
D 8065/1(L) Diary of W.A. Crowder transcribed and researched by volunteers at the State Library of South Australia in 2007

Entries from 21 November 1871 – 14 April 1872 were transcribed by Ernest Roe

Entries from 15 April 1872 – 27 August 1873 were transcribed by Helen Davies

Research and annotations by Kay Anson and Helen Davies.

[This transcript starts from the middle of the diary with Crowder's ink account of the ship journey from Adelaide from about Monday July 26, 1871. Then we jump to one end of the diary to explore an optional alternative pencil version of the same trip, beginning "Thursday 27 July. Sailed from Port Adelaide in S.S. Aldinga, was sick about 1 hour after starting rather rough at night..."

The more substantial part of W.A. Crowder's diary, his trip from Port Darwin, begins Tuesday November 21st 1871, and finishes in Adelaide with a happy flourish 'Finis' in large letters on Friday November 15th 1872, about half way through the book. After about four months into this part of the trip he changes from ink to pencil.

The front and back leather covers of the diary are blank, making it difficult to tell from which end the diary was meant to begin. The original sequence is also complicated by the various draft versions, new page starts, and changes between pencil and ink.]

[in ink]

In the early part of the Year 1871 the people of Adelaide were surprised by the arrival of the Gov Schooner Gulnare \from Port Darwin/ having on board M^r W. M^cMinn¹ Gov overseer and the greater portion part of a party which some months before had been sent up to a by \D. & D./ the contractors (Mess^{rs} Darwent & Dalwood) for the Northern Section of the Overland Telegraph Line. It transpired that M^r M^cM. had had to Cansell the Contract finding the party was too small & badly equipped to be able, in his judgement, to construct the Line in anything like the Contract time. The SA Government at once decided to take the job in hand, themselves & commissioned M^r R. C. Patterson² of the Engineerin' Cheifs department to get a party together and start as soon as possible. The Aldinga was chartered to take the party as far as Melbourne & the Omio from there to Port Darwin. M^r R. D. Ross³ was sent round to Sydney to purchase horses, & bullocks & charter Sailing Vessel's to take them on. I was in the Engeerin Cheifs department at the time: & thinking it was a fine Chance to see a little bush life applied to M^r R. C. Patterson & he engaged me as a Cadet. I afterwards induced my friend Rob Tapscott in the same Office to come with me. I left the department at the same time as M^r P. and assisted in engaging the (men about 100) &c &c which all took some time, & then every thing was very hurried as the Line had to be finished by a certain time the Gov being liable for a heavy fine for every day over & M^r P. was to get a very large bonis if he susceeded. Evry body & evry thing was at length ready and on.

Tuesday July 27. We left Port Adelaide in the S.S. Aldinga for Melbourne en route. A large crowd witnessed our departure both from the Adelaide Railway Station & the Wharf I never shook hands so much in my life & I am sure I promised to write to twenty fellows who I hope will forget all about it as I shall. What transpired on the trip round I cannot well say, I

¹ McMinn, William, government overseer on Northern Section. Many references in 'An End To Silence, the Building of the Overland Telegraph Line from Adelaide to Darwin', by Peter Taylor pub. 1980 by Methuen Australia Pty Ltd.

Note: there was also McMinn, G.R., Government overseer on Northern Section.

² Patterson, Robert Charles appointed leader of Government replacement party on Northern Section. Many references in A.E.T.S. by Peter Taylor

³ Ross, John, leader of Overland Telegraph exploratory expedition. Many references in AETS by Peter Taylor.

recollect a man fell overboard in the river who being drunk of course was quickly recovered. I saw the Lighthouse, at least I believe I did, but after that Well! I felt as if some one had rigged a force pump down my throat & was doing his best to get my liver out. My friends with strung stomach's or without any at all seeing my state laid me down aft a covered me over & when it was dark carried me below to my cabin where I remained praying for the Steamer to sink til'. we got in to smooth water off Queenscliff \at 6 oclock on Saturday morning/ then Tapscott came & helped me on deck, feeling very flabby as. Instreed ? many others looked; however the bracing fresh air soon put me right & I thought Queenscliff the prettiest place I ever saw. We hove too off Williamston & took the Helth & Customs Officers on board & then steamed into the Yarra: when we had got about half way up managed to run aground where we had to stop 'till the tide floated us off which was about an hour & of all the foul holes on earth I should think that was the worst, on one side of us was a Boiling drum works & a Soap factory & on the other a Wool washing establishment. we were fairly saturated with the smell & were precious glad to get away. ~~It was the~~ However it was the only thing in the way of nourishment I had taken since leaving home & my stomach being empty must have taken in an awful lot as I could not get rid of the taste all day. †Haul'd up the wharf at 12 oclock & after sending all the men away to different Temperance Bording House's took a cab to the Union Club Hotel corner of Collins & Market Street's. It was given out on Board this morning that the party was to be divided Half under M^r Patterson to go to P.D. & Hlf under M^r Rutt⁴ to the Roper. Tapscott to go with the former & I with the latter which we did not care for as we were in hopes that we should not be seperated. After a hearty dinner Tap & I started off to hunt up a friend of his who kindly showed us the principle Streets & Buildings & although very fine did not come up to my expectations. In the evening went to the Theatre Royal to see the Merchant of Venice & the Corsican Bro^s, after that had some oyster's & strolled about till 12 oclock then went back to our quarters to bed.

Sunday 30th July. After breakfast Tapscott Bayfield⁵ Odgers & I took a Cab all round St Kilda which is a pretty little place; had to \go/ through a Toll-gate\ which was a novelty to us. After dinner took train to Sandridge & from there went across to Williamston in a small steamer, had a look over the Prince Alfred Graving Dock \there/ which \is/ near completion & is a great undertaking. When finished this Dock will hold the largest vessel afloat. After looking round the place returned by Steamer. I notice that the Steam. Engines are much smaller & seem to go much faster than in Adelaide. After Tea had another stroll round. Bourke Street looks rather different on Sunday to what it did last night all lit up with gas; & crammed with people, tho there were ~~as many~~ all ? miners ?/ about to night that we see in Adelaide. in a Week.

Monday 31 July. Got up early went for a stroll. After breakfast went down to Wharf to see the SS "Omeo" which had just arrived, went back & wrote a letter home & then as Tapscott & I had no duty to attend to we strolled about until we were leg weary: seeing all we could. In the evening went again to the Theatre to see "Othello" which I enjoyed very much.

Tuesday Aug 1st. After breakfast did some copying for M^r Rutt. Then Tap. & I took a Cab to the Public Library thinking the Museum was there also, as in Adelaide, but after looking all over the place & admiring the beautiful reading room were told that the Museum was a mile away. So started off to walk to Carlton to find it. & were well repaid in fact anybody would in my estimation be well repaid for coming all the way from Adelaide to see this Museum: our only regret was that we could not spend more time in it. After dinner went down to Wharf ? to get a small ~~bad~~ [bag ?] I had left on board Aldinga & found she had just left for Adelaide. This evening I unpacked my Clothes baeg (a round caned [or canvas ?] one) & although the best thing I suppose for a trip of this kind am afraid it will be an awful nuisance as every thing wanted will sure to be at the bottom. Went to Opera. Il Travatore

⁴ Rutt, Walter, second-in-command of Government replacement party on Northern Section.

⁵ Bayfield, — ,linesman, possibly E. as a G. Bayfield is mentioned May 9th.

Wednesday. 2nd Aug. Strolled about all day. Picked up an Adelaide fellow Brookes & went to Theatre in the evening & saw "The Stranger" & Corsican Bro^s. The Omeo will be ready to sail to morrow afternoon.

Thursday 3 Aug. Strolled about all the morning; after dinner packed up & took a cab to the Wharf. Tap & I could just scrape up enough between us to pay the Cabman & we felt very uncomfortable when the Waiter, who would insist on carrying our traps down to the cab, stood on the pavement as we drove off, with his hand held half out for a tip & we could not even give him a thuppence [*threepence* ?]; it amused the Cabby tho'. The men were all assembled in the Wharf & went on board as Rutt called their names. A large crowd cheered as we hauled away from the Wharf at 4 o'clock. & took our departure for Newcastle where we were to call in for coal. Hove to off Sandridge where M^r Patterson came on board & was greeted with three cheers. Then we headed away for Wilsons Promontory under full steam: I need hardly say I was in great dread of being sea sick but the sea was rather different to what it was coming from Adelaide & although we rolled about a little it did not have any effect on me. Very cold. We had a tremendous load; horses in the fore hold & bullocks aft, all the deck taken up with drays & other necessary things for the Expedition. & Fodder to be used on the journey; so that we had to hang on by the rigging in going from one end of the vessel to the other.

Friday Aug 4. Up early. Fine weather. Past the "Claud Hamilton" this morning. She left the Wharf about 1 hour before us yesterday. Was arranged that regular Watch's of 4 ? hours be kept over Clock. Officers to take it in turns to see that men paid proper attention night & day. I don't have to go on til tomorrow night.

Saturday. Aug 5. Fine. Slight swell on. Lying on Hay bales ? reading all day. Took watch from 12 pm to 4 am: Frightfully close in hold. Horses not half so much trouble as Bullocks one of the latter fell down. & on account of having packed so close had great bother to get him up. The ship rolling knocks them about a good deal.

Sunday. Aug 6. Fine Steaming along pretty close to coast. Passed Twofold bay early & Port Jackson about 2 o'clock. & Hove too off Newcastle at 8 o'clock. Burnt Blue & red light's for Pilot

[Page 128 The following three pages have been written up side down, and are sandwiched between the OT song drafts plus 5 blank pages, and the entry for Sunday Aug 6th.]

This cabin is placed aft the ship & the place I was now in was a square \room/ with open bunks on each side; a square table in the centre, a door on each side leading on to the lower deck, (one of which I had entered) & a door leading into another room further aft, through this I went with my luggage to find myself in what appeared to be at first sight: a small square room with' three cupboards on either side, a round table in the centre, two short sofas right aft thwart ship & between them ~~steps~~ stairs leading up through a companion way to the upper deck. I came to the conclusion that the cupboards were sleeping places; so set to work to take my pick; the first I opened contained Wiltshire's luggage; & the second proved to be a water closet; the third ~~had~~ snap went a piece of red tape that had been fixed in the bottom with sealing Wax; inside was a lot of Ships Stores, the forth, a lot more ships store's, the remaining

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two led in to one cabin; which I rightly took to be the Capt's. Here was a pretty go, there was no bunk for me that was very certain; & after having a nice snug & comfortable one in the Omeo, † felt it was very hard. I put my bag down by one of the Sofas to wait the march of events; † went in shore found Tapscott & took him to see my new abode; he agreed with me that I was in for a bad thing. While we were there the mate came in & ask^d me if I had

opened the door with the red tape on it; on my answering in the affirmative he told me with an oath that I should be fined £5 as that was the Customs Seal, but after arguing with him for some time; that it was quite an accident: he promised to try & make it right with the Customs Officer. After dinner the bullocks \100/ were all slung ? on board the drays fodder &c having all been put on board this morning. At five o'clock ~~said good-bye~~ Wiltshire & I came on board ~~& was~~ the ship was at once towed out into the Stream ready for a Start: Made the acquaintance of the Capt (Kirkpatrick) who seems a very nice fellow. Found I would have to bunk down on one of the sofas, & use my own blankets; which I consider is commencing to rough it much sooner than I expected -. ~~Wrote home again,~~ a-As the boat is to \will be/ going ashore in the morning, have written a short note for home, to let them know of my Change of Ships.

[optional version of the same trip? Thurs 27 July 1871 to Sun 27 Aug 1871]

\July/

Thursday 27th Sailed from Port Adelaide in SS Aldinga, was sick about 1 hour after starting.. rather rough at night

Friday 28th. Fine Weather was sick all day and in my bunk

Saturday 29th. Arrived off Port Phillip Heads at 6 o'clock in the morning; I went on deck having got all right again; thought the scenery very beautiful; got along side of wharf in the Yarra about 12 o'clock; when it was decided that I should accompany M^r. Rutt up the roper and Tapscot M^r. Patterson to Port Darwin. Put up at the Union Club Collins S^t. A friend of Tapscott's shewed ups about Melbourne in the afternoon, and I did not think very much of it In the evening we went to the Theatre Royal when The Merchant of Venice & the 2nd & 3rd Acts of the Corsican Brothers was acted. Came to our lodgings and wrapped ourselves up and went out for a stroll up Bourke S^t which is

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a very pretty street when lit up with gas; had some Oysters for supper and returned at 12 o'clock P.M.: wrote the foregoing and turned in.

Sunday 30th Tapscott, Bayfield Odgers and I took a cab went to St Kilda in the Morning; came back took a stroll through some of the streets went to dinner then went by train to Sandridge; and found that it is not half the place I expected to see. went from there in a steamer to Williamston; saw the Gran'y Dock which is a great work returned to U. Club: had Tea. went out for a stroll returned: had a read went to bed. Monday 31st Got up went for a stroll

returned had breakfast went to the wharf to see the "Omeo" which arrived that morning; returned wrote a letter to Papa; in the evening I went again to the Theatre when "Othello" was played which I liked very much.

Tuesday: \August 1/ did some copying for

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M^r Rutt. took a cab; to the Public Library thinking that the Museum was there also, after looking round found that the Museum was a mile away. I thought the Library was a magnificent place; then walked to Carlton and saw the Museum, I was very pleased so was Tapscott, and thing that it is worth going a long way to see; returned to dinner went down to the wharf to get something: (a bag with two dirty handkerchiefs) which I had lost); off the Aldinga and fond that she just returned to Adelaide, then returned, and unpacked my bag (which I find is an awful nuisance) and packed it again –.

Wednesday 2nd August Went about Melbourne for a stroll. Went to Theatre with Brooke The Stranger & Corsican Brot^s.

Thursday 3. Left the Union Club took our Luggage on board the Omeo and sailed from Melbourne for Port

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Darwin at 4. 30. There was a lot on the Wharf to see us off. M^r Patterson boarded of Sandridge Pier. Fine Weather

Friday 4th passed the Alexander and Claud Hamilton in the morning; had fine Weather.

Saturday 5. Fine Weather

Sunday 6th. Passed Twofold Bay in the morning; also Port Jackson arrived at Newcastle at 8.30 pm: lit Blue and red lights: fired the canon before a pilot came off: The Piloted- took us in, in the \ Monday 7th /

morning we were towed along side the Wharf. Wrote a letter home; went ashore and posted it. M^r Patterson advanced the men 5/- : 3 of them were put in the lock up before night ~~all we~~ Not going to Roper.

Tuesday 8th. Went about Newcastle, went to the Town Hall to see our men: tired – when M^r Rutt sent for me and told me that I had to sail in the "Antipodes"

with Mr Wiltshire: in charge of 100 Bullocks
instead of him. Packed up: went on

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Board and was towed out at 12.30. pm
and anchored in the Hunter: at 6 o'clock:
Mr^r. Patterson Rut Ross and Wiltshire
came on Board, then Mr^r. Wiltshire stopped.
the others bid us good bye and went
ashore. Wrote a letter home.

Wednesday 9th Went on shore posted
my letter; bought a case of oranges
went on board again. Sailed at 11
a.m. Awfully rough: ship rooled
dreadfully: The men were all sea
sick so was I in the afternoon

Thursday 10th. In my bunk all day
Fine Weather

Friday 11th Fine Weather

Saturday 12th Becalmed

Sunday 13th Fine. One White Bullock
died Branded P9. The men took part
of his hide and threw him overboard

Monday 14th Fine in S E Trades *[the dates do not tally for this and the next two days – they
have been changed]*

Tuesday 15th Fine

Wednesday 17th Fine. I was not well. Cap^t
Kirkpatrick gave me two pills

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Thursday 17 18th. Rough. Took a dose
of Salts; in my bunk all day. 9 days out.

Friday 18 19th Fine. Washed my dirty
clothes

Saturday 19 20th. Fine weather very hot
light winds. Passed a lot of Porposes

Sunday 20 21th Fine. Saw a lot of
Flying Fish the first mate of "Antipodes"
gave me a pair of wings of the Flying
Fish.

Monday 21st Fine

Tuesday Fine. One Red Bullock
sore leg Branded S4 died.

Wednesday. Cloudy, passed two
reefs near Torris straits.

Thursday 23 24th Entered the Straits
Saw a Sydney barque laying at
anchor \off Bramble Bay/ who wanted us to accom –
pany so we anchored at 7 o'clock
a.m: The Barques name was
"Currido". Our Capⁿ. went aboard
to dinner.. Some of our sailors went
ashore from the Currido. I could'nt

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go ashore because there was not time.

We sailed at 6 o'clock next morning
Friday 25 Sailed at 6 o'clock
The Currido got the start of us:
made a fine run and came to anchor
of Arden Island at 6 p.m. After tea
went on board the 'Currido': returned at
9 pm.

Saturday 26th. Sailed at 6 am: had a
bad run. Came to anchor off an Island
N. E. of Cocoanut Island at 1 o'clock
p.m. At 6 pm went ashore in the
ships Gig with 2nd Mate; and 5 Bullockers.
Looked for cocoanut trees, saw some but
no nuts on them. Got a small piece of
correal. 2nd mate set fire to Worley.

Sunday 27th. [August] Capt & Wiltshire went as-
shore with Capt Hilderloch and sent boat
of for me: I went ashore with gun. lent
it to one of the sailors and went shell
finding. Got some shells & correal which
I purpose sending home via "Gulnare"
from Port Darwin.

[From the other end of the diary, see note at beginning of this transcript]

Diary

Reps by
WAC in Northern Territory of South Australia in Northern Territory of South Australia
From
Tuesday Nov^r 21st 1871
To [in pencil] Friday Nov 15th 1872.

Diary from Nov^r 21st 1871 by WAC.

Tuesday/ November 21st. Sailed from Port Darwin N T. in Barque "Bengal" for the Overland
Telegraph Dépôt River Roper for which that vessel was chartered by R.C. Patterson Esq^{re}.
Had a fair wind to just take us outside, and it fell calm, and had to anchor. Cap^t Douglas⁶
brought mail on board at 6.30 am.

Wednesday/ November 22nd Sailed again at 5 o'clock am, but fell calm, at 4 pm saw the
"Investigator" the last of the Calle steamers, steaming out of Port Darwin, just then a breeze
sprung up which took us close to the Vernon Island, where the "Gulnare" stranded, there we
anchored. Copying requisitions letters etc for S.A.Gov^t.

Thursday/ Nov^r 23rd Sailed again at 5 a.m light winds till about 4 pm then strong breeze
sprung up ~~took us through Dundas Straits sailed all night~~. Copying etc /took/ us to Cape
Hotham. anchored

Friday Nov^r 24th Sailed at 5 am with fine breeze, took us through Dundas Strait and out of
sight of land, sailed all night. light squall at 3.am. Copying etc.

Saturday Nov^r 25th. Light winds very hot. Wrote letter home.

⁶ Captain Bloomfield Douglas: S.A. Govt. Resident to Northern Territory.

Sunday Nov^r 26th. Had a bath at 6 am. light winds wrote Letter to Opie. Adelaide.

Monday Nov^r 27th Saw a lot of sharks, got slightly moonstruck. Becalmed till 5 o'clock when a head wind sprung up.

Tuesday Nov^r 28th Light winds until 7 o'clock pm then a pretty heavy squall which lasted about one hour. one of M^r Murrays parrots died; I was not well all day.

Wednesday Nov^r 29th Light winds. M^r Murray commenced drawing of Fort Point for Cap^t Sweet to photograph.

Thursday Nov^r 30th Light winds, a little rain in afternoon. M^r Murray ~~commenced~~ finished drawing for Cap^t Sweet.⁷ M^r Stapleton's bitch had 7 pups in evening

Friday December 1st 1871. Nearly becalmed. M^r Little⁸ was ill. Promised pups to Taylor M^r Meichlam.(?) C.Miller & Dasborough. Dasborough made me a compass pouch. saw a shole of Sharks shot one.

Saturday Dec^r 2nd. A light squal at 10 am. Light winds. Saw a shole of Black fish of the Whale speicies some between 20 & 30 feet long. Townsend ill. M^r Little a little better. M^r Murray doing drawing of Fort Point for Steward. Squall again at 3 pm. Strong breeze from S.E. after, continued all night.

Sunday Dec^r 3rd. Very squally. Finished letter for home. M^r Murray shewed me my name in a book on Bendigo Diggers.

Monday Dec^r 4th Heavy squall at 1.30 am squally all day. Saw a native "canoe" which drifted past the "Bengal". Mr Meckland(?) shaved. I had a fresh water wash for first time since leaving Port Darwin. Heavy swell on Afternoon. Bought a knife, fork & spoon from Steward of "Bengal". Townsend paid the steward 16/6 for me. Gave M^r Murray a letter of introduction to my father as he is going to visit Adelaide. broke strap of my compas pouch.

Tuesday Dec^r 5th Heavy swell on Raining all day off & on had a bath in rain, caught some rain and washed some cloths. Two weeks out from Port Darwin. Fair wind all morning. heavy squalls in afternoon. Gave M^r Murray a book on the Woolner dialect. Ramsay carpenter finished walking stick for me. One black & white pup died

Wednesday Dec^r 6th Fair wind. Gave M^r Murray a cabbage palm walking stick with yellow cedar knob. Dasborough made me a knife sheath, and pouch for Diary. Passed Cape Wessel early. Arranged with Townsend to deduct 5/ he owed me on bet about Premier. from 16/6 I owed him. Sold the steward 1 lb Tobacco.

Thursday Dec^r 7th Strong fair wind. M^r Murray gave me a stick of Indian Ink, & shewed me something about the Sextant Cap^t & 1st mate had a few words about throwing water down the skylight. Closed letters for home and J. Opie. Trick played on Townsend by Steward, by giving a little of water instead of Whiskey. Wind fell off in evening.

Friday Dec^r 8th Strong wind, but not fair. A light squall at about 7.30. W. Jones reported to Cap^t Sweet that M^r Pattersons sextant was stolen and M^r Knight reported that a carbine was stolen, Cap^t Sweet called Corporal Drought, and told him to search for them. Saw a beautiful Meteor at 8.15 pm. M^r Murray gave me a sketch of Fort Point. And told me in the afternoon that he had advised cap^t Sweet to let me assist him in the Roper Survey.

⁷ Captain Sweet, master of 'Gulnare'.

⁸ possibly Little, J.A.G., postmaster at Port Darwin, many references in AETS by Peter Taylor

Saturday Dec^r 9. Squally through night. Fair wind. M^r Murray explained about surveying Roper and plotting we had a long conversation about it. Corporal Drought, cross-questioned Jones & Knight about their losses, which was very ludicrous and I thought shewed his ignorance. And after all it turned out that the 1st mate of "Bengal" had it in his keeping having been asked to do so by Jones, which caused Cap^t Sweet to swear at little. I gave the steward a bit of my mind about his behaviour to us cabin passengers. Creig the cabin boy called Townsend a great sleepy wretch, & Townsend let it pass off so I advised him to take more notice of such things in future. I made up my mind that if ever I wrote a farce I would take Mess^{rs} Jones & Knight as, characters. Witnessed 6 orders for M^r Little and made a list of them for M^r Patterson & M^r Little.

Sunday. Dec^r 10th Fair Wind. Gave my letters to M^r Murray to post in Normanton. M^r Murray promised to write to me when I return to Adelaide, and try to get me a place in the New South Wales Survey if I could not get my late billet back, he gave me a bodkin & some buttons & a carpet bag & old shirt. I promised to send him when I return to Adelaide some May seeds or some young plants. Cap^t Sweet decided to put the "Larrakeeyah: over on Monday. M^r Murray promised to write to me when he got to Sydney & also from Normanton. M^r Little. Meichland Murray & myself had a conversation about the colonies, they ran down Adelaide. M^r Little called it a stinking dirty little hole.

Monday. Dec^r 11th. Wind fell off from 1 o'clock pm. Commenced to put the Larrakeeyah over the side at 4, o'clock a.m. Helped to put the balast in her. Quite a dead calm, but nasty swell on, she was quite ready stores and all in at about 12.30. Breeze sprang up and M^r Meikland(?) in charge. M^r Little M^r Murray passengers & W. Taylor T Maislet (?) & C Miller \crew/ embarked and she left the side at 1.30 pm in Longitude 141 – East. Latitude 15-21 South about 37 miles from east coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria and 125 miles from the Mouth of the Norman River whence the Larrakeeyah was bound, for M^r Little to telegraph down to the S.A. Govt for reinforcements, so that M^r Patterson could carry on the construction of the Overland Telegraph. The Larrakeeyah had a fair wind and steering her course when we last saw her; but the wind was not fair for us. Last surviving pup died. Knight accused W. Taylor of stealing a revolver, and selling it, but it turned out that Taylor bought it for £4 in Port Darwin Knight is a regular fool.. At parting with the Larrakeeyah we gave them three cheers which they returned. Townsend shewed me his instructions from M^r Patterson to shew me that J.M. Miller was to be his head man at the roper as R. Jones seemed inclined to take the position. M^r Meichland seemed very disagreeable about the crew (?) of Larrakeeyah wanting things that the remainder of the Party never got and I noticed that his crew spoke to him as if they were the chief, and I thought at the time that he would not be Cap^t of his own ship. Saw a shoale of fish and a flock of birds flying over them had a row with Drought about compass. A very heavy squall broke over us at about 6.30 pm and rained heavy at half the night. had a fine bath in rain. Slept inside the cabin for the first time during trip.

