continue to hear the same story that no money is forthcoming.

How have you all been this mild & pleasant Winter [unclear] as it is so long since I heard from Scotland I [unclear] know nothing of your proceedings or health or situation

but it will afford us much real satisfaction to hear all the family news.

As for ourselves we are still on Dungeness with no immediate prospect or indeed wish for a removal the expence would be so great, as it cost be about £80 to bring my family & furniture here. Mrs Stirling continues as usual, never very strong, but the four elder little ones enjoy excellent health appetites & Spirits your two little friends still preserving their good looks & growing tall and often talking of Duncan & Wm Baird & the man with the gun (Tom Robinson) our fifth¹⁴⁸ is at home with Grand Mama¹⁴⁹ who is doatingly fond of her. Mrs Stirling's brother¹⁵⁰ who was in Edinburgh has got an appointment to Bombay as assistant Surgeon in the Army he first chose Madras but had it changed. I hope experience will have taught him the value of character & lead him to an honourable & manly conduct, for his extravagance during the three years he was in Edinburgh cost his Father just £1500 Stg!

The Cholera I perceive is still spreading although slowly & as the warm weather comes on I believe it ravages will become more perceptible, then who will escape!

The Coasts of Kent & Sussex so near the French Coast are of course Demons for smuggling & you may have seen

in the Papers what dreadful work there has been lately in this District right & left of us. Lieut Parry¹⁵¹ in resisting the attack received 3 Slugs in his Shoulder & a copper nail, one Slug in his arm

and another in his finger all of which have been extracted he is slowly mending & four of his Crew desperately wounded 34 Smugglers were killed & wounded 15 have been buried & some still lie very ill. I have not been attacked but expect an attempt will be made this week when we shall do our best. Parry is promoted & we propose giving our Inspecting Commander Capt. Mansel a Dinner in consequence of his exertions to that end. It is now 9 o'clock the night is dark & the Weather favourable so I shall march out in ½ an hour. The only fright I have yet had was last month in returning [torn] neighbouring Station & without fire arms I walked through a Party of about 80 who had assembled at a Particular spot for the purpose of running a Cargo. It was the third time they had been down. I was in the midst of them before I knew my situation, which I discovered from unusual appearances on the beach it was very dark & they were lying down in clumps of 12 or 15 I think for on walking along I saw within 3 feet of the Path a large black mark which I had not seen in passing about 2 hours before. I suddenly stopped, looking again intently, cast my eyes to the right saw the same appearance, then it was I discovered that there were the Party we had been looking out for for a week past. The [torn] I made was only a few seconds I resolved on proceeding & they suffered me to pass lest I should alarm the Coast by firing. I had a mile to go afterwards & you may grasp what a nervous feeling as well a narrow escape I had They show no mercy beating out the brains of all they capture in revenge for the loss of their friends. So much for Coast Guarding.

My wife has long been talking of writing to Miss Graham & I hope she will soon accomplish it to show she has not forgotten the very great kindness she experiences from her & her family. How are your Boys Wm & Tom? Of Carolus you perhaps have not yet heard although no doubt very anxious. Wm & his Wife were quite well she promising to present him with a Son about this time. He had got the command of his regiment which has raised his spirits much.

Present our united kind remembrances to Miss Graham & Miss Jeany of whom we shall be well pleased to have good accounts & accept them yourself & believe me My Dear Airth yours most truly

Thomas Stirling

P.S. Capt. Wm Bowles Comptroller General of Coast Guard will visit this Station in a few days. Do you know him he married a sister of Lord Palmerston I think.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: 2 MR 1832

MS. 10952 ff. 204-205

No 1 Battery May 24th 1832
Dungeness

My Dear Airth

Your promised Frank containing the receipt reached me in due course for which accept my thanks.

We were much pleased with the good accounts Miss Jane gave of you all & of other friends & also glad to hear that Carolus was so well pleased with the hospitality of India.

All this month the weather has been most trying, fresh Breezes from the East & NE have annoyed us a good deal & I believe they have prevailed pretty generally throughout. Mrs Stirling as Invalid as usual but as we have a pony we look with hope to the fine weather admitting of Exercise in that way as well as in my Boat. The Children thrive & grow fast. I am pretty well & enjoy my Situation much now that the short

nights have come. We are in the Parish of Lydd the good people of which Town have treated us with great kindness, amongst others a Mr & Mrs Robinson a young & genteel couple She I believe the niece of Sir somebody Russel He is in the Army & proposes taking his wife to see her relations in Edinburgh this Summer & as it is their intention if possible to see a little of the Interior I could not resist the temptation of giving them a letter of Introduction to you thinking how much they would be delighted with Airth & depending on your well known hospitality. I trust you will not consider that I have done wrong, we have had reason to value the kindness shewn to us in this Desert & any attention that you could show them would be felt as sincerely as shewn to myself, should they have an opportunity of availing themselves of the letter I have given them. Having seen us so recently they will be able to give you some tidings of us & we in return will look forward earnestly to receiving some particulars

of you & yours. It will be a gratifying circumstance to me on their return to know that they have seen you. I hope your garden continues to prosper & that the grafts are thriving & I shall be much pleased to hear all about your beautiful place. Do you continue your Improvements? & have you succeeded in effectually shutting up the old roads? all this will Interest me much. The Society here is most respectable they are all connected with your old friend Capt. Lamberts family & intermarried. Thank Miss Jane most kindly for her full account of friends as she is the only source whence we derive any knowledge whatever of them. Is Miss Russel still alive? The Cholera is happily decreasing, by the daily reports Falkirk seemed to suffer. Reform seems to be the prevailing epidemic & to absorb all other considerations. We are well prepared to secure the Peace of the Country side but I hope it will be unnecessary now that matters have taken the only safe channel. I hope you continue well & are renewing your strength like the Eagles. Indeed I should

like to hear from you in reply to this & to know if you have discovered what sum was remitted to

Finlay to pay the Legacy. I wrote to J. Dundas twice but he has not answered my letters which strikes me as very odd. Letters from India of Jany. say all well Wm. still in command of his regiment. Sir Colin Halkett¹⁵² the Governor, Capt. Lambert Wm & myself dined with him at Government house in Jersey in 1825.

Mrs Hockin has had a severe bilious attack but is better &

my Wife thinks of taking to Sea in a Steamer for a month at Dartmouth. Give our united best wishes & affectionate remembrances to Miss Graham & to Miss Jane & I hope to seize an early opportunity of returning my acknowledgements to Miss Jane for her former kind & friendly letters. Good bye My Dear Airth accept our good wishes & believe me Yours very truly

Thomas Stirling

Remembrances to all the Boys.

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.
Airth Castle
Falkirk

NB

Stamped: 25 MY 1832

MS. 10952 ff. 208-210

Top in another hand: Received from T Stirling Augt. 7th
ansd. T.S. Augt. 9th
Wrote Finlay from Edin abt. the 10th or 12th

New Romney July 5th 1832
Kent

My Dear Airth

I had calculated that about this time I should be hearing from you something relating to Jamaica matters with Finlay in reply to my last on that Subject. I have no doubt you duly received mine wherein I expressed my decided wish to be guided by Mr Archd. Stirling & your opinion regarding his offer of the £s [illeg.] per An. The fact is, that under the circumstances it is perhaps wiser to close with him (provided the security is good) than to throw obstacles in the way of a final arrangement. I hope the matter has not been allowed to rest as Finlay seemed anxious for an answer & I also have been looking daily to know what you have been doing respecting it. I mentioned that my ignorance of business prevented me from settling the

business spoils & that I would willingly submit to your United judgements to bring things to a settlement & which I trust you are doing Were my presence required in Edinburgh I could certainly join you there any time before the middle of Sept. altho. I should prefer avoiding such a measure but if necessary no delay would be suffered to arise on my part. If the proposal of the Bonds be acceded to Should he not run all risks Personally & cash them on his own responsibility?

I hope you continue well & enjoy this fine Summer & Season lovely & delightful as it is with us. I thank you

for your good wishes for us all but I regret to say Mrs Stirling has been very unwell lately & continues so still from a Bilious attack which has rendered her very weak & nervous. The young ones are well & flourishing like the green Bay tree full of life & Intelligence. I

am pretty well & get on pretty well with my situation & it is now exactly one year since I recd. my appointment to it. Wm. has been presented with another Daughter¹⁵³ in Feby, mother & child [illeg.] doing well. He continues to hold his appointment & holds out no prospects of speedily returning to Europe; his health is good & seems very happy. We were much pleased with a long letter from Mrs C. Stirling recd. yesterday, full of kindness & affection & I rejoice to find her health & strength are so much restored. I did not know that the Russels had died! What becomes of Woodside¹⁵⁴? Remember us most kindly to your Sisters & my next letter after this business shall be to my good & amiable friend Miss Jane. I hope you continue to hear favourable accounts of your Sons abroad

& that Wm is quite well. Has my friend Mr Robertson [sic but looks as though it is an error for Robinson] paid you a visit yet? I begged him to do so that he might bring us some Accounts of Airth & its worthy owner. He cannot fail to be be pleased with both & I shall be glad to hear that he has seen you. Since he left this he has sold his Commission in the army for £700 How do you like the Scotch Reform Bill? The Duke of Wellington was sadly hissed & hooted & pelted by the rabble of this

County a few days ago at a review of the Yeomanry of which regiment he is the Colonel.¹⁵⁵ Let me hear how your garden progresses as I feel much interested in all improvements Write soon in reply to this as I am very anxious to bring matters to an end with Finlay. With best wishes to yourself & family Believe me my Dear Airth Yours very truly Thomas Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr
Airth Castle
Falkirk

Stamped: 7 JY 1832

No 1 Battery Augt. 14th 1832
Dungeness

My Dear Airth

This Evening your letter of the 9th reached me & according to your desire I give you the copy of Mr Finlay's letter to Mr Archd. Stirling. I full empower you to act in this affair & as it is desirable that a settlement should take place, the sooner the better. Mr Finlay is evidently much mistaken if he thinks £1500 be nearly the sum due, for your Information I shall state the Sums that have been actually received by us in reduction of the debts.

£307.8.10 Dec. 1826

£267.12.2 Nov. 1827

£147.14.2 Jany. 1829

£329.12.7 Sept. 1830

£281.10.6 May 1831

£1354.0.3 Total

68.10.9 add attorney's Commission Expenses fees &c

£1422.11

In Decr. 1826 the first Paymt. Was made. The original Sum was £9500 Currency equal to about £5600 Stg. & the whole Sums paid in reduction are only £1422.11 leaving a Balance of about £4177 Stg in our favour. If Mr Finlay would agree to pay £3000 Stg. in two years & conclude the affair in toto I would willingly close with him. I am much pleased that you have entrusted the affair to the Glasgow house & I shall be anxious

to know the Progress you are making in settling this harassing business & I particularly request that you will hasten it as much as possible.

I beg to thank Miss Jane for her very kind letter, the Contents were very interesting as we had not heard of our many friends for a very long time. Willm's Lady presented him with a Daughter in March last. He still held a good appointment in [illeg.]

Mrs Stirling here is delicate but has been a little stronger lately but there is no wonder when you know she has been living & Sleeping in newly plastered Walls these 6 weeks past. Government is repairing all the buildings along the Coast & as Smuggling is expected to be carried on next winter pretty briskly we are to have 100 more men in this district. Let me hear soon of your Successful progress in the business & with our united good wishes to yourself & Sisters believe my Dear Airth

Yours very truly

Thos. Stirling

Addressed to:

Thomas Graham Stirling Esqr.

Airth Castle

[c.o. Falkirk]

NB

Strowan Crieff

[readdressed on the back]

Stamped: 16 AU 1832

[in another hand – Speak to Uncle Tom about old Kealley [unclear]]

William, his wife and two children sailed from Bombay for England on 13th October 1834 on the 'Lady Feversham', Capt. George Webster. They were due to dock first at Cannanore on the coast of Kerala and then at The Cape. Appears that they were not allowed to land at Cape Town. The only other passengers on the boat were the Hon. Capt. G.T. Upton HM 62nd Regt. & Capt. F. Stopford HM 40th Regt. with 1 European servant

B/190

Minute Book 145, 9 Apr - 7 Oct 1835

p149

The drafts of letters to the
undermentioned persons, were read
and approved,

vizt:

To R W Hay Esq

[Colonial Office] forwarding in compliance with his request of the 9th instant, copies of communications from the Government of the Cape of Good Hope relating to the refusal of that Government to allow Captain Stirling and his family to land there

13 May 1835

Letter from William Stirling to Thomas Graham Stirling

MS. 10952 ff. 271-274

Forbes, Forbes & Co.
Angel Court
Throgmorton St.
London
2d May 1835 [in another hand]

My dear friend -

I put off writing to you so long in the hope that I should be able to tell you all my plans, and how my application to the India House had terminated – I have not received a final answer, tho' I have been so far informed that the Court will grant me my Indian Allowances & count the time I have been absent from India in my Service, provided I return to the Cape on route to India with as little delay as possible – I have [c.o.] replied that my necessities compel me to say at present that I accept their offer but that I yet hope they will be able to set aside the Law or Regulation that obliges me to do so, and that they will in compliance with the prayer of my Memorial make

an effort to save me & my family from such a hard alternative -

In my Memorial I have made several claims upon the Court of Directors, the principal of which is that they will grant me my allowances, & Service and allow me to remain in England instead of the Cape – that they will pay my passage from the Cape & back again – That they will give me security against certain losses, I apprehend – and that they will give me as full and liberal a compensation as many can afford, for all the hardships, anxieties & injuries I and my family have suffered by the resolution of the Cape Govt. to prevent our landing at the Port to which we were bound, and had arrived at &c &c

of the Cape is under the King & not the East India Company – the Court of Directors have forwarded my Memorial and documents (which I took the precaution to get complete) to H.M. Colonial Govt. with a letter recommending it to their favourable consideration – On account of the change of Ministry no answer had yet been recd. but I have no great hopes of getting money from them, though Lord Aberdeen who gave me a long audience on the subject while in office confessed it was a very hard case. Should they not pay me, I must again appeal to the Company & try what I can get there – Tho' at last I may be obliged to place my case in the hands of the Opposition, and have it brought before Parliament. One Member has volunteered to do so for me, but I am in hopes that such a cause will be rendered unnecessary – It being however, a claim of such a distinct nature, resting on its own undisputed justice, [c.o.] the most moderate proceeding would be the best at all events till driven further – and now, my friend let me thank you for your kind and ready introduction to Mr Clarke¹⁵⁶ – He received me

with great affability, and attention, and spoke of you with the greatest regard. I cannot but feel how much my business has been advanced by his influence exerted for me, on your account – I am afraid it will not be in my power to pay you a visit before I sail, (which if the Court cannot relax these Laws) will be early in July. I must accept their offer, because it gains me my time (to say nothing of money) which is more precious than almost any thing they can give me.

You are aware that my Brother Tom agreed to accept £1000 from Finlay on liquidation of his debt to us, and that Finlay did not fulfil the engagement.

I gave Mr Oliver in London Finlays agent to understand that in consequence of Finlays nonpayment, we should stand on our original rights

and that I would spare neither trouble nor money to oblige Finlay to pay or give us back the estates -
We accordingly placed our Cause in the hands of Messrs Forbes & Hale Ely Place London – and

we had no sooner done so that we received a letter from Oliver & Co offering to pay the £1000 down.

We have handed the offer over to F. & Hale and it will depend upon their opinion and advice what resolution we adopt – Tom at my request, on my arrival, wrote to Finlay to say that although he had not fulfilled his agreement yet we were willing to allow him till the 12th Inst. to do so, but that in the event of his not paying the Cash on that day, we should consider the whole transaction null and void, & stand on our original rights. He did not answer that letter

at all, nor did we hear from him till the 28th Inst. when in consequence of his silence, we had placed the business in the hands of my Solicitors. We are therefore free agents to act as we may be best advised. It certainly seems strange that we should accept £1000, when by the end of the year we may expect twice that sum as compensation¹⁵⁷ besides obliging him (Finlay) to pay the balance of his debt to us -

You will be glad to hear that now we have recovered from the effects of our [c.o. voyage] long passage, having been brought to England in the depth of Winter, unprovided with necessary clothing and comforts for such a voyage at such a season, Mrs Stirling and myself are fast recovering our health & spirits, and are able in great measure to forget the many distresses

of mind and body which we have been exposed to, and are almost disposed to look upon our being brought to England a blessing rather than a subject of regret – Our poor Baby¹⁵⁸, about whom we were so anxious is fast recovering its health which relieves us from a load of anxiety and care which has long oppressed us. My Marion is a sweet affectionate mild, retiring child, and altho' we must leave our children behind us when we sail from England, we are grateful to find that heaven has raised up friends to us in whose worth kindness and ability we can confidently trust. They are to be placed with their Aunt¹⁵⁹, a pious & most exemplary person, perfectly capable of instructing them or superintending their education -

In closing this letter allow me once more to thank

1835

you for your many acts of kindness to me, and to assure you they will never be forgotten -

With kind and affectionate remembrances to your Sisters and

the young Gentlemen if with you

Believe me yours most Sincerely

W Stirling

Addressed to: Thomas Graham Stirling Esquire
Airth Castle
Falkirk
Stirlingshire

Stamped: MY 2 1835
MAY 4 1835

Thomas Graham Stirling died at Airth 6th July 1836, and a month later, on the morning of 12th August, William, his wife and their maidservant, were shipwrecked in the Seychelles on their way back to India. Less than two month's

before, Sibella had given birth to a son, Charles William, in Cape Town but the baby had died soon after birth. They survived almost six months on a desert island until rescued, finally arriving in Bombay 16th March 1837. William retired from India in October 1841 with the rank of Major and they finally arrived back in England in the following May. They documented the experience of their shipwreck in a book, privately printed in Exeter in 1843.

**NARRATIVE
OF
THE WRECK
OF
THE SHIP TIGER,
OF LIVERPOOL,
(CAPTAIN EDWARD SEARIGHT),
ON THE DESERT ISLAND OF ASTOVA,
On the Morning of the 12th of August, 1836;
WITH SOME
PARTICULARS RESPECTING THE SHIP, THE RESIDENCE OF THE
CREW ON THE ISLAND, AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT DELIVERANCE;**

BY MAJOR (LATE CAPT.) W, STIRLING.

(Printed for circulation among his Friends.)

**EXETER:
PRINTED BY W. ROBERTS, 197, HIGH-STREET.**

1843.

PREFACE

THE following Narrative, Journal, Letters, and other information have been put into print as the best method of recording, for my children, the adventures of their parents during an eventful period of their eventful lives.

They have been printed at my own expense, with the view to limiting the circulation, from the nature of the record generally, but particularly of the letters.

Since it has become known that the Journal is in the press, that applications for leave "to read it when printed" have greatly multiplied, so that it is impossible not to foresee that, while it falls into the hands of my friends, it may also fall into those of others less disposed to make allowances for arrangement and diction. I therefore take this opportunity to state, that neither in writing my part of the original, nor in passing the sheets through the press, have I received the slightest assistance from any one ; a fact which I trust will sufficiently account for, and excuse, what might,

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under other circumstances, be liable to be criticised. The letters of my wife are, in fact, printed from the originals, thinking it better that they should so appear, than their interest endangered by any attempt at correction.¹⁶⁰

W. STIRLING.

Clifton House, Exeter, 5th June, 1843.

NARRATIVE,

&c.

THE beautiful new Ship, Tiger, of 375 tons, carrying, including the Captain, in all twenty-one souls, sailed from Liverpool, for Bombay direct, on the 3rd of May, 1836; but, owing to circumstances which will be afterwards mentioned, she put into Table Bay, Cape of Good

Hope, on the 2nd of July. Captain William Stirling, his wife, and female servant, Louisa; Charles Blore, a new second mate, Assistant Surgeon Deacon, in medical charge of the ship, and a native of India named Jewa,¹⁶¹ embarked on her there for Bombay; which made the total number of persons on board twenty-seven. She sailed for her destination on Tuesday, the 12th of July, and was wrecked on the Island of Astova on the 12th of August, at about one o'clock in the morning; but which the officers of the ship believed to be Juan de Nova, upwards of two hundred miles distant, *an error we all laboured under up to the time of our deliverance.*

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Beautiful and strong as every part of the Tiger was, as a specimen of naval architecture, she was considered by her crew as a ship that had "little good luck." When launched, she got aground; when taken out of dock, two ships ran foul of her; near the line, in a squall, she lost a top mast, all her top-gallant masts, and royals; several of her officers and men had suffered repeated shipwreck; and when she approached the Cape of Good Hope, Captain Searight¹⁶² was seized with insanity and delirium tremens, so that the chief mate was under the necessity of putting him in confinement, and taking the ship into Table Bay. There, the Captain was landed; almost immediately pronounced convalescent, and fit to proceed in command of his ship. On the 12th of July the passengers and Captain embarked, and in the evening set sail. Though the Medical Men at the Cape had reported Captain Searight fit to proceed in his ship, it was evident to many of us that he was far from well, so much as to give rise in our own breasts to some unpleasant reflections on the subject; yet his weakness of mind was not such as to justify any interference with him in his duty of Commander, which he chose to assume.

From the day we left the Cape we had little else but bad weather: sometimes light and baffling winds and calms, and sometimes strong and mostly foul gales of wind; so that although we had by no means a long passage, it was attributed to the almost unprecedented rate of the ship's sailing. Much having been expected from so fine a ship, any thing that delayed her affected the Captain's nerves and spirits so much, that his health grew worse, and soon after we had crossed

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the tropic of Capricorn¹⁶³ it entirely gave away, and it became evident that a relapse to his former state of illness was at hand. Accordingly, on the 4th of August, he was seized with delirium tremens, when he was put in confinement in his cabin: he however rapidly grew worse, and made such painful and distressing cries, accompanied by efforts to break down the bulk heads and escape, that he was removed forward into a berth fitted up for him under the fore-castle, where he remained constantly attended by Doctor Deacon, Mr. Spurs the chief mate, and indeed by all whose services could in any way be useful. The chief mate had now of course assumed the command; and wishing to ascertain the state of the chronometers, he steered for the land, but on the morning of the 9th of August we found ourselves unexpectedly near the Island of St. Mary's, on the east coast of Madagascar; along which we sailed till about 3, p.m.¹⁶⁴ He discovered our true position, and that both our chronometers were out; one 90 miles and the other 40. This morning we lost our fore-top-gallant mast and royal in a squall.

We were now well on a strong S. E. trade, with thick squalls and torrents of rain, the wind

varying to wards the southward, so that we ran 8 or 10 knots an

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hour all night, which took us on the 11th into lat. $11^{\circ} 30'$, south long. by reckoning 50 50 east. That forenoon was fine, and the Captain appearing to be better, the Doctor and the chief mate dressed him, and allowed him, at his earnest request, to come out of his berth to sit on a chair on deck, they closely watching him. He was somewhat restless, but appeared much better, so that after some time the Doctor went into the cuddy to write out his case, leaving him in charge of the chief mate, who watched and walked close to him at every step. While so situated the Captain made an inclination towards his berth which was close by, and stooping as if to enter it, he turned short to the left, and before he could be caught by the chief mate, who was close behind him, with the cunning of a maniac, and the speed of lightning, he darted through a port which had been unfortunately left open into the flood below.

The alarm was promptly given, and, led by the impulse which seizes even the coldest on such occasions, every one flew to endeavour to save him. I first ran to the quarter deck but immediately returned to the poop in search of something to throw overboard, but I could find nothing, for the ship was rolling very deep and every stick and spar had been well secured. I then looked over the side, and there I beheld a sight which I shall never forget, and which had a most powerful effect on all those who witnessed it : the Captain, with a vigour and energy which appeared supernatural, lay on his back in the water with his head and knees quite out of it ; his wild stare of insanity glaring on the ship as it passed him, and his

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whole bearing being that of a man who had achieved a triumph rather than that of one who felt himself on the brink of eternity.

At this time the ship was running ten knots an hour, with studding sails low and aloft, but the halyards were instantly let go and the ship rounded with all her numerous sails flying in the wind; the jollyboat was quickly lowered, but a stormy deluging squall by this time overtook us, the boat was in a moment swamped and upset, her crew was miraculously saved, but amid the confusion and the thickness of the weather Captain Searight disappeared. No further efforts could be made, and the ship was soon after put before the wind in safety, but her safety was destined to be only for a short time.

We had scarcely recovered our composure when, at tea, we were alarmed by a noise louder than if one of the guns had been fired. It was discovered to proceed from a sail and boom that had fallen on deck from the maintop, where it had been carelessly secured. That, with the scene in the daytime, startled us all a good deal.

We went to bed, however, between ten and eleven, and just as we laid ourselves down the whole ship was alarmed by the most wild and horrid shrieks. Every body ran on deck to discover the cause, but for some time without success. The mate ran to the poop and found it was the man at the helm who had taken fright at what he supposed to be an apparition. The night was pitch dark and stormy, so that when the second mate went towards the wheel over the top of the round house to see how the man was steering, his

sudden appearance, while the man's thoughts were fixed on the occurrences of the day, threw him into the fright which occasioned his screams.¹⁶⁵

Our endeavour was to get a sight on the 11th of Cape Amber, the north point of Madagascar, previous to turning north, and with that view the ship's head was turned towards it ; but the weather being thick and squally it could not be accomplished. The mate, however, judging by our reckoning, and our distance from St. Mary's Isle, that it was time to turn north clear of all dangers, did so at midnight: the wind high from the southward, the night dark and rainy, the ship flying along 8 or 9 knots an hour.

About one o'clock a. m. of the 12th of August I was lying awake on my couch, with Sibella sitting beside me, when the ship struck the ground. The two first blows, or rather scrapes, were so slight that I lay still, listening intensely, hoping and believing that we could not have struck the land, but were merely (at the worst) running through some of the numerous shallows or small coral reefs peculiar to the tropics, and my hopes for a moment whispered that the danger might be run over ; but, alas I in less than a minute, the ship having been raised by a wave, descended with an awful and terrible crash, with its whole weight on the rocks. The wheel went to pieces, and its machinery as well as the whole ship clanked and cracked as if she would instantly go to pieces. She

continued to strike on the rocks, till in about half an hour she fell on her larboard side, but striking more heavily on the bottom than before, the waves breaking against her and over her with redoubled violence. With every blow the bell tolled, which added to the horrors of our situation.

When the ship struck, we all ran upon deck, but no voice was heard ; all was still, no one uttered a word. Soon after, it was proposed to the mate by the carpenter to cut away the masts, to ease the ship, as she was striking violently with every wave, and it was feared she might go to pieces ; the mate, with wonderful coolness, said " No, wait till daylight, so that there may be no confusion." The ship, however, continued to beat so hard upon the rocks that, about an hour after, he did order them to be cut away, and they fell over the side with a dreadful crash, from about four feet from the deck. After the masts fell, the ship was easier for a short time.

While those events were passing, the crew was most orderly on deck. I, with Sibella, our maid-servant, and the Doctor, fixed ourselves in the cuddy, to offer up our prayers to God ; seeking to be saved, if not in body, in our souls. While so engaged, the mate came and said gently, "Will you kindly go into the cabin below, as we are going to cut away the mizen mast," which was close to us ; but the ship now lay over so much, and the deck was so wet, that it was like being perched on the top of a wall, and to move was almost impossible; Sibella, from the place where she sat, high to windward, first rose to attempt to change her position ; but, just as she had risen, a heavy sea

struck the ship, and jerking her from her hold, she fell flat on her face, and slid, head foremost, to leeward. I was more affected by that piteous sight, than by any thing which occurred during our painful trial ; and I could not but look on it as the beginning of many

horrors, which the increasing force of the sea, and cracking of the ship, threatened in a few moments to terminate in our death. When she fell she was utterly helpless to save herself, and I was unable to give her any assistance ; but soon after we seized a favourable moment and crawled to the cabin below, where we settled ourselves on the lee side of the deck.

I made several hasty visits to my cabin, always under the promise to Sibella that I would return quickly ; for it was our anxious desire that, if the ship went to pieces, or that we were to be drowned, we might perish together. On one of those visits I contrived to throw our bedding out, which enabled us to make a tolerably easy place to sit on, and to get some warm clothing which was at hand, a great luxury, for we were nearly naked and shivering with wet and cold. We dressed ourselves in the best way our situation would admit of, and I managed to secure our watches, gold chains, and a few trinkets, on one of my visits. At this time so thoughtful was the mate of our comfort and security, that he only cut away the mizen top mast, so that the danger and the crash might be less.

We continued our earnest prayers to God while we sat below, but there was little hope that the ship could hold together till daylight, for she was full of water, and we felt the chests and cargo in the hold beating

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up against the deck. The skylights were stove in, so that, at every wave, the water poured down into the cabin in torrents from above ; the ship continued to beat harder and harder on the rocks, and every sea that struck her made her crack as if her side was stove in. All this time it blew furiously, sometimes with rain; the night was pitch dark, and we had no idea whether we had struck on an island, or merely on a reef; nor could any thing be ascertained respecting our true position, for even a lead line could not be found.

During the darkness, the officers, carpenters, and men were actively employed in clearing out the longboat and cutter, the only two we had left, and preparing, on deck and in safe places, hams, spirits, water, biscuit, cooking-pots, oars, sails, tools, instruments, and every thing that could be useful. The pig, sheep, and poultry were brought alive out of the long-boat into the cuddy, and kept there to be put in the boats when ready. The labour may be imagined when it is known that the deck lay at an angle of about forty-five degrees, slippery with wet, and the sea beating over it every minute.

We, of course, anxiously looked for the day-light, and Mr. Spurs kept asking me constantly how the time went. Day came at about half-past five o'clock, the ship still holding together, and shewed us that we were stranded on the east and weather side of a low rocky and sandy shore with a few bushes on it, distant about a quarter of a mile .

I paid my first visit to the deck about six o'clock, to take a view of our situation: our ship lying on her beam ends-the masts cut, or rather broke, away

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---the bowsprit and jibboom standing, with their sails dangling from them---the larboard bulwark half beat down---the men moving about like spectres at their work, in silence---the sea flying over all---the masts, with their sails, yards, and rigging lying alongside and the low, inhospitable, sandy island, its shores lined with large stones and rugged coral---all presented the most miserable scene imaginable.

The carpenters and crew had set to work most manfully, with axes, to beat down the larboard bulwark, to enable them to launch the boats. By eight, a considerable breach

was effected, and the cutter was safely got over the side. The mate, with a few men, went in her to explore for a landing place and soon returned, announcing that they had found one on a small beach within the breakers, on which, as a guide to us, the keel of our ship, some hen-coops, and spars had been already washed up. We were wrecked at about half flood tide, so that by this time it had ebbed, and the ship lay on the reef much more quietly. The sea had become still under our lee, and we could perceive the rocky bottom through the clear water.

The mate told us to get one trunk of our most valuable property collected and put into the long boat, which had been now safely launched, and, with the cutter, well stowed with necessities; a request which we speedily complied with as far as we could; but, our cabin being to leeward, every thing had turned over, and the drawers and boxes could scarcely be opened; for then, to pull out a drawer was to draw it nearly straight up, and its brass handles cut my fin-

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gers in the attempt; besides, the sea having dashed in our stern windows, the floor was covered with broken window-glass and bottles, on which I cut my feet severely, and it was dangerous to pay any but hasty visits.

The boxes in our cabin were all too large and unwieldy to make such use of, and the only one likely to answer was a small china trunk which stood in the cuddy, and which contained my most valuable books. To enable me to make use of it, I threw the books out on the wet deck, which was my first sacrifice; but in doing so, I tore the chart and map of the world out of my atlas, and put them, for safety, into my bosom, thinking that they might be useful to us afterwards.

I contrived to put into the box the little ready money I had, Sibella's jewels, including the children's hair, various little bags made by the children, a few silver spoons and forks, several changes of linen, and some small things, such as twine, knives, medicines, cork-screw, needles, thread, tapes, pens, pencils, paper, and ink, which were at hand, likely to be useful in a desert island.

I also stuffed my pockets with whatever usefuls I could find in my cabin, among which were Robinson Crusoe (who, I thought, might give us a few valuable hints), thermometer, soap, dressing things, &c.; and before going on shore I put on as many woollen coats and trowsers as I could carry, knowing how much they would contribute to our comfort and safety when we might be exposed to cold and rain without shelter, and I made another bundle of our blankets, some books,

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drawings, &c., and put a paper of starch which lay in the cabin in my pocket, not knowing whether it might not be required for our evening meal.

On quitting the ship, it was something novel and melancholy in itself to leave our cabin, as we were obliged to do, with all our furniture standing, and the drawers and boxes full of clothes and other valuables, pretty sure that we should never see them again. We were certainly told by the mate to put any thing we wished particularly to save in a prominent place, and it would be brought off to morrow, if the ship held together; but we had little hope that it would.

When the ship struck Sibella threw away her keys and the ruby ring which she wore, thinking the time was come to have done with all worldly things. Her wedding ring nearly

followed the other, but fortunately she put it back again on her finger and it was saved.

A little before we went ashore we sat in our cabin looking at the clear sea, and the breakers with their snow-white crests sparkling in the sun as they rolled past us towards the shore. I remarked to Sibella that the sun smiled "on every thing but on us." She replied, "and does it not shine upon us?" Certainly it did, and in the truest and most beautiful sense of the word. What a change from our awful situation in the night-time!

By ten o'clock we were told to prepare to go on shore when the tide would permit; and at eleven a rope to hold on by, the deck being so steep and wet that we could not walk on it, having been passed from the cuddy door to the gangway, it was announced that

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all was ready for our departure. A chair could not be got out easily, but a rope answered the purpose. It was first put round Sibella and she was lowered into the long-boat cautiously and gently, then the maid-servant, then I, then the Doctor. The longboat contained, besides the before-mentioned necessities, some of our private fire-arms, four living sheep, poultry, a pig, two greyhounds, a terrier, a puppy dog, and nineteen souls. The sun shone bright, but the sea sprayed heavily over us so that we could scarcely face it, and the boats required constant baling.

At about twelve o'clock, in anxious silence, we put off from the ship for the miserable-looking shore; the long-boat with oars, but towed by the cutter and four men.

The mate and steward remained in the ship till we had safely landed, when the cutter returned for them. The rest of the men were employed in landing the provisions and stores from the long-boat, and carrying them high and dry on the beach; but they would not allow us to wade on shore but insisted on carrying us from the boat; and when I began to assist in carrying up provisions, they exclaimed, "Oh! Sir, you need not do that: we will carry them." While we were thus employed, Sibella and her maid were busy taking care of the charts, books, compasses, and more perishable property, in a hollow in the sand, the deserted nest of a turtle.

Having arranged every thing beyond high-water mark, the wind and sand blowing high on us, I went in search of a place of shelter where we might pitch our camp, and I was fortunate enough to find one

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about a furlong from the landing place, on pretty high ground, and sheltered by a circular ridge of land, which, with the valley fixed on, was thickly covered with stout bushes four and five feet high, of a lively green.

The spot having been approved of, a space was cleared for a tent. Spars and sails, and every thing were speedily brought up, the long-boat and cutter landed and secured above high-water mark, a tent erected for the passengers and provisions, and a blazing fire was soon kindled for the men to sleep by, so that before dark we were sheltered, had our beds of blankets ready to spread, a little to eat and drink, including a mouthful of warm tea, and every one was alive, safe, and sound.

It had been a day of excessive labour and anxiety to us all, from one o'clock in the morning till seven in the evening, so that we were glad to retire to rest; but before we did so, we invited the men to join us in our evening prayers, and all hands (with the exception of a very few who had fallen asleep through fatigue) returned thanks to God with us for our

deliverance from our awful situation. The only living things we saw on the Island, on landing, were a few small crabs and white sea-birds. The latter hovered close over us as if astonished at our arrival on their coast.

JOURNAL.

Saturday, 13th of August 1836.

Last night we slept very well considering our situation, and did not get up till about six, though our rest had been frequently interrupted. The morning was fine but with an unpleasantly strong sea breeze, for it carried with it grains of sand, which filled our ears and eyes, and annoyed us altogether a good deal. We found that we had plenty of provisions, but little or no water ; and from the aspect of the country that became a matter of serious consideration. Some of the men went out with a spade in search of it, but came back unsuccessful and downcast. I had read and knew that fresh water was often procurable in the most desert-looking places by digging in the sand, and as soon as I got up I called a few men with a spade and commenced digging in a hollow close to our encampment. At about three feet we came to a stratum of hard coral rock about six inches thick, which being dug through the sand was softer, till at about five feet it became like chalk and moist ; that was great encouragement. I tasted the mud and found it quite sweet, so that a dog which was standing by, in its thirst, greedily eat it up. A few more shovels full brought us to sufficient water to cover the bottom of a jug, which we all tasted and, though it was white as chalk, it was pronounced fresh and sweet, and in taste like new milk. A little trickling immediately was visible

from the lower side of the well, at which, as may be imagined, we were highly delighted. I could not contain my joy, for water seemed to be our only present want, and I ran to tell the good tidings to Sibella and proclaimed it aloud to every body I could find. A little more digging brought us to plenty of water ; and at six or eight feet from the surface of a sandy desert we had a well of milk-white sweet water.

Being now satisfied that water was procurable, and so easily, it was proposed to dig another and more commodious well; for in digging the first, the grand object of search was most held in view, and as it was in soft sand, the sides frequently fell in, and nearly filled up the well as fast as it was dug. The new well was now commenced, not far from the first, with a diameter of about twelve feet, as far as the rocky stratum, in the middle of which, the well of about four feet wide, was dug, having the rock all round as a standing place. In this well we found the flow: of water much more abundant, and, by noon, the Doctor and I had drawn sufficient delicious water to fill all the basins, pots, tubs, and utensils that we could collect. About three p. m. the sides of the well, under the coral, fell in, but we had it soon cleared out; and to prevent a similar misfortune, I had a cask lowered into the middle, with both ends knocked out, which secured its permanency. Before night we drew water from this well in buckets-full. When I and the Doctor were drawing the beautiful water in quantities, the men at this time were so orderly and governable that, when passing with their heavy loads in the sun, and ankle-deep in loose sand, they would, in the most res-

pectful manner, say, "Please may I have a cup of water, Sir ?"

This morning we had a very good breakfast, in a rude way, at nine o'clock: Sibella, the maid, myself, the officers, and seamen all sitting on the sand, in the sun. The cook had made us a capital stew of all the turkeys and fowls that had been drowned yesterday, or had died (in fact, all he could get), mixed with plenty of ham and biscuits; and some of the boys had gone out to explore, and brought back some tropic birds, so that we fared pretty well. When the tide answered, the mate and some men went off to the wreck in the cutter, and managed to bring back two casks of water (they were not aware of our success at the well), several barrels of biscuits, sails for tents, provisions of all kinds, wines, and a great quantity of our private baggage: the latter well soaked in the sea, for it was thrown overboard to drift on shore with the flood tide.

Till night all hands were laboriously employed in digging, or drawing water, landing and bringing up stores and provisions, collecting fire-wood, and before dark a commodious tent was erected for the crew.

The ship this morning appeared to have been driven nearer the shore by the high night spring tide ; her head was turned towards the land a little, with a bend inwards about the waist ; but she was no worse, to appearance, on board: her mizen mast and yard, jib and flying jibboom, still standing. It was now ascertained that the men could wade to the ship at low water, though it was found to be running some risk from numerous sharks; but they proved very cowardly creatures, always getting out of the way

when run at or threatened. We had a good dinner to night at six, much the same as our breakfast. Prayers concluded the day.

When the boat went off to the wreck this morning, avowedly for provisions, I did not think it fitting to remind Mr. Spurs of his promise of yesterday, to bring off our private baggage, as it would look too selfish ; but I whispered to the joiner that I was anxious to get my writing desk brought off, as it contained many valuable papers, letters of my own, and letters and little parcels with which I had been entrusted by friends at the Cape, for their friends at Bombay. However, I never discovered who had done so, but, probably, tempted by the great weight of the desk, which they, no doubt, concluded contained money and valuables, some of the men broke it to pieces, and finding nothing of value to them in it, its contents were scattered to the winds and waves. I have consequently to regret my inability to deliver my friends' letters and packages, as well as the loss of my beautiful mahogany desk and chest of drawers, and many valuable papers.

My couch, drawers, and china trunks were also broken open, but I was more fortunate in their contents ; some papers and useful clothes having been brought from them ; for as yet the people seem to confine their plundering to valuables of small compass.

Sunday, 14th August.

Breakfast at nine. About ten o'clock all hands assembled in my tent for Divine service. I read several of the morning prayers, prayers to be used at sea, a few psalms, with other prayers and thanksgiv-

ings appropriate to our situation. The men behaved with the greatest attention and propriety. After prayers, tide serving, which we trust was a work of necessity, the cutter was again launched and all hands set to work to land and carry up stores and provisions. Early this morning some of the boys caught a few fish like snakes or conger eel, about three feet long, which were cooked; and, though not very good, were eatable. We had also some good crabs. The fish had neither scales nor fins, and their teeth lay back like fangs. Yesterday, unfortunately, the mate severely sprained his ankle, which confined him to the tent to day; it soon, however, became bearable, by copious lotions of brandy and water. The Doctor, Sibella, and myself had a serious examination of the charts to day, and had them cut into convenient sizes and pasted on cloth. Mr. Blore took the sun's altitude, and made the latitude $10^{\circ} 8$ south. That, with our previous opinions, derived from Mr. Spurs, and Horsburgh's description of the Island of Juan de Nova, brought us to the conclusion that we were on that uninhabited Island.

To day a tent was erected for the mate, officers, and Doctor, and most of the provisions were removed into it and well secured. A cask of beer was tapped; I took the management, and served it out in a jug, telling every man to drink as much as he could without drawing his breath, and no more, which was done without any one instance of disobedience, though they had had a hard day's work, and it had rained, with a heavy squall, just before.

It continued to blow and rain a good deal to night,

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so that in bed we were obliged to sit up with our umbrellas to keep the water off ourselves and most valuable books, papers, and clothes, which, by the bye, were our blankets.

Saw some bees, plenty of ants (large and small); they do not bite, nor eat sugar or provisions; also common and blue-bottle flies.

My wife and I, between two and three o'clock, at low water, took a walk on the rocks by the sea side. We were struck with the beautiful corals and madrapores, shells, portuguese men-of-war, sea eggs, and other curious animals on the rocks and in the pools, left by the receded tide.

I learned to day that the men were much pleased by our joining them at breakfast yesterday.

Our poor kitten was brought off: it could not be found before.

It was now found a very safe way to land things of every kind, to throw them overboard from the wreck; even mustard and pickle squares were landed in that way to day in safety: so true did the tide run to our landing place. Some of my trunks, thrown over board unknown to me, were dashed to pieces on the rocks, but they were very heavy, and a lookout had not been kept for them as they approached the shore. I saved some of the contents.

Prayers and thanksgivings, with a few appropriate passages from the Bible, which all hands decently and devoutly joined in, concluded this day.

Monday, 15th August.

This evening the cutter and men went off as usual to the wreck, and brought off many useful and necessary

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articles; other men were employed carrying the stores and provisions, and working hard in

different ways.

Some of our clothes having been washed or brought ashore, and there being plenty of fresh water, Sibella and her maid employed themselves in washing all the salt water out of the best of them, and had them dried. I assisted them, and at intervals carried up hams and spars from the beach. Among other useful things, I brought up a poop ladder, which enabled us conveniently, and without breaking in the sides, to go down to, and ascend from, the well.

