

Thursday 29th May, 1806
 Thomas E.I. (forenoon)

London

The Commodore has just made signal that Madiera is in sight. but we are steering to the westward, & shall neither touch nor heave to there. This is a disappointment on many accounts — Fresh provisions — ascertaining our true prices rates — sending letters to our Friends in England. Still in case a lucky chance should occur in passing, I have begun this letter, to say that all is well — that the sea agrees with me — that after every reflection made (& I have now full opportunities for such) I entirely approve of the steps I have taken. And to confess the truth without this approbation I should be miserable — for I have such painful sensations & recollections come over me very often, that I am like a child — particularly upon rummaging my papers & old letters. It has fallen ^{strangely} to my lot to make a number of friendly attachments with persons who have given me indubitable proofs of their real & strong affection — people who would make great sacrifices to me, if I needed it. & I run away from them to rotter about among the damned Chinese & Tartarians! It seems that I "like the base Indian throw my pearls away" — If I was 5 years younger, I ~~could~~ should not have any serious

regret — I should feel confident of coming
home to England a young man. I mean
young in Constitution & health. I do hope I
shall, as it is — I mean to be very careful in
my diet, & way of living; & to study to shorten
my absence as much as possible consistent with
my plans. — I have begun to let my

beard grow, & am a perfect fright — I asked
permission of the Ladies first; & it was very readily
granted me. We are all upon very good terms;
the greater part are considerably below par in
point of Education & information. but they are
good natured, & some of them young enough to play
& entick with me, which satisfies me well
enough. — The Lion, the ^{men of war} Medusa & the Howe

frigates are our convoy — we are about 30 sail
in all, & make a pretty appearance of an evening.
The Thames is a very large ship; 15 hundred tons.
very easy & a good sailer — but we are forced to wait
for the luggers. but for that, we & ~~the~~ a few more
should have been past the Madieras by this time.
My cabin is a little sort of Closet by the side of the
Captains room, or round house; our dining room
is called the cuddy; & my box is an appendage to it.
so that I am on the level of the quarter Deck. wh
I like very much. I'll step out now, & hear what
news — I'm afraid there will be no opportunity of
sending this letter yet. —

Wednesday 11 June $\frac{1}{2}$ after 11 o'clock A.M.

Ships in sight. supposed to be french fleet. all
bustle. long faces. Thermometer at 80. Lat 8° ^{or 7} North.
($\frac{1}{2}$ an hour afterwards.) Spikes of French Colours v. n, they
burn out quickly. We are all glad & believe. I am
very very glad. I steal off the Poop a moment (for
the preparations are real & the soldiers yet under arms)
to say all is well. for perhaps if we hail, we shall
be asked for our letters suddenly. the smell of the
gunpowder or something or other has made it very hot to
us all. (One o'clock) No communication except with
the Medusa Frigate. Toward the homeward ^{bound} & Indiamen.
Muskets ammunition &c putting up again. Cabins rebuilding.
For the gun deck was cleared, & all its cabins knocked
down. In short we had the signal for forming in order of battle &
were persuaded it was G. Bonapartes Squadron. If ever
I have an opportunity of putting this little
letter on board one of our Frigates. I'll not
miss it. For they only speak to homeward
bound ships. But tis a great chance.

Thursday 24 July
Lat. 32 South
Long. 11 West

We are now within about a weeks' sail of the Cape,
our orders are not to put in there but in case of necessity.
There is no such necessity. but private interest may get
the better of public duty. Part of the convoy are bound for
the Cape. by them we shall send our letters. On Riches
talks of sending out his boat with them every day - he delays it
as long as possible in order to bring our news down to the
latest day, but is afraid of rough weather. The Thames has
laid in no speculation for the Cape & consequently does not wish to go
in. - We have had delightful weather. hot about the line
but not burning. The thermometer never fairly higher than
 85° - flying fish in abundance. sharks, bonnetts, albacors, dolphins
& a sword fish, caught. lately we have seen several whales spouting
about. Captain & Mrs Jackson have changed their lodging & taken
part of the Captains great room. & I have got their former Cabin
in consequence. I shall leave this letter open till the last minute.

If I should have another opportunity at the Cape I shall
write again to one of the family. I have written to Dr Davy.
My beard is now of a respectable length & is said to become
me.

Monday 28 July. Letters called for.

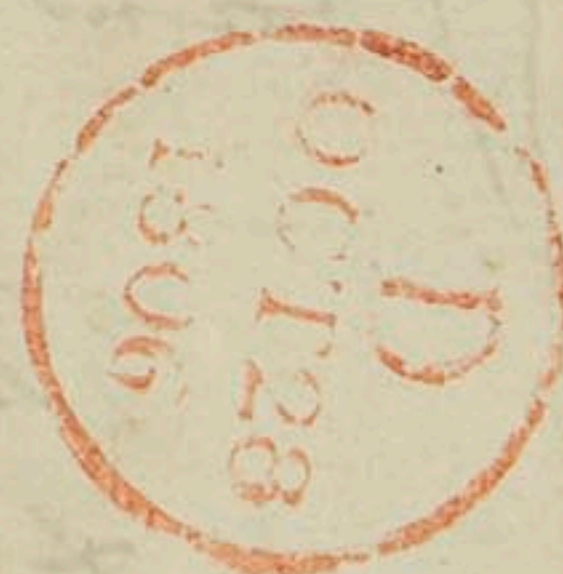
Wth Duffal for

Lat. $35\frac{1}{2}$

7. M

Long. 1 ~~east~~ west

The Rev^d Mr Manning
D. D.
Norfolk



Cape Town August 9th
Opened my letter again, & as I was in the
boat, landed at Table Bay 3 days ago
Must sorry to be sick. But they here
say he very short.