

Transcription of the Matron's Diary from the *Fitzjames* which arrived in Sydney 1 April 1857 [NRS 5239]

- Diary entries begin on page 8
- Notes on transcription at end of document

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Ship Fitzjames

Sailed from Plymouth the 23 of Dec 1856

Number of single women in charge of the Matron.....98
 Total Nuber of Emigrants embarked.....429

Arrived at -----the-----of-----185

Commander	Captain Hamilton
Surgeon-Superintendent	Geo Dodd Esqr
Chaplain or Schoolmaster	Mr Mortimer
Matron	Susan Austen
Sub-Matron	1. Wilborough Higgs
"	2. Anne Magee
"	3. Elizth Jane Cruze
"	4.
"	5.
"	6.

(Add the Names of the young women on the following page or pages.)

NOTE: - The Matron is expected to make regular weekly or daily entries in this book of the work given out, and done, and also her observations on the behaviour and general conduct of the young women.

Mess No 14	Read – Write	
C Lane	Well	
Caroline Lane	Well	
Sarah Glyddon	Well	Jany 7 1 Bag & Bonnet
C Glyddon	Well	Jany 21 Sampler Cotten & needle
Mary Stevens	imperfectly	
Mary Blight	Well	
Alice Jackson	Read	Jan 7 apron Cotten & needle
Eliza Swale	imperfectly	1 Parcel Knitting Cotten & Needles Jany 22
Fanny Grace Hawkin	Well	Knitting Cotten & needles
Mary J Jinkin	imperfectly	Jany 7 th Knitting Cotten & needles
No 15		
Sarah Kemp	Well	
Fanny Smaldon	Read	
Fanny Collings	Well	Jany 6 1 parcel Crochet Cotten 4 Parcels
Rebecca Male	No	
Francis Edwards	Well	Jany 8 th Patch work – kniting Cotten and needles
Emma Evens	Well imperfectly	
Emma Kertain	Well	(?) knitting Cotten & Needles
Mary Dolby	Well	Jany 8 th Patch work – Kniting cotten & Needles
Emily Cockburn	Well	

No 16	Read – Write	
Asinett Chandler	Well	
Amy Chandler	Well	Crochet Cotten & Needles – White Wool
Sarah Gall	imperfectly	
Esther Firmin	Well	
Alice Gall	imperfectly	
Mary Anderson	Complete Education	one slip of Worsted & Knitting Needles Jany 19th
Jane Edwards needles	imperfectly	Jan 7 apron Jan 8 th Bonnet 15 th Sampler & Cotten
Caroline Grett	well	
No 17		
Sydney Johnson	imperfectly	Jany 6 th apron Cotten & needles
Eliza Cruise	Well	Worsted & needles
Jane Malcolm	Well	Jany 11 Crochet Cotten & Needle
Ann Magee	Well	Knitting Cotten & needles
Frances McCabe	Read	
Catte Murphy	No	Print dress 2 aprons & Bonnet
Eliza Robinson	Read	kniting Cotten and needles
Ann Kennedy	Read	
No 18		
Mary Mahon	Well	kniting Cotten & Needles
Ann Heyden	imperfectly	
Alice Cleary	No	Knitting Cotten & needles
Mary Elliott	No	Jany knitting Cotten & Need

Read – Write

Sarah Elliott	No	Jany 18 Knitting Cotten & Needles
Mary Ann Wickes	Well	Jany 16 Knitting Cotten & Needles
No 19		
Biddy Cahill	Read	Knitting Cotten & Needles
Eliza Gibson	Read	
Jane Irvine	Read	Jany 17 Knitting Worsted & Needles
Rachael O Connell	No	
Ellen Dowling	No	Jany 1 Knitting Cotten & Needles
Mary Rayan	Read	Jany 17 Knitting Cotten & Needles
Ann Corbett	Well	Knitting Cotten & Needles
Mary Little	Read	Jany 20 Knitting Cotten & Needles
No 20		
Catie Tracey	No	Jany 19 th Knitting Cotten & needles Feby 6 th
Sarah McDonald	No	Jany 27 Knitting Cotten needles
Mary Harney	No	
Mary Kennedy	No	
Briget Spain 8 th dress	No	Jany 21 st 1 Chemese Cotten & Needle Feb
Mary Cullen	imperfectly	Jany 6 Knitting worsted & Needles
Betsy McCormack	No	Jany 19 Worsted & kniting needles
Isabella Moran	Read	
No 21		
Margret Conner	Well	Worsted & kniting needles
Mary Revell	Well	

