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CRUISE OF THE YACHT MARITANA,

—1894.—

CREW:—Messrs. G. MEE (Captain), G. MARTIN (Sailing Master), M. LAIRD, E. HALL, J. GANNAWAY, A. MEE, and S. SOUBORVILLE (Pilot for Nelson waters), better known as "Sandie."

WELLINGTON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, 1894, Midday.—Crow busy shipping stores, &c., as we purposed dropping down to Worsler Bay that evening, and so catch the early morning's tide to run through Cook's Straits. Whilst shipping the stores, managed to drop a case of Isager beer overboard in getting it over the side from the dingy, but an energetic member of the crew, rather than go without his beer, went up town during the evening and returned with a further supply, which was safely stowed in the lockers. All hands came on board at 10.30, but as the wind was fresh from the N.W., with hard squalls, we decided to remain at the moorings, and start, if favourable, at 8 a.m. All turned in about 11, but owing to the jump of the sea, the radder kept us all, more or less, awake. G. Mee and Martin turned out at 8 a.m., and had a look round, but decided to turn in again, as it was still blowing hard, with low glass.

SUNDAY, 11th.—G. Mee and Martin turned out at 6 a.m., and had a turn at dredging for the lost beer, but without success. All hands went ashore for morning ablutions, while Sandie got breakfast ready. Came aboard and did ample justice to same. After squaring up, decided to get under weigh, and see what it was like outside the heads. 8 a.m., got under weigh, with a fresh N.W. wind, a rising glass, and every appearance of the weather clearing. Set single reef mainsail, small jib, and staysail, topmast hauled and all snug, stood away for the heads. On reaching the entrance, found the sea smooth, with a nice fresh N.W. wind, so decided to run across to Port Underwood. Hove-to in Lyell's Bay while we got the dingy on board, and securely lashed down; bore away on our course with a splendid breeze. Passed Sinclair Head in grand style, and were soon in the rip off Torawhiti, the yacht behaving splendidly, and taking little or no water on board, although the sea increased considerably as we cleared the land. Got through the rip by 11.15 a.m., when we had some lunch—biscuits and cheese—and drank success to the cruise in some very

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good lager. Steered a westerly course for Cape Rununder, in Cloudy Bay, and as we neared the land, found that the wind was falling light, so shook out the reef and shifted head sails. Making the heads at Port Underwood at 3 p.m., found the N.Z. Government s.s. Terranora (cable steamer) at anchor in Ocean Bay, and our old friend, Mr. Black, with a boat's crew, fishing for hapuku off the reef, at the entrance. Had a hard thrash up the bay, during which we had to shift jibs, as the wind was very squally off the hills. At 5.30, came to an anchor in three and a half fathoms in Oyster Cove. Gave her No. 2 anchor with twenty fathoms of chain, but as she sheared about a good deal during the squalls which came off the hills in different directions, ran out the kedje with a long line on the starboard bow, which kept her steady. Laing and A. Mee went ashore, and interviewed Mr. Jack Guard, who lives in this Cove, and obtained a supply of milk and apples; returned on board to tea, promising to come ashore in the evening and pay our respects. Had an excellent tea, and after squaring up on board, G. Mee, Laing, Gannaway, and A. Mee went ashore in the dingey to pay our visit. Met Mr. Jack Guard, who invited us into his house. We went in, and were introduced to Mrs. Guard, a rather portly specimen of the Maori race, who was got up regardless in a bright tea-gown, with her hair in ringlets over her forehead, no doubt in honor of our visit. There were also two sons and two rather nice-looking half-caste girls, the elder being rather a fine specimen of what healthy outdoor employment will do for a girl. It is unnecessary to say that boots were things that they did not wear when at home, but seemed to get on first-rate without. We were preparing to sit down and have a smoke and yarn, when Mrs. Guard left the room, and returned with a great armful of hymn-books, Mr. Jack Guard remarking that they were going to have just a "mouthful of prayers," which they did. It consisted of singing Moody & Sankey hymns, and Mrs. Guard favoured us with a good deal of her voice, with an occasional interjection of "Not so 'igh, Birdie," "Now, Tom, keep tune," and so on. They kept this up for some two hours. Mr. G. Mee and A. Mee got out for part of the time under pretence of seeing to the dingey, but the others had to see it out. It was very hot; for although midsummer, there was a good fire, and the room was small. Naturally, Jack Guard endeavoured to go to sleep, but was rudely awakened by his wife. We may say that on our first arrival we were introduced to the perigrinating schoolmaster who is stationed in the district, and holds school in the different bays in turn, but he knew a thing or two, and when Mrs. Guard brought out those books, he took his candle and went to bed. However, everything comes to an end, and so did the mouthful of prayers. We then chatted on the usual topic with Jack, namely, whales, and he told us wonderful tales of sulphur bottoms and all sorts of things that came within his ken. About 10, we bid them all good-bye, and returned, informing those on board what a good thing they had missed. Turned in at 10.30, and had a very quiet, comfortable night.