From the ship to day the men brought us off our bedding, a table, and some chairs, which added much to our comfort. Our beds were too well soaked with salt water to be useable, but we left them in the rain and sun to wash and dry.

I must confess we did not find even a couple of blankets under us any great protection from the uneven ground, sundry sharp roots, and stumps of bushes, that had been imperfectly cleared away at first.

Tuesday, 16th August, 1836.

Sibella has cut off all her long hair, as, amid the sand and dust, she despairs of being able to keep it clean.

My wife and servant busy collecting and washing clothes.

Saw a butterfly and some small birds.

A rat was killed to day near the sea.

I had a conversation with the man who was at the wheel on the morning of the 12th, when the ship struck: he said he heard the roar of the breakers, but he thought it was something connected with the

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death of the Captain, so he did not venture to say any thing. He was one of the best seamen in the ship, though a great scamp, and the last we should have suspected of such folly. The other man, who had screamed so loud, was a good deal laughed at, which, of course, prevented this one from betraying his fears. A melancholy proof of the mischief of attempting, on such occasions, to laugh people out of their fears.

To day our tent was taken down, and the people being now experienced in tent-building, they made us a most commodious one, about thirty-five feet long by fifteen broad, with sails, and the ensign for a carpet.

Some of the men stayed too long on the wreck to day, and, as the tide had risen, could not be got off; the cutter attempted to bring them off, but, for fear of being swamped, could not reach the ship: the second mate, however, jumped overboard, and was picked up by it. About eleven p. m., when the tide was out, two of the men waded ashore. We were very anxious about the rest of the men, as there was abundance of wine at hand on board, as well as for their situation on the wreck.

The spirit and kind behaviour of the men, on some occasions, was quite delightful. After they had made my tent, cleared the ground, brought in and out, and back again, and arranged all the things, including heavy boxes, in the hot sun, and all appeared done, they said to me, "Is there nothing more we can do for you, Sir?" I, of course, gratefully acknowledged their kindness. On another occasion, a man brought up to our tent a bag of clothes that he had picked up,

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all dripping wet, so that they were a heavy load : he laid them down at the door, saying, " I

have brought a bag full for Missis ; I know they belong to Missis, and I have saved them for her ; she will want them." We opened the bag, and found it contained many useful things. Prayers, as usual, in the evening.

Wednesday, 17th August.

The mate caught several dozen very fine fish, about eight inches long and four deep, in the pools among the rocks, with a silk handkerchief, said to be "old maids." No visit to the wreck to day, to let the men on board come off, which they did safe at low water. I am sorry to say some of them drank a little too much wine ; but as they had nothing to eat, and were very wet and cold, with much temptation, and had had a fright, little was said to them.

The carpenter and joiner began to enlarge and repair the long-boat, to enable us to leave the Island. A sail was spread over it, for the protection of the workmen.

It is a week, to day, since we lost our late Captain Edward Searight. His illness and death were much regretted, for he was one of the kindest and warmest hearted men we ever met with. He has left no family, but a mother and many brothers and sisters to deplore his loss. He was considered an able navigator and a good seaman.

There was one peculiarity of his which grieved us, and which he adhered to, in spite of our hints and even solicitations : he never had Divine service on board, even on Sundays; a performance which all of us had everywhere witnessed in other ships.

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By to day the provisions and stores were all collected and arranged. We have about 200 hams, a dozen large fine cheeses, a few kegs of biscuit, some tongues, tripe, tobacco, pork, bacon, sausages, spirits, wines (in cask and bottles), beer, a cask of flour, one of barley, one of oat-meal, a little rice and sugar, spices, pickles, sauces, mustard, sheep, a pig, a dozen fowls, six or eight pumpkins, two ducks, besides every thing, large and small, that we could desire. We have also our table and table cloths, knives and forks, plates and dishes, cups and saucers, with plenty of books (religious as well as entertaining and useful), pens, papers, and ink, and some dressing things. So our minds are pretty easy as to our subsistence for a few months' residence on the Island. The men are obedient and respectful, and all, of their own accord, attend prayers in the evening.

One or two of our sheep and the pig ran away the first day; the latter has returned, and seems to enjoy itself, eating roots, refuse from our meals, and cracking shells quite easily to eat the crabs which have taken possession of them. It is very remarkable that our sheep have become so shy and timid that, when any one approaches them, they leap and struggle violently, even from those who attend them and feed them. Prayers as usual.

Thursday, 18th August.

Last night we had our beds for the first time, which enabled us to pass the night very well and comfortably.

This morning, before breakfast, I took a walk on

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the beach to examine it. I found numerous pieces of former wrecks, teak, oak, and fir, with some immense forest trees with their roots, bamboos, pieces of cocoa-nut trees, &c. strewed on the beach and rocks; and, at one place, there was a plank of fir, about five feet high, stuck upright in the sand a few yards above high-water mark, thereby certifying

that the hand of man had been there : but there was no trace or inscription, or other guide, to let us know when or by whom it was erected.

By digging, when more at leisure, we may find some information.

The sand, high on shore, abounds with evidence that numerous turtle frequent the Island. There were several skeletons of turtles lying on their bellies, which showed that they had not been turned and left to die, but had died a natural death.

We are sorry to find that the mate's sprain, which prevented him from going on board with the working parties, had enabled the men to commit great irregularities and unnecessary waste. No visit to the wreck to day.

The cook caught a large turtle, and some of the boys caught a very fine fish, weighing about 30lbs. The turtle took three men to bring it home, and was said to weigh 250lbs. We had them both cooked in a variety of ways, and they proved delicious.

On boiling fish, we always took the precaution to boil a silver spoon with them, to ascertain, as far as possible, whether they were wholesome.

Sibella's keys were found and brought to her to day.

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The living of the men is wonderful. When they get up about daylight they get a drink of beer ; at seven, they have coffee or cocoa; at nine, breakfast ; and at two, a little lunch; at six, or soon after, dinner, with beer.

Their breakfasts and dinners have hitherto been composed of fresh mutton and fowl, fish, and turtle stewed up with ham, oatmeal, and flour, and biscuit. I, this evening, asked the men what they had for dinner. Their spokesman said, "We have a most excellent dinner, Sir." I asked what they called an excellent dinner. Answer: "We have soup and *duff*, sea *poye* and beer.

Friday, 19th August.

Carpenter and people at work at the long-boat, and the sailmaker making sails for her. The cutter went to the ship for timber.

We have found the barometer very useless as a guide to the coming changes of the weather. Two of our large china trunks, which had been well matted and corded at the Cape, were brought on shore to us, entire ; but our, other chests and boxes have been broken open : the sailors helping themselves to whatever they liked, but bringing many useful articles of clothing to us from them. The joiner came on shore in my black dress pantaloons, but he surrendered them on demand.

To day Mr. Blore and the steward walked round the Island in about six hours: they said they walked fast and without stopping, but the way was bad ; so we reckoned its circumference about fifteen miles. They reported to have seen much wreck, and an an-

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char and a mast of a large ship, on the north side ; also many birds of pretty plumage, large trees, plenty of turtle and sharks, and other fish. One of our sheep was also seen quite wild. They could not see any other land from the Island. Sibella and servant busy washing and arranging a few of the clothes picked up on the rocks. This evening, as we walked along the shore, we were struck with the waste of property sails, masts, ropes, clothes, planks; and remnants of all kinds lined the beach.

We have now been a week on the Island, having abundant cause to be thankful for the

many mercies bestowed upon us. We have been shipwrecked on an almost unknown and desert Island it is true, and our loss in property has been immense, I may say, nearly all an expensive and complete outfit for the residence of a family in India, has been lost or damaged ; but our lives have been spared ; we have had no wild beasts, venomous reptiles, nor savage men to contend with ; and in a climate, though near the equator and under a burning sun, refreshed day and night by a sea breeze.

The Island we have found produces food and water, very healthy, and the showers, though they fall almost every day, have been so light as only on one occasion to put us to any inconvenience : so mild and healthy is the climate that finding my shoes hurt my feet, which had been cut with the glass on board, I left them off altogether from Sunday last, and though wet with salt and fresh water several times a day, I had not the slightest cold, or symptom of illness, and while, I may add, eating and drinking more plentifully

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and luxuriously than I had ever indulged in before, working in the sun for many hours daily, and lifting loads of spars, baggage, and provisions. On board the ship I was weak and far from well, but the day after I landed I was capable of exertion, such as I had never attempted in my best days : even my cut feet, though all day in the sand and wet, are nearly healed. Prayers as usual concluded this day.

Saturday, the 20th August.

The carpenters and people at work at the long-boat and sailmaker at the sails. The long-boat was originally twenty-three feet by eight. The carpenter is lengthening her by the stern to twenty-seven feet, or including every thing above about thirty feet. His work proceeds fast. The cutter went off to the wreck for materials. Brought also some hay for the sheep. It is not considered right to break open the old stern of the long-boat, so the piece to be added will be nailed to its afterpart, supported by a keel which will run all the way forward, and answer as a false keel to the old boat.

My wife and servant busy selecting a few clothes, the mate having told us that we shall be able to take a box in the boat.

Ishmael¹⁶⁶ caught a variety of small fish among the rocks in his handkerchief, about three or four inches long : one he called newta, and said they were numerous at Surat; others, bhoy, or mullet, and ekroo. The cook and party caught another fine turtle weigh-

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ing about 300lbs.: shell, three feet eight inches long, by two feet eight broad.

I saw some birds of very pretty plumage on the beach, running like partridges or quails; also a bird like a moorhen¹⁶⁷, some of which we had seen at Tristan D'Achuna : they are numerous on the Island. They do not appear to be able to fly, nor do they run faster than a man. The cook's party caught a very large fish, but as they could not bring it and the turtle, it was abandoned. Some disagreeable showers this evening.

Dined off turtle and tap beer. Visited by about half a dozen large musquitoes ; one or two had appeared before, but I think they first bit us this evening.

For the last three evenings, after the fatigues and heat of the day, we have bathed in the sea, on a fine sandy beach. Prayers as usual this evening.

Sunday, 21st August.

We had several showers last night, which slightly came through the tent. It being

composed of only one canvass, the rain, when heavy and sudden, runs through in streams, till it becomes well wetted and shrunk by the water. When it is fair the canvass opens and flaps about loose, so that when it rains suddenly the water is caught in its hollows and runs through.

Last night after prayers, with the mate's sanction, I announced to the men that there would be Divine service this morning, as soon after breakfast as convenient. We all accordingly assembled about a quarter before ten o'clock, and read the morning ser-

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vice with the Litany, part of the form of prayer to be used at sea, but instead of the Psalms and Lessons of the day, the 107th Psalm, and 13th chapter of Romans, and 3rd of James. During the whole service the men behaved with the greatest decorum and attention, and looked as well dressed and clean as circumstances admitted.

Breakfasted off turtle and tea.

All hands busy at the long-boat: some drawing nails out of planks, others bringing planks and timber from the beach ; some shaping, others nailing on, timber ; the rest busy all round. Sibella writing letters to her dear parents to be sent when opportunity offers. I should here mention that our maid-servant, Louisa, was baptized by the Rev. Mr. Hough, senior Colonial Chaplain, just before we left the Cape of Good Hope. She has behaved herself on all occasions in the most exemplary manner, and we feel thankful that she can well join with us in our prayers and thanksgivings. Of course our dear little children as well as our other absent friends and relations are frequently in our thoughts, and always in our private prayers, particularly on Sunday.

Great exertions making to get the long-boat ready by the full moon, if possible.

Some of the men, I suppose those whose bumps of locality are largest, begin to feel at least reconciled to their lot; and Dan, a good-natured talkative fellow, observed, that "If he had but the girl that he loved, he should like very well to stay on the Island with her all the rest of his life.,.

Indeed, the men are all so well off that they do not

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relish the idea of leaving what they justly call "a land of plenty," to go, in search of adventures, in the long-boat, in a stormy sea such as girds our rocky isle.

They often spoke in a style which made us look forward to the time for the departure of the boat with some anxiety. Sibella and myself were quite agreed, however, in opinion, that many of them were great cowards, and that the true reason of their wishing to remain was their fear of the dangers of the seas.

The cook, when he went out to turtle yesterday, was armed, among other weapons of attack, with the grains¹⁶⁸; which he brought back considerably damaged. Mr. Spurs found fault with him: the cook, elated with his success, did not feel the reproof, but replied, with great pride and complacency, "Indeed, he was a monstrous baste."

Prayers in the evening rather longer than usual, it being Sunday, and the men prepared for them.

Monday, 22nd August.

My two uniform coats had become so black and soiled, from lying in the salt water, that I resolved to throw them away as useless; but it now occurred to me (and I was strengthened

in the thought by the pieces of the canoe on the beach, and by the remains of huts, evidently the work of rude people) that we might some day have a visit from the savages of Madagascar: I therefore thought it as well to keep them, for, in case of such an attack, the sight of a number of red coats might have some effect in obtaining us a victory. We had four pairs of pistols and a double-barrelled gun, but our supply of gunpowder was very small: I saved about half a pound, and

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although some more was got off from the wreck at different times; it was nearly all much damaged by the sea water.

We had one sword, the grains, harpoons, and plenty of large knives, which could either be used themselves, or made into spears, by fastening them to the end of sticks; therefore, should we be so unfortunate as to be attacked, with prudence we may defend ourselves. The cook, whose conduct was often very equivocal, though professedly in support of authority, always wore a large carving knife and steel at his girdle, which he often, as occasion offered, displayed in many a savage attitude; he had also a "Brummagem gun"¹⁶⁹ which he was fond of parading about, even to the terror of evil doers.

This evening, when going to bathe, I took my hammer and chisel with me, to examine the rocks. I never before saw coral rocks: these are coral. All these above high-water neap tides are a conglomeration of different stones from about the size of a man's head downwards, and thickly imbedded with shells, most of them apparently oyster. The stones composing the conglomeration were madrapores: some like honeycombs, standing up, and flat branch coral; also rolled pieces of other calcareous rocks. Prayers as usual this evening.

Tuesday, 23rd August.

Finding our well not affording us sufficient water, we cleared and enlarged the first that was opened, letting a cask, open at both ends, down into it, to prevent the sand from filling it up. It affords an abundant supply.

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It is impossible not to be struck with the bountiful supply of meat and drink, and every necessary, providentially provided for our use.

If we want provisions, planks, ropes, nails, sheet copper, canvass, paint, oil, tools; indeed, any thing; we have only to send to the wreck for them; and we found abundance of delicious water before any one of us had suffered from thirst. Such abundance on an Island absolutely desert in itself looks like a special interposition of Providence on our behalf, and as an intimation that our captivity will be long but not insufferable.

I feel assured that Providence, which has so amply provided for us, will, in due time, and in its own way, deliver us. The little mental anxiety and unhappiness which we feel, can only be accounted for from such a conviction.

Mr. Spurs having this day formally intimated to us that it would be for the safety of the whole, if part of us remained on the Island, while he and the other part should attempt, in the long-boat, to reach the Seychelles, to give information of our situation, and to seek relief for us; we entirely concurred in his opinion, and it was accordingly resolved that I, my wife, and servant, Doctor Deacon, Jewa, and Ishmael, should remain, with four apprentices and two seamen.

I wrote letters to the Governor of Mauritius; Adjutant General, Bombay; chief authority

at Seychelles; and Mr. Dick, chief Secretary at Mauritius ; Mr. Wedderburn, and Captain Laurie.

A trip made to the wreck. Some curry, stuff, beer, and salt meat, got off. Prayers as usual.

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Wednesday, 24th August.

This is the first day of the springs, and we have found the weather very boisterous : it blew hard all night; it still continues, with thin cloudy weather. It looks very windy. It would appear that at the full and change the weather is most stormy, for till to day we have experienced no such high wind as we had when we landed first, which was about the new moon. It will be observed that the heat is not so great.

The long-boat still occupies all hands: it gets on very fast : the mate and his people working from daylight till dark.

At half-past twelve a pretty smart shower, the first we have had for a few days. Towards night several smart showers with a good deal of wind.

One of the spars supporting my tent being wanted as a mast to the boat, it was taken away and another substituted. Prayers as usual.

Thursday, 25th August.

This morning, blowing fresh from the south and east, with frequent squalls of rain. The men alarmed us by their conduct last night, having had too much beer. The joiner sat in the arm chair, and on my telling him he would set fire to the Island, he replied, "Suppose I do: is not the Island as much mine as any other person's ?" This morning, however, they gradually returned to their work at the boat.

Note written to¹⁷⁰ Seychelles.

The men were drunk and very riotous, shouting and swearing, and cutting down the bushes with axes, and heaping them on the fire-place, which was only

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four or five yards from our tent door, thereby making an immense bonfire. Sibella became somewhat alarmed, and with good reason, and I could not but fear their drunkenness would vent itself in some act of violence that would oblige me to have recourse to self defence. I accordingly prepared myself, by carefully, though secretly, priming and loading my pistols, securing my sword, the grains, and a harpoon, and so arranging them that I could have made a good defence. Ishmael was with us, and in good earnest set about sharpening a large carving knife, which, I felt confident, he would use with courage in our behalf.

In so dangerous and awkward a predicament I was a good deal surprised that Mr. Spurs should not have come over to endeavour to quiet the men, or at least to offer us some protection ; but as he did not do so, though he well knew our situation, I sent a message by Ishmael to request that he would come over, but he would not. About ten minutes afterwards I seized a favourable opportunity to go over to his tent myself, to request he would endeavour to quiet the men, and remove them from the immediate neighbourhood of our tent ; but I could not prevail on him to accompany me, alleging, as he did, that if he went over the men would kill him--that all they wanted was to get him into their power--that he had no power over them--that his lawful authority over them ceased from the time we were wrecked ; and a variety of such excuses. Wearied out by his unmanly fears, and anxious to return to Sibella, I left him, full of indignation and disgust, but without being able to rouse

him to a sense of his duty.

Previous to this affair we had reason to think unfavourably of Mr. Spurs. He frequently allowed the sailors to commit great excesses with impunity, and had most unkindly left us in an ill-constructed tent, with only one thin canvass over us, close to the men; while he, with the officers and doctor, erected a comfortable one for themselves, well secured with thick double canvass, at a distance, leaving us unprotected from the men and the weather.

When we were wrecked, and for some days afterwards, Mr. Spurs behaved towards us with great kindness, and we, feeling deeply for a man in his situation, (who had lost his ship and reputation, and who, if he had any feeling, must have been overwhelmed with shame and grief at having brought so many persons, by his ignorance, into so sad a predicament), paid him great attention and respect; but whether he mistook our meaning, or grew jealous of the respect paid me by men, I am not aware, but his behaviour soon very much changed, and before he left the Island he proceeded to use the most violent language to me, and to treat us with every neglect.¹⁷¹

25th August. Arranged our tent to day, and sorted our spices and small stores. This ended in a stormy rainy day and night; the first really wet day we have had: the men were driven from their work at the boat before four o'clock.

The cook, this afternoon, intimated that he wished to speak with me. I went out of the tent and found him, as usual, sharpening his huge carving knife,

which he always wore at his girdle, on the steel, and flourishing it in no very agreeable manner. He told me he had heard that I was not going in the long boat, and as he said he was desirous of sticking by me to the last, he would remain on the Island with me, instead of leaving it with the rest. He said that he was sure we should get on well together while we lived, as he perceived that I was a man of education like himself, and "Why," he added, "if you die first I will bury you, and if I die first you will bury me." I took no notice of his savage manner, but merely told him that I could enter into no agreement with him, as I had little or no voice in the arrangements.

The men were not summoned to prayers this evening, on account of the state of the weather.

Friday, 26th August, 1836.

This morning, with the full moon, the rain cleared, and, though the wind continued, the weather was fine. At half-past seven I set out on a walk to the north end of the Island, to explore the coast and the anchorage ground in that direction.

The latter seemed to answer Horsburgh's account, for there is a pretty smooth flat shore extending to the low-water mark, and little or no surf, although the wind was high, and we had had a gale yesterday. I walked about four and a half or five miles; being led on from point to point, and little headland to headland, in the hopes of seeing something new. I saw the remains of a canoe, made of red wood, like furniture cedar; many remains of wrecks of ships of different ages, such as top-masts, spars, and planks; numerous bamboos and cones of different kinds; some

thick matted roots of grass, blackish like peat; the head of a whale quite fresh, and some old vertebrae, with numerous (some of them recent) remains and marks of turtle. I also saw the remains of a hut; they were only a long bamboo as a ridge pole, lying on the forks of three upright sticks; but I could find nothing to indicate by whom they were erected. They appeared, however, from their high exposed situation on the crest of the land, and from the small cleared spot where they stood, only to have been the remains of a look-out place or voluntary temporary residence, perhaps of a few turtle fishers, as they were near the resorts of turtle, and not far from the anchorage. What struck me as most extraordinary was, that many of the bamboos, three or four inches in diameter, with their branches on, bore the distinct marks of having been cut clean off at one blow of a sharp hatchet; shewing pretty clearly that European tools had been used, and that at a distance, for there are no bamboos growing on this Island. There were also some immense timber trees, beautifully straight, some with their roots and branches on, showing that they must have been drifted. I also saw, this morning, the true coral rock, the winds and waves subjecting it to another revolution: the matrix in which the coral had been imbedded was now wearing away, leaving the sharp, feathery, flowery, and branched corals and madrapores in naked relief.¹⁷² I discovered many tropic birds un-

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der the bushes; they are of a satiny white, with one long red feather in the tail, some of the other feathers being also slightly tinged with red, sometimes with black. They lay but one egg, on the ground, with-out any nest or even hole in the sand. Some were on eggs, some on young, and some preparing to lay. I saw some fish and crabs; also crows, with the white ring round their neck, and white breast; besides a great variety of strange sea birds, and a small land bird, the size of a wren that builds among the bushes: it twitters very prettily like a linnet. The country to the northward was prettier and more sheltered than ours on the east side; some woody eminences, with trees thirty feet high, and birds on them, were all very pretty and even picturesque. I returned from my walk, exhausted with hunger and fatigue, at ten minutes past eleven. I could not discern any other land from the Island.

This afternoon the tide was higher and more beautiful in its swell and surf than any we had yet witnessed. It must have risen, at least, seven or eight feet. The ship's head had, at the neaptides, swung round to the land; last night's gale and to day's tide have reversed her position, her head being towards the sea and the stern to the land. We were wrecked head on, as if we had been running straight for the Island. The force of the surf made it dangerous to attempt to bathe at our usual place; so we extended our walk along the coast, sometimes over very sharp and rugged large pieces of weather-worn decaying coral, at others through deep sand, and again over a pretty beach of beautiful, though much broken, white branch coral

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and shells. At length we came to a little bay, with a sandy beach, which I called Gum Bay, from finding some of that substance on the beach, where we succeeded in getting a very indifferent bath, owing to the violence of the surf and wind, and nearly with the loss of all our clothes, as a huge wave came upon us, and we had just time to save them, much wetted. After bathing, we went a little farther along the shore, where we found the remains

of two small huts, composed of bamboos, erect in the ground, with the knots of their branches on, and a few more tied to them as if to form sides or supports for a roof. They were on turtle ground. The rope the bamboos were tied with was of well platted grass or rushes, which grow on the Island; showing the occupiers were not likely to have been Europeans from any European ship, and the bamboos seemed to have been brought for the purpose of erecting the huts. The huts appeared to have belonged to turtle fishermen; perhaps, negroes left on the Island to fish. Their situation was conspicuous and convenient as a look-out for ships. On our return we found some flowering creeping plants, some strong wild mint, and one of the land birds, about the size of, and not unlike, a mina; before mentioned as like a moorhen or rail. Two fine turtle, two large fish like skates, called by Ishmael tocoz, and said by him to be plentiful at Bombay, and about fifty old maid fish, were caught to day: the latter in a net; the turtle struck with the grains. Prayers this night as usual.

Saturday, 27th August, 1836.

With a bright sun and fine weather the wind con-

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tinues strong, drifting the sand very unpleasantly. The ship is now so near the shore that she may be waded to knee deep at low water. She must have been a wonderfully strong ship, for though her larboard bottom, which constantly strikes and grinds on the rocks, is beaten in, her weather side and upper works are still quite strong and promise to hold together a long time.

I noticed, in my walk to the north and south yesterday, that the remains of the wreck were carried by the tide or current far to the south, and scarce any thing to the north. A party went to the wreck and found a few handfulls of black pepper which they brought away. We highly value spices and all such comforts and delicacies; plain and coarse articles of food being plenty. For the last few days we have been examining and arranging all we have, and found the supply, if economized, ample for some time. The wind and sea so high that we could not venture to bathe. In our walk into the interior and along the beach of the pool in the middle of the Island we found two forked sticks, one bearing the marks of having been cut and used as an upright for a rafter. Prayers as usual.

Sunday, 28th August.

During the whole of last night it blew a strong gale, so that our sleep was much broken by the flapping of our tent and the loud roaring of the sea; it did not, however, rain in the night, which was a great mercy; but we had a few drops about break fast time, which was earlier to day, as Mr. Spurs wished to take a walk with the Doctor to the north-

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ward to take some observations as to our situation, and to examine the coast with a view to leaving the Island in the boat.

Before nine all hands assembled in my tent, when I read the morning service (Doctor Deacon officiating as clerk,) some of the prayers to be used at sea, with psalms and chapters from the New Testament, selected as appropriate to our situation, instead of those laid down for the day. Every one behaved much to my satisfaction. This is our third Sunday on the Island, and it is pleasant to see that it was not the novelty of our situation only that induced them to attend at first. We have great reason to trust that many of us will be better men,

and better christians, for our present awful trial. Prayers concluded this day.

Monday, 29th August, 1836.

It blew very hard last night with some slight showers, which made our tent very uncomfortable. The sea on the breakers, and on the surf, is very high. The flat around the lagoon is quite wet to within a few yards of the store tent. The sand drifts painfully to us with the strong wind. The mate made the latitude of the north end of the Island yesterday $10^{\circ} 7' S.$ and he found my watch correct at twelve o'clock. He went to the anchorage, which he described as a good bay with quite smooth water, and that there were two English large anchors in it, which he waded to and found to be such as were formerly used for hempen cables, differing, in some respects, from those of the present day. The ship's bowsprit and jibboom were blown away last night. About one o'clock I walked with Sibella and servant to take a look at our

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poor ship, The tide was so low, and she had been driven so near the shore, that we could have walked to her only up to our ankles in water; she, however, looked too melancholy for us to have any wish to visit her. We witnessed, at the same time, a sad scene acted by the crew : they had gone on board by the mate's order to look for copper ballast for the boat ; but in searching for it they had hit upon some spirits, cases of cutlery, bales of velvets, and cloth of different colours ; they drank enough to make them wicked, so that they set to and loaded themselves with razors, knives, crimson and black velvet, scarlet and other cloth, &c., as much as they could carry or totter under ; but in their madness they thought they had reason on their side, for, on my remonstrating with them, they replied that they were going to leave the Island without a farthing in their pockets, and without knowing how they should get any money. They intended to carry their plunder for sale. The whole of the afternoon some of the men were very noisy and inclined to be insolent, but as we had several opportunities now of witnessing their excesses when drunk, and their return to their work when sober, we were not much alarmed. One thing, however, was very distressing, and had it not been that we were in hopes of soon getting them away in the boat, we must have noticed it. During our absence on our walk we had left our tent in the charge of Ishmael : the drunken men came into the tent and beat him, and asked for liquor; but they, it seemed, had scarce courage enough to take it, for there were several open boxes of wine there which they did not

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touch : perhaps they did not see them, or suspect what they were. Ishmael got rid of them by giving them some cheese. Such an attempt was very serious, for it was breaking through all that we had to depend on for safety, "our empire of opinion," in fact; I however thought it better to say nothing, as they might think I was not aware of what they had done, and as we had the prospect of getting rid of them so soon quietly. We had taken our walk much farther than we had intended when we set out, so that we explored nearly to the south point of the Island. We found some beautiful shells, corals, and madrapores, and some strange seeds like round beans, and some like tamarind stones. The higher part of the beach which, all round the Island as far as I have been, is lined with large stones, was strewn with bamboos, remains of large trees, some with their roots and branches on, and pieces of wreck of all ages. One old square beam which I examined was teak, and one of the very

large trunks of trees was of the same kind of red wood that the canoe formerly mentioned was cut from : it broke fibrous, and was very straight and long. The coast north and south is a constant succession of small bays ; some with a sandy beach at high water, though at low water the coral reef is bare and rugged ; the bays being divided from each other by rocky points. The longest straight part is opposite our wreck. I again examined the remains of the huts. I found some pieces of fir planks, one piece painted green close to them, which were strong evidences of the people who had occupied them being Europeans, or from an European ship. The wea-

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ther still continues boisterous with squalls and a little rain. We performed a piece of good service to day we hope. A bag of rice had been landed a few days after we were wrecked, but it burst on the shore, and as a good deal of salt water and rain had fallen on it, it was thought useless, and in the hurry of getting up other things it was abandoned. To day, fourteen days after, we had it brought up and opened and cleaned, and though a good deal of it was quite rotten and mouldy, and useless, we really picked out a keg full of pretty good, certainly not uneatable, rice paste; not to be despised by us: it was so much vegetable food saved for an emergency; and we hope to find it passable, boiled up with turtle or salt meat, by and by. We expect to get a little more good out of the refuse to morrow when dry.

The work still goes on at the boat. Yesterday her mast was up and the caulking completed ; but the weather and the late drunken fits of the men have delayed her. She was to have been ready by last full moon. Some of the men got drunk again to day on board the wreck ; and one of them, having stayed too long, was drowned in attempting to come off: he was one of our worst behaved men in every respect. Got some pitch and tar from the wreck. Prayers as usual.

Tuesday, the 30th August, 1836.

The wind continues very high. The paying of the boat is going on, and it promises to be ready for sea in a few days. She now looks pretty well and is partly decked. Prepared some empty bottles to be put on board the boat, to be cast overboard at sea, daily,

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hermetically sealed ; and each containing two copies of the following notice, which I wrote out on stout drawing board,--" The Tiger of Liverpool is wrecked on the large Island of Juan de Nova or Farguha Island, lat. 10° S. The crew and passengers are on the south east side of the Island. The anchorage is at the north side.

"W. Stirling,

Captain,

"Bombay Native

Infantry."

This forenoon I tested with sulphuric acid¹⁷³, diluted with 90 per cent of water, all the pieces of coral, shell, sand, and rock of every different appearance, that I had from time to time picked up in my walks ; and I found that they all but one effervesced strongly with the diluted acid : the one which did not, was so hard as to require the assistance of a file to enable the acid to work on it. It was pure white, had the appearance of very compact quartz, and was taken from a ball in the middle of a common coral rock. Prayers as usual.

Wednesday, 31st August, 1836.

The weather continues very boisterous. We had one of our disagreeable nights, which have not been unfrequent lately. Our tent being made of an awning which is very light canvass, it is too weak to stand being very well secured, and it contracts and stretches very much when wet or dry : when dry, being loose and light, it flaps and flies about with the wind, and its edges stir up the sand and dirt, so that they fly and settle thick all over us in bed, which, as

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may be supposed, is very disagreeable, sleeping as we do on our mattresses laid on the ground. That is bad enough, but the noise and ceaseless roar of the sea breaking on the coral rocks is, I think, even more painful. They, combined, effectually banish sleep, or disturb it with frightful dreams of shipwreck, storms, and dangers. Yesterday evening, on our walk, we were startled by what appeared to be a man on a distant eminence. I gazed on it intently, looking first on one side, then on the other; then from a height, then along the tops of the bushes; but it did not move. It had exactly the outline of a smart, well dressed, English sailor; so that I really had some hopes that a ship had arrived on the opposite side of the Island. Sibella, however, was less sanguine: she was right ; for it turned out to be an upright post of one of the huts formerly mentioned, which our position and the evening glare had thrown into relief.

The boat is decked; the deck covered with painted canvass, and the rudder fitted. Yesterday evening we were surprised to find the ship's rudder and keel (which had been only two days before at our landing place,) at our bathing beach, which is about three furlongs to the southward. The keel had lain, from the time of our wreck, eighteen days, at the landing place.

The corpse of Irish Jack, as he was called, and who was drowned on the 29th, was found this morning. The sharks had eaten away his right shoulder and upper part of the arm, and his head and face were so rubbed on the rocks that all the hair was off, and his features could scarcely be recognized. At about half-

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past three o'clock I received a message from the men, requesting I would attend and read the funeral service, with which I complied. The man had, it might be said, died by his own hand; and drunkenness had been lately carried to such excess, that it became almost necessary to mark our sense of their misconduct, and that of the deceased, by-withholding our assistance and countenance ; but as the crew had dug a grave and had made the request, I thought it might be better not to outrage their feelings by a refusal. I was happy I attended, for the unfortunate man's fate had evidently made a deep impression on them, and they all performed their parts in the ceremony and extraordinary scene with so much decency and solemnity, that it became quite affecting; and I felt a hope that such excesses as we had witnessed were at an end. The grave was dug in the sand, about a hundred yards above high-water mark, but had, from its sides constantly falling in as the men dug, become more like a circle or oval, than the usual form of a grave. The corpse was laid on the sea beach, wrapped in a sail, which had been washed ashore, surrounded by the men ; some with, some without, shoes; some in red, others in check, shirts and trowsers; with unshaven beards, and large uncut locks. The surf beat high and loud, which, with the strong wind,

made such a noise, that my utmost efforts could scarce make me heard when I read. The grave was in a less exposed, though by no means quiet, place ; but we were driven to it at a quick step by the wind, with our hats and caps off, and under our arms for security; the corpse accompanying at such a pace, that,

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from a distance we might have been taken for a band of smugglers running a race, rather than a mournful group performing the last duty to an unfortunate fellow creature. Some of the deceased's companions in drunkenness seemed affected to nearly shedding tears, and when the ceremony was ended I availed myself of the occasion to speak strongly and with becoming gravity to some who had been most forward; but who, from not being confirmed drunkards, and better brought up than their neighbours, I hoped to make a lasting impression on. Prayers as usual, all attending.

Thursday, 1st September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 84°.

We expected to have reached Bombay before this time. We think from to day, those interested will ask, " What has become of the Tiger?"

This has been a very busy day : our tent and baggage were moved into a more sheltered situation. To clear the ground of the bushes, to erect the tent, and bring in our things, took the whole day. I worked hard, cutting and carrying the long and rough bushes, which tore my hands a good deal, not being used to such work ; and in going to the beach to fetch planks and spars to support the tent. I was nearly the whole day at hard work, under a sun only ten degrees from the equator, deep in sand as white as snow ; and instead of feeling the worse for it, I was all the better, though very much scorched and burnt.

Two parties went out to fish ; one brought a small turtle, and the other a considerable quantity

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of remarkably fine and delicate fish, which they caught in a net of their own making.

When clearing the ground, we found a bed of decayed leaves under the bushes, about three inches thick, and in all the old decayed roots of the trees and bushes there were nests containing myriads of fierce-looking reddish ants, about half an inch long ; but they were quite harmless. Prayers as usual.

Friday, 2nd September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 82°.

This being the last quarter of the moon, we were in hopes that the wind would moderate; but it continues as strong as before, with a few showers.

We found our tent much quieter and more comfortable than at our first place ; and to day we have been employed in arranging it to the best advantage. The floor is very loose sand, so that our chairs sink up to the cross bars as soon as we sit down on them. We have arranged the tent so that we have an opening to windward, which allows the delicious sea breeze to blow through it, but which we can shut up at pleasure. Two parties went out to fish, one for turtle, and the other for small fish, or what they could catch. Both went into the pool (a large pool, or lagoon, in the middle of the Island, communicating with the sea at the south end), but they came home at night without any success. That was serious matter for reflection; for it showed, that when left to the resources of the Island, we might be ill off

some times. The turtle party reported that they had struck several with the grains and with knives, and got hold of them in the water with their hands, but the animals

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proved too strong for them. If they were too strong for three or four of the stoutest men among us, what have we, of weaker frame, who are to remain, to expect? The water besides, which is shallow, swarms with sharks, but they are very timid, swimming up close to us, but darting off when turned on. About twenty of them, of different sizes, were struck with the grains and spears. They proved a great annoyance to the fishing party; constantly biting off their baits, and breaking their hooks, and rendered it impossible to fish with the net.

It is somewhat singular, that the squalls of rain, instead of being attracted by the body of our Island, generally divide before they reach it from seaward, part going over the north and the rest over the south end, and apparently without exhausting themselves. Perhaps the remainder of the group to leeward of us have a stronger power of attraction.¹⁷⁴ Prayers as usual.

Saturday, 3rd September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 82°.

This morning before breakfast I went to the beach and brought up two suitable boards, and after breakfast, having procured some white paint, with an old shaving brush I wrote on each of them, in as large characters as they would admit of, the following, to be placed on poles on conspicuous places near the anchorage, 'The Tiger is wrecked on the south east

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side of this Island ; the crew and passengers are there : save them."

To day our fishermen were more successful than yesterday, having caught a large turtle, thirty-two fine fish, and a large stinging ray.

This evening Sibella and I set out early to take a long walk towards the mouth of the pool, where it joins with the sea; and we were well rewarded, by one of the most novel, I may indeed add, beautiful and truly tropical, scenes I ever saw. The sea roaring and beating on the rocks was visible through the trees about half a mile off; and we stood on the coral margin of the lagoon, which here narrowed and winded like a large river running with a rapid current, as the tide ebbed, to the sea. The opposite shore was densely wooded to the water side with trees, of good height, of the richest green ; on which thousands of birds, of pure white plumage, roosted in security. The stream and bar were studded with woody Islands, and naked rocks of jagged weather-worn coral; a thicket of fresh green flowering bushes was behind us, rising to the height of ten or twelve feet, their branches swarming with humming birds; and over the whole, the sun was setting in great richness. We lingered there as long as it was prudent, but the rapid approach of night obliged us soon to depart. Prayers as usual.

Sunday, 4th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the open air, at six, a. m. 72°.

This forenoon read the morning prayers and communion to the people, with the most appropriate chapters of the Bible I could discover, as lessons.

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Our fourth week on the Island is now running on, and so busy have we all been about the boat, fishing, getting provisions collected from the wreck, and our own immediate pursuits, that no steps have been taken to ensure our relief even in case a ship should arrive off the Island. The written boards were prepared yesterday, and to day it was agreed that I should take a walk to the anchorage, fix the boards in the most conspicuous places on the coast, ascertain whether a direct transit path from camp to the north end of the lagoon existed; whether, that being found, it was practicable, without excessive labour, to make a path from its shore across the country to the anchorage; to endeavour to get a bearing of the camp by compass from near the anchorage; and to make any further general observations in my power. We set out a quarter before twelve o'clock, having a large ship compass, a telescope, a hammer, gimlet, nails, twine, and some sticks to fix the boards on; with a bottle of wine, one of water, and a few biscuits in a basket. We found that after walking about two miles the water was close to the shore, which was very rough coral rock; the thick bushes, in many places, coming down to the water's edge, so as to compel us to wade in the muddy-bottomed water. I was therefore of opinion, that for the purpose intended, no road existed. We, in consequence, turned off to gain the sea beach, which we did after considerable toil, the jungle being thick and strong in some places, entwined with ropy creepers. After walking a mile along the shore, sometimes in deep sand, at others over sharp rugged coral, I fixed to a stout

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spar, which I found there, one of our boards, and erected it on a conspicuous place. At about a mile further we found a four-pounder iron cannon, lying near high-water mark, among the rocks: one of the trunions was nearly ground off, and the other considerably rubbed. There was no cypher or mark visible, but the vent was stopped, as they are usually stopped in merchant ships. The form of the gun was not modern. Soon after, we arrived at the north cape of the bay, which was large, and placid like a mill pond; the sea spraying lightly over the coral reefs, which run out from its extremities. Towards the centre of the bay, above high-water mark, we erected our second board. Close inland we found the remains of huts and other conveniences of a large party, and surrounded by hundreds of turtle shells piled in regular order; also some marks of digging in the rock for water, in whose hollows we found a little which was yellow and stagnant, but sweet to the taste. We next endeavoured to make our way to an eminence about four hundred yards inland, from whence we hoped to see the camp, as well as to take bearings. After a hard push through the thick jungle we reached it, and found the camp bear south-half-east. We hoisted an old pocket handkerchief on a paddle which we found at the huts, and tied it to the top of a tree. We, at the same time, saw the bay and the lagoon; and on further examination were delighted to discover that some former party had cut a path of communication between them for the convenience (we conjectured) of turtling and fishing. We walked down it, and were gratified, as may be sup-

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posed, to find it touch the lagoon at a convenient landing place; thereby making a discovery the most important, as it will enable us to launch our cutter in the lagoon, and keep up an easy, direct, and much shorter communication with the anchorage than that by the beach: a great advantage now that the men's shoes are nearly worn out, and the coral, over which we

have to walk, being as sharp as needles and the points of scissors. A few young palm trees edged the path, and there were two growing, one on each side, where it ended at the pool. We had a very weary walk home, which we did not reach till a quarter past six, although we waded upwards of a mile to make a short cut. In our rambles we found a variety of picturesque trees and shrubs, some bearing fruit, some flowers ; flowering aloes, a green milk bush which grew like a creeper, and several large and small birds of beautiful plumage : one like a large heron. Prayers as usual.

Monday, 5th September, 1836.

Thermometer at six, a. m. in the open air 72° : in the shade at noon 84° .

Though I was out from a quarter to twelve yesterday till dark, walking through deep sand, thick bushes, and over sharp rocks, under a very hot sun, and wading through mud and water upward of a mile, I slept well, and felt none the worse this morning.

A party of fishers went out with the net, and in a few hours brought back thirty beautiful fish, some weighing six or seven pounds. Five were mullet, and the remainder shining and bright silvery with a greenish back, which my servant said was the stump nose of the Cape.

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About one, p. m. it set in rainy, and continued so till night in sharp showers. Prayers as usual.

Tuesday, 6th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 85° : at half-past six, a. m. in the open air 74° .

Several smart showers to day. Tried, though hopelessly, to save, by drying, a cask of wet and mouldy barley, that had been in the water since we were wrecked. From noon the wind fell considerably, and it is thought likely we shall be able, if it continue moderate, to launch the long-boat to morrow, to take her empty on trial, through the surf and breakers, round to the anchorage where the water is smooth; there repair her again if necessary, and carry the provisions, &c., to her across the Island, through the lagoon and by the path discovered on Sunday.

That, it is supposed, will lessen the risk to the boat; at all events, save the provisions and stores, should any accident happen to her on getting off.

A party went to the ship to day under the mate, to get some casks of salt provisions for those who are to remain on the Island. They, after great labour, got three of beef and one of pork, and a few small comforts. The provisions, being heavy, had worked themselves nearly to the bottom of the ship, while the lighter cases and casks had been floated uppermost. They were consequently obliged to stave about twenty casks of beer and destroy many valuable things to get at the provisions. It is very hard that we cannot have the beer on shore, but we cannot trust it within reach of the sailors. The ship still holds well together, though there are several large holes in her larboard

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or lee bottom. She fills at every tide, but nothing has escaped from her hold, although almost every thing buoyant, cast overboard, comes on shore. Two men, who had secreted themselves to day in the ship, drinking or plundering, and could not be found for a long time, were refused a place in the boat to come on shore, as a punishment; and were left on board to chew the cud of their misconduct.

