

JOURNAL OF ROBERT HUNT ESQUIRE

RELATIVE TO THE PERIOD

DURING WHICH HE PARTICIPATED

WITH

CAPTAIN ALLEN GARDINER R. N.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH AN

ANGLICAN MISSION ON THE

PATAGONIAN SHORES OF THE

STRAITS OF MAGELLAN.

From information kindly supplied by Canon B. P. W. Stather Hunt D. D. of Norwich.

The Rev. Robert Hunt was a Master in an Endowed School in Kendal, Westmoreland, before he went to Patagonia with Captain Allen Gardiner. At that time he was probably about thirty years of age for he speaks in his Diary (under the entry of March 20th), of losing M.S.S. "collected during fifteen years". We know also that his birthday fell on the 10th of December from the entry of that date. On returning from Patagonia, Robert Hunt was accepted by the Church Missionary Society for training at Islington College and in due course was ordained Deacon to St. James, Islington in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 18th June 1848 and, by Letters Dimissary, Priest at Chester Cathedral on the 13th May 1849. He was appointed Chaplain to Bishop David Anderson of Rupert's Land, Canada and before leaving England, he was married at King Stanley Church in Gloucestershire, on the 27th April, 1849 to Miss Georgiana Wathen, who came of an old, and once wealthy Gloucestershire family. Canon Hunt writes, "There is still extant at Brownhill Court, near Stroud, a painting of Sir Samuel Wathen, wearing the ribbon and Insignia of the Garter, which was given him as a reward for a mission to the King of Spain. I do not know the exact date but it is on the record.

My Grandmother had been brought up in every luxury, yet she married a man who took her, as she knew beforehand, into the depths of the farthest North West Canada, then called Rupert's Land. There she bore him six children, with no other aid than her Husband could give her and remained for fifteen years without a single white companion and no Doctor within a thousand miles. It says a great deal for her devotion and strength of character, that she was never once known to have complained. My Grandfather also was a wonderful man. He must have been for a tender girl to have been willing to accompany him on such an adventure and he was not only a Missionary but a practical man of affairs. When I say that he BUILT the Church at Stanley, I mean that he

built it, not that he got somebody else to do it for him. The windows were imported from England but he was his own architect and taught the Indians to saw the wood and build the Church. He also invented a kind of syllabic script, by which the Indians were able to learn to read in a remarkably short time. He grew oats, for at that time wheat could not be grown so far north."

On arrival in Canada, Canon Hunt tells us his Grandparents were first stationed for about a year at Port Garry, Winnipeg and then moved to Lac le Ronge on the Churchill River, in which district they lived for fifteen years without a break and their memorial remains in the spire of the Church at Stanley, built by the Rev. Robert Hunt and which is now known far and wide as a landmark for aeroplanes. They were two hundred miles from the nearest white man, the Rev. E. A. Watkins, the C. M. S. [Church Missionary Society, Ed.] Missionary at Cumberland House. All supplies had to be brought up by canoe or dog train and there was only one boat a year into Hudson's Bay and this delivered the supplies, which were later despatched to Lac le Ronge.

Canon Hunt writes "Just before the war, I met a son of the Rev. E. A. Watkins and he showed me a sketch of my Grandparents and their children in the canoes in which they started their journey home; he, then a small boy, was living with his Father at Cumberland House". On his return to England, and for the latter part of his life, the Rev. Robert Hunt had a Curacy in North London. He kept a very copious Diary during the whole of his Missionary life and this is now in the Government Archives at Ottawa, who were responsible for making complete photostatic copies of it.

(It is from the copy in Canon Hunt's possession that the present transcript has been made).

Tuesday, December 10th, 1844

/Rosalie/ Brig.

On December 10, 1844, my natal day, I embarked at London Docks on board the /Rosalie/ Brig, Captain Boyse, under the following circumstances, to go to Patagonia as a Missionary.

Captain Allen Gardiner R.N. having visited South America at his own expense, with the view of ascertaining what might be done to promote the introduction of the Gospel to this benighted part of the world, after much self denying caution, concluded that, although there is not a Protestant Mission in the whole continent south of the equator, Patagonia is the only place open to such a Mission at present. His efforts were next directed to calling the attention of some of the Missionary Societies in England to this extensive and long neglected field: but the reply from each was, in effect, "We acknowledge the claims of South America and should be very happy to see a successful Mission established there but we have neither funds nor other necessary means for an attempt there."

At length an Association for this express purpose was formed at Brighton and it was determined to send out a Clergyman and Catechist to commence the work in the neighbourhood of Cape Gregory in the Straits of Magellan, Captain Gardiner undertaking to go out with the first party (the Catechist) and remain till he be comfortably settled and joined by the next party going out. The Rev. W. J. Woodcock, Incumbent of Witherstack, having had some communication with Captain Gardiner on this subject and entertaining serious thoughts of accepting the Committee's offer to send him out, mentioned to the Captain that he thought I should be a most fit person to be sent out as the Catechist: accordingly, at the Captain's request, Mr. Woodcock saw me on the subject which resulted in my offering to go "if, in the absence of other aid, my services were clearly called for." The Committee, being exceedingly pleased with what they had learned concerning me, gave me a pressing invitation to Brighton as they wished to communicate with me /in propia persona/.

Accordingly I arrived there on Saturday, Captain Gardiner summoned the Committee and I saw them that afternoon; and as they wished to have a fuller meeting and see me again, I stayed at Captain Gardiner's and again saw the Committee on Monday morn. At 1/2 past 3 o'clock of that afternoon having promised to give the matter my most serious and prayerful consideration and give them the result at the earliest moment, I set out on my return to Kendal which I reached on Tuesday evening. Having called on my way back at Lancaster and enjoyed a long talk with my dear friend Mr. Evans and been favoured with his advice and prayers, I came to the resolution that, as I had received a Providential call to this particular work it was my duty to give myself up to it, which I determined to do in the strength of the Lord my God.

The next day having received a letter from my Uncle George approving of the step I was about to take, I wrote the Committee accepting their offer, rejoicing with trembling. I was immediately attached to the Mission, received £50 for my outfit and instructions to be in London by Saturday, 30th November 1844 as the vessel would probably sail the following Monday. For any particulars not mentioned here see the correspondence with Captain Gardiner etc. The following are the Committee of the Association.

Rev. C. D. Maitland Rev. Jas. Vaughan
Rev. R. S. Smith Rev. E. Eardley Wilmot
Rev. E. G. March Lieut. Malden R. N.
Dr. Bodley Dr. Davies R. N.
Curwen Chisholm Esq. R. C. Glyn Esq.
Captain Mortlock

Treasurer Sir Thomas Bloomfield, Bart.
Secretary Captain Allen Gardiner R.N.

The Mission to Patagonia being an acknowledged experiment and the Committee having no other Mission to which they could send me in the event of a failure at Patagonia, they could not make any absolute engagement with me for any certain period; but in the event of their

being obliged to abandon the Mission, their influence will be used by testimonials etc. in order to procure me a position at least as good as that which I abandoned to engage with them. Meantime the understanding is that I receive £100 per annum and the Committee will moreover do whatever is necessary for the comfortable and efficient prosecution of the Mission. They do not bind me to remain single, but in the event of my wishing to marry will give me every assistance that their funds allow of. In these matters I have such confidence in the Committee as to feel myself safe in their hands without any express and positive engagement. The Association has moreover furnished, and sent with us, dwellings, furniture etc. and provisions for six months.

One very important point considered by the Committee was the subject of my Ordination at some future period. They allowed me to understand that I shall be at liberty to bring this matter again under their consideration when I feel that circumstances justify my so doing. Sir Thos. Bloomfield kindly undertook to see the Lord Bishop of London upon this subject and it was thought likely that the Bishop would give me Deacon's orders before my going out and I was instructed to wait upon his Lordship on Monday, 2nd December. A manifest Providence prevented the intended interview - his Lordship's Mother having died, his Lordship was called away from London but subsequently wrote to Sir Thos. Bloomfield that he approved of a Catechist going out in the first place but that he would give ordination if necessary to anyone the Committee recommended after he had made some progress in the work.

This in connection with my understanding with the Committee I felt to be perfectly satisfactory notwithstanding some circumstances which, partially involving the success of the Mission, made it, in my opinion desirable that I should have been ordained previous to my leaving England. But all things, it is my unspeakable privilege to commit to the Lord and leave to His infinite wisdom and love. O Almighty God, Blessed Saviour, Glorious Jehovah, my Father, my Lord and my God, give me I beseech Thee, Thy Holy Ghost, the mind that was in Christ Jesus, that I may be strong and finish the work which Thou hast given me to do. Amen. May the Lord say so too.

The following are my instructions from the Committee.

Instructions from the Committee to Mr. R. Hunt, the Missionary Catechist.

In endeavouring to fulfill the important duty which now devolves upon us as the Committee of the Association under which you go forth we have drawn up the following instructions for your guidance and we humbly hope that it will be found we have pressed nothing on you for your adoption which will not prove for the benefit of the Mission and of your own soul.

1. Your own personal religion is the first thing to which our and your attention must be directed. If that thrive there is hope for the Mission, if that decay all will be a failure. But in order to the thriving of personal religion, close communion must be maintained with God. The stream cannot continue to flow without supplies from the fountain. All grace is an emanation from God through our Mediator Jesus

Christ and is to be sought hourly through this channel: we say hourly because the soul cannot retain what grace it has already received without more grace to do so. Hence the absolute need of continual prayer and the frequent reading and meditation on the Word of God, as the grand help thereto. Hereby faith is gendered and nourished and together with it the other graces. Of these great truths we venture to remind you.

2. Next to your own personal religion have respect to the well being of those associated with you in the Mission. Cultivate brotherly love. In lowliness of mind let each esteem other as better than himself, so shall strife and discord find no place among you. For only by pride cometh contention. Let it be your care to exhibit to the heathen around you the picture of a family dwelling together in unity. Divide and conquer is the maxim of the devil but in union with the Lord Christ and each other will be found strength to overcome the wicked one. Give the people you dwell among occasion to say "Behold how these Christians love one another."

3. Be very accessible and live much in the presence of the Natives and do not even debar them should they show a wish to be present at your family and Sabbath devotions so long as they control themselves properly. Much good may be effected in this way, though as yet they do not understand your speech, for by witnessing your habitual acknowledgement of the Supreme Being and acts of dependence on Him, they will infer what is due to God and what manner of persons you are who do so reverence Him.

4. As you will have to acquaint yourself with the native mind, mode of reasoning and thinking, traditional customs and observations and whatever tends to influence and form the native character, it will be necessary you should hold much communication with the more intelligent natives. But here a wisdom will be required lest your motives be suspected and a jealousy excited. Care should be taken to convince them that the knowledge you seek is only for their benefit.

5. In your intercourse with the natives care should be taken not to excite their disgust or anger by dealing contemptuously with their prejudices either in small or great matters. Whatever they may have been accustomed to venerate, it would be unwise in you to manifest a contempt for, until you had convinced their judgement that it was contemptible and satisfied them that yours is the better way.

6. It will often be found difficult among the uncivilized tribes with which you will have to do, to keep in mind the distinction that subsists between the Chiefs and their people and the respect that is due to the former. Suffer not their mean and abject appearance to betray you into a forgetfulness of their rank and standing in their tribe. The disregard of this caution may give rise to heartburnings and lead to disastrous consequences. We must render honour where honour is due in whatever society we are called upon to live. As far as consists with their known character place confidence in the Chiefs and when kind and persuasive arguments fail to restrain any annoyance or wrong to which you may be exposed from their people, state frankly and plainly all your grievances to them, remembering that the powers that be are ordained of God. Keep clear of party quarrels, you come on behalf of the Prince of Peace, be

not mixed up with their feuds but cultivate the good will of all. Let none think you to be not their friend. Neither entangle yourself with commercial speculations, so long as engaged in missionary work, lest it prove a snare to you and your love for souls be lost in the love for money.

7. Let it be your first effort to master the language of the tribes you go to instruct and think no time lost which is devoted to this object. Let your desire to preach to them the Gospel and tell them of the love and glory of Christ, daily stimulate you to diligence in the acquiring of their language, without which you will be to them as a barbarian.

Let the reflection of the treasure which you have in your possession, in the knowledge of Christ and eternal life in Him, be continually awakening your desire to preach the Word, that you may communicate to them the treasure you possess and this desire being kept alive will quicken prayer to Him Who is the great Teacher, to loose the stammering tongue, that you may speak plainly and quicken effort also, that you may catch the word from their lips and make their tongue your own. Then what a delight it will be to declare to them in their own tongue the wonderful love of God and by fixing their language afterwards and rendering God's Word into it, give it to them as a national blessing, a great birthright to their children in that more durable form. Labour then with all your power, both with God and man, to gain a knowledge of and fluency in the native language and let this be your first and principal pursuit till it be overtaken and mastered.

8. In your first attempts to prepare a vocabulary note those sounds that are of the most frequent occurrence, though you may not as yet have ascertained their meaning: and in order to do this with correctness and facility, bear in your mind one uniform method of spelling, always employing the fewest number of letters that will represent the required sounds. In this branch of your work, which is of no light importance to those who may succeed you, it will be well to disregard altogether our English orthography, in which many superfluous letters and arbitrary sounds are used and to adopt as nearly as practicable the Italian vowels.

"Captain G. informed me that this part of the instructions was written by him and was not to be considered binding as far as the Italian vowels is concerned: he has submitted two plans to me, the last the better but neither so complete as that which time and experience will enable us to form."

9. It is strongly recommended that both Missionary and Catechist should keep a daily Journal and enter into it the duties and occurrences of the day. You will then prepare a Quarterly Report, embodying the principal incidents and occurrences during this period, with any such observations as you may think necessary, either to explain or further the work on which you are engaged. One fair copy of the Journal and the Quarterly Report is to be kept at the Station in charge of the individual by whom it is drawn up and one copy of the Report under his signature is to be transmitted to the Secretary of the Association, as soon after it is due, as an opportunity shall offer.

10. Both the Missionary and the Catechist are invited freely and fully

to correspond with the Committee whenever they may feel disposed and to bear in mind, that the interests and objects of those at home are identified with those, who on behalf of the Association, are enduring the heat and toil of the day abroad - that we do not sin against God in ceasing to pray for them - that we sympathise in their privations and trials and are desirous, as far as in us lies, to aid and encourage them in all their work and labour of love in the Lord.

And since we have no power of ourselves to do anything as of ourselves, we recommend that the first Thursday in every month be observed as a day for united prayer for the guidance and blessing of Almighty God upon the Mission which we are sending forth in His name and without which we shall but labour in vain.

11. Finally - We would exhort you to fear God and not fear the face of men, to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might and to put on the whole armour of God. Be patient and do the best you can. If it be much you are permitted to do, be very thankful, if little, still be thankful. Be content to labour though it be only to break the ground and prepare the way for others. If the Lord permit you to cast in the seed, be thankful, though it be not given you to see the springing and ripening of the grain. Be strong and of a good courage: if your heart be set to serve the Lord in this work and your aim be single, certainly He will be with you and He will not suffer either you, or your labours to perish. Only keep a single eye, walk by faith in His unseen power and goodness, stay your soul upon Christ. Feed upon Him in the promises and thereby nourish faith and hope and love, those three great Christian graces, which being kept in vigour shall cause you to abound in the work of the Lord and forbid your fainting through discouragements: God has passed this word to His Son "I will give Thee the heathen for Thy inheritance and the uttermost part of the earth for Thy possession." These wandering tribes shall be His one day and who can tell but that these first labours of yours may be the commencement of the accomplishment of the promise! Labour and pray in faith and hope. "In the morning sow thy seed and in the evening withhold not thine hand." Only let it be the incorruptible seed, the very truth and Word of God that you teach and sow and then you have the promise "My Word shall not return unto Me void".

And now we earnestly commend you to the great Head of the Church in whose cause you are now embarking and we beseech Him to take you and your work under His immediate protection and to be to you a present help. May it please Him to give you a prosperous voyage and land you safely on the soil you go to cultivate for Him. May he give you favour and acceptance with the natives and so prepare the way for the reception of His Word among them. May it please to make your abode among them as comfortable as circumstances admit of and grant you that satisfaction in your undertaking and that inward peace and joy in Himself, as shall make the trials and privations you may meet with, easy to be borne. Finally our brother, farewell, be strong and acquit yourself like a man of God and May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with you now and always.

With the spirit of these instructions my judgement and heart entirely accord and by the help of God I shall give up myself entirely to attempt to carry them out.

Thursday, January 2nd, 1845

We had a rather rough passage until off the Canary Islands but in nearing Tenerife we experienced nearly a calm, during many hours we lay in sight of the land, having approached to within twenty miles by 1 o'clock.