Tuesday Dec^r 12th Fair Wind all night and day. Cloudy. Mended carpet bag, turned out my clothes bag and repacked it put clean things in carpet bag. Drought made a fool of himself at breakfast, but that was nothing unusual as he is always jawing about things that he knows nothing about. Witnessed an Eclipse of the Sun which was almost total, we only seeing a very little streak when the Eclipse was at its height, and the clouds having cleared off we had a fine view of it using smoked glass. It commenced at about 1 o'clock pm. and when it was at its height, it became a deep twilight and so dark in the cabin that the lamps had to be lit. I noticed that the dogs on board seemed frightened. We were about a days sail south of the line of total. Passed a lot of Porposes one was shot also a lot of snakes and a large turtle. A squall broke over us at about 6.30 pm and I noticed that it rose from the horizon like a large blanket of clouds with a lots of folds at the top and very black, and in the one on Monday night 5 paralell lines appeared first it got gradually wider and larger as it neared, and I also noticed that as this rose in the East the Sun set most beautifully in the west, in fact I never before witnessed such splended sunsets. It rained heavily at the same time as the squall

broke and I had a bath. Slept in the cabin on the floor. learned to tie knots. 3 weeks out.
Found that M^r Murray left ink

Wednesday Dec^r 13th Cloudy rainy and sea rough All day & night and the wind right aft ship rolling awfully 85 miles from land at 12 am and at 4 o'clock pm was 45 miles from land, it being too rough to go any nearer shore the ship was hove too then she began to roll more and during the night I hardly slept at all. Sounding at 5 o'clock pm 17 fathoms. One lurch the ship gave two of the men Knight & Dasborough came into collision Knight giving Dasborough a black eye. Townsend got instructions from Cap^t Sweet to go in the "Dolphin" up the Roper in charge of some stores he was sending in case M^r Packard should be there waiting, if M^r Packard⁹ was not there he was to bury them. Mended a coat put some elastic in fly net for hat

Thursday Dec^r 14th Remained rough all morning. signs of clearing up at midday, ship was put on her course again at about 2 o'clock pm. Shipped a sea at about 4 am a lot of it going down the after hatch soaking some of the men sleeping there. Sounding at 8 am 16 ½ fathoms and at 2 o'clock pm 16 fathoms. Laid down on the sofa to read after breakfast and fell asleep till 11.30. Different soundings during afternoon 14 12 ½ & 11. At 16 ½ and 17 fathoms the bottom was blue mud sand & small perfect shells. and at the others white sand. Became cloudy & rough again at about 5 o'clock pm ship hove too again, heavy squalls & rain during night.

Friday Dec^r 15th Cloudy & rainy. Ship put on her course again, sighted land at 8.45 am. Had to sleep on wet blankets during night as they had not got dry from night before. Washed a lot of dirty clothes. Land sighted was Maria Island which we passed at about 2 o'clock p.m. Muddy water caused by the Roper out as far as Maria Island anchored about 6 miles from the Roper mouth in 4 ¾ fathoms at 3 o'clock pm. At about 11.30 am it rained tremendously and blew very stiff. the water came in through the cabin window and nearly soaked my cloths bag through. The cloths I hung out to dry were nearly blown away."One of the men Williams an Irishman when the land was sighted remarked that he would like to see it, when the mate told him he could by going up in the fore top he remarked. Och bejabers is it up there it is, then I went go to see it."

Saturday, Dec^r 16th. Rainy & cloudy in morning cleared up a little at 12.am. Put the "Dolphin" cutter over the side put stores &c over into her for Mr Packard at Roper Landing and she left the side at 11.30. am J.M.Miller taking charge of her Malpy (?) & Dasborough & Pryor crew and W. Townsend in charge of stores. Dried my cloths out of bag and those I washed. Studied Trigometry in afternoon. got out my overcoat & leggins. R. Jones second mate of "Gulnare" was to. have taken charge of "Dolphin" but there was not a man that would go with him, as he was always so surly & dissa- greeable. Commenced to read a novel entitled The World in Light & Shade which I thought was capital. The men caught a little bird blown of from shore which much resembles the South Australian Pewter¹⁰. I was very stiff in my mussels which I suppose was through the wretched weather. Squally all afternoon and through night.

Sunday Dec^r 17th. Not so cloudy, sun shone at intervals, but still windy and squally. Cap^t Sweet and Drought trooper was cursing and blaguarding the S.A.Gov^t. And W Jones Ass^t Storekeeper told me after privately that he would report them, and hinted that the "Gulnare" was lost through Rum & beer, and that he would not rest until he got them out of Gov^t employ. I noticed that whenever Drought commenced to talk about things he knew nothing about. Jones could easily shut him up. Finished novel. Was much stiffer all over and pained. Hit on a plot for a farce. Explained my stiffness to Cap^t Hummell and he said that I had

⁹ Packard, = member of Ross's expedition ref. AETS p.98.

¹⁰ Pewter: type of Cockatiel Mutation, brown with greyish tones that is much darker than cinnamon. ref. Australian National Cockatiel Society.

caught cold. W Jones told me in the evening that he had sold Drought on Saturday in this way. Drought came to him and asked him if he had any loose rasins about as had been taking medicine and £ wanted a few, so Jones took him down the hold among the cases, and then told him that he was not caught yet and the rasins were in the "Lazarett" and were going to stay there; Jones had often seen Drought prying about among the cases, and he knew if he had given the rasins he would have brought it up to accuse Jones which shows the contemptable meanness of the fellow. Jones also was telling me all his troubles how he lost 3000£ by fire when he was a draper at home, and how his uncle had left his eldest/ brother £70,000 and he did not get a penny of it, he said that brother was exactly like N. Oldham of Adelaide. Cap^t Hummell had the nightmare in the night.

Monday. Dec^r 18th Fine, calm. & light clouds. The "Gulnares" long boat was put over the side, to go and put bouys at the Roper mouth at 9.30 am. Cap^{ts} Sweet & Hummell & Jack Miller Lowther Read & Collie¹¹ went in her as crew left the side at 11 am, took provisions as did not expect to return till next day. Studied Decimal Arithmetic in afternoon. The steward Hopwell blaguarded W. Jones about gobbling at meals. I must remark that the steward was the meanest illmannered & misplaced steward I ever heard off. Lamp hung up aft for the boat to see & Knight lit his blue lights. Boat did not re- turn. B Williams O. T. Cooks birthday

Tuesday Dec^r 19th Fine, rather warm & light clouds I and 3 more at breakfast was properly sold by the O. T. Cook who rushed in calling out that a, alligator was along side of course in our eagerness ~~we~~ a to se one we all rushed out, and then got laughed at. Studied Trigonometry & Decimal Arithmetic, Boat with buoying party returned at 2 oclock p.m. All sun burnt very much. Cap^{ts} Sweet & Hummell remarked that they had put the bouys (two casks) in the Channell and were going next day to put another. the lowest water they had on the bar was 6 feet. They were very much pleased with the appearance of the mouth Cap^t Hummell especially who said that the bar gradually sloped to deep water and there was room enough inside to swing a line of Battle ship, and he was sure that that ~~you~~ he could put the "Bengal" alongside of the sandbank and take in balast. I should remark that the sounding on the bar was taken at low water Neep tides. They anchored out all night, and they ~~said~~ said that the Mosquitoes & Sandflies were that bad that they could not sleep a wink. Some of the sailors caught 5 very small sharks & tied planks to some and let them go again. Slept on deck. We have to wait for Spring tides to go over the bar, the "Bengal" drawing 10½ feet of water. Helped Cap^t Sweet plot position of bouys on plan

Wednesday Dec^r 20th. Fine. very hot, light clouds. Studied Trigonometry and repaired my overcoat. Had dinner at 11.30 \am/ and Boat with buoying party same as yesterday with one buoy \left/ at 1.30 p.m. Collie one of the men was telling me that he had been 17 years master of a large ship bigger than than the "Bengal," and how absurd it was of Cap^t Sweet to send J.M. Miller in charge of "Dolphin" with two sailors under him, he said that the Millers (3) were the most imputent family he ever knew. I quite agree with him. Talking with Jones & 2 mate Mr Powell 'till 10.30 pm about Pt Augusta Railway. Capt Sweet informed R. Jones late second mate of "Gulnare" who had refused duty on board that he would have to pay 2/- per day for his provisions and pay his passage home.

Thursday Dec^r 21st Fine very hot light \cool/ winds sprung up at about 2 oclock p.m. light clouds. Boat with buoying party returned at 10.30 am. Boat hauld on board at 2 oclock pm as she leaked and wanted repairing. The bell buoy was put over the side, and hauld up and lashed to the stern along with chain & anchor so as to be easily put down in proper place. Commenced to read Ellen Middleton a novel. Had an arguement about the 21st being the longest day, and on ~~ge~~ referring to the Nautical Almanac the 22nd is the longest by 7 ½ seconds. Studied Trigonometry.

¹¹ possibly Bob Collard, armourer, ref. AETS p.85.

Friday Dec^r 22nd Longest day by 7 ½ seconds. Fine Warm. Light clouds, cool light winds. Finished Ellen Middleton which I thought very fair. Printed a pattern for printing “Bengal”, on buckets which. I promised the 2nd mate I would do. I think the second mate is the best chap of all the crew. being very obliging &c. A Strong breeze and heavy swell sprung up at about 5 o'clock p.m. Slept on deck with Jones under his fly, at about 4 am commenced to rain heavy and I got wet through in going below.

Saturday. Dec^r 23rd Light breeze light clouds. Made another pattern of “Bengal” for buckets as the one I made was no use. Painted patch on buckets white. Weighed anchor at about 10 am. Put the “Bell Buoy” (made by cap^t Sweet of bamboos”) over and anchored it on the bar across mouth, of Channell (leading to Roper Mouth) in 14 feet, but the lowest water on the bar was 12 ½ feet. Took a sketch of Buoy with Maria Island in the Distance. passed the two channell buoys and dropped anchor at Entrance of River at 12.40 p.m. We could not make out the mouth of the River distinctly although we were so close, and if we had not known that the River existed there, we could not tell there was one The bottom was blue muddy clay, same as last anchoring Steward made mince meat for “Christmas Day”. Cap^t Sweet and same crew as before left in the boat with the second bamboo buoy in tow at 3.30 pm which he put in the place of the third cask buoy and brought the cask on board Cap^t Hummell told me that he thought I had to go in the boat up the river with Cap^t Sweet to take notes, at low water saw dry sand banks, on both sides of us, and we were in the middle of channell. The bottom all along the channell slopes and rises as regular as possible. Slept below

Sunday Dec^r 24th The “Dolphin” returned at 5.55. am. Townsend told me that he saw about 70 natives friendly & a lot of Alligators. Their rudder carried away soon after they started. They buried the stores and blazed the trees as M^r Packard had not arrived. They think the ship will be able to get up within 9 miles of bar. Weighed Anchor at about 10 am. and entered the Roper River got up about 4 miles and anchor about 1.30 p.m. There is a splendid channell up as far as we got. It is a very wide and pretty river. Violet creek at the Entrance of the River is very beautiful. The banks are covered with Man- groves which is very picturesque. Any amount of Dead wood on banks, a Steamer could go close up to the Bank in some places and get loaded in no time. The soundings at the Entrance was no bottom at 6 fathoms, and in the River they got as much as 6 ½ fathoms which we anchored in. M^r Boord first mate and a crew went ashore for game at 3 pm but did not get any, he sailed up a creek but the mosquitoes drove him back. Christmas Eve, Had to rig my mosquito curtain, and turned into it at 6.30 pm, as the mosquitoes commenced to get bad. At about 9 pm they were awfull the came off in millions, our curtains were black with them, and the noise was awfull, like so many kettles wistling around me, so much so that I could not get to sleep until 12 p.m. All the crew had no curtains, and did not get a wink of sleep all night. The Mosquitoes were so thick and plagued them so much that they were driven up to the tops of the masts, but they were nearly as bad up there. Got instruction from Cap^t Sweet to go in the boat with him next day. To take the notes.

Monday Dec^r 25th 1871. Christmas Day. Fine, warm light clouds. Woke up at 1 am and could not sleep again for the mosquitoes. The poor crew were all swollen with the bites. Cap^t. Gave them flags to make curtains. I was frigh- tened to get out at 7 am for them. They did not leave until about 10 am. Cap^t. called creek oposite our anchorage Mosquito creek. At about 10.30 am Six native men called out from Mosquito Creek. The Cap^t sent the boat off which brought them on board. They seemed very friendly, and are fine men about 5^{ft} 10ⁱⁿ to 6 feet high. They brought off some Tortoise shell \fishing hooks/ & turtle shell & twine, I got a one hook. The sailors played music and danced the natives imitating them which was great fun. They had their fill of biscuit and meat, Then the sailors dressed them up in old clothes, and they quite pleased. They were taken off again about 12 a.m. They had no weapons, but two of them had spear wounds. A fair wind sprung up, so Cap^t Sweet ordered the boat, and we went of at 3.30pm. but we only got up one reach, before a squall sprung up and the wind changed, we got wet through, and had to turn back. The ship got under way but had to drop anchor again \after touching bottom/. We changed our clothes and sat down to Dinner (the

only feed I can call by that name since I left home) at 5 o'clock p.m. It was got up first class great credit to the steward, we had roast ducks, and preserved green peas which went down with great relish. The Christmas pudding and Blanche monges were also first class. The healths of Cap^{ts} Hummell & Sweet – the Ladies (to which I had to respond) and the Steward were drank. I with the others had to turn in early as the Mosquitoes commenced to flock in, and as it was raining we had to sleep in the cabin, they were that bad that I could hardly tie up my curtain, I must mention that the bite they give is not only hitching but very painful and they make you feel quite sick, there are three kinds viz; one about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long with faces like monkeys, some long and thin about $\frac{1}{3}$ inch and body marked like a zebra; others about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long and smooth wings closing over their bodies. I slept a little better than the night before but not much, as it is impossible to get in the curtain with out letting about a doz in, as their being so thick they stick to you. It is great misery and Cap^t Hummell remarked that he would sooner be in a strong gale of wind than endure such misery. As soon as the mosquitoes commence to go off the common flies come, and they are nearly as bad. The crew having made curtains of the flags, slept much better. Knigh and Jones who I think were a little sprung commenced to argue, in their curtains, so that no one could sleep, Cap^t Sweet called out to Knight saying. Go to sleep and shut up you old fool, and he did so, after a little mumbleing. The second mate finished a small water bag for me. The crew called the reach oposite. "Suffering Reach"

Tuesday Dec^r 26th Boxing Day. Had a bath and gave M^r Powell one at 8.am. Cap^t Sweet again explained part of the Field book again, as I made a slight mistake before, I will give a rough sketch of it. (See sketch) Was fishing all the morning from the "Dolphin" about 2 doz \cat fish/ were caught, and some were so large and strong that they could hardly pulled up. A fair wind sprung up about 2 o'clock p.m. Weighed anchor and got up as far as the 11th reach. As far as we got it is a splendid River and oceans of water the lowest water being about $3\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms, our course being about the centre of the River. The banks were mostly low the highest being about 10 feet, some places they are covered with dence Mangroves and other fine grassy ~~plants~~ flats, and others swampy with dead trees. At the back where we anchored, on the Port hand was fine forrest timber. The River does not at all agree with M^cLachlans plan. On the grassy ~~planes~~ was a lot of anthills in appearance like a large field covered with heaps of manure. We anchored in $5\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms. The width of the River varying from 700 to 300 y^{ds}. After tea M^r Boord Townsend M^r Powell & myself went off in the boat to duck shoot, but we were not half across before it commenced to rain in Torrents, of course we got drenched to the skin and had to turn back, then took of my wet things had a bath in the rain and put on dry ones, then turned in on the sofa. The Mosquitoes were not $\frac{1}{4}$ so bad as before but quite bad enough, it was so close in my curtain that I had to sit up and let the perspiration drip off me Slept a great deal better. There are all kinds of game on this River. Ducks Geese Turkeys Cocatooes &c

Wednesday Dec^r 27th Fine. warm. Rulled some more in the field Book. M^r Boord & Townsend went on shore duck shooting, went in the boat with them but came back with two natives, I got a fish hook & line some red clay and a shell. The carpenter played the Violin and the danced to it first class. Shooting party returned at about 10.30 am, they got 3 whistling ducks and another peculiar bird with a yellow covering for his head and spirs on his wings for fighting. Weighed anchor at 1.30. and got about 9 miles, dropped anchor in the beginning of the 18 [?] reach in 8 fathoms, there is any amount of water up to here and it is very deep close to the banks, as the ship got so close that I could have stepped ashore. we passed three pretty wide Creeks on the Starboard hand the widest about 30 y^{ds} and the narrowest about 15 y^{ds} Heard a lot of natives among the Mangroves. The Banks on Port side were mostly low and covered with dence Man- groves. on the Starboard mostly low (but higher than the Port) and Mangroves and dead trees not so thick. Passed swarms of Whistling duck, they seem as thick as bees, in mobs of thousands. Saw one Allegator. Rigged my mosquito curtain up on deck but it commenced to rain and washed me out, so I had to put it up on the Sofa, where it was so close that I could hardly sleep. The Mosquitoes were worse that last night. I must mention that when it rains here it does rain, in bucketfull's, wets you

through in a second, and you can hardly see 5 yards before you. I had a fine bath in the rain. The water in the River at this anchorage is quite fresh at low water. Plotting in field book all the afternoon.

Thursday Dec^r 28th Aneversary of S.Australia. Warm, cloudy. Washed my cloths in River water. Saw the Six blacks that first came on board with another one on the bank sent a boat to bring them on board they were entertained as before, and I think it would play to take them about and exhibit them as the go through their antics first rate. I got a lot of the language from one and took note of it. They were taken on shore about 10.a.m, and on getting close to shore one of them stole a "rollock" belonging to the boat and bolted the others following before they could be stopped. which shoes that they ought not to be trusted a second Cap^t said he would not have them on board again. [All the natives of this tribe have the two top front teeth out] When they were on board before they had clothes given them, but they had not got them on this time. Weighed anchor at 2 oclock pm and dropped up with the tide (as we did the ~~same~~ day before) 10 miles, to the end of reach N^o 21. and dropped anchor in fresh water 5 ½ fath. at 7.15 p.m. There is still plenty of water, and very steep banks, as the ship drifted broadside into the bank and scarcely touched, so that I could have stepped on shore from the rail of the ship. The banks much the same as the ones we passed yesterday still being very low. The anthills on the grassy plains, being about the size of Bell tents.. Saw 1 allegator. Townsend ill. Mosquitoes & Sandflies very bad." On the Port side of the River there is fine Forrest Timber land at the back. Thickly tim- bered with light timber." Plotting in field book all afternoon.

Friday Dec^r 29th. Very hot calm light clouds. Townsend better. Saw 2 Allegators. Mended my Shirts. Light Breeze sprang up weighed anchor at 1.30 p.m. got in the Middle of the 27th/Reach about 5 Miles. When anchor had to be dropped because of the rain, and squalls, I rained so hard that we could hardly see the opposite side. I came down in bucketfulls. I got wet through. Anchor was dropped at 6 oclock p.m. There is still plenty of water nothing much less than 3 fathoms. The Banks still continue low with ~~banks~~ belts of mangroves, but here the land at back is very swampy It is a splendid river and it seems a great absurdity for the S.A. Gov^t to pass it by and go to a dirty dry hole like Port Darwin, which is not a patch on it, and I firmly believe that if ever another township is formed in the Northern Territory The Roper will be the place for it. Taking notes all afternoon.

Saturday Dec^r 30th. Warm Showery Windy & Cloudy. Started in the Boat with Cap^t Sweet & crew of 4 J.Miller C Nalty, Dasborough & H. Prior that same as before at 6 oclock a.m. to go and see that there was a good channell, and if the bottom was good, as in M^cLachlans plan was marked Rocky bottom at end of his Long reach, and water shallow in places. I put down all soundings and sketched the River, we found a very deep channell close to the Port side of the Long Reach. We then sailed, & pulled I steering and taking notes. passed the first Island which I think Cap^t Sweet will call "Bengal" Island after the ship as she is the first up the River. A deep channell here close to the Starboard side, being in someplaces no bottom at 8 fathoms, and 21 feet a yard from the Bank. We then went on shore were the Mosquitoes were very bad, gathered a lot of Water Lillies, and scurvey¹² grass (which we had for dinner. I think it is as good as spinnache) and started on our way back, going round the other side of the Island, the lowest water was 13 feet high water When we reached the "Bengal" she was just getting under way time 9.10 am.[I noticed that Cap^t Sweet talked to the boatscrew in a very indescreet manner, as he told them things that I know he had heard by chance, and was not intended to be repeated, it was about C. Todd's resignation, and several other things. I don't think that he could be trusted with confidence.] As soon as the ship got to the end of the Long Reach instead on going into the deep channell, she cut across the corner, and got stuck half way in 10 feet of water as she is drawing 10 ½ feet, the tide then going down. M^r Boord. Townsend and myself then, which was about 10.am. went in the Boat duck shooting, and after tramping for about 1 ½ hours up to our knees in thick mud and getting nothing

¹² *Scurvey plant ? possibly the nardoo plant?*

returned. At 3.30 p.m. Cap^t Sweet went off in the boat to find the best place to haul the ship off too, at 4 o'clock p.m. a cadge anchor was got out to haul her off by. The crew tried till dark to haul her off but without success. Mosquitoes very troublesome all night but they do not come off so soon. Decided upon a trick to play on C.Knight

Sunday Dec^r 31st Warm. Light winds & clouds. The crew & Capt Sweet commenced at 5, o'clock am to get another anchor out to haul off by. They got her off at high water at about 7.30.a.m. into the channell close to the Port Bank which we found the morning before. M^r Boord first mate of "Bengal" went off with some of the crew in the morning Duck shooting, returned at 1 p.m. They got 5 Whistling ducks and a lot of Scurry grass. Some of the crew went off again after Tea but was driven back by Mosquitoes, who were very bad all night. Cap^t Sweet and the first mate went on shore close to our anchorage \in afternoon / to get an altitude and set some seeds viz; Pumkins. Raddishes & onions. Cap^t Sweet called this reach which is at the head of long reach. "Garden Reach". They went off again at 8.30 p.m. to get an altitude of a Star, but did not succeed. I kept awake to see the old year out and the new one, 1872, in. Did not leave anchorage.

January 1st 1872 Monday. Warm strong Westerly wind down River cloudy, Which prevented us from leaving the Anchorage. New Years Day. My Father's birthday. Cap^t Sweet decided to send the boat up the River again (to see if the party had arrived at the bar) when the ship got past "Bengal" Island. I heard Townsend ask Cap^t Sweet to let him go with it, but he did not get a decided answer. Soon after sunset It commenced to Lightening in the East and blow very strong from West. At about 8 pm The Lightening ~~most~~ was most beautiful in fact it was the Grandest sight I ever saw. It commenced with sheet Lightening extending half round the horizon, then every flash of sheet lit ~~th~~ the whole sky up, sometimes a dark blue sometimes purple and sometimes a beautiful crimson, and a lot of flashes of Fork would fly right across resembling great limbs of trees, sometimes the whole sky would be covered with flashes of fork lightening, and with the different colored sky it was indeed grand. Some- times a great limb would start up in the east & travel right round to the east again. All on board proclaimed it the most beautiful sight they ever witnessed & Cap^t Hummell said that he had been in a good many parts of the world and never saw anything like it. At about 9 pm It commenced to rain & Thunder very heavy, and it washed Cap^t Sweet and all on deck out of their beds. At midnight it became calm, but not for long, and when it commenced again it was worse the Thunder was so close that it made the Ship tremble & shake very much. This is the first storm we have had on the Roper of any consequence. the Mosquitoes were all driven away by the wind, which made it the only plesant night we have spent on the Roper, although it was very close. The Glass falling fast all day.

Tuesday Jan^y 2nd. Strong W.N.W. Wind all day. Glass down to 35. Very cloudy and raining all day. No Mosquitoes. Flies very troublesome. I had an attack of Dysentry

Wednesday Jan^y 3rd. Moderate & squally. Got under way at 5 o'clock and got as far as Bengal Island and came to anchor at 9. am. Strong freshers coming down river great logs coming down banks flooded, no tide up river, which prevented us moving unless a fair wind came. Plenty of water still although shoal near Island. My Eighteenth Birthday. Cap^t Sweet sent Boat up to Bar at 1 pm same crew as before, returned with a party from Bar about 2 hours after, in a punt that they had made from a body of a waggon with a low sail [?] to it lined with canvas and 5 vinegar kegs lashed to each side, a mast with a fly as a lug sail & Paddle to steer with. The party consisted of M^r Patterson, Mess^{rs} Stratton & E Bayfield. Dyke & Burton¹³ they started at 11 am the morning before. M^r Patterson reported 40 men at Bar in state of starvation. He had lost two men 1 natural death one lost in bush while looking for cattle. He also reported that M^r Burt¹⁴ had arrived at the Roper from the Middle section to

¹³ *Jim or R.C.Burton, there are two Burtons: 1. Jim Burton 2. R.C. Burton, asst. Govt overseer on Northern Section, many references in AETS.*

¹⁴ *possibly Burt, A.G. Assistant, sub-section C, Central Section.*

see where M^r Pattersons party was, & had gone back again, also that a M^r Milliner with some natives had arrived from Adelaide with a lot of sheep & horses overland, His wife died on the road and a native knocked his brother's brains out with a wady while watching sheep. M^r Rutt had got 40 Miles done from the Catherine, M^r Burton could not get on for want of water, but now he won't be able to get on, because there will be too much water. M^r Patterson told me that he had had to leave Tapscott behind twice. Mosquitoes very bad all night. M^r Stratton shared my Mosquito net with me. The name of the man that died was E Bowman, & the lost one J. Harcus¹⁵.

Thursday Jan^y 4th. Hot cloudy squally in afternoon. M^r Patterson sent provisions off to the men at the Bar in the "Dolphin" & gig at 5.30 a.m. the four men re- turned. Cap^t Sweet tried to get a photograph of the "punt" without success, as it kept moving. Got 28 Sticks Tobacco & 1 Tin box matches from W. Jones being rations that I had not received. Fair wind all afternoon got under way at about 2.30 pm. but had to drop anchor again, as the freshers coming down were too strong for the ship to stem. got under way again at about 4 pm but had to come to anchor again, same reason as before, and instead of going ahead a little we dropped astern a good deal. The freshers came down like a mill race. Cap^t Sweet gave me a small pouch for a large one I got from M^r Murray. Mosquitoes very bad all day & night. Very strong wind at 8 p.m. rained a little during night, & got my bed wet. Gave Steward some items from this diary.

Friday Jan^y 5th Cloudy. Could not leave anchorage as there was no wind and the freshers were still coming down very strong at the rate of 4 miles an hour. Mosquitoes very very bad all day & night. Exchanged with M^r Boord my Pouch & Knife for his. Rained during night & I got soaking \wet/ through, curtain Blanket & all. Burnt a wort on my hand with caustic & got it all over my hands. Had another nasty attack of Dysentery; this seems very common in the NT as M^r Patterson says M^r Rutt and others on the line have had it very bad.

