

Grandpa Bridge's Diary

Being a true account of his arduous voyage to America from England and his difficulties upon arrival.

Edited by his grandson, Harry Bridge

Converted to digital form by N. J. Bridge

Introduction written by Harry Bridge

Although Grandpa Bridge, as he was known by a large number of children, was as religious as his diary indicates, he was not morbid. The only book I ever saw in his hands was the Bible, but his love for children was one of his most notable characteristics and one which gave him great enjoyment.

After the long difficult voyage from England and the ensuing months spent working in New York, George Bridge lived the rest of his life as a religious, hard-working citizen of the United States. He came from N. Y. to Cook County in Illinois where he bought a farm with borrowed money and married. The new life was one of constant laboring and adjusting to the different conditions and the new ideas of Young America which were sometimes opposed to British traditions. Three day trips to Chicago were necessary to sell produce, even though they meant great discomfort. Several children were born on the Cook County farm.

Then, just before the Civil War he sold it and bought 100 acres at twelve dollars per acre in Kane County near Almore, Illinois. Milk was the main product which meant work for all the family, including the children. They were up at sunrise every morning. The two oldest boys would do their barn chores and then go to sleep between the cows for warmth; and at breakfast time Grandpa would go down the rows of cattle to find his helpers. There was little play in the early days so the boys were glad to go to school. Since their father and his wife were firm believers in the benefits of education, all of the nine children had good schooling. The oldest son¹ taught school when he was sixteen years old, and a daughter also taught.

After the children left home, Grandpa sold his farm and moved to Elgin, Illinois, where he built a large house to accommodate the frequent visits of his children and grandchildren. Here he became a vegetable farmer. In 1903 a visit to England with his wife was made. The next year they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary, all of their children and grandchildren except two being with them for the occasion. Grandpa died in 1910 and was followed by his good wife in 1911.

We have changed Mr. Bridge's own spelling and grammatical structure only in instances to aid in easier comprehension in the belief that it is a vital factor of his style.

Note added to this digital version

I have made a few small changes to correct what seem to be errors in the typescript version. Most importantly, all words ending in "ll" (all, will, well etc.) were rendered "le" (ale, wile, wele). This I feel is almost certainly due to a misreading of the original manuscript, since it was very common to write the second "l" smaller than the first, so making it look more like an "e". George was evidently quite literate and seems most unlikely to have consistently misspelled such simple words.

¹ William C. Bridge, who subsequently became a doctor

George Bridge

May 15th, 1849

On the great Atlantic, very anxious to arrive at New York

Born Sept. 11th, 1827. Baptized Oct. 22nd at Wittersham in the county of Kent, England.

Left the place of his Birth Wednesday, April 18th, 1849. Embarked from Liverpool, England for America Apl. 23rd, 1849, being 21 years, 7 months, & 12 days old.

O Lord, be thou the guide of my youth.

[The following may be a list of letters originally bundled with the diary – NJB]

Seaman Shaply at Mr. Geo. Mercer's, Genesco, Levington Co., N. Y. John Crompton, Mount Bethel, Plainsfield State, by the N. Y. Mail. Mrs. Jm. Crouch, Schnectady City, N. Y. Mr. Wm. Sims, Town of Lisbon, Wosheka County, Wisconsin. Mr. John Padgham, New Salem, State of N. Y. Mr. Wm. Parson, Mansion House in lieu of the post office, N. Y. James Sims, Camden, Oneida Co, N. Y.

A letter from Mrs. Thorncote. Mrs. Wolsted of Boston directed to Mrs. Jorden, Widow, Berwick Williamsburg, King's County, Long Island, St. of New Y. First she wrote as to whether you will write to James as she had not heard from Them for 3 years; only had 2 letters since the death of his wife. Kind love to all the Jordens.

Seth Genterden

A little relative to our ship (it is all hear say).

Name: New World – belonging to New York, America – 2 or 3 years old. Makes 3 Voyages a year to England. Left America Nov., 1849. Got to England Christmas Day. Got to America in a month. Left America on March 1, '49. Got to England in 21 or 22 days –

I have heard her length is 196 feet², breadth 42; has 3 decks registered at 1500 tons; can and does carry 2000 ton; has scarce her equal for Sailing under the superintendence of Captain Knight, a very clever and quite a temperate man.³

2 But later another figure is given

3 *i.e* doesn't drink

I left Wittersham April 18, 1849, Wednesday about ½ past five o'clock; from thence to Tinterden⁴, E. Paddingham and took my leave of my Tinterden Friends and proceeded on to Headcombe⁵ and took the P⁶ Train to London Bridge Station; arrived there about a quarter past 10. Mr. French⁷ hired an Omnibus to take us, and unfortunately the axle broke, and down we came and were obliged to get two more conveyances. Started for Liverpool early on Thursday; arrived there by nine o'clock after a very cold ride.⁸ I did not see anything very remarkable, but some of the Station Houses were very splendid.

Friday Morn after I had Breakfasted I went with Mr. Fagg down to see the Shipping. I thought it very grand. Through the day I went through principal part of the Town and all along the dock – was deeply interested.

April 21st

Was a day of much fatigue and muddle. Went from Waterloo dock to Wapping Station 2 or three times and in the afternoon was at the dock waiting to get on board, but could not get our Berth Tickets numbered and was in suspense whether I should go at all. Went on Board in the evening and was not allowed to have a light in the vessel – had a very uncomfortable night.