About sunrise I saw from the deck what I thought a magnificent sight. Half the Island lay veiled in a dense mist through which I could just discern its rough features, rough and shaggy as a Patagonian beauty. The whole (island) is evidently volcanic and seen at a distance appears to be perfectly bare of vegetation. The other half, in the midst of which the Peak reared its heavy head, 12,800 feet high was, when I first saw it, lit up in perfect splendour by the rising sun. In the midst of the Island, close to the shore is the town of Santa Cruz, guarded by, I think, seven batteries, against which Nelson once made a spirited but desperate rush, which he paid for by leaving an arm and a pair of colours; these last now hang up in glass cases one on each side of the principal altar piece of the Cathedral.

The houses of the town, white and yellow, with roofs of red tiles, looked exceedingly picturesque from a distance. Perhaps the circumstances under which I saw them made me fancy so. The dense mists before alluded to, formed a perfectly black background to the centre of the picture. Just behind the town exactly at each flank of it there rested the base of the largest, broadest most brilliant and best defined rainbow I ever beheld; I think the suite of colours was fully six times as broad as any I had ever seen before and its reflected image was proportionally magnificent.

The form of the town, as seen from the sea, is somewhat triangular, the base running along the shore, the apex partly retreating up the mountains appeared towards the central part of the bow; nearly at this point is the house of the British Consul (Mr Bartlett) on the top of it our national flag was flying in compliment to the like flag waving from our mainmast. The magical effect of this singularly striking scene vanished in a moment with the dissolving cloud. We waited almost till 12 o'clock to be visited by the authorities of the Board of Health, Custom House, etc. as we could not be allowed to go ashore till we had satisfied these parties.

When at length we reached the mole and the town, everything looked baked, dingy and dirty, many of the people, especially the children, were half naked, others rejoicing, for they seemed contented, in trousers, shirt and a blanket, puckered up at one end, and worn like a cloak. The women were certainly better covered but not better dressed: their gowns appeared to be cut in English fashion and might have come from London rag fair: their stockings to my short sight appeared to be a very natural but dirty flesh colour: their shoes, when there any, made

their feet appear like those of a camel: over their heads and shoulders was cast a hood of what might have been whitish flannel at some age of the world.

I ought to add that I did not see one that in England would be called a lady, such it seems hardly ever step out of their houses, and riding is quite out of the question, there being hardly a single vehicle on the Island and I should think not more than a dozen horses in Santa Cruz. The beasts of burden are asses, mules, dromedaries and oxen. It is very evident from the pavement of the streets that they never expect a carriage to pass over them and I think there is hardly a mile of road passable for wheels and it would be almost impossible to make them so.

Something like this diagram is the character of the outlines of this part of the Island, rocks or rather mountains receding from and towering above one another in continuous winding chasms, very rough and precipitous and some of their tops of most fantastic shapes seemingly detached from their shoulders and standing out far from the general outline in every direction. On ascending one of them we found it plentifully studded with fig trees, cactuses etc. The Island had just been visited with a plague of locusts which accounted for the almost total absence of verdure. We saw a few of these pests lingering about here and there and the children amused themselves with tormenting them.

A gentleman amused me with an account of these unwelcome visitors; such as getting two of them, changing their heads and bowels and letting them fly away again not much worse for the exchange. I affected to believe it quite possible because his countrymen so often played the same trick with the head and internal structure of their government, by which they might seem [to] prove the effects of the experiment upon a grand and imposing scale. He groaned and told me they had just gone through a revolution of that kind in their own little island, one of their head men and every party connected with him having been dragged from place and power by the spite and selfishness of another set of place hunters. I advised that they should watch the next locusts they operated upon to see how long they were the better for such a reformation.

The gentlemen have a disgusting trick of spitting about their best rooms even as if they were among guanacos. I suppose that this is one reason that they have no carpets in their houses. These are immense awkward buildings mostly of wood, having an interior square court, on each side of which there is an open gallery on each storey. The only good thing about them is they are roomy and airy. The furniture is very poor: a table, sofa and chairs serve for a parlour as large as a barn and not much unlike one, but there is plenty of good eating and drinking and abundance of fruit and wine, at least we found it tolerably so at the English Hotel, kept by Mr Richardson, an Englishman.

They say the Island is an excellent abode for sickly people who should stay at Santa Cruz in winter and go to the interior in summer; but I believe there is no Protestant place of worship. One inconvenience we found in their never furnishing their visitors with soap. Our beds were shake-down, having four posts and a frame to support a muslin cover that enclosed the bed to the very ground to keep off their old fashioned

barbarous flies, but it did not exclude their equally blood thirsty fleas. We took dinner, supper and breakfast at the hotel for which we each paid three dollars - 12/6. Captain Gardiner was acquainted with the English Consul so he took us to see him and gave me an introduction. The American Consul is a true Jonathan, we found him examining an invoice in his store. The natives seem a lazy people, bending under the heavy curse of Popery.

We visited their Cathedral, a poor piece of architecture with a few showy ornaments. One of the paintings most conspicuous was a representation of Heaven and purgatory - Mary in Heaven, crowned as Queen, was at the right hand of her Son. (I say it with reverence but with Protestant Christian indignation). He was represented as a plain Man, His mother catching His blood in a basin and distributing it to the priests who applied it somehow to the release of the black souls in purgatory, who were then seen in bright array ascending to Heaven. It was the Pope who let them out, they did not appear to pay him anything but of course that was managed in another place.

The business hours of the shop keepers would suit English young men. The shops are opened about eight or nine in the morning, closed at noon for dinner and a sleep, then re-opened till about six in the evening. There are also plenty of holidays. The Thursday evening we were there, being the first Thursday in the month, was the time for special prayer on behalf of the Mission. Captain Gardiner and myself did not forget to join our Brighton friends on this occasion.

Friday, January 31st, 1845

As we quitted the Island the next day, the previous calm gave way to a very favourable wind which, as Captain Boyse said, was ready for us as soon as we got on board and drove us into the Trades which carried us, sometimes at the rate of 8 to 10-1/2 miles per hour, into the neighbourhood of the Equator. There we experienced short calms and very heavy rains.

We crossed the line into the Southern Hemisphere on Friday morning, 17th inst. about 3 o'clock a.m. All of Home seemed then to have disappeared and now (January 31) we have lost /Ursa Minor/ and the Pole Star, the last land in our native hemisphere and that has been followed by /Ursa Major/ etc. I seem in a different world with a new Heaven overhead but instead of the old familiar constellations we admire the elevated /Crux et Corona Australis/ and others little less brilliant and eloquent in declaring the glory of Him Who is with His people always, even to the end of the world. On several evenings past two remarkable nebulae have been visible called the Magellan clouds, aptly named.

The sun has been darting his hot rays vertically upon us for some days: my straw hat has covered the whole of my shadow which has grown somewhat less from another cause, viz. my having lost flesh since losing my home, but this I attribute chiefly to my having suffered sea nausea so long and partly, perhaps, to my feeling sometimes as Noah's dove did when sent out alone. Though when I am in an unselfish mood I am glad for somebody else's sake that I am alone at present, till at least

experience has satisfied me that safety is to be enjoyed among the Patagonians. This I cannot know till after the time that the next party are expected to leave England; after that time, if anyone would come out, she would have to come alone which I can hardly expect, so my single state seems unalterable unless I am called to England to be ordained or to superintend the printing of the Scriptures in the Patagonian tongue. I know not what I should choose. "Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God".

We have occasionally had plenty of company: whales, grampuses [either a type of dolphin or an orca whale, Ed.], dolphins, porpoises, bonitos [a type of tuna, Ed.], flying fish, sharks, Portuguese men of war [a type of jellyfish, Ed.], whalebirds [?], etc. I was most pleased with some pilot fishes and their motions over the back of their "friend" a shark. They swim between his fins immediately behind his head, and their motions were so regulated that they seemed to be a part of himself; he took our hook and when we hauled him on deck they necessarily stayed behind, but they appeared to be sorry for it as they stayed some time about the ship. They are beautifully marked - something like a mackerel but not quite so large. I think they communicated in some way or other with some other sharks in the neighbourhood, for they would not approach the vessel next day although they were not in sight when the other was caught. I noticed that no pilot fish accompanied them when they attempted to approach us; perhaps that was how they warned them of the danger to be apprehended from us.

Thursday, February 6th, 1845

A STORM

In the latter part of our voyage there has been little to vary the monotony of our life on ship board. An occasional gale or strong squall which stirred up our dullness and carried away a few sails and booms was an occurrence to talk of as a nine days wonder. That which occurred on Thursday, February 6, P.M. was the most severe. It came on in a hard squall which carried away the Main Royal and Fore Top Mast Studding sail before they could be taken in and their fragments hung in rags for the rest of the day. While all hands were busy shortening sail in the midst of thunder, lightning and heavy rain, there came a loud clap immediately overhead. While I was wondering that, although it was close to our ears, I had not seen the lightning, there came a tremendous and continued clatter of chains and rigging upon the deck, which made me suppose that although no lightning was visible, it had struck the vessel and, at the least, much damaged her. On running to the deck, I found myself almost carried off my feet by the wind, which was so strong that if I had held my hand up, it would have threatened to carry it away.

When I regained my feet and a secure hold of something to stand by, I was able to look about and found that the still continued uproar and repeated thundering claps were occasioned by the Main Sail (a strong sheet containing about 240 yards of canvas), one corner of which had

broken away from the ship's side and, holding still by the Main Yard, was flapping terribly and beating the deck and rigging with its heavy chains and ropes hanging from its end, like the nine tails of a "cat". No one could seize it for some minutes, and when all hands got hold of the lashings it swung them about as if, to speak hyperbolically, the men were mere knots upon strings; it could not be quieted or fastened at all and everyone was in danger of receiving a /quietus/ from one of its terrible claws. At last the furious thing was overpowered by a blast of wind that completely ripped up its whole bellying body and left it a chaos of rags and ribbons streaming in the rain and wind. The only person hurt was the Mate whose hand the hard cold chain laid up in a safe warm poultice for a few days.

The next day was spent in clearing away the wreck. A few nights after, there was quite a change of scene and employment - we saw a beautiful sight: many large porpoises (say, each two yards long) were playing about the vessel, the phosphorescence of the water giving their bodies the appearance of fiery meteors of a white heat shooting through the darkness. The crew managed to harpoon five but owing to the strong head sea neither (sic) of them could be hauled on deck.

Monday, February 17th, 1845

On Friday, February 14th we neared Cape Blanco, the N. E. part of Patagonia. We sailed along the coast all Saturday but lost sight of it again until Monday, 17th when we saw Cape Virgins at the N. E. of the Straits of Magellan; a strong contrary wind and head sea and then a calm, kept us tacking about unable to weather the Cape till Tuesday evening, when we anchored off Point Dungeness. The appearance of the coast is very desolate; apparently the cliffs are clay. Not a tree in all this part of the country but it is thinly dotted with bushes.

Thursday, February 20th, 1845

The next morning, Thursday, Feb. 20th we early proceeded to Cape Gregory casting anchor at something less than one mile N. E. by N. of the point, which proved an excellent station. We soon perceived a smoke on shore but could not see any inhabitants. Captain Gardiner, Captain Boyse, Mr. Brown, our fellow passengers and myself were rowed ashore and soon met with one man, whom we at first thought a Fuegian and probably he is one who has settled in this country.

We understood from his signs that the Patagonians were more to the West, consequently, Captain Gardiner, Mr. Brown and I passed on in that direction for about eight miles, making a smoke occasionally but we found no recent traces of them or their horses. Therefore, Captain Gardiner told me that he would not make a smoke at the extreme point that we had reached, but had made up his mind to ask Captain Boyse to take us on to the Chilean Settlement at Port Famine.

We therefore began to return. Not having been accustomed to much exercise and having had a sick passage, walking through the long grass mile after mile, soon tired me and I was left alone, out of hearing and sometimes out of sight and, I began to think, out of mind too. This was not very pleasant as none of us know who, or how many, might be watching us. However, we reached the ship in the evening in safety after having seen nine of the inhabitants, the family of the man who met us in the morning. Captain Boyse soon satisfied us that it was out of his power to land us and our provisions anywhere else than at Cape Gregory.

Friday, February 21st, 1845

Accordingly, Captain Gardiner and myself went ashore next day, Friday 21st to look out a locality. Concerning these points I had received no instructions from the Committee and Captain Gardiner took the whole matter into his own hands. One suggestion of mine he did accede to viz. that instead of chiefly consulting what position would give the crew least trouble, for which trouble they were to be paid and which would soon be over, he should also consider what place there was near to the vessel that would most favour the Mission with suitable soil, water, wood, etc.

Saturday, February 22nd, 1845

This being determined upon, the next day, Saturday, 22nd February, was spent in landing one of the houses etc. and in setting up the former. During these operations Captain Gardiner's somewhat disrespectful behaviour to me manifested itself more clearly. I had not attempted to interfere with his plans in any way, consequently had not given him the least cause for jealousy, nevertheless all his conduct seemed to say 'everyone shall see that I have the whole control of this matter'. To satisfy him I did my best to help under his orders. I carried wood etc. like one of the crew, and even took opportunities of telling the people in Captain Gardiner's presence that I had nothing to do with this department of the Mission, but that I considered that it was entirely under his control. Nevertheless, when I saw something absolutely wrong I quietly suggested the right way to Captain Gardiner, but he spurned my recommendations.

These were the instances. First - they began to put together an accurately fitted but very unsubstantial wooden house without making the ground level. I told him that I thought it was impossible they could bring everything to its proper bearing unless they first levelled the foundation. They were permitted to go on till the difficulties were so multiplied that they were obliged to begin at the beginning and level. Secondly - they attempted to put up one side of the roof before they had fastened the supporters in any way. I felt it my duty to suggest that every additional board increased the danger of its falling and accordingly, when they had done little more than half, down it all came together but fortunately it was not much strained or broken. Again -

having erected the house and put on all the roofing boards they were attempting to put on the heavy canvas cover, made to fit the roof, without having nailed a single board down. Again I felt it my duty to suggest that in all probability some part of the mass of canvas would displace a loose board and throw a number or them down, or at least the first wind that blew would lift up the canvas cover from the angular roof and so displace the boards. The utmost care was taken to prevent this accident, except the particular thing that I suggested viz. nailing the boards; but my suggestion again proved a prophecy, the canvas displaced one of the boards of the roof and it and all above it came to the ground. They were pushed up under the canvas however, to their places and all was left un-nailed, the canvas itself being only slightly fastened with string at the bottom.

In this house, Captain Gardiner and I slept this Saturday night. The wind had freshened a little and consequently I had quietly placed some heavy boards upon the canvas to keep it down, still we were obliged to get up in the night to make it more secure. Captain Gardiner would not do much at it but I remained at work till I had done all I could. The morning came and found the house still under cover.

Sunday, February 23rd, 1845

[morning] We attempted to reach the vessel for the sake of performing the Services, but the boat was swamped and filled by the surf as we were attempting to get off. We came to shore wet enough and I, having no change of clothes on shore, determined to return to the house and go to bed after sending a note requesting Captain Boyse to send me some dry clothes, if the wind permitted. Here Captain Gardiner perseveringly attempted to dictate what I should say and what I should do on this perfectly personal and private matter. I therefore politely and mildly requested, that he would allow me to act according to my own judgement in such matters. Upon which he apologised as he had done once before, though not in the presence of those before whom the harsh expression was uttered. However, I find that this propensity to domination is a habit which I think he knows to be a failing and mourns over. I shall therefore bear with him to the utmost limit of duty to myself and to my position; though, as I told him, if his behaviour left me with as little influence and respect in the eyes of the Patagonians as it had done in the sight of the crew of the /Rosalie/, one of whom had insulted me, in consequence of his hasty behaviour to me, I might as well be at home for any good that I could effect among them.

About noon of this day the weather moderated. Captain Gardiner went aboard and took my note to Captain Boyse, who came himself with a boat, bringing my clothes and a message from Captain Gardiner intimating that he wished to see me aboard. I therefore went, much against my will, as the Sunday Service was over and I did not care about dinner. We had scarcely left the shore before the wind freshened very much and our little boat was in great jeopardy, being obliged to make all sail in the eye of the wind, to prevent our being driven out to sea. We were nearly upset several times by sudden gusts of wind; on these occasions the

water rushed over the side of the boat in a fearful manner and we were more than once half full; there was also a heavy anchor in the boat, as a necessary ballast to prevent the wind from throwing us over; being lashed to the bottom, this anchor would have sunk us immediately if we had taken in much more water.