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MONDAY, 12TH.—All hands up at 6 a.m. G. Mee had a header off the yacht, but did not see any sharks. Fine, bright morning, with fresh N.W. breeze, and barometer 29.90 and rising. After breakfast, cleared up ship, and got under weigh at 9.30, picking up the kedje first, but when we hove in on the anchor found we had hooked something, which turned out to be Jack Guard's moorings for the "Old Jack." However, we got clear, and stood away down, intending to make Tory Channel, or right round outside if we found the weather favourable. Made the entrance to Tory Channel at 12.30, after a nice sail, but as the weather looked threatening, decided not to continue on, but to run into the Sounds. Stood well to the north, and lay right on handsomely, Martin at the helm, and all hands at their stations. Cleared the heads in fine style, and stood up Tory Channel, carrying the tide with us as far as Arrowsmith Bay, where we met the tide, and had a hard thrash, with the usual Sounds weather—squalls and wily-wahs, and then calm. We tried an anchorage in a small bay on the north shore, but after letting go one anchor in seven fathoms, we sounded over the stern and found only two. We thought it altogether too risky, so launched the dingey and ran out the kedje, as the wind had now increased considerably, and a strong eddy tide set into this bay, we put a couple of reefs in the mainsail, and with small jib and staysail, stood out again to fight the tide, which, with the stronger breeze, we did, to the astonishment of the natives. After about an hour's beating, we cleared Dieffenbach, and lay along for Picton. In Queen Charlotte's Sound saw a number of porpoises, which are always in evidence in these Sounds; and after a good run, cast anchor abreast of Picton Wharf at 7.30 p.m. Went ashore, and sent telegrams home, then on board to tea, which we did full justice to, seeing that we had only snacks during the day. After tea Laing and Hall went ashore and patronised the local barber, who is also an oyster merchant, Hall taking the opportunity to remind him how he had taken us in in the matter of oysters two years ago, namely, by a short count of two dozen. Went up the town, and knocked up the local butcher, returning on board with a good-sized leg of mutton. Turned in about 11 p.m., but were aroused by the s.s. Penguin's whistle at 3 a.m., close alongside. All hands voted it a nuisance, and that steamers should not be allowed to use their whistles at such unearthly hours, even in Picton. However, we were soon asleep again, and passed a comfortable night.

TUESDAY, 13TH.—All hands turned out at 6 a.m. G. Mee usual header, others ordinary wash. Cleared up cabin and deck, and then to breakfast. Had Picton mutton—very tough indeed. After breakfast, all went ashore. Made a few purchases, and were returning on board, when an amateur photographer stopped us to know when we were going to get under weigh, as he would like to get a shot at the yacht with his camera. We told him in about an hour, and we went on board, while the artist went for his apparatus. The morning was dull and threatening, but looked clearer down the Sound, so made a start

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for Endeavour Inlet with a light N.W. wind, the weather improving and clearing all the time, barometer standing at 30. Came up with the old *Xarifa* with a party out cruising. Was being sailed and handled by some ladies. Came close alongside and saluted them, and exchanged greetings. Just abreast of the entrance to Endeavour Inlet the *Xarifa* bore away for East Bay, and we for Deep Cove, and came to anchor at 2.30 in this lovely little bay in ten fathoms. Ran a stern line out to a tree, the water being quite deep up to the bank. Having had our lunch *en route*, we spent a delightful, lazy afternoon—some fishing, some ashore, and others doing odd jobs on board. Lit three good fires on shore, and had tea there. While going ashore with the dingey with plates, knives, &c., we found the shoal water at the head of the bay alive with small sharks, and some of considerable size were asleep in the sun. This put an end to a contemplated bath, and we had to be content with a tub in the creek. Had an excellent tea of fried rock cod, and after putting on a piece of corned beef to boil for future use, stoked up a good fire, and went on board. Had a game of crib, spent a very pleasant evening, turning in at 10 p.m., hoping to make an early start outside in the morning. Can recommend Deep Cove as a good anchorage, and very pleasant spot, the fishing being good, and the bush very pretty.