Sunday, April 22

Got up early this morning but was very much cast down; paced the decks. Nothing seemed to cheer me; was necessitated to go and buy some provisions. I appeared as one that had stolen something, and as we came through the dock gate the policeman said it was like Saturday more than Sunday. Came back and wrote to Mr. Bowles and was all the day in expectation of Sailing early in the next morning. Still feel very uncomfortable. Now it is two o'clock.

Monday, Apr. 23

I arose after having a few hours comfortable sleep, but did not get to bed until morning and was obliged to set up to watch our provisions. Got upon deck about ½ past 4. Got Mr. James Howard's things on board. Went out into the Town to procure some Biscuits. Afterwards went and bought a Tub. Then fetched Mr. Howard's things – then with intense anxiety waited for Austin to return with our provisions as the gang plank was just about to be taken away. Unfortunately he was so long the gang plank was taken away. Some threw their things on board at the hazard of their being lost in the water. Some scrambled up the gang poles but all was soon over as they were winding us out of the dock where Mr. French, Mr. Howard and Austin came on board⁹. With very great difficulty we got our things on board. No one can imagine what a bustle and confusion we were in. At that time there were many on board that were not going with us – some with Oranges – others with Seaman's Slippers, Smelling Bottles, and other things. Some were men that were waiting to help us with some of the things that could not be got on board before but they took every adv. in charging. Now all were on board and we were tied to a Tug Steam Boat which always draws large vessels out into the Sea. There were many looking in on every side and a great many on deck and a man with an Instrument of Music playing us out. We went on so for some time till at length orders came down

4 Tenterden

5 Headcorn – probably a misreading of the handwritten version. There is no place called Headcombe but the railway line from London had reached Headcorn by 1839.

6 P = passenger, presumably.

7 George's mother's maiden name was French, so Mr. French presumably was related – an uncle, perhaps.

8 Again by train; a road journey would have taken longer.

9 George evidently travelled as part of a larger party, to whom he seems to have acted as servant.

that every Man, Woman, and child was to be upon deck. We with reluctance left our Berths as we were afraid of loosing some of our things. We all went on deck and this was done in order that the Vessel might be searched to see if there were any hid up, and that the names might be called over according to our several families, and show our tickets and take our Berths again. While this was doing they with lanterns searched the vessel and found six men and a lad that had hid up. They were brought to the Captain who made them sit down against his feet. One man manifested a bad spirit and the Captain rapped his head on the deck not very softly. We had to go through the process of examining and taking our Berths. The sailers were very busy in tying the Vessel. We had near a head wind. It was amusing¹⁰ to see the Sailers work. When they were pulling a large sail or the like they will sing and when the tune turns they will all give hard pulls. When we had taken our Berths and I began to feel rather sickly. I went on deck and the first thing I saw was one sick just beside a man that was sitting down who came in for the contents of his bag. Now there came a steam boat for all the people that was going back to Liverpool and the other that was tugging us went back and all on a sudden our anchor chain ran down and it was very lucky that none did not get hurt or killed. We had a long job to get her up again. We got her up and very soon had a shift of wind and as they were decking the sails a rope swept off an Irishmans hat and I think he never got it again. By this time some of our family were sick and we, with great difficulty, made some gruel. I went to bed and there I saw an she goat that had that moment given Birth to a kid. The man said he should throw it over Board in order that he might have the milk for to eat. We had lamps in our Berths which was very handy. I went to bed and slept very comfortable. We have seven 100 some odd on Board. The Vessel is 16 rods long.¹¹

Tuesday 24th

This morning I was rather squirmy but the sea very calm but a head wind. We went back in the night. This morning we were all called up on deck. A search was made to see if there were any concealed in the ship that had not paid for their Voyage. They found one man and put him Board of a fishing Boat which doubtless put him ashore on the Welsh coast. About half an hour after another came up and made a surrender. He was carried before the Captain who ordered him to be flogged for not coming in time for the boat. The 2nd mate gave him about a doz. Stripes with a rope and then set him to work. Very soon after another was apprehended. He had been among the passengers several times but we did not know but that he belonged to us as there is so many. He was set to work his way over. We could see land on every hand nearly.

Wed. 25

We had a head wind nearly and the Sea was very rough which made us very sick. I arose early and went to cook the kettle but standing at the gallery door, it being near her Bow, I was obliged to leave the kettle and go and sit down near the mid where it did not rock quite so much. I was uncommonly queer. There were persons sick on every hand, some reaching¹² over the side of the vessel – some at one place and some at another. I did not cast anything or even reach. About Noon I went down and took a little Brandy. Then I was a little sick. I was very queer all day. At night I got a little tea and ate a little and went upon deck and up it all came and I felt better a little. I stayed upon deck until late. Then I went to bed and slept very well. We lost sight of all land that day. I think it was Scotland we saw last but I don't know. I should have said that there was a boy about 11 or 12 years old that came and made his appearance in the morning. He had escaped both of the processes of search and at last came forward and gave himself up. He was set to feed and water the

10 *i.e.* interesting, diverting.

11 1 rod = 5 ½ yards, so this works out at 88 yards = 264 feet

12 Retching.

ducks & chickens & Turkeys & Hogs & sheep which we have on board and 4 Sheep. I dreaded to come down in my Berth for it was so stenchy and disagreeable. I wished myself at home or in America but rather the former. I had much dread of the voyage as I was afraid that we should be ill through the stench.