Although we ran these risks by keeping up all possible sail, in order to fetch the ship, still we could not beat sufficiently to windward to effect our object and we were obliged to pass her within about 100 yards without being able to render us any assistance, although they attempted to do so by letting the jolly boat drift toward us with a rope, but it did not come far enough. Of course, in such a rough sea and wind they did not put any hands into her. Our next effort was to reach them by tacking, which in this case was a critical operation, not only on account of the wind and sea, but also because the ballast anchor was necessarily lashed as much as possible to the windward side of the boat to counteract the force of the wind; this could not be shifted before the tack, consequently it remained for some time acting with, instead of contrary, to the wind. In this manner we remained tacking about for two or three hours, all hands in the vessel looking anxiously for what should happen, Captain Boyse saying that he remembered with sorrow that he could not swim, the second Mate saying we were "likely to go to Kingdom Come" and every one of ourselves, as well as on board the /Rosalie/, wishing we could get out of our danger.

During a great part of this time the sea was beating over us on one side and running into us on the other, keeping some of the men baling with buckets as fast as possible in order to keep us from quite filling. In consequence of some of the hands being thus employed, Captain Boyse entrusted me with the most important rope in the boat saying "Now Mr. Hunt, you must hold that rope with the grip of death." I understood that to slacken this rope, which was attached to the Mainsail Boom, would give the wind less power to blow us over on our broadside and consequently diminish the danger of being filled with water; but on the other hand it would have given us less power to beat to windward and increased the danger of our being driven out to sea in this little open boat. I therefore determined I would not intentionally either slacken or make it more taut without Captain Boyse's directions.

While doing my best to keep it at its proper tension by twisting it once round the seat and holding the end in my hand, for it could not be tied, as, if it were not slackened at the very moment when necessary, we should certainly quite fill. While doing this I was often tossed from side to side by the pitching of the boat and once a sea struck her so violently as to make her give a sudden lurch which knocked me off my feet and laid me at full length at the bottom of the boat; but not exactly so either, for at the same moment there came a puff of wind, which almost laid her on her broadside and the water rushing in fast, I might be said to be as much on the water as on the bottom of the boat; nevertheless, I did not let go the rope or allow it to slip an inch, at which, when the danger was over, Captain Boyse heartily laughed.

Upon this occasion I thought myself within half an hour of eternity and could not refrain from speaking to the hands in the boat of the folly

and wickedness of their profane and thoughtless swearing etc.; to which Captain Boyse replied that it was so much a habit with some of them that, if they were drowning they could utter some such expression every time their heads came above the water. I had previously protested twice against this wicked practice in some sermons that I wrote for the crew; and in private conversations with Captain Boyse, I so far convinced him of the impropriety of it, as to induce him to endeavour to leave it off and there was a manifest improvement in this respect in some of the crew.

After passing the ship in several ineffectual attempts to near her, we at length succeeded in coming sufficiently near to catch a rope which was thrown towards us; and so we pulled under the lee of the vessel and jumped aboard, being warmly congratulated by all. In the evening Captain Gardiner and I returned ashore and slept in our wooden house. Captain Gardiner made arrangements with Captain Boyse to have one of the crew set out with him and the Lagoon Indian early on Monday morning in order to find the Patagonians.

Monday, February 24th, 1845

The wind being strong, a boat could not come ashore very early and the Indian and all his family appearing at our door, about 9 o'clock, ready for the journey, Captain Gardiner determined to go with them without waiting for the arrival of the boat; and away they went, big and little Indians and big and little dogs, the man leaving his wives and children to carry everything, and a very good load some of them had.

In anticipation of this journey of Captain Gardiner's, I asked him on Saturday to let me be present when he gave the carpenter instructions concerning the erection of the other two houses, telling him I had not the least wish to interfere in the matter, but wishing to be able to see if they were proceeded with according to his mind. To this he replied "Certainly, and in my absence you must of course overlook everything". As I had heard no more of this up to the time of his setting off on Monday morning, I asked if he had any instructions to leave, to which he replied that the doors of the two houses to be set up were to face the South, and one house was to stand on each side of that already up, at a distance of ten feet.

Upon the crew's arrival I found that Captain Gardiner had requested Captain Boyse to come ashore and overlook the operations. I therefore quietly gave all the assistance in my power without making any remark, till I observed that Captain Boyse was giving orders regarding the distance and aspect of the houses which did not agree with the instructions which Captain Gardiner had left with me. I therefore merely mentioned what these were and left Captain Boyse to act as he thought proper.

I once for all declare that I never gave Captain Gardiner the least cause for jealousy of me, I always paid him the very utmost respect and he never had the least reason to complain of my behaviour in anything. I

never gave him the least reason to suppose that I wished to intermeddle with matters concerning which I had no instructions but on the contrary, when he attempted to take a matter out of my hands concerning which I had instructions and he none, so far from showing any jealousy at his interference, I did all I could to meet his views on the matter, which was settling the powers to be given to the vowels in the phonography of the language I had to learn and reduce to writing and grammatical order, previous to my translating the Scriptures into it.

Captain Gardiner showed me a scheme which he designed to settle the manner in which the vowels were to be used, but it was so manifestly crude and incomplete, and this he immediately discovered upon my quietly dropping a remark or two on some of its defects, that he withdrew it. Subsequently he produced two others, the latter of which I took some pains to improve and told him I would adopt it as far as I could. But it is manifestly premature to attempt to settle this matter finally, before anyone knows what is the genius of the language or what are the vowel sounds to be represented; every part of this matter is at present as a */terra incognita/* and Captain Gardiner knows nothing of the subject he would wish to settle; and therefore, I must act according to my own judgement, hoping for the aid of the Allwise. (Captain G. went so far as to say that a single diphthong would not be necessary, and subsequently he affirmed that there was not one in the Spanish language - the fact is there are twenty diphthongs and five triphthongs).

Tuesday, February 25th, 1845

Monday the 24th Feb. and two following days were spent in landing houses, stores etc. erecting the former and housing the latter. We saw several smokes about, which induced us to think that there were other inhabitants in our neighbourhood who would not make their appearance. Monday and Tuesday nights I spent on shore alone, none of the crew liking to remain with me. Captain Boyse said he would have stayed with me on Tuesday night, had it not been "such an out of the way place and he'd rather not". During Monday night and Tuesday morning all those parts of the roof of the house that I had not succeeded in nailing down during the night, were carried away by the wind, which left the things exposed to the rain. Tuesday night I passed in the store house. I felt that our stores were a great temptation to the natives.

Wednesday, February 26th, 1845

Captain Gardiner had not returned and Captain Boyse told me of his determination not to stay beyond early on Thursday morning. I therefore wrote a protest against his leaving before Captain Gardiner's return, which I intended to put into Captain Boyse's hand if I had not succeeded in persuading him to stay longer, but to this he consented and had hardly made up his mind to do so before Captain Gardiner made his appearance, about 8 o'clock on Wednesday evening. He had gone within sight of what he believed to be the fires of the Patagonians, but his

companions refused to go any further in this direction: the journey was therefore without any immediate result.

Thursday, February 27th, 1845

Employed in getting everything in order, digging trenches round the houses etc.

Friday, February 28th, 1845

The /Rosalie/ still here. She was paid for demurrage up to the noon of this day at the rate of £5 a day for every day she had remained here, beyond the three days agreed to: that is to say, for 4-1/2 days as I understand. She received one hundred guineas for our passage and our stores after the rate of £2 per ton. One of the apprentices of the /Rosalie/ ran away into the country today. It seems that he understood that we wanted someone to stay with us and being tired of the sea he thought we should keep him after the /Rosalie/ had sailed. However Captain Boyse detained the vessel and stayed ashore till he came to our houses at night when he was taken and conveyed on board.

Saturday, March 1st, 1845

The /Rosalie/ attempted to repass the Narrows, but the wind and tide were not sufficiently strong in her favour, so she returned and took up her former anchorage. This day we were employed nailing up canvas outside the houses to keep out the wind and rain. Captain Boyse visited us in the evening and Captain Gardiner put into his hand a written request that he would, under our peculiar circumstances, leave a man with us to assist us and help to protect the stores, we not knowing what number of Lagoon Indians there might be about us and no Patagonians having as yet come. To this request Captain Boyse did not accede as he had but very few men and a rough passage round the Horn before him, but remarked if we did not feel ourselves safe, his vessel was at our service to convey our persons away. Of course, this was not what we wanted.

Sunday, March 2nd, 1845

In the morning I enjoyed a refreshing season in prayer and felt sure that God would show us what to do and help us in our duty. On going out of the house, the Lagoon Indians pointed to some smoke beyond the hills and said the Patagonians were coming. This proved incorrect, however, but did not shake our confidence in God that He would defend, keep and direct us in the way that we should go. /Rosalie/ off early.

Monday, March 3rd, 1845

Morning fitting up sleeping room. At noon Captain Gardiner set out to see the cause of the smoke that the Indian had pointed out. I employed myself in burning the grass from the immediate neighbourhood of the houses, as the whole country for many miles to windward of us was in flames: by this means its approach to the Mission property was prevented. Captain Gardiner returned about 8 p.m., believing the Patagonians were not near us, the smoke having originated most probably in a fire that we? [sic] or the Indian family had made some days before, but which had been smothering till a high wind favoured its approach to dry grass. (Vide Mar. 19)

Tuesday, March 4th, 1845

This morning a Chilean soldier found his way to the station from Port Famine (San Felipe). He had been on the way fifteen or sixteen days, having seen six tents of the Patagonians on the fourth day of his journey; with them he stayed a week and then left them and his comrade, who remained with the Patagonians. Three days from the station he had fallen in with some of the Lake Indians who had ill-treated and robbed him. These Indians were coming towards us, he said, and would certainly use us no better than they had done him.

From this soldier, who told us he was a deserter from Port Famine (as was also his companion) we received a great deal of information about the Patagonians, the Lake Indians and the state of Port Famine. This settlement, it appeared, had effected a very considerable change among the Patagonians; some of their Chiefs, especially Centurion, being inclined to favour the Spaniards there, Wesail being less inclined towards them, if not actually hostile. Maria was dead, Isaac sent in chains to Chile, perhaps for having leaned to the Patagonians more than to the Spaniards, he having learnt the language of the former and intermarried with them. There was a priest, Father Domingo, at Port Famine who was attempting to make the Patagonians Roman Catholics. There had been a distribution of clothes etc. to Centurion's tribe, which, in their opinion made them Christians. The settlement at Port Famine had been begun with friendly professions towards the natives but when it was fortified and they had received soldiers, they treated the aborigines roughly, which had tended to incense some of them.

Our apprehended danger from the Lake Indians who began to gather round us and the desire to see the Patagonians, induced us to fasten up two of the houses which contained the valuables and set out on the tramp to seek them. The Chilean wished to escape to Rio de la Plata but being told that it was three thousand miles from the station, gave up that intention in despair. Captain Gardiner informed him of our intention to set out, this evening telling him also that we were very loath to leave him alone among the Indians, as we feared they would kill him, as well as pillage the houses: he therefore had his choice of going with us or

being left in the kitchen with the necessary provisions. He felt quite afraid for his life as some of these Indians were the parties that had robbed him, but being fatigued by his journey, he said he could not commence another immediately and we felt it necessary that we should set out this evening to get on our way as far as possible before we were missed.

Accordingly we packed up some biscuit and one bottle of brandy, a change of clothes and a few other necessaries and, after a good supper we set out at about eleven o'clock p.m., leaving the Chilean in the house used as the kitchen; instructing him that if he found it necessary to leave before our return, which return was uncertain, he should bury the key under the front of the door; and commending him and ourselves to the merciful care of Almighty God, and then sneaking away one at a time and taking a circuitous route to avoid falling in with any of these Indians. Our path was first along the sandy shore and then we struck off towards the western end of Gregory range of mountains, walking sometimes over the ground recently burnt, at others through tall rank grass, or stumbling over clumps of thick dry grass.

For a considerable distance along this path we were followed by a large bright meteor, which advanced with an undulating motion against the wind and many feet from the ground, its colour alternating between bright yellow and pale red. It was much larger than a star and when we first saw it we took it for a fire at a distance, several of which were burning in different directions; but, as it advanced, I fancied it must be some light attached to a dog and buoyed up by some contrivance to show the Indians the track we had passed over, or to enable them to pursue and overtake us. We sat down and watched its advance for some minutes till it got very near and then, after we had walked on a bit it disappeared, and again rekindled and was finally extinguished. I thought afterwards that it arose from exhalations we had disengaged from the grass etc. as we passed along.

At this time day was dawning. A little further on we came suddenly upon what we believed to be two Indian tents, we therefore walked out of our way to avoid them and passing on about a mile further, perhaps ten or twelve miles in all, no little walk in such a country, we lay down at about 4-1/2 a.m.

Wednesday, March 5th, 1845

[morning] On the side of a hill near a bush on the bare ground we took a little sleep and rose to breakfast about seven o'clock, coarse hard biscuit a little cheese and water from [...] ditch furnished our lowly table. Thence we started over parched and thirsty country, blackened by the recent fires, glad occasionally to find a patch of unburnt grass on which to place our burdens and our weary bodies. After a few hours of this toil I became excessively thirsty from profuse perspiration and hard walking; for a long time we came to no water and all the relief I could get was from some insipid cranberries and these were very welcome. At length we came to a marshy place where Captain Gardiner succeeded in finding some water in a hole, for which we were both very thankful,

having mentally compared our case to Hagar's.

At night we lay down among thick damp grass, beside a bush near a muddy duckpond, the best place and the best water we could find. Here I began to find that I could not eat enough of the dry biscuit to sustain my strength even when soaked in water, for as it contained the fine bran as well as the flour, it was not sufficiently nourishing; and when no water was to be had, my mouth was so parched that I could not moisten the biscuit sufficiently to enable me to swallow it. (I never enjoyed the hymn

Come let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne

so much as I did while at prayer at the side of the bush by which I had lain down.)

Thursday, March 6th, 1845

Soon after starting this morning we felt that we must unburden ourselves of some of our load, however necessary it might appear to be to retain it. We thought it possible we might have to go as far as Port Famine and escape thence by some vessel to Valparaiso. We therefore determined to hide our change of linen and flannel and leave everything we could possibly spare, even some of the memorandum books and take nothing scarcely but provisions and the gun, to enable us to shoot something if opportunity offered; we also left most of the shot behind and again set forward.

We soon saw what we thought was the smoke of the Patagonian encampment and, ascending a hill, Captain Gardiner first thought he saw a guanaco or ostrich, and finally determined that he saw three Patagonians. He was so impatient to be after them that he did not allow me to see the objects through the glass, so I formed no judgement about the real nature of them but determined to follow him as a dog would his master (although he was leading me quite out of our way). After a long walk we could find no traces of Patagonians or their horses but I observed three bushes in the locality he had pointed out as the position of the three people; though I was far from deciding that these had deceived him this time, yet he certainly made such mistakes after.

At night I shot a hawk, picked it, drew it and cooked it but ate the least bit possible, though it was not unpalatable. This night we lay down near a bush at the side of a marsh; it was cold, windy and wet, though the rain did not last long. The whole of this day having been spent in vain pursuit of people Captain Gardiner believed he had seen, we had lost a day, having come about at a right angle from the direction in which we had before advanced.

Friday, March 7th, 1845

This morning at daybreak, Captain Gardiner told me he had been seriously considering the propriety of returning to the station, for first, neither of us would be able to reach Port Famine which was the nearest inhabited place. Secondly, our provisions would fail before we could get there; thirdly, it would be the utmost we could do to reach the station before our strength failed; and, lastly, there was now little hope of our falling in with the natives and possibly from the appearance of the recent smokes, they were now between us and Cape Gregory. I suggested that it was possible that we might find them if we persevered a little longer, but could not deny that it would be staking our lives on the possibility of meeting with them, for if we went a day's journey further from the station, we should not be able to undergo the additional exposure to fatigue etc. by day and the cold damp air at night.

It was therefore determined that we should set out home by the most likely route to fall in with the people, calling on our way to get our memorandum books: we hoped to reach home on Saturday night, if not, early on Sunday morning; otherwise, not to walk on that day but lie out another night and reach the station on Monday. This concluded, we set off early. Captain Gardiner soon thought he saw two natives coming towards us but it soon appeared that the figures were not human beings, so after about an hour's stay we took up our burdens and recommenced our journey towards the station.

Captain Gardiner pointed out a mountain as the one under which we had left our things as we went. I expressed a doubt as to its being the same, nevertheless towards it we turned our steps and after a weary walk, during which we only met with water once, we reached the mountain and going round three sides of it without finding the two bushes under which we had hid the things (and these the only two there were) it was manifest that Captain Gardiner was mistaken. Still he persisted in examining the only remaining side, although I reminded him that it faced the very opposite point of the compass to that towards the real hiding place faced.