WEDNESDAY, 14TH.—All hands up at 5.30, after a lovely night, the quiet only broken by the cry of the penguins and moreporks. The dingey was sent ashore to bring off the corn beef which had been left on the beach fire over night, and to cast off the stern line from the shore. On its return, we got it aboard and secured, and had our breakfast as we made our way out into the main Sounds. It was a lovely morning, and as we cleared the Inlet picked up a good S.E. wind, which quickly carried us clear of the Sound. On the run down, we passed the *Xarifa* anchored in Resolution Bay. The crew, we presumed, were camped ashore, as we saw a couple of tents among the bush, and their yacht was lying at anchor close in—a very snug place. Passed through the passage between the beacon and Jackson's Head—no rip to speak of, and very little sea—set all sail, including jib-headed topsail, having got our topmast on end early in the morning. After passing the Chetwoode Islands, the wind fell light, but in about an hour a sea breeze made, and after making a couple of tacks, we cleared Clay Point and lay up Admiralty Bay for the French Pass. Unfortunately we were too late to get through that tide, so came to an anchor in Elmslie Bay at 2.15. This bay is deep, with good holding ground, the beach steep, but is somewhat exposed to the N.E. As we and all went ashore and walked round to the lighthouse at the neck of the Pass, where we had a splendid view of this remarkable passage. The tide was then ebbing, and the water was pouring through the narrow channel like a mill-race, and certainly for the first two hours of either ebb or flood the passage of any craft other than a steamer is

somewhat perilous. We had a yarn with the lighthouse-keeper, and inspected the light, which is situated at the foot of the cliff, about twenty feet above the water, and the keeper's house is reached by a number of steps—101 to the top. The keeper gave us some particulars of the loss of the *Gazelle*, which had been wrecked close to Waikawa Bay about a fortnight before. We also found that the tide would be slack at 7 or 7.30, and as what little wind there was was favourable, we decided to get under weigh and get through and make for Waikawa Bay for the night. On our way back to the yacht, we met Mr. Webber, who gave us a supply of fresh milk, and promised to come aboard and have a look at us after tea, which he did, with several others. At 7.15 we got under weigh, with a nice little S.E. breeze (Mr. Webber coming with us through the passage), which carried us close up to the rapid, but then died away when most required, so it was out sweeps to keep her head to it, as the tide had not quite turned, and we had a little current to stern. Fortunately, a puff caught the sails and filled on her; the yacht gathered way, and we went through like a steamer. Mr. G. Mee put Mr. Webber ashore at the lighthouse steps in the dingey, and then caught the yacht a little further on. By this time the breeze had freshened, and we were bowling along towards Waikawa Bay at the rate of knots. Had to beat up the bay, keeping the lead going, and found it was as marked on the chart, a nine fathom anchorage. Brought up off Wells' house for the night, and ran out the kedge, as the wind was freshening all the time, and the yacht surged about a good deal. G. Mee and Martin were up and down several times during the night, expecting she would drag her anchors, but both held on well. We afterwards found that we could have gone further up the bay, where we should have laid snugger. After making all square on deck, we went below, had a game of crib, and turned in. This was a very enjoyable day's sailing, the sea calm, and nice sailing breezes.

THURSDAY, 15TH.—Up at 6. G. Mee usual header. Cleared up cabin, and went ashore. Found the beach strewn with wreckage from the unfortunate barque *Gazelle*. After a wash in the creek, went up to the house, where we found the brothers Wells and a policeman from Nelson, who had come down over the inquest on those poor fellows whose remains had been washed up. The boatswain of the ill-fated vessel was also there to identify the bodies. We got a supply of milk, and returned to the beach, collected some of the wreckage for firewood, filled our water-breaker at the creek, and went aboard to breakfast. The Wells' brothers got their boat out and took the boatswain and policeman to the head of the bay to put them on board the *Penguin*, bound for Nelson, which they did, and afterwards came aboard and told us all about the wreck. The boatswain and another were the only two saved, the former owing his life to the exertions of the Wells', who found him floating in the bay on top of a skylight insensible. With great difficulty they got him into their boat, as there was a big sea