Read – Write

Ann Wall	Well	Jany 6 Knitting Cotten & Needles
C Wall	Well	
Mary Ann Keterick	Well	
Louisa -----	Well	
Sarah -----	Well	
Eliza Jones	Well	
Annie Fitzgerald	Well	1 Parcel knitting Cotten & needles
Sarah Ann Wright imperfectly		1 Parcel knitting Cotten & needles
No 22		
Mary Hagan	imperfectly	
Biddy Crawford	Read imperfectly	Jany 6 knitting cotten needles
Jane Richardson	Well	
Eliza Douglas	Well	Jany 6 knitting cotten needles
Ellen Cawfield	Read	
Ann Henderson	imperfectly	
Eliza Cook	Well	
Sarah Kelly	No	Cotten & needles knitting
No 23		
Biddy Maguine	No	
Catie Walker	Read	Knitting Cotten & needles
Mary Berringan	Read	Jany 20 th knitting cotten & needles
Mary-----Junr	imperfectly	Jany 20 th knitting cotten & Crochet needle
Biddy Doyle	Read	

Read – Write

Catie Ragan	No	Knitting Cotten & Needles
Biddy Ragan	No	Jany 20 th Knitting cotten & needles
Margret Ragan	No	Knitting cotten & needles
Maria Casey	Read	Feb 6 th knitting Cotton & Needles
No 24		
Mrs Frost	Well	
2 children	imperfectly	
Eliza Miners	No	Jany 12 th Knitting Cotten & needles
Biddy Quin	Well	Jany 12 th knitting Worsted & needles
Jane Riley	Well	
Rose Mooney	No	
Mary Ann Murphy	No	Jany 7 Knitting Cotten & Needles
Eliza Nichols	No	9 th Crochet Cotten & needle
Catie Murphy	No	Print Dress & apron 2 Parcels of Cotten
Biddy Burns	No	Knitting Cotten & Needles
Ann Burns	imperfectly	
No 25		
Cathrine Furgeson	Read imperfectly	Jany 6 Knitting Cotten & needles
Mary O Niel	imperfectly	
Margaret O Niel	No	
Ellen Maroney	No	
Honora Leary	No	
Mary Cleary	No	1 parcel Knitting Cotten & needles

Bridget Murray	No	Feb 10 th Knitting Cotten & Needles
Honora Geardon	No	Feb 10 th Knitting cotten & needles
Ellen Bennis	No	Worsted & needles
Kate Maloney	No	Worsted & needles
Sarah Maloney	No	Feb 6 th Knitting Cotten & needles

We left the Depot at Plymouth the 17th of Dec
and came on board the Fitzjames. I have now
ascertained that I have a hundred & eight per
sons on Board, that is 6 women above 50, 2
little boys under the care of their Mother, 2
other married women about to join her husband
and ninety 95 eight single women, one of
those describes herself as a servant (Mary
Henderson) having received a complete ed
ucation, including the languages, her temper
is most vindictive and violent. Since
coming on Board scarcely a day has passed
without her having a quarrel with some
one. Thirty Six 33 Read & Write well
eleven 10 Read & write imperfectly. three
Read well and write imperfectly. Three
can Read well and not write and
twenty can read imperfectly and not write at all
Thirty Three 28 cannot Read at all
I much fear that it will be impossible
to do but little toward their improvement as
every days experience convinced me that