Saturday Jan^y 6th Cloudy. Got under way at about 9.15 am. there was just wind enough to enable us to stem the current, as the the freshers are still coming down very strong, we came to at 10.30 a.m. at the beginning of reach above Bengal Island, in more than 8 fathoms as the wind was not fair for the next reach. At 11 am went off in the boat with Cap^t Sweet sounding, with four of "Bengals" crew. Got nearly up to end of next reach, then landed, bailed the boat out with compass box. Cap^t Sweet cut a large S on a tree near bank. Saw two nests with eggs and young in and any amount of cocatooes, but un- fortunately did not have a gun. Got a lot of Scurrey grass and returned letting the boat drift down with the current on the Port side where the best channell is, the lowest water in channell being 17 feet. This is the shallowest part of the River we have come to as yet, being very shallow in middle and on Starboard hand the shoalest there being 12 ½ feet. The banks are still low on Starboard hand with Belt of Mangroves, on Port they are a little higher, with few mangroves, & where we landed fine grassy plains. I commenced to read book on Crimean War that I got Tapscott and which I find very inter/r/esting. Gave M^r Patterson some blue letter paper. Got a piece of candle from Steward for my curtain. Rained a little during night and I got wet. Saw a Pelican

Sunday Jan^y 7th Very. very. hot cloudy did not leave anchorage. Heavy squall & rain in afternoon. Cap^t Sweet & others went on shore on Starboard bank and set some seeds. Some of crew went duck shooting at same time got one duck. A corked bottle floated past which we supposed was sent from the bar, the boat went after it but did not get it. Freshers still very rapid. I took a sketch of Bengal Island. M^r Patterson proposed church service in afternoon but it did not come off. Saw Pelicans, Fireflies. Native Peasants & moor hens.

Monday Jan^y 8th. Fine, light clouds. Covered my Bible. Got under way at 2 p.m. Went with the ship as far as the place we landed on Saturday, then went in the boat with Cap^t Sweet to sound, We got half way up the next Reach when we found that the "Bengal" had come

¹⁵ out of the hundreds of men employed on the line, only five deaths were reported by Todd, Harcus had been lost in the bush looking for horses, ref. AETS p.158.

too, so we came back, and found that she had done so because the cap^t. on seeing us jibe thought we had shoal water, but when we told him there was plenty of water, he got anchor up again and we after staying on board ~~went~~ a little while went in the boat again. The ship followed us 'till sunset when she anchored half way up the reach, but we went on to Hawks nest Island which in fact in only a few bushes, we found 8 fathoms where in the chart is marked 6 feet. There is plenty of water still and the banks continue low with country inundated, and mangroves getting scarce the banks near H.N. Island are a little higher with a little forrest timber. The lowest water we got was 14 ½ feet on Port hand, and it varies in other parts from 17 feet to 8 fathoms. The channell is on the Port hand. The cap^t got sails for the boat (ships gig) which answer pretty well; got on board again at about 7 p.m. Saw one large allegator.

Tuesday Jan^y 9th. Cloudy Light squalls Wind fair. Got under way at 9.30 am. I went in boat sounding with Cap^t Sweet. Wind died away soon after leaving, we had to pull, and Bengalⁿ anchored. Swind sprung up again directly, and ship got under way again. wind died away again half way through reach past. H.S. Island, so had to go on board & ship anchored there at 11.45 a.m. Wind freshened after dinner got under way again at 3.30 p.m. got opposite the 3 Islands together (marked in M^cLachlans chart as a sand bank dry at low water) when water commenced to shoal so anchored, and we went in the boat to find a channell & having found one on the Starboard hand, the ship followed us, till 6.45 p.m. when wind died away, we went on board and ship anchored at beginning of reach past Islands. As the ~~n~~ river Narrows it deepens. We find that not the least confidence can be placed in the chart of M^cLachlans as there are such great errors in it. The banks continue low, with belts of different shrubs & trees. In these reaches there are ranges of Hills on both sides running down close to the water. They look to me to be composed of great boulders. There is plenty of water in these reaches for a ship drawing 15 feet. I was rather stiff from sitting in boat. Townsend ill feverish took some Chlorodyne, would not take any thing else. Very few mosquitoes here

Wednesday. Jan^y 10th. Very.very. hot. light clouds. Went on shore with Cap^t Sweet & M^r Boord duck shooting, we went on the Starboard shore first, but there was no game. we went to the top of the range, and as there was no sign of whites being there, we came to the conclusion that we were the first, the country on this range has all been on fire, it is very rocky; there is some very nice timber though very small including, Liechardt's pines which would make nice boat spars, being very strait, we then went across to the Port bank which looks from the ship to be a beautiful solid grassy plain, but is frightfully boggy, we went down to our middle nearly every step. We shot 8 ducks & I found 3 large eggs, which I supposed were large Turkeys, as we saw one on the plain. Cap^t Sweet was completely knocked up, and was very bad after it. Got on board at 1.15 p.m changed our clothes which were in a filthy state and had dinner. Got under way at 4 p.m as a light fair wind sprung up, I went in boat with cap^t Sweet, but the wind fell off again and ship anchored at 4.30 pm about ~~one~~ 100 y^{ds} from her last anchorage, we went through two reaches in boat then returned, and got on board at 5.30 p.m. In the evening it was squally. Thundered and Lightened a good deal, rained pretty heavy. No Mosquitoes. Townsend a little better, took a dose of salts

Thursday Jan^y 11th. Westerly wind, light clouds. Washed my clothes that I dirtied yesterday duck shoot- ing, had ducks for dinner, & some Mazina with the two eggs in it, was very good. Townsend a little better. I noticed that the ducks roost on trees here. Had a bath in morning, as I do now every morning. It is a month today since ~~we~~ the "Larrakeyah" left us for Normanton.

Friday Jan^y 12th Light Westerly wind. Flies very troublesome. Saw a large Allegator close to ship Steward shot it with a revolver. In course of a conversa tion M^r Patterson remarked that a cable put under- ground would cost about a thousand times as much as the Line overland, or if this line cost a £1 the cable would cost £1000. his exact words. Mosquitoes getting bad. Townsend a little better took another dose of salts. Heavy squall during night, my bed got wet through.

Saturday Jan^y 13th Light head winds, cloudy. Squall during afternoon. Lightening & thunder. The "Dolphin" returned at 6.30 p.m. M^r Packard and Caesar cook returned, the cook bad with fever & ague. J. Miller reported that the two boats got up about 14 miles, when the freshers were too strong for the "Dolphin" to proceed having to pull from tree to tree, so they anchored, & he loaded the white boat & sent it up, it returned bringing M^r Packard & cook, and had returned at 12 a.m. this day. M^r Packard reported that up at camp at Hodgson [Hodgson] river they had to kill two bullocks & fork [?] it & was living on that till the boat came. Up at camp they were nearly swamped out the river rising 30 feet above its usual level. They believe that Giles¹⁶ with M^r Rutt's teams has either been stopped by the rain or else swamped away, as they believe that the country must be 15 feet under water by late rains. M^r Patterson told me that he wanted me to go up to the camp with him on the morrow to do some tracing, he was going to fetch some of the men down to the ship, as it was so much work to get provisions up to them. 8 natives came off in the afternoon, they swam up with logs, which I believe is to give the Alligators if they see any, they were not half so intelligent as the ones at the mouth. M^r Patterson was telling us that if they left a dray behind on the journey overland the natives chopped and hacked it all to pieces & the saw some doing so but they were off before they could be shot at.

Sunday Jan^y 14th Westerly wind, squally. The "Dolphin" was loaded, and we got in and pushed off, but the fresher was too strong and we dropped astern, so had to drop anchor and go on board again, and it was decided to send the ships long boat up on the morrow with a few provisions as she was easy to pull. At about 8 o'clock p.m. a light was seen at the bottom of the reach astern, and supposing it to be a light from a mast head, M^r Patterson & Packard fired off their carbines, and they got an answer with a report & blue light, we then burned a blue light in return. M^r Patterson & Cap^{ts} Hummel & Sweet then went down in the gig and returned in about 1 hour + ½, bringing with them M^r Little, as it turned out to be the "Larrakeeah" returned from Normanton. M^r Little reported. he left us on Monday Dec^r 11th and got to the bar at Norman mouth on the Wednesday, and on their return was caught in a Cyclone, they had a bother in finding and getting up the Roper. He (M^r Little) telegraphed the requisitions to Adelaide, and in return, got news that the "Omeo" was to leave on Dec^r 30th and another steamer to follow with the stock & stores. The S.A. Govt. purchased the Young Australian a Port Adelaide steam tug, and that had started to Port Darwin with stores for the staff there, and was coming on to do the river work. The Hart ministry¹⁷ was as we expected turned out. A nother was in Europe is rumoured. One of the Larrakeeah \crew/ W. Taylor left at Normanton for the diggers, and another man taken on. T Maislet another was bad with Dysentery, The same Niggers came off again during afternoon. M^r Little also brought news of Lady Edith Fergussons¹⁸ death. Slept without a Mosquito curtain as there was no Mosquitoes, in the day time the Flies are very troublesome, they are about twice the size of the flies in Adelaide. C. Todd¹⁹ Esq^{re} is coming in "Omeo"

Monday, Jan^y 15th. Fine light clouds. The crew got the long boat ready. and at 1 pm Mess^{rs} Patterson & Little got in and started for the camp, 5 men pulling & could only just stem the current. M^r Boord & Packard went on shore during afternoon, they shot one flying doe kangaroo and came on board about 6 p.m. The same 8 niggers swam off again.

Tuesday. Jan^y 16th Fine west wind, showery cloudy. Boat sent down & towed the "Larrakeeah" along side. C. Miller one of the crew told me that W. Taylor left because M^r Little swore & cursed at him in Normanton.

¹⁶ Giles: there are two Giles: 1. Alfred: Member of Ross' expedition, many references in AETS. 2. Christopher: Sub-overseer, sub section A, central section, ref. AETS, p.48, p.115.

¹⁷ Hart, John. Premier of South Australia: many references in AETS.

¹⁸ Fergusson, Lady Edith, the wife of the Governor of South Australia. Woods named Edith Springs between Peake and Alice Well after her, but when she heard she asked that they be changed to Dalhousie Springs after her family name, ref. AETS. pages 57, 70.

¹⁹ Todd, Sir Charles: Many many references, AETS.

Wednesday. Jan^y 17th Showery. Cloudy. Capt Sweet started at 9 a.m. in the "Larrakeeyah" to meet the "Omeo" at the river mouth. Drought told a lie about the mess at Port Darwin. At about 7.30 p.m. heard a gun report from reach ahead, answered it, & black boat (ships) returned at 8 p.m with a lot of men from the camp. The white boat returned at about 1.30 a.m. with some more men & Messrs Patterson & Little, they having been up the "Hodgson" sounding, the lowest water they got was 21 feet and, the deepest no bottom at 8 fathoms. M^r Patterson decided to have the Landing place about 3 miles up this river, which he says is a splendid one, he left some men up there to mind the cattle & build a jetty. S. King²⁰ & G. Bayfield had started off to meet Giles with M^r Rutts teams.

Thursday Jan^{ry} 18th Calm. Moderate & squally from west in evening, a very light flood made up in evening. Mess^{rs} Packard & Townsend went on shore shooting, at about 10 am, returned at 2 pm having shot a pheasant & pigeon, and got about 20 Alligators eggs, I got two and blew them which I intend sending home first opportunity. Copied some confidential letters & telegrams from C. Todd for M^r Patterson. Roche & Moss two men that came in Antipodes got dismissed from service for misconduct & insubordination. Rained heavy during night, the sky light was off, and I got wet through, when I awoke I was in a pool of water this a duced nuisance.

Friday Jan^y 19th Fine, light clouds. Two boats started with provisions again up to camp. Mess^{rs} Patterson & Little started in "Dolphin" for mouth of river, to meet "Omeo". M^r Patterson said that if the cattle were landed at Maria Island he would go home. Lent my pocket compass to M^r Little to steer the boat by & I lent my sheath knife to J. Burton one of the men with him. Rained during night & I & bed got wet through. M^r Patterson left instructions that we were to fare the same the men, as there were officers on the line who did not get any luxuaries at all, but of course \we/ were to have it in the cabin. M^r Patterson said that they did not get any luxuaries on the line, but at the same time they were getting fresh meat, (for he had bought a lot of sheep from Milliner) & we are getting the preserved. [Lady of Lyons] ?

Saturday Jan^y 20th Light clouds & moderate, heavy squall & rain in evening. The steward told me that he had \heard/ Mess^{rs} Patterson & Little while talking about our rations, pass uncalled remarks about us, M^r Little remarking that we did not earn nor were we worth the food we eat, and we could not be trusted, now I know he is pregiudiced against us, and it shows that he is no gentleman, and also his ignorance in settling his spite in that manner, in trying to turne M^r Patterson to the same mind, but I know it is only done to help him crawl, and if ever there was a crawler he is one, and he is a great hypocrite, for after he had said that he came out smiling and borrowed my compass. M^r Packard was telling us how M^r Patterson treated him on the Line, and now M^r Patterson treats him with great coolness, like he does all his officers. during the night one of the dogs fell overboard & swam on shore

Sunday. Jan^y 21st. Showery. Light clouds. heavy squall in evening from west. Two months since we left Port Darwin. Three natives of another tribe came of from the Port bank, the tide being very strong two of them missed the ship, but came off again from the other ~~eth~~ bank sent them off after the dog which they brought off. A swarm of Vampire Bats flew over in evening. Natives made signs, & we believe they ment the Omeo was \outside/

Monday Jan^y 22nd Showery Light clouds. Squall in evening from West. Washed my dirty clothes. M^r Board told me all my bumps.

Tuesday. Jan^{ry} 23rd Dull Light clouds. We commenced to have our meals seperate from the Cap^t, as M^r Patterson stopped what he called the luxuries The Cap^t kindly let us have his cabin & he had the second cabin, it is the greatest piece of absurdity I have heard of, & I am suprised at M^r Patterson for I thought he had more common sence, than to listen to a man

²⁰ King, Stephen (Steven), Junior: Surveyor on northern section. Stephen King was member of Stuart's expedition (this man was possibly father of S. King 1), ref. AETS pages 52, 89, 97, 98, 106.

like Little. At about 6.30 pm, a tremendous number of Vampire bats flew over us, they appeared like dense black clouds on the horizon, Mr Packard shot one that measured about 2 feet across the wings. I unpacked my box of shells and marked those for my sister. Boats from bar arrived at 6 pm/

Wednesday Jan^{ry} 24th Dull light clouds. As soon as we sat down to breakfast C. Knight one of the laborers came in sat down in Jones's place & helped himself & said he belonged to the cabin as well as any one else, all of us except Mr Packard at once went out, intending to report to Mr Patterson. Mr Packard after breakfast made arrangements with the Cap^t to dine with him, as he was not going to be insulted in that manner. Some of the men gave Knight a good talking to, & he had the sense to not to come in to dinner but said he would live on biscuit & tea until Charley (meaning Mr C. Todd) came then he would see about it. The Two boats started again up to the camp with the iron store. Corp^l Drought went with them. I gave the Steward 1 lb of stick tobacco for $\frac{1}{2}$ lb of ships. I gave Nalty a letter to give to J Beetson from his brother.

Thursday. Jan^y 25th. Dull, Light clouds. The natives swam off again. I fell off the steps from the poop & slightly sprained my ankle in the evening. Full Moon

Friday Jan^y 26th Dull light clouds, squall from west in evening. Reading "Eleanor's Victory" all day

Saturday Jan^y 27th Fine; Westerly wind. Six months today since we left Adelaide in the "Aldinga". 8 natives swam off, two were Lubra's, so the Cap^t would not let them come on board. Cap^t Hummel bad with the ear ache, he lent me his Tobacco pouch. Swarms of birds kept flying up the river passed us, & seemed frightened, so we thought that it must be the Steamer coming up.

Sunday Jan^y 28th. Fine, westerly wind. Natives came off Knight gave them a Galvanic shock. Cap^t ear worse had a Gal^v. shock, which eased the pain a little.

Monday Jan^{ry} 29th Fine, westerly wind. 10 natives came off, they are such a nuisance that Cap^t said that they should not come off again.

Tuesday Jan^y 30th Fine, westerly wind, current very slack, ship nearly swung round at high water for the first time for weeks. Boats returned from camp at about 3 pm having started at 8 am. one of the crew bad with sunstroke, another with bad shoulder. Wednesday Jan^{ry} 31 Fine weather, on account of men being bad I offered to go to the camp as one of the crew of white boat.

Thursday Feb^{ry} 1st 1872. Started for camp in the boat at 8 am, sailed about a mile camped for dinner. I found pulling an hour with only $\frac{1}{2}$ hour spell hard work camped about 12 mile up had tea, I was bad, & had my arms awfully burnt with the sun, rained & blew hard all night got my swag and clothes wet through & had to put them on wet.

Friday Feb^{ry} 2nd. Dull, raining all afternoon, & got wet through again, raining all night & had to turn into wet bed, pulling made my hands blister. [current Allegators] (?)

Saturday Feb^y 3rd. Started at about 9 am got to camp at 11.30 am, I like being in camp better than on board ship. [met King Tolchi Elli ?]

Sunday Feb^{ry} 4th. Fine. Went for a stroll with G. Bayfield in afternoon, found country boggy, but he said it was nothing to what it had been, The "Young Australian" Steamer arrived at 4 pm, with cargo from the "Omeo" Mr Todd Mr Patterson & H. Davies storekeeper came in her Mr Patterson introduced me to Mr Todd. Received letters from home (3)

Monday 5th Feb^y. Fine. Steamtug was dis- charged onto Jetty that M^r King had erected..

Tuesday Feb^y 6th Fine. Mr Todd gave *[in different hand... lineamen ?]* me tide gauge to keep. Steamtug went down the river to fetch "Bengal" & "Omeo" the Omeo having stuck in river. *[in different hand Wood for G^r ?]*

Wednesday Feb^y 7th. Fine weather.

Thursday Feb^y 8th. Fine. The Steam- tug & the "Omeo" arrived at this camp at 11.30 am, the Omeo drew up and moored *[in different hand Lambell. Hume & passengers. Jones]* close into Jetty & the Tug discharged into her *[in different hand & left for Bengal new tents]*/ At 6 oclock M^r Todd called all the men on board gave them some rum and several speches were made, & M^r Patterson made a very able one, in the evening M^r Patterson invited all us officers down in the cabin, an champagne was brought out & speches made I had to respond to the Ladies toast called for by M^r Patterson.It finished up with a drunken row, for I ashamed to say all were tight.

Friday Feb^y 9th Fine Weather. Tug returned \with Bengal/

Saturday Feb^y 10th. Fine. Went on board *[in different hand no tents]* the Bengal & got a change as I had not had on since leaving her. In the evening E Bayfield got tight had a hard job to get him on shore. *[in different hand Todd camped on shore ? new mess]*

Sunday Feb^y 11th. Fine wrote letters to my Father Sister, & Clem Oldham. M^r Todd read church service in Mess tent I went. *[in different hand re Meals Hume]*/

Monday Feb^y 12th Fine in morning heavy shower in afternoon. Tracing for M^r Patterson. M^r King told me he thought I was going with him. I got an order for £1 from M^r Patterson being the third I have got for that amount have- ing got two from M^r Little in Port Darwin. H Meichlam mate of Gulnare was drunk in cabin and fell down at my feet before Mess^{rs} Todd & Patterson. *[Todd camped on shore] (?)*

Tuesday 13th Fine. Omeo & Young *[in different hand for lease]*/ Australian sailed down the river at 12 am. The Omeo fired a gun Mess^{rs} Todd & Patterson went in her so did Stretton,*[for Mana Island to wait for Tararua²¹]* & I have to take his place a storekeeper until he returns. 13 men return in her. Meichlam dead drunk in Store Tent making a regular beast of himself.

Wednesday Feb^y 14th Fine. all day heavy rain & very windy all night. Meichlam still the same having broached a case of brandy of Stretton's. M^r King & I, closed it up and emptied the bottle he was using. Spent the evening with Bayfield & some others at M^{rs} Dean's tent. Commenced to rain & blow at 11 pm, got my bed wet. Changed from M^r Folsches to M^r King's mess.

Thursday Feb^y 15th Fine all day, raining all night. River commenced to rise. *[Hume fever & Ague]*

Friday Feb^y 16th Fine raining during night, river still rising. Commenced a tracing for Insp^r. Foelsche of track from Catherine to Roper landing.

Saturday Feb^y 17th. Fine during morning heavy rain during afternoon & night, river rising pretty fast. Got one Crimean shirt from Store 9/6

²¹ the 'Tararua' arrived Port Darwin from Adelaide with stores January 1871, but it became impossible to move them over flooded country to the construction parties, ref. AETS p.84

Sunday Feb^{ry} 18th. Fine, rain during night.

Monday Feb^{ry} 19th. Rain during day River up about 12 feet. [false alarm](?)

Tuesday Feb^{ry} 20th. Fine all day rain during night. The Larrakeeah started with provisions for horse camp as the Young Australian was behind her time. Meichlam G Bayfield & A Giles in her.

Wednesday Feb^{ry} 21st. Fine. Rain during night. River up about 20 feet. Townsend bad I had to take tally of Bengals cargo for him. Young Australian arrived about 4 o'clock with 21 horses. Bayfield & Giles returned, Giles returned bad, put him in my hammock as his was too hot. Larrakeeah gone to mouth to wait for "Tararua"

Thursday. Fine, rain in night. Young Australian started down for remainder of horses. The tree where my hammock was slung was cut down, so I had to go to Stretton's Store Tent, Townsend a little better Giles no better & I had a bilious attack./

Friday Feb^{ry} 23rd. Fine heavy rain in afternoon and night river still rising. Doing tracing & diagram of batteries in office for Little. Young Australian arrived bring horses Geo Dean & his men from camp. I got a felt hat from Store 7/6. Lot of men drunk and making a row all night.

Saturday Feb^{ry} 24th. Fine. Rain in afternoon & night doing tracing for diagrams for Little. did some washing. Giles moved into M^r C. Todds tent. \[in different hand Y.A started down for Tararua]

Sunday Feb^{ry} 25th. Raining. River up to jetty. had to put a lot of wire on jetty to keep it from being washed away. Went on board Bengal with Johnston²² got stewards, \musical?/ instrument went on shore and had some singing. One of the men Cavanagh²³ very bad with fever. Put on new boots.

Monday Feb^{ry} 26th. Fine. River up past jetty had to unload in boats. Doing diagrams for Little. One good horse drowned coming across swamp at back of camp. I saw him drowned and think that in swimming across he must have caught in a snag. Giles much better able to get about. Man Cavanagh very bad, little hopes of his recovery. Washed pair of tweed trousers & skinned all my knuckles. M^{rs} Dean unwell. Gaming with about a dozen in Stretton's tent till about 12 pm.

Tuesday Feb^{ry} 27th Raining, River still rising People getting frightened of being flooded out. Some of the men flooded during night, water covering ground at back of camp a lot of tents had to be removed, horses were got to higher ground, the flood is much higher this time than it was last. Stretton moved his bed into another tent and gave me his bunk, made it up better. Man Cavanagh a little better.

Wednesday Feb^{ry} 28th Raining off and on. River, still rising, now about 7 feet above the jetty and making our situation look rather dangerous. Horses were shifted to higher ground. Cavanagh still very bad. I helped Lambell to copy M^r Todd's private correspondence. [Everything made fast to trees]

²² possibly Johnston: Telegraph station master at Daly Waters, ref. AETS, p. 168.

²³ Kavanagh, Daniel, had been ill ever since he came down from the line and in spite of the care that had been given him by the other men he became delirious with fever. After talking incoherently about his friends, he died on the 3 March. [this date varies from Crowder's by two days] He was a 23 year old man from Maitland in NSW, and was buried a short distance from the camp that evening and the flags of the 'Bengal' flew at half mast as the Roman Catholic service was read over his lonely grave, ref. AETS. p. 139

Thursday Feb^y 29th Moderate & rain. River commenced to fall fast. Helping Lambell all day. Cleared Stretton cleared the stores out of his tent & we put up posts in it for our hammocks in the evening. The man Hume very ill with fever, & has been for a fortnight.

Friday. March 1 1872. Fine. River falling fast. Helping Lambell. Dean Bayfield & Wells reporter went out to see horses. 2 men came from bar for provisions.

Saturday. March 2nd Fine. River down to jetty. Spent the evening at Geo Dean's tent.

Sunday March 3rd. Fine weather. [*in different hand Jones & the frog*] (?) / Another man Buder taken bad. Cavanagh getting worse. M^r Wells & Townsend tried to get up church service but nobody came. River falling very fast. M^r King expects to get away very soon now if weather lasts. [*in different hand Hume log foul of Bengal*]

Monday March 4th Fine. Boat started up to Bar with provisions Mess^{rs} Giles, Wells & Johnston going in her. Geo Dean bled chesnut mare had bought from E. T. Smith. Talking to Geo Bayfield all morning about old times. Very windy during afternoon. I have very weak eyes & have had for a long time. [*in different hand Jam?*]

Tuesday. March 5th Fine. Boat returned from bar, at 9 o'clock. one horse dead at bar. The Poor man D. Cavanagh died at 9. o'clock am, I went to see him, & I never saw a man so fallen away in my life, Tom Lee his mate stuck to him like a brother during his illness. He came out here in the same ship that I did the "Antipodes". I lent Mason a hand to make the coffin which was got up very nicely, being properly [?] shaped & covered with a blue blanket, the lid was lined with zinc [...] with which a very nice zinc brestplate on which M^r Mitchell²⁴ printed his name & age. He was buried at 5.30 p.m. All the camp attended. Johnson read the service being a Catholic. A large bullock bell was tolled. Commenced to rain at 6 pm and lasted all night.

Wednesday March 6th Fine. rain in evening. "Young Australian" arrived at 11. am, with stores & Iron poles, having left the "Tarrua" at Maria Island, which is coming up the river. She brought a mail I got 1 letter & 3 papers from home. The "Tarrua" arrived off the mouth just after the tug leaving last time waited 36 hours & then went on to Port Darwin, & commenced to land the horses. 7 were landed when the G. R. stopped it and sent them back to the Roper, the Investigator has been to Port D. & brought a 10 months mail from Timor. Spent the evening in Freer & Minza's tent. [*in different hand Jones & Frog*]

Thursday March 7th Fine. The Young Australian, left at 8.30 am. She was going to tow the "Bengal" down, but as the the current was rather strong and the steamer could not get more than 5 lts (?) of steam on a/c of the green wood, Cap^t Hummel would not go. I wrote a letter to my brother Fred. E. Bayfield came down from Bar, He told me that he had a narrow escape in going up last time, in swimming creek, his horse nearly got drowned. [man bad with colic] (?)