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running at the time, and took him ashore, and after two hours of continual attention, had the satisfaction of seeing him come round. The other was a Norfolk Islander, who, when the barque struck against the cliff, dived over the stern and swam to sea out of the break. He appears to have been in the water all night breasting the sea, and when day broke made in to the beach and landed safely in a small bay, afterwards making his way to the Wells' house. As the cutter Planet was beating up the bay, the Wells bid us good-bye, and went ashore to get some sheep in to ship by her. The Planet anchored close in to the beach, and Captain Westrupp and his crew (one) paid us a visit. Got up anchor about 11 a.m., and with double-reefed mainsail and small head sails, stood down the bay with a fresh S.W. wind, barometer 29.50. Found but little sea outside, and made Souci Head at midday. Entered Croixelles Harbour, and beat up to Oyster Bay—a snug anchorage, where we let go anchor at 2 p.m. As there was likely looking bush, G. Mee and A. Mee went ashore to see if they could get some pigeons, while Hall, Gannaway, and Sandie went fishing. G. Mee and Laing remained on board, and gave the cushions and beds a good drying in the sun, and the cabin a thorough clean up. The shootists and fishers returned both with good bags, and we had a splendid fry of fish for tea, after which G. Mee thought he would try if the bay would substantiate its name, so, with A. Mee, took the kedge anchor, some sixty fathoms of line, and the dredge in the dingy and dredged for the succulent bivalve for about two hours. They succeeded in obtaining three fine large oysters, and returned on board a little after 10 to find all hands turned in. This bay is a very pretty spot, and well worth a visit. At the head of the bay is an old clearing, where a whare has been, and the cleared land covered with fruit trees, mostly self sown; there is good fishing and shooting.

FRIDAY, 16TH.—All hands up at 5.30, after a nice quiet night, only broken by the doctor (G. Mee) being called up to administer a dose of chlorodyne to one of the crew, who he found sitting up in bed with his hands tightly clasped across where his waistcoat would button if he had one on, and complaining that the corned beef had stuck in his gizzard. After a good strong dose, he soon joined the others in blissful repose. G. Mee usual header among the sharks. The rest went ashore to the creek, filled braker, and returned on board to breakfast. Lovely morning, but little wind. Got under weigh for Nelson at 7 a.m., with light air of wind, and extra high glass. The breeze carried us nearly to the heads, and then died away, so we had to out sweeps to keep clear of the reef. At the entrance to this harbour there are two islands connected with the east shore by a continuous reef, which is covered at high tide, the entrance being between the westerly of the two islands and the mainland. There is a small reef running out from this one, which should be avoided. Sandie and A. Mee took the dingy and rowed to one of the islands for white sand, for scrubbing purposes, and on their return we hoisted her on board, and after getting clear of

the land, set to work with soap and sand to scrub paint-work and polish the brass. While standing along the coast, saw a whale-boat, evidently laying-to waiting for us, and as neared them, saw that the crew consisted of Maoris and a half-caste, the latter wanting a passage to Nelson, but as he looked as if he had not used Pear's soap, we told him that the cutter Planet was at Waikawa, and would be along shortly, and no doubt they would give him a passage to Nelson. We left them waiting. They came from a sawmill lately started in the Croixelles, and we afterwards found out were a very shady lot, and they looked it. The breeze being very light, set all canvas, as we were anxious to secure the tide into Nelson, if possible. Off Pippin Island, the sun came out very hot, and seemed to kill what little wind there was left, and we had difficulty in keeping steerage way on her. Could see some steamer on the Golden Bay shore with a fresh breeze, but it did not reach us. About 3 p.m., picked up a breeze from the N.E., and stood in for the Port. Passed the s.s. Kennedy, also the Mawhera, bound east. Passed the land end of the boulder bank at 4 p.m., and made the entrance at 5, just as the signals were lowered that the tide had turned. The pilots hoisted their colours and saluted us, which we returned, and were shortening sail preparatory to anchoring outside for the night, when we saw the steamer Lillie bearing down on us. Captain Scully kindly offered us a line, which we gladly accepted, and she towed us up to the Government Wharf, which was lined with people to see what they pleased to call the "Big Yacht." A number of our friends now came aboard—Messrs. Fell, Symonds, Gully, Scaife, and many others—and all offered to do anything they could to make our stay in Nelson a pleasant one. Gannaway and Sandie went ashore as soon as the yacht was moored, and the others stayed on board to entertain. Did not get our tea till nearly 9 p.m., owing to so many visitors coming aboard; in fact, we had to haul off from the wharf to get a little privacy. After tea, Hall and Laing went up town, Mee, Martin, and A. Mee remaining on board. Laing returned a little after 12, Hall staying in town. Had a fine, quiet night.