many very many cannot see that they need
it. I cannot induce them as yet to write
in prayer and I am grieved to say that
theft lying and slander prevail most shock
ingly – I fear however that a few leads the many
How they may get on is impossible to determine
yet, 21st I am sorry to say that the same spirit
seems to actuate these young women. One person
Hester Firman seems particularly marked out as a
subject of scandal. She is charged by them with
almost every evil. I have not seen much of
her yet as she was in the hospital at the Depot
22nd we sailed this morning and as usual there
has been a quarrel before going to bed
23rd The ship began to roll last night about twelve and most of
the young women are now sick, they are all
afraid of danger which adds to their sufferings
I did not go to bed all night but thank
God I am not sea sick, Oh how subdued
those turbulent sprits are now they are
ill an think themselves in danger
they appear to think it a mercy that I am not
ill but if they are all spared with they then

be thankful - 24th I have spent another
night without being in bed - Oh how
fearful has been the scene last night the young
women imagined that the ship was on fire
fearing to alarm the passengers I went again
on the deck got the Chief mate who
quietly examined the room but thank God
we escaped so great a calamity as there was
nothing the matter but their fears - again we
have had another alarm, a chopping is heard
and fancy has made it the cutting down the masts
and rigging - The lights went out at four clock
and now I never can describe the confusion that
took place, hearing the noise of the sea they mis
took it in the dark for the rushing in of the water
at the port holes, here every man and women
I believe were calling on their God and declaring
that if spared they would never do as they
had done before. The Irish in particular -
Oh Oh it is awful to think of this as God only
knows whether or not we shall all or any of us
get safe to land - 25th what a Christmas Day
all in the room except self, Mary Reid

and Mary Bergman who bear me company night
and day assisting me to attend the sick &
without their aid I should almost have
given up. Still the storm continues and
also the sickness I fear the Doctor will scarce
ly be able to attend to all if they should be
ill very long for he has been here assisting
in giving the sick gruel and with such other
little necessaries as he thinks they need, I do
not believe he either has been in bed since
the storm commenced. it is a mercy to have
such a human Gentleman as Surgeon
so cheerful and kind yet commanding &
firm with all. 26th the young people are
a little better today but the storm is still rag
ing. I have had another sleepless night but I
feel I must take some rest or I shall be laid
up also. Still how thankful I am that while those
around me are ill and suffering I am
quite well and able to Bear the Burthen of the
day . my health daily improves and I am
grateful to the author of all good the tempers
of all are now hushed by the storm but will

they burst forth anew when the storm & the elements are over – God forbid

27th I have had a little rest to night and thank God the sea is not so angry nor the young women so sick generally. but a few suffer severly. Hester Firman is very ill fainting often. Mary Henderson is better and has begun again to annoy her but poor Hester does not complain nor has she told me at any time of her sufferings from their unkind treatment. for cruel as it seems M.H. gets a few to join her fits of passion and unkindness to others. May God in mercy still the storm of evil passions that at present prevail. I am ashamed to call myself a woman so depraved are many who are here I wonder at the patience of the Surgeon, for he is tried beyond description.....

28th Oh how thankful I feel that we all can feel more secure than we have been able to since Tuesday. Surely the Saviour has again said (as he once did while in the flesh) to the surging billows – peace be still

it is again Sunday and while we have no
place of worship to go to yet I trust the voice
of Thanksgiving will ascend to the Throne
of God for Mercies received and preservation
from threatened dangers - I can see that God
moves in mysterious ways - his wonders to
perform(?), he plants (?) his footsteps in the
sea and riches (?) upon the storm (?).....