Friday March 8th Fine. Wrote a letter to my sister Fanny. "Tarrua" & Young Australian came up. The Tarrua made several attempts to get along side the jetty before she succeeded, she got on snags two or three times then she backed into opposite side & smashed her spanker boom. The Y. A. bumped against the "Tarrua" (?) & knocked her stern out. Abram Barber a old schoolmate came in here he is going to Port Darwin to learn operating.

Saturday March 9th Fine. Plotted O.T. Line on Cap^t Pearce's chart. Horses were landed. Got an order for £1 from Mr Patterson. [onions](?) [*in different hand Brandy in Johnsons tent*]

²⁴ Mitchell, W.W., Surveyor, Northern Section, refs. AETS pages 141,147,151,152, 154.

Sunday March 10th Fine. I was not well. Wrote a letter to my sister Mima. M^r Todd held church service in afternoon. I got one Crimean shirt from Store 9/- (?)

Monday March 11th. Fine Very hot. Townsend knocked up. I had to take his place tallying all afternoon. Cap^t Sweet took several Photos of camp. I was in all. Masson came from Bar. Mess^{rs} King & Giles with 3 men & 4 Pack horses started at 1 pm to see if the country was fit for travelling, they were going about 40 miles. A lot of junior officers & men got tight & made a row in evening, luckily I was not in it. Grave railed

Tuesday, March 12th Fine. Townsend all right again. M^r Patterson wrote a letter to the junior officers complaining of their conduct the previous evening.

Wednesday March 13th Fine

Thursday March 14th Fine. M^r King & Giles returned reported country too bad to travel with teams. It was deci- ded to send about 60 pack horses up the line

Friday. March 15th. 29 pack horses started for bar. Rainy. I saw my name down on list to go home spoëke to M^r Patterson and my name was scratched out.

Saturday. March 16th. Fine. I had instructions to go on ~~the~~ with packs with M^r King started with 15 horses at 4 pm accompanied by C. Johnson operator and 4 men arrived at Bar at sun down, played cards & turned in on mess table as Giles had my fly. Rained during night

Sunday March 17. Fine. Washed my dirty clothes. Mess^{rs} King & Giles & Lambell & Stretton & two men arrived with 4 horses at 2.30. Lambell & Stretton returned at 4 pm. Slept on ground in Bennetts tent.

Monday March 18th. Started from Bar riding little Black mare with Mess^{rs} Giles King Johnson 10 men & 49 pack horses. Road very bad for miles up to stirrups in muck had to get off up to hips in mud several times to put on pack bags. Had a little trubble in getting horses over creek just before we came to M^t McMinn. One Bay mare died. Camped at 4 pm. on creek other side of M^t McMinn. Had bed & bath rigged my calouse and turned in. It rained pretty heavy during afternoon, & we got wet through, also during night mosquito Curtain [...]

Tuesday March 19th. Fine. hung things out to dry, Mess^{rs} Giles & King went out to see if the ground was fit, returned in about 1 hour and reported country too bad even for our packs, so had to remain camped. Went with Easter on top of mount McMinn. beautiful scenery. cut my initials & date, rained hard got wet through track frightful boggy up to knees. rained during night.

Wednesday March 20th. M^r King with 3 men & 1 pack returned to camp at landing. Washed strapped trousers in creek. Giles went out on foot, to see track ahead came back knocked up, track too bad to travel still, rain making it worse. Went with Johnson & Easter to foot of M^t McMinn to get Kangaroo in afternoon, did not succeed, soon after returning to camp, it rained very hard.

Thursday March 21st Fine very, very hot remained camped.

Friday March 22nd. Very fine, Giles & Woods²⁵ went out to see track, reported drying up fine start tomorrow. Did some washing & mending.

Saturday. March 23rd. Very fine, got up early & made a start, left one horse behind, bad, I changed my mare for another one that came overland with Milliner²⁶ (chesnut). About 200 yds

²⁵ Woods, A.T, Overseer, sub-section D, Central Section, many references in AETS.

from camp mashy (?) bog took about 1 hour to get horses through, as they laid down in it & had to be unpacked, had to leave a black one behind, got onto the rise, and came on without much further trouble road in places up to horses bellies nothing but thick slush, got in a mess with it, caked all over, our road was along Ingram Valley over Sherman creek to near the end of Harts range where we camped, on a small watercourse from the hill at about 4 pm. Distance about 7 or 8 miles

Sunday March 24th Fine got up early & started about 9 am, later end of road very bad, had to get off and drive horses through about 1 mile of thick mud up to bellies, we got in a frightful mess, & horses completely knocked up, a lot of them laying down in it, camped by a creek about 5 miles from last camp, one horse layed down in it & had to be pulled out, camped about 2 pm, heard a lot of wild dogs in evening, I had cramp very bad,

Monday March 25th, Fine, started about 9 am, road very good for about 5 miles, then crossed a creek & got into boggy slush, got half of horses half way through it when they laid down, and took us 2 or three hours to get them out and had to leave 3 in it, it was frightfully boggy even we went down to our middles at every step, ~~we camped~~ we had to turn them back on if they had gone on they would have sunk out of sight, we camped on the other side of the creek, having had to come back & recross it, at about 4 pm, I was completely dead beat and caked all over with mud, Easter & Jones found a road round bog in afternoon, & 2 of the horses were got out.

Tuesday March 26th Fine. remained camped horses in bog had to be shot, got packs out of bog. did some washing, went out with Snodgrass in afternoon & got some seeds & wild currants, rained during night.

Wednesday March 27th. Fine, made a start about 9 am lost one horse & had to bury his packs, (meat,) had a good road for about 10 miles, when we came to some nasty bogs, & had to camp about 3 o'clock, soon after camping, we heard shouting ahead, & thought it was niggers, I went out a little way and saw men on horses, which we found to be Mess^{rs} Milliner & Knuckey²⁷ from J (?) Section, going down to Landing for provisions, they reported men on line on 3 lbs flour & 18 lbs fresh meat per week, for 6 weeks when they left, they had not seen or heard anything of Burton, Tapscott & Marchant still at Lilly swamp Milliners camp were Patterson left them, floods been frightful on line, A lot of niggers came into our camp, in afternoon but we set the dogs on them & drove them away, camped on a creek about 5 miles from M^c Cullocks range. 8 months from Adelaide.

Thursday March 28th. Fine. Mess^{rs} Milliner & Knuckey started about 10.30 a.m. we remained camped, as bog ahead was too bad, Soon after they had gone and all except Mess^{rs} Giles Johnson & myself were out looking up horses, we were startled by one \of our/ dogs rushing across the camp, and barking and \on/ looking round we saw about 15 to 20 niggers with spears crawling up behind some bushes behind us, about 30^{yds} from us, we all three seized our arms, and jumped up and fired on them, just as they were aiming their spears, & they immediately scampered off, they must have watched Milliner & our men go away and then crawled up, to take us by surprise. This spot is about 20 miles from where Packard was attacked, and all this part of country is noted for its treacherous niggers. Went for a walk in afternoon found some native canoes in a tree, with a lot of iron off Giles's drays in them, Buried 24 tins of meat. Kept watch during night, It was very cold during morning before sunrise & heavy dew.

Friday March 29th Good Friday. (but a jolly bad one to us). Fine, cold & heavy dew first thing, Started about 9 am., road boggy all the way had to pull one horse out of a creek, at end of

²⁶ Milliner: there were two Milners, John and Ralph, both sheep drovers. AETS pages 106, 147, 109. 124, 141. A Dr Milner had been a surgeon on Ross's expedition. AETS. p.97.

²⁷ Knuckey, R.R, Overseer, sub-section A, Central Section, many references in AETS.

stage about 2 miles of puddles & bogs, when we got to the end of it we came to a deep bog which we could not get across, about 6 horses got through so they were unpacked & left there, and others were driven back about ½ a miles and unpacked and we had to camp in the middle of a swamp & there being no trees, we had to sleep on the ground. When we got to camp I found that my swag was left the other side of the bog so I had to go for it, & sometimes coming back I would sink down and have to put the swag down before I could get my legs out. Kept watch.[7...]

Saturday March 30th. Fine started early, two horses strayed during night, but were found a lot of (?) miles back on track, got horses through bog ahead some laying down, & had to be unpacked, the one that was pulled out yesterday, had to be pulled out again, during our stop there 14 horses got away, 12 we picked up on ahead, so we camped to find the others having come about 2 miles a lot of horses knocked up, with continual bogging, when we got to camp I found that my swag was on one of horses lost, so three of us saddled again and went in search of them, but did not succeed, had dinner and all of us except 3 went out again, and M^r Giles succeeded in finding them about 4 pm, when we got back to camp, we found that Mess^{rs} Patterson Milliner & Stretton had come & camped just ahead of us. Bitter cold during night with heavy dew.

Sunday March 31st. Easter Sunday. Fine. Washed some clothes in morning. Had dinner & desert with M^r Patterson, so did Mess^{rs} Johnson & Giles. had church service during afternoon. Stretton bad with fever.

Monday April 1st Fine had a late start on account of horses straying. M^r Patterson started about 1 hour before us, road best we have had [*in different hand* over M^cCulloch Range] 2 or 3 nasty bogs, had to make road with bows over one creek, came up to M^r Patterson camped on the Strangways about 4 pm, so we camped [*in different hand* at Moles Hut]/ passed one of our P. horses lying dead, on the road, shot, as one of the others kicked & broke its leg, we left one of ours bad behind a camp, had a bathe, distance about 12 miles.

Tuesday April 2nd Fine, got packed early & had to wait about 1 hour for M^r P party to get ready. Crossed the Strangways, up to horses bellies, M^r P had to leave one horse bad behind, good road. passed Packards camp, and came through about ¼ mile swamp. camped with M^r P. at Lillies Bluff at about 2.30. Distance about 11 or 12 miles & about 17 miles from Lilly swamp. Shot bird for bait for M^r P.

Wednesday April 3rd. Started early. Fine, had about ¼ mile of boggy Bay of Biscay²⁸ to go through. All the rest nice road reached Lilly swamp about 3 pm and camped 1 ½ miles north of milliners camp. Mess^{rs} Patterson Milliner & Giles went on to the camp. Marchant & Tapscott came down as we were at dinner. Tapscott looking awfully thin, I went back, with him, 2 of our men went up for a sheep, I brought the frying pan down & we had fresh mutton & fish for tea, & I enjoyed it more than I ever (?) did a meal in my life. Distance about 17 miles, Keg of rum bust on road, 2 men got screwed.

Thursday April 4th. Fine. Mutton & Fish for breakfast. I got some red lilly seed. I was told that I had to return to the Roper Landing with 3 others with 30 horses [has ?] M^r P had bought some from Milliner. Packed horses & got to Milliner's camp at 1 pm, horses picked out that we had to take, and we started (Dyke Snodgrass Ford & myself at 4 pm. got as far as the Lilly swamp and camped. I got my compas from M^r Patterson. [Tripe & onions for tea]??

Friday April 5th Fine. Started about 9 am had to leave 1 mare on road too week to travel got as far as Lillies Bluff 2.30 about 17 miles camped at old camp I road [?] Tommy Dodd but he is a beast. I had dysentery bad during night. Decided to watch at night double watch half night

²⁸ possibly 'Bay of Biscay' soil, an unstable black type of soil found in Adelaide, very sticky and slippery when wet.

each. Ford & I took first watch from 8 to 1 am. Mosquitoes frightfully bad, the worst I have known them to be since leaving the river mouth. [*in different hand cold*]

Saturday April 6th Fine. Started about 9 am horses strayed a long way during night. good travelling, crossed the Strangways, and camped on a round hill about 5 miles ~~the other~~ from it about 3 pm. Kept 1st watch about 17 on [?]

Sunday April 7th. Fine. Started early. rode Black little horse. Road drying up fast but boggy in some places. Creeks boggy horse went down with me in one. got as far as camp where niggers suprised us Distance about 18 miles. Kept 1st watch.

Monday April 8th. Fine. Some of horses strayed but found them, got as far as Coey creek and camped there about 11.30 am, bog on coey creek better & safe. York with Milliner packs came up and camped with us at 1 pm

Tuesday April 9th Fine. Started about 9 am before York. Passed M^r Mitchell & Bullock team \[*in different hand Hume with him*\/ soon after camped on a creek about 4 miles from Coey creek, stopped a little while and started again, met M^r King and Bullock teams after about 6 miles travelling, M^r Tucker operator & E Bayfield were with him, M^r King told me I could return with him if I liked, and as it was the very thing I wanted I did so went on about a mile & camped. [*in different hand clothes bag*]

Wednesday April 10th. Started 8 pm, road very good. Fine, camped on the creek for dinner that Mitchell was on when we passed with packs, got on to Coey creek and camped, saw that Mitchell had camped night before, had a bathe

Thursday April 11th Fine. Bullock team started early, but some of horses strayed so we had to stay behind & look for them upon daylight and did not find them before 10 am, came on teams about 6 miles ahead camped for dinner after dinner went on about 4 or 5 miles and caught up to Mitchell, so camped about ¼ (?) mile ~~before we~~ east of him as we did not want to pass,

Friday April 12th Fine remained camped all day. Mess^{rs} King & Tucker started with Mitchells teams to see track, went to Mitchells camp with them. [*in different hand overturned?*]/Did some washing. Hearn put handle to whip for me.

Saturday April 13th. Fine started early. camped for dinner & then caught up to Mitchell at about 4 pm. so camped. Mitchell had only then just got all his bullocks in, so he yoked up took some of our men and went on to make road up M^cCullock range. Played pica in evening. [*in different hand King & I going too*]

Sunday April 14th. Fine. remained camped, had a bother to find horses, Hearn & I went shooting, got 1 cocatoo & 2 peigeons, after going through about 1 of bog. Our men returned from gorge, road being finished.

Monday April 15th. Fine. I started back to Mitchell's camp with M^r King's horses early returned about 9am. M^r Mitchell's teams were starting over range as I left. Our teams started about 10am. Bastian taken very bad on road, I stoped with him, but after about 1 hour had to put him on horse and half carry him to camp in gorge about 1½ miles, Patched strapped britches.

Tuesday April 16th. Fine. Bullocks strayed \crossed out words/ got them about 4.30 started about 5pm. and got to camp on creek over M^cCullock range about 3 miles from gorge. about 7. pm.

Wednesday April 17th, Fine. Started early 3 Bullocks strayed, Bayfield & Weaver stopped behind to get them, We came on Bastian very bad on road, caught Mitchell on the Strangways. Mitchell started about 4 pm & we took his camp. Mess^{rs}, King & Tucker returned to our party. [*in different script*] \between Moles hill & river

Thursday April 18th, Fine. Messrs King, Tucker & myself started early to explore a track to Daly waters up the Strangways, took 1 packhorse with swags & tucker. went about 20 miles and in the saddle from 8 am till 6 pm. over some very rough country, went on top of several hills, crossed the strangways and found Milliners tracks, camped the other side of river.

Friday April 19th, Fine. Started on return at 8 am, crossed the strangways, and found passable track home, saw turkeys & kangaroos, got home about 5 pm.

Saturday April 20th. Fine Started early with teams, wrote two sign boards pointing out our track & King put them on trees, had to make several creek crossings, went about 10 miles, camped on billybongs..

Sunday April 21st. Little rain during afternoon. Teams spelled. M^r King myself & Jones, as Tucker had some washing to do, started to find track round gorge, found one with difficulty, I kept note book, returned by 1.30pm. had a bathe Tucker gave me some thread.

Monday April 22nd. Fine. Started with teams early went about 4 miles and after campin crossing wide creek camped on it. Went out with King & Tucker to look for Milliners tracks & found them on a creek running creek south. had a bathe.

Tuesday April 23rd, Fine. Started out with King & Tucker to look up a track. about 8. am went within about 3 miles of what M^r. King thought was Stuarts Rock camp. returned at 2 pm, went fish- ing had a bathe Bayfield & Tucker had a row.

Wednesday April 24th, Fine. Started early with teams. Marked tree N2, camp. Went up valley that we came down yesterday. camped for dinner, on a creek in it about 5 miles. went on to creek, our farthest yesterday about 8 miles; & camped the teams. King Tucker & I went on for about 3 miles, close to rock camp & returned, after sundown.

Thursday April 25th, Fine. Started with team's. Marked tree No 3 camp. camp up another valley. came about 5 miles, camped. went on with King & Tucker, along the Strangways. Saw some splendid rocks like [...]

Friday April 26th, Fine. Went out with King & Tucker about 5 miles and returned about [*in different script*] \bogged/ 12 am. Had dinner & started with teams. Marked tree No 4 camp & WAC. Crossed the Strangways, steep crossing. got on Milliner's tracks & followed them up till sundown, camped on billybongs about 5 miles from last camp. Edwards²⁹ dray capsized in dry creek, about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from this camp. I cristined it capsized creek.

Saturday April 27th. \5/. [*possibly Camp 5*] Started early. [*in different script*] \Much rocks/. Fine. Went on Top of Table Land with King & Tucker. that & all round looked like the ruins of an ancient city. cut our initials in trees. went on after dinner altogether about 8 miles.

Sunday April 28th. \6/. [*possibly Camp 6*] Fine. Came about 7 miles up to within 2 miles of rocky gorge. camped on muddy waterhole as there was no other. went with King & Tucker after teams had camped to mouth of Stuart's rocky gorge, rode along for about 1 mile in bed of river with flood marks 30 feet above our heads.

²⁹ Edwards: Storekeeper of Northern construction party, ref. AETS p.52.

Monday April 29th. Fine \7/ came on past rocky gorge. & camped for dinner. King & I went to find some of Stuarts old camps, saw no trace, but went to them. dray went on, & we caught them about 3 pm. camped on billybongs, distance 7 miles. *[different script]* \8 lost tracks/

Tuesday April 30th. Fine. Started with King Tucker & Bayfield to find water, ahead found small hole about 5 miles and another at 7 miles, then Tucker & Bayfield turned back to fetch teams. King & I went on to find more, found small hole about 9 miles, went 4 miles further on found none so turned back to last one & camped for night, horses went off, had to go after them; camped on ground. *[different script]* cold

Wednesday May 1st 1872. Fine. Started early with King went back towards teams about 3 miles, then turned back on Milliners track followed it for about 9 miles & came to splendid waterholes. turned back and got to teams about 3.30. camped on waterhole, that we left Bayfield on yesterday. *[9]*.

Thursday May 2nd. Fine. Tree marked 10 Camp S.K. W.A.C. Started with teams. had to carry water for dinner. Followed our tracks in to Waterholes camped on them at 2.30 in one of Milliners camps. Went on with King for about 1 hour, could not keep M^s track. Had a bathe, did some washing & mending.

Friday May 3rd. Fine. King, Tucker:*[...]* started to try and follow up M^s track. I could not go as I could not find Mother Brock, found her about 12 am. King & party returned at 6 pm.

Saturday May 4th. ~~Started~~ They went 11 miles and did not find Purdies Ponds and no water. so King supposed the ponds we were on were Purdies.

Saturday May 4th. Started with King & Tucker went 11 ? miles & came to Purdies Ponds. so King went Back and Tucker & I camped there, with 4 horses. Cut our names in full on tree.

Sunday May 5th. Fine. Saw two Emu's. Teams arrived. at 5 pm. reported Horse teams at last camp. Buder got my clothes from them. Odgers down with Milliners dray: Privett³⁰ & another dead on line. G. Bayfield lost one mare ? Bismark. *[this is a strange name for a mare!]*

Monday May 6th. Fine. Started with King & Tucker to Daly waters. travelled about 17 mile & came to swamps with little water gave horses a drink went on 6 miles further, and had to camp without water at about 5.30 had to tie Bob one horse up. Passed a lot of Stuarts Hedgewood unpenetratable scrub. Had *[bare ?]* short allowance of tea.

Tuesday May 7th. Fine. Started early. and struck Burton's dray track to Daly waters at about 10 am. Followed it about 5 miles & came to Daly waters, but no camp there: went on to line and no one there. Had dinner on waterhole, and started back, got to swamp about 11 miles at 6 pm, dark, very tired. Saw one horse. and any amount of tracks all over the country. Somebody had lately been at the waters.

Wednesday May 8th. Fine. Started, at 8.50. am. and got back to camp. 17 miles at 2.10. tired Horses pretty well done. Bismark found on monday by Weaver. 15 miles up creek camped. Dyke & 8 teams with ~~at~~ G. Bayfield at back camp. Bullocks yoked & tied up for night, to make early start in morning.

Thursday May 9th. Fine in morning. Rain all after noon & night. Started at 6.45. Went 10 miles Camped for dinner. Camped at swamp at about 3 pm. wet through.

³⁰ Privett, Edward: died of scurvy March 1872, ref. AETS, p.158.

The "other man" was Thomas Hawkins, from fever, in March 1872, ref. same source.

Friday May 10th. Rain first thing. got wet through again. Fine all day. Started at 10 am. 6 miles before dinner. camped on Daly waters at 5 pm. caught stray horse Rosses nigger.

Saturday May 11th. Started with King & Tucker up Burton's track north: went 9 miles. saw fresh horse tracks. on return met M^r Ringwood & 2 men by Stuarts swamp. He told us they were camped at Stuarts old camp at Daly waters about 2 miles from us, & we were on a different water altogether. & the Line we went on was a false one put up by Mistake. Went back to our camp Yoked up and started for Burton³¹ bush fire nearly caught teams. got to Burton at about 4 pm. Cheriste. M^r Patterson there. The Depot is one of Stuarts old camps. brands visible.

Sunday May 12th. Fine. Service during afternoon.

Monday May 13th. Fine. Out after horses. M^r. Burton told me I was one of King's party surveying & exploring the very thing I wanted.

Tuesday May 14th. Fine. E. Bayfield & Teams started for Landing. Grey Mare & Ted's cob lost.. Ringwood showed me plan of our track. G. Bayfield & Dyke with 18 horse teams arrived at 4 pm. [*different script*] 'Morseline Bura' ?

Wednesday May 15th. Fine. Teams unloaded. Woods arrived from Mitchells section. No news of the 3 operators that are lost.

Thursday May 16th. Fine. Team started down line to Newcastle waters. M^r Patterson & party started for bar. M^r P. a bit cocky. I started with Mess^{rs} King Ringwood & party at 4 pm – 4 packhorses two spring drays. The black horse I rode up from Landing ? got his near hind leg out of joint & no more good. Camped on line about 8 miles from Burtons camp.

Friday May 17th Fine. Mess^{rs}. King & Ringwood went on for about 6 miles to look for water.. Teams came up at 11 am. King returned at 12 am. Started on with our spring drays. Got to M^cGorey's ponds at about 4 pm. camped. Ringwood explained Sextant to me & took latitude 16^o.26.

Saturday May 18th. Fine. Nights & mornings very cold. Started with King Ringwood & Abrahams 3 packs to explore ahead. Passed very bad country heavy sand & dense mulga lancewood & ~~wattle~~ scrub so dense that it was difficult to ride through it. Got to Kings ponds about 16 miles at about 4 pm, saw Stuarts camp on them.. Camped there. Rode Bayfields cob.

Sunday May 19th. Fine. Windy. Started at about 8 am to return to camp. Struck off more to the ~~West~~ [*different script*] East than before. Country worse than yesterdays. Came on tracks supposed by us to be Rosse's. followed them came to swamp plenty of water. saw Emu there. Got back to camp about 5 pm, found all the teams & men there. Road impossible to take drays through it, so M^r Kings decided to go and try to find better tomorrow.

Monday May 20th. Fine. Started with the exploring party early, went to the east (overwritten by west) of the other track. and little better than before being all scrub & sand. about 7 miles of sand. camped close to Stuarts camp at 5 pm on Kings ponds very cold. cut my initials on tree with J.M.D.S. on it.

Tuesday May 21st. Fine. started early to rest of yesterdays track. Scrub & sand. cut, Milliners track after 5 miles cut our initials on tree where we cut track. Then followed track back. for 5 miles saw several camps & large lagoon called Milliners Lagoon went to the west

³¹ *Burton, Jim & R.C: there are two Burtons: 1. Jim Burton 2. R.C. Burton, asst. Govt overseer on Northern Section, many references in AETS*

of it, & could not get near it for bog. then went to the east side on a sandy rise & camped. cut ↑³² & WAC in bark of tree.

Wednesday May 22nd. Started early, fine. followed Milliners track back & found it to be the best got to camp about 5 pm. Struck Aulds Ponds & saw the tree with J.M.D.S. on it quite distinct, cut our initials on it. Found M^r Burton & all the rest of the party at camp also C. Bagot³³ with sheep. Had a yarn with him in evening. I do not think the line will be finished this year, for the strange way they are going to work licks me alto- gether. Ringwood plotted tracks in evening & in a straight line to swamp (Milliners) is 19 miles, and round track 20 miles. To get that track we have travelled 95 miles.

Thursday May 23rd. Fine. Started early. at 9 am with all party. along Milliners track. Bagot stopped at waterhole about 5 miles. camped for dinner and got about 1 hour start of M^r Burton. Sand not so heavy as I expected. Got to swamp at 6 pm dark. had a bother to keep pad & horses together – M^r Burton did not catch us.

[Friday]³⁴]May 24th. Fine. Queens Birthday. Spelled to spell horses. Teams apured one after another from 9 till 12. Did some washing. Cut ~~some~~ my initials in wood of tree. Ringwood took Latitude. 16 – 41.

[Saturday]³⁵]May 25th. Fine. Started with exploring party: on South course. Got little water in bay of Biscay at 12 miles. Went on to small Iron stone Ponds and about 1 mile past, but lost one horse for about 1 hour. so had to turn & camp on ponds. Road bad all a then.? Bay of Biscay &c. Dense Lancewood or Hedgewood or Mulga Scrub.

Saturday Sunday May 26th. Fine. Late start on – a/c of horses straying. Abrahams³⁶ & I found round Ironstone ponds while looking for them. Went on still following tracks where we could and came to Frews Ironstone Ponds at about 12 am. Lots of game. Saw Milliners sheep yard there also Giles camp. Started back to water at 12 miles from Main camp & came to it at 5 miles, cutting right across. camped on it. Short of tucker. Yarned till 10 pm.

Monday May 27th Fine. Started early on return trip. taking straight courses for camp. Road all Biscay and some of the most dense scrub I have seen. Got scached & clothes torn going through it arrived in camp & 3 pm. Start on with teams tomorrow. Did some sewing.