SATURDAY, 17TH.—All up at 5.40. Laing, G. Mee, and A. Mee went ashore to the baths, and to get milk for breakfast, a little after 6 a.m. Had to turn the custodian out of bed to get the key of the baths. Had a nice swim, although the bath is very much like a tank. Had to send A. Mee some distance to procure milk, as the ordinary milkmen had not commenced their rounds. After going aboard, had breakfast, and when cleared up and deck made snug, ran up our pennant and set the ensign on staff, locked the cabin door, and left the yacht to take care of herself while all hands took a turn up town. Made a few purchases, and met several friends, and, by special invitation, all hands, except Gannaway, who was away driving, lunched with the Mayor (Mr. Trask), at his beautiful home. Invitations to the bowling green, cricket matches, garden parties, flowed in on us, and our names were also put up at the clubs, every one being anxious to do us a good

turn and make us welcome, but as we purposed leaving Nelson for Astrolabe about 6 p.m., had to decline the proffered hospitality, and returned on board a little after 8. Visitors again came aboard, all bringing something as a present—literature, fruit, flowers, &c. The Grafton came in about 4 in the afternoon, and left again same tide. Some Wellingtonians were on board, amongst others, Frank Dyer, who came aboard. All hands were on board at 6.45, Gannaway being last to arrive, having only just got back from Cable Bay, where he had driven with his brother. Our pilot, Sandie, did not seem very anxious to start that tide, wishing to remain till the morning, but as we purposed meeting Mr. Fell in his Iris at Adele Island, we decided to start, which we did at 7 p.m., on the top of the tide. Cleared the entrance, which is a very awkward passage, being something the shape of a dog's hind leg—all elbows—and with a whole mainsail, No. 2 jib and foresail, and a fairly good N.E. breeze, soon left Nelson and our friends behind us. About four miles out, the wind died away, and as night came on, left us nearly altogether. The sea increasing, made matters lively, the boom flying and jerking about considerably. Put a rolling guy on, but even then the thing would not give us any peace. Hall, Laing, Gannaway, and A. Mee turned in about 9, but there was little sleep to be got, so came on deck again. The moon had now risen, but was obscured by a heavy bank of clouds, that looked like wind. About 11 p.m., Martin asked our pilot, Sandie, if we were not somewhere about our destination, but, to our surprise, he replied that he did not know where he was. In fact, he had lost his reckoning. This was a nice state of things; so as it was then beginning to freshen, we decided to reef down, and, if necessary, beat about till daylight. After double reefing the mainsail and putting on small headsails, we stood in towards the land, and after a while, made out a fire on shore. We thought that this might be our friends from the Iris, but in a little time, we could see that it was too far in. Shortly after, we made out the Fisherman and Adele Islands, and stood in, keeping the lead going all the time. Brought up under the lee of Adele Island, in four fathoms, and found the Iris at anchor there. Lit the fire, had some hot cocoa and supper, and turned in, fairly well tired. Passed a quiet night.

SUNDAY, 18TH.—All hands laid in till 8 o'clock, feeling loth to turn out, although it was a beautiful morning. Went ashore for a bath, and returned on board for breakfast. The Iris was busy dredging for oysters. After clearing up on board, decided to put in a lazy day. The crew of the Iris, Messrs. Fell, Symonds, and Hunter-Brown, came on board, bringing a basket full of oysters, which they had dredged up. Had a yarn, and G. Mee, Laing, and Hall returned the visit. Mr. Fell kindly lent us an extended chart of D'Urville Island; Mr. Symonds also lent us his field-glasses, as we had come away without any. Sandie elected to return to Nelson by the Iris, Mr. Fell kindly giving him a passage, as we had no further need of him,

paid him his cheque, and after bidding us all good-bye, we put him on board the Iris, which left for Nelson about 1 p.m., with a fine, whole sail breeze. A. Mee reported having seen rabbits on the islands, so Martin, Gannaway, and G. Mee took the guns, and went in pursuit of fur, with visions of curried rabbits before them, but the bunnies had cleared. They climbed to the top of the island, had a good look round, and climbed down again, returning on board to dinner, after which all hands slept. During the afternoon, we had a visit from a fisherman, who came alongside in a dingey. He was of the well known longshore loafer type, and his boat was anchored close by. Laing went on deck to interrogate him, as we did not want him on board, although he was very anxious to come, as we feared he might leave something behind him which we would sooner be without, such as fleas, &c. This gentleman was of course mainly on the cadge, for bread or any other trifles; and oh! he had a sweet tongue, and interlarded his anecdotes and conversation with oaths, &c., in a most fluent manner. The tales he told of "Sou' Snifters" and other fearful winds in these apparently peaceful seas were calculated to impress timid yachtsmen like ourselves with a dire dread of Blind Bay. We gave him a loaf of bread, and on his taking his departure he laid a couple of mokis on the deck, but as they looked rather white about the gills and dull of eye, we promptly dumped them overboard. After tea, A. Mee took the fishermen the remains of a hot stew, for which they were grateful. Spent the evening reading and yarning, and turned in early; the dingey giving us some trouble. Being made fast astern, she kept coming alongside during the night, in the eddy tide; but when the tide had fairly turned, we got quiet, and slept, intending to make an early start for D'Urville Island in the morning.