Now, at low-water spring-tides, the water nearly leaves the ship; but, at neap or other

tides, she cannot be waded to at any time. The men came off, however, in the night.

The men being remonstrated with about their excessive drinking when they could get liquor, one replied, "Do you think, Sir, any thing but plenty of beer would induce us to stay on this desert Island?" as if they could help themselves. This is the anniversary of our wedding-day. We had a couple of glasses of Constantia wine in honour of the occasion.¹⁷⁵ Prayers as usual.

Wednesday, 7th September, 1836.

Too busy to day to look at the thermometer.

At a quarter before twelve we were summoned to the beach, as the boat was ready to launch. Sibella and I ran down as fast as we could through the deep sand, so that, when we reached the boat, we were nearly out of breath. We found the carpenter and his people busy making their arrangements to lower her on to spars placed parallel to her keel, and under her bottom. That was soon done. Then all hands of us were called to launch her, but we could not,

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with all our strength, move her a hair's breadth. That made some of us look rather thoughtful, particularly as she was some yards inland, with the sand high in front, and the weight of the boat had bent the spars under her, so that she lay in a hollow on them. A kedge anchor¹⁷⁶ and tackle were soon got ready, however; the rope by which the boat was to be dragged was placed round the lower part of her keel (she was head to sea), and fastened to the anchor fixed with its fluke on the sand on the beach, with a large stone and a man on the top of it to keep it down. All hands were again applied to the tackle, and, after a good deal of pulling, the boat moved a little, but the anchor dragged also. We had, however, great encouragement in what we had effected; and, by continuing our exertions, we succeeded in launching her at ten minutes before two o'clock, a little more than half an hour before high-water: so that to move her forty yards, the greater part down the slope of the beach, took us about two hours and a half. The launch was excellent; one surf raised her so as to assist us in our labours, and the next enabled us to force her clear into deep water, without her touching the ground after she was once off it. To see our little "Hope," as she was named, floating lightly and elegantly on the water, so much beyond our anticipations, was quite overpowering; and my poor wife burst into tears at the sight. The kedge had been carried out by the cutter through an unusually high surf, and the "Hope" now lay outside it, at anchor.

But the most interesting part of our undertaking was yet to come, namely, to ballast and put in a few

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necessaries, to make her fit to encounter the breakers; and then to get her safe off through them, and round to the anchorage bay on the lee side of the Island.

The ballasting went on with great activity, but, owing to the high surf and our very limited means, it was not completed as was wished even at four o'clock, when the tide was ebbing fast. The critical moment had, however, arrived; for half an hour's delay would have left her in shallow water and a high surf, with the sharp coral rocks under her, so that she would perhaps have been knocked to pieces, or, at all events, greatly injured. At four o'clock the cutter was again sent out with a tow-line, to endeavour to keep the "Hope's" head to sea, and

to keep her off shore until she could get under weigh. It succeeded for some time, but, as the men in the "Hope" tried to raise the anchor, they found their strength unequal to bringing it on deck, though they had lifted it from the bottom. Fortunately her sails were all hoisted, and every thing ready to start, for, at this moment, a huge sea struck the cutter and dashed her towards the shore, rendering her quite powerless to tow the "Hope;" and the "Hope" herself, deprived of the support of the cutter and her own anchor, was, by the same sea, driven so close to the shore that she struck on the rocks. That was an awful moment of suspense for us who were looking on within a dozen yards, but without the power to render any assistance. The simultaneous rush of us all towards the vessel the breathless intensity of feeling expressed on every countenance--and the action of every hand and foot, as if bent on a desperate effort to save our "Hope"

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from destruction, proved how deeply we were all interested in her fate. Happily, however, we were speedily relieved from suspense, and our admiration and joy were as great as our fears had been.

After rising and falling among the breaking waves for a minute or two, in great danger, the wind suddenly filled her sails, the anchor was slipped, she made a bound or two onwards, and then, having got under weigh, she darted off, like an arrow from a bow, to the southward, full at the breakers. We clapped our hands with joy, exclaiming, "She is safe I--she is safe!--how beautiful!--Oh! how beautiful!" running to keep her in sight as long as possible. She now approached the breakers which gird the coast at the distance of between a quarter and half a mile, the sea foaming and breaking with dreadful fury. To pass them was the greatest danger, for, if the boat struck the rocks there, she must inevitably have gone to pieces, and all hands on board perished; but she stemmed the waves in beautiful style, though she laboured and tossed in the high and troubled sea with great violence, and, in a quarter of an hour from her leaving the shore, we had the happiness to see the "Hope" in smooth water with a slackened sheet, round the south point of the Island, running for her destination. Sibella and I ran faster, I believe, than we had ever done before, and over sharp rocks, through deep sand, heaps of shells and corals, trying to keep her in sight, till we reached the creek on the west side, about a mile and a half from our camp. We did not get home till half past six, when, as may be supposed, we were much

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fatigued by the labour and excitement of this interesting day.

The exertions of the men were quite astonishing. When the tide rose, so that we had no footing on shore for the kedge, it was carried into the sea, held down by three or four men; though the swell went over their heads, every breaker knocking them down, and scarce giving them time to breathe. After that, the kedge was carried out to the cutter which, in the surf, rose several times right on end, and nearly filled with water; but the men held on, and the "Hope" was finally launched. The copper, for ballast, was dragged on board through the surf, fastened to a plank to lighten it. Prayers as usual.

Thursday, 8th September, 1836.

Early this morning the cutter was carried into the lagoon; the anchor of the "Hope" was recovered at low-water; and the people were busy preparing stores, to be taken across to the anchorage. After breakfast almost all hands set out with their loads. The weather was

fine in the morning, and, between nine and ten o'clock, we were gratified by the arrival of Mr. Spurs in camp; who, with his crew of five men, had safely reached the anchorage about dark last night, all well.

The labours of the day were, however, interrupted by rain which, about noon, set in, and continued, with wind and clouds, till night. The people caught a beautiful female turtle in the pool, and a stinguray, or stinging ray; but the latter we found so tough as to be almost uneatable.¹⁷⁷ The turtle was very fat, but

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she had only a few very small eggs in her, which was rather a disappointment. I amused myself by drying some flowers, and arranging shells and specimens of rock; completing some bearings, and making a map of our Island. We found the cask of wetted barley a failure; but the rice, which we dried and took care of some time ago, we had for dinner, and found it very palatable. Sibella made some sand-paper for the lucifers¹⁷⁸, by sprinkling pounded china on gummed drawing-board.

Mr. Spurs caught one of a great number of sea crabs which he saw; we had it for breakfast, and it proved good. It was three or four pounds weight. Smaller land and sea crabs are numerous: the latter walk about every where, and occupy any empty shell that comes in their way, which has a very ludicrous effect. The land crabs we found pretty good eating. Prayers as usual.

Friday, 9th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 81°: in the sun 100°.

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A fine, though somewhat windy, day. Mr. Spurs slept in camp last night, and remained to day to send all hands over with stores and necessaries for the "Hope." They started, well laden, after breakfast; and, on their way, turned a turtle. Three boys went to fish with the net, and caught more than they could bring home. Some were very fine mullet; one, a deep fish, with a sharp thorn, about three quarters of an inch long, on each side near the tail, which it appeared able to throw out, or lay flat at pleasure into a hollow running from its root forward. Sibella made some good tinder for the boat.

We set out early this afternoon to sow some garden seeds in a suitable place, and to collect shells and corals; but we were so busy with our shells that we had not time to prepare the ground and sow the seeds. Though we have frequent showers, the soil is so sandy that it absorbs the moisture immediately. It may therefore be better to wait till the rainy season sets in, the end of next month. I put in some pumpkin seeds three weeks ago: they came up in a fortnight; but though we have had a good deal of rain since, they do not thrive, but look sickly. I will, however, try some of the seeds to day, or to morrow, and save the rest for a better season. Long withered grass, reeds, rushes, and other decayed plants, give strong evidence that at other seasons much rain falls on the Island, producing an abundant vegetation. We found many beautiful, though small, pieces of branch coral and madrapores; several pretty mosslike sea weeds, growing on branches of coral; and some handsome but injured shells, chiefly of dead

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fish. We also found some seeds, and a piece of gum, as large as a walnut, on the south beach. Among the seeds were four sweet almonds, their shells and husks quite fresh ; and a sort of nut like a large horse chesnut, with a fresh kernel, rough and astringent when raw, but when roasted, not unpalatable, some thing between a bad sweet chesnut and a good acorn. It being high-water a little after four, we could not bathe for the surf, which was very high. The wind was fresh but not very boisterous.

We had a sumptuous dinner to day of turtle, soup, and a variety of fish fried and boiled. Prayers as usual.

Saturday, 10th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 83° : in the sun 102°.

We had a clear starry night, which made it very light; and this is a fine day, though rather warmer than yesterday : the wind moderate.

It is new moon to day a little before one o'clock. On the morning of the seventh it was squally, with rain ; but at one o'clock (three days from the new moon) it cleared up; next day about one o'clock it set in wet, and continued so till night.

Yesterday was fine, and so is to day. Hitherto the weather has been more regular at the springs and quarterings.

A few of the men got on board the wreck to day and found some rum, with which they got drunk; and one was disposed to be violent.

In our walk last night we found, on the beach, a beautiful rounded piece of light lava; but it was pro-

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bably a piece I had brought off with me from the Island of Tristan D' Achuna,¹⁷⁹ when I visited it in October last; and had been floated ashore from one of my broken-up trunks in the wreck. Copied the phases of the moon for the remainder of this year, out of the "Nautical Almanack and Astronomical Ephemeris," as that book is wanted for the boat. Also notices from Horsburgh of Juan de Nova, Astova, &c.

The men are all now removed to the north-west end of the Island, close to the anchorage, among some fine large trees. They have dug in the sand in vain for water, so that they have to be supplied from our camp, between three and four miles distant. The "Hope" has had her defects rectified. Prayers as usual.

Sunday, 11th September, 1836.

Read prayers privately this morning, as the mate wanted all hands to make a trip to the wreck for some necessaries required for his voyage.

The wells filled higher to day and yesterday than they had ever done before ; the water flowing over the casks, and to within three feet of the surface of the sand.

Yesterday was new moon, but the tide this evening, at about half-past four, was the highest we had witnessed since we landed on the Island. The weather continues fine. Prayers this evening as usual.

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Monday, 12th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 87 : in the sun at noon 105.

Weather continues fine. One of the birds called by me a moorhen, was caught to day: it is about the *size* of a partridge : bill an inch long, and well clear of the head feathers;

tongue, thin, long, and rugged at the point ; head and breast, as far as the legs, reddish brown; chin, white; under the rump and wings, and on the thighs, feathers barred with white; a few white feathers in the tail, which is short, and above like the back and wing coverts, dirty green ; upper and lower mandible, nearly the same length, but the lower the shorter. They are very tame and came close up to the tents without fear. The men, who killed and ate some, say they are very good. Sometimes in walking through the most retired and lonely places, I find myself accompanied by these little birds: they run by my side like tame companions without fear, but they do not allow themselves to be caught. The Doctor has had a hard day's work, with all the hands he could muster, drawing and carrying water from the well across to the cutter, partly for the use of the people at the anchorage and partly for the "Hope."

Provisions are cooking for the "Hope."

In our walk yesterday evening we were fortunate enough to find several pieces of good charcoal on the beach, an article we were much in want of to keep the water for the boat sweet. We had not been able to obtain any fit for the purpose from any wood we had burned. Prayers as usual.

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Tuesday, 13th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at one, p. m., 84°.

A fine morning. Yesterday Mr. Spurs took the latitude of the anchorage and made it 10° 8' S. Provisions cooking and stores preparing for the "Hope."

Yesterday evening I prepared a piece of land and sowed some melons, pumpkins, mustard, cress, knoll coll, and parsley. I was surprised to find the soil, on turning it up, not sand, but very like good garden ground.

The pumpkins I sowed more than three weeks ago in the sand, as I have said, came up; but as we have not had any rain for some days, they have drooped. Last night I lifted four or five plants to the neighbourhood of my tent: they appear healthy to day. To night, and on several other occasions, observed considerable quantities of black and pale-brown lava on the beach: it is so light as to float on the water, and its sharp angles break off with the force of the hand. Killed a small centipede to day, of which two or three had been seen before.

Mr. Spurs had frequently, lately, requested me to read to him Horsburgh's notice of Astova and the Cosmoledo Islands, as if he did not feel free from suspicion that we might be on one of them. I was unwilling to allow myself to be perplexed with doubts, which we could not solve, on the subject, as they might be productive of much mischief; for however ill our Island agreed with Horsburgh's description of Juan de Nova, we knew nothing whatever of Astova, except its supposed latitude and longitude ; and the latter placed it upwards of 200 miles to the westward

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of Juan de Nova, our position by reckoning. I could not reject the possibility of our being mistaken, and accordingly, on the 10th, Sibella had copied for me, from Horsburgh, all that he said about Astova. Its latitude and that of Juan de Nova are nearly the same. I put the question direct to Mr. Spurs to day, whether he had any doubt of our being on Juan de Nova; to which he replied, that he had not the slightest doubt.

Wednesday, 14th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 85° : in the sun 102°.

Arrangements going on for completing the "Hope." This afternoon, about four o'clock, Mr. Spurs sent over to announce that she was quite ready, and would sail as soon after daylight to morrow morning as possible, for the Seychelles. The men were allowed to draw off, and take over with them to the anchorage, a small cask of beer to make merry with, which they soon finished ; but then, thinking it would be well to have some in the boat, they actually came over at midnight, when quite dark, went on board the wreck, and returned again before day-light with their cask full : the trip was more than six miles, about five of it through pretty deep water with bad bottom; the part from the beach to the ship being sharp and rough coral, and many of the men's feet naked and sore. So much for their love of beer. Mr. Spurs told me he made the longitude of the Island 50° 30' east, which makes it certain that we are on Juan de Nova.

After prayers Mr. Spurs addressed all hands, and informed them, that in consequence of the lamented

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death of Captain Searight, the command and direction of affairs had devolved on him. Now that he was going away, the charge of every thing, and the command of the people left, would devolve on Mr. Blore as his representative. Then addressing Mr. Blore, he desired that he would endeavour to do every thing that was right ; telling him to make friends of me and the Doctor; and in his conduct and general management of affairs he was to consult with us. He impressed on the people the necessity of good and obedient conduct in all things.

I entrusted Mr. Spurs with a packet of letters¹⁸⁰ for our friends in England and India, and one for the Governor or chief authority at whatever port he might arrive at, seeking for help.

Thursday, 15th September, 1836.

This morning at daylight we were all up, and a party of us went over to the anchorage with Mr. Spurs. We found the "Hope," and her crew, consisting of eleven men, all ready and in good spirits for their voyage; though some looked rather the worse for their sleepless night and potations.

A tin-pot of brandy was handed round, and we all drank out of it success to the " Hope" in her interesting voyage.

¹⁸¹We then shook hands with the mate and men, wishing them a successful and comfortable voyage, and in a few minutes the vessel's sails were loose and

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hoisted, all hands on board, and at seven o'clock precisely she sailed away with a fine breeze, in good trim, and with three hearty cheers from all on shore. We kept her in sight till eight o'clock, when she disappeared under the horizon.

The "Hope" was in her extreme length above thirty feet ; extreme breadth, eight feet ; and she had been raised on the sides about one foot.

She was coppered inside and out, and decked ; her pumps were rigged ; and every convenient arrangement was made for the careful stowage of the provisions, chronometers, charts, instruments, and the ample supply of every thing they took with them.

She had abundant provision for twelve days, viz. eighteen hams, six or eight pieces of

beef, five or six of pork, bundles of sausages all cooked, a cheese, a chest of biscuit, a small cask of water, and a keg of spirits; so that on short allowance it could be greatly extended. Six days is the passage to be expected, or even shorter, wind and weather proving favourable; the distance, in all its windings, not being more than six hundred miles.

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A vessel might be here from the Seychelles, if ready there on our boat's arrival, in about fifteen days, or even less ; but we shall not be anxious before a month.

Put some flowers and leaves to dry for my hortus siccus.

To day the provisions were all counted and well arranged, and they were found ample for a long period; viz.-- one hundred and twenty hams, two casks of beef, three large cheeses, a chest of biscuit, some flour, oatmeal, rice, barley, wine, brandy, &c., besides what we might get afterwards from the wreck. I cannot but look on such ample supplies as a distinct warning to prepare for a long residence on the Island, before relief shall be sent to us : but the numerous articles of luxury, such as tea, sugar, wine, beer, sago, rice; and spices, besides the more solid food, which were almost daily brought on shore in small quantities, gave us strong grounds to hope that our privations would not be insupportably great. Prayers as usual.

Friday, 16th September, 1836.

Thermometer in shade at noon 80°; in sun 92°.

Last night and this morning the weather has been beautifully mild and favourable for our boat. From ten, a. m., it set in with a few showers of large drops of rain, but seldom lasting more than a minute at a time: cleared up at one, p. m., and the rest of the day continued very fine. We went out to fish, but were unsuccessful. The boys caught a fine dish.

The moon was beautiful, and the constellations of the great and small southern cross very bright. There

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were a few clouds in the sky, but the night was altogether fine. In the night I was taken suddenly ill; which was the more alarming as, in case of illness, our diet and work would be very unfavourable. Put some flowers and leaves to dry.¹⁸² Prayers as usual.

Saturday, 17th September, 1836.

Thermometer in shade at half-past one, p. m., 84°; ditto in sun 96°: six, p. m., 76°: eight, p. m., 74°.

Mr. Blore and party went across the pool, in the cutter, for the purpose of bringing away some water casks and other useful articles, left at the anchorage by the Hope's party; and to erect a tall flag-staff where we saw the huts. We employed ourselves in drying and examining flowers.

The servants reported that they had seen, not far off, our two sheep that had run away on our arrival here, and that they were grown very large and fat. With the first quarter of the moon, to day, the weather set in cloudy, with rain and an increase of wind. Collected some specimens of wreck and Island wood. The melons and mustard and cress up (in four days). Prayers as usual.

Sunday, 18th September, 1836.

Thermometer at six, a. m., 76 in air: at eight, p. m., 76 in air: at noon in shade 80.

Early this morning the Doctor went out with his gun to endeavour to shoot a sheep, but

he did not get a sight of them. He, however, shot two sand-pipers,

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and a bird which seemed to be between a pigeon and a dove. We had them for breakfast, and they proved fleshy, juicy, tender, and well tasted.

At half-past ten we all assembled for prayers. I read the morning service, with the litany; the Doctor, as usual, officiating as clerk.

Weather showery in the forenoon, but cleared up in the evening. We took a walk on the beach, and picked up some pretty shells, corals, a rolled piece of basalt, and some fragments of old wreck.

Beautiful starlight, shewing the great southern cross very distinctly. Prayers as usual.

Monday, 19th September, 1836.

A fishing party went out, and caught twenty-nine fine fish; and a turtling party caught one turtle. We have now ascertained that we can only fish with success in the lagoon at neap tides, for, at springs and a few days after, the water is both deep and discoloured, so that the fish and turtle cannot be well seen or followed. Sibella to day made a quantity of very good salt, by boiling down sea water: hitherto we had salted our food by boiling or frying salt beef or ham with it. Weather clear and moderate. At eight, p. m., saw the great cross; and, as the moon was setting, about two, a. m., saw the smaller.

This evening, dug a piece of ground in a sheltered place, and sowed mustard, cress, onions, raddishes, cucumbers, parsley, spinach, peas, beet, turnips, and carrots. What I sowed before, all came up; but the pig, or the dogs, or the rats, destroyed part of them: the rest are thriving. Cut some specimens of wood.

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There are many pumpkin plants up in different places. Prayers as usual.

Tuesday, 20th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the air at six, a. m., 75: in the sun at noon 108: in the shade at ditto 87: in the air at eight, p. m., 76.

This morning, before breakfast, I took the axe and saw, and cut down some tough stout bushes, and fenced the garden with them; also cut some specimens of hard timber.¹⁸³

At twelve o'clock, though the day was excessively hot, Sibella and I set out on an exploring excursion, our plan being to cross the creek at its mouth, explore the south-west side of the Island, reach the south point of Anchorage Bay, and complete my map. The tide was up when we reached the creek, about one o'clock, so that we could not cross till it fell, at near three o'clock. That was a disappointment, as it hurried us afterwards, and lost a great deal of time. We, however, amused ourselves on the edge of the creek, looking in shallow water for turtle, at the shoals of fish, and in endeavouring to spear the numerous sharks with a knife tied to the end of a stick. They were generally from two to four feet long, and would swim close up to us, but, the moment they were threatened, they darted off. I also got some specimens of flowers and timber.

Before three I succeeded in wading across the creek, and, as it was not very deep, I returned for Sibella, who then waded across with me; I being armed with

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my stick and knife to defend us from the sharks, and to feel the bottom with. The west side of the Island looks beautiful from the east, it being very prettily skirted with trees, and, near the anchorage, it abounds in rare birds and flowering shrubs, so that we expected a great treat in our excursion to that side of the Island; but we were sadly disappointed, for, instead of being such as we anticipated, we found nothing but a coast of the most rugged and sharp precipitous coral cliffs along the whole shore, about twenty feet high, which are hollowed into deep narrow bays and coves; the tops of the rocks, worn by the weather and the sea into pinnacles and points as sharp as needles, being the only footing. We walked on those points, with great difficulty, for an hour: we could not get off them, for, to their edge, the jungle grew thick and matted, so as to be impenetrable, sometimes coming so close to the cliffs as scarce to give us room to pass without great danger.. Sibella was tired, but she was determined, if possible, to reach the anchorage, her spirits keeping her up. It was however getting late (ten minutes past four), and we had nearly three miles to get back to dinner, including the bad road over the rocks, and the passage of the creek: I, therefore, entreated her to sit down at "Sibella's Rest," or "Point Despair," and allow me to go on and reach the point we were in search of, which she, at last, consented to; and, after the most fatiguing walk I ever encountered, over pointed rocks, climbing and descending jagged cliffs, endeavouring to force my way through matted jungle, and on the lee side of the Island where there was no breeze, I had the satisfaction of reaching the

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south point of the bay (the desired point) in thirty-five minutes. The fatigue was excessive, for I walked and scrambled as fast as I possibly could; and had it not been a point of honour with me to reach South Cape, as well as to fix it accurately on my map, I really think I should have been tempted to turn back : Sibella, too, was waiting for me, by herself, on the wild cliff of a desert shore, and as I had already been longer away than she had expected, I was afraid she might be alarmed ; I therefore no sooner gained my object, and looked about me to see that all was right, than I retraced my steps as fast as I could. When I rejoined her, I found I had been absent an hour and ten minutes. As it becomes dark at about seven o'clock, it was necessary to push on to get across the creek by daylight, which we barely accomplished; and at twenty minutes past seven, after a hot and fatiguing day's work of seven hours, we reached home, wet and weary, to dinner. The latter part of our walk was by moonlight, partly through mud, water, and jungle, in which we at one time lost our way. We scarcely saw a shell or any thing to bring away but a piece of rough coral rock, as a specimen. A rush-like plant was in pretty white flower; and, as I turned northward from Sibella's Rest, the vegetation changed. Mixed with other plants were aloes in flower, milk bush, an orange-like tree, and a few more that I have not seen on the east side. I found a little salt in a hollow of a rock, the first we had seen. The sea water always struck us as being very sweet. We found many tropic birds¹⁸⁴ sitting on their eggs, but we did

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not molest them. In my absence, Sibella saw a very large turtle; and, in my excursion, I saw some handsome birds, in appearance and plumage like pigeons. Prayers as usual.

Wednesday, 21st September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 84°: in the sun 107°.

Weather fine. Yesterday I slightly sprained my foot, which is sore and stiff to day; but

neither Sibella nor myself are so tired as we might expect. In her walk yesterday, on stepping on one of the sharp coral rocks, it gave way, which caused her to fall, and cut and otherwise scratch her leg a good deal : she says it is very painful to day.

In the evening we went to the beach to bathe, and afterwards I cut down bushes and surrounded the first garden with them. It had been a good deal trampled on by the men and beasts, being in a very exposed situation; but we have the satisfaction to find in it, notwithstanding, mustard and cress, melons, pumpkins, and knole cole up and looking well, while, near my tent, there are marrow-fat peas and raddishes, in good condition. Made a quantity of salt. Prayers as usual.

Thursday, 22nd September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 87: in the sun 114.

This morning before breakfast I dug up and prepared some more ground for seed. Two boys went out to fish with the net, and the Doctor with five went

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to try to catch a turtle. The weather very fine, though hot. Yesterday was the first day of the springs, it being full moon on the twenty-fourth, but there has been no change in the weather as yet.

Five, p. m. The fishing party brought home a dozen beautiful large mullet, one larger fish, and four small ones; and the turtle party brought home one large and two small turtles. Soon after sunset a remarkable change took place in the weather. It fell calm for the first time since we arrived on the Island, and we were assailed by such myriads of mosquitoes that we could not eat our dinner or sit still in anything like peace; and by bed time they had increased to such a degree, that they resembled an attack from a wasp's nest, and did not allow any of us the least sleep.

Finding it impossible to get any rest, and it being a fine moon-light night, Sibella and I, with Mr. Blore, and Paddy, set out at eleven o'clock on a turtling expedition. We walked about a mile and a half along the beach, to their haunts, on the sand; but although we watched till half-past two, and did not get home till a quarter-past three, with a very favourable night and high tide, we did not see one, although there were many recent marks of them in the sand; a circumstance, however, which satisfied us, at least, that we had gone to the right place; and gave us reason to hope that we might be more fortunate on some future occasion. Our object in going was to get rid of the mosquitoes, but we were sadly disappointed, for they were as numerous by the seashore as in the tent; and we returned home, weary and sleepy, to be tormented

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till morning, without the least hope of getting a moment's rest. Prayers as usual.

Friday, 23rd September, 1836.

Thermometer last night at 11, p. m., 68. This morning at seven, a. m., 75°: at one at noon in the shade, 87°: in the sun 111°.

This morning at daylight the mosquitoes were even more numerous and fierce than last night; as the sun got up they diminished, but they continued very troublesome all day. Till nine, a. m., it was quite calm and oppressively hot, but the thermometer was not higher than usual. The flowers of some of the trees seemed fresher for the change, and the birds, with a great variety of bees, and butterflies, were busily employed among them. After breakfast a

very light air set in from the west; the first time we had had any but a south-easterly wind since we were wrecked

-- six weeks to day.

This is the vernal equinox, which, with the full moon to morrow, account for the change in the weather.

After bathing this evening I sowed drum-head cabbage, leeks, lettuce, and peas; and in, the morning I sowed some coriander seed and chillees. Some of the mustard, cress, and melons, which I sowed on Tuesday, were up this morning, having been only three days and a half in the ground.

This evening, and to night, the mosquitoes were even worse than last night; and our faces, hands, and every part they could get at, looked more as if we had some violent eruption than as if we had been only bit by mosquitoes.

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We had curtains put up, and they, though very imperfectly arranged, protected us pretty well. We had an extraordinary proof of how much the moon affects the atmosphere and our comfort in these latitudes.

At midnight the wind suddenly came round to the south-east, or eastward, with a heavy shower, and in an instant the mosquitoes disappeared, even from the tent where they were protected from the weather. A few that had found their way within the curtains became quite torpid and did not bite, nor did that appear to proceed from their being gorged. Prayers as usual.

Saturday, 24th September, 1836. Thermometer at six, a. m., in the air 76°.

This morning a strong breeze from the eastward, and the mosquitoes nearly gone.

The weather hazy and cloudy, looking unsettled. Yesterday evening, when we went to bathe, the wind was very light from the westward, thereby making this (the east,) the lee side of the Island. The breakers, that hitherto looked so formidable, had entirely disappeared¹⁸⁵; presenting to us the novel sight of a quiet and untroubled sea, except on the very beach, where the surf rose like a wall, sucking up large stones with it, and fell thundering, with tremendous noise and violence, at short intervals, while the atmosphere and every thing around were perfectly still. The wreck lay outside as in a lake, steady and unaffected by the surrounding waters: but this morning presented a

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different scene. The wind having changed, made our's, as formerly, the weather side; the ship lay among the breakers, which again boiled, foamed, and beat over her and round her apparently with more vigour for the rest they had had. The surf on the beach had moderated, and every thing had so completely returned to its former state, that it was not easy to believe that yesterday's short change had been a reality.

To day constructed a sun-dial, as directed in a small book called "Outlines of Astronomy," which I had saved.

My own and Sibella's watch had hitherto gone well, as we believed, and nearly together; but the twenty-second having been the equinox, and the sun having set by them at about twenty minutes to six, we discovered their errors.

Before breakfast took a sketch of the camp and wreck from the bed of the lagoon.¹⁸⁶
Prayers as usual.

Sunday, 25th September, 1836.

Thermometer at six, a. m., 74°: in the tent at noon 81° : in the sun at noon 99.

Strong wind continues with clouds, but fair. After breakfast service as usual : all the inhabitants of the Island, except two Mahomedans, attending: viz. myself, Sibella, Louisa (our servant), Assistant Surgeon Deacon, Mr. Blore (late second officer of the Tiger), apprentices-- Charles Bateman, Robert Wrightson (commonly called Burmingham, or Brummagem), John Wilson (commonly called Paddy), and Andrew

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Bing; sailors--Jack Owen (commonly called Booby), and Tom Ireland (commonly called Beauty); originally so named by Captain Searight). They all, particularly since the departure of the boat, have appeared cleaner and better dressed on Sunday at service.

Found the dial answer very well ; the shortest shadow on the board being when my watch was at half-past eleven, thereby showing that the watches were slow about half an hour.

This afternoon some complaints from the boys about their food.¹⁸⁷ They gave us to understand that when all the ship's provisions were expended, and we had to provide for ourselves, they would have the upper hand. Walked on the beach and bathed this evening. Prayers as usual.

Monday, 26th September, 1836.

Thermometer at six, a. m., 74: in the tent, at noon, 81: in the sun, at noon, 99.

Early this morning I took a walk to Hut Bay, to get specimens of the timber and corals, which I brought home at about eight o'clock, a good deal fatigued, for I had taken a heavy load, having allowed myself to begin to hope that we might have few more days to spend on the Island and to make my collection.¹⁸⁸ The twelfth day since the departure of the boat is now running on, and if it reached its destination in safety, and found a vessel there, it is not too soon to hope that our deliverance is at hand. From the 15th

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instant, the day on which the boat sailed, in our prayers morning and evening, I inserted the following,

-" Also be pleased, Eternal Lord God, to take under thy gracious protection our fellow sufferers and the vessel in which they have sailed. Watch over them, and render their voyage prosperous; so that in due time we may be delivered, and restored in safety to our duties and our friends ; with a thankful remembrance of thy mercies, to praise and glorify thy holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

The mosquitoes may be said to have entirely disappeared, but the bites we received on the twenty-second and twenty-third are still very troublesome, and look like eruptions.

Three old potatoes and a few onions were brought from the ship to day, which we planted with great care.

In the course of the day packed up my shells and specimens of timber.¹⁸⁹ Walked and bathed with Sibella as usual, and brought home some more specimens of wood and timber. For the last four days we have paid more than usual attention to the garden, and watered it every evening. Peas, pumpkins, cucumbers, mustard, cress, knoll coll, and cabbage are up and looking pretty well. We hope not to be on the Island to eat of them, but they may be useful to some unfortunates after us.

Killed one of our four sheep to day, and, to our agreeable surprise, found it in very fair

the meat well flavoured; a pretty good proof, in addition to the report of those who have seen them, that the two we lost on our arrival are grown very large and fat ; that the Island is healthy and capable of supporting sheep well.¹⁹⁰ There are four dogs, a cat,¹⁹¹ six sheep, a pig, two cocks, and two hens on the Island with us, all thriving, though under very unfavourable circumstances as to food and water. There have been no serious cases of sickness among the people either, though they have had a most irregular and hard life ; sometimes living on far from wholesome food, and exposed to a tropical sun with hard labour. Boils on the legs have been frequent, which are attributed to long wading and wet in the salt water; and some have had slight bowel complaints, most likely brought on by the same cause, under a hot sun, with irregular eating and drinking. A man's food, morning and evening, for several successive days, consists of only highly salted beef or ham, or both; sometimes eaten raw, with a small allowance of a mixture of good and bad coarse biscuit, with a little flour or barley, without beer or spirits: then, for several days, he has turtle and fish, with the same vegetable allowance ; and occasionally, though very seldom, after a hard day's work, a glass of brandy. He sometimes hits on spirits, wine, or beer in the wreck, when he drinks to great excess for a few days,

after which he goes without any till accident or design puts more in his way; so circumstanced, it cannot be wondered at that they should have, at least, trifling ailments: indeed, it is only wonderful that they are not worse. Prayers as usual.

Tuesday, 27th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 82; in the sun 108.

This morning, at a quarter before four o'clock, Sibella and I got up, and we set out to endeavour to catch a turtle; but though we arrived on the ground at twenty minutes before five, a quarter before the first symptom of morning, with nearly a full moon and high tide, we did not see any, or any more recent traces of them than we had seen when we were out last.

We took a basket and spade with us to dig for, and bring home, at least, some eggs; but though I searched in every likely place, I could not find one.

We first made, as we had done on the twenty-second, for Bushy Point, where we waited till daylight, anxiously looking out for the turtle ; the whole of that part of the coast, particularly to the southward, being sandy and full of turtle pits. After daylight we dug for eggs, and then walked up as far as the second sand hill, and returned home by twenty minutes past seven; Sibella, particularly, very much tired; and as she walked in thin stuff shoes, her feet (which were before cut on the coral rocks,) became very tender and painful. The time between day-break and sunrise was fifty-five minutes. The morning star was very beautiful.

I fell in with rather a curious piece of wreck this morning; a piece of timber about eleven feet long, six

inches thick, with several wooden trenails in it. It appeared straight below but was arched above, giving me the idea of its having been the upper timber of the stern of an Indian coasting vessel.

On the land, not far off, there was a wooden knee of a small vessel, apparently of the same: I brought away specimens.

About one o'clock I went to the seashore, the tide being out, to collect a few of the coral insects. The coral base on which Juan de Nova¹⁹² rests is elevated above high-water neap tides from ten to twenty-five feet ; a circumstance which I will again refer to.

The insects never work above the level of the sea; and such being the case, no coral Island, in its primitive state, can be higher; but, if higher, must have been subsequently raised by other powers, or the sea have retired from it.

The ocean contains abundance of materials for the formation of soil and the production of vegetation on a coral reef; so that when the coral insects have worked their way to the surface, trees, timber, sea weed, leaves, mosses, lichens, sponges, fungi, particles from other formations, and the depths of the sea, with myriads of (to me) nameless things, existing as it were in chaos, are carried or thrown up by the winds and the waves to the surface of the rock, and become cemented together by their own weight, or by the gelatinous particles contained in various forms in the sea: then, or perhaps sooner, sea birds and fish of different kinds, and other monsters of the deep, fre-

quent or inhabit its shores, and by their debris and accumulations, with a little assistance from the original architects, give stability to the whole, and thus an Island, fit for the resting-place of man is called into existence. But before it is ready for his permanent residence, seeds of plants of trees and shrubs will be carried there by the sea or by birds ; some will take root and flourish, giving protection to others that come after them, or may be indigenous to such a soil; myriads of insects will live on their leaves and branches, birds will flock to them and find shelter and food, quadrupeds may find their way there, the coral insect will continue its labours, extending the limits of the Island, affording materials for storms and the ordinary course of the weather and the seasons to throw up on its shores, where they will be stopped by the plants that have already taken root, and thereby elevate the surface and vary its outline ; fresh water will filter through the sand, animal and vegetable matter will mix with the debris and form soil, the rains and dews of heaven will water and fertilize it, rendering it fit to produce herbage good for man and beast.

On Juan de Nova we have seen the indisputable marks of those slow but sure operations of nature, and that Island seems now to have arrived at a state of perfection, ready to yield to man his bread in abundance by the sweat of his brow, and capable of producing every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. It is situate in a mild and healthy climate, with plenty of fuel and fresh water, (the latter to be found by digging eight or ten feet in the sand,) at least on the south-east side, and it produces abun-

dance of fish and turtle, easy to come at, and some good eatable birds. Our dogs, pigs, poultry, and sheep have thriven well under the most unfavourable circumstances, and almost all the seeds we have sowed experimentally have come up, and by watering we keep them healthy, although this is evidently not the proper season for sowing. The ignorance and

presumption of man having brought us to shipwreck, have we not abundant reason to be thankful to God for having cast us on this Island, unmolested as we are by wild beasts, savage men, or venomous reptiles, and free from many of the other ills that flesh is heir to.

Wednesday, 28th September, 1836.

This morning, at a quarter-past three, nine of us set out by moonlight for the bay to look for turtle. The tide was high, so that the shallows round the pool were overflowed, which obliged us to wade to and drag the boat a long way till she had sufficient water to sail in. I put my dry shoes and stockings in my pocket, so that they might be fit for use on the other side, and walked and waded on the soles of a pair of worsted socks, but they wore through and came off, and were lost in the mud ; I however preferred remaining with bare feet to wetting my shoes ; and even walked bare-foot half way from the boat where we landed on the other side, till obliged to put on my shoes by the sharp rocks and thorny bushes that lay in the path, and in an uncertain light. We reached the middle of the bay about dawn, when we divided into two parties; one to range the beach southward, composed of the Doctor and five men, while that to the northward consisted of myself and two,

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one of them known by the name of Paddy, and the other Booby. We had not gone far when Paddy observed a turtle throwing up the sand, and as it was only about eight yards from the edge of deep water, it was necessary for us to be quick and cautious : we therefore ran as hard and as silently as we could, and in a few minutes I had the satisfaction of grappling in the sand with a huge female turtle just ready to lay. This was my first essay, which made me more determined to succeed in turning her. We all three threw ourselves on her, and in about a minute we turned her quite over, though in our scuffle with her she struck us pretty hard with her fins or flippers. The other party, after a long and laborious walk, returned unsuccessful. This turtle was the finest we had yet caught, and contained nearly two hundred eggs.

It was heavy work for nine of us to drag her over-land to the boat with ropes : there we secured her flippers, and fastened a rope strongly to her to tow her over across the pool, which was very difficult, for she retarded the boat a good deal by her weight and plunges in different directions, and the wind being right against us, we were obliged to row against it and the tide the whole way. Her shell measured three feet seven inches long, by two feet eight inches wide. We got home to breakfast, which was made up with some excellent crabs caught by the Doctor, at seven o'clock.

As I had been out yesterday morning also, I felt a good deal knocked up; but my breakfast, with plenty of warm tea and dry clothes, soon set me up. The morning having been rainy from daylight added to

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our discomfort : however, we had the pleasure of thinking it would do the garden good, which is now an object of much interest. The carrots, lettuce, drum-head cabbage, raddishes, and turnips are up.

In the course of our ramble, this morning, at the bay, we heard a noise in a tree near us; one of the boys threw a stone into it, and a bird flew out, which, we all agreed, from its cackling, was a domestic fowl, but it was too dark to see it. How it found its way there is a question. It was close to the remains of the huts formerly mentioned, and, perhaps, was left

by their inhabitants. There appeared to be only one.

Thursday, 29th September, 1836.

Thermometer at noon in the shade 81°.

The rain continued all night in heavy showers. The weather was beautifully mild, and we had a most pleasant bathe in the sea in the afternoon. The mosquitoes became troublesome in the evening, and we put up the curtains, which effectually defended us. The tent leaked in the night, but not to inconvenience us much.

This morning I enlarged the garden a little, preparatory to transplanting the plants. This day is lovely, with a clear blue sky and a strong south-east sea breeze. Fifteen days are now going on since the boat left us; it is time to look for a vessel. In anticipation, Sibella is arranging a few things for our voyage. Yesterday evening she went, as usual, with me to the garden, and felt much interested in the quick growth of the vegetables.

She also went this morning, when I was at work. The peas, sowed on Friday last, are up. The soil

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seems to suit peas exceedingly well. We also found the beet-root up this morning, and the onions in the evening.

The rain has brought up pumpkins in many places, from the stray seed of the pumpkins we brought from the ship; and this evening I dug some of them up in large spade-fulls of earth, and removed them, for protection, to my private garden, close to the tent. Killed one of the humble bees, near an inch long; it seemed to be the same as we have in other countries : six legs, with two little catches at the end of each toe; a trunk, and tongue in it; two feelers on its forehead; two short tusks; head, legs, tail, belly, black ; back, yellow, with a little touch of black on the ridge ; two large and two smaller under wings ; three joints in the legs, besides the connecting one to the body ; and the claws.

They often fly in pairs : one, as above described; the other, the same shape, but smaller, and of a brown colour: sting, the eighth of an inch long. I also saw two horse-flies that bite so as to bring the blood; but I could not catch them. Sand-flies are numerous in the sand, and close to its surface, but they do not molest us.

I startled the Doctor to day by telling him it is by no means certain that we are on Juan de Nova, and that our Island may be Astova. Such a possibility had never occurred to him: but, when I stated the grounds of my doubts as to its being Juan de Nova, and the arguments in support of its being Astova, he became more convinced, even than I wished him to be, that we are on the latter Island. Prayers as usual.

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Friday, 30th September, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 84 : in the sun 102.

At daylight this morning I went to work at the garden, and enlarged it considerably, by drawing a fence of bushes round both gardens, including a large piece of spare ground.

With assistance of Booby, now called Jack, I dug up, and manured with the decayed contents of a turtle's stomach, a very nice piece of the ground, and prepared it for seed. On clearing the ground I found two lizards, three inches long, dirty brown, spotted and speckled black, and five claws on each hand; four hands. The other lizards frequent the rocks and stones and old timber on the beach ; about the same size as the above, but slim;

very active, shy, and rather handsome; colour, brownish, striped lengthways with yellow ; like a similar, but larger, reptile, common in India, on Bombay Esplanade, and most other places.

When sowing the garden this morning Jack Owen remarked to me that he thought we should have to remain a very long time on the Island, and said he thought so from the very providential circumstance of our having saved a box of garden seeds.¹⁹³

The upper six inches of soil is, where bushes are growing, or near them, composed of a mixture of coral sand and decayed leaves ; below that is a more firm, fresh-tasted, moist, whitish sand; both capable of producing plants. However, the roots of the grass,

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which are spreading, and other small plants only penetrate the upper stratum, and are, consequently, easily cleared. There are worms, and a few small beetles or cockroaches in the ground; ants were also common every where, but they do no mischief.

Killed a bee like the working bee: six legs, four at the waist and two forward ; two feelers on the forehead ; trunk, and two small tusks ; two large and two smaller under wings; legs, straw yellow; back, downy black; upper part of hinder half, black, touched with yellow ; a little yellow on the edge of the head, lower part of it black ; small sharp sting. This bee flies very much about the opening of the tent : a little honey in it. We could not find any bees' nests on the Island.