Tuesday May 28th. Started with Teams. Fine. Nasty road for teams through scrub. M^r King making it round edge of Biscay. Had dinner and about 4 pm. came to one of Giles camps going down & on a very large & deep swamp I believe permanent so camped. I went back to fetch our teams as they might camp without water. Any amount of game. Had a bathe.

Wednesday May 29th. Fine. Late start as horses strayed and Frank's dray had to be repaired, as scrub damaged it. Only our survey party started. As M^r Burton had to get wagonette repaired. Road better, not so much scrub. Got to Frews Ironstone Pond at about 1.30 pm. about 7 miles. And about 20 from Milliners Swamp. All were supprised to see 2 men & a blackboy with 1 pack & some loose horses. come into camp. from south at about 4 pm. The first man that came up. whose name I make out to be Anderson. was so excited that he could hardly speak. He asked for a drink, then told us that he had, had no water since yesterday. And that he wanted to get a doctor for his mate \Chawner/ who had met with a gun accident, on monday last, it seems that he was on horseback and was reaching a gun from a tree, he caught ~~in~~ ahold of it by the muzzel, and drgged it against a twig which

³² broad arrow, pointing upwards: this sign was sometimes used in government survey maps.

³³ Bagot, C.M: Cadet, sub-section D, Central Section, ref. AETS p.49.

³⁴ 'Friday' written over Thursday.

³⁵ 'Saturday' written over Friday.

³⁶ Abrahams: Member of Ross's expedition, ref. AETS, p.73.

caught the hammer, & the contents buckshot was sent through his left hand. So he then buried his goods as they were hawkers, left his dray behind and hurried on North to try & reach our doctor, – when they reached the Newcastle. The niggers stuck them up, and would not let them get much water. And he was the only one who could fire on them, & he only having a fowling piece & revolver. and according to his account it is wonderful how they escaped. As it was, they only managed to get one of his packs. He seemed overjoyed to find us & water. I am afraid it is a bad case with his mates hand, as it is awfully shattered. He says we will be able to give the blacks fits when we get there. And I hope we will. We keep well repaired & am are going to keep watch from this..

Thursday May 30th. Fine. Anderson & mate with Abrahams started at about 8 am for daly waters, met teams & returned about 10.am. They got M^r Burton's³⁷ advice & started again with Abrahams at about 3 pm. We (the exploring party) with M^r Burton & Woods, started for Newcastle waters at about 4 pm, well armed, went about 4 miles & camped. Kept watch.

Friday May 31st. Fine. Started at sunrise. crossed Sturt plain about 15 miles through & reached Newcastle at about 4 pm. saw niggers' tracks in thousands. Very boggy watering horses. took some water with us. followed Milliners track some distance. found Roberts³⁸ & Giles crossing. went up in the Hedgewood & camped at about 6 pm. Kept watch.

Saturday. June 1st 1872. Fine. Started at sunrise to find a crossing for teams. Found one but boggy. & will have to be made. crossed & got on to Ashburton Range, when we saw 6 natives following us, & they did so till we got in some lancewood scrub when they tried to stick us up, The first fellow darted behind a bush & had his spear shipped at me, but I saw him in time & jumped off & had first shot. I am confident I hit him & he dropped his spear & bomerang & bounded along like an adder. we all had to fire as they lept at us, & I thing 2 or three of them got it. one was within 10 y^{ds} of King. with his bomerang but ringwood saw him in time. at last they hooked it calling for others. So. then we turned on our back course having gone our distance, we went over the range & round & did not see any more of them. Went on to about the middle of Sturts plain. & camped. having carried water. Lit fires. Kept watch.

Sunday June 2nd Fine. Started early & got into camp at about 10 am. Very tired. Glad to get a wash as we had not had one since Thursday Morning. Did some washing. gave my horse a dose of nitre. Knuckey & Johnston³⁹ arrived in afternoon from Catherine [*Katherine*]. Johnston accounted for their absence (he & Stapleton⁴⁰ & Howley⁴¹ the 3 supposed to have been murdered by blacks) saying they had been repairing the line & 23 miles of pins had been eaten up by white ants: Stopped up yarning till about 10. [*different script*] King fever

Monday June 3rd. Fine. Started about 9 am. with teams. & Knuckey & Johnson. went about 14 miles – camped on Sturt plain. carried water for working horses. Chained Bullocks up.

Tuesday June 4th. Fine. Early start with Teams &c. Horses (loose) went on to water as they had not had any. Our exploring party went next & camped for dinner on first pond about 2½ miles from crossing. Ringwood & I went back a little way to bring on the Teams; when we found that they had left our track about 30 ch^s [*chains*] from waterhole & gone on. After dinner we followed their track & came to them camped in Hedgewood about ½ mile from

³⁷ *Burton, Jim & R.C. there are two Burtons 1. Jim Burton 2. R.C. Burton: Asst. Govt. overseer on Northern Section, many references in AETS.*

³⁸ *Roberts, J.L.M. Roberts: Sub-overseer, sub-section E, Central Section, ref. AETS pages 49, 158.*

³⁹ *Johnston: telegraph station master at Daly Waters, ref. AETS p. 168.*

⁴⁰ *James Stapleton: telegraphist, ref. AETS pages 53, 94, 167.*

⁴¹ *Howley: telegraphist, ref. AETS pages 154, 155.*

crossing; their track going all points of compass. Mr Burton had to have holes dug by water & cart water up to camp. Ringwood gave me Lead pencil.

Wednesday June 5th. Fine. Men commenced & finished cordroy across Newcastle waters. Horses strayed, out all day hunting for them. most of time walking. Ringwood took Latitude last night 17.15.30. Bagot shewed me how to plait leather for guards. [*possibly foreleg guards or gaiters ?*]

Thursday June 6th. Fine. Teams started early. Horses strayed, so Woods, Weaver, Lamb & I stopped back to get them, found one about 12 o'clock & Woods & Weaver took it on with the others. & Lamb & I stopped to look for the other. Hunted till about 2 pm. & could not find it (Kitten a little Timor mare) so we set off for teams. & reached them camped at 5 pm about 10 miles on, in camp where the Hawker left his cart & goods, they found all right but saw a nigger feeling the hole with his stick. so they were just in time. Horses were driven down to Water about 1½ miles off. I got one Touel & 1 puggery out of Hawkers goods. Mr King bad with fever since Sunday. very shakey on it.

Friday June 7th. Fine. Started early with teams. Course along Newcastle waters. Went with Bagot to get sheep as the shepards had gone along Hawkers track. Camped on a Billybong about 450? y^{ds}. from Newcastle creek. for dinner. While at dinner we heard whips crack on ahead (South). and soon after A. Giles came up with 4 horse teams & a lot of loose horses. They decided to stay camped where we were till next day. Mr King told me that we were going on in morning ahead, drays going to keep Giles track. A person named Biricous [*or Boucaut*⁴² ?] has started express from south end. Mr Harvey⁴³ a 100 miles from here.. Mr King says Mr Burton will only go about 30 miles more before commencing work. Washed shirt. Got 1/- book from Hawkers cart.

Saturday June 8th. Fine: Started with teams as, they changed their minds about going ahead. Giles & our exploring party: till about 10 am as, correspondence was not ready. Camped for dinner in S.E. bend of creek. Went on with teams for about 4 miles, when Knuckey Johnston Bagot & I struck off for creek to see distance to water. Went to Knuckeys camp. coming up about 1m. [*mile*] from track. We found we were [*were*] opposite a large camp of niggers,, who all jumped up with spears &c when they saw us; they followed down & across the creek when we went after & drove them back, ? When we got to teams they were camped; about 5 miles from dinner campfire, [*campfire* ?] and a lot of niggers were close that had followed them: Mr King much worse In the creek opposite us is a splendid reach of water, and I think it is a splendid place for a station, on the range which is about 50 y^{ds} from us on our left. (going South). We follow the track made by Giles's teams – Ringwood took Latitude 17.36.13.

Sunday June 9th. Fine. Started early with teams. Johnston Lamb & I. Started over to creek and followed it along about 2 miles, and did not see any niggers. but I never saw such swarms of game in my life, the water was literary covered with them, in patches about ¼ miles long, and they arose in great clouds. The natives came close to camp first thing all painted up one came forward and made signs, that he had no weapons, but besides the few that were behind him; we saw about 20 laying. in the grass. Passed 5 niggers remains in bark coffins in a creek. Reached the Lawson creek about dinner time & camped; I went on top of rise & saw the great lake that Ross reported, It was like looking at the see, as you could not see across it. Mr King much better & rode in buggy.

⁴² Boucaut, Ray: in charge of party of operators, 5 references in AETS.

⁴³ Harvey, William: surveyor on Ross's expedition, overseer sub-section E Central Section, many references in AETS.

Monday June 10th. Fine. Camped all day, shoeing horses for exploring party, which is to start tomorrow, for to find a crossing over Ashburton range and explore east side for line. Did some washing. M^r King little better.

Tuesday June 11th. Fine. M^r King worse so could not go exploring. Started with M^r Burton, Knuckey, Ringwood, Bagot. Lamb & Woods. Teams to follow Giles's track to Fergusson, & then wiring party to go on to Tennants creek. Went about 1½ & met Mess^{rs} Boucaut & Lewis⁴⁴ with express. Teams caught up. Got news. Bagot got telegram from his brother to say that M^t Margaret Station⁴⁵ had been bought for them. & wanted to know when he would be down, so he is going on to Tennants creek with Knuckey in my place as I was to go. Talk of railway across continent. Started again about 11 am. got to Fergusson⁴⁶ had lunch & started to cross range by following it. Went a good way & saw it was no good to ruff; so camped & sundown. Knuckey read news of March 2nd.

Wednesday June 12th. Fine. Started early back, reached Hawker creek, & had a wash, & went on, crossed the Watson & the Powell & went along it to cross range. Went in the range about 3 miles & camped. B. Key & R. went on to look ahead. We saw nigger's which hooked it. Kept watch: 1 hour½. Saw 4 of Milliners lost horse's on this creek

Thursday June 13th. Fine. Late start, as Ringwood had to plot up. A lot of niggers came within 300 y^{ds} of us & ? watched us start. gave them some meat. Saw firestick ? last night, and tracks this morning, where they had been: going round camp last night. Fine lot of men. Past creeks running south, had dinner on one went over ranges & camped on creek running south, on small pool of water, we find water in all creeks & several springs. Very few poles. A wild dog ran away with Lamb's boots, but he got them again, in the night. I chopped Leggins for gaters with Bagot.

Friday June 14th. Fine. M^r Burton Woods & Lamb went up creek to get water found fine spring. returned at 9.00. [is it 9AM ?] We all started at 10 am; through valleys & over hills, pretty scenery, camped on creek with waterholes running south for dinner. Soon after dinner went on a S.W course to strike track & struck it at about, 4 pm. went on about 4 miles further South. & struck Tomkinson⁴⁷, [a creek] so camped, plenty water. It was decided to turn back on track tomorrow, & Knuckey to go on.

Saturday June 15th. Fine. M^r Burton shot Emu & skind it, took leg with us, I gave Bagot Telegram for home viz: From Tomkinson creek June 15th. To: W. N. Crowder Franklin St. Adelaide. Arrived here yesterday with exploring party; all well; reply. Signed. M^r Knuckey gave us his days tucker. We started about 10 am. M^r K. Bagot & Lamb going on to Tennants creek. M^r B. - R. Woods & I going back. Went about 15 miles & struck Burke creek so camped for day night, & 2.30 pm. Pretty hilly country, but heavy sand all the way. The Burke is a fine creek: Giles has marked a tree here, 18 miles to Gleeson, so we have that to do tomorrow, as M^r Burton told Sterling to bring team's on to the Gleeson. Wombat tore to oilcloth off my swag & set to with it, & again at the camp & I thought he as going to douse it in creek. Plenty water in creek but I think it will soon dry up. Had Emu stakes for dinner, which went down first class, much like beef, as well as I can remember; as I almost forget the taste of that article. The country since we left camp has been very picturesque, all the Journey has been done through [throughout ?] valleys & over hills & spurs of the Ashburton range, there is plenty water along the tract we explored but no poles, which will be M^r Burtons chief difficulty; but I thing it would be better to take the line along that way which is the East side of the range than along Giles track.

⁴⁴ Lewis, Jim & John: horse breeders, many references in AETS.

⁴⁵ Mt Margaret Station: 9 references in AETS.

⁴⁶ Fergusson Range: 4 references in AETS.

⁴⁷ Tomkinson Creek: ref. AETS pages 30, 151, 152.

Sunday June 16th. Fine. Early start. M^r Burton found a flower on Bourke creek like the Sturt pea only it is a variegated green very pretty. Arrived at the Hunter at 10.30 and at the camp on Gleeson at 12.45. Found All well: M^r King better. Abrahams back. Giles had been here & got some of our horses to bring his wire teams on as his were knockd up. Unpicked straps from britches.

Monday June 17th. Fine. Horses strayed, got them about 9.30. Started with Teams back North to the Powell. Wiring party started on South to Tennants creek. Johnston going with them. Arrived at powells creek at about 12.30. found Giles there with wire teams. had dinner and started up the Powell into the range. Giles going with us. Woods went after & [drive?] into our loose horses, the 4 of Milliners that we saw on Wednesday. he having bought 1 bay cob from Lamb for £20. Went about 5 miles up creek & camped at place where we saw niggers & close to spring. This is M^r Burtons Dêpot. & starting point. Ringwood took latitude 18.4.33. M^r King gave me his consent to christen 2 or 3 places on the Strangways, that we discovered on our exploring trip for a dray track up that river.

Tuesday June 18th. Cloudy. spitting rain. M^r Burton commenced with joining the Dêpot & making crossings to creeks. M^r King cleaning & adjusting Teherdolyte [for theodolite].. Natives came close to camp. M^r King shewed me how to take a bearing with & how to adjust the Theodolyte. Rained a little during night.

Wednesday June 19th. [different script] \10 poles to mile/ Cloudy. Our party commenced surveying, Ringwood doing the survey M^r King & I chaining, & L. Chalmers⁴⁸ & C. Elborough axemen, as 3 of our men had gone in the Wiring party. viz; Forman Edwards & Moles. we did 1¾. mostly over rocky ridges, very bad sinking. M^r Burton's party commenced, & sunk 1½ of holes & got 2½ miles of poles. M^r Burtons hands very bad. with rubbing the emu skin, the oil & the allum got into them. Patched britches.

Thursday June 20th. Fine. It was decided that we should shift camp ahead, that we should have a waggon with 5 horses instead of spring cart. with another man Tyrrell to drive it – all exploring horses to be with us & Abrahams to mind them. Started to work about 9.am: King & Ringwood went ahead about a mile to see where to take line. I tailed & kept field book. M^r King had to go back, to fetch dray along. Took lunch with us. Waggon arrived about 4.30, so we knocked off & camped on creek about ¾ miles from Depôt. distance done about 1½ miles. plenty poles as far as we have come. Our party now consists of Mess^{rs} King & Ringwiwood Abrahams Newton, Elborough, Chalmers, Tyrrell & myself. Line surveyed over stoney ridges, & close to Powells creek along west bank.

Friday June 21st. Fine. Warm. King & Ringwood rode ahead a little way & returned. commenced work about 10 am having to go back 40 chs and make as angle. [or triangle] surveyed up to camp & had dinner about ½ mile, after dinner did over 1½ miles whole days work being 2 miles & 2 chs, only one angle. over one stoney ridge, all the rest good sinking, but a little scrubby. M^r King bad with dysentery. I had a light attack of same, & I put it down as caused by changing from fresh to preserved meat. In afternoon the sinkers & clearers camp shifted up along side of our camp, M^r Burton with them his hands much better, by last night – the polecutters had enough. poles for 6 miles at 10 to the mile. We expect the express & Mess^{rs} Todd & Patterson up every day now.

Saturday June 22nd. Fine. Commenced work about 9 am. Mess^{rs} King & Burton rode on to find a watered camp for us; returned about 2 pm, having gone to the creek where we had dinner on Thursday 13th, which is about 6 mile on. Surveyed on about another ½ mile & camped. as team had come on during day, but as there was no water, Abrahams & Tyrrell drove the horses back to last camp, for night. Work done about 2 miles. As it was 5 miles to

⁴⁸ Livingstone Chalmers: ref. Diary, 1871 – 72, S.A. Archives.

next water, it was decided to work on tomorrow & spell Monday, which would save having to walk back to work.

Sunday June 23rd. Fine. Commenced work about 8 o'clock. Elborough & Newton staying in camp. to wait for horses. We did about 1 mile, when team caught us, so did another ½ mile on top of range & had dinner. After dinner Mr King went on to take team to water, so I tailed & kept book, had a fine run: & worked up to camp by sundown; work done today 5¼ miles. Newton & Chalmers had a row about who should cook. had a nip..

Monday June 24th. Fine. Spelled all day. Did my washing.

Tuesday June 25th. Fine. Started to work. about 8.30. Dinner sent out to us. Did about 3 mile, over good sinking country. but bad feeding as \all/ the grass in these ranges is mostly spinifex. This grass makes your legs bleed to walk through. Went on top of hills at end of 3 miles & saw in the distance the red cliff under which we camped on the Thursday night. When we got into camp we found Giles with the wire teams there. did some mending.

Wednesday June 26th. Fine. Got to work about 9.30 as we had the 3 miles to walk. The camp shifted, & teams got to us before dinner. King & Ringwood went ahead to find the springs that Mr. Burton found, as Ringwood was out in his distances, of exploring trip.. They found them & returned just after we finished lunch.. Giles & teams having gone on about ½ hour as Giles had been to water. We then all started, for camp, about two miles on, & got to them about 4 pm. The spring where Mr. Burton found it, was opened out, but there was not much flow, whilst it was being done one of the men went over to the creek at foot of range & found water for cattle, and Stark alias Bismark went about 400 y^{ds} S. & found the principle spring which he opened out, & in about an hours time there was quite a large swamp of beautiful water around it. Went on top of a hill of rocks close to camp & got a fine view of country. It is the best & prettiest spot for a cattle station I have seen.. Beside the spring which I am sure is permanent I believe plenty of water could be got by sinking, & the feed is good there not being much spinifex there. & the slope of the range is a pretty place for the Station. Plenty of niggers about here lately. & I have seen horse tracks. which look to have been made before last rain.

Thursday June 27th. Fine. Started to work about 8 am, first part through dead wattle scrub, which is beastly stuff to run a line through, we have had about a mile of it now, in the one patch. worked up to Mound of rocks opposite camp about 2¾ 1¾ by 12 o'clock, so went in & had dinner. Started out again about 2 pm. Mr King not well so stopped in camp. Tyrrell came out. & took the axe & Elborough [probably Elborough] took chain, did another mile & 4 chains, & got into camp at about 4.30. Giles went out to see the next water at about 10 am, returned about 1 pm, & reported the water to be about 4½ miles on. All going 1 – 60 1 – 42 – 64 to shift there tomorrow. Had a pitch with Newton after tea till about 9 pm, length of line surveyed nearly 3 miles.

Friday June 28th. Fine. Mr King little better, but did not go to work, but he brought us our dinner. Giles & our camp shifted on to water in creek about 4½ miles on, past the red cliff hill, close to a Mount we found the other day, & which Ringwood has called Mr Witheray, one of Alfred Giles⁴⁹ names. Surveyed up to opposite new camp so knocked off about 4.30 pm. Line done today 3 miles & 4 ch^s. We found Mr King in camp much worse, it is the fever that still hangs to him. I gave him some of the Geletine lozengers that I brought from home. I mended field book & did some sewing. Giles & teams goes on to Tomkinson tomorrow we remain camped here: Country surveyed pretty good for line, a little hard sinking I think on range opposite camp. Had to dig in sand in bed of creek for water as there was not much on surface. Two of our horses & one of Giles's have been ramping mad & blind today, they

⁴⁹ Giles, Alfred: member of Ross's expedition, many entries in AETS.

have eaten some thing that is poisonous, I think it is the young porcupine; if this is the case the last camp country would not do for a cattle station as I thought.

Saturday June 29th. Fine. M^r King no better. Giles & teams started for Tomkinson. Bullocks had late start. Ringwood went on with Giles to Harvey's to see about line; so no surveying done. Mending all morning. After dinner spoke to M^r King about fetching a doctor, & he said I had better go tomorrow. but about 4 o'clock. While I was having a wash he sung out for one to go then so Newton the cook went off without saying anything, & what more took my saddle. M^r King told me he thought it was gastric fever coming on. At about 6.15 pm. M^r Lewis of express service & a man arrived, he had had to wait for lost horses & the dispatches had gone by other road. Not much English news, as cable had got out of order. England & America were logerheads, & England had given them 24 hours to think of terms, but then the cable stopped. They met Newton at the camp at springs where Burton is now camped and he had gone on to Depôt for doctor, who was there attending Stretton who was very ill. It is the D^r from the south, he had to be sent for for the Hawker, who had returned to Newcastle, with hand very bad. M^r Lewis reports Schooner Lucy arrived at Roper with a lot of Grog potatoes & onions &c which M^r Todd had purchased and it is now at Daly waters, Mess^{rs} Todd, Patterson & Rutts party at Daly waters, everyone spreeing there.. Mitchells party on work & done 5 miles complete this side of cordroy crossing of Newcastle, but he is now working north to Frew's⁵⁰ Ironstone Ponds from fresh instructions.

Sunday June 30th. Fine. M^r King no better. Lewis started after breakfast for the Tomkinson, & M^r Burton started from here about to look for Poles. Ringwood & Abe arrived from Harvey's camp which is on the Tomkinson. at 12.30. He reached Harvey's yesterday, but Mess^{rs} Harvey Knuckey & Bagot had started south that morning, by the western track. News from Adelaide Three ships with didggers sailed for Port Darwin. A. Smith surveyor, out surveying a Township on Roper.,— Aldridge⁵¹ & Musgrave⁵² down at our Depôt on Powell with loose Bullocks. Just as Ringwood was leaving Harveys this morning, Edwards & Jud of the our wiring party came in from Attack creek ~~for~~ to fetch the doctor, as F. Moles had been accidentally shot, it seems that a loaded rifle was on the wagon, uncapped but some of the percussion powder must have been on the nipple, as in going along a twig caught the cock & sent it off: the ball entring Moles just below the right sholder bone, and out at the back. M^r Burton returned at 1 pm. At 4 pm. D^r Reyner⁵³ with buggy & Newton arrived, & attended at once to M^r King, he reported Stretton very bad he brought the buggy to take King back but now, he is going on the Attack creek to morrow to attend to Moles, leaving his buggy in Harveys camp. He says M^r Harvey will be here tomorrow. Knuckey & Bagot have gone on with an opposition express which has made Boucaut very whild. Set up 2 hours 11 to 1pm with M^r King.

Monday July 1st. 1872. Fine. No work done, as we want to see M^r Harvey to know where to take line. M^r King little better. Doctor started for Attack creek at 10 am. Abe went down to Depot with Medicine for Stretton. Ringwood shewed me plan of our exploration down strangways for the purpose of naming two places ~~the~~ M^r King had promised me. I called a fine Mount about 10 miles from Mitchells crossing of Strangways; & one which Mess^{rs} King Tucker & myself went on for a view of country on Thursday April 18th. while exploring Strangways road; Mount Page after James Page Esq^r. of Upper Mitcham. I called another high Mount or Bluff about 1 miles North of our first camp with teams on the Strangways on April 20 Mount Landon after my Brother in law F.A.W. Landon of Adelaide. Mount Page is the next highest mount on the Strangways that we saw; M^r Muellier (Stewarts) is the highest. It is on the south bank of the Strangways & covered with Mulga scrub. M^t Landon is a high

⁵⁰ probably named after James Frew, a member of Stuart's expedition.

⁵¹ Aldridge, J.H: Cadet, sub-section A, Central Section, ref. AETS, pages 48 & 112.

⁵² Musgrave, C: Sub-overseer, sub-section B, Central Section, ref. AETS, p.49.

⁵³ possibly Dr. Renner, who was Surgeon for the construction parties, ref. AETS pages 64, 65 and 74, 75.

prominent Bluff. M^r Burton & Abe arrived here at about 4 pm. Abe started with one pack to ~~spring~~ camp about 5pm. with sheep. as the Shepherd had come to far. returned at 6 pm. M^r Burton started back to his camp at 7. pm. The Grey mare that M^r King brought up the Strangways that went mad at Spring camp, died.

Tuesday July 2nd. Very windy. Mess^{rs} Burton & Harvey arrived at about 9. am. & some of the construction party at about 10 am.. Started to work after dinner at about 2 pm, M^r Harvey started at about 2.30 for his camp. & Mr Burton & Abe started for Depot. We surveyed 1¾ miles & returned to camp. To – morrow is our last day work. south as we are then going to Depot & work north to meet Mitchell, M^r Harvey is going to come on, Putting the poles up & wiring. A lark ocured to day, when M^r Harvey & M^r Burton went on the line, Sandy saluted M^r Burton with Goodday sir, and as M^r Harvey looked so ruff with Goodday mate, Old Sandy was whild when he found out his mistake.

Wednesday July 3rd. Fine. Started to work about 9. am, & did 2 miles & 66 ch^s by 4.30 pm, then Went to camp which was on to the spring that we found on our last exploring day about 4 ½ miles from M^t ? Tomkinson; only a spring cart & picker [*or tucker ?*] came on, the waggon & M^r King at camp..

Thursday July 4th. Fine. Started to work at 8.30 am. Ringwood & I riding, as he intended going to Harveys but changed his mind. We only had ½ mile to the do & it was done by 9.30, which finished our work South; 27½ miles from Dêpot on Powell. [*different script*]\13 22/ M^r Harvey is going to put up the poles & wire on our work & he comes on. We started back & got to camp where King was about 12. am had dinner, & then all of us as M^r K. – thought he was strong enough to ride started on our return to Dêpot, & reached the springs which M^r Burton has called Renner's Springs after the doctor. at 5 4 pm. found M^r Burton & Polling party there. Clearers & sinkers came in about 5 pm, the finished work at 12. am.

Friday July 5th. Fine. Started (our surveying party) about 9 am, the clearers & sinkers were to start directly after; we reached Ringwood's creek the Place where our second advancing camp was. (M^r Burton has called this creek after Alex^{er} Ringwood Ass^t. Explorer & Surveyor). had dinner there, & as the Waggon horses would not be able to get to Depot this night, put packs on two horses, & with rest of loose horses M^r King, Ringwood & myself, started to reach Depot. Waggon to get as far as it could. We reached Dêpôt at Sundown. Found Stretton much better. I slept under Potter's fly as I had not mine with me.