This is a pretty place, and well worth a visit, although the anchorage must be somewhat exposed in heavy weather from any quarter; either the wind or sea, or both, must fetch in. The islands are mainly of granite formation, and contain large quantities of valuable stone, with easy facilities for shipment. There is a sand spit running nearly across the southern entrance, and a reef, with a buoy marking the end of it, extends from the land into the northern one.

MONDAY, 19TH.—Up at 5, and after bath, had breakfast, and got under weigh at 6.30, with a light northerly wind. Beat out by the north passage. The breeze carried us clear of the islands, and then left us wholloping about (the only term that will express it) in a roll of a sea. Had light airs, first one way then another, which were very annoying, and we looked in vain for the sea breeze which is supposed to come in every day in Blind Bay. Don't consider this is altogether a fact now, although we heard a good deal about these sea breezes. After wholloping about for some hours, all went below to lie down out of the sun, leaving Laing at the tiller to look for the wind. At about 1.30, he thought he saw a breeze coming in, and called all hands to have a look at it. It turned out to be a light sea breeze, and we were

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soon on our course. It carried us to nearly abreast of the Croixelles, and then left us again; so we out sweeps, having decided to make Waikawa Bay for the night. After fully an hour's work at the sweeps, we got a light breeze along the land, and were soon clear of the Beef Barrels and in the channel leading to the French Pass. The tide being in our favour, we were not long in reaching Waikawa Bay, and stood well up it before letting go the anchor, which we did about 7 p.m., in the usual nine fathoms. As it was too late to go ashore to see the Wells', we made everything snug on deck, and went below. It was a lovely moonlight night, and very calm. Turned in early, and passed a quiet and peaceful night.

TUESDAY, 20th.—All out at 6 a.m. Went ashore in the dingey for milk. Saw the Wells, who told us that the body of another of the crew of the Gazelle had come ashore since we were there, and that they had buried it. We picked up a lot of the wreckage for firewood, also the log of some poor fellow who had been drowned. He had evidently been in the Union S.S. Co.'s service, as his entries spoke of their ships, and the hours he went on duty working cargo, &c. Among other items he had written, was as follows: "Have just heard of the wreck of the Union S.S. Co.'s Tararua, off Waipapa Point; great loss of life; but such is the fate of those who plough the seas." Poor fellow; his turn had come at last to meet the same fate. We found some sea chests—empty, of course—a walking stick, and a book of logarithms, which we took aboard; also, a piece of chafing gear, which we put on our rail to save it when getting the dingey on board. Had breakfast, and then decided to go through the Pass, it then being about half ebb. Got under weigh, with a light N.E. breeze, and beat up with a strong tide under us, and all sail set. As we neared the shoal buoy, the wind failed us, so we out sweeps to guide the yacht through the passage. The tide now was running very swift, and it required skilful handling to keep her out of the eddies. Marfin was at the helm, Laing and G. Mee at the sweeps, and Gannaway forward to attend to the head sails. We shot through at a tremendous pace. The middle current travelling at such a rate made it look as if the outer one was going in the opposite direction. The eddies and whirlpools took the yacht in all directions, but, by dint of hard pulling, we managed to keep her out of the back eddies, and soon got a light breeze, filled on her, and were soon clear of the rush. The men at the lighthouse gave us a cheer as we were swept past them, to which we replied; and when off Elmalie Bay, ran up our ensign, and dipped to our friend, Webber. Then stood on our course. The wind carried us down Admiralty Bay, but then began to fail us, so we decided to try and make an anchorage in Port Ligar, Pelorus Sound. Stood up past the beacon at the entrance to the Sound, and then, with a very light air, sailed up towards our anchorage. Brought up in eleven fathoms, opposite to Stuart's house. He was engaged in running out a wharf for loading sheep. Went ashore, and had a yarn with him, and then