I cannot get to bed without expressing
my gratitude to God that he has inclined
the hearts of those here to join in prayer and
praise to God this evening. I trust that the
good resolutions procured (?) while in sickness
and danger will not be like the morning cloud
and early dew which soon passeth away
29th How secure from evil I felt last night
at eight o'clock - yet before nine what a fearful
uproar took place. Toward night I was aware
that most of the young women were without
water and I made enquiry and found that
they had had the whole of their allowance and
drank it I told them they had better
go to bed. This they refused to do without

I gave them water this of course I was un
able to do - at last I called a constable who
persuaded them to give up and be quite
but it availed nothing - he then went to
the Surgeon who sent an Officer to remove
the lamps unless they would retire quiet
ly. But no they determined to brave all
and compel us to bring the water
the lights at last were taken away the Surgeon
& Captain were sent for and I was really
alarmed and left the room. Most of
these who were engaged in prayer one
little hour before and appeared so hum
ble were now in their fury like tigers
and hyanas - Tearing down woodwork
partly and yelling horribly - The Surgeon
now finding persuasion no use insisted
on their (at once) going to bed or they -----(?)
abide the consequences, they then enquired
for myself and asked me to come in
and stay with them - This of course I did
and the Surgeon and Captain seeing
peace restored once more left us.

30th I have not been to bed tonight indeed
I was afraid to do so but I need not have
been afraid, most of those who were like
furies last night are now gentle as lambs and
beg to be forgiven the Irish girls are so hum
ble that I have good hope such another
riot will not occur again during the voyage

31st Hester Firman is still very ill – I am sure
that the slanderous accusations which have
been circulated are the inventions and exagger
ations of Mary Henderson I have reported
to the Surgeon her ba---(?) conduct.

Jan 1 1857 I have today received the work for
the employment of the single women which
has engaged my attention a good deal we
have also endeavoured to form a school but I am
not very hopeful as to the results. Hester Fireman
has been removed to the hospital I trust that care
& quite will restore her very soon. The Surgeon
thought as the weather is now so hot that bonn
ets to keep off the sun will be useful and I
have supplied 50 (from the print
I had) to them today - it certainly
will benefit the whole in this way

1857

Jany 7th - We have today again given the rest of the young women a bonnet each from print & calico, also cotton tape & needles and have supplied them with knitting cotton to put drawings in them, a hundred & six have now received them, they are all now making them as the weather is vey hot & they require them to protect their faces from the sun, all but one (received them in the presence of the Doctor) and she coming afterward I enquired why she did so, she told me she had been washing on the Main Deck & should do so when she chose (The day for washing is Fridays) she then abused Mrs Magee (The Sub Matron) fearfully indeed she is generaly a very abusive Obstinate young woman, one of those who on the 28th of Dec conducted themselves so disgracefully about the water as stated before, her name I find to be Bridget Ryan, 8th - The girls are walking on the Poop most of them with their new bonnets on. Would to God that they only knew the thing which belong to their eternal peace

9th - I am happy to say that the Irish girls are very anxious to be employed and have been supplied with knitting & all are now well, but again do their angry passions shew themselves, if their future well doing depended on each other I fear the prospect would indeed be dreary - few very few but now shew themselves in their true colours and it is a sad picture to look upon. Mary Henderson is still the same spirit of evil but I hope that she will soon get tired -----

11th We have had Church service today the young people have quite enjoyed it. I have much to bear from Fanny Collins She behaves herself so immodestly and endeavours so continually to mix with the young men that I have remonstrated with her but she will take no advice but tells me she will do as she likes - - -

13th When I look around me on these young people I can scarcely fancy that one of them can be a thief & yet there is not a day passes without their stealing one from the other and today I find that I have lost three chemese out of five which I had with there work. 14th We have today searched all the beds and bags but have found nothing of the lost articles I fear there are those here who receive stolen goods

as well as in large Towns on land

Fanny Collins has again been using abusive language because some Calico belonging to her was taken from her bag as was the case with others (by the desire of the Surgeon) to be compared with the two remaining chemese I have left - if I quietly speak to her of her faults she is insolent beyond description saying how dare you speak to me God only knows what will become of her for she for is not a servant.