Leaving the mountain we soon found ourselves in quite a different kind of country to that over which we had walked on our way out: we were now surrounded with muddy lakes whereas the part we expected to find was a vast plain, covered with the roots of grass blackened by recent fires: we therefore made for the coast, as by so doing we could not get very far wrong. An hour or two more brought us to our halting place for refreshment; there we ascertained our locality beyond a doubt, as we were in full view of the N. W. bluff of Gregory range of mountains, which is about ten miles from the station.

We therefore determined to make a desperate push and walk so far that we could not afterwards mistake our way, then lie down in the early part of the night, when it was not so very cold, for three or four hours, and afterwards attempt to reach the station by four or five the next morning, that we might see how things had been going on during our absence before the Lagoon Indians were stirring about. As we were cut off from every other retreat, our hopes were as sincere and earnest as our prayers, that God would put His fear upon the Indians so that they might not destroy and rob the station, otherwise our fate would be at

once decided, there being no other food or shelter within our reach and we, utterly unable to sustain fatigue and exposure much longer.

In these circumstances we set out again and, by our best efforts, reached a hill whence we could ascertain our direct course for the rest of the way, so that, with the assistance of the compass we might easily find our path in the night. But Captain Gardiner neglected to take the bearings, saying afterwards that it was too much trouble to look at the compass as we walked. Consequently, when after about three hours rest, we got again on our feet, at about 11 o'clock p.m., we were of very different opinions as to which was the direction of the station. The Gregory range was the chief directing mark but, in the dark, the intervening hills altered the appearance of their outline, which caused Captain Gardiner to affirm that some hills to the south of us were the range, while I was of the opinion that others, to the north, were they; every step we took confirmed my belief till I, in my turn became positive.

Here I must do myself the justice to say that never, since our leaving England, did I express a positive opinion differing from Captain Gardiner's, that did not prove to be correct. In general I gave no opinion at all and very seldom a positive one and then, only when the circumstances were critical; in fact Captain Gardiner generally told me he had made up his mind and I, as often, found that my opinion, even when it was asked for, for form's sake, put him upon his prerogative which I had the least possible wish to dispute; although in such questions as "Which was our nearest way home?" I might reasonably ask to express an opinion but I preferred following him, as I told him, like a dog would follow his master, to raising a dispute about any matter.

In our present uncertainty we questioned the compass, which decided that I was right; and this happened three times within half an hour, which was much oftener than we should have had to consult it, if the bearings had been taken by daylight, on the hill to which we had walked for that very purpose. However, we walked on in the direction indicated by the compass for about another half hour, when a neighbouring hill coming between us and the range, its apparent outline was again altered, which caused Captain Gardiner again to affirm that he was sure we were wrong and therefore we must lie down again till morning, which we accordingly did on the side of a hill near a bush.

Saturday, March 8th, 1845

This morning we arose but little refreshed and saw immediately that we had been quite right the previous evening; we found it necessary to relieve ourselves of the remainder of our provisions, except three or four biscuits each and again we commenced lifting up our feet over the thick and tall clumps of rank grass, which frequently caused us to trip and stagger, and sometimes to fall. Indeed, as the day advanced and grew warm, I again felt the want of water as badly as ever and it was but a little way that I could proceed without lying down; and I was moreover discouraged by the certainty that we were going too much to the south. I

therefore mildly asked Captain Gardiner to reconsider the course as, on account of my exhausted state, a few additional miles might cost me my life. He very properly said that it was equally his interest to go by the nearest way and that he was doing so to the best of his judgement, that he was determined not to leave me, and when I could go no further, we would lie down together and so finish our pilgrimage.

He was evidently little better than myself or else was not aware of my real state, for as we were about to leave the watering place on the previous evening, I suggested the propriety of taking a little water in the bottle, which he had previously carried, to which he replied he could do without and could not volunteer to carry any more than his present load. I therefore took some which served for a slight refreshment during the night.

Having asked Captain Gardiner to reconsider the direction in which we were going, he added to the above a demand of "Which way would you go if you had the ordering of it?" to which I replied I would not dictate any course but wished he would hear my reasons for believing that we ought to go more to the east. These he would not hear at first, but finally I gave one which I thought unanswerable viz. we were already on the south side of some hills which we, in coming out, had passed on the north of. Moreover, the station was only four miles from Gregory range which ran thence in a continuous straight line; we were already that distance from it, and if we walked in a straight and parallel line with these mountains, we should find the station about eight or nine miles further on, whereas we were now increasing our distance from them at every step.

This reason did not change our course at the moment, but I soon had the satisfaction to see our track gradually take an easterly direction which, in a few hours, brought the station directly ahead of us, Captain Gardiner being sure that he saw the houses a few miles off. On looking through the glass I thought and said that the shape of the object appeared too irregular for our houses and these turned out to be bushes but, by the time we discerned this, we were both of us certain that the houses were standing about a mile or two further on and a little while afterwards we could perceive the three goats. These signs confirmed our hopes that we should find all well. By this time I was so faint and sick that I could not walk a quarter of a mile without resting for a considerable time; and when, after making an effort to reach some bushes with the expectation of finding some berries to moisten my mouth and throat, we found hardly any, I would willingly have been left behind, as Captain Gardiner proposed, till he could send the Chilean with something for me to drink; but I considered the uncertainty of his still being there, the uncertainty of there being anything to send and the possibility of Captain Gardiner's being detained or even killed by the Lagoon Indians, especially if he reached the houses alone; and then there would come my anxious uncertainty as to his fate, if succour did not soon reach me, for even though the Chilean were still there and were sent towards me, he might not succeed in finding me. Such considerations silently influenced me to go on by easy stages and I was kindly indulged as often as I required to rest.

At length not very long afterwards, we could see the Indians quietly

occupying their own position and soon after the soldier came out of the kitchen to welcome us back; some of the children of the Indian family we had first seen and whom we had succeeded in making our friends, also met us with smiling faces and we soon found, with the utmost thankfulness, that nothing had been injured but one of the fowls; the head of the above named Indian family having used his influence and example in assisting to protect the property, although the others had attempted to break open the store room with their knives, and with the same instruments had threatened the life of the Chilean.

It was most marvellous to us that they did not succeed in their attempts to get at the stores as there were several pieces of timber from the /Rosalie/ lying about, the least of which would have beat in any part of the houses at a single blow: these they had not made use of but seemingly, had contented themselves with trying to cut through the iron staples with their blunt knives. We attributed this fact of their not taking any more decided measures to obtain the stores which were so exceedingly tempting to them, to the arrival of the Chilean soldier the day on which we set out, and to the bold manner in which he, being in our vicinity, had claimed and made them restore the things they had stolen from him. Also, as he was in uniform, they probably believed that we had some communications with the Military Post at Port Famine and that he was sent to guard the station during our absence; and that, if we wanted more aid against them, it would be forthcoming. They had also seen the effects of the gun in killing birds for the cat. I observed that the women shuddered at the sight of this instrument and they were not aware of our determination not to use it to the injury of their persons.

All the circumstances considered, this soldier's finding us after wandering for sixteen days towards Rio [de] Janeiro, as he thought, was a most remarkable Providence, which among the causes for thankfulness made us glad that the /Rosalie/ left us without complying with our request to leave a boy to assist us. Having thus arrived and found all things well to the utmost of our desires, we thanked God and took courage. My stomach rejected the first refreshment I drank, which was some beer. I therefore went straight to bed till I could have some tea; there my pulse soon rose to 120, but rest and proper diet restored me in a couple of days.

Sunday, March 9th, 1845

This morning the Lagoon Indians come to the house and ask us to sharpen their knives, which we promise to do tomorrow (/mañana/), at which our old friend retires contented but the others are surly and remain about the door, asking for biscuits (/galleta/); eventually, on Monday morning, they all set out to hunt, taking their tents and everything with them. We never saw them again. Captain Gardiner read the Services, it being my turn but more than I was equal to. If rest after extreme toil is ever sweet, this Sabbath was in every way a day of rest to me.

Thine earthly sabbath Lord we love
But there's a nobler rest above

To that our labouring souls aspire
With ardent pangs of strong desire.

No more fatigue no more distress etc.

Oh long expected day begin
Dawn on this world of woe and sin
Fain would we leave this weary road
And sleep in death to rest with God.

The sufferings endured during the journey of the last week were occasioned, I believe in my case at least, by previous anxiety and the great excitement and hard work of Tuesday, the long and fatiguing march of Tuesday night and the exposure to the cold on the damp ground early on Wednesday morning: these things occasioned a feverish thirst and an inability to eat a sufficient quantity of biscuit.

Monday, March 10th, 1845

We determined to remain here at all risks till the Patagonians arrive. Captain Gardiner suggests that we should raise a mound, ten feet broad at the base and seven feet high all round the most exposed sides of the station. As the soil immediately below the surface is very compact and hard clay, I feel sure it is utterly out of our power to accomplish such an undertaking before the winter sets in, for as we proceeded we should form a ditch from which every spadeful of a great part of the mound would have to be raised ten or twelve feet high. I therefore proposed that two lines of compact sods should be raised five or six feet above the surface of the ground and six feet distant from each other at the base and the interval between them be filled up with clay, taken from the ground outside the line of sods most remote from the houses; thus a ditch and wall would be formed, the top of the wall being at least eight feet above the bottom of the ditch, the wall being in such a position with regard to the houses, and making such an angle with the surface of the ground as would have the effect of giving the strong winds an upward tendency and thus shield the houses from their violence.

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, March 11th, 12th, 13th, 1845

As natives were near the station, the greater part of these days I spent in working hard at the wall, collecting a great number of sods, building them up in the two lines as proposed and commencing the filling up of the interval. It soon became manifest that the wall, when finished, would be sufficiently strong to answer our purpose, viz. to shield us from the winds, rain and drifting snow.

Friday, March 14th, 1845

At work at the wall. About 11 o'clock a.m. two good looking Lagoon Indians came to the station, one of them called himself Lareas, a chief. They said Wesail had had a fall from his horse and that one of his children was unwell but that he would be here shortly; that Centurion (San Leon) was four or five days off, northwards of Possession Bay. The Chilean soldier recognised these two men as some that he had seen with the Patagonians four days from Port Famine. They had treated him kindly and he had slept in the tent of one of them.

They were very much superior in appearance and manners to the Indians we had previously had about us. Their weapons were a bow and arrows. Soon after noon we saw another party approaching the station. These were nine individuals advancing abreast of each other, four of them were very tall and one of these was the only person on horseback; another of the tall ones advanced quickly before his companions and, as he approached the station, elevated his hand above his head and gave us to understand that Wesail was coming in this party.

We therefore left our working and went to meet this great man who greeted us with a shake of the hand. He is not very tall but very broad and muscular and well proportioned; indeed I could perceive none of that disproportion, which writers mention, between the trunk and limbs of these people. They had left their wives, children and tents, behind them; some of them were provided with bows and arrows and others carried bolas at their waists. All of them were covered from head to feet, each with a skin mantle which only exposed their head, neck, shoulders and legs. Wesail had sundry ornaments which sufficiently distinguished him, such as a curious band round his head - this had been given him at Port Famine; at the small of his back he carried a handsome dirk in a silver-plated sheath and on his left hip a large steel, such as English butchers use to sharpen their knives; at his waist were also his bolas and smoking apparatus. On his alighting, he sent the two legs and thighs of an ostrich into our kitchen, as a present Captain Gardiner thought, but as these were the only provisions they had with them, probably he did not intend them for a gift, at any rate he soon claimed them again. We were just ready for dinner so we invited him to join us, which he readily did, reflecting great credit on the cooking of the fried potatoes but sparing the salt pork a little. During dinner two of his party sat within the door, the others wistfully eyeing our operations while they crowded round the outside; to all of them we gave some biscuit which they needed no second invitation to take and eat.

Wesail's manners and care of his people at this time made a decidedly favourable impression on me. He spoke Spanish so that Captain Gardiner could converse with him but little was interpreted to me. From his looks and actions I judged him to be a polite man rather than a barbarian, an intelligent, thoughtful patriotic chief, the father of his people. Captain Gardiner made our views, wishes and intentions known to him, to all of which he cordially and readily assented and then turned to his people and seemed to repeat to them what had been said, when it was quite evident that they acquiesced as heartily. After dinner he began to examine the things in the house: a cloth cap was the first thing he appeared to covet. Captain Gardiner gave it to him but it was too little, next he asked for a hat. I offered him mine which was hanging in

sight, but although this fitted him it did not please; perhaps, as it was a light one, he might think it not a good one. I therefore took another from my leather hat case, making a fuss in unlocking the case and brushing it up. This process seemed to decide the fate of the hat, it was accepted and returned to my care to be forthcoming on demand, whenever he wanted it upon state occasions. He also kept the cap for his son.

In the evening we again fed him and his people, as their tents had not yet arrived. The tall man, who, at Wesail's coming had been sent forward to apprise us of it, was now sent on horseback with a message to those whom they had left behind. This man seemed to be Wesail's particular friend and to act as his /Aide-de-camp/ ; when he was about to set out for the encampment, Wesail asked Captain Gardiner for some biscuit to send to the children. Captain Gardiner understood him to mean his own children and accordingly gave the man on horseback two biscuits, which Wesail did not think enough and expressed his belief that Captain Gardiner having given them to his, Wesail's friend, intended them for that friend's own children and wished Captain Gardiner to give him (Wesail) some to send to his children. This Captain Gardiner thought an imposition and refused to give any more, saying he intended those he had given for Wesail's children according to his request. Wesail persisted, as there were so few and they were given to his friend, that friend should keep them for his own children and again requested some for himself to send to his children; and upon being refused, turned away in a bad humour, saying it was bad to be refused a biscuit to send to his children; upon this Captain Gardiner saw the necessity of yielding and consequently he gave the man some more.

This was the beginning of our trouble with Wesail and his people. At night Captain Gardiner told Wesail he could sleep with us in the house and his people could sleep in that used as our kitchen. To this he assented and lay down for a while but soon got up saying he did not like to stay in the house; upon his going out, his people also left their dormitory for the open air. They were quiet all night.

Saturday, March 15th, 1845

Wesail and his people ate with us this morning as they had done ever since arrival. In the course of the morning his wives and family arrived with his tent; he went to meet them, appearing to pass his wives without any word or sign of recognition but was lavish of caresses with his children, especially Onteachy, a boy about five years old.

The tents etc. were carried by horses, the women having the whole charge of them, not being assisted in any way by the men. Their first care was to select a spot in some degree sheltered from the prevailing winds, but in this, those who owned the best tents were not particular; then the horses were unladed and set at liberty and these never stray far from the encampment; next four or five pointed sticks, about four or five feet long, are forced into the ground, the women throwing their whole weight upon them and swinging their bodies forcibly from side to side.

Those who possess few skins, place these sticks in a semi-circular form and content themselves with forming a wall of skins behind them only. Others, more rich in skins, form two parallel straight lines of sticks, those in front being about seven feet high; over all is drawn a cover formed of skins sewn together, which excludes the wind and rain from every part but the front, and even this is sometimes partially closed up in like manner.

The only covering for their bodies in summer and winter is a skin mantle which, except in hot weather, is worn with the hair inwards. At night additional skins are spread upon the ground to sleep upon. Of other conveniences they may be said to have none, except a skin bag or two in which they carry berries and water; he is rich, in this respect, who possesses a knife and a tobacco pipe. Their persons are very dirty and I believe, are never washed and their mantles harbour numberless /piojos/ [lice, Ed.], as does also the hair of their heads, which they do not appear to have any means of combing otherwise than with their hands. Their heads are therefore full of the nits of the before mentioned vermin.

They use little fire and that chiefly for cooking, an operation which is very quickly and partially performed, the meat being suspended upon a stick over the fire, till the meat is burned, which does not always prevent the inside from remaining raw. The shell of a large species of mussel is sometimes used as a cup and spoon, but generally the hand performs the office of a cup, fork and spoon, a corner of the mantle being a substitute for dishes and plates. They are excessively fond of biscuits, tobacco and oatmeal and other porridges and have, within the last few years, contracted a craving for ardent spirits; but for these last we were not much troubled, except once by Wesail himself; for /galleta/ and /tobac/ there is an incessant demand.

The women are very fond of ornaments and very common ones satisfy them if they are coloured or bright. The men are fond of scarlet cloth to wear over their shoulders and bright coloured worsted binding to wear round their heads upon occasions of show; but in general they prefer being disencumbered of everything but their mantles.