proceeded to light a fire on the beach and cook our dinner. Boiled half a ham, potatoes, and a plum pudding, which Hall had brought with him; took all aboard, and had a good square meal. After clearing up and putting the cabin in order, Hall and Laing went ashore, and invited Mr. and Mrs. Stuart on board. They came, bringing the only baby with them. They stayed on board till about 10, and appeared to enjoy their visit. Stuart informed us that H.M.S. Ringdove had anchored there some time before, and put in three days fishing and exploring the hills. A. Mee, who was fishing, caught a good-sized shark and lots of other fish. Had a very pleasant evening, and turned in about 11.30. Another glorious night, with splendid moon.

WEDNESDAY, 21st.—Turned out at 5.30. G. Mee did not have his usual header, as he did not like the look of A. Mee's shark. All hands ashore to the waterfall to bathe, after which returned on board. A. Mee went fishing, and had good sport, returning with a box full of blue cod and schnapper. The rest went to breakfast, cleared up, and got ready to start again. Mr. Stuart came off with a bucket of new milk and basket of apples, also a bunch of flowers from Mrs. Stuart. He remained alongside while we set sail and got up anchor, as there was little or no wind. We gradually drew down the Sound, and got away with a light air from the S.E., and once out into the tide, soon fetched the main channel, and stood out in a couple of tacks past the beacon on the rock at entrance to the Pelorus. When outside, the wind died away, and we simply drifted with the tide, using the sweeps to keep steerage way on. We could make out Cape Lambert, but Jackson's Head was in a haze of smoke, which plainly showed that there was no wind down there. When off Alligator Head, we found that the tide was nearly done, so decided to go into Guard's Bay and look for an anchorage, as we did not wish to drive back with the tide. This we did, with the aid of our sweeps, and hot work it was. After a couple of hours sweeping, we dropped anchor at Titiranga, in eleven fathoms, Laing and A. Mee going ahead with the dingey sounding. They also interrogated a hand who was ashore as to the anchorage, and finding that it was good holding ground, they went aboard, and after making all snug, had tea. G. Mee and Laing then went ashore, and had a yarn with the manager of the station, which at one time belonged to Captain Holliday, and which he was glad to get rid of at a loss, owing to the difficulties of working it. Mr. Fisher, the manager, and Mr. Kent, his mate, both returned on board with us, and told us about the difficulties they had to contend with both in mustering, owing to the rough state of the run, and the losses made by the depredations of the Pelorus pirates, who live in this locality. They appear to be a bad lot, numbering about twenty Jersey Frenchmen, who have small freeholds, but live upon their neighbours, dropping into the bays in their boats and shearing the sheep, or, if opportunity offers, carrying off sheep and wool together. Mr. Fisher told us that they would watch their house, and when they saw them

both away, over the hills they would come down and carry away anything they could get hold of, even down to a tin billy; but in this outlandish place it was no use trying to bring them to justice, as it meant taking any one some twenty miles in a boat to the nearest place, which was Havelock; so they did the best they could under the circumstances, which was to leave as little as possible about for them to steal. It was a magnificent moonlight night when we put Messrs. Fisher and Kent ashore, but very little appearance of wind, although during the night there was a slight breeze off the land. All hands turned in at 10.30, and passed a good night.

THURSDAY, 22ND.—Glass still high, but showed signs of falling, and the sea was travelling briskly from the N.W., so we had hopes of a breeze to-day; for this succession of calm weather was getting depressing, and our day's work hard, with very little to show for it in the shape of distance travelled. All hands up at 6. Some went ashore to the stream, the others contented themselves with the bucket. Had breakfast. Mr. Fisher sent us a can of milk and some fresh mutton; refused all payment, as seems usual in these parts. About 9, got under weigh with a nice light breeze off the land, but, alas! this only carried us just outside, and then left us as we were abreast of Alligator Head, so it was out sweeps again, and it seemed as if we should never get away from that Alligator Rock. We toiled away first on one tack and then on the other, under a hot sun, longing for a wind, but none came. About midday, we thought that we might get a nice breeze, but it did not reach us. We then decided to steer well out from the land, and see if we could pick it up, but without success. All this time there was a heavy roll of a sea, which kept the boom jumping all it knew, in spite of guys to steady it. Sighted Jackson's Reef, which at one time we thought we would go outside of, but as the sea and tide were both setting us towards the beacon, we decided to go through the passage with the tide, which was now setting in so strong that it was very difficult in the heavy sea to keep steerage way on, and any little wind there was was jumped out of the sails. By dint of hard rowing, we got well up towards the channel, the tide all the time setting us on towards the reef, over which the sea was breaking with a thundering noise. As we neared the beacon, a very light N.W. wind, which drove in round the headland, filled our sails, and the yacht gathered way. Even then, with the yacht making fair way through the water, the strong tide sucked us uncomfortably close to the beacon, around which there was a nasty confused sea. However, we kept the sweeps going all we knew, and fortunately got through all right, and when once clear of the passage, were soon bowling along with a fair wind up the Sounds. It was a great relief to put away the sweeps, with which we had rather too close an acquaintance for the past few days; and it being very hot, we found that it gave us a great thirst, which we quenched with lime juice, but when clear of Jackson's Head