Thursday 26th

I arose rather squirmy and very dispirited still dreading my voyage. I got up on deck as soon as I possibly could where I saw but very little besides washing & soil faces and orders. It was a scene. It was as though I had been drinking all night but it had no influence in taking my senses away. They were of home with very anxious thoughts especially as every thing was uncertain over in America. I stayed on deck nearly all day except when I was waiting upon Austin & his family as I was a great deal the best man although I was as drunk as an Owl sometimes. You might have seen me leading Mrs. A. up stairs for a little or carrying the Child up calling for some one to help me up stairs; sometimes cooking the kettle or making tea or making bread and butter or treacle and Bread for them all, they all being quite unable. We saw a vessel right above Bow a few miles before us. We soon caught it up and lost sight of it. It was said that it left 2 days first. At any rate it had no more with us. I saw a great many Sea gulls but no fish. There was a bird that came in on tipping like a hawk species but I did not hear its name. It came within a few feet of my head. Some were very anxious to catch it. I went down to Sea to night and cannot describe the scene I saw. Some were as bad as dying with sickness. Some said "O, my blessed Lord" one minute, and perhaps began to bawl out their husbands – poor fellows. I felt for them in their situation. We endeavoured to get a little tea. Austin & wife and Boy and John Parson were very ill. The sea was very rough and we had a shift of wind. It was quite fun turning the canvas. The Sailers are glad for us to help them. I took my kettle and went down and to say just how it was I cannot. Some of our party called for something to be sick in while I was endeavouring to get the tea and owing to the shift of wind the Vessel rocked the oposite way. There came a tremendous gale, a wave that made her rock very much and all at once down came the Bow and cans of water belonging to the oposite Berths that were not corked. We were in a pretty mess. The women began to squall while others were sick all around us and such a disagreeable smell so that we found our Camphor Bag very serviceable. So we eat and drank our tea. It is quite the reverse of home. After tea I went on deck very low spirited fearing that I had mistaken the way that God would have me be in. I prayed ejaculatory¹³ and again when I retired. I had not room to kneel in my bed so I was obliged to stoop on deck. I fell in with a man that was going back to America again; that came home in the same Vessel in order to see his friends. He was an Irish man but he preferred America to England or Ireland and said he had left home for the Last time. He had been in America 7 years but was never much for rambling. He told me how I had better eat a little. I seemed better afterwards.

Friday 27th

No kettle could be heated before the Berths were cleaned throughout; so then we could not have anything warm much before noon. I seem better in health and better in spirit. Austin & people are better. The Sea is milder, but the wind is not very favourable and a considerable deal of reaching amongst the passengers. Staid on deck till late – found my mind engaged on things of eternal importance. When I retired I wished I could be on shore.

Saturday 28

Awoke this morning rather poorly, my stomach not being quite settled. Found the Sea very rough

13 That is, exclaiming out loud.

but the wind not altogether unfavourable. I feel very weak, squirmy, and long to be on shore but by reading get comfortable. I seem as though I shall never again be so comfortable in society as I was when at home. My sole dependence is in the Lord whose direction I wish to follow. I still have a violent cold. We had one poor woman taken to the Hospital yesterday with a fever she had previous to coming on board. Toward night it became very terrific so that it was necessary that the sails should be partially reefed in. It was truly interesting to see the Sailers climb the ropes. No less than 20 at once ascending and nearly all leaning over a long pole in a row tying in one sail. I retired about 10 or 11 and was very much rocked in the night.

Sunday 29th

It continued very rough the greater part of the night. I awoke several times with the rattle of the Tin-ware and boxes through the motion of the Vessel. In the night a foolish person came to the entrance of the cabin and made an alarm saying: "Get on your knees for we are all going to the bottom." G. Bridge was up with his shirt on and found it to be false. Many were much frightened. I did not hear anything about. This day it is very rough so that it is a very difficult matter to get up stairs which, of course, must be done. Altho the scene was awful, yet it was very amusing to see the people going to the galley to get water heated or the like. Some overturned their saucepans ascending the stairs. Others fell off the ladder. One woman fell down two pair of stairs – one child the same. No one can picture the scene; it must be witnessed and felt to be fully known. At noon I went up on deck and the squalls were very rough. The sea looked very furious. I could not see for it looked as though it rained. It became so very rough so that the Captain came and gave orders for the sails to be reefed in. It was very difficult for the Sailers to hear the word of command and a great many of the passengers assisted in pulling – sometimes down on our backs – at other times thrown against the sides of the Vessel. We could not stand without holding. I think it very much interrupted me. I became very poorly and did not know where to get. My head did ache so that I could not lay and had no where where I could sit comfortable. I had taken some pills the night before to move my bowels which had not been done but once for 8 or 9 days. I think were it not for my health's sake I should not wont them moved as our depository is so dreadful filthy and right at the ship's bow where it rocks so very much. In this state I moped about and thought of the comforts of Home and for the time wished myself there. Then I thought about the Chapel and my dear friends and especially E____.¹⁴ I wished I could be present and absent from this scene of wretchedness. I, by constant ejaculating committed myself into the hand of God and longed to be where I could mingle with his people in devotional exercise and wished the summary would come that I might depart and be with him but still I lingered on account of friends – some that I feel so deeply interested about as I wanted one more opportunity of advising them to lay hold of Jesus and not lose to this world. I went and laid down for a few minutes but was in much pain. I went to bed and did not know how to lay as I feared if I laid with my head outside or nearest my Berth I should be thrown out. I, therefore, folded my coat and laid behind my head and laid me down and went to sleep.