They chase the guanacos with their horses and dogs; of the latter they have a great many of various sizes and breeds. The dogs can kill the ostrich themselves. Wesail has a fine black and white hound which might be taken for a cross between the greyhound and staghound. This dog, he says, sometimes kills five ostriches in one sun (day) and "does not seize them by the legs but gets before them and catches them by the head."

In general the dogs require the aid of the men to kill the full grown guanaco. This is accomplished by first throwing them down by means of the bolas which is formed of two balls, about two inches in diameter, made of skin and filled with some heavy substance and attached one to each end of a string composed of the sinews of the legs of an ostrich. One of these balls is held in the hand, while the other is forcibly swung round the head, till it has acquired considerable momentum, when the instrument is allowed to fly from the hand with a rotatory motion; and being hurled with exact aim, some part of the string strikes the animal's legs which causes the balls to revolve round the limbs and

bring the animal to the ground, or at least so to impede it, as to admit of its being easily overtaken. Their horses are small and something like a moderate sized two year old English colt. The guanaco is nearly as tall, its legs being longer in proportion, its figure being something between that of a camel and a deer; it has no horns and no hunch upon its back. Their speed at starting is that of a racehorse and their actions while running easy and elegant.

At noon this day none of Wesail's party was expected to dine with us, as his tent and some others had arrived. He had left his dirk in the house and as we were about to sit down to dinner he came about the place; and I thought that as his tent had only come this morning it would be as well to ask him to dinner again, but Captain Gardiner "did not wish to run after him"; to which I only replied that whatever we might think of the man's character, his good opinion and protection were, humanly speaking, everything to the Mission and to us. Captain Gardiner then consented to ask him but it appeared too late, as he had already taken offence and instead of coming to dine he came into the house for his dirk which I gave him. He then said something in Spanish to Captain Gardiner, but what I could not comprehend, till informed that he had shaken the dirk over Captain Gardiner's head and said "You want this don't you?".

Captain Gardiner then followed him to his tent, taking some biscuit for his children; but this, both he and his wives now refused; and Wesail threw down the hat and the cap before Captain Gardiner's face, giving him to understand that their friendship had terminated. He then mounted his horse to go in search of the rest of his people. Captain Gardiner followed him and in the most earnest manner entreated him to alter his mind and accept the biscuits and be friends again. After much ado Wesail shook hands and rode off. Captain Gardiner then came into the house saying he was glad he had induced him to shake hands, as his throwing back the presents was the greatest token of hostility, so that unless he could have been softened and appeased we could not have been sure of our lives.

Captain Gardiner then began to prepare the present he had intended to give him after all his people had arrived, but he now thought good to do it this afternoon, in order to restore the good understanding that had before subsisted. Wesail did not ride far and on his return Captain Gardiner told him he had a present for him and asked him to come and look at it. He did not hesitate long or much but refused everything till he had stated his grievances which, so far as I could understand them were: first, Captain Gardiner's first refusal to send biscuits to the children, mentioned yesterday, and secondly a like refusal this morning; and that he had also come to me and asked me to give him a biscuit for his child, but instead of complying I had taken no notice but had kept on digging at the wall; and all this he had thought very bad.

He is remarkably fond of his children, which is perhaps the best trait in his character, and I give him full credit for sincerity in making these things the ground of offence. Indeed I had quietly and in the mildest terms possible, remonstrated yesterday against the refusal to send more than two biscuits to the two families, and expressed my belief

that Wesail had not made himself understood when Captain Gardiner supposed that he only wanted to send some to his own children. I had felt myself very awkwardly situated, for Wesail had made me perfectly understand this morning what he wanted, for his words were "One biscuit for my child"; but I felt myself obliged to take no notice because Captain Gardiner had not only refused, but had told me that he would not give biscuit in this way which, from my understanding that these matters were entirely under his control, I perfectly knew to mean that he did not think it right that Wesail's request should be complied with. I could not tell Wesail this, neither would I if I could, and I was equally unable to give him a polite refusal; at the same time it would have been unwise, if not wrong in me, to have done for him what Captain Gardiner had refused to do. Without time for consideration, I thought at the moment it would be best to appear not to hear or understand and I am now by no means sure, that if I had gone to Captain Gardiner and tried to alter his mind, that I should have succeeded in so doing.

But at any rate these circumstances got me into a difficulty again, for when I perceived that Wesail was telling Captain Gardiner of his having asked me also for a biscuit, I could not of course feel myself at liberty to explain the exact state of the case for two reasons: first, if I had stated the true reason for my non-compliance, it would have been at Captain Gardiner's expense; and secondly, the true reason would have made it appear that if I did not feel at liberty myself to give the Chief a biscuit when he begged only one for his child, I was just nobody and consequently my influence and hopes of usefulness among them would disappear altogether. These considerations drove me to the disingenuous trick of asking Captain Gardiner to tell Wesail that I did not understand Spanish; this satisfied Wesail as far as I was concerned, and he accepted the presents which Captain Gardiner made him for the purpose of securing liberty for us to reside among them as missionaries, and protection for our persons and property. These he promised to afford us and engaged to leave two or three families at the station whenever the rest of the tribe were moving about elsewhere. Upon this act of grace he placed a rider "providing always that the aforesaid Wesail and his son Onteachy should eat at our table whenever we ate".

I also had produced the needlework that my friends had given me for his wives and children; these and the other presents pleased but did not satisfy him as he asked for money, upon which Captain Gardiner gave him some Spanish silver and I gave him a handsome purse to put them into; the result was the agreement mentioned above. After supper he parted from us with the strongest expressions of friendship.

Nevertheless I began to see that we were already in a false position, which would greatly diminish if not destroy our hopes of usefulness among them. It had been intended to present the present publicly as a payment for the ground our houses and garden might occupy: and their acceptance by Wesail upon these terms was to be proclaimed by Wesail to his tribe as a proof that he took us and the Mission property under his protection and intended to exert his influence to forward our missionary views. Other matters of importance were also to be explained and settled, so as to secure for us such respect from the people and influence among them, as would promote our views of usefulness, or at

least secure a good understanding upon every important point. But under the above circumstances, so far were these important ends from being gained that Wesail and his people, instead of being impressed with any sense of obligation to us for having left our country and friends to settle among them, with the single view of doing them spiritual good and showing them how to increase their worldly comforts, had seen Captain Gardiner as it were, almost on his knees, begging that we might be reconciled, that Wesail would accept the biscuits for his children and that we might be permitted to remain among them as a favour to ourselves, it would seem, and upon his own terms.

It was not difficult to anticipate that this would encourage both the Chief and his people to make their own demands upon us at their pleasure. The Chilean soldier had told us that Wesail's people were talking of taking our lives at night; we did not regard this much but as Wesail had spoken of using his dirk, while in his passion, we concluded all hope of usefulness was at an end unless he could become reconciled; if this could not be accomplished, we agreed to ask God to send a vessel to take us off, or else graciously direct us to act in any other way according to His Will. It was quite manifest that no dependence could be placed upon Wesail's temper at least, and we began to lose confidence in him in other respects; he also let out the fact that he was not going to stay with us but was going with his tribe to Port Famine, though he added, that he would return when the snow was on the ground.

Many circumstances began to make us doubtful if our present position at Cape Gregory would be tenable for any great length of time, among which were the following - There was no fresh water within four miles that we could confidently depend upon for a constant supply: that which we were near is not a spring and could hardly be called a stream, and the rise of the tide had once already made it salt almost to the very top, and so it remained for several days; there needed therefore only the concurrence of two circumstances viz. a strong east wind and a high tide to cut off this supply entirely. Again, if the Patagonians all left us, we should be exposed to the danger of starving if not of more sudden death at the hands of the notorious Lagoon Indians, against whom the Chilean told us, they were obliged to have a number of soldiers at Port Famine. Of these Lagoon Indians I had heard nothing until I found myself among them. Captain Gardiner first insisted that they were natives of Tierra del Fuego but this turned out to be an error, as they are natives of Patagonia but much inferior in general to the Horse Patagonians. It seems that the best characters among them take their bows and arrows and join the Patagonians, while the bad ones are left to wander by themselves. Another consideration was raised by the apparent great influence that the presents and the priest, Padre Domingo [Fray Domingo Passolini, Ed.], at Port Famine, had gained over the natives, an influence with which we feared ourselves unable to contend. Other minor considerations were the deficiency of firewood, the instability of our houses, etc. Neither as yet had we been able to get any fresh meat, and it began to be doubtful if we could cultivate any vegetables; these latter considerations did not influence us much though, and after prayer at night we felt disposed to think the best of Wesail and his people, and were very thankful that we again appeared to be on good terms with them.

Sunday, March 16th, 1845

This morning the wives and tents of the men that were with Wesail (and some others) began to make their appearance. Wesail seemed to take some part in the arrangement of their localities: his own brother, an interesting young man, had his tent immediately joining that of Wesail. In the course of the morning all the tents arrived; there were not more than ten. They have very few horses with them: Wesail has four but there does not appear to be more than one to each of the other tents, most of them are small and the backs of some of them are raw and sloughly [having peeled or dead skin, Ed.] from the friction of their cruel saddles. Their bridles are made of the sinews of the ostrich etc. and a mere piece of string tied to the under jaw of the horse. They had one pair of Spanish spurs which seemed to be the common property of two or three of them, the rest were instruments made of two pieces of stick each armed with iron and tied one on each side of the foot; these they use unmercifully, their heels being sometimes covered with blood.

One of the most remarkable men among them is an old fellow, who appears to act as orator and probably has some religious office. He is evidently looked up to by the tribe, and I was soon aware that Wesail used him as a tool to move his people at his (Wesail's) will. He takes care to keep him in his interest by paying him little attentions and procuring presents for him from visitors. Accordingly he gave Captain Gardiner a hint to this effect and the old man was greatly pleased by the gift of an old hat, which he tied on the crown of his head with a string of pink tape. Another attractive character is a very ugly old woman of a very masculine appearance, which striking peculiarity in a woman procured her a present of tobacco from Captain Gardiner who fancied she was the old orator and did not find out his mistake till too late to rectify it.

Wesail and Onteachy breakfasted with us this morning. He brought with him the thimbles that formed part of the present he had received and wished to have holes made through the tops of them, by which they might be suspended; his wives also were very clamorous for the rings upon our curtains and for the beads, such as the purse I had given to Wesail was made of. We did our best to make them understand, that the day was our Sabbath, in which we could do no work or attend to any unnecessary business of that nature and that we wished to spend all the day in the worship of God, in prayer and reading His Word etc., but that the thimbles should be bored tomorrow. Captain Gardiner easily explained all this to Wesail and consequently they did not annoy us much and when we began the morning service they all left us to ourselves.

While we were thus engaged we heard them shouting and running about gladsomely [full of joy, Ed.] and soon came near the house exclaiming, so that we might hear "Yini, yini (pronounced Yinny) meaning a ship". When the service was ended we found there was a vessel in the bay, under all sail and with a fair wind and the tide in her favour, apparently determined not to anchor but make for and pass through the Narrows. She appeared to be English or American and about three or four hundred tons burden.

Captain Gardiner immediately made for the shore with his glass; I soon followed and Wesail sent with me his friend, and /Aide-de-camp/, bearing a very light, long pole to assist us in making signals. All was now noise and bustle on the shore, most of the people, men, women and children, perhaps sixty, being assembled there raising smokes and shouting. Soon after I had raised my pocket handkerchief upon the pole, we had the high gratification of seeing the English Ensign floating in the wind and upon my waving my flag in the direction of the land, she shortened sail and approached the spot upon which we were standing.

As there was a bank, now invisible on account of the high tide, stretching out into the bay at right angles to the course she was now steering towards our position, I asked Captain Gardiner if we had better not shift a little, so that if the Commander thought we were making signals for him to anchor in the neighbourhood our position pointed out, we might not be the means of making him run upon this bank. This Captain Gardiner refused to do in the authoritative manner he generally assumed when any suggestion was made to him, observing, as a reason, that the man must be a great fool to run his vessel upon a shoal.

However, as she still continued her course, I took courage to say, that it was becoming evident that she was expecting that we were directing her to an anchorage and the probability was, that unless her Captain had been here before, he would be as ignorant of the position of the shoal as he (Captain Gardiner) and Captain Boyse were, when the /Rosalie/ anchored here. To this the reply was to this effect. "Did I imagine that they would be so foolish as to neglect to sound as they passed on?" But, as I remarked to Captain Gardiner, that would be the means of increasing their dangerous confidence, for there was a great depth of water close up to the very edge of the bank; and it was soon very evident that we were leading them into danger and if she did not alter her course immediately she would be aground.

Captain Gardiner seemed now to be of my opinion, for as I began to run and wave the flag in the direction I thought she should immediately take to avoid the danger, he also began to wave his glass in the same direction in a very earnest manner. Our signals appeared to be understood for, instantly she turned and went off almost at a right angle and not a minute too soon. This rejoiced me exceedingly. Captain Gardiner now said she had done this for the purpose of sending a boat on shore and that she would not anchor as she had not made the necessary preparations in her sails to letting her anchor go: however, as soon as she was well away from the bank, the discoloured water of which it is probable she had at length observed, the necessary preparations were made and down went her anchor and the Captain came ashore about an hour after. This was the first vessel we had seen after the departure of the one that left us here, and she had arrived within a day after we had agreed to ask for one to come. She proved to be the /Commodore/ bound for England direct. Surely this was an answer to our prayers! Her presence, the respect the Captain purposely showed us and other means he used to influence Wesail in our favour, were of the utmost importance to us and we felt under existing circumstances, more particularly the change in Wesail's mind, that we ought to remain and we were glad to be

able to do so.

Having come to this resolution it was necessary that we should, as soon as possible, have a fresh supply of provisions, for the Patagonians were beginning to make some rather unreasonable demands upon our stock, which it was not likely could be replenished before some nine or ten months had passed over us. There arose also the question whether or not we should recommend the Committee to send any other party to our aid. Captain Gardiner's usual custom had been to make up his mind and tell me that he had done so before he talked with me on the subject. "I have made up my mind" was not his expression this time; but instead he very cordially told me what he had been thinking of, and I was glad to find that he considered our duty to the Committee and the Association, required us under existing circumstances, to remain at our post. In this opinion I quite concurred and confidently trusted that, as while doing our duty to the Association we were no less doing our duty to God, we should be at least protected while we remained, and further light would doubtless be vouchsafed to us when the necessities of the case required it.

Having come to the determination to remain, I felt it to be my duty to the cause and to myself to speak to Captain Gardiner regarding the manner in which he frequently treated me. I reminded him that at an early period after our arrival here, I had taken a fit opportunity of saying in the presence of the mess that I considered the Committee had left the entire direction of matters regarding the establishment of the Mission to him and that therefore he must not expect any impertinent interference from me; but on the contrary, I should always be ready to exert myself to the utmost to assist in carrying out any plan that he might determine upon; and while I should always be ready to express an opinion, if it was called for, still I would rather not under the circumstances have any choice in the matter.

(The occasion that gave rise to this conversation was the following - on the Sunday after our arrival at Cape Gregory, Captain Gardiner spoke of going to seek the Patagonians and Captain Boyse, I think, offered to take charge of everything during our absence; this raised the question whether or not I should accompany Captain Gardiner or some one else should go with him. Of course I was anxious to come into communication with the people at the very first opportunity, though I gave no expression to this feeling; but in accordance with the above sentiments I made known my determination to accompany Captain Gardiner or to remain behind at the station, as he might determine. The latter was the plan he resolved on, and accordingly I did not make any of the party who went in search of the Patagonians at this time but remained at the station of course, during the two nights of Captain Gardiner's absence, although no one would stay with me, partly because of the discomfort of the unfinished houses but chiefly perhaps, for fear of the Lagoon Indians, whose various fires not many miles off made Captain Boyse believe were in our neighbourhood.)

I also reminded Captain Gardiner that my conduct had been constantly in accordance with the sentiments I had expressed and that, far from interfering with matters which belonged to his province, I had, so to speak, followed his footsteps as a dog would his master's, although my

judgement frequently convinced me that he was wrong. My motives were to secure such a unity of purpose, hand and heart, as was indispensably necessary to our success and comfort. I added that as regarded spiritual attainments in general, I should be content to carry his shoes but at the same time there was a part of his general behaviour towards me that he must permit me to speak of. If, as I hoped to be, I were permanently settled among the Patagonians, the measure of my success among them would depend, humanly speaking, upon the measure of respect and influence I could gain among them; and what I complained of was that part of his behaviour which necessarily robbed me of my chance of success.