we toasted our friend the beacon in bumpers of good lager. Made good progress up the Sounds, intending, if the tide lasted us, to make East Bay; but when off Long Island, the wind again failed us, so we put into Resolution Bay and anchored well up in the corner, where we had seen the Xarifa in nine fathoms. After making all snug on deck, all went ashore but G. Mee, who had undertaken to give us a good dinner, so stayed aboard to cook it. Had a bathe in the creek, and filled our water breaker at the same stream as Captain Cook had watered his good ship Resolution, after which this bay is named. Roamed around, and found an old clearing, where there had once been a whare. There were fruit trees, but nothing on them. Came aboard to dinner, feeling very fit, and had an excellent repast of carried chops and mashed potatoes, with baked apples to follow. All did ample justice to the feed, and voted our worthy skipper a hearty vote of thanks for his trouble. Cleared all up, and had a good look round on deck, turning in at 10.30, the night being fine, and every appearance of wind for the morrow.

This bay is a very good anchorage in fine weather, but should think rather exposed to heavy winds. The bush is very pretty, and there seemed to be plenty of pigeons.

FRIDAY, 23RD.—Up at 5.30, after a fairly good night. All hands ashore for a bath in the creek; cold, but refreshing. After breakfast, Martin and A. Mee went ashore with the gun, while the others got the yacht ready for starting across the Straits, as we decided to try and make home that night, if possible, feeling sure that after so much calm weather, we should likely get a gale of wind before long. About 9, Martin and Mee returned with a bag of pigeons; and at 9.30 we got under weigh. The bay was full of black fish, sporting all round the yacht. The wind being fresh from the N.W., we snugged everything, put the cover on the skylight, and housed topmast, put in a single reef in the mainsail, and with small jib and foresail, beat out of the Sounds, but as we neared the White Rocks the wind fell light, so at 10.30 shook out the reef and put on the big jib and foresail, up topmast, and set jib header; and with the first of a strong spring ebb and light wind on the quarter, shaped our course for Cape Terawhiti. Passed close to The Brothers' light, which looked very desolate—just a huge rock standing out of the sea. Could see the men about the houses. As we got into the Straits, the wind freshened, but the sun was very hot—so much so, that those who were not wanted on deck went below to get out of it. The heavy smoke which appeared to come from the west coast obscured the Cape for some time, but we soon picked it up, having steered a compass course from The Brothers' light. The breeze freshened up as we neared the land, and we were soon bowling along in a most refreshing manner, little or no rip off the Cape, but a strong tide all in our favour. Passed the Homestead, and stood past the Seal Rock, keeping well out to clear Karori Reef and Thom's Rock. Sighted the lighthouse at Pencarrow, and began to

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haul in again. Off Sinclair Head, we lowered topsail, but soon had it up again, and made the entrance to Wellington Harbour at 8.10. Lay through Chaffer's Passage, and as we got inside the wind fell away. Beat up the harbour with everything set, and made our moorings at 5.30, well pleased with our cruise, and all in the best of health.

The weather, on the whole, was too fine, the barometer having only shown between the extremes of variation two and a half degrees. On only two days had fine sailing breeze—the first and last days—all the others were more or less broken by calms or very light variable winds, necessitating the use of the sweeps. To a great extent, we succeeded in carrying out our programme as to our destination, Nelson, and to secure anchorage each night; and only had our side lights alight one evening. Covered about 300 miles of water, reckoning direct course, which, dare say, was doubled by head winds and drifts. The gear all stood well, not having carried away a rope yarn. May add that on the following Sunday a gale came up from the S.E., as we expected, and we were fortunate in getting home when we did, otherwise we should have been stuck up for at least a week, as it was a very heavy gale, with a big sea in the Straits.



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