Saturday July 6th. Fine. Our Waggon arrived at 10 am. & sinkers & clearers at 2 pm. Alfred Giles came in camp having left his teams a few miles back, changed horses / he took Gentle Anne/ & went back, he said M^r Patterson & Todd would be here tomorrow They had a mail from Adelaide. I got some bean seeds from a large creeper on the banks of Powell.

Sunday July 7th. Fine. M^r King getting on. A. Giles & wire teams, with 30 miles of wire, arrived at about 11 am. Did some washing. read book Swiss family Robinson.

Monday July 8th. Fine. Commenced work North & did 2 miles & ½, hills rough flat covered with spinifix that made you bleed to walk through. Giles started to lay his wire out.

Tuesday July 9th. Fine. Went to work at 9 am. Ringwood went ahead at dinner time to find place for camp found a small creek with spring in Gorge running water. Ours & sinkers camp was shifted to it. he supposes it to be either the Watson or a branch. We worked up to it, princpally over rough hills very bad sinking. Good feed. Some of the men thinking that they would have to take the horses back to water left their swags at Depot, so had to go back there for the night.

Wednesday July 10th. Fine. Started to work early, did a mile all except 10 chains by 11 oclock over two or three hills, & little plain. the spinifix awfully bad, then Ringwood & I went

up to range about 30 ch^s ahead, which we found out to be the western ridge of the Ashburton⁵⁴ & the last we would have to go over. from it we could see Rosse's lake. We then went on to dinner; & did not go out again as Ringwood went ahead to find a camp. Tyrrell went with him to see where to go to morrow. At dinner time the men that went back last night returned, they reported the Doctor arrived at Depot – he had got Moles with him. who is getting on first rate. the D^r said that if the ball had gone in anywhere but where it did, it would have killed him. a little higher & he would have bled. to death, or a little lower & it would have been right through his lungs. Did some mending during afternoon. Ringwood returned at about 5 pm; found water in creek; (he says The Watson) about 3½ miles from this camp.

Thursday July 11th. Fine. Started to work early, & did about 1¾ miles by 1 pm. to end of Tableland west of last ridge of Ashburton, awfully bad sinkings. Then had dinner which was brought as camp was shifting to water ahead, went on with team to new camp as Ringwood had to take it to the water, did not go out again. The Sinkers camped at end of survey. I cut my initials & date on Gum tree in bark at camp. At about 4 pm. M^r Lewis with express from Adelaide came up into camp. He arrived at Depôt in morning & left it at about 2.30. Mess^{rs} Todd & Patterson were there. He did not bring much news, A boat accident at Port Adelaide; 6 drowned – Cha^s Primrose being one of them. He had about £600 worth of business messages for different parts of Europe. He heard at Depôt that after 10 poles was up & communication through that Mess^{rs} T. & P. were going. to keep all hands to put up other 10 poles. which will be breaking their promise. M^r King worse. A lot of horses dying at Depôt. Lewis started away again at 4.30. to get to Fergusson to night. He had made the trip from Tennent's creek to here in 3 days.

Friday July 12th. ~~Fine~~ Dull, cloudy; sprinkled rain in morning. Started to work early. Did up to Watson by 10 o'clock: ¾ mile. & then went in to dinner. Went out again about 12 o'clock, but had to go in again after 10 minutes to roll up swags, as Sterling had been ahead to find water, and had just returned, having found water in the Hawker about a mile on. so our & Sinkers camp shifted this afternoon. it turned out to be the water that we came to in the Hawker while out exploring. we surveyed about 30 chains past the Hawker by about 3.30 pm Sterling dragging the chain. we then went into new camp as Ringwood wanted to plot up. Knuckey [*possibly next or reath*] express past the sinkers soon after we came in. no news as cable was not repaired. He said that Masson with wire teams camped at the Lawson last night, so Sterling is going to meet him to morrow & bring him onto line, he has 50 miles of wire. Mitchell has done 25 miles 20 poles to mile. Bagot has gone bye twice & not left one word about the message I gave him to send home. The mail that it was said M^r Patterson had; turned out to be only one or two letters; All the men seem very indignant about M^r Todd wanting them to put up the 20 poles, after M^r P.'s promise.

Saturday July 13th. Dull. Cloudy slow rain all day. had to rig flies. Started to work early, did 2 miles by 1 o'clock pm then went in for the day. nasty Myall scrub. good sinking. Sterling: went to Fergusson early to meet Masson, but returned without him \</ at 12 pm am, as they had not arrived.

Sunday July 14th. Cloudy, slow rain in morning & during last night. Ringwood started for Fergusson to see if Masson had arrived at 10 am; returned at 1 pm, not having seen Masson. M^r Burton came into camp at 1 pm, to tell ? [*or give*] fresh orders. We have all to go: back to the South [*was North*] again and ~~put~~ put up the extra ten poles. [*overwrites an illegible word*] to the mile. start tomorrow. M^r Burton is awfully wild about it, & now he is only going to look after the poles & Ringwood has to look to the rest. M^r Harvey has to turn south & put up his intermediates. I read a letter from M^r Patterson to Ringwood as him to explain the cause of the alteration to the men, stating that he was against breaking his promise to the men but M^r Todd has insisted in having the extra poles put in; but he

⁵⁴ Ashburton Ranges: ref. AETS, pages 146, 151, 153.

promises to have us all down to the Landing, by Nov 1st and a vessell there to meet us. wether the line is finished or no. M^r. King is much the same, ? M^r. P. is bad. M^r Todd has gone off south: to Adelaide; M^r P. has gone to Attack creek with him: and when he comes back he has promised to see the men & explain. I went back on horseback to the north end & got the Theodolyte & chain this afternoon. M^r Burton is that disgusted with the gaffer's that he does not care, if the line is finished or not.

Monday July 15th. Cloudy. I started with Ringwood at about 8 am to meet Masson. Our teams were to start for Depot soon after. We met Masson at about 12.30 about 3 miles south of the Lawson. Told him what to do, had dinner with him, & turned back for Depôt at about 1.30 pm. He was going to stop at the Fergusson this evening – The man Hume is with him, he is going to our depot to see M^r King to get a direct course to Normanton; as he is going to tramp there to telegraph to the Sydney Gov^t & let them know how he has been treated, as M^r Todd has not fulfilled his agreement with him. We arrived at the Depôt at about 8 pm. having ridden 35 miles: today.. M^r. King is no better than when we left. Stretton gave me a Telegram from home that Bagot left for me in answer to mine viz; \:/ (To W. A. Crowder 22nd June 1872 All well, send their love – Fanny has a daughter W^m. Crowder F. (&: A). Bagot must have forgotten to leave it there going down. Moles is getting allright. The Doctor asked M^r. Todd for a bottle \of brandy/ for M^r King as he was so bad. M^r Todd gave him a bottle a ¼ full & said it was all he could spare, when he had plenty. M^r King won't touch it as he considers it an insult.

Tuesday July 16th. Cloudy. Windy. M^r Burton started for Pole cuters camp at 10 am. Ours & sinkers teams started for first water south at 3 pm. Ringwood had to wait at Depôt for Masson. Sterling & I had to wait for our horses to be shod & started at 5 pm a got at camp at 3 mile water at 6 pm. I made a wire fork.

Wednesday July 17th. Fine. Ours & sinker's teams started early. for Renners Springs. only one loose horse ~~ee~~ & he would not drive so I change horses & drove mine. Had a great bother to start our team as they would not pull, the waggon only half full. in fact all the horses in the party are done up. & all the best are dying. Our team could not get any further than Ringwoods creek where we all got at about 1 pm. the others went on to Renner springs. Did some washing this afternoon. Sandflies awfully bad.

Thursday July 18th. Fine. Started at about 9 am. with Team. & arrived at Renners Springs 7 miles at about 1 pm, found several of the pole teams there. M^r. Burton had already commenced to lay 20 poles to miles on line, but the intermediate ones are very small & short so the holes will not have to go so deep. Alfred Giles & one team came in at about 5 pm; M^r. Harvey had got all the rest of his besides his brothers horse teams, he says M^r Harvey is putting in clothes – props & not charring. M^r Todds orders which are spoiling the whole affair, & I bet the Gov^t will wish that they had never sent him to the country. Ringwood arrived at 7.30 his swag on pack. Masson arrived at Depôt yesterday afternoon. M^r King no better or worse.. Two of M^r Harveys bullock teams arrived at 5.30 with lot. loose bullocks, 1 drey & some bulls to be left at our Depot & the other to take 7 weeks provisions out or our stores back to Harvey. The sinkers teams only went about 1½ Sth ? of us last night & arrived at springs this morning 1 hour before us. during afternoon I put bottoms to tweed trousers.

Friday July 19th. Fine. It was arranged that one cook was to do for all of us ? (Sinkers & Surveyors), and: as it was no use taking both teams to end of work for two or three days, we put our swags on Sinkers waggon & left our team & Tyrrell behind. We started at about 10 am. I left my cob behind & rode Wood's's, I took M^r. Burton's mare up to him. from Springs. We got within 1 mile of end by dinner time & camped. having passed M^r Burtons camp who is getting on very fast with pole cutting & carting, but the poles are not much account. We go to work tomorrow.

Saturday July 20th. Fine. Started to work at about 8.30. The first pole was planted on top of ridge about 1¾ mile from our last peg South.. M^r Harvey had joined our line with his sinking & clearing and made an angle of our last peg. Ringwood & I did over two miles putting in intermediate pegs by 10 am. then went over to pole cutters camp. they were just going to move down to Springs. By 3 pm our party had 2 miles, of extra Poles sunk. conductors on poles & poles up, then they knocked off. I find it is a great improvement having the sinkers cook, cooking for us, as we get much better cooked grub now, which we had not before. The intermediate \poles/ although small along side the others look substantial enough to my fancy when they are up.

Sunday July 21st. Fine. Very windy during morning A man (Williams) came from Springs; with a message for Ringwood at about 11 am. Sterling went over to Harvey's camp.

Monday July 22nd. Fine. Windy all day. Started to work at about 830 am. Pegged sunk intermediate holes & poles erected for 2 miles by dinner time. Had dinner on line. as camp was shifting. Did another 1½ ~~after dinner~~ by 4.30 pm. which was triangle at end of this line. Our camp being there. Woods & Easter took horses on to Springs to water. & left them there but returned ~~there~~ themselves, all have left the Springs but Abe & Tyrrell

Tuesday July 23rd. Fine. Windy & cold first thing. Started to work at about 7 am. & Ringwood & I got to end of angle opposite Springs 3½ miles by 9.30. so went in & had dinner with Tyrrell. ? Abe was out looking for horses. Our teams arrived at about 2 pm, & sinkers & pole heavers came into camp at about 5 pm having finished up to angle. At sundown M^r Harvey's team with provisions arrived from our Depot, they were only able to supply him with 1 months provisions instead of 7 weeks as M^r Harvey wanted. M^r King a little better. Masson still at Depot. on a/c of Bullocks lost. I had a nasty attack of dysentery. took 21 drops of Chlorodyne.

Wednesday July 24th. Fine. awfully cold during night & early morning. It is one year ago today since we (M^r Patterson's party) signed the agreement for the O.T. Went to work at 6.45 am. B. Wells⁵⁵ arrived from depot to get charcoal from springs. One horse dead at Depôt (Wamla [or *Wombat* ?]) one of Ross'es. Had dinner on line. Just after dinner M^r Ray Boucaut came along with express from end of wire about Attack creek. He had no messages from Adelaide as wire was broke below the peak; Lady Daley⁵⁶ is dead. Our wiring party will be at Harvey's camp. on N. Tomkinson – on Saturday. After dinner Ringwood & I put in about 1 mile more of pegs & went into camp close by, which had moved from Springs about 3 miles. I pitched on ground again as it is too cold for Hammocks.

Thursday July 25th. Fine. No wind & sandflies awfully bad. Did about 3¼ miles of line & camp was shifted to Ringwood creek where Regus & Wells were camped. Very little water left there & filthy thick. undrinkable. At about 1 hour from sundown Alfred Giles & team came in having just finished laying out the wire south of Depôt. I am still bad with dysentery & pains in bowels. took chlorodyne.

Friday July 26th. Fine. No wind. Sandflies bad. Rather later in starting to work as bars had to be sharpened, Giles went to depot: so did Regus & Wells. About 4 miles of line done, camp shifted to about 1 mile from top of rocky saddle about 5 miles from 3 mile camp. ~~during~~ at about 11 o'clock M^r Baucaut with express from North came past. No news as cable not yet

⁵⁵ Wells, B: Assistant inspector on northern section.

⁵⁶ Daly, Lady: wife of Roman Catholic S.A. Governor Sir Dominick Daly born Joanna Harriet, daughter of Joseph Blake of Ardfry, Ireland, sister of Lord Wallscourt and widow of Richard Burke of Glinisk, wife of Roman Catholic S.A. Governor Sir Dominick Daly, died at Glenelg on 16 July 1872, aged 71. Sir Daly had been lieutenant-governor of Tobago in 1851–4 and of Prince Edward Island in 1854–59, ref. *Australian Dictionary of Biography – Online Edition*.

mendid. Mitchell & south end of his work working towards us, having 'done north to New Frews Ironstone Ponds⁵⁷ & left 12 men there to form a junction with rut ? & there was 16 miles between the two. I am no better, took more chlorodyne.

Saturday July 27th. Fine. Windy. Did up to end of the laid out 20 poles by dinner time. so had to Wait about 1 hour, when two pole drays came & filled up. I was no better so Ringwood wanted me to go in to the Doctor; but I did not think it worth while. About 3½ miles of line done at about 4 pm knocked off. Camp shifted to about ½ miles from water but we did not know of the water until after camping, & great nuisance as it is the second Sunday with out washing. Harvey's man went past with bullocks he had found all except 1. It is a year today since we sailed from Port Adelaide in the Aldinga⁵⁸.

Sunday July 28th. Fine. Very Windy. & bitter cold first thing. Some of the men took their dirty clothes & tramped down to water. I was no better so I made up my mind to ride into Depot & see the Doctor. so started at about 11 o'clock & got in about 12.30 5 miles. Going along my cob shied at a insulator case & put his two fore legs down a post hole, sending me in the dust, & then he hooked it off. for about ½ miles before I caught him. I met M^r. Burton. Stretton & Abrahams going out to our camp. both when I was going & returning. The D^r. said I was had billious diarrhoea. he gave me a dose of something & gave me a bottle of medicine /to take a table spoonfull every two hour's. & told me to take ½ tablespoonfull of castor oil with 6 drops of Laudanum to morrow morning. M^r. King getting better but awfully thin. the poor fellow from Harveys with Scurvey no better. I got back to camp again at about 2.30.

Monday July 29th. Fine. Windy. At work early – finished line up to angle by 2 pm. so knocked off & went to camp at a fresh place opposite angle where there was water in creek.

Tuesday July 30th. Fine. Very windy. Ringwood & I pegged up to Depot & was in there by 8 am. Ringwood went out again, with Iron pins. men all came in to dinner & we did a mile past depot in afternoon. I saw the Doctor & to him how the medicine acted, & he told me to take another dose of castor oil & Laudnum as the last did no good. I got John Marchmonts Legacy from Stretton. M^r. Baucaut arrived with express at Sundown. News from .Adelaide. The Alabama claim setteled in favour of England; so the Americans have backed out. The Ship with Glenelg railway was burnt & cargo lost. Copper 115£ per ton wheat higher. They killed a bullock in Depot yesterday. & today I tasted the first beef in the Territory;

Wednesday July 31st. Fine very windy. spelled all day. Did a lot of washing. Express started early. M^r. Baucaut told us yesterday that M^r. Todd had run out of tea at Tennants creek. so he sent a telegram down to M^r. Knuckey who was at Attack creek to proceed. to M^r. Harveys camp & get 6 lbs of tea a come with it to his camp. So Knuckey went & Harvey would only give him 3 lb, which he started off with. with 4 pack horses to carry it. M^r King getting better

Thursday July August 1st 1872. Fine. At work early. Did about 3 miles of line & camped on 4 mile water. At about 5 pm M^r. Baucaut & 2 men arrived with express from South north. The cable not mended yet. About 300 diggers in Port Darwin & 15 females. M^r. Burton got a list of letters that are in port D. & are to be forwarded to Roper Landing per "Claymore": I saw it & there are some for me. Mitchell has got all his party working south to Lawson & he expects to be there before us; but he wont.

Friday August 2nd. Fine. Windy & awfully cold first thing. Finished Line up to angles on Watson & camped there: as the creek is now dry. M^r. Burton is camped about 200 Y^{ds} to west of us. Finished "John Marchmonts Legacy" it is a very good yarn.

⁵⁷ Frew's Ponds: probably named after James Frew, member of Stuart's 1862 expedition.

⁵⁸ July 27, 1871, ref. AETS, p.94.

Saturday August 3rd. Fine. Windy. Finished Line to within ½ mile of end of survey & 3 miles to Fergusson.. A fine piece of line. Then Went back to Hawker where our camp had shifted to. M^r. Burton camp (pole cutters) shifted up to us during afternoon. There is a tree here with Stuart's. JMD.S. on it but I see someone had cut out the J. lately.

Sunday August 4th. Fine. Windy. Hawker creek all day. Did Washing & mending. Hume came into camp at about 3 pm. He said he came here last night & got a horse. to go back to Lawson & get his things has he had lost his own.

Monday August 5th. Fine. Started surveying again & did a mile past Fergusson & the Polecutters cleared up to us sunk & polled up a 1 \mile / South of Fergusson. Camped on Fergusson. The polecutters help us till they get to pole contry 5 miles N. of Fergusson.

Tuesday August 6th. Fine. Our survey party went into polecutters mess pro tem. [for the time being] as we would be to far ahead. Surveyed & cleared 5½ miles past Fergusson & camped among poles at foot of range opposite.

Wednesday August 7th . Fine. Polecutters started to work: cutting poles & we started out & surveyed 2½ miles & returned about 2 pm M^r. Baucaut with express from South past us at about 10 a.m: Bishop Shield dead that is all the adelaide news. M^r. Patterson bad with fever & ague & at Depot: last night M^r. King had a relapse. & is very bad again. Dodd 5 miles this side of Renners Springs. last night. At about 4 pm M^r. Baucaut returned from Lawson with North Express: no cable mended. Rut did no work last week great row in his camep [camp ?] rum the cause Wiltshire & others off the pay sheets. Mitchell will be at lauson [Lawson ?] next wednesday. Hack will be at cordroy to night. M^r Lewis⁵⁹ brought some rum potatoes & oranges for M^r Baucaut but he is very kindly saving them for the sick at depot. M^r. B. brought another mail but nothing for me. Latest dated papers May 16th.

Thursday August 8th. Fine. We (the survey party, started out to clear line as it was no use surveying further until camp shifted. we cleared 2½ miles & returned to camp where we found that M^r. Patterson had arrived with cook & Marchant. left Lambell & Miller at Depot. M^r. P. looks bad. We started out to cut some poles after dinner & got 11 first class ones, by tea time. The Bullocks were chained up all night.

Friday August 9th. Fine. Started to survey at about 9 am rather late as the pole cutters cook does not hurry him- self of a morning like ours, &. I could not eat any of his boild meat for breakfast as it was too grisley, I shall not be sorry when we get back to our camp. When we got out to ~~our~~ the end of survey we found the sinkers there waiting & pole heavers close behind. They did 5½ miles yesterday. We surveyed about 3 miles and sat down to wait for dinner. But while waiting M^r. Burton rode up & told us to come back 2½ miles & alter survey has we where to close into the lake. (we where about ½ way between the lake & range & because M^r. Patterson in riding along saw the lignum scrub close he was frightened that the line would fall down in wet season, & told us to go up close to range where it is Peure ? sand & I know from experience: that that they will not travell on it so well in the wet season as where we took line first.). When we got back we found that 2 miles of holes were cancelled & 93 poles had to come up. we made the angle towards range & surveyed ¾ mile & went into camp which was about 1½ ahead. we were all weak & tired has we had bumped about 15 miles without dinner I without dinner or breakfast & boots rubbing all the skin off my feet: Anyway as both camps campd together we changed into our own mess & got a good feed. The men very dissapointed. But they plucked up again and was dedetermined if possible to get to the Lawson (~~2pm~~ 4 miles) tomorrow before Mitchell. During the morning W. Souard rode past on his way to Depot from Mitchells camp. with some spirits &c for the sick. & returned at about 7 pm having gone as far as Fergusson & saw no one.

⁵⁹ Lewis, Jim & John: horse breeders.

Saturday August 10th. Fine. All up had breakfast & on work soon after sunrise. worked up to camp & had dinner at 9 am. Started to work again at about 9.30. At about 12 am Mr P. & B. & Mitchell came up & decide with us where to join ours & Mitchells line. We joined our line about ½ miles on other side of Lawson by 3.30 our sinking up to Lawson by 4 pm & Poles & [chaing ?] done 9 holes from Lawson by 5 pm. All went into camp. Mitchell camped on other side of creek. a lot of his men tight, on grog that Masson bough up from Hack⁶⁰. They had buried it on road. We found Masson in camp with some of our grog & Luxuries & 2 loads of wire. We have succeeded in beating Mitchell has his sinking is not up to Lawson by ½ mile & Brock⁶¹ has got 2 or 3 miles to join Mitchell yet.

Sunday August 11th. Fine. Ringwood devided out the Luxuries. & the went rond us 1 onion. 3 appels. two or 3 oranges & abut 1 feed of potatoes per man.

Monday August 12th. Fine. Killed red bullock during afternoon. but while we were pulling it up on a tree the tree broke & let it in the mess. Mr Hacke arrived with his teams about 5 pm. he has more grog & Luxuries. during evening a lot of men drunk & fighting. Mitchell finished his polling.

Tuesday August 13th. Fine. Hack unloaded his teams & he got out 2 weeks provisions to take us to daly waters. Bocaat arrived with express from South no news. I saw Jim Aldridge⁶². & had a yarn. Johnston⁶³ & Hume came in after express. Hume gave me some good stones [could be stores or stories].

Wednesday August 14th Fine. Teams Started with \Masson/ some men & provisions for the Station at Powell creek⁶⁴. C. Johnston is to take charge of this Station. G. Curtis, Williamson, Wilson cook & T. Dyke Ass^t Operator also stop ?. Hume stops. till end of wet season then he sails out. he tells me that the SAG [presumably SA Government] allow him 6/- per diem & the Sydney G. allow 8/-. Mr Patterson invited Mess^{rs}. Burton Mitchell, Ringwood, Aldridge Hack, Lawler & myself all the officers in camp to dinner, it was a first rate spread for this part of the country, but Mr Patterson was taken bad. with fever again. & had to retire, this of course spoiled it.. The wiring party finished up to creek by 4 pm having done 7½ miles today. I went out with Johnson to end of wire to speak to Barrow creek. It would not work as all Battreys [batteries] was not on. we got Mr Todd at Barrow creek yesterday. then stopped till tomorrow morning. Mr Baucaut arrived at about 5 pm with express from North, cable not mended. Rutt not likely to be done for 9 days yet. Went over to Mitchells tent during evening & had some singing.

Thursday August 15th. Fine. Aldridge & I went out with Johnston to end of wire. at about 8 am, Mess^{rs}. P. & Mitchell came out soon after. I went in again at 10 am. Dodd started to wire 4 miles on Mitchells section finished it by 1 pm. Boucaut started North with express at 11 am. Something up with wire for about 2 hours during day. Johnston was kep at it till about 8 pm. A telegram came from Todd ordering both ours & Mitchells parties to proceed North at once & help Rutt put in his intermediate poles. Hume gave Mr Burton a mustard tin containing as he said Gold, silver copper coal & precious stones that he had found along Ashburton range for Wilson, M.N, NSW. Hume has been has drunk as a bottle all day.

Friday August 16th. Fine. Mitchells party started about 10 am ours about 11 am & Pattersons at about 1 pm We all camped close together on South Newcastle waters⁶⁵. When we got into camp Mr P.- asked me to go a look for Ceasar & Snodgrass has they had got

⁶⁰ Hack: teamster.

⁶¹ Brock: assistant inspector on Northern Section.

⁶² Aldridge or Aldridge, Jim: cadet, sub-section A, Central Section.

⁶³ Johnston: telegraph stationmaster at Daly Waters.

⁶⁴ Powell creek: many references in AETS.

⁶⁵ Newcastle waters: several references in AETS.

on the wrong track. I found them at old camp & sent them into camp & went on to see if I could get to wiremans camp where Johnston was, to change horses with him as when I caught mine /this morning I found that somebody had ridden & given him a bad back, so that I could not ride him, I went up line about 1½ miles & did not come to them so turned back.. & got into camp at sun- down. I gave Johnston a telegram for home, which he sent this evening viz: Am well; Glad to hear last news; Our section completed (day before yesterday. Start for Roper today. it is dated from Lawson creek.

Saturday August 17th. Fine. Boucaut arrived in camp at about 7.30 pm. Cable not mended yet. Rutt finished his poling 10 to mile expected to get wired by Saturday. Odgers & Fletcher came past from Brocks camp looking for Bullocks. Patterson & Mitchell started early for end of wire. We got a very late start as the bullocks went a long way. As soon as teams started I went on to end of wire. I got there at about 11.30 & changed horses with Johnston. Brock & Boucaut was there. P.& M. had just gone. While I was there we got the Adelaide time up 1 oclock 20 m to 12 am by us. Ringwood Hack & some others came up with loose bullocks at 1.30 & all except Boucaut & Johnston started away at 2 pm. We got to Brocks camp at 4 pm same time as teamsters & saw Tapscott & Barnett looking well. Brock gave all our men a nobler. I had some tucker with Brock. We got into camp on lagoon where Giles met us coming up. at sundown. Found Patterson camped there, Mitchell was with him but his teams had not come up. Dodds party campd about 1 ahead of us & Hacks about 2 miles head. Boucaut came in about 9 pm & went on to Hacks camp.