I then specified some of the things to which I alluded, which had caused me to be insulted by the carpenter of the /Rosalie/ and laughed at by some of the Patagonians. I told him that I attributed his harsh and disrespectful manner to the habit of command he had acquired in a Man-of-war, where it was absolutely necessary, and that I should not have mentioned it to him if I had not felt that I might as well return to England for any good that I could do the objects of the Mission, unless I could secure that respect and influence which might eventually secure me their love.

One of the incidents I mentioned to him was the following - Last Saturday after the arrival of Wesail's tents and wives and after we had had all the communication we thought advisable at that time, Captain Gardiner expressed his determination to alter the position of the kitchen stove. I immediately asked if I should assist him or if the Chilean's aid would be enough; receiving no reply, I said I would, for the present, go on with the wall, which I proceeded to do. In the mean time, Captain Gardiner had shifted the stove and then went to nailing up some boards at the gable of the house; in this there was no difficulty and if he wanted anything the Chilean was close to him, whereas I was at the other end of the station, in my shirt sleeves, sweating with hard toil at the ditch and wall, a work that Captain Gardiner at first projected but at which I had received no assistance as yet.

In these circumstances Captain Gardiner shouted for me to come to him, which I did immediately and found him surrounded with Patagonians, among whom were Wesail's wives. He then told me in an authoritative tone, which the people about him noticed, though they could not understand the words, to fetch him half a dozen nails such as he was using. I felt this to be void of all reason but I did not hesitate to comply. I brought them while he stood waiting for them, doing nothing; but instead of thanking me for leaving my own engagement and going from one house to another to wait upon him, he asked me in the same tone why I had not put them in paper. Certainly no such idea had struck me, as he had said nothing about paper, and those he had already used did not appear to have been put in paper by himself. I therefore made no [line missing, Ed.]

I then replied simply, because I had done exactly as he had ordered me. He also said "I can put these in my waistcoat pockets, bring me some of the long thin ones." Upon this I went and brought the little iron pan that contained all the nails and after selecting some of the long thin ones, I gave him some of them and put the pot beside him on the ground. After staying some time and seeing that he wanted no help, I went back

to the other end of the station and resumed my work at the wall, from which he again called me in the same tone of voice to give him a nail from the pot at his feet. This strange conduct was noticed by those who surrounded him and the circumstances gave me considerable pain. I only noticed them however, by mildly remarking, "Sir, the nails are all at your feet".

No sooner did I mention the incidents alluded to than Captain Gardiner remembered them and expressed himself as being hurt on account of the natives having noticed them, and as being very sorry that such things had ever occurred; and added that he was glad that I had attributed them to the true cause viz. a habit he had contracted aboard a Man-of-war; and he assured me he mourned over it every day and was sorry I had not told him of it before, and begged that I would do so at the moment, for the future. This I declined, being sure that it would be better to leave such things for the future to his Christian principles and feelings.

After this satisfactory explanation we proceeded to canvass our future plans. Before we could hear from England in answer to any communication that might be sent by the /Commodore/, eight or ten months would have elapsed; by that time Captain Gardiner would wish to set out for home, at the same time my being left alone was out of the question, some assistance must therefore be asked for; and his, Captain Gardiner's, opinion decidedly was on several accounts, it was not fit that I should be the chief agent in carrying out the designs of the Association: he would, therefore recommend to Sir Thomas Bloomfield, or to whomsoever he wrote, that an unmarried man should be sent out as a catechist and that, as the business of cook, housemaid etc. had been found to occupy so very much of our time, he would recommend that a lad should also come out, whose aid would leave the missionaries more time for their especial duties; with regard to myself, some fit opportunity might be afforded me of visiting England when I must take the opportunity of being ordained. I expressed myself very glad of this mark of his confidence and suggested that it might be much better if the person sent out could speak Spanish, as it would increase his influence and usefulness. Captain Gardiner thought it would be well if either the Missionary or the lad had some acquaintance with that language and he would mention the point in his communication. He would also write for provisions.

These arrangements appeared the best we could recommend, for though we were not certain of our being able to remain, yet, according to present appearances, it was our duty to remain at our post which, if we were permitted to do so for any length of time, the aid we sought would be absolutely necessary by the time it arrived, when every doubt might be removed as to what the subsequent plans should be. If it should so happen that we had been driven from our post, or should not be in life when the aid came, we should have taken care to use the best means in our power of putting correct information in the way of those whom we expected to come out, that they might judge to act most conformably with the instructions and wishes of the Committee. These conclusions we arrived at after having prostrated ourselves in a hollow place near the sea shore to ask counsel and direction of Him Whose servants we were and Whose Will we desired to know and do. We then proceeded to write a few hasty lines to England, as it was likely the vessel would sail again at

the earliest opportunity, we did not expect to be able to write much.

The Captain, Philippe De St. Croix and a boat's crew, well armed, soon arrived. They were going to Liverpool and kindly offered us any assistance in their power. A gentleman passenger, Mr. Kennedy accompanied Captain De St. Croix to the station.

I took a private opportunity of asking Captain Gardiner if he would think it advisable to have Wesail and his chief men in the presence of all these, our countrymen, and come to a perfect understanding on every important point regarding the Mission and what Wesail was to expect from us and we from him. To this Captain Gardiner assented and as both Captain De St. Croix and Mr. Kennedy spoke Spanish as well as Wesail, this interview was of great service to us, although Captain Gardiner confined the arrangement to the point of our having liberty to remain and did not mention the matters I had taken the liberty to suggest, such as this - that Wesail must understand that as we were missionaries and with no more provisions than would suffice to feed ourselves, himself and son according to agreement, he and his people must cease their other unreasonable demands upon our store, or we ourselves might be left to starve before we could receive a fresh supply. I thought this an important omission, but to all that was said Wesail gave an assent that appeared very cordial and requested Captain De St. Croix to tell the people in England that his heart was towards Captain Gardiner, to which Captain Gardiner replied in English, "Yes while I have anything to give you!"

Wesail then went aboard the /Commodore/, Captain Croix and Mr. Kennedy saying they would contrive to impress him with the idea that it would be well for him and his people to treat us well. I fear they did not do the cause in general much good, as some of the crew told him some untruths and asked him to send a woman aboard. We thought it prudent to procure some biscuit from the vessel.

There was also another point which Captain Gardiner wished to arrange with Captain St. Croix viz. with the Patagonians there had arrived another deserter from Port Famine, a desperate character, who seeing his former comrade in possession of our kitchen, gave us to understand that if he was not fed also, he would contrive to show eight or ten of his Patagonian friends how to help themselves without any danger of a denial from us. There was no doubt that he would be able to put his threat into execution, for we had already seen, in the Patagonians themselves, a disposition to steal without any other prompter than a fit opportunity. Captain Gardiner was therefore glad to hear that this desperado would gladly work his passage to any place whither the /Commodore/ would take him; the other Chilean also wished to get away.

I hinted that to take any active measures to send an acknowledged deserter out of the reach of the authorities, who claimed the country in which we were, might furnish them with a reason they would be glad of to oblige us to leave; but Captain Gardiner did not agree with me and concluded that we must get rid of the fellow. Accordingly he requested Captain De St. Croix to take him aboard. This he at once refused to do because, although he would gladly rid us of him if he had contrived to

get aboard without his knowledge, yet this he must now prevent, as it would be a breach of international law to connive at such an escape. He informed us however, that there would be a Government vessel from Port Famine here tomorrow and they would secure him. On account of the other deserter I was sorry to hear this - as he retained his uniform, he could not escape observation - but as it would not be right to warn him, I hoped Captain Gardiner would leave things to take their own course. Indeed any active measure, either to favour or prevent their escape, might have embroiled us with one or other party. But to prevent the dangerous one from becoming more desperate from hunger etc., his old comrade was instructed to let him understand that he might sleep in the kitchen and eat anything that remained after meals.

Wesail stayed but a short time aboard the /Commodore/ and Captain St Croix sent an apology for not coming ashore again, the surf being so high: we therefore had less time for writing than we anticipated. I sent to Sir Thomas Bloomfield a short statement of our tramp in search of the Patagonians with an encouraging remark or two; and to some of my friends a request to forward me such things as my experience taught me would be useful and acceptable to the natives as presents; to the Rev. W. J. Woodcock I expressed my decided opinion that his wife and family ought not to come out, as this is at present no place for ladies or children.

In the evening Wesail again eats with us. I mention to Captain Gardiner my wish to make Wesail useful to me in acquiring the language, and with this view I would always have writing materials on the table at meal times. This he considered a good plan. I may mention here that this morning Wesail brought two of his wives each having a young child to Captain Gardiner, that he might doctor them. There did not appear to be much the matter with either but the youngest exhibited slight signs of indisposition. He gave each of them a very small quantity of Rhubarb and Magnesia; the dose, though so small, operated upon the younger in less than five minutes, shocking the delicacy of the Mother and inducing Wesail himself to run out of the house to get some grass with which he cleaned the floor.

All the people who came into the house were very much interested in a portrait of my brother in water colours. Wesail turned and viewed it in every direction, apparently unable to believe that the figure was not raised from the surface. One of his brothers, who had not been present at the first examination, actually started with fright as soon as his eye rested upon this diminutive likeness; those who had corrected their impressions that it was an animate being /in propria persona/ had a hearty laugh at him.

All were exceedingly delighted with my accordion, which was brought out today much against my will. Wesail insisted upon my playing it, and as Captain Gardiner was not present to explain my motives for declining, I was obliged to comply, after which most of them tried their hands at it. They are fond of singing, but their music is very monotonous.

This night, a number of them of all ages assembled in a tent and sang for several hours. A man appeared to begin by giving the measure in a sort of prelude and then all joined in chorus, each individual retaining

the exact time and accent as given in the prelude, and exactly the same pitch of voice throughout with which each, respectively, began the song. The only variety that there was in each song, after the first measure, was occasioned by the natural difference in the pitch of their voices, which ranged from the deep bass of the men through every grade, up to the shrill treble of the children; very few voices were discordant, the harmony generally being 1.3.5.8. and the octaves to these. In some of the songs the harmony from some of the voices was 1.4.6.8. etc. but although they generally evaded discords, the kind of concord appeared to be the result of chance. The following is a specimen of the words and time of one song and they were all much alike.

Lal lal la lal lal la lal liv al la
Lal lal la lal liv al la

repeated till they were hoarse, the vowels having the Italian sounds. Some consisted of longer stanzas and more complicated time, but this also seemed to be left to chance or the will of the leader. All was done in the dark and I had no opportunity of ascertaining whether it was a convivial or religious performance, or whether or not the old orator was their leader.

Monday, March 17th, 1845

The remarks under yesterday's date were suggested by occurrences on that day but were not written on Sunday. Early this morning the /Commodore/ was out of sight and the wind fair for her passage through the first Narrows.

At breakfast time Wesail brought not only his son Onteachy but also another son, Lux, two of his wives and two young men, his brothers, appearing to expect that they were all to sit at our table. I think that this unreasonable expectation and demand upon our generosity might have been prevented if the suggestion I made yesterday, regarding the necessity of perfect understanding with Wesail upon this point, had been acted upon. It was perfectly out of our power to feed all these people: we therefore laid plates etc. for ourselves, Wesail and Onteachy only, and this was what we had engaged to do. Our not doing more occasioned very dissatisfied looks and finally Wesail distributed messes from his own plate among them, taking care in the meantime to secure enough for himself likewise. He never ceased eating while anything remained on the dishes and before he left he either took possession of any biscuit that might remain on the table or else gave Onteachy a hint to do so. We were obliged to eat our meals with all haste or else retain a good sharp appetite for the next scramble, the dishes being emptied as if by magic.

It soon began to be evident that although our persons were safe from hostility on the part of the Patagonians, yet Wesail had neither the inclination, nor the power, to leave our provisions at our own disposal. In fact our position had become a false one, for instead of being respected and protected as missionaries, our presence and persons were merely tolerated, that the provisions might be squeezed out of us at the

pleasure of Wesail etc. He did not hesitate to come into the house at any time of the day and help himself to biscuit from the barrel, merely holding it up in his hand as he went out again that it might not have the appearance of a sly theft but only a little liberty that he judged we should not question. He had also got into the habit of coming long before meals were ready and when he brought his children and wives with him, as he had done before today, there was no moving in the place: so I asked Captain Gardiner to let him understand that we would send word to him and Oteachy as soon as all was ready for them; this Captain Gardiner assented to and did.

But when dinner time came, Captain Gardiner, being justly displeased with Wesail's unreasonable behaviour, refused at first to send him word, as he wished to break through his practice of coming to meals with us. Against this I could not forbear to urge, modestly, that it was an article in the agreement to which Captain Gardiner had consented, that Wesail and Oteachy should eat with us and this we ought not to attempt to get rid of, except in a straightforward manner; and that to attempt to get our dinner without Wesail, who was waiting for his till he heard from us that it was ready, would be likely to make him angry and compromise our own character. Captain Gardiner then went himself and called Wesail, who appeared to be somewhat displeased and ate but little, which last circumstance might have been occasioned by our having a little piece of guanaco, which he had given us; it was the only piece we had received and the only present made to us. As this meat was common enough to him, this might account for his disinclination to take much with us today.

At tea time there was another dispute between him and Captain Gardiner arising from a misunderstanding about a tin pot. Wesail's wives had observed how convenient our wooden pails and tin pots were, and consequently Captain Gardiner had complied with their request to lend them a water pail and give them a tin coffee cup. This happened I think on Saturday. In the course of this day Captain Gardiner stopped one of Wesail's wives as she was going out of our house with a tin coffee pot in her hand; the pot, he supposed she was attempting to steal, he therefore took it away from her, much against her will. While at tea this afternoon Wesail made a rather positive demand for one of these tin cups and when Captain Gardiner replied that we had none to spare, Wesail warmly dissented from the statement which Captain Gardiner continued to affirm.

I felt sure from Wesail's manner that something was wrong, and we proceeded to count our cups, of which we ought to have five, exclusive of the one Captain Gardiner had given them. We did not appear to have more than five so Captain Gardiner seemed to answer Wesail more positively. I could not understand all that was said but it was very evident that Wesail was getting out of temper. At last Captain Gardiner turned to me and said "He demands one of these cups and says [...] will have it, so I must submit". It was accordingly handed over to them. Ultimately it appeared that the pot Wesail's wife had been carrying away was their own, as upon mustering all ours we had the right number, exclusive of the one Captain Gardiner gave them today.

But the unpleasantnesses were far from ending here. Wesail had previously asked if we had any spirits with us and had been informed that we had some for medicinal and other necessary purposes only. This evening after the tin pot was dismissed, he asked in a somewhat positive tone for some of these spirits that he and some of his friends might get drunk. Against this Captain Gardiner protested in the most feeling and Christian manner, telling him in substance that God had given a most positive command against drunkenness and that missionaries, above all others, could not do anything to contribute to such wickedness etc. But Wesail, who had expressed to the Chilean deserter that was unfriendly to us his dislike of missionaries who had not pleased him in the distribution of their biscuits, only grew more impatient and positive till Captain Gardiner felt himself obliged to produce a bottle, with a request that he would add some water to it before it was drunk. Wesail then departed with the bottle in good humour, leaving us with the conviction that our prospect of usefulness was becoming very limited and that we had better leave at the first opportunity, than be constrained to administer to their sins.

We had hardly time to commit our way to God and ask for a clear light to shine upon our path, before we heard the sounds of drunken revelry from Wesail's tent; and soon after he came again, singing and staggering into the house to ask for more, we feared before we had effected our purpose of throwing it all away, which was the course we had determined on. For some time however, he did nothing but lay his head and hands upon the table and then get up and sing - lel, lel, la etc. But at length he began to talk about Port Famine, saying they all liked Port Famine because there they made him and all his people drunk and boiled large iron pots of /harina/ or meal for them.

This was the prelude to the next act of the evening which was to ask Captain Gardiner to feast his people with meal tomorrow morning, as the greater part of them were going away to hunt and had nothing to satisfy their hunger before they went. However unreasonable this demand was, it was not so bad as that for spirits for the purpose of getting drunk, and as it was in vain to reason with a drunken man, especially of his character, Captain Gardiner promised to do as he required. He then walked out with the friend that had accompanied him.