About two, p. m., Sibella and I set out, with Paddy, Burmingham, and Bing, to fish with the net towards the mouth of the pool. I dressed in a red flannel frock, with an old coloured jean jacket over it; a pair of flannel drawers, and, instead of shoes, a pair of boots cut down, and fastened round my ancles with tape; for they fitted very badly, and they would have come off, if not secured, when wading in the mud and water. That, and my hat, was all my dress; and I was armed with a great knife tied to the end of a stick. Sibella wore a morning chintz gown, with a pair of my gloves ; a large man's round willow manilla hat, with a handkerchief inside it to keep off the sun, secured by a handkerchief which went over the crown and tied under the chin, thereby tying down the brim of the hat so as to protect her ears and cheeks : that, with a pair of very old shoes and stockings com-

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pleted her costume. Sibella remained watching us on the east side, while we waded across the water to fish on the west side, it being better. Though the time of the tide was not favourable, we soon caught five large mullet and twenty-four other fine fish. About four o'clock Sibella, who had seated herself on a high bank of coral, called to us that she saw a turtle, on which we went over to try for it. Paddy was encumbered with the fish, and Burmingham with the net, so that, in fact, Bing and myself were the only efficient men. We soon got a sight of the animal, and when I got close enough I threw myself on him, seizing him firmly with both hands, but in the effort I lost my footing, and the turtle swam off with me and took me under water, hat and all; I however held fast till Bing got on his back and relieved me, when I was able to breathe and get a fresh hold, and in less than a minute we turned him over, but in the struggle I took in a large quantity of sea water which made me very sick. Burmingham had thrown away the net, and Paddy the fish, to join in the scuffle; and as the fish had only been put in a piece of sail cloth, and some of them alive, they would have been all lost in the stream, had not Sibella dashed into

the water and saved them. Burmingham, who was armed with a " Brummagem whittle," instead of helping us to turn the turtle, was bent on cutting his throat in the water lest he should escape, to the great danger of all our hands and feet. We were up to our hips in the water, and he among us brandishing his weapon, and suiting the action to the word, was truly a most comical figure. We soon dragged the tur-

tle to the shore, but we were obliged to kill it, for the bank was so high and steep that we could not lift him up ; we had no string to tie his fins with, and the tide was flowing, so that he might have got away if alive. Sibella ran home to get assistance for us.

It now, however, occurred to us that the rope-yarn, that tied my knife to the stick, would do to tie his flippers, and the remainder was put in requisition to drag him with, and one of the boys converted his shirt to the same purpose by twisting it. They answered pretty well, so that, without assistance, we dragged him as far as there was any water to partly float him in. We were then joined by some of the people from the tents, and at half-past six we got him home. I had been wet through from head to foot, from three till half-past six, and felt no bad effects from it. The fish and the turtle proved delicious. Prayers as usual.

Saturday, 1st October, 1836.

Early this morning Sibella and I sowed a bed of marrow-fat peas in the new part of the garden.

After breakfast she and I and Louisa, with Mr. Blore, Beauty, and Booby, went across the pool, in the boat : they to put up a flag-staff on North Cape, and we to amuse ourselves, "pleasuring." The boat had been fitted with a mast and sail, and, as the wind was fair, we sailed over in a short time ; though from the shallowness of the water in the lagoon, the boat rubbed a good deal on the rocks, and was often aground. The belt forming our Island, relieved here and there with high sand hills, wooded with trees of different shades of green, was sometimes very pretty ; the pool being smooth as a lake, with just enough ruffle to keep off

the glare. In our excursion we found a great variety of flowering plants and trees, some handsome and sweet-scented ; and we saw some doves and other birds, some of them pretty. We then paid a visit to the deserted huts or encampments so often mentioned. We found among them an iron thirty-two-pounder cannon shot, a piece of an iron pot, a broken bird-cage, nails driven into the trees, a coop for fowls (made of pieces of the neighbouring trees, tied together with bark), and a bamboo trough for the birds to drink out of; also, a little cup, very ingeniously made out of a cocoa nut, for the birds in the cage to drink out of. There were the remains of about a dozen huts and benches, and many marks of the saw and axe on the trees. Several hundreds of turtle shells were piled and arranged in regular order, at small distances from the encampment; which, with the path cut in the neighbourhood through the jungle, looked as if the people who had been there were in good discipline, or much at their ease.

Besides as before mentioned, the edges of the path, leading from the bay to the pool, were planted with cocoa-nut trees, about a foot and a half high. That the party was all or partly European, and their residence at no distant period, appears by the following letters, nearly two inches high, cut in the bark of one of the trees at the encampment, within two lines

encircling it, thus,-- B. HUTI

Sibella also saw, on another place, the initials B.H : and I counted, on each of two other trees, fifty-five notches; one having a longer notch or line drawn

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under the thirty-first from the top, with twenty-four below ; while the other agreed with it, only the thirty-one were cut upwards to the long notch, with the twenty-four above it, instead of below as on the other: perhaps their method of keeping the time or accounts.

We then went to the beach of the bay close by, to take a look at the board I had formerly put up, stating our wreck and situation, and were happy to find it secure; but the glare and the heat were so great that Sibella and Louisa were obliged to go and sit under the trees. I went by myself to explore, and with the secret hope that I should see a turtle and turn it myself. I had not gone more than half a mile when, from the high beach of the bay, I saw one in the sea, and not in very deep water. I quickly took off my clothes, except my drawers, and, as may be supposed, with a beating heart, I proceeded to the combat. I made a considerable circuit so as to get to the outside of it, and had the satisfaction to find that though the water was up to my middle near the shore, it became shallower as I proceeded. When I had got a hundred and fifty yards to seaward I turned round, and stood in almost breathless anxiety waiting for a sight of the turtle. It soon appeared, and I had the pleasure of finding that I approached it to within thirty paces before it observed me.

It then showed me how much it was frightened, turning first one way and then the other. I cautiously followed it in all its movements, trying to drive it towards the shore, or, at all events, to keep it from getting out to sea. This dodging lasted about ten

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minutes, when it made several desperate rushes to get away from me; but, aided by a small ridge of coral rock which gave me good footing in shallow water, I was able to keep up with it, and run it near the beach. As the water was, however, deepening, my time was come to attack it or lose it; and making a hop, skip, and jump, I threw myself on its back, and held it fast with its head towards the land. I made some strong efforts to turn it, but without success, as the exertion and the long hunt

I had had, together with the excitement of so novel and violent a struggle, completely exhausted me ; and I was obliged to lie down on the turtle's back, holding him fast, my heart beating audibly, till I recovered my breath and strength. I then made another effort, and, to my great joy and astonishment, found I had actually, single-handed, caught and turned a remarkably large and fine female turtle. I then called loudly for Sibella, who came quickly to the beach ; and seeing what I had done, and guessing that I wanted twine to tie the turtle's flippers with, she ran back for some to Louisa, in whose basket I had taken the precaution to put a piece. She soon joined me, and I had the satisfaction of receiving her congratulations on my, among us, unprecedented success.

Mr. Blore, Booby, and Beauty, joined us in half an hour; when we were able, by great exertion, to drag the turtle above high-water mark. We secured it, and left it till a convenient opportunity, or a hungry fit, should oblige the people to go over for it.

I had taken a small phial of brandy to warm my stomach, in case of such an adventure ; but, on taking

it out of my pocket, I was sorry to find the cork had come out, and all the brandy was gone.

On Thursday morning I sowed some onions, turnips, and carrots; and to day the turnips are up : less than three days. Prayers as usual.

Sunday, 2nd October, 1836.

This forenoon, morning service as usual. A smart shower or two between nine and ten o'clock; the rest of the day fine. In the evening took a quiet walk on the beach with Sibella, and picked up a few pretty shells. Prayers as usual.

Monday, 3rd October, 1836.

This morning six of the people went over for the turtle I turned on Saturday. They did not return till eleven o'clock.

In the evening Sibella and I went to the beach with a basket to gather coals that had come on shore, in small pieces, from the ship. We brought it full ; and we also picked up some pretty cowrie shells.

Neither of us feeling particularly well, we have not bathed the last two days.

The Doctor and two boys went to fish with the net, and brought home twenty fine fish from the sea outside the creek. Prayers as usual.

Tuesday, 4th October, 1836.

This morning cut up my turtle, and found three-fourths of a good sized bucket-full of eggs in her : the meat looked also better than any we before had, beautiful green and dark rich red, like jasper.

Sibella has, for the last week, taken much trouble to prepare salt by boiling down sea water, and with great success; and has thereby been able to preserve

the meat and fish in a perfect state of freshness more than a day longer than we formerly could, a great saving of labour in fishing; for, before we had salt, we were obliged to fish for turtle almost every day, as the meat would not keep even a whole day ; and we began to find that so much exposure to the wet and sun disagreed with us. Sibella, Louisa, and I prepared and cooked the eggs for breakfast: they were quite delicious : and we found the meat of a turtle killed yesterday, which had been rolled up and corned like a round of beef, very tender, and more like delicate beef or veal than the coarse-grained turtle we were accustomed to, though it was a male, and by no means a very fine one.

Last night I felt far from well, but I got up as usual, and gardened.

This is the twentieth day since the departure of the boat, and no tidings of her. Prayers as usual.

Wednesday, 5th October, 1836.

Before breakfast cut some bushes and mended the enclosure of the garden, and stuck the peas.

The turtle-fat that would otherwise have been wasted, as was hitherto the case, was boiled by Sibella into four quart bottles of oil, which we found excellent and sweet for cooking: the eggs were fried in it, and there was neither unpleasant taste nor smell. Yesterday evening I found, on the beach, one side of my writing desk washed up. We had long suspected that our hens were laying, and this morning Louisa found one of them with a nest of five eggs, and it soon after laid a sixth. That, and the oil, were certainly great and valuable discoveries. The people

had half the turtle's eggs, and we (seven of us) had the other half. Ours' lasted yesterday morning and evening, and this morning for breakfast, as many as we could eat; and there are over (cooked, to keep better,) two large cakes of them, enough for this evening and to morrow. We find them so much like bread that we have saved by them, what is of great importance, two days' biscuit.

While sitting outside our tent, about sunset, we often observe the man-of-war hawk ferociously attacking the boobies as they are returning for the night to roost, for the purpose of making them throw up the contents of their stomachs, which they do from fright or exertion in endeavouring to escape. The man-of-war bird then allows the booby to pass, appropriating to itself the fish which the booby has disgorged. When at sea the boobies are considered by seamen as an indication that they are near land, and that the direction of their flight is from it in the morning, and towards it in the evening; which is pretty true, as they always go on shore to roost at night, and to sea to feed in the morning.

During the heat of the day the tropic birds hover over the bushes in numbers, screeching loud and discordantly.

We now begin seriously to feel the want of shoes, most of the people's, but particularly mine, being worn out or rendered useless, from being obliged to wear them when fishing, and in passing over the rugged coral. We have some leather, and might make shoes that would be serviceable, at least on dry land; but all our exertions of that kind are

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postponed till after the "Hope" shall be given up. There being great quantities of socks in the ship, most of the people defend their feet with success by putting on half a dozen pairs, one over the other; but that is a dreadful waste, for the half dozen so put on are worn to pieces in a day, which occasions the destruction of several dozen pairs daily. I had a box of boots and shoes in the ship, which I had had made and selected with great care while in London; but they fell into the hands of the crew, in one of their plundering excursions: they tried them on all round, but they were too small for their large feet. They then cut them in every way to try and get them on; and failing in that, to hide their offence, they threw them into the sea, and they were lost to all parties.

Thursday, 6th October, 1836.

Thermometer in the sun at noon 112°: in the shade 87°.

Got up early and transplanted some pumpkins, and fenced in the cucumbers; then went to the beach to fetch some timber to make a safe for the meat with. The exertion very much fatigued me, but a plunge in the sea quite refreshed me. Sibella, in the mean time, in honour of Tom and Maria's wedding¹⁹⁴, and Tom's birth-day, gathered the first fruits of our garden; a nice dish of mustard and cress, with a few very small onions. They were really as good as any thing of the sort I ever tasted out of Juan de Nova.

What I mentioned to the Doctor some time ago, as to the possibility of our being on Astova, seems to have made a deep impression on him. Mr. Blore and Paddy have been talking the subject over, and

they have now come to the conclusion that we really are on that Island. They say they have come to that conclusion by examining the ship's log. I am sorry I mentioned my doubts to him at all, for it is a point we cannot decide with any certainty, and which will only tend to perplex and divide us in opinion on a subject of daily conversation. I begged, however, to see the log. Mr. Blore produced it, and, at my request, worked it before me.¹⁹⁵ He made the latitude at noon by it on the 11th, $11^{\circ} 21' \text{ S.}$, longitude $51^{\circ} 39' \text{ E.}$; and at midnight, an hour before we struck, latitude $10^{\circ} 37' \text{ S.}$, longitude $51^{\circ} 2' \text{ E.}$ The true latitude of Juan de Nova being, according to Horsburgh, between $10^{\circ} 6' \text{ and } 10^{\circ} 26' \text{ S.}$, and its true longitude about 51° E. , it could no longer be doubted that, as far as Mr. Blore and the log were authorities, we could not be on Astova; which, though in nearly the same latitude, is three degrees and a half to the westward. Mr. Spurs had also, as he told me, made the longitude $50^{\circ} 30' \text{ E.}$, which did not differ much from Horsburgh. Horsburgh gives a description of Juan de Nova, which in some particulars, though not in all, agreed with our Island; but we know how often such notices and travellers' descriptions are imperfect. For a nautical man his description was perhaps sufficient. Our latitude and longitude agree with his of

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Juan de Nova: water was found by digging in the sand; the smooth water, or anchorage, was at the north-west end; the Island is low, sandy soil, coral, on which grow trees of a small size. At all events it was very far from Astova; and I know that Mr. Spurs and Mr. Pinkin, the third mate (the person who generally took the sun's altitude), were both of opinion that we were on Juan de Nova. Mr. Spurs told me, when the ship was striking, that we were on the Six Isles, or Juan de Nova.

On the evening of the 11th of August, 1836, I remarked to Mr. Pinkin that the clouds on the larboard bow looked very much like land. He replied, "It is not land: if we are near any land, it is on the starboard side."¹⁹⁶ As I understood we were steering towards Cape Ambre, the north point of Madagascar, to endeavour to get a sight of it, that surprised me a good deal; but I asked him how far he believed we were from that land. He answered, after some consideration, "Perhaps twenty-five or thirty miles." I showed the Doctor Mr. Blore's work from the log, and brought to his recollection the above facts, which confirmed our original belief that we are on Juan de Nova.

The following is the extract from the log by which Mr. Blore, the second mate of the Tiger, worked the reckoning.-

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Extract from the Log of the Tiger.

Hours.	Knots.	Fathoms.	Courses.	Wind.	Tuesday, 9th August, 1836.		
8	9				At 8, a. m., made St. Mary's Isle, bearing N. N. W., distant 6 leagues. Carried away the fore-top-gallant mast. Lat. 16° 54 S. Long. 50° 25 E.		
10	7						
12	7						
Remarks on Wednesday, August 10, 1836.							
2	8		N. E. by E.		Cloudy and squally, with rain.		
4	6		N. E.	E. S. E.	Set up the main-top-mast rigging at 3, p. m.		
6	8				The north end of St. Mary's bore west,		
8	9	4			12 miles distant Midnight, fresh breezes; and at 3, a. m., took in the main-top-gallant sail.		
10	9	4					
12	9	4					
2	8		N. E. by N.		At 8, small rain. Set the top-gallant sail and royal. Sent a new fore-top-gallant mast up. Squalls and strong sea.		
4	8						
6	7	4					
8	8	7			Lat 14° 22 S.		
10	6				Long. 52 — E.		
12	6						
	199						
Remarks on Thursday, August 11, 1836.							
2	7		N.	S.	Fresh breezes. Squally wet weather. Set the fore-top mast and lower studding sails on the star-board side. At 1 hour 45 minutes p. m. Captain Searight jumped overboard. Let run all the hallyards, rounded the ship, and lowered the lar-board quarter-boat. As soon as she touched the water she snapped the tackles and swamped, and nearly drowned one of the men, owing to a heavy squall unfortunately striking the ship at the time.		
4	9				Heavy rain and squalls throughout the night. At 6 set the main-royal.		
6	8	4					Much rain.
8	8	4					Morning squally with passing showers.
10	7	6	N. N. W.		Lat. 11° 30 S.		
12	8						Long. 50° 50. E.
2	8						
4	8						
6	8						
8	7	4					
10	7						
12	7						
	189						

<i>Hours.</i>	<i>Knots,</i>	<i>Fathoms.</i>	<i>Courses.</i>	<i>Wind.</i>	<i>Remarks on Friday, August 12, 1836.</i>
2	8		N. W. by N.	S. E.	P. M. Strong breezes, with heavy squalls and rain.
4	8	4			At 8, in first reef fore-sail, top-sail, and main-top-gallant-sail.
6	9				
8	9				
10	7	4			Midnight more settled.
12	7	4	N. N. W.		Set the main-top-gallant sail.
					At a little before 1, a.m. of the 12th, struck.

A turtle and fishing party went out to day. The former was unsuccessful, but the latter brought home a fine supply of mullet, stump nose, and green back. Bing gave me a rat's skin : he had cured several.

Friday, 7th October, 1836.

All this day I felt very poorly. A fishing party caught a good supply of fish; and a turtling party went over in the afternoon to the anchorage bay to try their luck, at daylight and at low water.

Saturday, 8th October, 1836.

Very weak this morning, but recovered after breakfast. The turtling party returned this morning with two female turtles; one, the largest we have yet caught. A fishing party also went out to day, and brought home plenty of fish.

Bing employed in making a new net, Louisa cleaning fish, Sibella and I carrying in fire-wood and washing the plates and dishes.

We have had great difficulty, lately, in keeping our meat, even with the aid of salt, and making quite a toil of looking after it more than forty-eight hours; and our fish would keep only fifteen or sixteen hours. I, therefore, made a safe to day, of wood and planks

which I brought from the beach: it is about two feet square at top and bottom, and about three feet high : the sides are open, the roof supported by six or eight narrow sticks, which also keep the gauze extended, with which the whole is covered. Sibella employed in balling twine for Bing's net. Yesterday Louisa and Sibella made a red flannel shirt for Mr. Blore, and put a piece of red flannel on the front of each of my flannel waistcoats, the better to protect my stomach. Sibella and Louisa have, at other times, made a red flannel shirt and trowsers for me, and two shirts for the Doctor. We are nearly all provided with red shirts, or jackets, so that in the event of pirates or savages appearing, we could make a good show.

For the last week we have been trying to make vinegar from beer, but without success. Yesterday prepared a strong decoction of the bark of the creeping tree : it is a powerful astringent, and tastes like bark : when boiled and concentrated by evaporation, it answers for red ink very well, so that I wrote my journal with it.¹⁹⁷ Among the fish brought home to day was a deep fish of extraordinary shape, which Ishmael said was plenty in Bombay

and Surat, and called wurra : we thought it the richest and, at the same time, the most delicate fish we had yet caught.

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The people who went to the bay report that they saw several cocks and hens.

Sunday, 9th October, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 83° : in the sun at noon 110.

Morning showery. The springs are rising, and it will be new moon to morrow at one hour twenty-eight minutes and six seconds. This morning killed the largest of the two turtles caught yesterday: it yielded only a quarter of a bucket-full of eggs, but they were all large. Before it was killed it measured from the extremity of the nose to the tip of the tail four feet seven inches, by two feet nine inches broad across the shell. Sibella and Louisa fried the eggs, and afterwards salted the turtle.

We had morning service at eleven o'clock as usual. Sibella is writing to Mamma: Louisa reading her Dutch Tracts. Prayers as usual.

Monday, 10th October, 1836.

A few light showers last night and this afternoon. I felt very unwell all this day. Prayers as usual.

Tuesday, 11th October, 1836.

Thermometer in the shade at noon 85° .

Yesterday and to day nearly all hands went off to the wreck to get provisions and stores. They brought off two casks of pork, one of beef, and some beer; several bolts, canvass, some red flannel, and several valuable little comforts. My safe has been found to answer admirably; the meat, which before, with the greatest care and constant attention, would scarcely keep two days, is now, well on to the third, quite sound, without having given us any trouble whatever.

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On Friday evening we put some fish in salt, but by Saturday morning it had become soft, and gave evident symptoms of decay. We were on the point of throwing it away, when it occurred to us to try the experiment of drying it in the sun. It completely succeeded, and we have now another very good variety of food, and which can always be obtained from the overplus of our fishing, which had previously been thrown away as useless.

Among the productions of the Island I find a kind of hemp, now rotten, but the fibres are still pretty strong, and come off the stem easily.

Alas! this is the twenty-seventh day since the departure of our boat, and no tidings of her yet. We hourly strain our eyes looking towards the landing-place across the lagoon, which throws up a most distressing glare from its chalky white water. Weather moderate: cloudy on the horizon. Prayers as usual.

Wednesday, 12th October, 1836.

This is the third day of the falling of the springs, and the weather continues fine and moderate, with a few drops of rain in the night. The lagoon is fuller of water than I ever saw it before. The creek being narrow, it does not admit sufficient water to fill the lagoon when the tides are high in the sea; but it gradually fills with the spring tides, and, at their termination, it is fullest, and presents a fine expanse of water; but, from its deepness and chalky whiteness, we are unable to fish in it. Weather warm, with little wind. Mosquitoes

rather troublesome. Prayers as usual.

Our Island is about twelve miles in circumference,

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and consists of a belt of coral rock, from three hundred to a thousand yards wide, enclosing a shallow pool or lagoon, which communicates with the sea by a narrow and shallow opening at the south end. The rocky belt is elevated above the level of high water neap tides from ten to twenty-five feet, covered with sand; sometimes level and thin, sometimes rising into hills of coral or sand, fifty or a hundred feet high; and nearly the whole covered with trees and vegetation of different kinds. No land is visible from it in any direction.

¹⁹⁸Horsburgh's notice of the group of John de Nova.¹⁹⁹ " John de Nova, extending from latitude $10^{\circ} 5\frac{1}{2}'$ to $10^{\circ} 26'$ S., longitude $51^{\circ} 2'$ E., (the body) is the southernmost of the groups of Islands north-eastward from Cape Ambre ; and it is an elliptical chain of low islets and reefs extending, north-east and south-west, six or eight leagues, having a basin in the centre with seven or eight feet of water on the bar leading to it at

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the north part of the chain, where there is good ground for anchoring. The soil of these islets is mostly coral, on which grow trees of small size. Turtle and fish of various kinds are plentiful; and some fresh water is to be obtained by digging. The tide sets about north-east and south-west, and rises four or five feet."

I conclude the above applies to the group, and the following to our Island.--" Captain Moresby of H. M. Ship Menai, on the 26th July, 1822, anchored at the north part of John de Nova, in seventeen fathoms, sandy bottom; and made the latitude of the anchorage $10^{\circ} 6' 47''$ S., by good observations, longitude $51^{\circ} 5' 30''$ E., by three chronometers, measured in a run of eighty-four hours from Port Louis, Mauritius. By the same means he made the extreme of north reef in latitude $10^{\circ} 6'$ S., longitude $51^{\circ} 7\frac{1}{2}'$ E.; north-west Isle, in sight from the ship, latitude $10^{\circ} 11'$ S., longitude $50^{\circ} 59'$ E.; south extreme latitude $20^{\circ} 26'$ S., longitude $50^{\circ} 54' 20''$, variation $8^{\circ} 30'$ W. Some lunar observations gave the longitude $51^{\circ} 20\frac{3}{4}'$ E.; but as the weather only permitted a few sights to be taken, Captain Moresby is of opinion that the chronometer gave the true longitude of John de Nova. He remained at anchor here till the 29th, turning turtle, the wind fresh from south-eastward: the flood tide then ran north north-east, one mile and a half per hour, and the ebb to the south-west. Water was got by digging at the depth of two butts in the sand."

Horsburgh's notice of Astova.--"Astove, or Astova, in about latitude $10^{\circ} 10''$ S., and distant eight leagues to the southward of the Cosmoledo Islands, is a small low Island, upon which the French Ships,

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Le Bon Royale and Le Jardmier, are said to have been wrecked. Captain Moresby thinks it is situated in latitude $10^{\circ} 13''$ S., longitude $47^{\circ} 31'$ E.; but he did not see it, having been carried to the north-west by the current, when endeavouring to steer for it."

The group of Juan de Nova appears to have been known to exist at an early date to Europeans. Perhaps it was discovered by Juan de Nova, an eminent Portuguese navigator of the seventeenth century, who discovered St. Helena in 1601, and whose name is also given

to an Island in the Mozambique Channel: but, until Captain Moresby visited it in July, 1822, its correct longitude does not appear to have been ascertained. It was supposed to lie considerably to the eastward of its true position. It was seen by the French Frigate L'Heureuse on the 30th August, 1769; which ship was, the same night, wrecked on Providence Reef, forty or fifty miles to the northward. Other ships (see Horsburgh) have, from time to time visited it. Norie, in giving its latitude and longitude (as Farquhar Island) quotes, as his authority, H. M. Ship Ariadne, &c.; and our own observation points out that there have been residents on the Island from time to time, some of them apparently much at their ease, and others in distress.

The land, particularly on the south-east and east, the windward side in the south-east monsoon, except where varied by sand hills, is very low, not being more than five or ten feet above high-water spring tides;²⁰⁰ it must, therefore, be dangerous to ships at all times,

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for it cannot be seen at any great distance ; and the water shoals gradually to near a mile from the shore. The south-west and west side is even much more dangerous. The rest of the group lie in that direction, and reefs run far out from the north and south points of anchorage bay; the latter of which may be the bar leading to the basin mentioned by Horsburgh. The anchorage bay is at the north, or rather, north-west, side of the Island. The south-west is the highest part of the coast, and extremely rugged and deeply indented with small bays and coves; but on that side no ship, that had any knowledge of its situation, would venture.

The south and east coasts of the Islands are strewn with plants and timber trees of many kinds and sizes, from grass and reed to the gigantic teak and cedar; and with remnants of wrecks of different periods, countries, and materials; from the canoe to that of the gallant ship. A cannon, about a four-pounder, and two anchors, are to be seen near the north cape.

Horsburgh mentions that two vessels, Le Bon Royal and La Jardinier, are "said to have been wrecked on Astova," a small Island in the same latitude, but three degrees and a half to the westward. The uncertain way in which Horsburgh writes, the true position of these dangers having been but lately ascertained, and the remains of wrecks on this coast, render it probable that those ships were really lost on Juan de Nova.²⁰¹ We have not discovered any bones or other remains of human beings on the Island.

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I have said that the coral belt of the Island stands from five to twenty-five feet above the level of high-water neap tides, but as the coral insect does not work above the line of moisture, we must ascribe its elevation to the retiring of the waters of the ocean, or the expansive power of subterranean heat. The rugged and unequal height of the coral belt ; the fissures in the rocks ; the lagoon in the middle, with its Islands of coral, of the same height and corresponding flatness with its surrounding coast ; the sharp and abrupt rocks rising here and there from its bottom, of the same aspect; while others bear the appearance of having been thrown into their present position by violence ; all lead me to conclude that the high parts of the Islands have been up-heaved by a convulsion of nature, rather than that the waters have receded.

The remains of huts and turned turtle shells, and other marks of visitors and residents on the Island at different dates, point out that our Island is not only well known; but

frequented ; so that, although our boat should have perished, we have no reason to despair; but that, sooner or later, we shall be delivered. Our greatest dread is a visit from the savages of Madagascar.

Thursday, 13th October, 1836.

Thermometer at six, a. m., in the open air 75°: at noon, in the tent, 90° ; in the sun at one, p. m., 116°.

This is the hottest day we have experienced since our arrival on the Island, sixty-three days ago. Yesterday a party went to the wreck and brought off some provisions and clothes; and while they were at work Sibella and I, and Ishmael, went among the rocks,

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and in a pool, with the assistance of the net, and by dint of poking in all the holes, caught thirty-six fish, from four to seven inches long. Beauty and Jack took a sail in the boat in the pool, pleasuring, this afternoon.

To day I feel better. My illness a good deal alarmed me, as it was an old complaint: one, indeed, that all my suffering originated in. It drove me from India to the Cape, and thence to England. I therefore knew its danger, and it made me the more anxious, and even alarmed, because I was aware that the Doctor had sadly neglected to take care of the medicine chest,²⁰² and that he had little, or nothing, good for my complaint. I saved a little medicine, luckily, myself, on coming on shore, which, with what the Doctor furnished, prudence in eating and drinking, and Sibella's kind assistance in cooking a little rice and sago for me, have, under Providence, I trust, now restored me. The thought that I might die on this desert Island, leaving my wife in such a situation, was certainly a very distressing and embarrassing one. A party went off to the ship again to day and brought off more provisions and some crockery. Part of yesterday's pork turned out bad. Sibella and I bottled off two dozen of beer this forenoon, to keep for future years. Ishmael and Jewa caught two dozen old maids, and a beautiful red fish about the same size, but with very large eyes and mouth. The old maid has a thorny dorsal fin, and its sides are barred across with dirty black.

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Yesterday, as well as at other times, I brought away some of the coral insects. They are from one to two inches long, and about the twelfth of an inch broad : indeed, to the naked eye, like a common water worm ; but when examined with the glass, their appearance is as follows - head larger than any other part, tapers to the tail, colour greenish or dirty red (I suppose from the coloured moss or other food in its intestines), with a red stripe down the length of the back under the skin, which is yellowish and nearly transparent. When broken there is no red appearance of blood. It has two large eyes with a black spot below each, and a few blackish scratches on its forehead ; on each side of its mouth are two muscular or fleshy projections, the coverings of two most powerful black tusks which point inwards. When it opens its mouth, which is rather under its head and surrounded by a muscular jowl, it looks as if it were opening the whole of its stomach, and with its own grinding action and the movement of its tusks, give the idea of a most muscular and constricting power.²⁰³ When creeping along on the table, or on a piece of its own coral rock, it carries its head erect and pointed like a dragon, so that when magnified it looks of a most ferocious character. It has, like the centipede, many joints and legs, but no feet on which it can run like that reptile. Its

legs seem muscular helps to it in working, but its motions in creeping are like, but slower than, those of a common ground worm ; nor have I ever had the least difficulty in drawing them out of their holes in the rocks when I could get hold of one end of them.

The rocks on which they are at work are in ridges and very uneven, looking as if they were wearing away, or brought to that appearance by the force of the sea. The lowest tide covers them all, though they are uncovered at low water, full of holes and pools, very rugged, and covered with very short and close green and other coloured mosses, which I conceive to be not only the food of the insect, but, from its softness and closeness, a protection to it in its operations. On breaking the rock it is soft like chalk ; in some instances, even splashing when struck; but in others, nearly as hard as flint, and the insects are equally numerous in both. The hardest rock is nearest the shore. The dead coral rock, when struck with a hammer, rings. I have seen no insect more than their length from the surface. The smaller cavities of the rocks contain moluscae, and other marine productions of various, but mostly of very ugly, forms. This afternoon Mr. Blore and a party went over to the bay, so as to be able to be up in proper time to turtle.

This evening was quite calm, and as most of the people had gone over to the other side of the Island, every thing wore an air of quiet, and even of solitude. We went as usual to bathe, and as we stood on the rocky shore, and gazed on the clear sky and still sea, our eyes ranged the horizon in quest of a sail with more than ordinary keenness and expectation, and every now and then our hopes led us, though faithlessly, to believe we saw one.

Thirty days have now elapsed since the departure of our boat, and according to our calculation she is long due. A month was the time we allowed ourselves,

when she sailed, before we should despair of her bringing us relief; but our hopes still buoy us up, and we ingeniously account to ourselves for her long absence, and allow her a fortnight longer. At the end of that period, if relief do not arrive (and I think of it with painful forebodings,) we must make great and severe changes in our mode of life, with a view to our subsistence and safety during a permanent residence on the Island, in every respect as if relief were impossible; and never allow ourselves to be diverted from our resolution by hopes of deliverance, which, though they may, under Providence, be realized in time, it is obviously impossible for us to say when, or in what manner. We must hoard our salt provisions, and store our little comforts, against the day of famine and sickness; and trust for our subsistence, as far as it will yield it, to the productions of the Island; a supply sometimes so precarious and scanty that hitherto, under many advantages, we have often had great difficulty in procuring from it sufficient for our daily wants, even by the most laborious exertions, in deep mud and water, under a burning sun. Besides, we may expect the rains to set in next month, and if we may judge by the trunks of enormous trees high on the shore, by the deep marks of running water on the slopes, the remains of rank vegetation on the flats, and the blighted and scorched appearance of the bushes in many parts of the Island, we cannot doubt that they rage with tropical violence, and that they are accompanied by their full share of lightning and tempest. Such weather will considerably interfere with our labours and increase them, and probably destroy

our health, which has, in some cases, already seriously suffered. A thousand distressing reflections crowd upon me respecting the situation of my family in this awful trial, which I must not allow myself to dwell on ; but we must look for consolation and support in our afflictions, where alone they are to be found ; placing our whole trust and confidence in that God whose mercy is over all his works ; and not allow ourselves to despair, but to hope that he will not, after protecting us through so many dangers, abandon us to perish miserably in this living tomb; cut off from the world, and to be mourned for, unheard of, by our poor children and friends.

Friday, 14th October, 1836.

We were up pretty early this morning, and about seven o'clock we observed the boat returning with only two men in it. I could not help looking on the circumstance with hope, and ventured to say to Sibella, under that feeling, that, perhaps, a ship had arrived. We continued to gaze on the boat, and we were soon more excited by seeing that the men, Ishmael and Booby, hastily left her, without giving themselves time to furl the sail, or to drag her, as usual, into the shallow water; and they laboured in the mud to reach the shore as fast as they could. All eyes were now directed to them, and our hearts "rose to our mouths" on seeing them wave their caps. They soon approached the tents, and communicated the joyful intelligence that a large ship was in the offing. Our joy was great, but sober and quiet. Sibella, ere long, however, became overpowered by her emotions, and gave vent to her feelings in a flood of tears : but in her effort to

command herself she sobbed so loud and hysterically as to alarm me. We could gather nothing more from the men than the fact that a ship was making for the Island, for they had hastened to give us the first intelligence.

This is the thirty-first day since the long-boat departed; and as we considered her fully due, we concluded the ship to be one brought by our party.

The Doctor set out without delay for the bay, promising, in the event of the ship being friendly, to strike the flag which was flying at the huts, as a signal to that effect; and by ten o'clock we had the happiness to see the flag disappear! About an hour after we saw the upper masts and sails of a large ship over the trees from our tent, sailing along the west side of the Island. From her apparent size squared yards and well-set-up rigging I made up my mind that she was a man-of-war, sent to take us away.²⁰⁴

About twelve o'clock we saw some people coming across the lagoon in the boat, which we spied at till our eyes ached, to endeavour to make out who were our friends; and we had soon the happiness to discover some new faces approaching, accompanied by the Doctor. The first person who came up was a woolly-headed, but smart well set-up, African Black, dressed like an Englishman. I called out, "Well, my man,

I am glad to see you; where have you come from?" "From London, Sir," was his reply, in blunt English; on which I shook him heartily by the hand. He then told me the ship was the Emma, South Sea Whaler, Captain Goodman, of London ; that he was the cooper, and that his name was White.

The Captain soon joined us, and, after hearty congratulations, I took him to our tent, and introduced him to Sibella. He told us that, intending to put in to Astova for fish and turtle early on the morning, they saw our wreck, and, soon after, our tents and flag; which latter, however, he took for the mast and flag of a vessel. He told us to get ready, as he would take us all to Mahi, in the Seychelles, as soon as we and our baggage could be put on board, and without any charge whatever.²⁰⁵ He also told us that we were on the Island of Astova, and not on Juan de Nova; a fact which did not strike me with much astonishment, for I had considered it as possible before. In spite of the ship's reckoning, and Mr. Spurs' calculation of the latitude and longitude, which he made to correspond with that of Juan de Nova, there were many startling difficulties to reconcile in believing that we were on that Island.

On a more careful reading of Horsburgh, and when we had leisure to compare his notice of Juan de Nova with our Island, it was plain that his description

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agreed in few points with the reality, though I tried to reconcile them; nor was it easy to account for the quantity of drift timber, seeds, and volcanic remains on the weather side of an Island in the south-east trade, so far to windward of Madagascar, the only probable place from whence such gigantic trees could have been carried. Those difficulties did sometimes occur to me; and to assist in solving them, and to enable nautical men to trace the currents of this part of the ocean with some certainty, when we should be delivered (for I never despaired of being rescued from our situation), I from time to time collected specimens of every kind of timber, seed, and foreign production I could find on the shores of the Island.

About one o'clock we had the happiness to see the ship furl her sails and remain stationary, as if at anchor, with her head to the land; but, to our dismay, she soon after made sail and bore away, leaving the Captain and part of his crew on shore, all of us in great anxiety. It appeared that, in anchoring, the anchor had fallen off the edge of the reef, which is steep, into such deep water²⁰⁶ that it did not reach the bottom; and the ship was, for her safety, obliged to put off from the land. It soon fell nearly calm, so that the ship was carried by the current far to the north-west. She with difficulty got back to the anchorage by the afternoon of the 15th, when she came safely to anchor, to our great relief. We employed our time in preparing for our departure, amid many interruptions on account of the events passing. On Sunday fore-

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noon, the 16th, I endeavoured to read prayers to as many men as I could collect, and to return thanks to God for the great mercy he had extended to us, in thus delivering us from our distressing situation; but my feelings so much overpowered me that I could not command myself, and I was compelled, with reluctance, to cut the service short, and dismiss my congregation. -

October 16th, 1836, about noon we were informed that people would be in attendance to take us and our baggage on board the Emma; and, after a hurried dinner, we set out from our tent, which was left standing. About five, p. m., we walked to the margin of the lagoon, where we were detained about half an hour, getting the last of our baggage brought down and put in the boat; which gave us a little time to look back on the scene of our residence during the last sixty-six days. I certainly left it with joy, but it was not an unmixed joy; for, desolate and afflicting as our situation had unquestionably been, I could look back to

many happy and well-spent hours, and, altogether, to a period of as little misery and suffering as, I can conceive, ever fell to the lot of a party like ours, shipwrecked on a desert Island, so inhospitable in itself as Astova.²⁰⁷

The boat being heavily laden, the night dark, the lagoon shallow, and the landing-place not known to the men of the Emma who manned the boat, it was nine o'clock before we reached the ship. We were soon on board, and heartily welcomed by Captain Goodman, who had provided a supper for us. The

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party, soon after it, withdrew, and left us in possession of a spacious cabin. Our beds were soon made ready, and, after offering up our prayers and thanks to the Great Disposer of all events, Sibella, Louisa, and myself, retired to rest in our respective berths, with feelings of security and relief from care and anxiety to which we had long been strangers.

Before leaving our tents, I wrote with white paint, in large letters, on the ship's hatch, the following notice, and left it in a conspicuous situation :-

"The passengers and crew of the Tiger were providentially taken from this Island by the Emma of London, Captain Goodman, to Seychelles, 16th October, 1836.

"W. Stirling,

"Captain Bombay Army."

Mr. Blore and the Doctor also wrote a letter for Mr. Spurs, in case he should return for us; and put it in a sealed bottle, and hung it up in their tent, which was also left standing. A quantity of provisions were also left in the tent, for protection from the weather, for Mr. Spurs, or any persons who might unfortunately succeed us in our misfortunes. Our two hens, sitting on eggs, with two cocks, were also left for the good of the Island.

By noon, on Tuesday, the 18th of October, 1836, every person was on board the Emma, and part of our provisions, and the live stock, had also been brought off.²⁰⁸ In the evening the anchor was weighed, and before dark we were under sail, with a light but fair breeze, steering for the Seychelles;

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and Astova, the scene of our interesting but serious trials, during a period of sixty-eight days, was soon lost sight of in the darkness and in the distance.

We had only been at sea a few days when the weather set in rainy, which continued, more or less heavy, till we reached Mahi: weather which we most likely should have experienced to our great distress, and danger to our health, on Astova; for the time had now arrived for the setting in of the rainy monsoon in these seas. The wind, however, continued to blow lightly, and from the south-east, so that we could not weather the Amirantes, and with difficulty sighted the African Islands.²⁰⁹ Till we rounded them we experienced little current. On the evening of the 29th we were distant only twelve miles from Silhouette; but the wind having fallen scant in the night, next morning the ship had drifted about thirty-two miles to the north-west, near to Bird Island.

The crew of the Emma²¹⁰ was a curious mixture: eight were natives of Madagascar, two of the Sandwich Islands, the cook a Swede, the cooper an African; and the remainder, twenty-one, of all ages and conditions, were principally natives of the British Isles. The men of Madagascar were taken on board

at St. Mary's, to replace some of the crew who had deserted to join the pirates in the eastern seas.

The chief mate, Mr. Clark, then second of the Whaler, the *Ann Elizabeth*, went on shore from that ship with two boats and their crews, in 1829, to turtle on the Bassas de India, in the Mozambique Channel. The ship unaccountably sailed away, and abandoned the two boats, with their crews, on the Island. It first went to Johanna, then to Mahi, where the Captain deposed that he tried, for many days, but could not make the Bassas again. He then went to Mauritius, in company with His Majesty's Ship, *Jasseur*, and gave out that the boats had been lost, and all hands perished. The ship from Mauritius proceeded on her voyage; but it is supposed she eventually foundered at sea.

Mr. Clark and his comrades remained on the Bassas de India about twenty-five days, suffering the greatest hardships from want of food and shelter, but chiefly from the want of water, which they dug for in vain. Their only substitute was the blood of the turtle and the whites of eggs, which they sucked through a quill. They then set out, in their despair, with some food, but no water, for Madagascar; intending to coast it up to a place resorted to by Europeans (I think *Bamboo Tooka*). When they reached Madagascar they obtained plenty of water, but no food. They proceeded along the coast, and in a day or two they were fortunate enough to exchange a musket for a bullock with some of the natives, which relieved their distressing state of hunger, and enabled them to lay in a stock for some days; but they never reached their

intended port, the natives having, at a place where they touched (supposed to be near Cape St. Andrew), seized their boats and every thing they possessed, even the clothes on their backs. They did not reduce them to slavery, or in any other way molest them, though they gave them no food or relief of any kind. They made a small hut for themselves near the beach, and subsisted on crabs, scraps of hide, carrion, roots, berries, or any thing they could find; suffering the utmost distress from insufficient and unwholesome food, debility, and their miserable situation. Three of the party died from sheer want. For a long time Mr. Clark was the only one who had sufficient strength to walk, or to do any thing; nor would the natives afford any relief, excepting an old woman, who sometimes, in the dead of the night, brought them a cup of arrowroot. At length, after having spent about five months in that miserable condition, an Arab of Mozambique, who traded to the place, ransomed them, and took them with him to his country, where he treated them with great kindness, till they obtained a passage in a vessel bound to Rio Janeiro, but which was to put into the Cape of Good Hope. On their departure the Arab summed up his kindness by a present of a little money.

While at Mozambique one of Mr. Clark's comrades, who had passed through such awful trials uninjured, went to enjoy a sleep under the cool shade of a cocoa-nut tree. A cocoa-nut fell from the tree on his face and shattered his jaw to pieces.