16th - have not succeeded in finding what I have lost nor do I hope to do so now - I feel how responsible is my situation among those under my care - nor can I find one among them I can call fraind. Their tempers talents religion & disposition are so varied that it requires something more than normal strength to keep any order among them. There is not a night that we go to sleep without a quarrel either before or after going to bed and after it once commences it becomes very soon general and then the din and noise is awful still I doubt if any of them were or will be again so excitable as they are here when once they get more settled, everything on board ship is new to most and full of excitement to all

18th Once more it is Sundry night but how unlike
Sundry at home, still we have had prayers on deck
but when one remembers that on the Sabbath one
could always hear at least one sermon. it makes
me look back, back with the Psalmist and say one
day in Thy Courts O Lord are better than a thousand
elsewhere. Still the torrent of evil passions prevail
among us Envy Hatred Malice and all uncharitable
ness. Fanny Collins is still a very great trial to
me, as soon as I speak she interferes and is constantly
using language too shocking to name here ----(?)
Thy Lord turn her heart and head her in the right
way or she will be a curse to the Colony she is now
going to - yet thank God I have great cause to be
hopeful for I believe the thoroughly depraved are very
few, although they do sometimes succeed in hurting [?]
the rest by their lies and slander - - - -

19th I can scarcely record my thoughts if I try to
do so nor the occurrences of the day, some of the young
women have circulated most vile reports but
I cannot find out who is the author but oh how
shocking that any such things should take place
for if true how unfit are the accused to be wives

and mothers of the future Australians and if untrue then are they equally vile as the liar always is. I have today reported Grace Hockin to the Surgeon. This morning after the breakfast was served she remained in bed although in perfect health I remonstrated with her particularly as the Captain & Others of her ship [?] had often complained of her extreme -----ness. I told her she must get up before seven o'clock or I should get the bed taken from her, or get some water used for her as a Shower Bath. She replied in this way if you were to do so you should never breathe again. Can she really mean this: Her general conduct answers yes I fear so. I cannot find out what she intends doing in Sidney...

20th Quarrels among each other still continue arising out of the most trifling matters. Surely the -----(?) is a fire a world of iniquity for behold how great a matter a little -----(?) kindleth O that they were wise and would consider this that they would consider their latter end. I began to understand more of the English prejudices against the Irish and feel certain that nothing would make them

be happy together and it is much regretted that they cannot be placed in separate apartments instead of being mixed up as they are where my friends obtained for me the situation of Matron they supposed I should be very well taken care of on my voyage that is to have advantages beyond what I could get otherwise but they will be sadly disappointed to know that I cannot often get a nights rest this is not to be wondered at for there is no employment for them by day and the consequence is they cannot sleep at night. The sub matrons are all afraid to take any part in keeping order as they are daily witnesses to the conduct of many when reproved by me every indulgence that kindness can suggest is given to them by the Surgeon & the Captain consistant with the Regulations but anything like gratitude they do not understand everyone came in for a share of their slander the Surgeon & myself included. one thing is certain those who First conducted themselves so disgracefully here did not learn it here but must have been accustomed to scenes of vice and immorality long since

1st - I have nothing pleasant to write about the Surgeon has determined that none of the single women shall at anytime or on any account go to the Dispensary unless accompanied by myself or one of the Sub Matrons, but how disgraceful that any should require an escort, yet it is those who do require it who feel or pretend to do so that complain of the Regulation. the more respectable think it is a protection to their character how a few of them obtained a passage I cannot imagine for grapes do not grow on thorns or figs on thistles and it will be as easy for the Ethiopian or the Leopard the one to change his skin the other his spots as for a confirmed liar to become truthful, or for the habitual thief to become honest.

22nd we have been compelled to give up our School although so many cannot read indeed the English are equally careless as the Irish of improving themselves. I do not mean that those are the worst to manage for the best educated are generally the worst Conducted here so far. I am sure we might be happy very so if it was not for the wickedness of our own sinful hearts.