Sunday Augst 18th. Fine windy. In camp all day. Mitchell and his teams so as to get ahead of us travelled to day & passed us. M^r. Patterson sent orders to us. to remain camped untill two or three Bullocks that were lost Friday night were found, & that Weaver and another was to go & find them. Johnston & Hume passed W.⁶⁶

Monday Augst 19th. Fine windy. In camp all day. Weaver & Troubridge started back to look for bullocks. & M^r P. sent word to Burton not to shift till they were found. Brock camp passed us to join Mitchell on morning Patterson started at 11 am. Brock & Tapscott are stopping with their Wiring party. Johnston & Hume came up from North & camped. I went back with Tapscott during afternoon to see where wiremen where: Tapscot got tight when we got back. I gave him a pair of socks. Johnston begging Ringwood for grog & got it & was pretty well tight with Hume in evening. Their wiring party came up at sundown & camped.

Tuesday Augst 20th. Fine Windy. Brock Tapscot Johnston & wiring party went on early, but has there was no insulators, they had to strain the wire & then come back with them. M^r. King & Doctor & teams that went to Depot came up at Dinner time. M^r. Burton with some of party at Newcastle awfully whild about stopping: M^r. King & sick man getting better slowly. They started after dinner & us with them as the lagoon is a bad water camp & too windy. we went about 4 miles & campd on good water place in Newcastle. creek. Johnston was at Ring- wood this morning for more grog. but was refused & while some of us was talking to M^r King this evening he came again with a bottle & wanted it full; but did not succeed. Men all singing this evening. Brock & wiring party camped about 100 Y^{ds} ahead of us. Arthur Giles with teams & J. Lambell & Miller came up with M^r. King & camped with us.

Wednesday Augst. 21st. Fine windy.. but not so bad as other camp. M^r. King & party started early. Giles remained camped. I went back to last camp & got hobbles I left there yesterday. I wrote out an agreement for Johnston between him & A. Williamson, a man for Station Johnston agreed to give him 6/- per day, Johnston & Hume & Williamson started for Station on Powells creek at noon, but before going came again with a bottle bothering Ringwood for rum, but he did not succeed, both Ringwood & the men feel indignant with him for his continuall begging, he after sent Hume to Brocks camp where he got what he wanted. Weaver & Troubridge came in with 5 bullocks at sundown. He tells me that the gun I lent

⁶⁶ Weaver ?

Woods bursted & burt Woods arm. this is the gun the Gov^t. got from Townsend. I forgot to mention yesterday that my horse got into a bush fire & was singed all over loosing nearly all his tail but he did not look bad after I brushed him down.

Thursday Aug^{st.}, 22nd. Fine. Started with teams at about 8.30 am, had a bother to find my horse. Giles & teams started about ½ hour before us, we caught up to him camped for dinner on water opposite Hawkers camp. had dinner. Started again in about 1 hour and came up to Giles again camped for night on a dirty little pool about 1 mile from cordroy crossing. camped. with him the stock were turned up the creek about 1½ miles south. where there is plenty of water & feed. The water in the pool was beastly dirty either bullocks or niggers had been messing in it & it was beastly to drink. About 1 hour after camping M^r. Burton & his teams came in & camped with us, intending to start at 3 oclock tomorrow & travel across the plain by night has his cattle are too weak to travell all day's.

Friday Aug^{st.}, 23rd. Fine. Our bullocks got an early start, & Giles' horses about 1 hour after them; the hunters forgot to fetch mine & Ringwoods horses in, so I got a horse & went after them, I got them in about 1 hour after a great deal of trouble as the country is so thickly coverd with this Gatapacia ⁶⁷ tree along the Newcastle that the horses would not drive, when I got in I found that Ringwood had gone out. Soon after I got in The Doctor & M^r King & party whom whe all thought far ahead came in, they where campd back about 2 miles yesterday as M^r. King was too bad to move. as soon as Ringwood came in the Lamble & I started on the Dr & party following. We caught up to Giles about 5 miles on plain & had dinner with him, we went on again & caught our bullock teams campd for tea at sundown at end of plain. After tea we started: on for Frews Pond, Ringwood Lamble, Toohey & I driving loose bullocks behind, it was awful work when it got pitch dark, as we could not see the bulls for dust, we got to the Ponds at about 9.30 pm. found Dodd & wiring party camped they, he told us M^r. Patterson had left here at 3 oclock this afternoon. The wire was joined yesterday at 12 oclock on plain by ours & Rutts wiring parties & communication through. But as M^r. Patterson who was at Rutts camp wanted to be at the joining of this great line he had it cut down there & another joint made but ours & Rutts wirers are the real joiners. All last night Port Darwin & Adelaide where talking. Giles ? & Doctors parties came in about 10 pm. The water here now is thick & green lik a ducks pond & stinks of shags. The Doctor & Ringwood let off a few fireworks during evening.

Saturday August 24th. Fine. Doctor & party started early. All the rest spell here till monday. M^r. Burton & teams came in at about 3 oclock this morning having left horse & bullock on plain knocked up. A tank was filled with water & lots of ashes put in to purify it. A lot of niggers came here for water this morning early; awfully poor specimens, they could say very good & all right. Two poor bullocks of Mitchells came in to drink, one went into water this afternoon & died. Did some washing. Weaver & Floyd went back to get knocked up horse & bullock, they returned at about 10 pm with Bullock.

Sunday Aug^{st.}, 25th. Fine. In camp all day. Roberts ~~Monday~~ with part of Harvey's party came here at about 6 am. The water is so bad that when boiled it is not drinkable, we have to put a lot of charcoal in it to settle it.

Monday Aug^{st.}, 26th. Fine. Roberts started first early our teams next & Gillis last Giles Ford & I had to wait till our horses came in to water as they could not be found anywhere. M^r. Burton stops here till all are found. Our horses came in at sundown & we started about 1

⁶⁷ *Gutta-percha (Palaquium): by 1845 telegraph wires insulated with gutta-percha were being manufactured in England. Gutta-percha served as the insulating material for some of the earliest undersea telegraph cables, including the first transatlantic telegraph cable. Gutta percha was particularly suitable for this purpose, as it was not attacked by marine plants or animals, a problem which had disabled previous undersea cables. Also used for furniture, golf balls, jewellery and dentistry. Wikipedia.*

hour after. Came on Dodds camp 4 miles past Johnstons Lagoon at about 10 pm, so turned out our horses & layed down by fire till dawn of day. . \Then started/ \

Tuesday Augst, 27th / again & reached Milliners Lagoon by 5.30 am where we found M^r. Rutts party is camped. I saw M^r. Rutt Rix Wiltshire & others all looking well they will be finished by wednesday: Roberts & teams started for M^cGorrerey's ponds early Lambell went with him. I saw Geo Bayfield who is laid up with a bad leg from being thrown from his horse. M^r. Burton & teams came in at sundown. Brock came into Frews last night. A slight shower of rain fell during afternoon & early part of evening.

Wednesday August 28th. Fine. Warm. Started at about 9 am with teams, for M^cGorrerys ponds went on 8 miles & had dinner. & Got into the Ponds at sundown, smothered with dust, for the roads are that bad, that you can scarcely see, & the dust is making my eyes very weak. Passed two drays on road going to Rutts from Mitchells. One of them Lawler: told us that Hack reported Stuarts swamp dry. & started yesterday for Roper. I do not believe the swamp is dry. Rennett Mitchells horse hunter came in at about dusk & camped for night. Giles & horse teams came in at about 89 pm having had a late start on a/c of horses straying. Insisted ? that Auld's Ponds were dry & the water in M^cGorrerys is very shallow. Rutt has certainly made a mess in running his line, for in one place about 6 miles from Milliners Lagoon he has an acute angle in it, which looks awfully bad especially as he could have run one. streight line through Forrest timber if he had followed the directions which were along our track. Rutt is busy now in filling in his intermediate poles to 6 miles south of M^cGorrerys ponds & from there Mitchells fills in to Daly waters. so I do not suppose our party will do any.

Thursday Augst, 29th. Fine, warm. Started early with teams. Giles & teams started same time, Ringwood followed up creek to see if the Ponds we calld M^cGorrerys are the right ones. We reached M^r Burtons wet seasons camp. on the Daly creek about 5 miles from the Depot by 12.30 am. Giles went on about 150 Y^{ds} ahead of us. Mitchell is camped about 150 below us. M^r Burton & one team started from Rutts with us yesterday; leaving Alf. Giles to bring on the others. & M^r. B. has gone on into the Depot to day. Thes is plenty of water in creek where we are now camped. Lowther the teamster then went in with M^r. B. came out at 4 pm with orders for us to go on to Stuarts swamp tomorrow: Mitchells party finished the polling by 6 pm.

Friday Augst, 30th. Fine. warm. Started at about 9 am for Depot with teams, got in about 11 am. when we first got there we head that we had to go & do the extra polling north of Depot as there is 9 miles there at 10 per mile. But at dinner time M^r. Burton told us that it was altered & we were to get off as soon as possible. So as not to give them another chance to stop us, so we got rationed and started at about 4 pm for Stuarts camp. M^r. Patterson is at Depot. M^r. King is looking much better. They have put up a splendid wooden station here made of blood wood planks. Howley⁶⁸ & J. Aldridge stop at this station & Tucker goes on to Tennants creek. Roberts⁶⁹ with Harveys teams left for Roper just before we arrived he went to Stuarts swamp last night but was recalled this morning to cart poles for us but the order was cancelled. Mitchell & Lewis⁷⁰ started out this morning to find water for us to as line, but when he comes in he will find himself cold Tucker told me that the wire has been down below Charlotte waters for three days now. We arrived at Stuarts Swamp at about 5 pm 3 miles from Depot. At sundown we killed a bullock called (Fancy) as there is no meat for us at Depot. About ½ hour after: Mitchells teams came up & campd close to us. Hack went to the wrong place when he said Stuarts swamp was dry. Rained a little during night.

⁶⁸ Howley: telegraphist.

⁶⁹ Roberts, J.L.M: Sub-overseer, subsection E, Central Section

⁷⁰ Lewis, John or Jim?: horse breeders.

Saturday Aug^{st.}, 31^{st.}. Fine warm. Up early & the Bullock was salted down Ringwood started to look for water ahead, Sterling started on with pack horse & some beef for M^r Burton. but he M^r B on road so turned back & came into camp again M^r B had a bullock charred up for [us ?]. ? & went back again. before he went he read out a telegram he got from P. Darwin: A reef has been found at Yam Creek gold traced for 200 Y^{ds}. Mitchell came in last night with out success. We started with teams at about 8.30 am. followed Roberts track on to our track coming up Strangways.. Came about 8 miles & had dinner, met Ringwood coming to meet us he had found water about 8 miles from Purdies ponds about ½ miles to west of track, he had to let his horse go when he got to us & ride in dray as it was done up. We got to the water at about 7.30 pitch dark, soon after camping it commenced to rain heavily, & lasted for about 3 hours, we all got wet through & had to wait till it was over ~~so as~~ to rig our bunks. Just as it finished M^r. Lewis came in, & camped with us he had come on to look for water. he told us that Burt with the camels had arrived at Daly waters this morning

Sunday September 1^{st.}, 1872. Fine. windy. Lewis started early for Purdie's ponds. This is a fine place for a camp we could see all the cattle within 200 y^{ds} this morning. Ringwood has named it "Penelope Swamp". after one of the M^{iss}? Lyon's who he thinks has this name. Did some washing. Lewis came in at dinner time & started for Daly Waters 1 hour after: he says Roberts is campd there on water that will last for 2 months yet; ther is no water in the pond where we camped coming up. but plenty to the east. Mitchells teams came up this afternoon at about 3.30 pm. Mitchell is so frightened of us that he needs travell on Sundays.

Monday Sep 2nd. Fine. warm. Started at about 8.30 a.m, \with teams/- ~~both ours & Mitchells had started about 1 hour before; we had been looking for bullocks.~~ road not quite so dusty on account of rain. Reached Purdies ponds at about 12.30 pm, & camped. this camp is about 1 mile below the place where we camped coming up. Mitchell brought news that the "Omeo" is to take us home & is to be at Landing by the 27 of this month. This is the place on these ponds where Stuart camped as there is a tree here, with J.M.D.S. on it quite plain.

Tuesday Sep^{t.}, 3^{rd.}. Fine. Ringwood & I went out to look for lost bullocks early came in not finding them at about 10 am & found that Weaver had got them & lost ours & Mitchells teams started about 1 hour. Rennett & Pybus were there, having just come up from Stuarts swamp where they stopped to look for some horses & bullocks that Mitchell lost there they got horses but not bullock. M^r. Burton King & D^r. & party camped at Penelope Swamp last night. Ring wrote a large JMDS on ground with Damaged Flour with arrow pointing to Stuart's tree for M^r. King to see. Ringwood & I started about 10.30 & caught up to teams; camped for dinner on the ponds where we camped coming up about 10 miles south of Purdies, as these Ponds were dry except a little very muddy water Ringwood went down creek to look for More, & returned about 1 hour before sundown: having found only enough to fill our tank tomorrow, in a hole abut 1½ miles on, so we had to camp here, having enough in tank for ourselves, & turned the bullocks two at time into the little pool. Mitchell went up creek about 1½ miles & camped as there is a little pool there.

Wednesday Sep^{r.}, 4th. Fine. warm. Started early with teams. Left Sterlings mare behind as could not find her. Filled our tank at hole Ringwood found yesterday: Campd for dinner at our N^{o.} 10 camp. no water there now. After dinner went on, passed N^{os.} 9. & 8 camps & reached Rocky Gorge at Sundown where we found Roberts camped. Ringwood made the distance to day 26 miles. My horse is completely done up. The road has been frightfully dusty to day & my eyes are that sore I can scarcely see. Any amount of water here Roberts tells me that Masson left here yesterday & Hack on monday. We passed a tree to day with a notice written on it. viz; Left two bullocks here, one very lame other cant travel please bring them on. The men told me this evening that there is a tree at last camp with Marks JMDS on it but I did not see it. M.B.T.R & I spent the evening with Roberts. This camp is about 300 Y^{ds} below where we camped for dinner coming up.

Thursday Sep^r 5th. Fine. very warm. Mitchell & we spell today. Roberts started early this morning There is a fine rocky whaterhole in the Gorge, in which I had a bathe. M^r Burton with Teams & wiring party. also Arthur Giles ? & teams came in about 1 hour before sundown & camped. They reported that Hume had hooked it from the Powell creek station with one horse. (M^r B's ? racer). Towards evening thick clouds spread over the sky threatening rain, but they cleared away again before 10 oclock. M^r King is back with M^r Patterson & not quite so well, it seems that M^r P. is keeping him back because he wants the Doctor to go down with him. when he aught to have been down at the Roper a month ago. M^r B. has got the horse we left at last camp.

Friday Sep^r 6th. Fine warm. Cloud during evening. Twelve months since I arrived in Port Darwin on the "Antipodes". Started early with teams, Mitchell following us. On a/c of it being so dusty driving loose bullocks I gave my horse saddle & bridle to one of the men & rode in a dray. Camped for dinner at the end of 10 miles. after dinner went on 3 or 4 miles to a billybong at foot of stoney ridge, found since we came up; as is. about opposite (westward) of our N^o 6 camp. Gth M & we camped there. Had a long yarn with Tapscott under my fly after tea. This morning M^r Burton gave me the Hawkers bill for 1 p^r of Boot's 15^{1/2} p 1 puggare ? 3^o & 1 touel 2/- altogether £1 one pound. which I think is pretty reason- able for a hawker.

Saturday Sep^r 7th. Fine. Hot. Started early with teams. Mitchell got the start of us this morning on a/c of getting his bullocks first. Went on to our N^o 5 camp on billybong & had dinner. after dinner went on to N^o 4 camp, having crossed the Strangways where we stopped while Weaver went on about 1¼ miles to see if there was any water in a large billybong. Mitchell camped here, the water is muddy. Weaver returned in about ½ hour & reported plenty of water, so we went on and camped on it at about 4 pm. This billy- bong is by some rocks & I do not remember seeing it before. The present track leaves ours & passes it joining it again below. We passed to day the creek where Edwards dray capsised coming up & White rocks, where several of the men went up to see the fine view to be obtained from the summit. The crossing of the Strangways is not so steep now and of course it is dry. but our teams had to be kidded to dray.

Sunday Sep^r 8th. Fine Warm. Mitchell & Teams passed our camp at about 9 am. I did some washing. Fritz mended my hammock for me. On looking round these rocks I find that it is the place where we came to coming up, where the teams got so awfully bogged crossing a billybong at the foot & where M^r King saw the niggers, our pack ? as only about 50Y^{ds} ahead of this camp which Ringwood has called Weavers Pond. after our stockhunter.. This afternoon Ringwood Bastian ? Weaver & I went for a stroll to see the rocks, we went round & up most of them, from [words overwritten] the top of one on the west side of the Strangways we could see M^t Mueller, Mount Colton & Marse's Bluff the last too are freshly named by M^r Patterson. Put a belt on our dray

Monday Sep^r 9th. Fine warm. Started early. & reached our N^o 2 camp on large creek which M^r Patterson has called the "Patterson" [this has overwritten what could be Marco Polo] by 2 pm. then had dinner [word crossed out] At about 4 pm Mess^{rs} Lewiss, Patterson, the Doctor, Bayfield with their horses & teams came up. & camped. Spent the evening in M^r P. camp.

Tuesday Sep^t 10th. Fine. All started early. Met ~~Be~~ E. Bayfield & teams from Depot at about 10 a.m, they came to a arrangement with M^r P. & went on. Reached Moles Hill at about 5 pm. & camped. Passed to day Mount Landon & M^t Page. Killed a Bullock, in evening.

Wednesday ? Sep^t 11th. Fine. All started early. Lewis started with his horses for Port Darwin one of Mitchell's men (Townsend) going with him. Went on top of Moles Hill before Breakfast. Reached large Duck pond about 17 miles by 5 pm camped Passed M^cCullock

range. road rather ruff.. went over to Roper from Duck pond & found it to be here two or three small streams which join lower down;

Thursday Sep^t. 12th. Fine. warm. Started early. & reached Sherwin creek 25 miles by sundown & camped the Doctors party had to camp 6 miles back as horses were done up.

Friday Sep^t. 13th. Fine. Started early passed M^r McMinn & Hells gates & got into Base by 3 pm. where we found some drovers camped with a lot of cattle 144 head from Queensland for P^t Darwin belonging to M^r. Cox who is now at Landing. Saw the remarkable foot & hoof prints in rocks, in bar that Leichardt speaks of. Coxe's party consists of except himself 3 4 men 3-2 chinamen & 1 black boy.

Saturday Sep^t. 14th. Fine. Started early & got into the Landing at 10 am Mitchells \& Bayfields/ teams close behind us. M^r. King & Doctor came in at about 4 p.m. I found the place is much improved by Davis. I & Tapscot put in poles & rigged our hammocks. I went in for two raffells this evening for a Musical box & riffle. 5/- for one & 10/- for the other & lost. Mitchell won the box & Lambell the fifle.

Sunday Sep^t. 15th. Fine. Roberts, Davis Lambell, Masson Brock & I went for a sail up the river this morning, in coming back we saw a big boat sailing up to landing which I knew a glance by her rig to be the Larrakeey-ah. So we went down to her & saw Cook Ry-an & one man on her from P^t. Darwin the Claymore is at the mouth left P^t. D^o. 5 weeks ago. Douglas & all wiring party on board. Cook /Burton & Giles\ brought the mail up & I got some letters from home latest dates being April 20th & papers February.

Monday Sep^t. 16th. Fine warm & windy. The Young Australian⁷¹ came up at about 4 pm. McLachlan⁷² Douglas⁷³ lad & Packard in her with part of Survey party. Smith down below Gulnare Bluff surveying. A lot of luxuries were raffled this evening 1 lb per member: 20 members 5 prizes I threw 47 & got first prize 7 Wesphalia Hams which I afterwards sold for £6.,8/- J ? Lambell Auctioneer. I gave him the price of one ham & commission.

Tuesday Sep^t. 17th. Fine warm.. Lot of men & teams started out to cut & cart wood for Young Australian. I took names & brands of our bullocks & they were all branded with the [broad arrow sign⁷⁴ List of officers & men we' posted up to go to Maria Island tomorrow officers were Brock Lawler Tapscot Wiltshire & I.

Wednesday Sep^t. 18th. Fine. Skettled with Davies ? & Bayfield about hams & raffles. Started at 11 am in Young Australian for Maria Island; M^r. P. & Lambell going with us. M^cLachlan & Packard going to their camp. Reached Survey camp: at about 11 pm. some of men went on shore to sleep. Brock Tapscot Lambell & I went on shore with M^cL & Packard & slept in their tent.

Thursday Sep^t. 19. Fine. Went off & started at about 6 am, went back up river for about 3 miles for wood all hands went on shore cutting &c & we started again at 11.30. men cheered Survey camp. Reached the Island at about 5 pm. & landed one boatload of men. I see that the chanell from the mouth is buoyed & beacons all the way. Slept down in cabin.

Friday Sep^t. 19-20th. Fine. The rest of the men & cargo was landed Brock Tapscot Wiltshire & I came of in last boat. All the stores were stacked on beach. I & several others went fishing with M^r P. & coy. ? of Young Australian with Net. Did not get a great many. but those

⁷¹ 'Young Australian': tug

⁷² McLachlan, G.G: surveyor, Northern Section.

⁷³ Captain Bloomfield Douglas: S.A. Govt. Resident to Northern Territory.
(Douglas, son of ...?)

⁷⁴ Broad arrow pointing upwards: this sign was sometimes used in government survey maps.

of our parties ? got 3. each for their trouble. (small ones.) Brock Lawler & I rigged amidst the stores for to night.

Saturday Sep^t, 20^{1st}. Fine. Young Australian started at day break. We rigged a tarpaulin over stores & put our bunks in it.

Sunday Sep^t, 22nd. Fine. Brock Tapscott & I went across the Island to fish, we got a good feed of oysters, but there was no place to fish. we got back at about 2 pm.

Monday Sep^t, 23rd. Fine. Reading all day.

Tuesday Sep^t, 24th. Fine. Reading all day went for a stroll along the beach with Tapscott in evening.

Wednesday Sep^t, 25th. Fine. Lawler & I went out this afternoon as far as oysterbed. had a feed, & got some crabbs coming back.

Thursday Sep^t, 26th. Fine. Brock Lawler Tapscott & I went crabbing this afternoon – got 8 large ones; the 8 filled a bucked [*bucket*]. I have not see any so large before. I had the smallest for tea, & it was as much I could get through. Some of the men got some splendid Cowrie shells.

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Friday Sep^r, 27th. Fine. Reading all day. \”Omeo” due/

Saturday Sep^r, 28th. Fine. Young Australian arrived at about 11.30 pm. with all the remaining men & officers on board. M^r P. called all the men that refused to cut wood together & spoke to them about it, & gave them another chance to save themselves by going to work on monday.

Sunday Sep^r, 29th. Fine. Warm. Lot of us went for a stroll this morning; reading all this afternoon.

Monday Sep^r, 30th. Fine. Warm. A 10/- sweep was got up among the officers for the Omeo’s arrival I drew next sunday. Roberts Boucaut M^cCauley Tapscott Odgers & I went across the Island & got a feed of oysters. Brock Rutt Shelton & one or 2 more went fishing with crew of Y. A. & brought back about 5 doz. fine fish at about 7 pm, the all then set to work to clean them, & them cooked a lot & had a good feed. The Capt. Is going to send the net on shore to morrow to catch for camp. M^r M^s party went out wood cutting M^r B^s. goes tomorrow & Rutts next day. □

Tuesday October 1st 1872. Fine. Sent some of the fish up for sick men cooked rest for breakfast on beach: Brock Stretton & some others went out with the net fishing this afternoon, they returned at about 7.30 pm with half a sack full divided them among the messes. A Watch was set on top of hill for “Omeo”

Wednesday Oct^r, 2nd. Fine. M^r P. & Capⁿ. Lawrie came off to look at the wood cut by B. M. & Rutts party & they decided to put all hands at it to morrow.

Thursday Oct^r, 3rd. Fine. The Island is getting awfully dull; everybody waiting anxiously for the “Omeo”.. All hands went wood cutting, all the did not cut as much as one party did before. Singing during evening: we got Walter Rutt to sing.

Friday Oct 4th. Fine. Arthur Giles bad ? with fever. I went on top of lookout hill this afternoon. Two men T. Cox & Palmer poisoned themselves this afternoon eating the beans that grow on the beach. Other sick men getting better.

Saturday Oct 5th..Fine. windy. Poisoned men much better. Brock write the Telegraph Alphabet in this book for me., †

Sunday Oct 6th. Fine. For the sake of something to do this morning I will write here a slight discription of this (Maria) Island. It is in the Lemmen Bight & I believe discovered \by/ Tasman a dutchman who named it after his daughter⁷⁵. It is a mountainous island. & is about 7 miles long by (as an average) 3 or 4 miles wide. We landed & camped on the S.W. side. in a shoal bay the Steamer anchoring in 14 feet of water about 1 miles from shore; A mud bank runs out in this bay for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a miles which is left dry when the tide recedes. This & another small bay form the SW. side and at each point there are a patch of rocks, some of which are covered with oysters. Fresh water is found by sinking in a low gully (formed at one time by the ice) about 3 feet deep and about 60 Y^{ds} from the beach, the water is plesant to drink but very hard. It is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ across the Island east of where we are camped, you come out in a small bay. \[Note at bottom of page]: †A year ago since "Gulnare" stranded on Vernon reef./ partly sandy & partly rocks covered with very fine oysters; this bay is much deeper than ours. Not having been across to the North side I cannot describe it minutly, but from the top of Look out hill (which is close to oyster bay.) I could see that it is a great deal steeper than the south side. the hills butting up directly from the shore. The foliage is small & scrubby. Any amount of mangroves round the shore and Corkscrew palms in the gullies. There are plenty of shells for lime on the shore. The natives sport this Island for Turtle.

Monday Oct 7th. Fine, Another day gone & no Omeo, everybody getting anxious, and the mono nity of this place is awfull, Wiltshire & I went across & got a feed of oysters this afternoon to pass away the time. Some went with boat & net fishing but with no success.

Tuesday Oct 8th. Fine. M^r Patterson anxious now, & talks about giving the Omeo till monday & then going to Normanton to telegraph. Burton & Rutt went on board Y.A for the day, Rutt stopped all night. Nothing to do but sleep & eat.