Monday 30

I awoke this morning and found it much calmer and Austin & family much better but myself very indisposed – feel so very weak and squirmy owing to yesterday's wrecking. We are becalmed this morning and cannot make any progress scarce. Was so told this morning that we were about 700 miles advanced but had been rather an out of the way road. The Captain said he had never been so much northward before. We have taken this road on account of the health of the people. The deck is

¹⁴ He refers to *Emily* later on; seemingly his sweetheart though not the girl whom he eventually married

crowded this morning. We have 700 some odd passengers – beside the crew, I think, 60. I want to be landed before long.

Tuesday May 1st

This morning we have a dead calm. I feel more reconciled to the voyage although I am not in perfect health. Towards night the wind arose a little but not exactly in favour – at night a strong gale with a shower. This afternoon we had to go down into the lower steerage in order to have our ship allowance. I never was so crowded before in my life nor more uncomfortable as the Irish are such a disagreeable set of people – always seeking to get their turn served first. While in their society I thought about Hell. If it was so uncomfortable to be with them here, what would Hell be? – Each a torment to each other – awful indeed. I hope to escape it and enjoy God's presence in Heaven. I have less confidence in man. Thou, O Lord, are my only hope.

Wed. 2nd

This morning is a wet and calm one. I seem still very feeble and weak but my mind is fully set on God. I feel fully persuaded without this guidance I shall not succeed. O, Lord, lead me in a right way and keep me from the pride of man and iniquity of the Devil. This afternoon the wind seems to be arising a little in favour. We have much canvas out. O Lord, send us some seasonable weather. And may we all arrive in safety. Spare the sinner and fit the saint for every event before him tonight. We have a little breese.

Thursday 3

This morning is fine but very calm. I still feel very different to what I did on land. This afternoon we have a little breese. My mind seems very much exercised relative to how I shall proceed on my arrival at N. Y. Some of our Kent people have concluded to go up about 300 miles and wish me to go with them. O Lord, I beseech Thee to direct me and lead me in a right path. I do praise Thee for what Thou has done. Truly Thou has done all things well. Give me patience and resignation to thy holy will in all things and keep me unto the end through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friday 4th

A small breese – a wet uncomfortable afternoon. I feel very anxious to be on land. A shift of wind to the Northeast – just in favour, only we have not much breese.

Saturday 5

Wind in the right direction but very calm – a very fine morning. I think I am fully resolved to go to Schenectady with John.¹⁵ O Lord, go with us and protect us and provide for us and I will praise Thee. A little child died this day and was committed to the deep. The Captain read the Burial Service. It appeared a melancholy event to see the child sewed up in a bag with something heavy to sink it. It was laid on a board at the quarter deck and then slanted off by the first Mate into the Sea. This afternoon we were all called upon deck in order to have our several names, ages, nation, occupation or trade. It was all set down to be given in at the Custom House at N. Y.¹⁶ Another man that stole in without paying heard that the names of the passengers were to be called or something, through fear, made his acknowledgment, which he need not have done; and it was likely that he

15 John Austin, presumably

16 The passenger list still survives.

would not have been found out at all. He had been about just as the rest and none knew but that he had paid. He was chained up by his legs upon deck but they gave him something to eat. We have still a fair wind but not a strong one. We make seven knots an hour.¹⁷

Sunday 6th

This morning I arose in Tolerable good health and Spirits. We made good work in the night and the wind is not altogether unfavourable. This morning I was exceedingly put out at the galley in cooking breakfast. The people are exceedingly troublesome. When I went upon deck afterwards, I was very much pleased to see the people, many of them showing much respect to the sabbath.¹⁸ Many were cleaned and dressed in their Sunday clothes and seemed quite different to what they are on weekdays. I seemed more at home and reconciled to it than ever. Truly God ought to be praised for his mercy to us in that we are all so well in health. A little after noon a gentlemen of the first Cabin preached to us. Commenced by singing 143 Hymn – 2 verses - “Jesus, Lover of My Soul.” Then prayed contemporarily.¹⁹ Then read part of the 3 Chapt of St. John's Gospel. Then sang the 2 first verses of the 84 Hymn, “Come Thou All Victorious Lord”. Text: St. John – 3 c. – 3 V. – “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, except a man Be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” He preached very plain and pointed. He first said that this was God's own truth and depends upon the propriety of taking God's word in all parts as the only truth however it might be opposed to our opinions or views. He first showed the necessity of this change by considering the original state of man and also his present fallen state seen by the nature of the change required. Then the effects and latterly in conclusion an earnest appeal to the unconverted sinner showing the disadvantages he was under all the while he continued in his present state and also the advantages to be derived by a life of faith. Then sang 2 first verses of the 640 Hymn, “Come, Let us join our cheerful songs & then said the Benediction and dismissed us. I felt it to be a very good time indeed. Many seemed to pay serious attention. A Jew sat just before me and listened very attentively and some of the Sailers were present. The Captain sat just over the preacher. This evening we was disappointed in not hearing Mr. French preach owing to the roughness of the weather. The wind blew and it rained so that it was very unpleasant upon deck. We saw a vessel a considerable distance from us apparently going to America.