23rd how little capable of judging by appearance I feel when I look back and consider the interest and sympathy I felt toward Hester Firman and not me only but also the Surgeon Sub matrons and many others yet we have found her to most depraved & malicious person that we have met with here, being so quite and apparently so inoffensive we all supposed her to so but so far from being what we believed her, we find her to be the most deceptive and wicked person that can be imagined. May God forgive her and change her heart we all thought that because Mary Henderson was noisy & abusive that she invented what she may times started. yet although she is malicious when excited and will exaggerate if she has heard any slander it does not appear that she is often the author of her statements - but the former will invent and repeat the most shocking falsehoods. She came out of the hospital the 20th and has barely escaped the jaws of death (yet even) while in the Hospital (and receiving the greatest attention & care from the Surgeon and kindness and sympathy from every on who was permitted to visit her) she was scheming and plotting to defame the characters of many of the other young people

and she has been making a profession of Religion
also but now she announced it her intention
to join the Roman Catholicks, this is evidently
intended to win to her support the Irish, as they
are by far the Strongest Party. The English number
but thirty one. She has stated that several
young English women have had children without having
been wives -one but of those she has named there is not
that she ever saw before she left London for Plymouth
and others not untill she met them in the Depot
in Plymouth. what will be the result I do not know
26th yesterday passed I am happy to state in peace
Hester F was not allowed to come on the poop at all
we had prayers on the poop the heat is not so great
consequently the tempers are a little cooler -----
From my former experience in large Hospitals in London I
believe there is about the same amount of ill temper scan
del and such like evils here (in proportion to numbers)
as is generally found where large masses of people happen
(from whatever the cause) to be together for any length of time
one great evil is the want of constant employment many (?)
if those here being nothing but what is made up with them
and consequently the work supplied by the Ladies Committee

I did not get from the Doctor near all the contents

is soon exhausted. When therefore this is the case
Dr Watts truly says that Satan finds some mischief
still for idle hands to do – but perhaps this cannot
be remedied. There are but a few who employ much time
in Reading Religious or useful books -----

30th the weather is intensely hot but I do not see any
thing new worth notice here. There has been a difficulty
in getting the Room kept clean but now I am happy
to say it is well & regularly done -----

29th I very much fear that the unhappiness cause by Hester
will be felt severely by us all while in this ship what little
confidence there was is now destroyed I fear, and di
strust and suspicion are the feelings of all, for every ones
face expresses it. That the Surgeon had been censured (?)
basely and cruelly (if the truth could be found out) by
others beside H F appears certain – but the motive for
it will no doubt forever remain a mystery.....

Feb 1st I am thankful that all the young women
are comparatively well and the weather has been much cooler
than it has been, although they have felt when so hot
a little exhausted yet we have had no very serious
case of illness lately. The Surgeon being careful to notice

every trifling illness which occurs among them

Feb 5th the health is still very good and there
is no improvement in the young
people's morals - 11th nothing new has occurred
save some outbreaks of temper
16th we have had a sad case of illness and was it
not for the skill and care of the Surgeon death
would have carried off one poor woman but
she is now better. the young women have
one great fault which I have not named
before that is of laying in bed mornings
and staying up late at night shouting
dancing & etc nor can anything (which is
tried) cause them to alter their habits
not all of them of course but a great
number of them do-----

23rd the weather is now changed from heat
to cold and I am sorry to say there
is no other change among us for good all
are in perfect health and this is a mercy
I am very thankful for -----

28th We have been a little more regular
lately than we were and I had a vast
deal of assistance from Mrs Magee one of

the Sub Matrons who is most intelligent woman she saw the necessity of exerting herself and has done so most effectually March 2nd we had prayers read here in the Room the weather being too cold to do so on deck. but more than half are Catholics and of course do not join with the Protestants and these again differ very much among themselves on religious subjects so that any ser form of religious worship would always offend some of them, and therefore instead of its being a comfort and the means of instruction to all, it serves some of them as the means of amusement and mockery

8th we had no service of Religion yesterday the Surgeon sent me a message in the morning that he considered it would be nothing better than mockery to hold any as the young women behaved so badly – as I before stated want of employment is no doubt the cause of much of this.....