Wednesday Oct 9th. Fine. 8.30: watchers on the hill hoisted flag "Omeo" in sight. Y.A: Got steam up & started to meat her at 9 am; but before she started the Omeo was in Oyster bay, & fired a gun; Everybody in great spirits. 12 p^m am Y.A. & "Omeo" steamed round and anchored about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles off-shore of this bay. Mail came off but I did not recieve any letters. There are 70 diggers on board returning about 20 in the cabin, so I do not know where we are to find a room. Omeo discharged goods for landing into brig. She is not going to take in any wood, but land 20 tons of coal & take in 40 tons ballast. A Subscription was got up to day for J. Hutchinson our cook for which I subscribed £1-10-0: there was about £40 collected. Capⁿ. Calder will not allow anybody on board till the day before sailing. Capⁿ. Douglas recalled to P^t. Darwin M^r Todd past the Peak.

Thursday Oct 10th. Fine. Omeo commenced discharging coal & taking in ballast. I did some washing for the last time this morning. Orders came on shore for all to embark this afternoon accordingly we all rolled up & got on board by dark. M^rP. called all the officers into the saloon & told them as the bunks in the cabin were all taken except 16 - 8 would have to sleep in the after cabin, & those 8 for compensation were to have a bottle of beer a day: ~ ? 8 vollenteered to sleep there. Tapscott & I got 27 & 28 in the saloon. Nearly all the men

⁷⁵ Maria van Diemen: wife of the Governor of Dutch East Indies.

drunk & noisy on board: man fell overboard “ . [this ditto mark is placed under the word 'drunk' in the line before].

Friday Oct 11. Fine. The anchore was up and vessell off by 6 a.m. Light fair wind all day. Men drunk all day. Douglas started this morning.

Saturday Oct 12. Fine. I got pair of ducks off one of the passengers returning from Port Darwin who has a lot of drapery. Brock let me have a pr. of tweed's as the steward had none.. Men fight all day and the vessell is beginning to be a perfect floating hell.

Sunday Oct 13th. Fine. Strong headwind. Service this morning. men much quieter.

Monday Oct 14th. Fine. passed Booby Island at about 6 am, Passed today Prince of Wales channell Cape York, settlement of Sommerset, which we could see & lot of Island, saw 2 scooners a barque & a cutter. M^r P^r. issued /money\ orders to men to day. & they commenced to get tight again: this evening they did nothing but fight quarrell & blaggard the officers; I must say that it is mostly the Sydney men: they go about all day with bottels, in their hands. They Steward tells me that what they drink averages 9 bottels per man a day. We anchored at about 8 pm off some island: One of the passengers raffeled a watch this evening 25 members at 5/- I went In; E. Bayfield won it.

Tuesday Oct 15th. Fine. Coast in sight all day, some parts large sand hills, passed several islands: I drew an order for (£10) ten pounds from M^r. P. & out of it I paid Stretton £1 for Hawkers a/c: 10/- for sweep: Ringwood £1/10 for Hutchinson: 10/- for Raffles. Hack 10/- for Hawkins. Brock £1 – 2 for Trousers: Stewards a/c for shirt &c 14/- Plegge 5/- for duck trousers.' We anchored at about 7.30 in 16 fathoms.

Wednesday Oct 16th. Fine. Coast in sight all day; greater part of coast to day was very high ? ranges. some over 1000 feet above the level of the sea: some places very pretty, passed several islands & anchored at about 8 pm M^r. Gill raffeled a revolver this evening 24 ms at 5/- . I went in Mitchell won it; saw a vessell anchored close to land. Capⁿ supposed it to be gov survey steamer: man of war

Thursday Oct 17. Fine Strong head wind, in sight of land all day passed several Islands passed a little ketch from Adelaide named the “Strathmore,” cheered her as she passed. Anchored off cape Melville at about 8. pm.

Friday Oct 18th. Fine. Strong head wind sharp shower of rain during evening. Spoke a cutter Frantz from Shiels to be reported to Lloyd agents Melbourne; she was anchored under the lee of an islang we dropped anchor at the next island.. Hack paid me 17/-.

Saturday Oct 19th. Fine. Strong head wind arrived & anchored off Lizzard Island at 11.30 to get wood. I paid Wiltshire 17/6 for Mess at Ropers. I got 2 shirts & box of collars from M^r. Taylor & paid him. O^s. men went on shore & cut wood, I went on shore after dinner: got a few shells; & got off again by dark; there is 3 graves & portion of a stone house on this island.

Sunday Oct 20th. Fine in morning; head wind & rain during afternoon; Started early & anchored of an island at about 4 pm – as it was blowing to strong to steam ahead; service during morning.

Monday Oct 21st. Head wind blowing a gale & raining; so could not moore; had to put 3 anchors out last night. Had a great spree this evening which lasted ✕ till about 2 pm in the saloon, lots tight & singing: got key of pantry & helped them- selves. Saw a ship anchord undr the lee of an islands out of the gale ahead of us.

Tuesday Oct 22nd. Light rain strong head wind, got underway at day light: & anchored at about 5 pm off a littl ? Island: boat went on shore to see about wood, returned late: wood not handy. Had a mock trial entertainment this evening.

Wednesday Oct 23rd. Fine, little rain; showery. Started at day light. At about 11 pm picked up a boat with 4 natives \Knackas/ & a white man, in; they were blown out from Green Island. where their ship the "Telegraph" is anchored on Sunday evening; they have had nothing but a little fish since & very little water; we towed them on to Fritzroy Island where we anchored at about 3 pm; they are going off for Green Island to morrow. Men & boats went off wood cutting & loading ? off ballast. I went off & got some shells, there is a beautiful spring there & the water joins a pool in the sand about 3 Y^{ds} from the salt water:12 tons cut.

Thursday Oct 24th. Fine. Boats off early for wood &c. The boat started for Green Island after breakfast: 50 to 60 tons of wood cut today. Capⁿ says he could take the Omeo up close enough to the beach to run a hose on shore & pump enough fresh water for the voyage. I did not go off as orders were given for none but woodcutters to go. Saw a sail just before dark beating up to us: which we supposed to be the boat returning with despatches; that left us this morning. saw her again with a light close to us at about 10 pm but she did not come up. Had a Jubilee this evening in the saloon which passed off very well except that some of the men drunk on deck kept yelling down to us; one of them G. Fletcher the Capⁿ: was going to put in irons, but he appologized. At about 12 pm, the Doctor Renner & 2 or 3 -? more who remained in the saloon, got tight & had a free fight, lot of glasses &c broken.

Friday Oct 25th. Fine; nearly a head wind all day. Started early, but there was nothing to be seen of the boat, that we saw last night; so they supposed it was a small craft that went right on. Passed two of three Islands; the coast is bordered by very high ranges; Passed Rockingham Bay at Sunset: We do not anchor to night

Saturday Oct 26th. Fine: nearly head wind. Passed Cleveland Bay at 6 pm. Saw a ship ahead of us at about 5 pm but lost sight of her at dark. During evening & all night blowing very hard & rough sea on. ?

Sunday Oct 27th. Fine. Head wind. Passed through Witsunday channell & group; this is about the prettiest scenery along the coast. We saw a vessel lying at anchor here. Church service held this morning.. Blowing hard & rough in evening.

Monday Oct 28th. Fine. Light head wind. I bet with D^r Dempster that we would get into the Bremer River on Wednesday. Had a Jubilee this evening. it turned in but had to turn out again till about 2. a.m. when a resolution was passed to adjurn till Wednesday evening.

Tuesday Oct 29th. Fine. Fair wind. Had a long yarn with Geo ~~Cruach~~ Grouch this morning about Frome. Passed Sandy Spit at about 9 pm; saw the Revolving lighthouse on it. Changed course from S.E by E to S at 10 p.m. Wind then dead aft ship going 9 knots. Paid Chase his a/c 15/-

Wednesday Oct 30th. Dull & cold, fair wind till about 9 am, when it chopod round ahead, & blew hard. Spencely washed 2 shirts & 1 p^r socks for me this morning. Sighted Moreton Island at about 2 p.m. arrived off the Lighthouse at dusk, got a pilot & proceeded to about 5 miles from the [*illegible word*] Bar. & anchored there at about 10 pm.

Thursday Oct 31st. Fine. Started at about 8 ? am. & proceeded up the river & reached Brisbane at about 9. a.m. There are some pretty sights up the river, as plantations of sugar, are all the \way/ up. Brisbane is about 17 miles up the Brisbane River We (the saloon passengers) landed directly. went to the Queens hotel & secured beds then went up & round Brisbane it is rather a pretty place, not so large as Adelaide. & more scattered, with 2 or three handsome buildings, viz; Post office, Town Hall & Parliament Houses, the Gardens are

not much account. I purchased one pair of britches 22/6 I white coat 18/- I hat ? 8/6 collars & tie 3/- Boots 12/6. Most of us dined at the Queens, This afternoon you could not move without falling in with some of the men: mostly drunk & singing out "Omeo" some driving about like mad in cabs yelling out the same word, there were several rows in which the police had to interfere, some were locked up but were let out again when sober. Tapscott & I went to the Metropolitan Baths this afternoon, which are in the River. This evening at 6.30 pm the saloon Passengers had a dinner at the Queens, principally as a farewell to Mr Rich^d Cobham: ? who has come with us from Port Darwin, & who is one of the best and most agreeable Gentlemen I ever knew, & in fact he was the life of us while with us; but I am sorry to say that the dinner was a decided failure, never having been properly arranged; & there were two or three drunk who interrupted all the speeches. After the dinner Mr^r Patterson was called away to telegraph to the Chief Secretary I forgot to mention in this journal, last Wednesday, when the Pilot came off we learned that the cable was mended, & now we are in Brisbane we see telegrams from London in the papers 1 or 2 old. It was quite surprising to see the change that took place in most of the party this morning, they had not been on shore more than 1 hour upon they appeared quite different men; so much so that some could scarcely recognize others, has they had had a crop & shave & got a fresh rig out. I slept at the Queens to night, & the mosquitoes were awfully bad..

Friday November 1st, 1872. Fine. Up at ? ½ past 5. & on board at 6.30; we were going to start at 7 o'clock but could not get the men on board. got all off but 2 or 3 by 8 am & then started. Mr^r Cobham came to see us off, & when he left the ship's side we gave him 3 cheers. Most of the men are drunk & fighting to day. Turned in early as I was very tired..

Saturday Oct-November 2nd. Cloudy, little rain, heavy sea & Head wind, it seems a luck ? or fortune to get head winds all this trip. This morning about 8 o'clock an old man one of the return diggers named Murphy died & was buried at 11 a.m. It seems that he died more of old age than anything else being 75 years old, on tuesday he fell down the hatch & has not been up since.

Sunday Nov^r, 3rd. Fine. Fair wind: Passed two steamers & two sailing ships to day. A subscription list was got up among the saloon passengers for Capⁿ Calder, as a mark of respect: I signed for a pound (£1). Money seems to go awfully fast; I bothered ? if I can make it out at all. Sighted the Newcastle lighthouse at dusk and went on to within about 10 miles of it & hove too: Mr Patterson presented the address & purse to Capⁿ Calder this evening in all 26 sov^s. It being Sunday night it was first presented & thanks returned, Mr^r P. explaining that it was presented this evening as some of the passengers were leaving tomorrow We all then gave 2/6 each to get Mr Chatfield 1st mate some books. Rix lent me a pound.

Monday Nov^r, 4th. Fine. Proceeded to the Head & took a pilot & went along side of the wharf: & commenced coaling at once. Mr. P. got a telegram from Mr^r Todd who has arrived in Adelaide, not to stay in Sydney as a banquet was to be given, & was waiting our return: So Mr^r P & several of the saloon passengers including Mr^r Walker, who leaves us here, & the men for Sydney started at 10.30 for Sydney: The rest of us went to the Great Northern & took beds there. Newcastle is just as dull now as it was last year when we were here.. but, I enjoyed myself much better than in Brisbane, as there were two or three young ladies at the G.N. who made things pleasant. A lot of the men are flyblown & have been cadging to day: I have been stuck up to day by about 20 of them for money but I was obliged to borrow £1 from Rix this morning as Mr^r P. was unable to give me another order: Turned in about 11 pm had a very nice bed.

Tuesday Nov^r, 5th. Up early, went down to ship & found that she was to start at 11 am, went back & met Mess^{rs} Patterson & Rutt & some others who had just returned from Sydney. Rix & Odgers are left behind as they missed the boat. Mr^r P. told us that he had to go back to Sydney after all has he could not get the work done yesterday. But he told us plainly that he did not intend to go to the Adelaide Banquet if he could help it, & he said if we gort

invertations we ought to ask what it was for; & to who given: before we accepted. M^r Todd telegraphed to him from—to Sydney yesterday saying that the spread had been put off, to the 15 especially for him; but he ? telegraphed back to say he could not come. Had breakfast at the Hotel, saw several Guy Fawkes's about. M^r Patterson & Rutt left at 10.30 again for Sydney.. We went on board at about 11.30, the ship in a beastly state with coal dust.. Saw a man go down in a diving dress by the wharf.. Left the Wharf at about 12.30. Cheering & great fun on leaving; there were several girls in the wharf pelting oranges at the men. Passed the Lighthouse head at 12.45 with a fair wind, & passed Sydney Heads (60 miles) at 7 pm. Great change now on board, the men twice as quiet now the Sydney chaps have cleared out.

Wednesday Nov^r 6th. Fine. Fair wind. 90 miles past Sydney at 3.a.m. Passed Twofold at about 5 pm & Cape Howe at about 8 pm; there is about the finest Lighthouse there, that I seen on the coast.

Thursday Nov^r 7th. Fine. Fair wind. passed two ships going South. Copied the Tropical Alphabet by Walker & Tyds it I got it from M^r Hinds. Saw several more ships during the day. Passed Wilsons Prometry at about 5.45. There is a Lighthouse & very pretty house on the point: While off the point to night about 1 hour before sunset: I saw about the most curious sight that I ever saw in the shape of a Mirage. There were several crafts within sight and sandy Islands seemed to rise up to the west of us and on – all the ships seemed to be double one on top of the othery; the top one up side down: just the masts touching; one seemed to keep parting & meeting again.

Friday Nov^r 8th. Fine. drissiling rain. Passed Port Phillipe heads at 6 am: a Steam boat came out to meat us at Queens clift & took the Melbourne passengers M^r Mitchell going to pay off the Melbourne men. D^r Dempster also leaves us here. Quack [*The Quack!*] won the Melbourne cup yesterday. Started again at 8 am for Adelaide where we expect to be on Sunday. Passed Cape Otway at about 6 pm. Passed several ships. one very large one:

Saturday Nov^r 9th. Head wind all morning: Fair wind during afternoon, Passed Capes Nelson Bridgewater. & Northumberland. & saw M^t Schank: Great Jubilee this evening it was about the best we have had broke up at about 3 a.m: during the evening we put our heads together and made up a rhyme on the O.T. using the Alphabet. [*included later in diary*]

Sunday Nov^r 10th. Fair wind. raining. & very rough sea: ship rolling awfully, I felt sick. Passed through Backstairs Passage at abt 2 pm & got into smooth water passed Glenelg at about 7 pm & ~~Game~~ Anchored off the Semephore at 8 pm sent up rockets & fired the gun for a pilot who came of soon after & stopped on board; to take us up at high tide to morrow two boats came off and a lot of chaps went on shore. We got some newspapers; & there is to be a great Banquet &c on Friday. Tomorrow is a Pub Holiday. P. of W. birthday.. [*Prince of Wales*].

Monday Nov^r 11th.. Cloudy Drisling rain: all day. Weighed Anchor at about 4 am. got along side of wharf at 6.30 am: Sent swag up to the Eagle Tavern Adelaide by a cartea & a lot of us went to break- fast at Fords; M^r Todd ~~went~~ came down by first train; & met us and gave us tickets for the train, a lot of the men went up to town in busses: The rest of us went up by first train; Tapscott & I at once went off home, the others stoppd to hear M^r Todd speak as there was a great crowd at the Station. I went to our Factory, & found that My Father had gone to meet me so I waited, & he came in about 10 minutes. I am very sorry to hear of me uncle T. Haywards death. I went to see my sister, & then Papa & I went home, once again thank Goodness right & well none the worse. for being 16 months away..

Tuesday Nov^r 12. Went to Town & got all the clothes I walked next to Mitcham & visited old friends in evening.

Wednesday Nov^r 13th. Went to Town.

Thursday Nov^r 14th. Went to Town: I got paid off 40 pounds

Friday Nov^r 15th. Fine. Warm: Went to a Picnic at Exhibition Grounds in Morning given to welcome us home, I went to a Banquet in evening given for the same purpose. I now consider that I am quite done with the O.T: so with this I finish this Journal with as much pleasure as I began it.

Finis

King ✓
A. Giles.
C. Johnstn
B. Rosse ?
S. Jarvis [or Jonas ?]
T. [Fr an]
Snodgrass
Ford
WAC
T. Dyke
P. Wesborough
H. Easter ?
W. Hearn
..-✓

Page 132.

[written in either his best or a different handwriting]

We the undersigned members of the Advance Section of the Northern Territory Overland Telegraph Construction Party wishing to Express our very high Esteem of Our ~~worth~~
[blotch]

Page 133.

[This LH page has been left blank, but the four lines of ink writing on page 132 show through the paper.]

Page 134.

[Continued in same handwriting.]

We the undersigned members of the Advance Section of the Overland *[Several blotches occurred as this was written]*

Page 135.

[This LH page has been left blank.]

Page 136.

The O. T.

[The song lines have been kept intact to help the reader follow the flow.]

- A. stands for all the Party complete.
- B. is the Banquet where we're all got to meet.
- C. is for Calder who brought us all back
- D. is the Dinner we intend to attack: (Chorus

- E. stands for England who joins in the spree
- F. is the Fun we all mean to see.
- G. are the Girls who welcome us home.
- H. are the Hardships we've all undergone (Chorus
- I. is the Iron which will replace the poles
- J. is for the Jolly dogs who sank all the holes
- K. is for King who the Line did explore:
- L. is the Licquor ~~we~~ we had to deplore: Chorus
- M. is for the men who did their work well.
- N. is the Narrative which we now tell.
- O. is the "Omeo" , long may she float.
- P. are the Proprietors of that jolly boat (Chorus
- Q. is our Queen long may she reign.
- R. is the Roper which Hart did disdain.
- S. is Stuart who gave us the ~~elue~~ Que.
- T. stands for Todd, escorted right through (Chorus
- U. is the Unity the Colonies expect.

Page 137.

- V. are the Victims, who now pay the debt:
- W. is the Wire, which is now stretched accross.
- X. stands for the dividends profit or loss. Chorus.
- Y. is the Year of seventy two.
- Z. is the Zeal which carried us through.

Now all you Australian's who wish the line well
Be sure to your progeny this tale to tell.
Chorus

Page 138.

Tropical Song

- A. is for Adelaide now joined to the Cable
- B. is the Boulli they put on our table
- C. is the Currido [*name of boat*] with Miners good store
- D. are the Diggers we hope the'll explore
'Chorus'
Sing Fol de rol dol, sing Tol ? de rol dol &c
- E. is for old England to where our hopes stand
- F. is the Fault they are trying to mend
- G. is the "Gulnare" [*name of boat*] fast rotting away
- H. is the Heat we swear at all day...
'Chorus'
- I. is the Indifference now shown to our trade
- J. is the Jetty that ought to be made
- K. is the King of a blackfellow mob.
- L. is the Lubra he wacks on the nob.
'Chorus'
- M. is for Milner who preaches & teaches
- N. are the Nobbler'ss against which he preaches.
- O. is the O.T.s who have wired all the way.
- P. is the Piper they have now got to pay.
(Chorus)

Q. stands for our Queen and long may she sway.
 R. is the Roper they have gone to survey.
 S. is old Symonds a begger to wet
 T. is the Tittle that Todd ought to get

Chorus

U. is the Unity we hope to hold still
 If only our Adelaide friends will pay the bill
 V. is the Victory the O.T.'s have won
 O'er the whole race of Croakers both mother & son.

Chorus

W. are the Wise acts our rulers pretend to do
 X. are the excellent things they intend to do
 Y. are the Yarning's both noble & strong.

Page 140.

Z. are the *Zauney's* who chorus ths:song.
 Chorus

Finis "Walker & Tyds

Page 141

A B C D E F G
 • — — ••• • — — •• — •• • • — • — — •

H I J K L M N
 •••• •• — • — • — • — — — — — — — •

•O P Q R S T U
 • — • — ••••• •• — • •• — • — ••• — — •• —

V W X Y Z
 •••• — • — — • — •• •• •• •• •• ••

Period And Full stop
 •• — — •• • •• •• — — ••

Page 142

[This RH page has been left blank.]

Page 143

£ — 0 — 0	£. s. d.
Subscription for J. Hutchinson	1 — 10 — 0
" Hawkins's widow	10 — 0
Hawkers a/c	1 — 10 — 0
Raffle & ,duck trousers	10 — 0
P ^r of trousers from Brock	1 — 2 — 0
Raffle & sweep	0 — 16 — 0

Stewards a/c	14		
Mess at Landing		1 -	0 - 0
2 shirts from Taylor	7		
Stewards a/c In Brisbane	- 15 -		
1 P ^r Trousers	1 -	2 -	6
1 Duck Coat	0 -	18 -	6
1 P ^r boots		0 -	12 - 6
Collars & tie	-	3 -	6
1 hat		8 -	6
Cab	-	7 -	
Dinner		-	10 -
Bar lendes	1 -	00 -	0
Subscrip ^{tn} for Cap ⁿ Calder	1 -	0 -	0
Spent in Newcastle	1 -	0 -	0

Page 144.

[Various calculations have been omitted from here]

Advance Note	9 -	10 -	0
Procuration Order for 15 months	56 -	5 -	0
Store a/c		2 .	14 - 9
4 £1 orders	4 -	0 -	0
1 £10 "		10 -	0 - 0
		82 -	9 - 9 ?
Borrowed from Alf Giles	£1.-	0 -	0
" from E C Rix		2 -	0 - 0

Page 145.

[This page has been left blank except for a pencil drawing of what could be a squashed mosquito!]

Page 146.

Port Darwin

1 Crimean Shirt	0.	6.9	
1 P ^r Boots	.10.6	0.	17. 3 ?
1 Govt order	1.	0.0	
1 do. do		1 .	0 0

Roper Landing

1 Felt Hat		0 -	7. 6	
\1 Pocket Knife			1. 6	
2 Crimean Shirts @ 9/6	19. 0		1.80 ?	
1 Govt order	1.	0. 0		
1 do. do		<u>1 .</u>	<u>0. 0</u>	
	£6" 5" 03			6,14.9
	<u>0- 9-6</u>			<u>4</u>
				2.14.9
1 Felt Hat & Knife	£ 6. 14 . 9	<i>[Misc. calculations have not been included – see original]</i>		
	<u>4</u>			
	<u>2. 14 . 9</u>			

Port Darwin		
Lot of Shells	£1. 0 .0	
Washing & Sundries	1. 0 .0	
Store a/c		17 .3
Roper Landing		
1 Box of onions	1. 0 .0	
Knife & Fork 5/- Hat 7/6	12 .6	
Sundries		7 .6
Store a/c		<u>1. 8 .0</u>

£6"5"3

Page 147.

[in heavy lead pencil]

Monday 28th. Left the anchorage at 5 o'clock am. passed through Prince of Wales Channell at 4 pm then past Booby Island; then stood out for Port Darwin. One red Bullock died

Tuesday 29th Fine day. Lost sight of the Currido in the evening.

Wednesday 30th. Hot weather. Passed Cape Wessell at 11. pm :

Thursday 31st. Hot. Advance Note on SA Government due.

Friday. September 1st 1871 Fine Weather.

Saturday 2nd Fine weather. passed cape Cocker

Sunday 3rd Very Hot. Entered and anchored in Dundas Strait. wind very light.

Monday 4th Saw a Turtle. Very Hot & Calm

Tuesday 5th Passed Vernon Islands anchored of Port Darwin.

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Wednesday 6th 1871. Went into Port Darwin, was boarded by D^r Millner M^r. Hood and some others; went in shore: met Tapscott who shewed me to H. ? Camp landed a lot of our Bullocks:

[This page also contains various calculations, mainly up side down.]

Page 149

[This page contains miscellaneous swirls and signatures, mainly those of William Crowder]

Page 150

[William A. Crowder has been practising his signature twice. There are also decorative swirls, and two signatures of Alfred Giles!]

[List of names]

Giles
Dasborough
Woods
Snodgras

Johnson
Lord
Crowder
~~Weaver~~
S. Jones
R an
~~Weaver~~
Dyke

Page 151.

[Landscape aspect]

William A Crowder

S.S. "Omeo"

November 7th 1872.

Page 152.

[Portrait aspect]

Musical Box	0 - 10 - 0
Raffle	0 - 5 - 0
Luxuries	<u>1 - 5 - 0</u>
	2 - <u>0 - 0</u>
Ringwood	15
Lambell	<u>1 - 1 - 0</u>
	3 - 16 - 0
	6 - 8 - 0
	<u>3 - 16 - 0</u>
	2 - <u>12 - 0</u>
Hawker	£1
Sweep	10
Sub ⁿ Hawkins	10/-

2 . 12 . 0
<u>2 . 0</u>
0 . 12

William A Crowder

Page 153

[This page has been left blank. There is an upside down £.s.d. top centre.]

Page 154.

[Crowder Wm Alfred. par: Wm Nathaniel and Emily nee HAYWARD b: 3.1.1854 SA d: 25.8.1891 bd. WTC m: 25.7.1878 SA Isabella Brown b. c1855 d: 7.5.1923 ch: William Harold (1879 –1924) others. Ref. Biographical Index of South Australians 1836 –1885.

Crowder, Wm Nathaniel. par: John b: 1818 Glasgow SCT d: 2.2.1898 Mitcham SA bd: WTC arr: 1839 SINGAPORE occ. Aerated Water Manufacturer res: Adelaide, Lockleys, Lwr Mitcham m:(1/2) 28.9.1847 SA Emily nee HAYWARD par: Thos and Harriet nee Avery b: bapt. 20.5.1831 Tenterden KEN ENG d: 16.12.1867 ch: Emily Frances (1849 –) Jemima Amelia (1851 – 1884), Wm Alfred (1854 –1891), Fredk Thos (1856 –1902), Geo Hurtle (1858 –1881), son (1860 –), Arthur Phelps (1861–), Percy Albt(1862–1862), Ellen Marian (1863 – 1901), Percy John (1865 –1865) m. (2/2) 5.9.1868 SA Rosa Mary–Ann b: c1832 d: 20.2.1877. Ref. Biographical Index of South Australians 1836–1885]