Monday 7th

This morning it is much finer and calmer. We do not seem to make much progress. I seem very weak in my back and sadly interrupted in my mind. I am greatly grieved at Mrs. A's bad feeling toward me together with the rest of us. I pray that her heart be changed for I fear it is not right before God. I hope that we shall go on a little more comfortable until we get to Land When I will separate myself. I have done all that I can to no Purpose. O Lord, give us the right feeling toward each other and Thee. A child was born on Sunday night. This afternoon a little boy fell down and sprained his leg. We all had a piece of pork allowed us to day, unusually thick and fat. The wind is very rough this evening.

Tuesday 8

I awoke this morning after a very uncomfortable night's rest. It was very rough through the night. I seem very poorly this morning. We have seen a vessel for this last 2 or 3 days, perhaps the same. I have not seen any sea gulls for 3 or 4 days. We had some vinegar allowed us today, perhaps 1 pint

17 George evidently did not realise that the *knot* is a measure of speed, equal to one nautical mile per hour.

18 A lifelong concern, still evident in the letter to Andrew dated 1900.

19 That is, all together.

each adult.²⁰

Wednesday 9th

This morning I awoke & found it very wet and rough. The wind blew exceedingly. I did not know where to get as it was so very cold as well as wet on deck and sit down stairs we could not. I, therefore, got upon my bed for 3 or 4 hours. In the afternoon we had the water given out. One could not refrain from laughing to see some slide nearly across the deck – some down and some up with their cans. The wind sunk but the Sea was greatly agitated. We have had nearly a head wind for some time. It was the coldest 9th of May that ever I felt. I saw a seagull and a blackish bird.²¹ Some within this last few days have seen a few fish. The Mail Steamer²² past us last night, left N. Y.

Thursday 10th

I awoke this morning quite as well as common but not near right in body or in mind, as things don't turn out according to my expectations. I shall be very glad when I can once more separate as my mind is very much grieved. It is what I do not like. It is nearly calm. We have but a little head wind. My whole heart is in God, my rock. This night the wind became in favour but not very strong. A ship is in sight at her Bow. We all seem in good spirits this evening and a great many on deck till late.

Friday 11th

This morning I arose after having an uncomfortable night's rest but was glad to hear before I got out of Bed that we were running at the rate of 13 knots an hour. A ship still within sight. We are now going on rapidly. The air is very cold and it is very difficult to walk the deck. I have heard that the small pox is in the vessel. I earnestly pray that we may be preserved still in good health and soon be brought to Land; as I am very uncomfortable with Mrs. ____, but I commit all to the Lord.

Saturday

This morning we are not doing so well as yesterday. We have not seen anything this day but a few Birds. Gulls and a little Bird not very unlike a swallow or a sea snipe. Some on board saw a few fish. The afternoon was very wet and uncomfortable. The night was very rough on deck.

Sunday 13

This morning it is very rough, and the wind is very strong; and it has not the appearance of Sunday as last Sunday had. It does not appear at all like Sunday. An Old Man died last night and was buried this morning. It appears he was worn out before he came on Board. He could not be prevailed upon to stay at home as he had a daughter in America; so his family was, or rather, are on their voyage. He was a man of considerable property, and it was considered a folly in him to attempt such a voyage. I do not feel near so well as I did previous to my coming on Board. I cannot eat with any degree of appetite. We have not got much things as are relishable for Sea. I seem very uncomfortable and seem very anxious to get to the place of destination. I cannot read to any great degree of profit. We have no preaching.

20 This sounds a lot but it was probably essential to make the meat palatable.

21 Probably a cormorant.

22 This would have been a side wheel paddle steamer; scheduled crossings by steam were still quite new.

Monday 14th

This is a very rough morning indeed. The water is continually coming on deck. It is impossible to stand upon deck or beneath without holding. I seem very low this morning and poorly. Many things have occurred today which one could not help smiling at. Some fell and capsized a saucepan of gruel, some water and some one thing and some another – others perhaps were sitting on their Boxes and away went the Boxes with them across their berths. A girl was nearly killed last night in the same way. She is better today. I have just been standing beneath the fore castle and have witnessed several very bad falls but none much hurt. This morning a man fell and overturned a saucepan of Boiling water in a bed where lay a woman and 2 children. It scalded the woman's arms and his own. Tonight the wind is in a measure abated after hard blowing for 48 hours. They are putting up a little more canvass. She still rocks very much.

Tuesday 15th

This morning it is very fine and quite calm. The wind is set fair. They are squaring the yards and hoisting the sails, but we do not make any progress. We are supposed to be on the west side of the Banks of Newfoundland, the crossing of which has engaged the attention of many of the passengers for some time. The wind is rather more a head of us now, but we are sailing on nicely, perhaps 10 miles per hour. I seem in tolerable good spirits, as I think we shall not be but a week longer with a moderate wind. I am still very poorly and my stomach refuses food. I always dream about England, sometimes about one and sometimes another one. I dreamt that one of my brothers was dead, but I know not which. I thought that Tom was living. Last night I dreamt that I saw Uncle George²³, and he said that he should die. The next day he was quite certain of it. I also dreamt that I was at Mr. Epenetes, and I thought I wished I was not going to America. I remember I thought I did first relish the food upon land, but I very soon found out by the rocking of the Vessel that it was only a dream; and very soon an old man came round to enquire if we were all alive and allotted that one of us should assist in cleaning out the fore-castle. I went and a dismal job it was, as the Irish are eternally filthy. I have not seen any vessel for several days nor any fish. I have only seen a few birds. We had a sermon preached in the second Cabin by Dr. Howard. Text: Math. 25 C 29th vr. "For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance; but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." The gentleman that preached before commenced the service by giving out a hymn and praying. Then Dr. Howard read 25 C Math. Then we sang S 6²⁴ or some where there – the one that should be sung before reading the Scriptures. After the Sermon we sang "A charge to keep I have – etc." Then the Pr. Prayed. We were making rapid progress, I think, in a right course; but in the evening we had a very great hurricane with rain. I went upon deck to help get the sails reefed in and got very wet, with the rain. The sea looked awfully grand. 2 Sailors got hurt, one especially on his head. I did not go to bed much before I should have got up had I been in England. I thought about my fellow servant and wished he could have witnessed the scene.