I afterwards met with Captain Davies at Mahi, who was first mate of the *Ann Elizabeth*, and who was

left on the Bassas de India with Mr. Clark, and shared his hardships and privations. Captain Davies commanded the Sir Andrew Hammond Whaler, of London, when I met him at Mahi.

The wind having now changed to the north, on the morning of the 1st of November, 1836, we found ourselves near to Mahi, sailing into the roads with a fine breeze; and by noon we had cast anchor, after rather a long passage of fourteen days. After some time the health officer came off, and, as may be supposed, our first inquiries were after our boat, the "Hope;" but we had the distressing answer that it had not arrived, nor had it been heard of. I went on shore with Captain Goodman and the Doctor immediately, to wait on Mr. George Harrison,²¹¹ the government agent and chief authority. After some conversation he invited me and Sibella to his house. I went on board the Whaler for her, and, before dark, we were introduced to his amiable family, and comfortably seated at a good and genteelly served dinner-table. At night we had the long-wanted enjoyment of a quiet sleep, in a good bed with clean sheets.

The whole of Captain Goodman's conduct was of the most kind and considerate nature; and ere we parted, which we did with feelings of great esteem and goodwill, I and my fellow sufferers addressed to him the following note :-

"Near Mahi, 29th October, 1836.

"To Captain Goodman,

"Bark Emma, Whaler, of London.

"On taking leave of you and your ship, by whose means, under Divine Providence, we have been res-

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cued from our distressing situation, on the desert Island of Astova,²¹² where we passed sixty-eight days in great anxiety, we, the undersigned, beg to offer you our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for the hospitable and disinterested manner in which you received us on board, and carried us, in great comfort, to the Seychelles.

"You not only yourself treated us with humanity and kindness, but the same truly Englishman-like feeling has been exhibited towards us by your officers, Mr. Clark, your chief; Mr. Kelly, your second; Mr. Pemberthey, your third; and indeed by every person in the ship; and we request you will be so kind as to convey to them our acknowledgments and thanks for their sympathy and exertions on our behalf.

"Having thus, though imperfectly, expressed to you our gratitude for the favours received at your hands, we bid you farewell; trusting that that Providence, in whose hands you have been the instrument of our deliverance, will grant you, your officers, and crew, health, happiness, and a prosperous voyage.

"Though your timely assistance to us may, in some degree, interfere with the regular course of your duty to your owners, we cannot but feel confident that conduct so humane and generous as your's has been, will not only meet with their approbation, but their applause.

"We remain,

"Dear Sir,

"Your much obliged and faithful servants,

"Sibella Stirling; W. Stirling, Captain of the 17th

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Regiment, Bombay, N. I.; Louisa Handry, Mrs. Stirling's servant; W. Deacon, Assistant Surgeon, Bombay Army; G. Blore, late Second Officer of the Tiger; John M. Wilson, Charles Bateman, Andrew Bing, Robert Wrightson, apprentices of the ship Tiger; Thomas Ireland (Beauty), and John Owens (Booby), ordinary seamen of the Tiger; Sheikh Ishmael, Jewa."

On our arrival at Mahi we found a small vessel building, whose destination was fixed, before we arrived, strange to say, for the Malabar Coast, on which we engaged a passage to Bombay. We were detained at Mahi two months and a half, till she was ready for sea ; during the whole of which time we were treated by Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, and her sisters, Misses Eliza and Pauline Coombs, natives of Switzerland, with the greatest kindness and hospitality. A few days before our departure from Mahi, Mr. Spurs, with the Carpenter and Joiner of the Tiger, arrived there.

It appears that on the day the "Hope" left Astova they sighted the Cosmoledo Islands ; but, mistaking them for Providence Island and Reef, they were confirmed in their original error, that we had been wrecked on Juan de Nova. They (having thus taken a false departure,) shaped their course erroneously for the Seychelles ; but not being able to reach them, and their provisions running short, they bore away for Zanzibar, on the coast of Africa, which they reached in safety, after having been at sea seventeen days.²¹³

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At Zanzibar they were kindly received by the Sultan, a son of the Imaum of Muscat, in Arabia; who, after a few days, gave them a passage in a Dow, a large Arab vessel, about to sail for Bombay, where they hoped to obtain assistance for us ; but, on reaching the latitude of 10° N. they encountered the N. E. monsoon, which they could not make head against, so that they ran for a place called Brava, on the coast of Africa, after being out about thirty-five days more. At Brava they found a small English Schooner, "The Kite," trading for gold dust, ivory, gums, tortoise shell, and the other precious productions of that coast, to whose Captain, strange to tell, we were well known. On hearing our names he promptly volunteered to go to Juan de Nova to rescue us. Accordingly, Mr. Spurs with his Carpenter and Joiner embarked on her, leaving the rest of his crew in Africa, for whom there was not room in the Kite, and sailed for Juan de Nova; but, on their arrival there, they, for the first time, discovered their mistake, and where they expected to find us, they found a French family with their blacks, in voluntary possession. They then steered for Astova in search of us, where they found the "Etoile," which had gone there from Mahi, with Mr. Blore, the second mate of the Tiger, to endeavour to save some of the cargo and other property of the ship ; and the Etoile having been successful in her endeavours, she returned to Mahi, bringing, in addition to the valuables from the wreck, Mr. Spurs, the Carpenter, and Joiner, one hundred and eighteen days after their departure from Astova ! The letters I had entrusted to

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Mr. Spurs, when he sailed in the "Hope," were brought back to me.²¹⁴

We never heard what became of the remainder of the crew ; but Mr. Spurs remained some time at the Seychelles, where he married a French Lady. The sailors who were left on Astova, and were brought with us to Mahi by Captain Goodman, went to the Mauritius ; whence, I have every reason to believe, they all reached England in safety. Sibella, and I,

and Louisa, Dr. Deacon, Ishmael, and Jewa, embarked on the 15th of January, 1837, at Mahi, for Bombay; and after a long month's passage, the whole of which time we were nearly under the equator, we reached Colombo, in the Island of Ceylon. We remained there a couple of days, hospitably received by Captain Stewart, Master Attendant of the Port, and his amiable wife. We enjoyed ourselves much; and among other pleasures, we drove through the cinnamon gardens, but found that their "scenting the air with their spicy perfume" is among the dreams of the poet.

We again set sail, and after a boisterous passage through the Gulph of Manaar (a sleepless sea), a day at Cochin, and beating against a foul wind the whole way up the Malabar coast, we reached Bombay on the 16th of March, 1837, upwards of eight calendar months from the date of our departure from the Cape of Good Hope. I had nearly forgotten to mention that our vessel, on board of which we spent nine weeks, was only of seventy tons burthen, and her name "La Prevoyante Marie Joseph," de St. Anne, Seychelles. She was named after the foreseeing wife of the

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owner of the vessel. Our long voyage in so small a vessel was not the lightest of our trials.

On my arrival in Bombay I found myself, to my indescribable joy, a Major in my Regiment, without purchase; a step which, had I reached Bombay in the usual time, and not been delayed by my shipwreck, would have cost me from £500 to £1000. We also received favourable letters from our children and friends in England. By the above piece of good fortune my losses by the shipwreck were made good; our health had not suffered by our hardships and afflictions; and while we saw the wonders of the great deep, we traced the gracious hand of God's providence in all his works, and felt that his mercy had been, on many occasions, extended to us in a remarkable manner.

THE SEYCHELLES.²¹⁵

The Seychelles consist of thirty-two Islands of various sizes, from Mahi the largest, which is about eighteen miles long by from one to five broad, down to some which are little better than naked rocks. They are all composed of granite of several varieties, with a few rocks which usually accompany it²¹⁶ their bases being, more or less, connected and surrounded by coral reefs.

The Seychelles were discovered by the Portuguese, but first settled by the French about eighty years ago,

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when Mahi de la Bourdonnais was Governor of Mauritius. He gave them collectively their present name in compliment to the then Minister of Marine in France. The Island and town of Mahi were named after himself.

The names of the other principal Islands of the group are Praslin, Silhouette,²¹⁷ and La Digue (named after important personages of the period). They are mountains,²¹⁸ rising from the sea, well watered, and wooded, but thinly inhabited. The scenery is beautiful, but Mahi, the capital, though containing some very good houses, well-supplied shops, and a considerable population, presents a poor appearance; the houses being of wood and covered

with Shingles.

The public functionaries, in 1837, consisted of a Government Agent, a Sub-Agent (who was also a special Magistrate for the protection of apprentices, late

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slaves), a Justice of the Peace, and a Superintendant of Police : the two former English, and the two latter Native French. The Government Agent is subordinate to the English Governor of Mauritius, who exercises jurisdiction over all the Islands in the Indian Ocean, from Diego Garcia, east, to Aldabra, west. Different individuals (chiefly French,) have a grant of the Islands, which they visit periodically and make profitable. Mr. B. Huitieu, of Mahi, had a grant of Astova, but being very unproductive he only occupied it one season. He cut the path mentioned in the Journal, planted the cocoa-nut trees, &c., and the letters cut on the tree are part of his name.

The productions of the Seychelles are numerous ; but I have only space to mention particularly the Coco de Mer, which grows indigenously on Praslin and two or three of the smaller Islands, but no where else in the world. This cocoa-nut weighs from twenty to fifty pounds when green. It is generally double, though sometimes quadruple, and even quintuple. The kernel is not unlike a blanc mange, or what is called a fallen star, in appearance, when fresh; and is not unpleasant to the taste, being something like a very insipid common cocoa-nut. When dry they are taken to India and other foreign countries, where they fetch a high price; the kernel and its oil, or milk, being highly esteemed as a linament in rheumatism. They derive their ordinary designation from their having been found on the shores of the ocean, particularly on the Maldivé Islands; and their origin being unknown, till lately, they were supposed to be a marine production. Mr. Harrison kindly allowed me to

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take a copy of a manuscript description of the plant, which will be found in the appendix.

The hills abound in wild raspberries and pineapples of excellent quality, and the latter are so abundant as not to be very highly valued either by the pigs or the slaves. The reefs abound in beautiful shells.

The Seychelles having no fortifications were surrendered by the French to the English without resistance, about the time of the capture of the Mauritius, in 1810, and have been retained by the latter up to the present time. The code Napoleon is partially in force still.

At Seychelles I picked up the following information respecting Astova.-

The Portuguese ship "Le Dom Royal," bound from the coast of Africa for America, with 300 slaves on board, was wrecked on Astova, in 1760: the crew and slaves got ashore in safety. Some time after the Captain and European part of the crew sailed in the long-boat for Mozambique, but, according to one account, were never heard of; and by another, they were picked up at sea by an English vessel. However, by some means or other it became known²¹⁹ at the Mauritius, or Bourbon, that the slaves were on the Island; and a ship (perhaps the "Jardinier") was fitted out to go there and try to bring them away (slaves were then like so much gold and silver); but having succeeded in taking a great many on board she drifted on the reef in the night and was wrecked, when

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all perished. Another vessel was fitted out to "look for the Jardinier, but on her arrival at Astova she drifted on the reef and was wrecked also.

Some twenty years afterwards a small vessel touched at Astova, but to their surprise found it inhabited by blacks ; who, on their approach to the shore, set up wild shouts of defiance, and placed themselves in an attitude of defence. The vessel sailed away, and on its arrival at Bourbon reported what they had seen. A vessel was fitted out to try and bring away the blacks,²²⁰ but on her arrival at Astova she ran upon the reef, and was lost also.

Mr. Savy, about the year 1796, went from Seychelles to try and bring away the slaves. He sent a black, called Paul, on shore, to treat with them; but, in the mean time, the ship was currented away, and Paul left on shore. Before Mr. Savy's ship could return, two ships, one from Mauritius and one from Mahi, went to Astova on the same business, and proceeded to take the blacks by force; when many of them, and a few Europeans, were killed. Paul was killed by the blacks, who believed that he was in league with the Europeans.

One of the ships, having embarked about 100 blacks, was wrecked on the Island, when the whole of the crew and the blacks on board were drowned. The other ship brought some of the blacks to Mahi. Among the Europeans who brought the blacks to Mahi was Mr. Cunnan of Praslin. That ship went back to Astova for the rest of the blacks, but was wrecked on the Island. Oh! fatal shore.

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Mr. Savy did not return to Astova but came to Mahi, where he heard of Paul's fate from Mr. Cunnan, who witnessed his death.

Captain Scoi passed Astova on his voyage from Mauritius to Mozambique, about 1799, and found no one on the Island. It was supposed that they had been taken away by a Portuguese ship.

Many children were born on Astova, the slaves having been male and female; and they were said to have been a very fine race.

I have before mentioned that the shores of Astova are strewn with pieces of vessels, of different countries and materials ; and that a cannon and two anchors of ancient manufacture, are on the reefs. We found no bones or human remains on the Island.

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APPENDIX

The "Coco de Mer" Tree grows upon Round Island, Praslin, and Curieuse, and is to be found on no other part of the Archipelago, or of the world.

"The Islands in question are within a very short distance of each other, and were formerly entirely covered with them. The common cocoa-nut tree generally occupies the level sandy spots along the coast, the Coco de Mer not being able to take root in so light a soil. The usual height of the tree is from sixty to eighty feet. I have seen a few bear fruit at a very early age, the trunks not being more than six feet above ground; and the time it takes to arrive at its full growth may be a century and a half, or less. When very young, the trunk scarcely appearing above the ground, the leaves or branches frequently measure twenty feet and upwards; but, after a certain period, gradually decrease in size every year, till they are at

length diminished to barely one fifth of their original dimensions. The generality of the inhabitants agree in saying that the tree produces but one leaf annually. It shoots out perpendicularly from the centre, and then expands itself like a fan. At this period it is of a pale yellow colour, and is used for making bats; the leaf being cut ere it has expanded itself to the sun,

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and the tree young, and short enough to admit of its being procured without much climbing. After the Coco de Mer tree has acquired its usual number of leaves, viz. eighteen or twenty, as every fresh one crowns the top, the oldest, which is at the bottom, falls to the ground. Every branch, as it decays, leaves on the trunk the mark where it grew; and, from the number of these marks, the age of the tree may be fairly estimated. When very old the marks can no longer be discerned, the female ceases bearing, and the flower drops from the male. There is a Coco de Mer tree at Mahi, which M. de Quincey informed me, was planted previous to his arrival in the colony, and which he imagined to be at least forty years old.

"The height from the ground to the first leaf is thirteen and a half French feet; from thence to the aperture at the top, from whence the young leaves shoot, measures five feet: there are two pushing up at this moment, the smallest being one foot in height, and the other five feet. Fifteen clusters of young cocoa-nuts, with ten or fifteen in each cluster, all of which fall to the ground in an immature state, from want of a male tree to impregnate the female. The fruit of the tree, or Coco de Mer, when perfectly ripe, falls to the ground; the outer envelope decaying, discovers the inner shell, which is extremely hard and durable, and from which pushes forth a germ which, taking root, produces the young plant.

"When the Coco de Mer is not allowed to remain too long on the tree, it is frequently used for the jelly which it contains, which is of a blueish tint, and very palatable. One of them, which I procured from Curi-

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euse the other day, measured three feet four inches in circumference, and weighed thirty-three and a half pounds, with the jelly, which well filled two soup plates. The inner shell serves the slaves for holding water, one of an ordinary size being able to contain thirteen quarts; also for eating their food out of. The leaves are made use of in covering all kinds of buildings; and the trunks, cut into certain lengths, and then split, make excellent fences.

"The male tree is, in every respect, like the female, in appearance, save that, instead of seeing fruit hanging in clusters from between its branches, you perceive in their place what, in the language of the country, are called Babas; being from five to eight feet long, six inches in circumference, of a brown colour, sprinkled all over with bright yellow flowers. To behold these trees in some of the deep and retired valleys of the Island of Praslin, where they have never yet been disturbed, growing in thousands, close to each other--the male agitated by the wind, sometimes touching the female, as if in the act of embracing her--a numerous offspring shooting up on all sides, sheltered by the parent plants--the old falling into the yellow leaf, and going fast to decay, to make room for them--present to the mind a picture so pleasing, that it is difficult not to consider them as sensible of their condition, and capable of both pleasure and pain.

"What greatly adds to the interest excited on beholding this noble palm is, that we can

imagine it as occupying the very same spot where it was first ordained that it should take root, and which has been separated by the sea from the rest of the Archipelago and

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of the globe, from the very beginning of the Creation. This may be thought a bold conjecture, but I think it can be very easily proved that there is sufficient reason for giving credit to it. The common cocoa-nut, from the peculiar durability of its outward envelope, particularly when immersed in salt water, will preserve its vegetative powers for a very long period of time; and after floating about for months, or possibly years, will take root upon the first sandy beach it may be cast upon by the winds and currents; which is the reason of its being found in almost every part of the universe, where the climate is adapted to its growth. Now the outward envelope²²¹ of the Coco de Mer is of a very perishable substance, and as the inner shell which it covers will not float when deprived of it, it is quite impossible for it to propagate itself from one Island to another; unless indeed the distance be very short, as between Praslin and Curieuse, for instance, or Praslin and Round Island.

"In the Oriental Navigator for 1826, page 133, is the following note; writing of Mahi, or, as it is there called, Isle Seychelles:-

"This Island, according to M. Sonneratt's voyage in la Nouvelle Guinée, is the only one that we know of where that species of palm-tree grows which produces the sea cocoa-nut, called the Maldiva nut, from its being carried by the waves to the Maldives.'

"This account of its having been first discovered at the Maldives, there is no reason for doubting the

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truth of; the name of Coco de Mer having evidently originated in the supposition that it was a marine production, from its having been dragged from the bottom of the sea, or found floating upon its surface, ere the tree from which it had dropped was known to exist. But it could only have been met with at so considerable a distance from its native shore, long after it had lost all vegetating principle.

"The same note in the Oriental Navigator proceeds to state that 'before the year 1759, when the spot where it grows was discovered, it was not uncommon to see a Maldiva nut sold in India for three or four hundred pounds.'

"If this statement be also correct, it is also but another proof of its having been really considered as proceeding from the sea; which belief, acting as a charm upon a superstitious and credulous people, induced them to attribute virtues to it which, in all probability, it never possessed; for, now that the Coco de Mer is known to be produced as other fruits of the earth are, little notice is taken of it."²²²

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DESCRIPTION OF THE VEGETABLE PRODUCTIONS OF JUAN DE NOVA²²³

I have to regret that I had no book to refer to, and that my botanical knowledge was so limited as to enable me only to make the following imperfect description. It is an exact copy of what I wrote on the Island, as I have thought it better not to attempt any improvement or correction.

1.-A small yellow flower : 5 petals, 10 stamens, 5 pistils, flowers grow singly on a short foot-stalk, though the old and new form branches ; leaf slightly astringent, fleshy and brittle, smooth, even at the edge, half or three-quarters of an inch long; narrow flower, slightly sweet scented. Its bushes much frequented by a small bird whose head is of the beautiful colour of the humming bird, its throat encircled by a blood-red ring, but the rest of its plumage like that of a common sparrow ; and by bees. Calix, or nectary, contains 4 seeds, each about the size of a No. 4 shot; leaves in bunches at the ends of the branches and out of which the flowers grow : the wood, when cut, red; the bark very rough and dry, something like that of the bauble or gum arabic tree. It burns well green or dry. It lies on the ground to a great length, throwing down roots as it goes along, while all behind gradually dies ; ants numerous in its old roots; grows on exposed situations ; bark very astringent. (I have

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had a picture-frame made of the timber of this plant.)

2.-Small white flower, 6 petals, shrivelled-looking; 12 stamens, 1 pistil with a round shining green top ; diameter of flower one third of an inch, grows on the ends of the branches on a short foot-stalk, sweet; leaf astringent, long, oval, fleshy, brittle, smooth on surface and round the edges ; calix like a clove; 1 seed in calix: wood, when broken, fresh and moist, grows like the henna, or mendy, when sheltered, when exposed (being blown against the ground,) its branches take root, and the tree thus creeps along. Bark, a powerful astringent, makes good red ink. (I have had several seal, wafer-stamp, and drawer handles, &c., made of this hard wood.)

3.-Pretty purple flower, 4 petals on the upper part, none below, 1 pistil, 12 stamens, leaving one so as to fill the lower space when there are no petals; stamens like flower, purple, tipped with yellow; inside of nectary, pale yellow; plant, creeping; seed produced in a pod; stem, hairy; leaf fleshy, brittle, yellowish green, roundish, rough, hairy, grow one, two, and three on a foot-stalk ; diameter of flower half an inch : leaves, when pressed, smell slightly of mint.

4.-Very small delicate pretty flower, pale lilac, 4 stamens, 1 pistil ; flower has 5 hollows, giving it the appearance of having 5 petals, though it has only one ; flowers in bunches at the end of a foot-stalk, an inch long; leaf smooth, fleshy, brittle, slightly sticky to the touch ; seed in a small pod ; leaf one third of an inch long, grows from the stem which is creeping, yellowish green, looks a little crumpled but fresh, pret-

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ty shape, smooth at the edges like the pearl mogree leaf.

5.-Flower pure white, quarter of an inch in diameter, with a greenish tinge inside the nectary; 5 petals, 5 stamens, 1 pistil, grows in large bunches at the ends of the branches on a foot-stalk 4, 5, and 6 inches in length ; scents the air with its sweetness like the May flower ; new branches very brittle and full of pith ; old wood hard with little pith ; leaves numerous at the ends of the branches up to the bottom of foot-stalks, from there to 6 inches long from half an inch to two inches broad, edge rather fleshy, surface pretty smooth though slightly hairy and pointed at both ends. Tree grows 10 or 15 feet high, in sheltered places, is branchy, and looks like the elder ; stem a foot in diameter ; leaves when fresh, pale green, when faded, apricot colour; inner bark sweetish and juicy, outer very rough. (I have had a picture-frame made of the timber of this plant.)

6.-Yellow flower, 7 petals, numerous stamens, 1 pistil that expands into 5 points; plant small creeping; leaf, fleshy, brittle, reddish green ; 1 flower at the end of branch close among the leaves ; flowers one third of an inch wide.

7.-Aloe: 6 stamens, 1 pistil; flower bell red, 3 yellow petals; grows upright on a long foot-stalk bearing many flowers; leaf about 18 inches long, pointed, prickly at the edges; aloe green: when cut juicy, bitter : sometimes grows 6 or 8 feet high, up to the top of the jungle, then throws out leaves and flowers, giving it the appearance of a parasite.

8.-Bright buff or yellow flower one third of an

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inch diameter, 5 petals, 5 stamens (or rather holes), 1 pistil topped by 5 delicate pale prominent points, and many shorter of a golden hue. Flower grows singly on a short foot-stalk springing from close above the leaf; stem spreading close to the ground, pale, woody ; root grows straight down ; leaf near half an inch long, serrated, oval, usually has 17 or 19 points: leaf and stem mucilaginous when chewed ; sheep fond of it: flowers have little or no smell.

9.-Small delicate lilac or French-white flower, 4 stamens, 1 pistil, 5 petals; plant spreading close to the ground, has a withered look, and smells, when pressed, very slightly of lavender; leaf something like thyme flowers, thick, oval, one third of an inch long, grow from stalk singly, close above the leaves, on very short foot-stalks.

10.-Small pale blue flower, 5 stamens, 2 pistils, each with 2 points; flower not divided into petals, inside the nectary very pale yellow ; plant small, spreading, raising its ends a little; leaves small, grows on stalk ; flowers grow out from above them half an inch long, with 2 small leaves about half-way up, not unlike a common wild flower something like the "forget me not."

11.-Pale lilac flower three quarters of an inch in diameter with deep calix, 2 large stamens with blue double heads, and 1 other stamen or pistil with a thin single lilac head, 5 petals, 3 purple marks inside the nectary, at the very bottom of the nectary some very slight small stamen-like appearances, but scarce distinguishable; leaf and plant not unlike the shrub basil or toolsee, but a little stouter.

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12.-A pure white flower near an inch in diameter, sweet-smelling like the chumpa or mogree, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 petals, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 stamens, generally corresponding with the number of petals, 1 pistil; flowers grow on bunches at the end of the branches and produce a fruit like the fig, but hard to cut and smells like an apple ; tree looks like a fig tree, grows 20 or 25 feet high; has handsome long oval-ended leaves, smooth edges, smooth above, slightly rough below ; colour varying from fresh green to the rich golden hue of autumn, according to age : they seem thereby to grow in succession, and the tree to be an ever-green ; wood soft and inclining to spongy ; a handsome and ornamental tree. The parts of the Island where it grows (at the bay) looks like a dressed shrubbery.

13.-Small French-white flower with a few pink spots inside one of the petals, 1 pistil, 2 stamens, 4 petals ; flower on point of the plant, which is a few inches high ; and in leaf and general appearance, when it grows erect, is like the garden border box ; leaf fleshy, brittle: sometimes is a spreading plant.

14.-Handsome bright orange flower an inch and a half in diameter when expanded, 6,

7, 8 petals, stamens generally corresponding in number, 1 pistil with 4 points ; flowers grow in bunches at the ends of the branches on long foot-stalks, not unlike some grapes; tree from 3 to 20 feet high ; wood spongy ; leaf wide, oval, round edges, prominently fibred, 2, 4, 5, 6 inches long, when pressed smells fresh, approaching to sweet ; flower has scarcely any smell : by its bright colour is seen at a considerable distance : grows on the west, or lee, side of the Island.

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15.-White flower half or three quarters of an inch in diameter, smells like mogree or jessamine, 5 stamens, 1 pistil, 5 petals, grows in bunches from close to the leaves which are only near the ends of the branches, and produces a fruit something like an apple a fortnight or three weeks old, with a stone and kernel in it ; plant grows 2, 3, 10 feet high, spongy; leaf very fresh-looking, round edged, fleshy, very brittle, bitter, like bay, to the taste; grows in exposed and sheltered situations ; attracts moisture from the sea spray or atmosphere to such a degree that towards evening until mid-day its leaves are wet and even dripping with salt water, at the distance of 200 or 500 yards from the sea with the shelter of a high bank.

16.-Thorny tree 6, 10, 15 feet high; yellowish leaves ; bark and tree altogether like a bad cast orange tree; leaves have the very slightest smell of the orange tree. Saw some dusty-looking flowers, but too small to see distinctly.

17.-Butter-cup yellow flower near an inch in diameter, 5 petals, 1 pistil, from the top of which expand about 30 points; above 20 petals (so numerous I could not count them with the glass), seed vessel about the size of a pea but the shape of a Dutch cheese ; leaf about the size of and something like the nasturtium, though, when fresh on the tree, like an apricot, grows on a foot-stalk an inch long ; flower on foot-stalk 1½ or 2 inches long ; calix has 5 points.

18.-Yellow pea-shape flower about half the size of a sweet pea, growing out of a shoot 6 or 8 inches long, which is covered upwards with flowers on foot-stalks

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half an inch long ; tree, leaf, and flower not unlike the laburnum ; produces 6 or 8 peas in each pod, which, as they ripen, become black and disfigure the tree; 9 and 10 stamens, 1 pistil in all, 5 petals ; flowers smell like sweet violets, though the leaf, particularly when pressed, smells disagreeably; leaf pale green with a whitish down on it, rather thick, not brittle, oval, round at the edges, three quarters to one and a half inch long; wood tough, difficult to break off a bunch of flowers ; tree 10 or 15 feet high ; leaves grow feathery on both sides.

19.-Cocoa-nut tree : an exotic : about 30 sowed or planted along the edges of the path of communication between the pool and the bay, now about 2 feet high.

20.-Milk bush: a creeper: thin stem, pale green; climbs over the tops of trees 15 or 20 feet high ; produces bunches of white flowers, the bunches about three quarters of an inch diameter.

21.-Convolvulus creeper : white trumpet-shaped flower 3 inches in diameter, 5 stamens, 1 pistil, no smell; creeper grows as thick as the little finger, pliant like rope, but not strong enough for hard work; leaf fresh, oval, from 2 to 6 inches long, even edged; 4 or 5 seeds grow in ball like seed vessel.

22.-Leaf and tree like the peach; leaf very slightly serrated at the edges ; the fruit, which

grows like to buck shot, tied together like grape, is rough, and in colour like the peach. Saw no flowers. Grows 5 or 10 feet high : the fruit contains 4 nuts, each containing one or more kernels, to the taste sweet, oily.

23.-Very small white and yellow flower on the same

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tree, grows in bunches ; produces a pretty red-streaked fruit like a very large haw, mellow, juicy, sweetish; inside a soft shell with a large kernel, harder but much the same to the taste as the pulp; leaf glossy, brittle, oval, very slightly serrated, an inch or one and a half inches long.

24.-Leaf grows in threes at the end of a foot-stalk half or three quarters of an inch long, narrow on leaving the foot-stalk, but expands at the end, length an inch or one and a half; bark of branches dark plumlike ; leaf inclining to yellow.

25.-Fresh green-leafed aquatic plant, throwing out of the roots bunches which cover the rocks like the roots of a banyan tree, and shoot up into trees, forming a fine shade over the sea water in shallows. Tree grows 20 or 25 feet high. Could not obtain any flowers. Produces a pendent pod 6 or 8 inches long from a cup edged by eleven points. Numerous aquatic birds roost on its branches. Leaf bay-green, 2 or 3 inches long, oval, running to a point, smooth, shining, even round the edges, keeps fresh several days after being gathered without water. The mangrove.

26.-Yellowish-white pretty flower near half an inch in diameter, grows in bunches, 5 petals, 5 pistils, 5 stamens ; stem of plant green, creeping, at other times stands erect like a rush; stem green-yellowish, longitudinally shaped, blackish; wood brittle, pithy; root woody, tastes like liquorice, and leaves a glow on the tongue like a clove.

27.-White flower the size of a large pin's head, 3 petals, 1 pistil, and, as far as I could see, 6 or 12 stamens. There may also be three smaller petals at the

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openings of the 3 larger, but the flower being so small I could not distinctly make them out whether petals or stamens. Plant creeping, green, red, and yellowish, according to age, as thick as a thin string; few leaves ; flower buds as it were from the stem : grows over hedges, and plants as a parasite at the Cape and on garden enclosures in India. It produces a berry like a large white currant, but contains inside a kernel in outward appearance like a black pepper-corn.

28.-A species of Baubel, or Accacia: saw only one small plant : no flower.

Some of the above plants, when in sheltered situations on the Island, were very vigorous and handsome; and I afterwards saw some of them in India and at the Seychelles; a few cultivated, but others as the weeds of the poorest soil. Some of the seeds which I took to India came up.

REV. WILLIAM HOCKIN²²⁵.
Island John de Nova, 23rd August, 1836.

Hush !Private

My dearest Brother,

I date my letter from a part of the world which, being uninhabited, has not even attracted the attention of Missionaries. We did not visit this place voluntarily, but, considering all things, we have the greatest reason for thankfulness ; and I hope the late mercies bestowed unto us may be always remembered by us with gratitude. I hope I have prepared you for no common intelligence ; but you are all such a nervous set at home, that a long preface is necessary to inform you simply that we are all alive and well, and enjoying the delightful sea breezes of John de Nova. If you look at your beautiful maps you will find a John de Nova in the Mozambique channel, and another (which we believe ourselves to be on,) to the north east of Madagascar, the largest of a group of Islands: it is in some maps called Farquhar; but if Luxmoore²²⁶ is with you and knows anything about Horsburgh's Directory, he will find it accurately described in that book. We were rather tired of the ship and knowing that there was a group of Islands hereabouts, began to consider the possibility of being

able to land. I did not much expect to, but the Doctor seemed almost determined we should ; so on the night of the 12th he contrived to manage it. Having hauled up our ship till she lay quite comfortable on a reef of coral rocks, we landed all safe here on Friday morning, the 12th August. I suppose now, my dear Brother, I may venture to make use of more vulgar language, and tell you that we were wrecked on a desert Island, which we imagined to be the one I have named, and that all have been saved and are well: all particulars of this event I have written to Mamma,²²⁷ but am unwilling to send it by this opportunity, as there is no regular mail yet established between this and England. Our Captain died at sea, and Mr. Spurs, the first officer, has this morning announced to us his wish, that as we have provisions to last us two months, it would be for the safety of all that we should remain here whilst he and the best part of his crew go in the longboat, as soon as she is fitted up, to Mahi, the largest of the Seychelles Archipelago, which belongs to England, and in which there are Europeans. We wrote to those Inhabitants for assistance. Should there be any ship there we shall be speedily relieved ; should there not, we must wait till they can hear of our situation at the Mauritius. At the worst, if our long-boat reaches the Seychelles we may expect to be relieved in two months, and should there be a vessel at Seychelles, we may hope not to be here more than three weeks, and may reach Bombay and be able to write to Mamma from there, before she knows we are missing ; therefore, as it will only cause the most useless anxiety, I think you might as well not tell her of our accident, unless rumours should reach that we are missing, and then you will be able to assure her of our

safety up to the present time. Should Mary know of our situation, give her our kindest love ; but as I may not send messages to my little darlings, please to talk of us to them more than ever, and kiss them for us. Captain Stirling has written a complete journal of our adventures, and I have written to Mamma an account of all that has befallen us, as it appeared to me, which, if it please God we should ever reach Bombay, I shall send from thence. The long-boat will be ready this week and will start immediately to take advantage of the moonlight

nights. Good bye.

Believe me,
My dear William,
Your most affectionate Sister,
S. Stirling.

You may perceive this paper has been saturated with sea water. Don't be surprised at your name being mis-spelt:²²⁸ it is to avoid the possibility of Papa's²²⁹ opening your letter.

August 30th, 1836.-The boat is not yet quite ready for sea. Do not be alarmed if you do not hear from us again for four months, as it does not follow that we shall be relieved by a Bombay ship.

Our boat is to sail to morrow the 15th September.

--All well.--Three weeks' supply of bread left.

My dear William, as you may suppose, it is not a very easy matter to write much under our present circumstances.--Just imagine it one o'clock in the morning of a pitch dark night, running foul of an unknown uninhabited Island--the ship beating on the rocks so as to beat her bottom quite in--the sea rolling over the ship ; and without our knowing where

we were. The morning (near six o'clock) showed us we were among the breakers, a quarter of a mile from a low, sandy, rocky bank, with a few stunted bushes on it, a few feet above high-water mark, without the least prospect of there being any thing to eat or drink on it. Only think, I am the officiating Clergyman ! I read Prayers every morning privately, and every evening publicly, at which all the passengers and crew regularly and devoutly (of their own free will) attend ; and on Sundays I read the Morning Prayer, the Litany, the appropriate Sea Service, and some other Prayers and Thanksgivings. Last Sunday I read in addition, the 12th chapter of the Romans and 3rd of James. Sibella has not only behaved like a heroine but a christian. She has never shed a tear nor uttered a word of complaint, and instead of being an incumbrance, she has proved a comforter. We are as comfortable as our situation admits of. I have kept a regular journal. The long-boat with the chief Mate starts as soon as ready for the Seychelles, to ask assistance for us, by which opportunity I send this. We have caught some turtle and fish, and we saved near 200 hams, 8 live sheep, poultry, even beer, spirits, and every worldly comfort, from the ship ; also many books. We got water the second day by digging six feet in the sand. When we came to a little moist sand near the water, a dog, which we had saved, standing by, so dreadful was its thirst, ate it up. Love to Mary and our dear little bairns, for whom we prayed fervently as well as for ourselves in our distress. I have been writing all day to the Governor of the Mauritius, of Bombay, of Seychelles, &c. So adieu.

Your affectionate Brother,
W. Stirling.

To MRS. HOCKIN, Dartmouth.
Ship, Emma, off Silhouette, 26th October, 1836.

My dear Mamma,

We consider ourselves persons of such importance that we are quite at a loss how to commence a letter to you after such a long silence, fearful that your health and nerves altogether may not be in a state to bear any sudden excitement. But I suppose that the length of time which has elapsed since last you heard of, or from, us, has already caused you great

anxiety, and the sight of my hand-writing alone, without waiting for particulars, will quite upset you. We have not made a very direct course to Bombay, and have, as you may perceive, changed our ship; in fact, our present destination is Mahi, the chief of the Seychelles Archipelago, where we hope we may be able to forward this to you via the Isle of France; and if we consider the opportunity a sufficiently safe one, I shall send you further particulars. This is just meant to assure you that we are well, and have not forgotten you all at home, although circumstances have prevented our being able to write to you. I sent a letter to William by a boat going to the Seychelles, about six weeks ago, but am very doubtful if it ever reached him. We hope to anchor at Mahi to morrow evening. Yesterday we had the good fortune to speak a ship, who gave us the good news that a new ship had been built and was fitting out for Cochin on the Bombay

coast, so we hope to be able to make arrangements to go in her. We are anxious enough to get to Bombay to get news of our dear ones. Our last news was the 23rd March, so we may expect to get three months' news when we arrive there. I am afraid you may have been made uneasy about us by newspaper reports, for the Tiger in which we first set sail to Bombay was due there ten weeks ago, and not having made her appearance, those concerned have no doubt given her up. I don't think it likely the boys have troubled you on this subject, they are so little addicted to letter writing that I dare say our non-appearance at the time we were expected has served as an excuse for their not writing to you. To tell you the truth, our ship did get aground on a little Island called Astova, and as the wind blew fresh on shore we were not able to get her off again, and were obliged to wait there until assistance could be procured. After waiting there nine weeks, the Emma, commanded by Captain Goodman, came and took us away; she will take us to Mahi, where we shall be under the protection of Mr. Harrison, the English Governor, of whom I will tell you more after we get there.

Mahi, Sunday 6th November, 1836.--Here we are at last, my dear Mamma, again enjoying the comfort of civilized society after all our trials. May I venture now to tell you that I have been wrecked and cast on shore on a coral reef, where we spent sixty-four days before we were discovered by Captain Goodman who commanded a whaling vessel. He waited for us four days and then brought us here, and we are now staying with the Governor, Mr. Harrison, who has married a Swiss Lady. I have written to

you a long letter of five sheets of foolscap, giving you an account of all our proceedings: until you receive that you must remain contented with the knowledge that we are all well at present, and have had no exaggerated sufferings during our residence on Astova. The vessel we expect to go in will not be ready for six weeks, and they say it will be six weeks making the voyage to Bombay, so you must not expect to hear from there until August next. Kiss the dear little children, and continue to send us good accounts of them: with most affectionate love to Papa. Believe me, my dear Mamma,

Your affectionate Daughter,

S. Stirling.

My dear Mamma,

I will now merely tell you that we are perfectly well and in safety. Sibella instead of being a burthen on us was a great support, and by her fortitude and cheerfulness set a good example to all: even the sailors remarked it. We had an excellent female servant, who was a great treasure to us, and made herself useful in every way; so that, as we had plenty

of provisions and tents of sails, we were pretty well off; and had it not been the uncertainty as to whether we should ever be rescued from our desert Island, we should have had little to complain of. With love to Papa.

Believe me

Your affectionate Son,
W. Stirling.

Mahi, 6th November, 1836.

To MISS MARION STIRLING.²³⁰

Juan de Nova, 25th September, 1836,
as we supposed, but really Astova.

My dear little Girl,

I have written a very long letter to Grandmamma, and have told her all about our being wrecked : I dare say she will read you any part of that letter that you will understand, and I hope you will now be able to remember the difference between an Island and a Continent, as Papa and Mamma have been wrecked on a little Island in the middle of the big sea ; such a little Island that you may, perhaps, not find it put down in Uncle Hockin's large maps. Our little boat went to sea ten days ago: it was to go to the Seychelles, where, I believe, some English people live, and try to get a ship to come for us here. It is a very great way for such a little boat to go, but we hope that through God's mercy it may be the means of our leaving this place. Papa and I often talk of our dear little girls, and pray to God that we may be permitted to see them again. We brought some of Aunt Hockin's and Grandmamma's letters to as with us, and read about what you did when a little girl only five years' old. We shall be very glad to hear of you again when we get to Bombay. Dear little sister²³¹ is now nearly three years old, and is running about by herself and chattering all sorts of nonsense : you must be sure to remember all the funny things she says to tell me. I should like to get a peep at her and you too. I dare say you would like to live on this little

Island. No one lives here but ourselves : Papa and I, and our servant, Louisa, live in one tent, where also the wine and brandy are kept ; the Doctor and second Mate live in another : in their's they keep the hams, salt pork, and biscuit. Four young boys live in another ; two Indian servants live in a small one near us, and cook our meals : two sailors live close by them. The young boys and sailors have their meat given to them to cook for themselves, and they dine together in their own tent. The Doctor comes over to us and breakfasts and dines with us. The second Mate has his dinner sent to him, as it is unsafe to leave the provisions without somebody to look after them. Sometimes we catch very good fish, and sometimes turtle, which makes good soup, but the meat is very coarse, and we always prefer fish when we can get it. We have very little biscuit and it will not last many days longer, when we shall be obliged to eat our meals without bread or vegetables. The eggs of the turtle do very well instead of bread, but it is not often we find them with eggs in them. Papa has made a little garden; the seeds came up very strong and well, but soon began to droop and wither from the burning heat of the sun. We have found a great number of pretty shells on the beach, which we have taken care of, hoping one day to be able to show them to you and little sister.

We have left Astova, my dear child, and are now safe at Mahi. Kiss your sister and Aunt Hockin many times for me. and believe me, my little maid,
Your affectionate Mother,

Sibella Stirling.

7th November, 1836.

To MRS. WILLIAM HOCKIN,
Blackawton Vicarage.

My very dear Sister,

I dare say our long silence has alarmed you, and I will therefore begin this by assuring you that Sibella as well as myself are safe, and as well as ever we were in our lives: indeed, Sibella is stronger and better than ever I knew her. We spent sixty-four days of great anxiety on the desert Island of Astova, 10 miles in circumference, 150 miles N. westerly of Cape Amber, the N. point of Madagascar; because we were uncertain whether we should ever be heard of or relieved; but it being our fate to be wrecked, we could not have been so with less real suffering, for we had plenty of good provisions, clothes, tents, fresh water, and every thing we could have had if campaigning in India, and even better; and though we lost our property, we saved our lives and our health, and had an opportunity of seeing the goodness of God to those who call on him; and I may say, of his vengeance upon those who despise him. We lost about £200 worth, besides, perhaps, all the additional passage money from hence to India. We saved our watches, most of Sibella's trinkets, and a few sovereigns I luckily had by me, silver spoons, spy-glass, and some clothes, which had been from three to six days at the bottom of the sea; almost every thing else is gone. The ship that we were wrecked in, the Tiger of Liverpool, was a beautiful, quite new, ship, and was lost entirely through the ignorance and carelessness of her officers. We were wrecked on Astova, and they

thought we were on Juan de Nova, 200 miles east of it! Kiss the dear children, and explain to them, if you can, where we have been, and how we have been situated. Mamma behaved like a heroine, or rather, like a true christian; setting a good example to all by her fortitude and cheerfulness. She had her share of work to perform, and sometimes accompanied me when on fishing and turtling excursions, which, however, were not "excursions of pleasure," but labour to get our daily bread. The Emma, a London Whaler, in search of fish and turtle, "looked in" at Astova, and found us there. Captain Goodman behaved with great humanity to us, and carried us to this place, free of expense, although it took him three weeks out of his way and profit. Give my best regards to your good man, and to Mr. and Mrs. Lampin. Tell Mr. Lampin we had, on the desert Island, about a dozen of good porter, and that when we indulged in a glass I thought of our happy days at Blackawton.