Soon after Captain Gardiner happening to go out of the house saw him lying on the ground close to our door and supposing he had been overcome by the spirits, said "Wesail" (no reply) "Wesail, you had better go to your tent and not lie on the ground here." To this no significant reply was given, and Captain Gardiner discovered that Wesail had met with and detained a female who it seemed was nothing loath; plenty of people were about still, no privacy had been sought; which confirmed what I heard from a sailor with whom I had remonst[rated] on account of his behaviour to the Patagonian woman viz. It is not such an easy matter to make these husbands jealous

About ten o'clock this night we emptied our spirits that we had intended for medicine etc. and for the spirit lamp into the water, so that we could not be again compelled to minister to the sin of drunk[en]ness but we still very seriously feared that it would become our duty to leave

these people at the first opportunity; for Padre Domingo, and others at Port Famine, had obtained so much influence over them as to counteract all our efforts, unless we could supply them with clothes, food and drink; this latter was now as much out of our power as it was opposed to our duty, and we quite anticipated that we should be left without food; but if we could have consented to supply these three things, Wesail gave us to understand that he would become a Christian - that is, as he had learnt to understand the term "a Christian" at Port Famine etc. he would wear the clothes that might be given him. This would indeed have been something like adorning the outside of a sepulchre.

While we were again considering the duties that our position demanded of us, I told Captain Gardiner what I had been thinking of for several days; and the Patagonians had not been with us two days before I was convinced that plan was the only one that would give the Mission a chance of success. The important features of the plan were: - That I should adopt the Patagonian mode of living so far as absolutely necessary and accompany them in their wandering from place to place, depending upon them for supplies of food and any assistance that I might require in moving my tent etc. Secondly, that instead of being encumbered with such a stock of provisions as would oblige me to remain at a station and would excite the cupidity of the Patagonians and the Lagoon Indians, I should be empowered to obtain such supplies from vessels passing the straits or from other sources, as would enable me to satisfy the Patagonians for every assistance they had previously rendered me.

The chief difficulty of this plan, with respect to myself, was the great probability that my life would be terminated by the hardships and exposure to the winter nights etc. before any adequate good could be effected. This probability was much confirmed by my experience during our four days tramp in search of the Patagonians. There was also the probability that, if I accompanied the people either to Port Famine or the North, the Spaniards would put an end to the Mission as soon as its object became known, or at least my efforts would be counteracted and embarrassed by the Roman Catholic priest at Port Famine. These amongst other reasons satisfied me that it was not my duty to make this attempt and Captain Gardiner concurred with this opinion, although he seemed to think that some such plan afforded the only hope of benefiting these poor people.

In the course of this day Captain Gardiner twice urged me to think about making an attempt among the Araucanians, but each time we considered the matter, difficulties originating in the present state of Chile and the character and feeling of the Araucanians presented themselves; and these difficulties, Captain Gardiner concluded, would be insurmountable without some previous conversation about these matters. I gave him to understand that having abandoned my country and lost my home in order to assist in carrying out the views of the Committee, I held myself at their disposal and would gladly make any attempt that they would sanction. He then gave me to understand that the Committee had given him no positive and particular instructions but a /carte blanche/ so that he must act as circumstances appeared to demand; to which I replied that I would most gladly and cordially cooperate with him in any attempt that I

had not reason to think was utterly impracticable, or else was likely to result in nothing adequate to the expectations of the Committee.

Both of us were decidedly of the opinion that, as Tierra del Fuego was an object of the Committee's solicitude, our duty to them and the Association required that we should not return to England without at least ascertaining that it was impracticable to do any good there, and we were quite willing to meet any danger that a prudent attempt might involve. One of the difficulties to be anticipated in Tierra del Fuego, as well as with the Araucanians, was their unwillingness to receive missionaries or others; and another difficulty was the receipt and security of the necessary supplies. With regard to Tierra del Fuego it was certain, I remarked, that the north eastern part was the most likely, on account of the great superiority in the number and character of the tribe inhabiting that part and the great superiority of its climate and soil; it also possessed a good harbour, accessible to ships, without encountering the dangers of the Straits and not so much out of the way of vessels going round the Horn as Cape Gregory is. In fact it is the part that Captain King recommended as fittest for a British settlement. It would not indeed enjoy the advantage of a call from any vessel that was not instructed to touch there; but I understood Captain Gardiner to agree that it was the most likely part to make an attempt upon, or inasmuch that he said nothing to the contrary. The matter was then left to more mature consideration.

I then took the liberty of hinting that, if it should happen that nothing could be done here, it would be a great loss to the Missionary cause if the energies of the Committee and Association and their funds should be exhausted for want of being directed to some one of the many vacant fields of labour; and I ventured to suggest that possibly they would gladly exert themselves to support as their own Mission, some other station, which the Church Missionary Society or the Colonial Church Missionary Society might recommend and assist them in the management of. Captain Gardiner thought this not improbable, as there were already some such Associations in connection with the Church Missionary Society.

Tuesday, March 18th, 1845

Early this morning, Captain Gardiner said he had spent a great part of the night in anxiously considering what plan we had better pursue, and had come to the conclusion that we had better go to Port Famine by the vessel we expected from that place and there mature our plans for the future after having obtained all the information we could. His present intentions were to hire a vessel at Port Famine or at Valparaiso and make it the depository of our stores and persons, till we should feel ourselves safe among the Fuegians, or ascertain that nothing could be done for them. Meanwhile I might be able to obtain assistance in learning the language and when at Tierra del Fuego we might get a native to live with us aboard and accompany us ashore in our daily visit to his countrymen. This I thought a practicable plan if the expense of the vessel would not be an obstacle. To this Captain Gardiner replied

whatever expense was incurred more than the Committee would be justified in paying, he would engage to make up.

Soon after this conversation, we were quite confirmed in the propriety of our quitting our present station, by learning that Centurion (San Leon) and his tribe now much more numerous than the others, were entirely and completely under the influence of the Chileans and that two of Centurion's sons were at Port Famine under the care of Padre Domingo, their instructor. Moreover we understood that every effort was being made by Chile to attach the Patagonians to her interests, as a struggle was expected to commence immediately between Chile and Rosas, for the possession of the south eastern parts of Patagonia. Captain Gardiner said the Chileans had hitherto thwarted all his attempts to benefit their portion of South America; and as for Rosas' party, they would not even spare our lives if in coming against Port Famine they should hear of our station and object.

The circumstances referred to and others not mentioned appeared to decide two points. First, we could not remain long in the country. Secondly, if we could have hoped to remain at our posts it nevertheless appeared certain that little or no good could be expected to result from our efforts, and therefore it was manifest that the Committee's energies might be more profitably expended elsewhere. As Captain Gardiner expressed his view of the case, the Mission had been commenced too late, for the Chileans had succeeded in bringing them (the Patagonians) under their influence and Padre Domingo had wound them round his thumb. Captain Gardiner also believed that Wesail's character had very much deteriorated during the last three years.

Wednesday, March 19th, 1845

I do not wonder the success which attended the Politico-Religious object of the settlement at Port Famine, for the principal agents and more especially Padre Domingo seemed to have been well selected for the purpose. The latter appears to be a remarkably amiable, beneficent and self denying man, not only making himself all things to all men, but also knowing how to relax the rigour of his creed and discipline so as to retain the licentious people with whom he had to do within the bounds of a Christian profession, and in apparent subserviency to his spiritual authority; what he was not obliged to see he winked at, and when one of his people took some liberties, that he was obliged to witness, with the wife of a Patagonian, he merely said in a half serious, half comic manner, O John! O John! All men spoke well of him. When Captain Gardiner was in Chile, Padre Domingo was Superior of the College of Castro in Chiloe. Thus he verified the assertion of Macaulay: "Rome has also a force disposable at a moment's notice for foreign service, however dangerous or disagreeable. If it is thought at headquarters that a certain priest has talent and character to qualify him for a distant Mission, the necessary order is instantly given and instantly obeyed. Immediately the faithful servant of the Church is preaching, catechising, and confessing in another and distant part of the world. The whole Church is still sending forth to the farthest ends of the

earth missionaries as zealous as those who landed in Kent with Augustine... Her acquisitions in the New World have more than compensated her for what she has lost in the old. Her spiritual ascendancy extends over the vast countries which lie between the plains of the Missouri and Cape Horn". (1840)

While getting up this morning, Captain Gardiner told me that he now thought the best plan would be to buy a boat and put a deck upon her, so that she would contain our provisions and serve as a place of refuge in a case of necessity and enable us to procure provisions from Port Famine, where we might also get a strong house made, to be erected upon Dawson Island, which is opposite Port Famine. To this I replied in substance that I had yesterday given a hearty assent to the plan he had then mentioned, as the only practicable one but this appeared to be so different in several of the details, that I could not venture an opinion without mature consideration; my present impression was that, if it was not impracticable, it was nearly useless.

His reply was that there was no alteration in the plan except the substitution of a small vessel for a larger, that would require too great an outlay. I then reminded him that Port Famine was a Government Settlement, therefore they could not sell us provisions at least without an order from the government of Chile, which certainly would not be given to forward a Protestant Mission on an Island that they claimed. I was equally certain that they would not give us provisions to enable us to prosecute an object to which their Government was strongly opposed; they had only to tell us (what the deserter said was a fact) they were short of provisions for themselves, and then they would feel themselves justified in starving us from the place.

But supposing the plan practicable, would it not be nearly useless? For in Dawson Island there were few, if any, inhabitants and the Port Famine colony wished to keep them farther off, according to the Chilean's account; and they had increased the number of their soldiers fourfold, to secure themselves against the marauding habits of these Indians and the Patagonian Lagoon Indians. Moreover the inhabitants of the vicinity of Dawson Island are, according to Captain King and others, few and very barbarous and their language different to that of the mass of the Fuegians. The aspect, climate etc. of the little island were also greatly inferior to that of the north-eastern parts of Tierra del Fuego; and as soon as the barbarians knew that we possessed a little boat filled with provisions, we might expect them to assemble in their canoes and attack us, when our only chance of escape in the narrow Straits that surround this little island, would be to shoot some of them; which, supposing the circumstances justified us in so doing, would at once put an end to the Mission in that quarter; and if we allowed the provisions to be stolen and escaped with our lives, we should equally be obliged to quit the station. Such considerations as these led me to think that the funds could not be well spent in an attempt upon Dawson Island, especially as the north-eastern part of Tierra del Fuego appeared to be preferable in every respect.

Captain Gardiner then said that he had not determined upon making the attempt upon Dawson Island, neither had he intended to try the

north-eastern part of Tierra del Fuego: for there we could not procure provisions, as the little boat could not safely navigate the Magellan Straits. The determination to go to Port Famine was retained and consequently the construction of the wall and every other improvement at the Station was discontinued.

Towards noon the vessel from Port Famine made its appearance and we hastened down to the shore, wishing to communicate with them before they spoke to the natives, who were all in a state of great excitement; even those who had gone to hunt, after having feasted at the expense of the Mission, were hastening back from every quarter; the vessel soon sent off a boat but they seemed very reluctant to touch the shore till they heard our English voices directing them to the east landing place. In the boat were Mr Dunn, the Secretary of the Colony at Port Famine or San Felipe, as they called it. Mr Dunn's parents were both English. The sailing master was an American, late Mate of the /Express/ wrecked near the Straits, and among the boat's crew was a man whom Captain Gardiner had known at Falkland Islands; each of these three spoke English.

We were immediately invited to go aboard the Government Schooner, /Ancud/; Ruperto Gatica, Lieut. Commander. We accepted the Invitation and on our way they put as many leading questions as enabled them to ascertain who we were, what we were about and upon what terms we were with the natives etc. This led to their being informed of our wish that they would give us a passage to San Felipe, to which Mr Dunn replied that he had no doubt that this point could be arranged. Among other things, they asked how we had contrived to be so well acquainted with the state of San Felipe, and this led to Captain Gardiner's mentioning the two deserters, upon which Mr Dunn said, in a rather peculiar manner, that one object of their coming was to catch them.

On our going aboard the /Ancud/ we were exceedingly well received and Captain Gatica expressed the utmost readiness to do everything in his power for us, and assured us that the Governor of San Felipe, Major Ribera, would be equally obliging. We were then informed that they had expected that our Station was a settlement of Buenos Ayreans, sent by Rosas, to take possession of the disputed territory. This accounted for their being in no haste to come ashore. I became satisfied that the chief reason for their presence at Cape Gregory was to see what was going on; and I have little doubt that they had some Indian or other spy, in our neighbourhood, to inform them if any hostile Indians or no less inimical Buenos Ayreans happened to appear hereabout. Some of my reasons for this opinion were the following (which have a place here because the facts influenced our determination to return home).

The boundary dispute between Chile and Buenos Aires has been attempted to be settled by the mutual agreement that the Cordilleras shall be the boundary; which arrangement would hardly give so western a point as Port Famine even to the Chilean territory. But Chile affects to believe that the Cordilleras, or a branch of them, runs S.E. towards the mouth of the Santa Cruz river. In this case the whole of the south of Patagonia belongs to Chile and thus they would possess all the straits and all Tierra del Fuego. This claim Chile is determined to support and accordingly they are fortifying and strengthening Port Famine against an

expected attack from Rosas. Captain Gatica distinctly allowed that they expected this attack either by land or sea and that they were preparing to resist it. They knew that Rosas was attempting to secure the assistance of the Patagonian tribes and therefore they might expect an attack by land and he affirmed that he knew of the report that Rosas was about to break up their settlement by sending a Man-of-War.

Here then is a reason why common prudence should make them decide upon procuring early information of anything particular happening to the East of them. That they did get this information is probable because when the English vessel /Ganges/ arrived at Cape Gregory this afternoon, her Captain, Mr Gibson told us that he had heard at Port Famine that two Englishmen from the Falkland Islands were here. This report, partly true, partly false might have originated in this manner. We had latterly told all the Indians we saw that we were English, Captain Gardiner's name had become known; these two things being reported at Port Famine and reaching the ears of the man who had known Captain Gardiner at the Falkland Islands and had left them (the islands) to go to Port Famine, while Captain Gardiner was still residing at the Falklands, would naturally give rise to the report that Captain Gibson of the /Ganges/ had heard at Port Famine.

Captain Gatica's doubts of our character and country are explained by the fact of his having left Port Famine several days before the /Ganges/ arrived there. The Lagoon Indians left us and went towards Port Famine ten days ago, and he whom we first saw had made several trips and signals in that direction. This man might have communicated by signals, or through the medium of other Indians in the neighbourhood, the fact of our arrival and setting up houses; and the Lagoon Indians who last left us might have carried the news that only Captain Gardiner and another Englishman had been left ashore.

But still more important facts are: - The Chileans think they have discovered a good coal mine in the neighbourhood of Sandy Point. From the character of the strata at Cape Gregory I think this very unlikely; but if it be true, it is of great importance to them to take possession of the Straits and employ steam tugs, which would render the navigation safe and facilitate their communication with the East, by superseding the necessity of doubling Cape Horn and perhaps supersede the meditated canal over the Isthmus of Panama. The possession of the Straits is therefore to be contested by Chile and Rosas and already every effort is being made by both parties to secure the co-operation of the Patagonian tribes. It appears that Centurion and Wesail have given in their adherence to Port Famine and the Northern tribes to Rosas. In the midst of this strife we were powerless for good, our object being considered hostile by both parties, each of whom claims, in a moral as well as a physical point of view, the ground we have attempted to occupy, We also find that Tierra del Fuego is within the wind of this connection and this has blasted the hopes we had entertained of doing something in that quarter. According to Captain G's opinion, Chile would not tolerate us and Rosas's persecution would be much more decided. (In this place the remarks which commence this day's entry should have been written.)

Soon after noon the English vessel /Ganges/, Captain Gibson made her

appearance and anchored in the bay. The /Ancud/ immediately sent a boat to her with a request that Captain Gibson would visit them on his way to the shore. This Captain Gibson did. Meanwhile the additional information we had received from Captain Gatica had decided that we should return to England immediately, in order to prevent the Committee from making arrangements to send anyone else out. As soon therefore as Captain Gibson came ashore, Captain Gardiner requested him to take us home. He replied that he had not room nor provisions for us, to which we answered we could occupy part of the half deck and put up with anything he could afford us. The result was he consented to take us for a reasonable sum, with the understanding that we must put up with things as we found them. We therefore requested him to see Captain Gatica as he returned to the /Ganges/ and inform him of our altered plans.

It seems that however willing the Chileans were to take us out of the country to Port Famine, they were still more glad to hear that we were about to return to England. Fearful that the Indians would steal our provisions etc. in the night if they heard immediately of our determination to leave them, we requested that both crews would be silent on the subject and our preparations were begun within doors. Captain Gatica and Mr Dunn were anxious to have as many of our things as they could procure with their slender funds, so Captain Gardiner busied himself with showing them everything that could be disposed of, while I packed up my valuables in my two large boxes, large portmanteau and two other packages: so that before the next morning all my things were ready to go aboard, except a change of linen that was hanging up to dry. This I mention because the necessary haste I made occasioned the loss of nearly the whole in the following way.