Wed. 16th

I awoke this morning and found it a little calmer, but the wind is not at all favourable. We had a sad disturbance in our circle which I am very sorry about as it is not in my disposition. I hope we shall not have any more of it. I am a little better in health today. I seem as though I could eat a little better. We passed a ship this morning and seemed to have left her quite behind, but a little after noon looked about and then she seemed ever so far before us. It was our turning about. Afterward she came right by our stern so that we could see the passengers very well. Our deck was literally

23 This must be a maternal uncle, *i.e.* George French

24 S = Psalm

crowded to see this ship. It was truly amusing to see it.

Thursday 17th

This morning I awoke after having a good night's rest. I, as usual, dreamt I was at home; yet had thoughts relative to going to America – in fact, thought I had been part of the way. This morning the wind is direct against us so that we, of necessity, go very much out of our way to get on at all. Sometimes we go North East; then tack about and go to the South or S. W., but get on very slowly. I feel fully resigned or rather content to stay until God shall send us a more favourable wind. The Second Mate said today, with a fair wind, we should reach New York in 4 days. I have seen nothing today but a very few birds. The sea is rather rough and right against us. I can eat better today and seem in some degree better, but not so well as I was at home. My mind is much more comfortable as we are more comfortable among ourselves. I earnestly pray we may continue so. I seem as though I cannot think about America without hungering for home. O my dear friends – how I want to hear from them, but more especially to see them. O my dear and precious Savior, have mercy on them and bless my feeble and faint endeavours that I have made to lead them to Thee. Look with pity on those, my old and intimate friends. Think on Mr. & Mrs. Packham²⁵ and poor Eleanor and the parents of John, who are very anxious about him. O Lord, bless all the family and may we all meet in Heaven. Thou knowest all that I feel a deep and lasting interest about. Look upon all relations. Do bless Mother and Father, William & Rhoda & the little ones, but, O Lord, thou knowest that there is one that I feel very much about. Above all other favours, I ask of Thee to bless her with Thy converting grace. Thank Thee for any previous impression Thou hast made on her mind. O Lord, bless our correspondence to the good of our souls and to Thy glory; and although widely separated by the trackless ocean, if it be Thy will bring us together at some future period even in this life. I leave all my concerns in Thy hands. Grant that I may find favour in the sight of the people that I am going amongst and may my life be spent to Thy glory. Forbid that I should be over anxious about my dear Emily. O Lord, bless her soul and provide for her temporal wants. Keep her from all that is evil and should she ever receive one more invitation or rather exertation from me to embrace thy offers of mercy, may the spirit solemnly impress her mind with the realities of a future state. O Lord, ever instruct me in every thing relative to any future correspondence in any way with her. Search me and try me, O God, and every thing that is wicked within me bid it all depart. Wherein I am too much attached to earth or creature snap the cord asunder, and may I find my all in Thee. Thou art my soul's only hope and comfort.

Thy gifts alas can not suffice
Unless thyself be given;
Thy presence makes my paradise,
And where thou art is Heaven.

In darkest shades if those appear
My morning is begun;
Thou art my soul's bright morning star,
And thou my rising sun.

Ever appear and be the guide of my youth, keeping me from the evil & leading me in the paths of uprightness for Jesus Christ's sake. – Amen.

Fri. 18

This morning I awoke in tolerable health and found it much calmer than yesterday. We were

25 Probably Mrs. Packham was his father's older sister Mary, who married John Packham.

making a little progress and near the right point, but now we are in a dead calm – the wind at the head of us so that we lay nearly still. 2 ships have been in sight – appeared to be going to England. The Captain says he has never known a rougher passage across the Atlantic before at this season of the year before, and he has crossed it for these last 12 years. He's a very good captain & a temperate man always fit for his duty. I think his name is Knight. Some of the passengers saw the water thrown up the other nite a few hundred yards from the vessel about ½ past of evening. It was concluded that it was the working of a whale. I have seen nothing today but a few male²⁶ birds called the storm hedions²⁷ – somewhat like a martin. I seem very comfortable in my mind today. We are still very comfortable among ourselves which I like much best. I shall be very glad when I reach land. I long to go to my daily work again and have my daily & regular living again and attend to my religious duties with greater regularity. The Lord keep me, body and soul, in perfect safety and give me the quickning and comforting influences of thy spirit and at last land me in Heaven & all my dear friends through Jesus Christ. This night my mind was very much hurt with what passed between us relative to our settling in Liverpool. I hope it will work right.