Believe me your affectionate Brother,
W. Stirling.

Mahi, Seychelles, 6th November, 1836.

Write and tell Tom and Maria of our misfortune and safety.

To MISS MARION STIRLING.
Good Ship, Emma.

My dear little Girl,

I have another letter half written to you, but it is locked up in a box and I cannot get at it now. It is a very long time since we have been able to send a letter to you, nor do I know when we shall have an opportunity of sending this; but I must write to my little girl that she

may not think we have forgotten her. I have written a long letter of five or six sheets to Grandmamma, giving her an account of all our misfortunes. I do not think I shall forward it to her until we get to Bombay ; this I expect to be able to send to the Isle of France, where it will wait until a vessel is going to England. We are now on our way to the Seychelles, and have already had a long passage, having had light and variable winds and much rain. We might see land to morrow if a fair breeze would spring up. How many letters we shall have to read when we get to Bombay! may they contain good accounts of our two little girls. Of dear little Emily we hope to get a good deal of news, and to hear that she is able to walk and talk. I hope Grandmamma allowed her to spend the summer months with you, and that you were very happy together. I wish I could get a peep at the little soul trotting about. What accounts will Aunt Hockin have to give me of

you?-- good ones, we hope. May God bless you, my little girl. Believe me
always

Your affectionate Mother,
Sibella Stirling.

Mahi in the Seychelles, 6th November, 1836.

TO MISS MARION STIRLING.

My dear sweet Child,

You are, no doubt, wondering why Papa and Mamma don't write ; but the fact is, there is no post-office where we have been, and we could not send letters. Poor Papa and Mamma have been, since we left the Cape, exposed to great dangers and distress, the ship we sailed in having been wrecked on the Island of Astova, about 150 miles N. W. from the north point of Madagascar. The ship ran on the rocks at one o'clock in the morning, when it was pitch dark, raining and blowing hard, and when we had no idea that we were within 200 miles of the place where we struck. You cannot, my little dear, imagine such a situation as we were in, particularly till day-light, when we found ourselves about a quarter of a mile from a most miserable sandy Island, only a few feet above high-water mark. At eleven o'clock in the forenoon we all got on shore, without any person being drowned, and found the Island uninhabited and desert. We saved plenty of provisions from the ship, and caught plenty of turtle and fish ; and by digging deep in the sand we found fresh water ; so we were in no danger of dying of hunger or thirst ; but it was an awful situation to be in. Your dear Mamma behaved admirably well, and never shed a tear nor dropped one word of complaint. We often thought

of you and prayed that God would protect us and you and little Emily, and restore us to each other ; and as yet, we may say, our prayers have been heard; for, after a residence on that desert Island of sixty-four days, when we suffered no great distress of body, though much of anxiety, the ship Emma, a Whaler of London, called at the Island to catch turtle, and finding us there took us away to the Seychelles, where we arrived on the first of this month, and are now in comfort, living with Mr. Harrison the Governor. We expect to leave this about the middle of next month, and to reach Bombay towards the end of January. Neither Mamma nor myself have suffered at all in health, and are quite well ; but we have lost nearly all our things, my chest of drawers, two clothes' boxes, writing desk and all its contents, all my books, regimentals, colour box, and indeed almost every thing. We also lost the hair ear-rings and cross of your hair, for the sailors broke

open our boxes and helped themselves to every thing they fancied, bringing us whatever was of no value to them. Mamma had a female servant, Louisa, who behaved very well in all our trials, and was a great treasure to us. There were no other females on the Island. Uncle Hockin will show you Astova on the Map, where we were wrecked; it is 10° 10' south, Longitude 47° 30' east. Till the Emma came we believed that we had been on Juan de Nova, or Farquhar Island, about 200 miles to the eastward, and were very much surprised to find out our mistake. Give my love to uncle and Aunt Hockin and dear little Emily, and tell them that we are safe and well. Captain Goodman of the Emma treated us with great humanity and kindness. We find his ship belongs to Mr. Ward, the same person

who owns Captain Hine's ship, the Marquis of Huntley. I have written you a short letter, and not a very well connected one now, because I am only anxious that you should know where we are, that we are well, and that though we have been in great danger we are now in safety and in perfect health. We have lost a great deal of property, but we are too thankful for having escaped with our lives and health to think much of that, for we have saved enough clothes for our immediate necessities, which will save us from buying any till we can better afford it. I have kept a journal of our residence on the Island, which I will get copied when we arrive in India, and send it to you to read. By it you will see how we lived and spent our time. After we had been on the Island a month our long-boat sailed for this place with the Captain (of the Tiger) and eleven men, but though more than fifty days have elapsed they have not been heard of, so that they must either have perished at sea, been wrecked worse than before, or been drifted to the coast of Africa. After they left, besides Mamma, her maid, and me, there remained on the Island the Doctor, a Mate, and eight sailors, and they were all with us taken off the Island by the Emma, and are now here. Our ship was wrecked entirely through the ignorance and carelessness of the officer commanding her.²³² I now, my sweet maid, bid you good bye. You will, most likely, not hear from us for a long time, because there is no vessel ready to take us hence, and we must wait an opportunity, which seldom occurs in this small place. Believe me
Your affectionate Father,
W. Stirling.

To MR. AND MRS HOCKIN,
Dartmouth.
Island John de Nova, 16th August, 1836.

My beloved Parents,

Should we ever be enabled to forward this letter to you I beg, before proceeding to read it, you will make up your minds to bear with composure some information of a very agitating nature ; and that you may have all particulars I will go back to the time when we left the Cape of Good Hope. The Tiger, a beautiful new Liverpool ship, bound to Bombay, was brought into the Cape by the first Mate for medical advice for the Captain, who had had a violent attack of delirium tremens. The ship was detained there three days, during which time the Captain recovered so rapidly that the Medical Men allowed him to proceed, and we took our passage and embarked on the 12th July, having a maid servant with us. Doctor Deacon also, of the Bombay Establishment, went in medical charge of the ship. We

expected, naturally, at this time of the year, to have had a rapid but boisterous voyage to Bombay, but were disappointed. We had a continuance of gales and foul winds, and although, in general, a good sailor, I was very sea sick for four days, and my servant was extremely ill for ten days. We continued to get on much in the same way for about three weeks, when matters began to brighten a little, and we got round the Southern

Cape of Madagascar about six days' sail from the Cape. Captain Seawright proved himself a most good natured, kind hearted, creature. The Tiger had been built on a plan particularly adapted for fast sailing, and the Captain had been in hopes of making a remarkably short passage to Bombay; his disappointment had been very great at our bad luck, and it began to affect his spirits. The last time he was with us was Saturday evening the 6th August: he appeared restless and irritable, constantly opening the cabin door to find fault with the dogs for barking, or the boys for laughing. In the middle of that night our first Officer, Mr. Spurs, found him in his (Mr. Spurs') berth. The Captain told him he found himself getting mad, and begged they would not let him jump over board. He was taken to his cabin and continued wild, but not noisy, the whole of Sunday. Sunday evening a large quantity of laudanum was administered, as in delirium of this nature, if sleep can be procured, the patient generally awakes sensible. The opium had no effect, and Monday until Tuesday morning he raved in a most melancholy manner. Tuesday he *would* dress himself, and he was obliged to be locked up. About one o'clock he endeavoured to break through the bulk-head of his cabin. They found it necessary to remove him, and having taken all precautions, he was allowed to go on deck, and taken forward to the forecastle, and confined in a cabin there, with the door kept sufficiently open to give air and enable those outside to see him. He continued very bad, obstinately refusing all nourishment. Wednesday morning he was not quite so noisy, and at eleven o'clock the Doctor and Mr. Spurs dressed him; he

took a little sago, and appeared much more composed. He petitioned so hard to be allowed to sit on deck that he was allowed to do so, a strict watch being kept on him. It was a stormy dark day, with heavy squalls. The Doctor was engaged in writing out the Captain's case; Mr. Spurs, a strong powerful man, was guarding him; Captain Stirling was anxiously watching the progress of a dark squall; I was in the cabin with Louisa, my servant, when I heard that indescribable confusion which only those who have heard the alarm of a man overboard can understand. In a second we saw the unfortunate Captain floating past us, with his head above water, turned towards us and looking in at the cabin windows. The boat was lowered and was fortunately immediately swamped, as the squall had reached the ship, for had the men put off in her they must have been lost. The means by which the Captain made his escape are as follow : he pretended to be going to his cabin, in the forecastle, the door of which was so low that he was obliged to stoop to enter it; Mr. Spurs followed him closely, but being very tall he was obliged to stoop much more ; and the Captain, with all the cunning of insanity, seized his opportunity, darted from the cabin, and was through the port in the side of the ship immediately. Mr. Spurs followed him so closely that he caught him by the leg, but from the heavy pitching of the ship he was obliged to let go. The Captain had appeared so much better when he was on deck that Captain Stirling had gone up to him and asked him how he felt, he answered, "well : very well, if I could but get over the effects of the opium." In an hour after this we were all at dinner, all endeavouring to appear as calm

and composed as possible, but our nerves were not to be soon tranquillized. Whilst sitting at

tea we were alarmed by a dead heavy sound as loud as thunder; this was discovered to be a studding sail boom which had fallen from the main-top. We went to bed about ten, I feeling extremely cowardly, and in about half an hour we were again alarmed by the most fearful yells I ever heard. Up we all jumped again, and after a long search it was discovered to proceed from the man at the helm : the night was dark and stormy, and as the officer of the watch approached him to see how he steered, he was taken for an apparition; the nearer he went the louder the man shrieked, until the Mate became also so frightened that he ran away, and the ship was in an uproar. We got through the night the best way we could ; and now I must go back to account, in some measure, for our future disasters. On the Captain being taken so ill, Mr. Spurs took the command of the ship, and of course took charge of the chronometers ; he then, remarked, that they had been so knocked about, and differed so much from each other, that he intended to make the land to make out our true position. We accordingly steered for Madagascar, and we made out the Island of St. Mary long before we expected. The chronometers were both quite out. We sailed along St. Mary, made Madagascar, and then, as night approached, kept away from land. Thursday it continued very squally, and the Mate differed from his original intention of making the northern point of Madagascar, fearing the strong currents might take us nearer than we wished. It is a dangerous coast with coral reefs, running two or three miles into the sea. To the north east of Ma-

dagascar are many groups of Islands, which are considered dangerous ; we were all anxious to get clear of them; and Captain Spurs pointed out to us in the chart the land he was most anxious to avoid. Our Charts were by Norie, our Directory, Horsburgh's, and they did not agree. Horsburgh warns all vessels to make due allowance for a strong westerly current running along the north Cape of Madagascar; this Captain Spurs allowed for ; he also allowed for the watches being so much out ; and calculated that he should pass fifty miles to the westward of Juan de Nova, or "Six Islands" as it is mentioned in some maps. This calculation with regard to latitude was perfectly correct, but unfortunately the current did not take us so much to the westward as we had allowed for, and half an hour after twelve, during Captain Spurs' watch, the ship struck. Captain Spurs was, at the time, sitting at the cuddy table measuring his charts. Now to return to ourselves. You must know that, that evening, the second from the loss of the Captain, the man at the wheel had given us a second edition of his apparitions ; and though the alarm had not been so great as that he had caused the evening before, still it had excited all the nervous feelings of those who were weak minded. I was too timid to sleep in my own berth, and had lain down on the edge of my husband's cot. We were sailing along with a strong breeze in our favour, with but little sail set, and going at the rate of eight or nine knots an hour ; the boisterous squally weather we had had in the day having settled into a steady gale. I had had a little sleep, but awoke about twelve o'clock, heard the watch relieved, and felt happy in thinking Captain

Spurs was on deck, but still feeling fidgetty got up, moved about the cabin, and had just sat down on the edge of the cot trying to shake off unpleasant feelings, when the ship grazed twice : though the shock was nothing, there was something so decisive in it that we immediately knew what had happened. I jumped up and attempted to open the cabin door; but whether I was faint or giddy, or the ship was vibrating, I know not, but I could not succeed, not having strength even to turn the latch. I staggered back to the couch where Captain Stirling was sitting up, intensely listening, for there was a death-like silence

throughout the ship. I made another attempt at the door and succeeded in opening it, just as the Doctor opened his. We all rushed upon deck in the cuddy, just as we were, when the most awful part, which lasted for hours, commenced; the wave, which had lifted her after her first touching, having receded, she struck with such violence that the wheel was dashed to pieces. Each succeeding wave carried her still further on the rocks, and the continued crashing, with the rush of water in every direction, was dreadful. Every fresh blow she received we expected would have knocked her to pieces; *but she was a beautiful ship*, and bore it all admirably, lying on her beam ends. When we got to the cuddy there was an exclamation for Mr. Spurs, who was no where to be found, until the steward said he was gone to put on a pair of trowsers. "To think of trowsers at such a time!" we all exclaimed; but that you may not blame him too hastily, I must explain for him. After we were all safely landed I asked Mr. Spurs what could make him think of his trowsers then. He said that, at the time the ship

struck, he had on a pair of thin pantaloons, and as he went on deck, that the sea washed over him, and the cold wind blowing through the wet linen made him shiver so, that he could not give an order without his teeth chattering; and, lest the men should perceive it and ascribe it to fear, he had gone for warm clothing. On re-appearing on deck the question was asked him, "Shall we cut away the masts, Sir?" and his answer was, "Wait till day-light;" the idea of seeing day-light again was a thing which we had never thought of. Captain Stirling, the Doctor, my servant, and myself were all huddled up on the weather side of the cuddy, supported by the table, which, being fastened to the mast, was prevented from going to leeward. We prayed most fervently for support and relief in this most trying time, and wonderfully were we supported through out it all; all being able to keep their minds composed, so as not to annoy or disturb by any useless paroxysms of fear. We felt then the comfort of having our children so well placed. In a few minutes after Mr. Spurs' re-appearance on deck we heard him give the orders to cut away the main and fore-mast, and soon heard them go over the side. He now came to us and begged we would all of us go below, as he wished us to be in a state of safety whilst the mizen-mast was cut away. We prepared to obey,--no easy matter when the ship was lying broadside on the rocks, and receiving fresh thumps from the sea every minute, and we all to windward; the cuddy floor very much resembling a slippery wall, at the top of which we were all perched. I was the first to move, and I stood to make the attempt of reaching the companion ladder, the ship struck again, and down I went, flat on

my face, from one end of the cuddy to the other; much bruised was I, but there was no time to think of bruises. Mr. Spurs picked me up, and in a few minutes we were all safely stowed below, this time to leeward, all of a heap on a mattress which had been thrown down for our accommodation. Mr. Spurs begged I would put on the warmest clothes I had. The cutting away of the masts had eased the ship, and in a little time Captain Stirling contrived to haul himself along, and get to our cabin, where he found a merino dress, fur boots, and worsted stockings of his own, with which I contrived to make myself comfortable. We continued in earnest prayer till day-light. When disposed to forget our situation from exhaustion and extreme weariness we were suddenly roused again by a fresh crash, and the sea continued to pour into the cabin through the sky-light and hatches, which were all knocked in. Captain Spurs visited us from time to time to re-assure us: he is a Newcastle man, but his style of talking is very Irish; and even now I recollect among his numerous visits, "Now, Mrs. Stirling, don't be making yourself the least uneasy, for

the ship is lying as comfortable as possible on her beam ends on a reef." But that he did not feel quite so easy himself as he wished us to, was evident by his repeated applications to Captain Stirling to know what the time was, so anxious was he for day-light. The strongest proof that I remember of the violent and constant striking of the ship is, that the bell used for striking the hours tolled of itself almost all the time. The ship having now several holes in her bottom, as the sea continued to rise the hold filled with water, and the cargo got afloat, bumping against us as we

sat in one corner. The servants and men were now employed in procuring supplies for our long-boat, but in consequence of the between decks even being full of water they could only get a small cask containing a gallon or so of fresh water, half a cask of sailors' biscuit, some hams, and a few other supplies; and at last as day-light glimmered, Mr. Spurs reported a low sandy land, with a reef of coral rock between us and it. The larboard bulwark had been knocked away to make a launch for the long-boat. At Six o'clock Mr. Spurs embarked in a small boat, with four men, to explore for a landing-place, and they found a tolerable one, in which was already lying the rudder and keel of our poor ship. The stock which had been formerly kept in the long-boat was brought into the cuddy, and the long-boat was made fit to be launched: five holes had been cut in her, by the late Captain's order, to drain off the water, &c.; these had to be repaired. At seven o'clock, by dint of perseverance, I dragged myself up the companion ladder and took a peep at the land, the rocks, and the sea, over which the sun was shining most merrily as if approving of our disasters. In the cuddy the remainder of our live stock were, all but the pig, looking more than half drowned, the pig lying most comfortably on two chairs. I could not help bursting out a laughing, and exclaiming, "here we are, higgledy piggledy, all of a heap;" for which ill-timed levity I got a look of deep reproach from the Doctor. Mr. Spurs now told us to prepare our best box for the boat. Captain Stirling first saved the watches and trinkets, valuable as money (for we did not know where we were cast away), a few clothes, the first that

came to hand, Marion's bags which were filled with cottons, tapes, &c., a few odd volumes of books, and Mary's work box, which were dancing about in the water in the cabin. From the way the ship was lying it was, to say the least, a very difficult matter to get these few things. Sailors, like flies, seem able to walk up walls and along ceilings: all the work of the night had been done whilst the deck was nearly perpendicular and slippery as ice, with the sea dashing over them every second. At eleven o'clock Mr. Spurs summoned us to go on shore; all the supplies and live stock were already in the boat; a rope was fastened from one side of the deck to the other to enable us to slide along it to the place where the boat was, we then had ropes fastened round our waists and were lowered into the boat, the spray beating violently over us till we were completely drenched with wet. The charts were entrusted to my care, to keep them as dry as possible I was obliged to put them under my petticoats. When within wading distance the men got out and carried us on shore. Most grateful were we that we had been allowed to land in comparative safety, and warm were our mutual congratulations. Captain Spurs and the Steward were on board still, so the little boat was sent back for them. On their landing I went back to meet them: Mr. Spurs shook me by the hand, and said his mind had been relieved of half its trouble as soon as he saw me landed in safety. All hands were busy in bringing the provisions high and dry, whilst I walked about in the wind to dry my clothes; my servant was so fully alive to the miseries of her present situation that she could not hold up her head; I as elated as a bird

just let out of

a cage. Captain Stirling fixed on a sheltered spot for a tent : a place was cleared and a small tent erected, under which we slept on blankets : the sailors collected round a large fire outside. We found ourselves on a low sandy Island, the sand as glaring as snow in the sun, but greatly relieved here and there by green bushes. No appearance of water. We had prayers in the tent, most of the people attending. The next morning we awoke most anxious, as you may suppose. About nine o'clock the morning we were wrecked we had a glass of brandy and water and a small piece of bread each, the rest of the day we had nothing but an inch or two of biscuit when faint with hunger, and one teacup full of tea divided amongst us. We knew not whether, if they could get on board the ship again, they could procure any supplies. We now fully, and for the first time in our lives, understood the meaning of praying for "our daily bread." Horsburgh's Directory had been brought on shore with us, and on consulting this Captain Stirling immediately decided that we must have been wrecked on Juan de Nova, the largest of the group of Islands to the north-east of Madagascar. Horsburgh mentions that water is to be had here by digging in the sand to the depth of eight feet, so my husband got some of the sailors to assist him in digging; having got to the depth before mentioned, the end of the spade began to appear a little wet, and soon after the water appeared trickling slowly through the sand : as soon as half a pint could be collected the men gathered round, each begging a drop. Breakfast was now announced, and sailors and all sat round the fire and had a mess of fried ham and the ducks and fowls that had been drowned.

Captain Spurs with the sailors went on board, and my husband continued his exertions at the well. The Doctor being now satisfied that water was procurable, assisted him, and they soon succeeded in drawing a pint at a time ; a great triumph, but as the well had been hastily dug, chiefly for the purpose of seeing if there was water, the sand drifting in, began to fill it up. They now dug another on an improved plan, putting a barrel in to support the sides, and soon got plenty of water, of which the sailors, as they rolled up the supplies from the ship, drank most greedily. They were now at low water able to wade on board, and loading the boat to the edge, twice dragged her on shore. Unfortunately Mr. Spurs had sprained his ankle in coming on shore, which, by preventing him from going on board, was the cause of many misfortunes afterwards. A tent was erected for the men, and about seven o'clock the servants brought in a mess in a saucepan, out of which we ate, having pieces of biscuit for plates. We had evening prayers, which was a thing of course. The next day, Sunday, prayers were read by Captain Stirling, and then the men went on board for more supplies. A tent was put up for the Doctor and ship's Officers. There was heavy rain this day, which poured through our tent. We were obliged to hold umbrellas over the biscuit, &c., to keep it dry. They had contrived to drag one of my boxes through the water.

Monday our tent was taken down to make it more comfortable. Louisa and I employed ourselves in washing the salt-water things. By Tuesday evening, being unaccustomed to such a life, my hands were swollen as if I had the gout, and extremely painful, my face was

also terribly swollen : I could scarcely see out of my eyes. This gradually went down. I cut off my hair, for in the sand it was impossible to keep it clean. We were now daily getting more comfortable ; a table and a few chairs had been thrown overboard,²³³ we had some

plates, knives, forks, &c. ; a mattress or two, some of our clothes' boxes, every thing much injured by remaining so long in salt water. We calculated that in things never seen since we left the ship we have lost about one hundred and fifty pounds' worth of property: much was lost through Mr. Spurs

not being able to go on board: the men took to ransacking and breaking open boxes, taking out bundles of things and bringing to us. They got at Captain Stirling's boot box, cut up the boots to fit themselves, and finding them all too small, left them on board. A tin box in which was Dr. Hunt's picture, framed; they also broke open, stuffed my clothes into a bag, but never dreamt of taking out the picture ; so that went with the rest. About the fifth day after we were wrecked they began to improve the long-boat: they have lengthened her four feet, and partly decked her. At present it is decided that we remain here, with two native servants, four *gentlemen's sons* (apprentices on board the ship), two seamen, and the Doctor and second Mate; whilst Captain Spurs takes the rest of the men to Seychelles, where there are some English, informs them of our situation, and tries to get a ship sent for us. It is now the 29th of August, and although the men have behaved tolerably well on the whole, still they are beginning to *show their horns*, and it is quite time to leave the place. We have had

some alarming scenes with them, which hitherto have ended in nothing. One night they were bent upon burning the Island down. To day a man was drowned from having waded off to the ship at low water, got drunk on board, and the tide having risen, and he not being able to swim, was drowned in his attempt to get on shore. The boat is nearly ready, but the weather is very stormy, and the men are beginning to grumble and declare it is folly to leave this Island of plenty to go to a *foreign land* with no money in their pockets and be starved.

I forgot to tell you we have found plenty of turtle and good fish here. Of biscuit they saved only the dark kind used by the sailors; a great deal of that has been dried in the sun, having been soaked in the salt water in bringing on shore. Much biscuit was spoilt on board: two complete casks of white biscuit were destroyed by the idle folly of the sailors, who amused themselves on board by knocking open the casks to see what was in them; then the sea water, which is always beating over the ship, rushes in, and destroys the contents. There is an old saying that man destroys more than God does, and of this we have seen a strong instance in our shipwreck. The Captain being dead, our first Officer laid up by his sprain, and the other Officers worse than useless, the men, when on board, had had it all their own way. At first we had a cask of good beer kept on tap on shore, but the men would go to it and take as much as they liked; and they were so riotous, when tipsy, that the beer barrels we had on shore were obliged to be staved, and now the men get nothing to drink but water. Our dinners are the oddest you ever saw; turtle

soup and fried turtle, with sometimes a bit of ham, neither salt or pepper, no vegetables, but a little dark biscuit; and, since we have had no beer, we have tapped a barrel of Constantia wine which was going to Bombay. Our breakfasts are much the same, only, instead of Constantia wine, we have tea, without milk or sugar, made from some tea which we managed to save, rather mouldy or so, but very acceptable. I have written to William by the boat; it is just possible it may reach him; and should you hear any rumours of the likelihood of the Tiger's being lost, he will be able in some degree to satisfy you as to our present safety. We are going to make up red clothing to scare away any savages who may, by chance, visit this Island. Considering we are shipwrecked, we are as comfortably

situated as possible ; we have enough of wholesome food to eat, plenty of fresh water (although the late high tides have made it brackish), no savage inhabitants, or venomous reptiles. The climate appears good; it is very hot in the sun, but there is always a strong sea breeze, generally, indeed, amounting to a gale, which makes it pleasantly cool. Captain Spurs is a kind-hearted good-natured man, much too good-natured to keep up the strict discipline necessary with these *sailor animals*. A few days ago, the Captain and Doctor having walked round to the north of the Island to get an observation, whilst we were away on the beach, some of them paid a visit to our tent, demanding liquor ; a native servant, left in charge, remonstrated with them ; they knocked him down, and another servant ran away and hid himself in the bushes. We asked him afterwards why he ran away; he said, " Sir, I have been in India

all my life, and such a set of people as these I never saw or heard of before, and I am afraid of my life of them, so I hid myself until my master returned to protect me." Of all the savages to be found on the face of the earth, I believe there are none like John Bull in his untamed state. Our Doctor is of an unhappy temper ; he is so desponding that his presence always has an effect on our spirits; I constantly lecture him, but all to no purpose, 'tis grumble, grumble, grumble; the more we try to look at the bright side, the more he seizes hold of the dark. You would be amused with our conversations.--The Doctor comes in lamenting at the heaviness of the gales; "How will the boat get to sea?" I answer, "How fortunate it is that the boat is not at sea, and that we have no cause to be anxious about it; it is better to have the gales now than when the boat is ready for sea." Then, when the men have been sent on board for some necessary supplies, they stay and get drunk, he says, "I told Spurs how it would be if he did not go 'with them, *I told him so.*" "Well," I tell him, "it's lucky Mr. Spurs staid at work in the boat, for, had he not, the joiner and carpenter would have been off too, and then the work of the boat would have been stopped." Another time he is displeased because too much turtle has been cooked; and I am obliged to beg he will not grudge us fresh provisions, which were to be had for the picking them up, as it would save our biscuit and salt meat. Yesterday morning, for want of any other subject to grumble about, he actually threatened us all with the scurvy. Did I not give it to him! But however we are very good friends, only he has poor dear Grandmamma's plan of looking at the wrong side of things.

It is now Sunday, the 4th of September. The body of the man that was drowned was picked up three days ago, and the men requested Captain Stirling would read prayers over the body, which was done. Our tent has been moved to a more sheltered situation, and has been better erected, so that we are now tolerably comfortable, and away also from the men; before we were close neighbours, and their frequent little squabbles were constantly keeping us in anxiety and alarm; we are now close to Captain Spurs' tent. Our Island is something the shape that I have drawn, being an oval belt of coral rocks and low sand bills, covered with green bushes : the outer line consisting of a series of points and bays, with an anchoring ground in smooth water to the north-west. The centre is a pool of shallow water, filled with little Islands, about two miles across; it is in this they fish for turtle, &c., but it is unfortunately very full of sharks, which for wading fishermen is by no means agreeable. For two or three days we were greatly disappointed at their returning without success, but yesterday our spirits were raised again by the apprentices bringing home in their net a very large skate, and thirty-two small, but very fine, fish. Soon after a turtle was caught, and dragged up to the tents by five men. The men had the skate, the fish

were divided among twelve, and the turtle was not killed till to day. We walked yesterday along the edge of the pool to the bar. The opposite side of the Island was very pretty; a mass of beautifully green trees grew to the edge of the water, they were covered with myriads of white birds, forming a completely Indian scene: outside the bar the breakers

were foaming as greedily as ever; they always give me the idea of wishing to swallow us up if they could, and many a run am I obliged to have from them when scrambling over the rocks: the shore is covered with Portuguese men-of-war,²³⁴ left by the high tides; there is a great variety of pretty shells, but all much broken by the surf; there is also a species of land-crab, the body of which being unprotected with shell, it seizes on the vacated shells of other fish, and it is quite amusing to see these little animals parading over the Island in every variety of shell that you can imagine. If my little Marion were here she would find many things to amuse her. Poor dear little girl! I should like to see her when the circumstances of our wreck have been explained to her. I have always been very thankful that I did not go home, for I know no real suffering so great as suspense; it is what I hope you may be spared, should the letter which we mean to send by the boat reach safely; should the boat not reach its destination your sufferings must be very great. The news of the death of a friend is a thing that time, sooner or later, cures, but friends missing must be one of those trials that time cannot cure. Our sufferings, in case the boat should be lost, will not be so great as yours', for hope will keep up our spirits, and we shall daily look for relief. Captain Stirling is gone to day to fix up some boards at the anchoring ground, giving notice that the Tiger has been wrecked, and that the passengers and crew are here. Occasionally His Majesty's ships have touched here for turtle, and they may do so again. In Bombay the alarm must have already reached, and as

soon as another ship arrives there from the Cape, they will no doubt feel satisfied that something has happened to the Tiger; and, from her being a new and well-built ship, and well found and manned, it will not be supposed she is gone down at sea, but that she is wrecked; and in the course of a few months, if no tidings are heard of her, they may probably send a Bombay cruiser in search of us. The weather has continued so stormy that the boat has not been able to put to sea. Captain Spurs means now to take her through the surf empty, and get her round to the anchorage ground; and get the provisions taken through the pool, and across the other side of the Island. Yesterday, the 7th of September, was a day of great anxiety and excitement. About twelve o'clock we were summoned to see the boat launched: they were two hours getting her into the water, all the mankind on the Island assisting. She floated at ten minutes before two; it took two hours more to ballast her, and get in the water; then Mr. Spurs, with three men, went on board, and they weighed the anchor. It was a dreadful time of suspense: a little sail was set to take her out directly the anchor was weighed, but the men were not strong enough to get it on board; twice they weighed, and were obliged to let it drop, the boat all the time backing on the rocks, every one on shore looking on most anxiously, but unable to give the slightest assistance. At last she touched. Captain Spurs then gave the order to cut the cable, and in a second the boat bounded out to sea. At about half a mile out she had to encounter the dreaded breakers: we ran along the shore to follow her as far as possible, and saw her get through them

beautifully. She arrived safe at the anchorage about dark, and this morning the men carried the small boat into the pool, and took the anchor across to her; and I am happy to say one of them has returned with a skate, or ray fish, one of those ugly creatures that we see

dragged about Dartmouth streets, only eaten by the poor people there, I believe. As the boat has occupied every body's attention for the last two days, we have had no fishing parties, and have eaten salt junk. Mr. Spurs made himself welcome this morning, about half-past nine; until he appeared, we were ignorant of the fate of our boat. Every body is in great spirits at this our first success; they think the boat will be able to stand any sea after encountering the breakers: one or two of the best seamen refused yesterday to go in the boat, so fully sensible were they of the danger. On Saturday is the new moon, and on Monday, if it is fair, the "Hope" puts to sea. Monday will be the 12th of September: on the 12th of June I was confined,²³⁵ on the 12th of July we sailed from the Cape, on the 12th of August we were wrecked, and on the 12th of September it is at present intended the boat shall sail; the 12th of October is the day Captain Stirling's leave will be up. The boat did not sail until Thursday, the 15th: she had been altered and made more fit for sea whilst lying on the other side of the Island. The day was beautiful on which they departed, and perhaps a long boat never started from a wreck better provisioned and appointed. Her crew consists of Captain Spurs, the third mate, and ten sailors; but Captain Spurs is no skilful navigator, and it is entirely through his ignorance that we are where we are. The chronome-

ters are all out, and he certainly does not know how to take a lunar observation. The Seychelles, in a direct line, are 400 miles from this, but, by the way they mean to go, about 600; with tolerable wind they ought to reach it in eight days, and might reach it in much less, so that we may reasonably expect to be relieved from this in about three weeks. In the middle of the night before the "Hope" sailed, the sailors waded across from the bay, applied to the servants for a light, and then went off to the ship for beer: the next morning, when our party paid their daily visit to the ship, they found a large spar of wood burning between decks, which the men had left there the night before; and they say, in consequence of their opening so many packages of cutlery, it is quite dangerous to go on board; knives and forks, of all sizes and descriptions, are lying about in all directions. Of my losses I will give you a list: -Marion's hair ornaments, my ruby ring, two dozen and a half pair of stockings (amongst them all my silk ones), all my blonde, silk, net, cap ribbons, waistbands, caps, and bonnets; all my petticoats, drawers, and other indispensables, and nightcaps; all my old ship linen, a new black veil, pocket handkerchiefs, &c., &c. Saved most of my gowns, best linen, and night-dresses; about a dozen pair of stockings, some of them odd, picked up on the beach as they washed on shore; my stays, my shawls (all drenched in salt water, none of them but my green one the worse for it), a box of lace and net goods, and the pieces you sent me at the Cape. Captain Stirling's losses are, his desk with all his papers, and its contents, an immense quantity of linen, two

large boxes of books, his regimentals and epaulettes, all his boots and shoes (which you may remember I used to scold him so about), the whole of our cabin furniture, including a beautiful chest of drawers, music books, guitars, drawing box, my poor old dressing box with all its contents, all my collection of Cape flowers, and a portfolio of drawings (those beautiful ones of Tor, and those poor Elizabeth drew for us); sheets, two horse-hair mattresses, pillows and cases, small &c., &c., innumerable. We brought about half a dozen odd volumes on shore with us; amongst the rest, the Bible Maria²³⁶ gave me. What makes our loss so vexatious is, that every thing was destroyed through the idle curiosity of the sailors, and their love of plunder: it is upwards of five weeks since the wreck, and the ship still holds together, and they have been able to go off to her every day; so that had but a little discipline been observed, we might have saved every thing. Our ship must now be

missed in Bombay, but as she was not bound to touch at the Cape, no one will be anxious until a later ship arrives there from the Cape. As a proof of the burning I have undergone, my hands are covered with freckles ; as for my face, I don't know what it is like, for our looking-glasses shared the general fate, but, if I may judge from my husband's, I must be remarkably handsome. I have made some adventures for myself since last Sunday : nothing would do but I must explore the other side of the Island, so on Tuesday we set out, the thermometer 110 in the sun. Our object was to get to the mouth of the creek, wade across, and coast the other side of the Island until we reached the bay where the boat sailed from. We found we had to commence our wading in going along

the creek, and as soon as we stepped into the water the sharks presented themselves, however they were timid brutes and did not alarm us. On reaching the mouth of the creek we found the water too high to cross, so we sat down for two hours watching the tide and the fish. There were oceans of fish besides sharks, stinging rays, and sea porcupines. We sat undaunted, sometimes wading in to try the depth, until Captain Stirling succeeded in reaching the other side, he then came back for me, and with petticoats tucked up, no stockings, one boot and one shoe, I managed to get over. We expected to have found a shore similar to our own, with the advantage of a lee shore, and to have picked up plenty of shells, but we were doomed to be disappointed. Just fancy the steepest part of the Dartmouth coast, to the height of twenty feet honey-combed, and it may give you a faint idea of what we scrambled over ; our shoes being but a poor protection against the sharp points, and every now and then stumbling : once I fell with my poor legs bare on them. It was dreadful : but still, having gone so far, I was very unwilling to give it up : but, at last, I was obliged to stop at Point Despair, and my husband went on, and returned to where he had left me in an hour and ten minutes. He said that what I had come over was a mere nothing compared to what he had to encounter ; indeed he was quite faint with exhaustion : a little brandy and water, which he had brought in a bottle, revived him. But there was no time to rest ; the sun was going down, and we had to get over the rocks, then wade across the creek, and then a walk of a mile and a half over soppy ground : all this we did accomplish, and reached our tents,

where every body was in great consternation at our long absence : the last half hour I was so dreadfully tired I could scarcely drag one foot before another. My servant told me, "*she think* Misses will never come home again." We found dinner ready, and were glad enough of it, and to lie down on the mattresses, for we were too tired to sleep. On Monday I took the opportunity of the Doctor and his party being off turtling to make some salt, in which I succeeded, and have since had the charge of the store fish and turtle to salt. Before that, the second day of fish and turtle, they were always stinking, and we were obliged to eat it. I suppose you will say, you would rather dine off biscuit; but please to remember, our coarse dark biscuit is the greatest dainty we have ; and that when the boat sailed we found that we had a supply for three weeks only. They cannot fish at spring-tides with a net, and the sharks bite off the hooks, so that our living has been hitherto alternate feasting and fasting ; with the help of salt we hope to manage better. One of my employments is to hunt for charcoal, which I find on the beach, and now always collect and bring home as a preservative. On Thursday last we had a great change of weather ; the wind died away, and in the evening we were afflicted with mosquitoes, so that nobody could rest. At eleven o'clock, after some vain experiments to get rid of them, we set off to the beach in the hope of turning a turtle and getting rid of these plagues. We staid till half-past three, but neither

succeeded in turning a turtle or getting rid of the enemy. No one slept that night, and the hands and feet of all were in a piteous plight. The next day there was a dead calm;

when we went down to bathe the sea presented quite a new appearance : it was a spring-tide, but the breakers in the distance had quite disappeared, and the sea came rolling in with a heavy swell on the land, where it rose like a wall, and fell on the beach with the noise of a cannon gun: we could not bathe. This evening the mosquitoes were worse. We had managed to make some substitute for mosquito curtains, and retreated very early under them ; the others rolled themselves up in sails and slept outside, until they were awake, about one o'clock, by a tropical shower of rain, which, in some measure, drove away the mosquitoes. Good bye.

My husband has been the hero of this week in procuring food for us Islanders. Tuesday morning he and I got up at three o'clock to see if any turtle could be found on our side of the Island; we searched the beach in all the turtle-grounds for about two miles, and returned about seven, having satisfied our selves on one point that, at present, the turtle had deserted this side of the Island. Captain Stirling was bespoken for a party on the anchorage side ; and on Wednesday, at three in the morning, they started. Having got to the bay the party divided. Captain Stirling, with two assistants, found and turned the first turtle, which was considered a great feat. The turtle that we catch are supposed to weigh from two to three hundred weight. They are different from the tortoise in not being able to draw in their heads, and they have fins instead of legs, so that on dry land they are very unwieldy. The females come on shore and dig large holes to deposit their eggs ; they lay two or three hundred at a time. The one found was

a female full of eggs, the first we had met with, and therefore highly prized. Having found the turtle the object is to turn it on its back; when it cannot get away; and we are obliged, in consequence of the heat of the climate, to drag them alive to the tents ; a most laborious task for seven men.

They are obliged to cut holes in their fins, or flippers, and tie them together, when they fasten a rope round the animal's shoulders, which is fastened to a pole, and the people pull at the pole, in this manner the poor creature is dragged over the rocks, through the water, and through the heavy sand, until it reaches home; it is then left until wanted : and hitherto a great part of the meat has been wasted from its so soon becoming putrid ; and that turtle was so bad on Friday morning that we were obliged to fry some salt pork for break fast ; so it was necessary again to set to work for food. And now, as some apology for my letter, please to remember that we are not so fortunate as our friend Robinson Crusoe was in his Island : we have no wild orange groves, and vineyards, and bubbling streams here.

Excepting our small supply of salted provisions, we are obliged to search for our food in the water, and we are therefore perfectly sensible of what a grand affair in life is eating ; most inconsiderately too, we have all such famishing appetites, and are obliged to be contented with two meals a day. The turtle makes a good soup, but is not agreeable eating, it is like very coarse stringy beef, so a dish of fish is a great treat ; and to procure one Captain Stirling accompanied three of the youngsters a fishing ; I went too, not to fish but to look on, for it is dismal being left alone in the tent. They soon waded across to the

best fishing-ground, and from time to time called across to tell me their luck. I soon found occupation in watching a turtle, which came up blowing close to me, and found means at last to let them know; so when they had got enough fish to satisfy them they asked me if I

saw any more turtle, I pointed out the spot where I had just seen one blow, and they waded back cautiously watching for the animal. Captain Stirling and a little boy called Bing were free, the other two had the fishing-net and a bundle of fish : my husband saw him first, threw himself on the turtle, and there was a great struggle, which ended in the turtle swimming off with him : little Bing went to his assistance, and they tried to turn him, but in vain; the animal escaped; but little Bing most courageously threw himself upon him, and swam away on his back, till Captain Stirling got to him. I then called out to the other boys to throw down their fish, and I would come for them; this they did, and joined in the fray, whilst I jumped in the water and ran after the fish which were fast going out to sea. The turtle being turned they dragged it to the shore, but were unable to lift it up the bank, and not having a bit of string to tie the flippers, they were obliged to cut its throat. I was dispatched to announce the event and procure ropes and assistance : we were a mile and half from home, and by the time they had dragged the turtle up it was seven o'clock; our fish had then to be cleaned and cooked before we could get dinner; having breakfasted at nine we were not a little glad when it was ready. The fish we had caught were five beautiful mullet and a lady-fish. Three mullet were salted for breakfast. On Saturday Mr. Blore, the ship's Officer,

was going across to fix up a flag, as a guide to our hoped-for ship ; as I had never been over to the bay, it was proposed that we should go ; accordingly Louisa, Captain Stirling, and I went as idlers; Mr. Blore and two men to put up a signal staff. I had heard a great deal of this bay, and was much disappointed: the water was quite out, and the glare from the sand so painful to the eyes that I retreated under the shade of some trees, where I lay down waiting till the work was done. My husband set off in search of flowers. Soon I heard him shouting, and, guided by his voice, went in search of him : he was standing on the beach; but so far off that had I not known it could be no one else I should not have distinguished him, and yet I could see he had turned a turtle (so large are they) : I knew what he wanted, and ran back for some string to secure the creature. My husband had seen the animal out in the sea, and had waded until he got between it and the land, and dodged it till he got it nearly ashore, when he sat down on the turtle to rest, for he was quite exhausted, and afraid it would escape; having rested, he made a desperate effort and turned it over ; which is almost an incredible feat for one person. You cannot imagine what unwilling creatures are sailors when their pay is stopped ; they don't seem to have the sense of the rest of mankind, in seeing and knowing that all should do what they can to assist: if we work they will sleep, but take good care to awake at dinner time. It was all we could do to coax the sailors to assist Captain Stirling and Mr. Blore in dragging the turtle beyond high-water mark, where it was left until wanted. Promise the men a dram,

and they will jump over the moon for you ; but with out that talisman you can do nothing with them. The bay is very interesting to us from the proofs there are of its having been lately inhabited : many huts have been erected, there are little enclosures where poultry have been kept, and about two hundred turtle shells neatly piled up, fragments of Europe iron, bird cages, a cannon-ball, anchors, &c., &c., and B.. HUTI carved on one tree, with the initials B H on another ; some of the turtle shells seem very fresh. We think, by the tidy little arrangements still visible, that it must have been a man-of-war's crew; if we may judge of all merchant crews by our's, they may be traced by their untidy and dirty ways, but never by their neatness.