Thursday, March 20th, 1845

Captain Gibson, being anxious to get everything aboard as soon as possible, came early this morning, Thursday the 20th and took a boat load of the provisions, and returned a little before noon for another load. Most of my things being ready, they were taken to the boat with some more of the provisions and one or two of Captain Gardiner's boxes.

Captain Gardiner and myself being busy in the house did not observe that a squall had come on, almost as violent as that of the 23rd of last month, which had on that day upset us on the /Rosalie/'s jolly boat when about to go aboard the vessel for the Sunday services. These squalls would not be so dangerous in the open sea but, meeting the tide in this bay, they raise such short, abrupt cross waves as are highly dangerous to small boats. It was another of these squalls that was nearly fatal to Captain Boyse and myself and the crew of the long boat at a later part of the same day on which I had been bathed by the swamping of the jolly boat. With these circumstances Captain Gibson was not acquainted and we, not knowing the state of things in the Bay, did not warn him; he therefore ventured, being ignorant of his danger, although he did not like the look of the sea. The consequence was that as soon as they got into the tide, she began to fill, they did their best to reach the /Ganges/ but wind and tide not suffering them, they were driving fast

out to sea, without being able to bale her out, the lading not allowing them to get at the water. There were nine souls in the boat, one of their oars was broken and they had been obliged to use the bayonets of the guns for thole pins, these latter having also broken: they were in fact about to sink. Captain Gibson therefore did, very reluctantly but very properly, the only thing likely to save them, he ordered the cargo to be thrown overboard, which enabled them to keep afloat and after three hours hard pulling, they contrived to reach the shore at a distant part of the Bay.

We knew nothing of this danger till late in the evening when Captain Gibson reached the Station, in order to explain and apologise. We heartily congratulated him on his escape and that of the crew and two boys, Henry and Robert Stevenson, passengers from Valparaiso to Edinburgh for their education. The safety of these nine souls was not to be compromised by any hopeless attempt to save the lading of the boat, however valuable: we therefore cheerfully and fully justified Captain Gibson in acting as the extremity demanded. Of the whole cargo nothing was saved but a chest of tea, a box of Captain Gardiner's and a saddle and a mattress of mine; while to the unthankful sea were thrown, among other things, my bedding, clothes, many books, sundry presents I had received as tokens of respect, my letters, memorandum books, testimonials, all my manuscripts, accumulated during the last fifteen years as several articles valued by me chiefly as heirlooms or mementoes of a large family circle and other friends of whom nothing substantial remains to me in this life. My private Journal of the Patagonian Mission I had retained on shore.

Aboard the /Ganges/ this afternoon the greatest anxiety prevailed as we could see from their signaling the /Ancud/; this feeling arose we afterwards heard from their uncertainty of the fate of the boat and crew, which they could not ascertain, the weather not allowing them to send a boat ashore till late in the evening; but as the gale relaxed its force, their glass enabled them to see the boat ashore some miles off which led them to conclude that she had upset at sea and been driven thither by the wind and waves. To find all the persons safe was an agreeable surprise to them and to those aboard the /Ancud/, for from both vessels the critical state of the boat and the efforts made to save her had been anxiously watched, till all was hidden from them by the waves. Immediately after Captain Gibson reached us in the evening, an officer from the /Ancud/ came and informed me that a boat and crew belonging to the /Ganges/ had been lost; had he arrived a little earlier, we should have mourned an unreal calamity: but now it was my pleasure to tell him the sequel of the tragedy, with this result that all the spectators in both vessels seemed as satisfied as the audience on shore.

During the day padre Domingo was busy among the Patagonians, over whom he seemed to have considerable influence; he had been in their neighbourhood many months and had acquired a short vocabulary of their language, which is extremely harsh and guttural especially from the mouths of the men, who seem to make an effort to speak not only through, but with their throats. Hearing them, the language seems neither copious nor fluent, but to consist of little more than a chain of consonants of

which the gutturals seem to stick in their throats as if they were rooted in their bowels. In pronouncing the dentals, the tongue is retained upon the teeth by a forcible pressure and the passage of the breath through the larynx is prevented as in straining: which occasions a disagreeable pause, followed sometimes by the addition of another syllable to the end of the word, when the pressure is suddenly withdrawn. Thus my name was often pronounced Hunt.....er instead of Hunt; similarly as I think, the name of one of Wesail's sons became Ontea....chy for when no particular effort was made to pronounce the word, they would call him Onteach.

Owing to the unfavourable circumstances in which we were placed with regard to them, their friendly intercourse with us was exceedingly limited and therefore very little could be learnt from them or of them, but what we saw and experienced was far from making any favourable impressions of their character. They are by no means so ill looking as I had expected to find them; a large proportion of them were well made and the countenances of a few of the women very expressive of those feelings which become the sex in civilized society; the eyes of some of these would thank you very eloquently for giving their young child a bit of biscuit. Though clothed with nothing but a mantle they were scrupulously careful not to expose their persons, indeed most of them put on the appearance of maidenly modesty, though there were some enormous exceptions, chiefly among the older women.

They were all very anxious to secure some biscuits, as these were wheeled away towards the shore; the iron carriage was completely surrounded by the women, who with noisy mirth, pretended to assist the sailors to push but in reality they hindered them all they could and continued to cut a hole in one of the bags and help themselves. In this feat the prettiest of Wesail's wives had her foot hurt, one of the wheels passed over it but she made light of the wound. Wesail himself acted a very dishonest part, for he was the ringlead[er] in an attempt to steal a barrel of pork: in fact the attempt was successful, but we got it again with Mr Dunn's assistance. Wesail did not appear ashamed when he was detected, and when Captain Gardiner called him a thief (/ladron/) he merely walked away, somewhat out of humour; but this did not prevent his giving us a cold shake of the hand when he left this afternoon to go to Port Famine. In this movement he had been preceded by most of his people. I presume the people from the /Ancud/ had persuaded them to this step for the note of preparation (/largo/) was given, and some took their departure early in the morning, before we could suppose that they anticipated our movements.

Wesail was also guilty of an act of treachery. He had harboured the deserter that was our enemy and whom I think he must have known to be such, and had given him to understand that he should be safe and fed; but two or three heads of tobacco induced him to entrap him and deliver the poor fellow up; he even detained him till the Chileans fetched him away in his own tent, as a prisoner, where he had previously treated him as a friend. The opinion that the Chileans entertained of the degree of confidence to be placed in the Patagonians was most obvious, for while trafficking with them for mantles and making them presents of scarlet cloth etc., Captain Gatica would never allow the men to come ashore

without being well armed, and everyone was surprised that we should be easy in our defenceless state. The boats also of the /Commodore/ and /Ganges/ were supplied with fire arms.

The great body of the Patagonians left us about midday. To see these people who, if under the influence of pure and undefiled Christianity should doubtless become mentally and physically a fine race of men, abandon themselves to papal influence, could not be [other than] distressing to any Protestant Christian mind, but more especially to those who had hoped to show them a better way; my last look at them as they passed over the inhospitable plain towards Port Famine was therefore a sad one; following their track a few hundred yards to a sheltered hollow which had frequently been the House of God to me, I committed them to Him, Who judgeth the people righteously and governeth the people upon earth. I had been willing to risk everything to stay with them, indeed we had been nigh unto death and were willing to risk all again and again, if there had been hope; therefore this consolation was remaining. We had, as it were, been forbidden by the Holy Ghost to preach the Word to them. And shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? Humanly speaking, that which satisfied the Committee will justify us. The attempt has been honestly made to the verge of possibility, I might almost say, and I trust that by everyone it has been done as unto the Lord and it has failed, at least so far as the Patagonians are concerned; but good is the Will of the Lord.

Two officers of the /Ancud/ slept with us on the floor this night, our beds being gone aboard and their boat not being able to fetch them.

Friday, March 21st, 1845

Two or three Patagonians came back to take a look at us and perhaps to see if anything was left that they could pick up. Various things were necessarily left, among them one of the houses and the coals. These we supposed the Chileans would secure after we had sailed.

Aboard the /Ganges/. About noon we took our last foot from the land. All its attractions had ceased when the hope of benefiting its inhabitants perished. The country now appears to me in its true character, a naked, barren, irreclaimable waste. A thin superficial layer of vegetable mould supports its coarse grass which has a seared appearance on account of the great lack of moisture. This want of humidity would render any extensive attempt at agriculture abortive, and if a kitchen garden were formed it must be constantly watered by hand. In its naturally arid state it does not even give nourishment to a single earth worm. The subsoil is reddish, half-indurated clay but which, at some feet distance from the surface, becomes less hard and of a slate colour, at least in the neighbourhood of the little creek north east of the Station. These qualities of the soil, want of rain and the almost incessant and tremendous winds forbid the growth of trees, and accordingly there is not a single one in the southeastern part of Patagonia, neither did we see one on our westward wanderings, though there are plenty at Port Famine and westward of it. There are a very few sloe bushes and a dwarf

species of shambling /lignum vitae/ is rather less scarce; towards the hills and Gregory Range a species of insipid cranberry is plentiful and the berries are also very plentiful. There are a few herbs among which the celery is most abundant. No clover or any other species of trefoil.

Wild duck and geese are plentiful in the neighbourhood of Oazy Harbour and ostriches [Darwin's rhea, Ed.] are not scarce. No freshwater fish near Cape Gregory. The only edible marine ones are the mussel and another bivalve which may sometimes be got at low water. The only wild quadrupeds we saw were the field mouse, the fox, the puma, the wild cat and the guanaco. The only domestic animals hares and dogs. Lizards appeared abundant. I do not take upon me to describe the animals or vegetables of the country, I only briefly allude to what I myself observed on the land and to the above should be added a few birds that were unknown to me, chiefly falcons, buzzards, hawks etc, also plover and jack snipe. There is no fresh water that can be depended upon within several miles of Cape Gregory, and all the fire wood might be consumed by a couple of families in a month.

Captain Gardiner succeeded in hiring the Mate's cabin for us: otherwise we must have slept in the half deck among the men and exposed to the smell of ammonia arising from the cargo of guano.

Sunday, June 15th, 1845

Our voyage home was favourable, but the vessel was deeply laden and very wet fore and aft, and so leaky that the pumps were going during a very considerable part of each watch throughout the whole voyage.

On Sunday night June 15th we made the Cove of Cork to which the skill of the Captain, Mr J. Gibson had conducted us exactly, although we had seen no land between Cape Virgins, Patagonia and Cape Clear, Ireland. As the vessel was a slow sailor and we had been overtaken north of the Line by the /Glenswilly/, Captain Gardiner determined to go on by her, in order if possible, to prevent the Committee engaging anyone to go to Cape Gregory in consequence of our application for aid. The two vessels were in sight of each other for three days and as Captain Gardiner was obliged to go on to Scotland in the /Glenswilly/, I might have been in London almost as soon as he but we were detained at Cove day after day for nearly a week, during which time I had an opportunity of seeing Cork, Blarney etc. Having heard that Miss Isaac Wilson of Kendal was in Cork, I waited upon her in the hope of hearing news of Kendal friends, but did not get much information.

Saturday, June 21st, 1845

This evening sailed for Bristol and arrived in the Avon on Monday evening. The passage up this river to Bristol was a most delightful one. Cleared the Custom House and set out for London on Wednesday evening. Arrived at Berwick House, Oxford Street early in the morning of

Thursday. Saw Mr Ritchie and received a letter from Sir Thos. Bloomfield saying he had fixed the Committee Meeting for two o'clock next Monday to give me an opportunity of being in Brighton in time.

Saturday, June 28th, 1845

Went to Greenwich to see my excellent friends the Ritchies.

Sunday, June 29th, 1845

Morning at the Rev. Montgomery's Chapel..... did not hear him. Evening at the Rev. B..... Conduit Street, Regent Street..... did not hear him.

Monday, June 30th, 1845

To Brighton. Found that the Committee had been most active in taking measures for our relief and assistance. Sir Thos. Bloomfield and Sir Edward Parry had prevailed upon the Admiralty to order a Government steamer to run to Cape Gregory and afford us every assistance in their power. [They] were preparing to send us out provisions and had engaged a young gentleman as my assistant, who was coming out forthwith. This Mr Gonzalvez was a native of Cuba and a Roman Catholic, but he and his family had become Protestants and connected themselves with the Methodists; as I understand, he was highly esteemed by the Committee. I had not the pleasure of seeing him.

The Committee were of course, much disappointed at our being obliged to leave Patagonia. Captain Gardiner's and my Journal had been read at previous Meetings and we were cordially congratulated upon our having been so mercifully preserved in many dangerous and trying circumstances. Captain Gardiner was called upon to make a statement of his views for future operations, and I was called upon for my opinion and to say if I should be willing to attempt to carry them out.

Many parts of Captain Gardiner's plan were quite new to me; he had talked of many plans while on the first part of our voyage, but they changed and varied almost daily; but it was manifest to all that many important probabilities were unprovided for and some things, anticipated by Captain Gardiner as advantages, were equally likely to prove the reverse; for instance, we were to cross the Cordilleras from Chile just before the winter set in, so that when in the country of the Pehuenches, the people to whom we were to go, no person could follow to molest us for six months, during which time we might obtain a friendly influence over the Indians, But as we could take neither tents, baggage nor provisions with us, it was obvious that if the natives did not receive us kindly and provide us with everything during all this time, the circumstance of our not being able to communicate with any outpost would be certain death to us who would have to go viz. Mr Gonzalvez and

myself. In fact I had lost confidence in Captain Gardiner's judgement, which was completely at the command of his zeal; but I told the Committee that I was ready to go anywhere, if only I could be sure that I was not tempting God but only following the leadings of His Providence and therefore obeying his Call.

The feeling of the Committee was expressed by a principal member to this effect - they must as a public body, having their constituents' money in charge, act with prudence and their measures must be directed to accomplish the exact designs of the Association but, as Captain Gardiner had previously told them upon the strength of his own observations, made three years since, that Cape Gregory was the only point open to Missionaries and now recommended them to try another part of the same continent and that, without any information so recent as that he had previously communicated, it appeared that such an attempt would have too much the appearance of a speculation and as the Committee could not spare any part of their reputation for wisdom, he thought this attempt should not be made till more recent information was found to corroborate Captain Gardiner's views of the probabilities of success.

Dr Williams, Rector of Woodchester, had proposed that I and Mr Gonzalez should make another attempt at Cape Gregory but the Doctor had not seen our Journals and although it is not very improbable that another attempt made under somewhat different circumstances, might prove more happy, it would now be premature. The Committee adjourned till tomorrow, after passing a resolution not to disorganise the Association but put out the funds at interest till more decisive measure[s] could be taken.

Tuesday, July 1st, 1845

/Resolutions at adjourned Meeting follow./

Resolutions agreed to at a Meeting of the Committee of the Brighton Missionary Association for Patagonia held at 68, Regency Square, Brighton on Tuesday July 1st 1845

Resolved - That the Committee desire to record the sense which they unanimously entertain of Mr Hunt's singleness of aim and devoted zeal during the short period of his connection with the Society as a Catechist and under the very perilous and trying circumstances in which he had been placed and their trust that he will still prove a valuable labourer in the Missionary Field.

Resolved - that in consideration of his services and the relinquishment of his situation as master of an Endowed School on his joining the Mission and the loss of his baggage and other valuable property in the Straits of Magellan, the sum of One Hundred Pounds, being his salary for one year, be granted him and that every exertion be made to forward his views of being still employed as a Missionary, in connection with the Church Missionary or some other Society.

Signed Thos. N. Bloomfield Knt.

In consequence of the above resolutions, the Committee communicated with the Church Missionary Society and it resulted that I entered the C.M. College on Sept. 19th 1845 after having been to read for six weeks with Dr Williams, Rector of Woodchester, Gloucestershire; was ordained Deacon by the Lord Bishop of London at St James' on June 18th 1848; and Priest, May 13th 1849 at Chester by letters dimissary from the Bishop of London to the Bishop of Chester. This arrangement was kindly made by the Bishop of London in order that I might get Priest's Orders before sailing to my destination; it being expected that I should have to embark before Trinity Sunday and, had not any other Bishop held an ordination before that day, his Lordship most kindly expressed his readiness to have a special ordination on my account.

In the interval of receiving Deacon's and Priest's orders, I remained at College; but on account of my previous hard reading having brought on a chronic attack of indigestion, I had not much Sunday duty, only occasionally taking the evening duty at Highbury and occasionally assisting the clergy at Islington.

On Friday, April 27th 1849 I was, in answer to many prayers, most happily united in marriage to Miss A. G. C. Wathen, third daughter of Josh. Wathen Esq., Stanley Park, Gloucestershire at King Stanley Church, by the Rev. J. K. Davidson.

Extracts from /Rosalie/'s Log -- omitted