Saturday 19th

This morning is a very rough one. It has been as rough a night as any since we left land, but we have & are still making good work. My mind is very much hurt with what happened last night. I seem to have less confidence than ever in a arm of flesh. My whole heart is in God, my salvation. This night it is very fine, and we are going over our right course but not very fast. I am much more comfortable in my mind and hope soon to have done with this scene. I hardly know what way to take but still seem to think I am directed to Mrs. Crouch's at Schenectady. I pray thee, O Lord, to give me true wisdom that cometh from above.

Sunday 20th

This morning it is very fine, and we are going on a little toward America. Every countenance seems cheerful at the prospect of seeing land before Sunday or even before Wednesday. Weeds may be seen floating upon the water which we think is an evidence that we are very near land. We seem rather more comfortable this morning. I pray that we may continue so and part such when we land. At noon Mr. Howard preached to us from Luke 15 C 18, 19, 20 verses – The Prodigal's return to his Father. First he took the circumstances in a literal sence. Then in a spiritual, as more immediately concerns us. I liked it very much. It was plain truth, Many were very attentive. Others did not wish to hear it, and some actually afterwards were playing cards. I read the 15th chapter of Luke for a lesson. At 4 o'clock we had a temperance meeting. The Captain presided over the meeting. In fact he was the chief speaker. It was very amusing to hear his sentiments and his counsels very seasonable. He has been a teetotelor ever since he was 9 years old. He has made some 20 voyages across the equator & 100 across the Atlantic. He has promised to give us some useful advise relative to our proceedings at Landing. We are quite becalmed. The sea is very smooth, hardly a ripple to be seen. I stayed on deck until late at night. We had a little breeze about 8 or 9 o'clock. I went to bed joyfully anticipating to be on land next Sunday.

Monday 21

This morning I arose in tolerably good health and spirits. Found our ship was making some little progress but not in a direct course to York. We are all in great anxiety as to the wind continuing as it is very probable we shall land on Wednesday or Thursday. I feel very desirous to be just where

26 I suspect that this is a misreading of *small*; he could not possibly distinguish the sex but martins are small birds

27 Probably Storm Petrels, which might be seen as they came towards the coast.

the Lord will have be. I am resolved to follow the leadings of his spirit. I feel it to be very painful to be severed from my very dear friends abroad. I wish I could spend the remainder of my days with them. I hope to see some of them at least before I die should I live. Surely it is hard to nature thus to be separated. O Lord, wilt thou be my friend according to thy word.

Tuesday 22

I arose in good health this morning and found the wind quite fair but not very strong – afterwards dead calm and then a shift of wind from the So. W. I saw several very large black porpoises. They resembled a hog on the back with a large fin on the back. Some of them looked to be larger than a human body. The Captain gave us a lecture on different advice relative to our landing and success and a little on slavery – altogether very good. Several joined the abstinence pledge. All of a sudden this afternoon the sea became as smooth as possible, which before about a few minutes was rather rough. It was said we had just crossed the Gulf of Mexico.²⁸ Now the sea is very smooth & it is very foggy and cool. The Captain fathomed its depth. I heard it was 39½ fathoms. I feel my mind rather exercised as I think Mr. & Mrs. Austin (?) and Mr. Funes²⁹ are putting our accounts together. I hope it will be done to the satisfaction of all I fear. I heartily wish I could set straight & have a few shillings on landing. It is a very unpleasant thing to my mind to be in debt. Sometimes I am very much cast down about many things and I have no confidential friend to unbosom myself to, but I find God to be a very present help in times of trouble.

Wed. 23rd

Last night the wind arose and a very dense fog which was very cold. I stayed up on deck last night and I think I caught a cold. I awoke this morning early and felt very poorly when I got up. I found we were going very much out of our course to avoid getting on the Sand banks as we were crossing St. George's Banks. It continued very foggy and cold nearly all day. We were obliged to sound the depths several times. Sometimes it was 30 odd fathoms Sometimes it did not exceed 20 much. So that we made 2 or more tacks of ship nearly homewards to get off the aforesaid Banks so that upon the whole we made just no advancement scarce all day. The passengers looked very much down and despair of reaching land this week on that account. My spirits were not very high, but I felt peace within and without as I have reason to think that my account will be put together in a comfortable way by what another told me what Mr. French said it appears I maybe owe Mr. French about 7 pounds and shall be obliged to have 2 or 3 more if he is willing. My whole heart is in the Lord.

Thursday 24

This is a very dull morning with us all. The weather is very wet and foggy – a dead calm with the wind at our head. We had a flash of lightning with repeated peals of thunder. We all seemed put out of our calculation as to when we should land but very soon. We all looked much younger as the command was heard: “Square yards, Boys, Fair wind.” Up went the canvas and off we started. Then most everyone began to predict when we should land or see it or have the pilot on board. We are still going out this afternoon at good speed. I think that if we continue safe on South by tomorrow nite or the next morning we shall have the Pilot on Board. No one would suppose that there would be so many reports about as there is on Board. One says he heard so and so, another thought that the first, second, or third mate said so and so, and another that the Captain said so and so; so that we do

28 Of course, they were nowhere near Mexico but they must have passed from the warm waters of the Gulf Stream onto the Labrador current.