Sunday, 9th of October. Another week has passed, and our boat has not made its appearance : we are; of course, all getting very anxious, and beginning to reckon the chances of a ship's touching here by accident, and taking us away. The second mate and the boys are beginning to let us into all the secrets of Mr. Spurs' ignorance. It seems that, whilst he was in command of the ship, he never worked the longitude : one of the apprentices and two other notoriously stupid persons were set to do it ; none of them ever agreed, so Mr. Spurs took the medium as our place on the chart. Captain Stirling looked over the log the other day, and made the second mate work the longitude, from the time we sighted St. Mary's Isle, by the dead reckoning : he did it, and brought us, at midnight on the 11th, on the top of Juan de Nova; so that if Mr. Spurs had said, "I will go by the dead reckoning, and steer for Juan de Nova," he

could not have done it more cleverly. It seems also that Mr. Spurs and our late Captain were always quarrelling--that, before they reached the Cape, the Captain would call the apprentices forward to play at cards with him--that he was a notorious drunkard--and, in short, never was there a more beautiful little ship with worse Officers, and under worse discipline. It is the knowledge of this, too late, that makes us fearful for the safety of the boat : no boat ever went to sea, under such circumstances, better provided for than our's; they had an ample stock of provisions, plenty of water, and only as many passengers as it was thought she could safely take; but still, with such an ignorant and careless man as we now understand Mr. Spurs to be, we can scarcely hope she will reach her destination safely, although they may get to some other land. As this will never reach you unless all ends happily, it is nonsense writing all our troubles; but it is a kind of relief, and you will have some idea of our different anxieties here. And now for the important events of the week :--the tides suiting, we have been treated with a variety of fish, which it has sometimes fallen on my servant to clean, and always on her and me to salt, when there have been enough caught for breakfast; it has been a tiresome week for the meat, and we have had constant trouble in watching the blue flies, and taking out the maggots, when the meat has been affected,--a most disgusting occupation : it has also fallen to my lot to wash the dishes. Yesterday my husband made me a safe, which will, I hope, check the evil. Two turtles have been caught, and we have discovered that the fat makes excellent oil, which does for our frying; the eggs also are a very

good substitute for bread. There was nearly a bucket-full of eggs in the one Captain Stirling turned, which, fried into cakes, lasted us two days as bread. We are not always lucky enough to find them with eggs, indeed, as yet, only three out of nineteen. I never say a word of my dear little ones; they must not think that they are the less thought of; I long to hear of them, and but too well feel the impossibility of it for some time to come. If we should reach Bombay what an accumulation of letters there will be for us :--what an agitating time it will be!

November 6th, 1836. I see nearly a month has elapsed since I wrote to you, and we have now great events to record ; and indeed I should have commenced by new-dating my letter Mahi, and setting your heart at rest, On the evening of the 13th of October it was beautifully calm, and the horizon perfectly clear. As we sat on the sea-shore, for the first time I felt a longing desire to see a sail; round and round I looked, with the feeling that there must be a ship in the distance, if we could but see it; and we considered what we should do if we saw one, for, as night was approaching, a ship would naturally keep clear of the land. It was thought it would be advisable to set the jungle on fire, as a signal.

On our return to the tents we found every one in low spirits, and, as the mosquitoes were troublesome, they proposed going to the other side of the Island to sleep. The next morning we sent a boat across the lagoon for our people, and, in the course of an hour, we saw it coming back without them; we continued to watch them, and observed they did not give them selves the trouble to take in their sail, but came

tumbling and running towards us, and, as soon as they found they had attracted our attention, they shouted and threw up their hats in the air : we had now little doubt of the good news. They had seen a ship and it was standing towards our Island. In two hours the Captain was with us; he behaved nobly : a man at the mast head had seen the wreck and our flags, and thinking there might be some persons in distress, they had come down to see. Captain Goodman said he would take us for nothing to the Seychelles, and he has abided by that determination: we took our own provisions on board. He commands a whaling vessel, and was come from those Islands; so that picking us up entirely changed his destination, which was to Aldabra²³⁷, for whales. We were four days before we got the things all across the lagoon and on board. We sailed on Tuesday, the 18th of October, 1836, and were a fortnight making the voyage, Captain Stirling landed with Captain Goodman, and presented himself to the Governor, who invited us to his house, where we are now living very comfortably, having a detached bungalow for sleeping, called a pavilion. The Island is extremely pretty: pine-apples, plantains, raspberries, lemons, olives, cocoa-nuts, bread-fruit, &c., &c., all grow wild here, and do not go under the form even of cultivation. Mrs. Harrison is Swiss; her two elder sisters live with her: they all speak English, more or less. There are four children ; one of them a girl of eleven, pretty and lady-like. The language spoken is French. Mrs. Harrison is the most French in her person; Miss Coombes very like what I remember of Miss Fournier; Miss Pauline something like

Mrs. Jellard, about twenty years younger ; all pleasing lady-like women; great friends of the Mrs. Davis who nursed me so kindly at the Cape. I am, and have been, very well, excepting a little attack on board the Emma of what I distinguished by the name of ***** The Doctor laughed at me, but as all things have a beginning, I am rather afraid that these things may be the commencement of that dreadful complaint : however I am quite well now. Captain Stirling alarmed me much at Astova, by getting one of his bad bowel attacks : the working in the water was too much for his strength. For a few days he was very ill, and we had no proper medicines or food for him: by taking great care he got a little better; and Captain Goodman arrived in time enough to prevent him from hurting himself again by going a turtling. I forgot to tell you that Captain Goodman told us we were on the Island of Astova, two hundred miles from Juan de Nova, where Mr. Spurs made it out we were. It is a pity but that owners of vessels could be severely punished for sending vessels to sea under the command of such ignorant Officers. The remark of every one has been, "how could Mr. Spurs venture to cross such a dangerous latitude by night, and no one looking out either!" We have had no intelligence of our boat : the general opinion is, that it must have been drifted by the current (which sets about eighty miles a day to the westward in the neighbourhood of Astova,) to Zanzibar, on the coast of Africa, a friendly coast. With care the provisions might have lasted a month, and it is supposed that the boat would live in any sea, so we hope that they are all safe. Give my love to Anne Hunt, and tell her I reckon among my greatest

losses the picture of her father. Mr. Harrison has just sent word he wants all our

despatches immediately, and as I have to scribble a few lines to Pinson²³⁸, I must, with most affectionate love to all, say good bye.

Always your affectionate Daughter,

Syb.

To Miss MARION STIRLING.

Mahé, 5th December, 1836.

My dear Marion,

I promised to write to you a long letter, and as a ship is about to sail soon for the Mauritius it is time to commence. I hope all our letters have reached safely, and that all of you have been quite satisfied with our reasons for not writing. We are still staying with our kind friends Mr. and Mrs. Harrison, and are getting daily more anxious to go to Bombay, that being the only place where we may expect to have news of you and dear baby. Mahé is a very pretty green Island, and the only tropical place that I have ever met with where so many good things grow without cultivation. We have here fields, and fields of pine-apples : they grow by the road-side just as thistles do in England. Plantains of all kinds are just as plenty. Cocoa-nut groves all round the coast. Orchards of guavas, and many mango trees : the fruit of the two last do not come to perfection. The tops of the mountains are covered with wild raspberries, larger and finer looking than our English ones, but not so highly flavoured; sweet and sour limes, and a small citron fit for preserving ; the rose apple, which you ate when we were at anchor off St. Helena²³⁹ ; the country gooseberry ; the papaya, from which, in India, we used to imitate apple tart ; the bread-fruit ; and manioc, or cassiva, the same as that in the West Indies, from which they prepare tapioca. There are

many other fruits not now in season, of which I never heard before.

We breakfast at eight on fish and rice ; bread is scarce and not very good : at one o'clock we have "tiffin" of fruit, consisting of several pine-apples, green cocoa-nuts, raspberries, and plantains : and dine at five off fish and poultry. Beef and mutton are not procurable unless on very great occasions you make interest with a friend to kill a sheep on condition you take half of it. I have seen it but once during the five weeks I have been here ; so you see that in these nice little Islands, so full of luxuries, we have not what in England would be considered the great necessities of life--butcher's meat, bread, and potatoes. As a substitute for potatoes we have the bread fruit, sweet potatoes, and manioc.

The bread-fruit grows on a large handsome tree, and looks like a very large and perfectly green orange; one of which, divided into slices, and baked or boiled, makes two dishes of vegetables: when boiled, your papa thinks it not unlike the bottom of an artichoke; when baked, it is like a very mealy potatoe, very much squeezed together: and the manioc resembles both. We have also another vegetable, very nice, quite like sea-kale; but when I tell you what it is, you will be quite astonished to hear it is nothing less than the pith of the fresh shoot of the young cocoa-nut tree, and to get enough for one dish you destroy eight trees :²⁴⁰ so you may imagine how plentiful cocoa-nut trees must be here, when people can destroy eight trees at once, merely to make a dish of vegetables. We have plan-

tations of sugar canes, of bamboo, cotton, and also of the cocoa of which chocolate is prepared. There are a few vines, which grow very well, but, as yet, grapes are very scarce. The mountains composing this Island do not appear high ; they are quite green and wooded, but very precipitous near the top. There are no roads, merely very bad walks; and

the people ride about on donkies, or are sometimes carried in hammocks, instead of palanquins. Their "habitations," as they call their country-houses, are situated close to the sea, and they visit at each other's houses in boats: I have been twice in a boat. It is very pretty to see the coral at the bottom of the clear water; whilst one part of the boat is passing over a coral reef, the other part is in a canal of deep water of seventy fathoms, beyond which there are other reefs. From Mahé we have a view of five other Islands, which, as they are all green and wooded, form a very pretty scene. Two of these Islands belong to one man, who, with five of his children and his grand-children, inhabit them. Last Saturday we all went over to the Island of St Anne, to spend the day with them: we sat down thirty to breakfast, besides the children's table. Except Mr. Harrison's family they were all the relations of Mr. Savey, the proprietor of the Island. In the evening we danced, and you will laugh to hear that it was an old lady who played the fiddle for us; and when she thought that we were not dancing with sufficient animation, she would stamp her foot and wave her fiddle by way of encouraging us. We danced till ten o'clock, when we found it wet and stormy, and we were obliged to sleep at St. Anne's, but returned the next morning before sunrise. Praslin is a very beautiful Island,

about four hours' sail from this. On it is found a very beautiful tree, which does not grow any where else in the world; it is the coco de mer, a tree something resembling the cocoa-nut, but far more magnificent; it bears a fruit much larger than the cocoa-nut, and in shape it is like two cocoa-nuts joined together; in the centre of each part there is a white transparent jelly, tasting like cocoa-nut: one of these nuts has been known to produce four pounds of jelly. From the leaves of this tree the ladies of St. Anne make a variety of useful things, in the shape of hats and baskets, but they are very expensive. I am busy learning to knit, and, as soon as I get to Bombay, shall begin some socks for little sister; tell her how much I love her, and do you give my love to Grandmamma, Grandpapa, Uncles and Aunts, and your Cotterbury friends, and believe me, my dear child,

Your affectionate Mother,

Sibella Stirling.

Mahé, Seychelles, 21st December, 1836.

My sweet little dear Marion,

We are still here anxiously waiting for an opportunity to go to Bombay, but we have little prospect of getting away immediately. You will be glad to hear Mamma and I are quite well. Mamma has written a long and pretty letter, which take care of and read, as an account of this place, from time to time. Give my love to dear little sister, and tell her to kiss you for Papa's sake. Believe me

Your affectionate Father,

William Stirling.

Mahi, in the Seychelles, 20th November, 1836.

My sweet little girl, Marion,

You and Aunt and Uncle Hockin have, no doubt, before this reaches you, heard of all our adventures, which will have accounted to you for our long silence: I will not return to them more than to assure you that in all our anxieties and trials it was a comfort to Mamma and me to think that just before we left the Cape we had had good accounts of you and dear

little Emily, and to be able to feel confident that whatever might happen to us, our poor children would be taken care of. We are living here in the enjoyment of much comfort and hospitality with Mr. Harrison the Governor, and his Lady, who is a Swiss, but who speaks and understands English pretty well, and is a most lady-like and amiable person : she has four children with her, three girls and a boy; the eldest girl eleven years old and the youngest a baby. The boy's name is Robert, five years' old, a very fine fellow, whom I think you would like. Mrs. Harrison has also two sisters staying with her, Miss Eliza and Miss Pauline Coombe.

Uncle Hockin will show you our situation on the map. The Island is so mountainous that there are no roads, and the weather is so rainy and hot that we can scarcely ever walk for pleasure, although the climate is good and the scenery pretty. I hope you remember that the hill of Mahabelishwar²⁴¹ was covered with arrow-root; but these hills are overgrown with pine apples of the most delicious kind, so abundant that

the poorest people scarcely take the trouble to gather them, or even to eat them in passing, though they sometimes throw them to their pigs. Bananas and cocoa-nuts, which they like better, are equally plenty, and they almost live on them. I must also tell you that a tree and fruit called the coco de mer, or sea cocoa-nut, which is a double and very large cocoa nut, grows on the Island of Praslin, close to us, and on two other little Islands near it, but on no other country or island in the whole world. The clove, the orange, the lemon, the bread-fruit, the cotton, the coffee, and many other trees grow here and produce fruit ; so you will think it a very nice place ; and so it is : but it is very much out of the world, and we are away from our friends and profession. The people are all French except the Governor and one more Englishman in authority, so that Mamma and I are obliged to " parler françois" the best way we can. On the coral reefs there are many beautiful shells, and, as I intend to go out to morrow after breakfast to gather them, I hope to be able to show you them when we meet. We do not expect to leave this till the end of next month, nor to reach Bombay till the beginning of February. Believe me, my sweet child,

Your affectionate Father,

W. Stirling.

To MRS. WILLIAM HOCKIN.

My dear Sister,

As Papa has written a letter to his little girl, I think I had better write a few lines to you ; and that

we may not have to go over old stories, I will take it for granted that all our letter via the Mauritius have duly reached you, and proceed at once to tell you that we are here still, safe and well, and find our new friends pleasant and agreeable people. Our greatest anxiety now is to get news of the children, but we know that to be impossible until we reach Bombay, and therefore must remain patient, and hope that they are doing well. There is a new vessel building here which will be ready to sail for Bombay next month, but I believe if we arrive in Bombay about the end of February it is as much as we can expect, so do not be anxious about us; opportunities of writing to you by way of the Mauritius may not occur again, so it may be three months after the receipt of this before you hear again. I trust Marion is repaying you for your affectionate care of her by her diligence and docility. How long will it be before I shall have a peep at both the dear children. Mrs. Harrison had intended to go to England with her family chiefly for the advantage of her eldest daughter, but our adventures have so alarmed her that she has given up all thoughts of it. A

melancholy shipwreck occurred off Cape Lagullus lately: the Doncaster, in which eighty persons perished. We have not yet had any tidings of our long-boat and the people. A very small boat arrived here to day with the Captain and a few sailors from Providence Reef, where their vessel had been wrecked four days after we were wrecked at Astova. A vessel has arrived from the Mauritius and will return again in the course of a month ; I will write to my little girl by her: for the present she must remain contented with her Papa's letter. He has been busy

lately gathering shells on the coral reefs, and I hope before we leave this we may have a good collection, and that it may please Miss Marion when we shall have the happiness to show it to her. Tell her to kiss her little sister twenty times for me, also her Grandpapa and Grandmamma. Send our best love to Maria and as many children as she may have by the time this reaches you. To morrow we go to dine and spend the day at another Island, belonging entirely to a Creole French man who, with his children and grandchildren form a large population here. With best love to William and yourself, believe me ever

Your Affectionate Sister.

S. Stirling.

24th November.

On an uninhabited Island, supposed to be the John de Nova of Horsburgh;. Six Isles, or Farquhar Island, of Norie; about 200 miles north-east of Cape Amber, north point of Madagascar; 24th August, 1836.

TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY, Bombay.

Sir,

I have the honour to report to you, for the information of His Excellency the Commander in Chief, and the Honourable the Governor in Council, that I sailed in the ship Tiger, of Liverpool, for Bombay, on the 12th July, from the Cape of Good Hope; and that the ship was unfortunately wrecked on the Island (supposed to be) of John de Nova, at one o'clock on the morning of the 12th August. The Captain, Searight, had, in a fit of insanity, thrown himself over board, and was drowned, on the 10th instant. The remainder of the Officers and crew, with the under mentioned passengers, in all twenty-five persons, got safe on shore by about noon of the day on which we were cast away, in the ship's boats; and I am happy to say that great good order was preserved, and that no accident occurred to any one.

List of passengers :-Captain W. Stirling, 17th Regiment, Bombay N. I.; Mrs. W. Stirling; Assistant Surgeon Deacon, Bombay Establishment; Louisa Handry, Mrs. Stirling's servant; Jewa, a native of Bombay, who went to the Cape with Captain Harris; Ishmael, a native of Bombay, who went to England with Captain Swanson's children.

We have saved abundance of provisions from the ship, and we have found fresh water by digging in the sand about six feet. We have also caught some turtle, and fish, and sea birds on the Island.

Captain Spurs, our late chief Officer, now in command, has this day intimated to us that, in his opinion, it would be for the safety of the whole if he were to go with half the party in the long-boat, as soon as she can be got ready, to the Seychelles, the nearest European settlement (wind and weather considered), to give information of our situation, and to seek relief. We have, after mature consideration, agreed with him in that opinion; and it has consequently been resolved that the passengers, and five or six men, shall remain on the

Island, trusting in his exertions, under Providence, for a speedy deliverance. I send this by the long-boat to the Seychelles.

We have now been on this Island twelve days, and I am happy to be able to report that the greatest unanimity prevails, and that, on the whole, the conduct of the crew has been very good. We are, consequently, as well off, and in as good spirits, as our situation will admit of.

I have addressed a letter to the Chief Authority at the Seychelles, and one to the Governor of the Mauritius, begging for assistance,--if possible, for a vessel that would take us direct to Bombay.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
W. Stirling,
Captain 17th Regiment, Bombay N. I.

To JOHN WEDDERBURN, ESQ.,
Accountant General, Bombay.

I send this by the long-boat, which is going to the Seychelles for assistance, 13th Sep., 1836.

My dear Wedderburn,

I write these few lines to let you know that we have been shipwrecked on the Island (as we suppose) of John de Nova, about 200 miles N. E. of Cape Amber, N. point of Madagascar, and that we are all safe and well, in the enjoyment of good health and spirits.

We struck on the 12th of August, about one o'clock in the morning, of a pitch-dark stormy night, running eight or nine knots an hour, without having the least suspicion that we were near any land. You may imagine, though I cannot describe, our situation, thumping on the rocks, the sea beating over us, at such a time of night, and with so long a time till day-light before us. The ship was new and very strong so that she held well together, and we all landed in the ship's boats before twelve at noon without any accident.

We grounded near half a mile from the shore. The Island is only a few feet above high-water mark though 12 or 15 miles in circumference, but there are a few sand hills about fifty feet high, covered with bushes, which vary the outline. We found water by digging in the sand about six feet, and though white as milk, from the coral *limy* soil, it was sweet and de-

licious, and has proved very wholesome. We have caught plenty of fine fish and turtle, and we have abundance of hams, &c., from the wreck, but we are very much in want of a good Bobarhee.²⁴² We have also some wine and spirits. There are 100 casks of beer in the ship which are all wasting and spoiling, for when we got a few casks on shore we could not restrain the sailors. You will, as well as your good lady, be glad to hear that Mrs. Stirling has behaved in the most exemplary manner, so that instead of being an encumbrance she has been a support and encouragement to all : she has never shed a tear nor uttered a word of complaint, but has kept her mind diverted by constant employment either in the tent or by walking, when we gather shells, and corals, and flowers, and amuse ourselves in every possible way. There are some pretty walks, and even pretty woody scenery on the Island,

and we have a good beach for sea bathing. The Officers and crew have behaved very well on the whole, though the latter have given us a few sleepless nights by their riotous conduct, when they got hold of the beer.

As you may suppose, we have lost nearly all our outfit. Unfortunately the Captain drowned himself a few days before we were wrecked, when the chief Mate took the command. The day after the wreck he was laid up by a sprained ankle, so that the men going on board the wreck for provisions with the other Officers, who were worse than useless, got drunk, indulged their curiosity or love of plunder by breaking open all our trunks and drawers, taking what they thought valuable, and bringing us, or wasting,

what they could not appropriate to themselves. We find the climate excellent, and a most delicious sea breeze, often too strong, blows day and night. We have pretty good tents made of sails and spars. There are no wild beasts, nor venomous reptiles, nor savages to contend with; and being wrecked on a desert Island, we could not have been better off. With our united kind regards, believe me

Your affectionate

Friend,

W. Stirling.

Bombay, 4th May, 1837.

Sir,

At a Meeting of the Geographical Society, held this day, I had the pleasure to present, in your name, your paper on the Seychelles, the Amirantes, and other Islands and Groupes of Islands, situate between the equator and 12° S. Lat., &c.; and I am desired by the Society to offer you their best thanks for the interesting information which you have kindly placed at their disposal.

The paper will appear in an early number of the Society's Proceedings.

I have also the pleasure to inform you, that you have this day been elected a Member of the Society; being proposed by Dr. Lush, seconded by Sir Charles Malcolm.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. FRASER HEDDLE,

Secretary.

To MAJOR W. STIRLING,
17th Regiment N. I.

CONCLUSION.

I and my wife on reaching India, after all our trials, stood very much in need of not a little rest both of body and mind ; but the state of my Regiment and the Station of Hursole, both of which had been grievously neglected, required my presence. The Commander in Chief, Lord Keane (then Sir John), urged me strongly to proceed without delay to assume

the command of both, which I could not well decline. From that time, May, 1837, till October, 1841, when I retired from the Hon.

E. I. Company's service on the pension of my rank, I held the permanent Command of the 17th Regiment, Bombay N. Infantry, and temporarily of the Station of Hursole, the Garrison of Surat, and the Mhow or Malwa Field Force; which latter consisted of one Troop of Horse Artillery, one complete Regiment of Cavalry, and three Regiments of Infantry.

On the 1st of March, 1842, I and my wife and our little child, Ellen Mary²⁴³, embarked at Bombay for Suez in the Victoria Steamer. On the 9th and 10th we steamed along the sterile and mountainous coast of Arabia Felix, and on the 11th we arrived at Aden. After coaling we started the same evening, and next day at noon we entered the Red Sea by the straits of Babelmandeb ; in the evening we sighted Mocha, a

beautiful place as seen from the sea, and which gives name to the finest Arabian Coffee.

On the 19th we came to an anchor at Suez, where we were greeted with a heavy squall of wind and rain, a somewhat rare occurrence in Egypt. After being out in a boat the whole of the raw cold night, we landed at Suez at day-light, and went to the English Hotel, where we were warmed and comforted, and breakfasted, by a kind old English woman. After breakfast we got into a two-wheeled spring van, in company with four or five more vans, each drawn by four horses of great mettle, that galloped and raced across the desert with us in grand style, in about twenty four hours, including several stoppages for rest and refreshments. At sun-rise on the morning of the (glorious) 21st of March we looked out and gazed with wonder on the Pyramids of Egypt and the green valley of the Nile, and we soon after descended into the valley and reached Hill and Raven's abundantly-supplied hotel in Grand Cairo to a late breakfast. At Cairo I took a Turkish bath, and explored the bazaars and the slave market.

Next morning we embarked on the Jack o'Lanthorn and steamed down the Nile (the water is remarkably sweet though discoloured,) to Afté in the Delta, where we disembarked soon after day-light on the 23rd, and after crossing the narrow neck of land, with our luggage, we again embarked on a tract boat, on the Maha Moodee Canal, by which we reached Alexandria the same afternoon by dint of great exertion. We were just in time for the English Steamer, but there was no accommodation for us, which was a sad

disappointment at the time, but as we were very much knocked up it eventually turned out for our benefit. In consequence of this disappointment we made up our minds to remain in Egypt for a month, and I found Alexandria, during that period, a place affording ample amusement and deep interest in its ruins and remains.

On the 24th of April we embarked on the Great Liverpool Steamer, and started immediately for England. On the morning of the 25th we were off the coast of Libya, and on the fourth day, the 28th, we sighted Mount Etna, and arrived at Malta. Next day we started and having entered the Bay of Algiers, and skirted the famous Mole, and subsequently the coast of Spain, we arrived at Gibraltar on the 3rd of May. Next morning we set off again, steering close along the pretty shores of Andalusia; and having sighted Cape Trafalgar, Cape St. Vincent, and the Rock of Lisbon, we reached Falmouth on the 9th. After a few hours we started once more, and reached the Motherbank²⁴⁴ on the 10th of May, 1842.

On the 12th of March, 1811, I sailed for India from the Motherbank via the Cape of Good Hope; and after upwards of thirty-one years of toil and travel, I returned to it by the route of the Red Sea, the Mediterranean, and the pillars of Hercules; having there by circumnavigated Africa. On the 15th, our quarantine having expired, we landed at

Southampton; and on the 16th of May, 1842, we were united to our dear children and friends.

W. Roberts, Printer, Exeter.

POSTSCRIPT

Tragically, a year after publication, on 30th August 1844, Sibella died of scarlet fever in Guernsey, and their youngest daughter died of the same the following day. Their deaths were reported in a moving tribute to Sibella in the 'Gentleman's Magazine' - "Sibella, wife of Major Wm. Stirling, of the Bombay Army, of Clifton House, Exeter, and youngest dau. of W.L. Hockin, esq. of Dartmouth. In the year 1836 she was shipwrecked on the uninhabited Island of Astova, where during a period of 68 days, by the good example and great exertion, under the influence of religious feeling, of herself and husband, the comforts of the crew of the shipwrecked vessel were attended to, and discipline preserved. -- On the following day, aged 6, Ellen-Mary, youngest child of the above; both of scarlet fever."

William was left with two young daughters, Marion Henderson Stirling aged 14 and Emily Maria aged 11. He married again on 16th October 1845, Susanna Old (1822-1887), fathering a son, Donald, and three daughters, one of whom died in infancy. He died 2nd November 1871. His will recorded the composition of his family, but he also specifically bequeathed objects gathered on Astova Island or brought back from India to Sibilla's daughters, by then both married women²⁴⁵.

This is the last Will and Testament of me William Stirling Lieut Colonel in Her Majesty's Army in the East Indies at present residing at No. 2 Mont le Grand, Heavitree Devon. My former Wills having been made while my children were younger I referred to circumstances that do not now exist I hereby cancel and annul all former Wills and give as follows. To my daughter Marion Henderson Grant Wife of Mr Alexander Grant of Mexico I give and bequeath my Black China lacquered box which was given to me by Captain John Hine and all its contents whether shells stones or other things. Also one pier table and one rose wood foot stool. Also one silver table spoon marked with my initials, one dessert silver spoon and one table and one dessert silver fork so marked. Also the large plated tea-pot, plaited waiter or salver - the white blue and gold tea & coffee set - the table with drawers (now with Emily Maria Cox) which I gave to her mother on the birth of the said M.H. Grant (né Stirling). Also one seal marked W.S. & S.S. Astova the handle of which is made of the timber of Astova. Also all the pencil drawings by her mother & those by Capt. Liddell of the ship Wellington. The foregoing Articles are not to be given to my daughter Marion H. Grant till she comes to England and receives them. In the event of Marion dying abroad and before having received them they shall all be considered Cancelled. To my daughter Emily Maria the wife of the Revd. G.W. Cox I give and bequeath the box given to her mother by Captain Goodman and all its contents, the silver mounted buck Antelopes horn, the best plated Coffee pot. One silver table spoon, one silver dessert spoon, one silver dessert fork (all marked with my initials, one pier table, the child's table & chair (with her) 2 Cocos de mer, my green box and all its contents from Astova. All my remaining Curiosities such as stones, Elephant grinder, Hindoo Gods and Goddesses

and one silver table fork marked with my initials, but not the Cabinet nor its contents. My Widow, Ellen Mary & Louisa will be entitled to pensions from the Bombay Military Fund - The Agents to address, Messrs. Forbes, Forbes & Co. King Wm. Street London to whom apply. There is in my drawers, box or elsewhere a book containing the Regulations of the fund. There is also a list of my Children, the Marriage with my wife Susanna's Certificate. Marion & Emily are not entitled to anything from the fund. My Widow will be entitled to a pension from it. Donald will not be entitled to any. To my Wife or widow I give and bequeath the Cabinet and all its contents except the block of white Coral which was knocked off the Reef at Astova by the striking of the ship Tiger when I and my wife were passengers in her, I give that block of Coral to the elder of my children in succession as survivors. To my Wife Susanna (née Old) I give all and everything I possess not otherwise given away and I hereby nominate and appoint her guardian of my children. It has been a source of grief to me that my poverty has never enabled me to bestow money or other substantial gifts on my children. My arrears of Pay or Pension and my 10 shares in the Oriental Hotels Company now wound up, all of very little value constitute all my money. If they produce a few pounds that will be all. I leave my son Donald to the love and kindness of his mother. I appoint & constitute my Wife Susanna to be Executrix of this my Will and hereby revoking all former or other Wills and Testaments by me at any time heretofore made I declare this to be my last Will and testament. In witness whereof I the said William Stirling have to this my last Will and Testament set my hand the fourth day of January in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy - William Stirling - Signed by the testator and acknowledged by him to be his last Will and testament in the presence of us present at the same time and subscribed by us in the presence of the said testator and of each other - William Henry Bulley Chemist 26 High Street Exeter William Henry Hayward, Chemist's Assistant 26 High St. Exeter

Proved at Exeter the twenty seventh day of November 1871 by the Oath of Susanna Stirling, Widow, the Relict, the sole Executor to whom Administration was granted.

[Pension Mrs Susanna Widow, £145 per annum]

On the twenty-seventh day of November 1871, the Will of William Stirling late of N: 2 Mont-le-Grand Heavitree in the County of Devon Esquire, a Lieutenant Colonel on the retired list of Her Majesty's Indian Army Bombay Presidency deceased, who died on the second day of November 1871, at No. 2 Mont le Grand, aforesaid was proved in the District Registry attached to Her Majesty's Court of Probate at Exeter by the Oath of Susanna Stirling, of Heavitree, aforesaid, Widow, the Relict of the deceased the sole Executrix therein named she having been first sworn duly to administer.

Effects under £300, No Leaseholds

Extracted by T. J. Bremridge, Solr. Exeter.

Notice: Auction at the house 13th & 14th December 1871 - glass, china, linen, books, paintings, plate, plated goods, Indian curiosities, etc. together with the kitchen & culinary requisites. Pianoforte by "Collard & Collard".

- 1 No copy of the will was found in Jamaica but a chance e-mail from Paul Hellier alerted us to the existence of this copy which revealed much more about the family dynamics than we could ever have hoped to find.
- 2 Listed as an Attorney at Law admitted to practice at His Majesty's Supreme Court of Judicature. Almanac 1782, 1784, 1787, 1790, 1796 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 3 McRobbie, William, Smallwood Pen, 71/214 St Catherine 1817 [<http://www.jamaicanfamilysearch.com/>]
- 4 Sale
- 5 Mary Campbell died 15th December 1801
- 6 Henry Hamilton left his sister Mary £500 by his will which was proved 19th February 1802.
- 7 Mary Hamilton who had looked after him as a child.
- 8 Adam Anderson, Rector of Perth Academy, Mathematician and Engineer (1783-1846)
- 9 Perth Academy - Rose Terrace, Perth - The original academy building stands in Rose Terrace; a street named after the wife of Thomas Hay Marshall, Provost of Perth from 1770-1808. The school was designed by Robert Reid, the last King's architect in Scotland.
- 10 William Abington was Clerk to the Military Seminary Committee for passing Cadets, Assistant Surgeons &c [Hardy *A Register of Ships*. 1811]
- 11 Son of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham was born in 1799 and at this time was at Westminster School.
- 12 James Begbie - India Merchant. Begbie, Hunter and Co. He died in 1815. Decree in Chancery 1818 has Alexander Begbie etc. plaintiffs & David Hunter etc. defendants, creditors of James Begbie, late of York Street, Portman Square, & of the Old South Sea House, Broad Street, London, deceased. [Times Oct. 29 1818]
- 13 Patrick son of John Stirling of Kippendavie married Catherine Georgina Wedderburn in 1810. She was the third daughter of John Wedderburn of Spring Garden, Jamaica, grandson of Sir Alexander Wedderburn of Blackness.
- 14 Probably to her cousin, Thomas Edward Forbes of the Navy Pay Office, named as a trustee and executor of her will which he proved in 1817.
- 15 1810/1 Bombay, Madras and Bengal. Capt Robert Rankine. Portsmouth 12 Mar 1811 - 4 Apr Madeira - 24 Jul Bombay - 3 Sep Madras - 20 Oct Calcutta - 16 Dec Saugor 13 Feb 1812 - 12 May St Helena - 25 Jul Downs. [National Archives]
- 16 Youngster
- 17 Capt James Sandilands
- 18 A shallow sandbar off the northeast coast of the Isle of Wight used as an anchorage.
- 19 William Taylor Money was superintendant for the Bombay marine and had captained the *General Goddard* on its fifth voyage (the sixth voyage being captained by Thomas Graham). On his return to England he was returned to Parliament and became a director of the East India Company in 1819.
- 20 David Eskine, daughter of David Erskine and Anne Graham born 1st October 1791 after her father's death.
- 21 Christian, the other living daughter of David Erskine and Anne Graham.
- 22 House of William Graeme at Braco. There is no direct link with the Stirling or Graham families.
- 23 Rebecca Ash married Henry Longbotham 24th March 1811
- 24 Captain William Moray noted later to be at Surat.
- 25 Fort at the entrance to Bombay, then owned by the East India Company.
- 26 Captain William Marshall took charge of a newly formed Cadet establishment at Bombay under the direction of the Hon. the Com. in Chief 13th May 1810. He retired from ill health and was appointed Recruiting Officer in the Edinburgh district in 1814. [*The East India military calendar*, Volume 3. By John Philippart]
- 27 William son of David Erskine and Mary Melvin, born 1773. He went to Bombay in 1804 with Sir James Mackintosh and married his daughter, Maitland, in 1809.
- 28 Jean
- 29 John Kirkpatrick born 1766 and died in Windsor in 1816. He captained this ship from 1802 until at least 1809. The original ship named "Henry Addington" was lost in 1798, the new ship of that name was built in 1800 by the owner David Hunter, Esq, of Old South Sea House, Broad Street, London. [<http://www.genealogy.kirkpatrickaustralian.com/archives/getperson.php?personID=I7181&tree=TKA>]
- 30 Surat a port city in Gujarat. In 1608, ships from the English East India Company started docking in Surat, using it as a trade and transit point. In 1615 an English factory was established by firman. The prosperity of Surat received a blow when Surat was ceded to the English as part of the dowry for Catherine of Braganza's marriage to Charles II in 1662. Shortly afterwards, in 1668, the East India Company established a factory in Bombay (Mumbai) and Surat began its decline. By 1687, the English East India Company moved the presidency to Bombay. The British re-took control of Surat in 1759 and assumed all government powers of the city in 1800.
- 31 May 10 [1811] On his passage to Bombay, on board the Henry Addington East Indiaman, William Bromley Cadogan Stirling, Esq. fourth son to Sir John Stirling, Bart. of Glorat, in the artillery service of the Honourable East India Company. He was an uncommonly fine and promising young man, whose loss is most deeply felt...He had nearly attained his twentieth year. [*The Scots Magazine and Edinburgh Literary Miscellany*, Volume 74] Apparently died on board ship May 18, 1811, from the effects of wounds received when on shore at the Cape of Good Hope, where his boat's crew were attacked. In covering their retreat he was mortally wounded.
- 32 Rear Admiral George Dundas of Manour was the Navy Board Commissioner at Bombay.
- 33 Most likely Agnes, daughter of George Dundas. She married Rev. Robert Jones in 1815. Her sister Maria had married Capt. Thomas Graham in 1809 in Bombay.

- 34 Ann Pitcairn married David Carnegie 19th August 1811 in Bombay. He was of the Medical Board in Bombay and died in 1818. She died in 1875. [Recorded on a memorial stone in Inverkeilor parish church, Angus.]
 - 35 John son of Sir John Wedderburn of Balindean and Alice Dundas was born in 1789. He entered the Indian Civil Service and went out to Bombay in 1807. He held a number of important posts there during the following 30 years. Mrs Patrick Stirling was a distant cousin. They shared a great-grandfather Sir Alexander Wedderburn 4th Baronet of Blackness.
 - 36 William Taylor Money, son of William Money. His father was Captain of several East Indiamen and later a Director of the East India Company. He was also a friend and business partner of Robert Wigram. William Taylor Money entered the East India Company navy, serving in the *General Goddard* (1791-9) and the *Walthamstow* (1799-1801). Made his will in 1815 before a voyage around the Cape on his return to Britain. In 1816 Money was returned to Parliament for Wootton Bassett having borrowed the expenses from his friend Charles Forbes, nephew and heir of John Forbes. Charles had worked in his uncles's merchant house in Bombay until his return to Britain in 1811. He became MP for Beverley the following year on a platform of opposition to the East India Company monopoly. William Taylor Money died in Venice in 1834 and his will was proved in February 1836. [PROB11/1858] [www.historyofparliamentonline.org]
 - 37 In 1764, John Forbes (1743-1821), descendant of an ancient family of Lord Forbes of Pitsligo, set sail on board the ship Asia as a purser on the East India Company's service. After three years in India as a 'free mariner' and later as 'free merchant', independent of the East India Company, he started his own business by trading Indian cotton. Forbes' company quickly widened its interests into ship brokerage, ship building and eventually into banking. Within a few years, his company was appointed banker to the Government of Bombay. [BL] His will proved in December 1821 shows that he made a fortune in India. [PROB11/1651]
 - 38 Christian Moray married Henry Home Drummond 14th April 1812
 - 39 Mountstuart Elphinstone (1779-1859)
 - 40 David Finlay. Eldest son of Dr James Finlay and Helen Wedderburn, born 1776. From 1811 he was living at Ardoch Pen, St Ann's. as overseer.
 - 41 Meer Khan leader of the Pindaris who were menacing the North-West Frontier
 - 42 Jalna?
 - 43 Assaye is a small village in the Jalna district of the state of Maharashtra in western India. The village was the location of the Battle of Assaye in 1803, fought between the Maratha Empire and the British East India Company.
 - 44 Present Jafrabad, also in the Jalna district of the state of Maharashtra in western India
 - 45 Cutch or was an Indian princely state, situated on the north of the Gulf of Kutch having its Northern boundary with Sindh. It was ruled by the Jadeja dynasty from its formation in 1147 until 1948 when it seceded to newly formed, India.
 - 46 The regiment landed at Calcutta in August 1808 and were to remain there for a year before being transferred to Surat 200 miles north of Bombay. Here they were more than pleased with the high quality mounts that they were provided with. In 1810 the unit were to see their first action in the sub-continent when they were sent to Mandavi to put down a religious insurrection. There was one serious battle where the unit was forced to engage the locals armed with 14 foot spears. The lancers opted for the more traditional hand to hand attack rather than employ there more than adequate firepower. This decision cost three lives and countless wounds to the unit, although they did triumph over the religious fanatics who had lost some 200 men on the battlefield before being dispersed for good.
- These small scale wars were a common occurrence at this stage of India's history in the British Empire, the next action that the Light Dragoons were involved in was of a similar nature. In 1817, there was a serious uprising of the Mahrattha and Pindari forces in the interior of the Sub-Continent. The 17th Light Dragoons spent over a year tracking down the fast, mobile and efficient Indian forces in difficult terrain. Although, the biggest danger to the Light Dragoon was not to be any soldier, but sickness and disease. In its fourteen years in India, the regiment lost about eight hundred men to cholera and other illnesses and only some 150 due to fighting. The regiment eventually sailed back to England in 1823 at only a quarter of the strength that it had when it had arrived some 14 years previously.
- On their way back to Britain, the 17th put in at St Helena for resupplies. It was here that they learnt that there name had been changed and that they were now to become the 17th Lancers.
- [<http://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/britishcavalry/17thltdragoons1759.htm>]
- 47 Alexander Macleod late of Muiravonside
 - 48 In 1814 the Peshwa asked that another agent should be sent both to adjust the accounts and to gain a renewal of the lease of the Peshwa's share of Gujarat. The Gaikwar's new agent was Gangadhar Shastri. Gangadhar Shastri had originally been in the employment of the Phadke family in Poona. He had gained a place at Baroda through Fatesing Gaikwar, had proved of the greatest service to Colonel Walker in settling the claims of the Gaikwar on his feudatory chiefs, and had recently been the leading man at Baroda. [Mr. Elphinstone (15th June 1814) describes Gangadhar Shastri as a person of great shrewdness and talent who keeps the whole state of Baroda in the highest order, and, at Poona, lavishes money and marshals his retinue in such style as to draw the attention of the whole place, Though a learned Sanskrit scholar he affects the Englishman, walks fast, talks fast, interrupts and contradicts, mixes English words with everything he says, and calls the Peshwa and his ministers old fools and dam rascal. Colebrooke's Elphinstone, I. 275.] So strong was the distrust of Bajirav and the dread of Trimbakji that the Gaikwar asked and obtained the formal guarantee of his minister's safety from the British Government. On a previous occasion in 1811,

Bajirav had approved of Gangadhar Shastri's appointment. Since then he had heard from his supporters in Baroda that Gangadhar Shastri was a friend to the English. In 1814 when Gangadhar Shastri was again proposed as the Gaikwar's agent, Bajirav objected, stating that when he was a clerk under Phadke, the Shastri had once been insolent to him. As Bajirav had not raised this objection in 1811, Mr. Elphinstone refused to attach any weight to it. In 1815, as Gangadhar Shastri found that his negotiations with the Peshwa must end in nothing, with Mr. Elphinstone's approval, he determined to return to Baroda and leave the settlement to British arbitration. This determination produced a sudden change on Bajirav and Trimbakji. If these questions were left to Mr. Elphinstone all excuse for correspondence between the Peshwa and the Gaikwar would cease and intrigue against the English would be made most difficult and dangerous. At any cost Gangadhar Shastri must be won to their interests. Gangadhar Shastri's weak point was vanity. Trimbakji told him what an extremely high opinion Bajirav had formed of his talents from the ability with which he had supported the Gaikwar's interests. The Peshwa was most anxious to get Gangadhar Shastri into his service. He must not leave Poona at once. This was followed by marked friendliness on Bajirav's part, even by the offer of his sister-in-law in marriage to Gangadhar Shastri's son. Bajirav also agreed to an adjustment of the Peshwa's claims on the Gaikwar which Gangadhar Shastri proposed. The marriage preparations were pushed on. But as no answer came from the Gaikwar to the proposed settlement Gangadhar Shastri began to fear that his master suspected that this offer of marriage had won him to the Peshwa's side. Gangadhar Shastri hesitated about the marriage and much to Bajirav's annoyance it was put off. He further enraged Bajirav by refusing to allow his wife to visit the Peshwa's palace because of the bauchery from which it was never free. Still Trimbakji continued more cordial and friendly than ever. In July (1815) Bajirav asked Gangadhar Shastri to go with him on a pilgrimage to Pandharpur. Contrary to Gopalrav Mairal's advice Gangadhar Shastri went. On the 14th of July Gangadhar Shastri dined with the Peshwa. In the evening Trimbakji asked him to Vithoba's temple where the Peshwa was.

Gangadhar Shastri went and found the Peshwa most gracious and pleasing. He left the temple in high spirits, and before he had gone 300 yards, was attacked and killed. The heinousness of this crime, the murder of a Brahman in holy Pandharpur, raised a strong feeling against the murderers. Gopalrav Mairal openly accused Trimbakji, and Mr. Elphinstone, after a long inquiry, proved that Trimbakji had hired the assassins. Bajirav was called on to give up Trimbakji to the British Government. He put Trimbakji under arrest but refused to surrender him. British troops were moved on Poona, Bajirav's heart failed him, and Trimbakji was surrendered on the 25th of September. Sitaram the Baroda minister, who was in the Peshwa's pay, had helped Trimbakji's plans for murdering Gangadhar Shastri. Between the time of Gangadhar Shastri's murder and Trimbakji's surrender Sitaram busied himself in raising troops. He was taken into custody by the Resident at Baroda much against the will of the regent Fatesing Gaikwar whose conduct showed that like Sitaram he had become a party to Bajirav's intrigues against the British. Trimbakji was confined in the Thana fort. In the evening of the 12th of October he escaped and reached a safe hiding place in the Ahmadnagar hills. [Grant Duff's *Marathas*, 632.]

49 Budaun, Uttar Pradesh

50 Governor-General of India from November 1812 until 1823. Two days before this letter was written he was made Marquess of Hastings.

51 Governor-General from 1798-1805.

52 Jodhpur, now in Rajasthan, then the capital of the kingdom known as Marwar.

53 Possibly Sir William-Saltonstill Wiseman, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, born 1784. Married Catherine, daughter of Sir James Mackintosh. in Bagdad in 1812. [Debrett 1819]

54 Ahmednagar in the state of Maharashtra, about 120 km northeast of Poona was invaded by a British force under General Wellesley and captured. It was afterwards restored to the Marathas, but again came into the possession of the British in 1817, according to the terms of the Treaty of Poona.

55 Charles Colville was the second son of John Colville, 8th Lord Colville of Culross in the peerage of Scotland, was born in 1770 and died in 1843. In 1819 he was promoted to lieutenant-general and served as commander-in-chief at Bombay from 1819 until 1825.

56 The Western Coastal Plain lies between the Western Ghats and the Arabian Sea. The Northern part of the coast up to Goa is called Konkan Coast and the Southern part from Goa to Kanya Kumari is called Malabar Coast.

57 Noted that Ensign Earle, 1st Bat. 12th regt. N.I. is an officer sufficiently qualified in knowledge of Hindoostanee for the situation of interpreter. Bombay, 3 May 1823 [*The Asiatic Journal and Monthly Register for British and Foreign* ..., Volume 16]

58 Most likely Eliza, daughter of Rev. Dr. James Dobie of Linlithgow.

59 Dr. T. Christie, Physician Extraordinary to the Prince Regent, Cheltenham

60 Christian, youngest dau. of James Erskine, Esq. of Cardross, Perth, N. Britain, died at Cheltenham, 19 May, 1805

61 Anna, Comtesse d'Orsay (1802-1882) married Antoine de Gramont, Duc de Guiche (1789-1836) in 1818.

62 November 11th

63 Noted letter TS to TSG 22nd June 1810

64 Andrew Hutton, Writer of Stirling

65 Jean, younger sister of TGS is the more likely as letters between her and the Stirling boys are noted in their's.

66 William Robertson of Dundas & Wilson

67 W.T. Money elected Director of East India House 30th December 1818 [*Asiatic Journal*]

68 Miss Farquharson at 60 Frederick St. in 1825 (and 1822 when Alexander Finley stayed there)

- 69 William married on 6th September at St Savior's, Dartmouth.
- 70 Sybella Pearce Hockin, second daughter of William Lambe Hockin and Sarah Burd, born 2nd April 1806.
- 71 St Fillan's Highland Society held The first Highland games in 1821. The report on the event in the *Caledonian Mercury* in October, 1827 give a flavour of the event: "The annual meeting of this Society was held at St. Fillan's Mount; east end of Loch Earn, on Wednesday the 6th ultimo, under the direction of of Major-General Stewart of Garth, Chieftain, Lord Glenorchy, Moray of Abercairney, and Graham-Stirling of Airth, Vice President. Of all the institutions of similar objects and tendency with the present, which of late years have been established in this country, St. Fillans enjoys the pre-eminence not only from the striking magnificence of the scenery amidst which its meetings are held, but from the assemblage of rank, beauty and fashion who honour its amusement with their presence...".
- 72 Henry Longbothom died in December 1820, and his widow, Rebecca, married again on 22nd January 1822 a young man from Glasgow, George Bogle Fergus. He died 8th September 1823 aged 28. In the Civil Almanac for Jamaica 1824 & 1839, Mrs Fergus was listed as Postmaster, Northside, Moneague, St Ann. Her husband had been buried at the Moneague Tavern. She received Slave Compensation for 41 slaves for Primrose Hill, St Ann in 1835 (£965 13s 11d) and a share as creditor for 35 slaves at Grierfield, St Ann in 1837 (£192 14s 4d). She was recorded as - Buried at Fergus' Cottage "very old" in 1854. There is no evidence that her surviving sons ever received any legacy.
- 73 The crew of this ship were in such a complete state of insubordination and disaffection, that, on the ship's arrival at Bombay, they were delivered over to the civil power, and were in consequence taken out of the ship and thrown into jail, where they were closely confined, until the Ogle-Castle was ready for sea; coolies or native labourers stowed the ship's cargo, and did the duty which these refractory seamen had bound themselves to perform. How this ship's company conducted themselves homeward bound, their melancholy fate deprives us from knowing. The Ogle-Castle and, I believe, all hands perished, in a heavy gale of wind, on the Goodwin Sands, on the 3d of November, 1825. Several Deal boats, with the usual zeal and noble conduct displayed by these resolute and hardy men, approached the wreck, but the gale increased, and, the high sea breaking over her, they could not succeed in their praiseworthy efforts. [p.338-9 *Naval discipline : subordination contrasted with insubordination*: or, A view ... By Christopher Biden]
- Ship carrying cotton, a private trader, Captain Meynton [The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser Saturday 25 March 1826]
- 74 Governor of Dartmouth Castle [http://www.dartmouth-history.org.uk/content_images/upload/John_Holdsworth_genealogy.pdf]
- 75 Charles Luxmore Hockin born 1810. Had reached the rank of Admiral by his death in 1902.
- 76 HMS *Druid* - 5th rate; Armament 46. Launched 1 Jul 1825
Plymouth 29 Dec 1825 Will proceed to Lisbon to relieve the Glasgow when she has received her full complement.
10 Jun 1826, Jamaica, is reported to have landed Mr. Mackenzie, the British Consul, at Port au Prince.
6 Jan 1827 Employed in the West Indies.
[<http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/18-1900/D/01478.html>].
- 77 Robert Rodney was born on 14 May 1786.1 He was the son of George Rodney, 2nd Baron Rodney of Rodney Stoke and Anne Harley. He married Anne Dennett on 20 July 1819.1 He died on 20 July 1826 at age 40. He was Captain Royal Navy. [<http://www.thepeerage.com/p56119.htm#i561181>]
- 78 Edmund Pollexfen Bastard (1784–1838) was a British Tory politician, son of Edmund Bastard and his wife Jane Pownoll. He married Anne Jane Rodney, granddaughter of Admiral Rodney. He succeeded his father as Member of Parliament (MP) for Dartmouth from 1812 to 1816 when that seat was taken by his younger brother, John Bastard. In the same election Edmund succeeded his uncle, John Pollexfen Bastard, as MP for Devonshire from 1816 to 1830. He was appointed High Sheriff of Devon for 1834. [Wikipedia]
- 79 Mary Pinson, daughter of Andrew and Ann Helling, married John Hine 22nd March 1779 in Dartmouth. Her sister Ann married Thomas Burd and was the mother of Sarah, wife of William Lambe Hockin. Mary and John Hine had a son John in 1782. I is probably this son who is to captain the Atlas as his father was born in 1747. He left a will proved 1842 in which he names his wife as Jane.
- 80 John Hine – captained voyages 1825-6, 1827-8, 1829-30 which in EIC service. Owned by Charles Otway Mayne [<http://www.eicships.info/ships/shipdetail.asp?sid=837>]
On EIC ships: He was 1st officer under Capt. John Paterson on 'Duke of Montrose' sailed St Helena & Bengal left Portsmouth 26 Feb 1807 back 23 Dec 1808. 'Bombay' 8th voyage as Captain 1823-1824. Commander 'Marquis of Huntley' 1832-3. Presented letter to the EIC Board on behalf of Boatswains, Gunners & Carpenters as Senior Officer of the shops of the last season July 1834. etc. From 22 April 1835 to be paid £200 pension p.a. as Commander.
- 81 A portrait of the East Indiaman 'Atlas', shown off South Foreland, near Dover, in broadside view. She sailed on her first voyage to India in 1813 and made at least nine more thereafter until 1830. As the picture is dated 1826, it was probably made at the end of her seventh voyage to Madras and China. The 'Atlas' was built in 1812 at Paul's Yard near Hull, her managing owner being James Staniforth. She was mounted with 26-guns and had a complement of 130 men at full strength. During her East India Company service she sailed to Madras, Bengal and China under the command of Captain Charles Otway Mayne, who was able to accumulate a fortune as a result of these voyages. This was not always without problems, since in 1817, the surgeon and second mate of the 'Atlas' complained to the council at Canton that Mayne had taken all the extra 30 tons of private cargo normally allowed by the Company to ships officers. Their claim was upheld. After six voyages Mayne became the ship's husbandman and placed the

command of the vessel under Captain John Hine, after which the 'Atlas' undertook a further three regular sailings. She arrived at Gravesend at the end of her last voyage in August 1830 and was sold in May 1831 to C. Carter for breaking. [<http://collections.rmg.co.uk/collections/objects/14686.html>]

- 82 Lt Col George Henderson (1783-1855) born Aberdeen, died Southampton. He Was founder/Chairman of Southampton to London Railway 1831, Southampton Gas and Light, and Hamilton-Henderson Engineering Co.
- 83 James Henderson Esq. appointed in 1808 under the heading Junior Merchants, to be Secretary to Government in the Secret, Political, and Foreign departments, and Mint Master. Appointed 26th May 1822 to be Secretary to the Government in the Military, Commercial, and Public Departments. 1830 Mr. James Henderson to be warehousekeeper. 1832 Mr. James Henderson to be acting puisne judge of courts of Sudder Dewanee
- 84 George Graham was the fifth son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham. He was born in 1798 and died unmarried in 1826. He was described as a merchant.
- 85 Hugh Primrose Lindsay (1765-1844) son of James Lindsay, 5th Earl of Balcarres. He had joined the East India Company marine service in 1787 and was appointed commander of 'Rockingham' in 1793, another of Robert Wigram's ships. Thus he was a contemporary of Thomas Graham Stirling. In 1814 he was made a Director of the East India Company, a position he held unto his death, being elected Deputy Chairman for 1826-27 and Chairman for 1827-28. In 1820 he was elected MP for Perth Burghs, sitting until 1830.
- 86 William Stanley Clarke (-1844). He was appointed commander of 'True Briton' in 1796. This was also a Wigram ship so he was an exact contemporary of Thomas Graham Stirling. He became a Director of the East India Company in 1815, was elected deputy chairman in 1826 and chairman in 1827.
- 87 Masters Date of Warrants for service - Neil Morrison 24 Mar 1812 [New Navy List for November 1840] Masters appointed.. Neil Morrison, to the Glasgow [Naval History of the Present Year 1814]
- 88 George Macdowall, fifth son of Day Hort Macdowall and Wilhelmina Graham, died at 24 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh, on 10th November 1826.
- 89 She clearly recovered as she did not die until April 1854.
- 90 Macdowall
- 91 The stanhope was a gig, buggy or light phaeton, typically having a high seat and closed back. It was named after Captain Hon. Henry FitzRoy Stanhope (ca. 1754 - 1828, son of William Stanhope, 2nd Earl of Harrington), a well-known sportsman of his time, and built by the London firm of Tilbury, coachbuilders in Mount Street
- 92 John Waite Hockin
- 93 Andrew Pinson Hockin
- 94 Charles Anderson-Pelham, 1st Earl of Yarborough (8 August 1781 – 5 September 1846), styled Hon. Charles Anderson-Pelham from 1794 to 1823, was the founder of the Royal Yacht Squadron. He lived at Appuldurcombe House, on the Isle of Wight, which had been inherited by his wife Henrietta from her uncle, Sir Richard Worsley.
- 95 Rev. William Hockin
- 96 William Cunningham Cunninghame Graham of Gartmore (later Bontine Cunninghame Graham), of Gartmore & Findlaystone. His son Douglas went to Bombay as a cadet in 1824 and remained there until his death in 1856.
- 97 Brigadier General Alexander Walker was the Governor of St Helena from 1823 to 1828. He died in Edinburgh in 1831.
- 98 There is no 'F' Dundas
- 99 John Dundas was the 5th son of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham and had joined his father's firm Dundas and Wilson.
- 100 Mary Sibilla Graham Stirling was born 1st September 1826
- 101 Mary Langworth married William Hockin, eldest son to William Lambe Hockin and Sarah Burd, in 1823. Studied at St. Paul's School, matric. Exeter College, Oxford, in 1817 aged 18; B.A. 1820.
- 102 Inglis, Forbes & Co was an East-India houses of agency in London. [The India Office and Burma Office List 1823]
- 103 Rebecca widow of Rev. Thomas Pearce Hockin and Anne Burd widow of Thomas.
- 104 Probably Ann Maria Burd Hine born 1801
- 105 John Braham was a famous tenor [<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/3618-braham-john>]
- 106 Catherine Stephens a famous soprano [<http://msteer.co.uk/biog/4KStephens.html>]
- 107 Lieut. Gen. Sir Thomas Bradford was Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in Bombay until 1829
- 108 M'Crone John, Esq. agent to His Grace the Duke of Athol- Mona cottage [From Pigot's Directory, 1823]
- James McCrone 1767-1840
- "Mr. McCrone came from Glasgow to Douglas in 1817, bringing with him his young wife, the daughter of a famous London minister. He lived first at Castle Mona and afterwards at Rock Villa, a handsome house a little further north. The site is now covered by large boarding houses. His name is perpetuated in "McCrone's Slip" near by. Later he bought and farmed Ballaquinney, in Marown parish. He was Crown Agent and also Commissioner for the Duke of Athol and for Bishop Murray, a scion of the ducal house." [<http://www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook/people/business/jmccrone.htm>]
- 109 William Robertson esq. W.S. 1 Thistle Court [Edinburgh Directory 1823-1824]
- 110 Nothing found.
- 111 Clearly this issue was not settled at this point as ownership was not transferred until after 1840:
- 1845

MONAGUE AND GUY'S HILL DISTRICT.

- Finlay, A. Ardoch Pen, 1850
- 112George Graham Macdowall had died 10th November.
- 113Anne Macdowell, daughter of Day Hort Macdowell & Wilhelmina Graham, daughter of William Graham of Airth. Anne was born in 1792 and died 1808.
- 114William Macdowall married Elizabeth Christian Dundas, daughter of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham 25th June 1821. There were living at 24 Abercromby Place, Edinburgh with brother George who died there 10th November 1826. This was presumably the reason for them leaving London suddenly.
- 115Mountstuart Elphinstone, Governor of Bombay from November 1819 to November 1827
- 116Possibly Anne Graham, sister of Thomas Graham Stirling, widow of David Erskine. She died in 1836.
- 117Mary Ann Atkinson, daughter of James Atkinson esq. of Newcastle upon Tyne, niece of Ralph Atkinson of Angerton esq. (Angerton near Morpeth Northumberland). She married first Lt. Col. Charles Ainslie, Major in 4th Dragoons 28 April 1808; served in Peninsula April 1809 to February 1811; Deputy Adjutant-General in Sicily 13 February 1811; died Messina 19 November 1811. They had a son and daughter. She then married General Sir Thomas Bradford. Colonel of the 4th Regiment of Foot was in Command of Bradford's Brigade in the Peninsula War, and was afterwards successively commander of the forces in Scotland, and Commander of the Army in the Bombay Presidency. Several of their children were born in Edinburgh in the early 1820's which is probably how she was known to Mrs Erskine.
- 118Probably George Keith Erskine born February 1809 who appears to have joined the Bombay Light Cavalry. He was son of David Erskine of Cardross and the Hon. Keith Elphinstone. She was a sister of Mountstuart Elphinstone.
- 119David (Davy) Erskine married Captain James Paterson 2nd September 1821.
- 120James Henry Hollis (later Atkinson of Angerton Hall by mother's uncle's will), Ralph, Elizabeth, Georgiana and Barbara Bradford.
- 121Atlas, an H C ship, left England 17th January 1827 under the command of Captain John Hyne (sic) and arrived at Bombay 13th June 1827. Captain & Mrs Sterling (sic) are on board, together with Miss Hine (sic) and J.W. Hockin. There is no list of troops. [FIBIS - Bombay Calendar]
- 122Henry Pinson Hine Hockin
- 123Governor of Madras from 1820. Came from a merchant background in Glasgow and initially was apprenticed to the accounting office of Somerville Gordon (Later Stirling Gordon). In 1779 became a cadet in the East India Company army and had a distinguished career through ability rather than patronage. While awaiting his successor he died of cholera on a farewell tour on 6th July 1827.
- 124Sir John Malcolm Governor November 1827 to December 1830.
- 125Lt. Col Henry Rainey, Royal African Colonial Corps, was made Military Secretary and Aide-de-Camp to the Commander in Chief of Bombay, 1826
- 126David Erskine of Cardross, brother-in-law of Mountstuart Elphinstone.
- 127Major-General Sir John Malcolm (2 May 1769 – 1833) was a Scottish soldier, statesman, and historian. He was employed in many important negotiations and held various distinguished posts, being Ambassador to Persia, Resident of Gwalior (1803–1804) and Governor of Bombay 1827–1830. He was the commander of the British Army which defeated the Holkars who ruled Indore at the Battle of Mahidpur in 1818. After defeating the Holkars he signed the Treaty of Mandsaur with them. It was under this treaty that the British were given the cantonment town of Mhow which is 23 km from Indore.
- 128Collapore (now Kolhapur) was a Maratha princely State, part of the Bombay Presidency.
- 129Probably Arthur son of William Hunt and wife Mary, christened at St Savior, Dartmouth 19th May 1797. Partner in Hunt, Roupe & Co. Oporto. He first went to Portugal aged seventeen and spent much of his life there, finally returning to England in 1852 and settling in Torquay.
- 130Son Charles Stirling had been born 28th November 1827 and christened 4th January 1828.
- 131Wilhelmina Macdowall, born 1804, who died in September 1830.
- 132Jemima Christian Macdowall, daughter of Wilhelmina Graham, who had married John Dundas in January 1830.
- 133Thomas James Graham-Stirling, second son of Thomas Graham Stirling, was possibly going to Gibraltar as an Ensign in the 42nd Regiment of Foot. In February 1832 the 42nd Royal Highlanders arrived in Malta. He was promoted Lieutenant 16th November 1833 [A List of the Officers of the Army and of the Corps of Royal Marines..1833]
- 134William Macdowall married Elizabeth Christian Dundas, daughter of James Dundas and Elizabeth Graham in 1821.
- 135Wellington's government lost a vote of no confidence on 15 November 1830. Edward Drummond was his Private Secretary.
- 136Bhiwandi is a city, in the district of Thane, in the western state of Maharashtra, in India, located 20 km to the north-east of Mumbai and 15 km to the north-east of Thane city. [Wikipedia]
- 137Christian, daughter of David Erskine, married Charles Stirling in 1817. Charles died 30th January 1830
- 138John Wedderburn, 2nd s. of Sir John Wedderburn of Balindean by his second wife, Alicia Dundas, was bap. on 1/5/1789, at Inchture. - Perth IGI. - John entered the Indian Civil Service and went out to Bombay in 1807. He held a number of important posts there during the following 30 years. - John m. Henritetta Milburn (only surviving child of William Milburn of the East India Company) at St. Thomas's Church, Bombay, on 7/9/1822. He retired on 1/5/1837 and he returned home with his wife and children
- [<http://euroleader.pagesperso-orange.fr/wedderburn/blackness/zapg11.htm>]

- 139Member of Parliament for Devon 1830-32 taking the seat previously held by Edmund Pollexfen Bastard
- 140Captain Thomas Mansel son of Sir William Mansel, of Iscoed, Carmarthenshire. Entered the Navy in 1798. Appointed Lieutenant 1804, Commander 1814, and on 13 April 1831, to the Coast Guard. On 12 February 1834 appointed Captain when he left the service.
- 141Sir James Robert George Graham, 2nd Baronet (1792-1861) was First Lord of the Admiralty from 1830 to 1834.
- 142Captain The Hon. George Barrington (1794–1835) the son of Reverend George Barrington, 5th Viscount Barrington of Ardglass. He served in the Royal Navy becoming Fourth Naval Lord in 1830. He was elected at the 1832 general election as a Member of Parliament (MP) for Sunderland, but resigned his seat in 1833 through the procedural device of appointment as Steward of the Chiltern Hundreds.
- 143Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Bowles, KCB (1780–1869) was a senior Royal Navy officer and politician. Bowles joined the Royal Navy in 1796. He was made Lieutenant in 1803, Commander in 1806 and Captain in 1807. He was appointed Captain of the yacht HMS William and Mary in 1822, moving on to be Comptroller-General of the Coast Guard later that year. He married The Hon. Frances Temple, daughter of the 2nd Viscount Palmerston and sister of the 3rd Viscount, later Prime Minister. [Wikipedia]
- 144Carolus James Home Graham is noted in the records of Old Haileyburians where he did the preliminary qualifications for the East India civil service 1830-31. His career in India ran from 1831-46 and his final appointment was as Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collector of West Bardwan. He lived as an annuitant until his death in 1877.
- 145Marion Henderson Stirling was born in Bombay 27th February 1830.
- 146Daughter Maria Hockin Stirling later the wife of Juxon Henry Jones [see Iris Macfarlane *Daughters of the Empire*]
- 147James Stirling (Laird 1793-1831). Born 1766. Died unmarried July 26 1831. Succeeded by brother Archibald
- 148Maria
- 149Presumably Mrs Hockin in Dartmouth
- 150Parr Willesford Hockin
- 151CAPTAIN HOWARD LEWIS PARRY . In February last I was chief officer commanding at Camber. On the 1st of February, between eleven and twelve o'clock at night, I was on the full of the beach, near Rose cottage, and observed an alarm-pistol fired; I immediately said to my men, "Come on my boys," and proceeded to the spot; we went down the beach, and perceived a boat full of water, and a number of tubs laying along the beach - I saw a number of persons on my left; they appeared to rise, as if they had been laying down, and when all had risen there appeared about one hundred of them: I presented my pistol, and said, "If you advance I will fire;" a discharge of fire-arms then took place - I returned the fire, and fell; I was wounded; the discharge came from under the full of the beach - I could not see the body of men from whom it came; I had been out from nine o'clock - this was the first firing that I had seen; I laid on the beach till I was taken up - I fell from the loss of blood, and on recovering turned to my men, to know why they did not fire; I then observed a man approach me with a large stick, in a position as if he was going to strike me; I was trying to raise myself, and when I saw him about to strike, I drew my pistol from my left breast, and fired at him; I saw no more of him - I suppose what that man had was a bat, but it was the only one I saw that night; a bat is generally a hop-pole, cut to about seven feet long, what we should call a bludgeon; I fired once afterwards, and a man came and took me up - five shots were extracted from my body, and I am now quite disabled. [Old Bailey Proceedings Online (www.oldbaileyonline.org, version 7.0, 22 July 2014), May 1832, trial of WILLIAM NOAKES (t18320517-21).]
- [WILLIAM NOAKES was indicted for feloniously assembling, with divers other persons, armed with fire-arms and other offensive weapons, to wit, with guns and bats, in order to aid and assist in the illegal landing, running, and carrying away 100 gallons of spirits, which had been illegally imported . Not Guilty.]
- 152General Sir Colin Halkett GCB GCH GCTE (1774–1856) was a British Army officer who Lieutenant Governor of Jersey until 1830. He was promoted to Lieutenant General on 22 July 1830 and appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army in January 1832 until 1834. [Wikipedia]
- 153 Daughter Emily was born in Poona 12th February 1832 and was baptised and died on 22nd February 1833
- 154James Russell of Woodside was colonel of the Stirlingshire Militia, and married Mary Stirling, daughter of John Stirling of Kippendavie, one of the partners in Stirling, Gordon & Co., and sister to Sylvester Douglas Stirling, who afterwards became laird of Woodside, which he named Glenbervie.
- Colonel James Russell died 17th December, 1830, and was succeeded by his eldest son, David, a lieutenant in the 9th Regiment of Hussars, and afterwards General Sir David Russell, K.C.B., who distinguished himself in the Indian Army. He captured Banks House, but was wounded and disabled in the attack on the hospital, and was specially mentioned in dispatches." He was born in 1809, and died in 1884. His father's trustees sold the estate of Woodside in 1832 to his uncle, Sylvester Douglas Stirling, who changed the name of Woodside to Glenbervie. Sylvester Douglas Stirling was the seventh son of John Stirling of Kippendavie, and grandson of Patrick Stirling of Kippendavie, by his wife, Margaret Douglas, daughter of James Russell of Woodside was colonel of the Stirlingshire Militia, and married Mary Stirling, daughter of John Stirling of Kippendavie, one of the partners in Stirling, Gordon & Co., and sister to Sylvester Douglas Stirling, who afterwards became laird of Woodside, which he named Glenbervie. [http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/john-charles-gibson/lands-and-lairds-of-larbert-and-dunipace-parishes-sbi/page-7-lands-and-lairds-of-larbert-and-dunipace-parishes-sbi.shtml]
- 155In June 1832 the Duke of Wellington visited Wildernes House to review the yeomanry, where he was welcomed by 'a large proportion of the gentry of the county and hundreds of well-mounted farmers'. His visit was recorded by

Francis Allnutt of Penshurst. In her diary she wrote: "There was 'a grand review at Wildernesse of the Yeomanry cavalry by the Duke of Wellington. All the County was there. Lord Camden gave a luncheon to the officers and a dinner to the Troop, 550 men....' [Sevenoaks Chronicle]

156 William Stanley Clarke Chairman of the Board of Directors of the East India Company in 1835

157 Slave Compensation

Jamaica St Ann 153 (Ardoch)

20th Feb 1837 | 94 Enslaved | £1717 18S 4D

Parliamentary Papers p. 289.

T71/857: claim by David Brydon, executor of David Finlay deceased of Ardoch. Counterclaim by Thomas Stirling and William Stirling by John Hopton Forbes their attorney 'entitled to the mortgage money secured by Indenture of 1 Jan'y 1824 by virtue of deed poll dated 10 Jan'y 1831 being £5931 11s 8d & interest.'

T71/1181: Thomas Stirling of Kingston in the county of Surrey and Wm Stirling a captain in the East India Co.

Counterclaim also by Alexander Finlay, David Finlay's brother, of Pebble Hill near Godstone in the county of Surrey, as residuary legatee.

T71/1608: letter from Alex Finlay Newton Hall Haddingtonshire, Scotland, dated 29/11/1834, stating he is entitled to 336 negroes on Ardoch Pen in St Anns and Lyon Estate in St Caths.: 'Having at present a demand against me of £500 which I propose to pay out of the fund, I wish to now if I can give security by lodging a caveat with your Board, agreeing that you shall reserve this portion of my claim till the person to whom I owe the money is satisfied.'

T71/1608: letter dated 29/11/1834 from Alex Finlay Newton Hall, Haddingtonshire, Scotland, re anticipating the receipts of compensation and pledging them for this claim and another ostensibly on Lyon estate in St Catherine. [No trace of Lyon Estate in St Catherine.]

Jamaica Almanac (1833): Ardoch estate the property of David Finlay.

Associated Individuals (2)

Thomas Stirling Awardee

William Stirling Awardee [*Legacies of British Slave-ownership* <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/claim/view/16738>]

158 Emily Maria was born 16th November 1833.

159 This is most probably Mary, the wife of Rev. William Hockin, Sibilla's elder brother. At this time he was Vicar of Blackawton, Devon.

160 The endnotes that follow within [] were added by the editor so are not in the original book.

161 Jewa had accompanied the celebrated traveller Captain Harris from Bombay to the Cape.

162 [Edward Searight was the son of Beath Searight of Newry and his wife, Betty Ford. Born 25th March 1808, Christened in Liverpool 10th September 1812 where his father was a merchant. Probate 14th April 1860 gave his death date 10th August 1836, and the beneficiary's name, Betty Searight, his mother.]

163 As we approached the tropic we found ourselves surrounded by fifteen waterspouts, some of them of great size and perfect formation, reaching from the clouds to the sea, The atmosphere was still and very heavy, and the clouds were in many places ink black. I took several sketches of that wonderful scene, but they were all lost in the catastrophe which followed.

164 When off St. Mary's (which is a French settlement, much frequented by whalers,) the sea seemed to be quite alive with whales, some leaping entirely out of the water, others spouting, fluking, &c., &c.

165 It so happened, that the same man was put to the wheel the next night (the eleventh), and he alarmed us by his shrieks as before, soon after it became dark; so powerfully had the Captain's fate affected his nerves. He described the apparition as a figure as high as the mast, without a head, stalking towards him in white trowsers and a blue jacket.

166 Ishmael was a Mahomedan, a native of Bombay. He was returning from England, whither he had gone in charge of a family of young English children.

167 We afterwards learned that it was the "Rail."

168 A three-pronged barbed harpoon.

169 [Gun made in Birmingham]

170 [corrected by the author to at ie. not on this date]

171 When I was ill and unable to exert myself, he coarsely taunted me with not working as he and the sailors did. The conduct of the sailors was very different.

172 Where the cliff's are laid bare the ramified workings of the coral insect, distinctly visible, uninterrupted from the base to the summit, ten or twenty feet. The interstices are filled with a softer and lighter substance, but making the whole a solid mass, the branches being the supports.

173 We partially saved the ship's medicine chest.

174 It must be remembered that we believed that we were on one of the Islands of the group of Juan de Nova.

175 Among other comforts, washed on shore, was a small keg of Constantia wine.

176 [Smaller light anchor]

177 Note from Horsburgh, -In places where the shores are lined with a sandy beach, and this bounded by a coral reef, or a range of breakers, are generally plentiful: and moonlight nights are the times when the females come on shore in the greatest numbers, to deposit their eggs in the sand. If there is a reef facing the beach, and a rise and fall of tide, they wait for the rising tide to float them over it; and reach the beach an hour or two before high-water, that they may have time sufficient 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 bushes, small sand hillocks, or in the most convenient secret places near the beach; and then deposit their eggs in them. Some of these holes or pits are of considerable dimensions, employing the mother turtle upwards of an hour digging them. By those in search of turtle the beach should not be frequented till near high-water, or the time they are supposed to be mostly on shore. In walking along, silence should be observed; for the smallest noise will alarm them, and those not already on shore will return to sea.

178[Early form of match with a phosphorous tip struck on sandpaper to light]

179On the 12th October, 1835, I landed, with a party, on Tristan D' Achuna; when the Rev. Mr. Applegate baptized nineteen young persons. There were, beside, six men and six women on the Island; in all thirty-one persons. Tristan D' Achuna is situated in about the thirty-sixth degree of south latitude, and about one thousand five hundred miles from the continents of Africa and South America. This was the first visit of a clergyman amongst them. Mr. Applegate kindly gave me a copy of the "Pariah Register" of "Somerset Town" on this interesting occasion.

180Some of these letters will appear in another place.

181The poor fellows having no money, and as I fortunately had a little, I gave Mr. Spurs a supply, to be equally divided amongst them; which greatly gladdened their hearts and relieved their anxieties.

182I made a collection of all the flowers of the Island, and having dried them, I put them away very carefully in a book. As the book was damaged by the sea water, I sent it, on my arrival at Bombay, to be bound, without recollecting the flowers; and the binder, not supposing that such poor miserable-looking things could be of any value, he swept them all out as dirt, to my great regret.

183I have had a set of chess-men made of them.

184I took the egg from under one tropic bird and put it in my pocket, intending to light a fire with my magnifying glass and cook it; but the poor thing screamed so unceasingly and so piteously that I was compelled to restore it. The tropic bird is sometimes called the boatswain: it is commonly white, but has one long red feather in the tail. We discovered these birds, when under the bushes, by their wild discordant cries of fear when we happened to approach them.

185The rocky barrier on which the sea broke with such fury was not visible even at low-water. It ran round the south and east coasts of the Island, distant less than a mile.

186I have preserved these sketches.

187They were caused by an ill-judged interference of the Doctor's.

188Besides the set of chess-men already mentioned, I have had several seal and drawer handles, two picture frames, and a "battalion" for practising manoeuvres with, made of the timber of the Island. I have also had a set of backgammon-men made of the foreign timber found on the coast.

189I have had one of my Altova trunks, which shows good proof of having been well battered against the rocks, fitted up as a receptacle for the beautiful madrapores, corals, and other curiosities of Astova.

190The grass on the Island was very good-looking, though wiry and coarse.

191The cat was taken on board the Tiger in England a perfect kitten, and had never been on shore before, nor had it seen any other cat. Soon after our arrival on Astova its instinct led it to creep under the bushes and along the branches to catch birds.

192Astova.

193I made the same remark some time before: but this, I believe, was perfectly original in Jack.

194[William's older brother, Thomas Stirling married Anna Maria Burd Hockin, (Sibella's older sister) on 6th October 1825 at Dartmouth, Devon. Thomas's birthday was 6th October 1792 in Jamaica. William and Sibella married in the same place 6th September 1825.]

195I have this working in my possession. It will appear incredible, but it is true, that, having taken a fresh departure from St. Mary's only two days and a half before, the ship's reckoning was out, in that short time, between two and three hundred miles. The latitude and longitude, as entered on the log on the 11th, and the course steered from that time, were enough, any one would think, to have caused a look-out to have been kept ahead, but that precaution was not taken.

196The direction of Juan de Nova.

197It may be remembered that Robinson Crusoe had no substitute for ink. I may here note, that in the original journal the red ink, thus manufactured, has not faded after seven years. I called this tree, or bush, the "travelling tree," When exposed to the wind, which almost always blows from the S. E., it is steadily blown against the ground, and in the course of time its branches take root; and thus they continue to travel from place to place; the old stem laying on the ground like a hempen cable to windward. The timber is very hard. When in good leaf and flower it looked very pretty, like a myrtle.

198At the Seychelles I saw a copy of "Le Cerneen," a newspaper published at the Mauritius, dated the 15th November, 1836. It contained the following projected departure,--"Pour Madagascar et Jean de Nove--Le brick goelette Edouard et le Cap. Arnulphy." If we had but known that a vessel was ever cleared out for Juan de Nova, we should have felt more at home on the Island.

199It must be remembered that we had Horsburgh's Directory on the Island, and that our belief was that we were on Juan de Nova. The ignorance of the ship's officers of navigation was completely proved by their not being able to tell where we were. They had abundance of excellent instruments, including two chronometers, regularly wound up: by one of which the little vessel, in which we afterwards, sailed from the Seychelles to Bombay, was navigated with

- remarkable exactness; we having made Dondra Head, in Ceylon, *from the southward*, at the very hour calculated on. It will be remembered that Mr. Spurr several times went through the form of taking observations and working the longitude, and always made it agree exactly with Horsburgh. Sailors call that "chiselling the longitude." When he sailed in the "Hope," he took a false departure; that is, he reckoned his departure from Juan de Nova, instead of from Astova; consequently he could not possibly have reached the Seychelles as he expected.
- 200 On the S. W. and W. the cliffs are upwards of twenty feet high; and between the lagoon and anchorage bay there is a hilly ridge of hard coral rock, thirty or forty feet in height.
- 201 I have proved Horsburgh to be right.
- 202 All the medicines which had been opened on board, of course including the most useful, were destroyed by the water.
- 203 We poured a few drops of brandy on them.
- 204 Our party, on the approach of the ship, kindled a fire as a signal, but it was not seen by those on board. The ship lowered a boat and sent it on shore, but as it approached the land, our people, in their eagerness, rushed into the sea to be taken on board; but the boat's crew apprehended treachery, taking them for pirates or savages, and hastily pulled out to sea; they, however, soon returned, and having asked a few questions, they found all right, and came ashore, when, as may be imagined, a very touching scene took place.
- 205 We offered a few small presents to the Captain and officers, which they repeatedly refused. At last they were prevailed on to accept them as keepsakes, but invariably made a return. Captain Goodman gave Sibella a work-box. On our arrival at Mahi I expressed my wish to testify my gratitude in a suitable manner; but Captain Goodman positively refused to accept any thing himself: he permitted me to make the crew a present of a hundred weight of sugar for their coffee, a quantity of pickles, and other comforts, which I lost no time in sending on board.
- 206 Depth where the anchor was cast, forty fathoms; at midships, eighty fathoms; at the stern, no bottom with a hundred and eight fathoms.
- 207 Latitude of Astova, by the Emma, at anchor, 10° 3' S.: longitude 47° 42' East.
- 208 Except two wethers, which had run away soon after our arrival on the Island.
- 209 When off the African Islands, which are mere banks, to the north of the Amirantes, we caught a very fine dolphin; and had an opportunity of witnessing its beautiful colours when living, and those more beautiful changes in its agonies of death. It was nearly four feet long; back, very dark; belly, bright yellow, with spots of azure; dorsal fin very high, and the whole length of the back; the tail large, and the fork very much expanded; the belly a straight line the whole way; one fin under.
- 210 It was also singular that the Emma belonged to Mr. Ward, a mast-maker, who also owned the beautiful East Indiaman, Marquis of Huntley, which was commanded by my valued friend, Captain John Hine. The arms and many articles on board the Emma were marked "Marquis of Huntley,"
- 211 [Government Agent 1826-1837. Died 1841. His wife was possibly Eleanore (1780-1850)]
- 212 In the Journal, whenever Juan de Nova is named, Astova should be substituted.
- 213 They were enabled, by having an English Newspaper with them, in which it was fully reported, to give the Sultan the first information of the safe arrival of the "Liverpool" of 74 guns, in England. That fine vessel, now called the "Imaum," had been sent by the Imaum of Muscat as a present to King William the 4th.
- 214 Some of them will be found in another place.
- 215 At the request of the Geographical Society of Bombay I drew up a description of the Seychelles, Amirantes, &c., which they published in their "Transactions," and acknowledged by a letter, which will be found in the appendix.
- 216 Hornblend rock and Basalt are among them.
- 217 I found the following in a Bombay Newspaper:—"SILHOUETTE, The word Silhouette is another of these obscurities. 'He has had his likeness taken in Silhouette;' 'Silhouette likenesses executed here, at one shilling each, by Mr.--,' and so on with many other observations and announcements, in which the word silhouette occurs. It is generally known that a silhouette is a small profile likeness in black, or black slightly streaked with white or coloured lines. But the origin of the word is to most persons a mystery, and is rather curious. The term took its rise in France eighty years ago, and was occasioned by the nation being at that time in a great financial distress, under the administration of M. de Silhouette. That gentleman endeavoured by severe economy to remedy the evils of a war which had just terminated, leaving the country in great exhaustion. During the period of M. de Silhouette's government, all the fashions in Paris took the character of parsimony. Coats without folds were worn; snuff-boxes were made of plain wood, and, instead of painted portraits, outlines only were drawn in profile, and filled with Indian ink, &c. All these fashions were called a la Silhouette; but the name was retained only in the case of the profiles, which, from their simplicity, and the cheap manner in which they could be executed, survived the period of their compulsory origin. Thus, the name of a French Chancellor of the Exchequer has been attached to the most common of our miniature profiles."
- 218 The highest peak of Mahi is two thousand five hundred feet high.
- 219 One account states, that a bottle, containing a statement of the wreck of the "Dom Royal," was thrown overboard every day from the long-boat, and one was picked up by a French vessel of the Mauritius or Bourbon.
- 220 "The word "black," or "noir," is in common use for a slave or African.
- 221 I do not think it will remain sound above six weeks, or probably not for so long a period, if immersed in salt water. When kept for any length of time the inside dries up, and it will then float; but it is no longer in a fit state for planting.

- 222 Specific character and synonyms:--Lodoicea Sechellarum; Lodoicea Maldivica; Cocos Maldivica; Palmier de l'Isle Praslin, vulg., Cocotier de Mer, &c.
- 223 Astova.
- 224 [No pagination from this point to the end]
- 225 [William Hockin (1798-1886) was Sibella's eldest brother, and at this time his wife, Mary (née Youlden, 1798-1882) was looking after William and Sibella's two little daughters at Blackawton, Devon, where her husband was vicar from 1834-1841.
- 226 [Sibilla's brother Charles Luxmoore Hockin (1810-1902) was a midshipman at this time, promoted to Lt. in 1838, and retired as Vice-Admiral]
- 227 [Sarah (née Burd, known as "Sally, 1778-1855)
- 228 This Letter was addressed on the cover "Rev. - Hawkins."
- 229 [William Lambe Hockin (1776-1858), Attorney of Dartmouth, Devon]
- 230 [Marion was born in Bombay in February 1830]
- 231 [Emily Marie was born in Poona, India in November 1833]
- 232 Mr. Spurs look his "watch" in turn, and it was his "watch" when we struck.
- 233 And floated ashore.
- 234 Medusæ
- 235 [*South African Commercial Advertiser*, 15 June 1836:- "Birth in Cape Town on the 12th June, the lady of Capt. STIRLING of the Bombay Army of a son.--- Christening on Sunday 12th June by the Rev Wm. Robertson, a son of Capt. Wm. STIRLING, baptised Charles William.---Death, on the 12th June, Charles William, infant son of Capt. Wm. STIRLING of the Bombay Army."]
- 236 [Her elder sister, Anna Maria Burd Hockin (1803-1850), who married Thomas Stirling, William's older brother.]
- 237 [A coral atoll in the Indian Ocean, part of the Outer Islands of the Seychelles.]
- 238 [Andrew Pinson Hockin (1801-1846), Sibella's brother. Cadet E.I.C. 1819-20, Lt. 2nd European Infantry. He married Augusta Catharina Montague in Devon 1st May 1838. They had no children. *Bombay Times and Journal of Commerce* 8 Aug 1846 "In Bombay Harbour on Thursday the 9th July of chronic dysentery on board the John Oldham in which ship he had taken his passage for England Capt AP Hockin of the Native Veteran Battalion aged forty five years". His widow died in Dartmouth 14th June 1866.]
- 239 [William, his wife and two children sailed from Bombay 13th October 1834 on the 'Lady Feversham', Capt. George Webster. They were due to dock first at Cannanore on the coast of Kerala and then at The Cape. Appears that they were not allowed to land at Cape Town, so would not have reached England until 1835.]
- 240 We were afterwards told that this was an error: it having been determined not to alter the letter in the least, the original has been allowed to stand.
- 241 [A hill station in the Western Ghats, south of Bombay.]
- 242 A Cook.
- 243 [Ellen Mary was born 5th July 1838 at Malligaum, Bombay.]
- 244 [A shallow sandbar to the north of the Isle of Wight where East India ships would anchor while under quarantine.]
- 245 Marion married Alexander Grant, a merchant living in Mexico, in 1853. Emily married in 1850, Rev. George William Cox, who succeeded to a Baronetcy in 1877, author of popular works based on classical history & Greek mythology..