29 Mr. French; a carelessly written *re* looked similar to a *u* and *ch* resembled *es*, with the tall form of *s*.

not know scarce anything. We had another birth about a week ago. Many may be seen washing their clothes – some in cold salt water, others warm. They carry it up on the forecastle and hang it on ropes or around the railings. Sometimes they have to take it down in great haste when they shift the sails. I saw several very great porpoises. They came very near the vessel. It is very foggy today.

Friday 25

This morning we were all in expectation of seeing a Pilot coming. One Boat was seen very clearly. The wind was the same as yesterday. We were going on very nicely. At 12 o'clock we had a pilot on Board and we saw land very soon after. It was Long Island but as we were not very close to it, it was the north side of us. Towards evening we saw land on the other side and nearly before us and at nearly night we came near enough to land to see a house and the beautiful green trees and no one but myself can tell the feelings of my breast, and had my mind been more at rest I should have enjoyed more. I looked at my situation and also the state of my health and the contents of my purse, but I knew that the Lord had directed me thither. Next day we saw Sandy Nook, and after we had passed the light house we very soon cast anchor. There were several more that lay at anchor there. After all was secure I went down but did not go to bed all night as I sat to watch ours and our neighbor's things as it very often happens that the last night is a night of plunder. There was great noise all night nearly. Some were singing. Others were imitating the officers in giving orders relative to altering the sails.

Saturday 26

This morning was a very muddling time. All were up in good time this morning – some packing up their beds, others cleaning themselves and putting on their best clothes. About 7, I think, we weighed anchor, and a steam rig tied on to us to take us into the peer of New York. We moved on slowly and passed many things very pretty. Sometimes we saw a whole lot of bedding or copper shawls that had been thrown out of some emigrant vessel – bottles and many other things. Steam boats & little boats and vessels and on the land the scenery was beautiful. I think it was the beautifullest sight I ever saw. It might appear more so to me, as I had been shut up in prison so long. It was so elevated above the water and looked very grand. At length we arrived at the quarantine ground where we were examined by the surgeon, and one woman was taken to the hospital, and we were permitted to proceed on. Papers were given to many of the passengers there as cautions to them and also affording them suitable advice when they landed. Now we began to have many of the tavern keepers and steam boat officers and many more on board with their cards and there were some who wanted to buy all the Biscuits, Bedding, and in a word all we had to sell, but they did not offer us much for it. At last we got into the peer where we had to stay. We drew close beside another vessel that lay there and when I first saw it I thought It was just landed with emigrants, but I found that they were from the city come to let in our ship as soon as we docked. I felt for the moment very reluctant to leave the vessel. My heart sank. I am lost here for expression.

July 14th 1849

This day I feel very happy in the love of God and have to bless him for his goodness to me in preserving my health so good the seven weeks I have been in this continent. I feel at home with the people I live; but O how often (yea constantly) is my mind toward those I have left behind – not only my mother and father and brothers and sisters but my Christian friends. My heart is knit to theirs by a cord that nothing can sever. I thank thee, O my God, for that memory I feel when I approach thee. May all our prayers mingle together around the throne while here on earth we stay, and eventually may we meet together in Heaven. I have, this last week especially felt a nearness to

God in prayer. O how I feel for my young Companions I have left. Some of them solemnly promised they would live for God and Eternity. My precious Saviour look after them. The thing that causes me the greatest anxiety of mind and depression of Spirit is the weak Body I possess. I fear it will not be strong enough for the discharge of my duty, but my times are in God's hands. I have learned to live more by the moment and live passive in his hands willing to be used for his glory in any way and am willing to be led to Heaven thru the path of adversity and affliction if it be his will I should. I have a good hope thru the grace of Heaven where I shall be free from these troubles and again see my dear friends. O Lord, bring them all safely thru this veil of tears. And O my God, do convert those of my deep solicitude. Let prayer prevail with Thee, and now again I cast myself with all my concerns & that of my friends and all into Thy hands. – Amen.

July 21

This morning I bless God that he has been so favourable with me this last week. It has been a week of very hard labour, and it has been intensely hot. I have long dreaded the week to come as I was so afraid I should not be able to do the work. I have been mowing and cradling. At various times during the week my mind has been very low. I seem to mourn the absence of my friends. I daily pray for their conversion. I feel very happy in the love of God and live upon him by the hour, and constantly look for the time when he shall send for me.

July 22nd

I have been in expectation of a letter this last week from home, but I am afraid mine never went farther than N. Y. I wrote one to Mother dated 2 or 3 of June and one to Mr. Bowles dated 11th July and one to Mr. French³⁰ at Mr. Henry French's, Rondout, Ulster County about a fortnight ago. I have had none answered yet.

Sep 23rd

This morning my mind seems dull. I seem cast down. Yea, my only hope is in God. For this last few weeks my mind has stayed on God. I have to speak of his goodness and grace. Glory be unto his Holy Name. I have resolved to live wholly to God's glory and am waiting a full development of his Holy will. I seem in some degree at a stand at this time how to proceed in my temporal matters. I wish to please all men – yet to please God. I have a chance of staying where I now am for another year if I like. O Lord, take all my concerns in thy hands and teach me how to act. This week I heard from Home and am grieved at their distress and wish I could see them here. My heart is full, O Lord; provide for them and give them all thy converting grace. Now, O Lord, take me into thy care for life. Use me to glory and at last bring me to thy Throne in Heaven for Christ's sake.

30 Presumably the same Mr. French as had sailed with George, though I do not know why he should then have gone to Ulster.