9th The Surgeon has stopped from the women
their raisins & suet for their noisy & uproar
ious conduct generally. I have also to
complain of Elen Dowling particularly
for abusive language to myself - ever
since she came on Board she has behaved
very bad and given a great deal of trouble
but she never was insolent to me until
the seventh inst and this was the origin
of it for a week or two past I have been
constantly annoyed by complaints after
night that almost all who want the water
closet were pinched black by some
one concealed there many times
I have taken my lamp and gone to see
if I could find out who did it but
never succeeded but once when it was
Ellen Dowling and as she admitted it I
cautioned her and passed it over for a time
but the practice of pinching still continued
and I invariably found when I went to the
closet on the occasions Ellen either in the
closet or coming from it and on Saturday

night some of the girls arms were pinched
into the flesh besides being frightened very
much I went to the closet and found
five persons one of them being E Dowling
and she was there before either of the
others, of course I insisted on her going to
her berth she refused to do so and called
me a Dirty Old Bawd made a disgusting
noise with her mouth & (?) I had
to beg of several of the better conducted
not to notice it or I fear they would
have beaten her they were so ashamed of
her conduct I am happy to say that
this girl and Mary Henderson are the
only two who are so disgracefully abusive
to me although (?) they use most shocking lan
guage to each other -----
11th as we are I trust near the end of our
voyage I will just name those who
have given no cause of complaint &
those who have given the most that
is those who are very Bad indeed
and have endeavoured to make others
as bad as themselves

among those who have conducted themselves
with great propriety I will first name
Anne & Eliza Wall also Margaret Connor
Elizth Jones, Anne Fitzgerald, Mary Revel, Eliza
Douglas & Hanah McCook these are all Irish
and I should say first class servants there
are besides these some others of the Irish who are
very good girls but who have not had the ad
vantages of the former yet will make good
and useful servants – Ann Keneday is a good
laundress and would be a good general
servant & is a most forbearing good girl also
I would name Mary Mahon, Bridget Spain
Bridget Crawford, Bridget M-----(?)
Sarah Kelly, Mary Hagan, Ann Jane Hen
son, Mary Ryan & Mary Little
The worst conducted among the Irish are B
McCormack, M.Beregen, R.Dowlan, M S Hesther (?)
15 Among the English those who have given the
most trouble on Board are M.Anderson, Amy
Chandler, Hester Firman, Fanny Collins
These have from the time we joined the ship until

today kept the whole of the others in a Contin
ual state of excitement and discontent nor could
anything which the Surgeon had tried
conduse to keep them in order. everything
that kindness could suggest the Surgeon has
certainly had recourse to. but it has failed
and I now find them precisely what I at first
described them. there is the same dis
orderly conduct at night after the lights
are out. the same system of slander and
annoying each other. Thus a few depraved
women placed among a large number of those
who would (but for them) have been orderly
peacable and submissive have destroyed every
confidence in those placed over them and in
duces them to resist all authority, and led
the unwary into many great evils - - - -
the Best conducted among the English and
also have resisted every inducement to do
what was wrong are S. Kemp, M. Blight
C. Gritt, C. Lane, F. Smalden, R.
Cockburn & C. Saule (a most clever young
woman) 23rd The health of all is good and

We are all expecting soon to arrive at our destination but even this hope does not prevent the young women from acting in the same way as they have hitherto done

26th I have had no rest for several nights some of the young women get out of bed after the lights are out and pull each others hair causing them to scream from pain & fright. the whole room is then in confusion and I cannot find out who are really the guilty parties

April 1st All are in perfect health after being tossed again by a severe storm which commenced on the 28th of March myself nor a great number of the young women did not go to bed all night - it was still very rough weather on Sunday the 29th and when night came I laid down on the deck about 3 o'clock on the morning of the 30th I was told that a child had certainly been born in the Room as a wailing had been heard which was first thought to be caused by cats I soon found that

Mary O'Neil had been delivered of a child (her aunt being in bed with her at the time) I immediately sent for the Surgeon who at once attended I had for time suspected that she was pregnant but did not suppose that she was near her time. She had always studiously concealed her figure ever since she came onboard by wearing shawls or a cloak constantly and no one could therefore be able to judge correctly her condition - of course all the young women were much annoyed by the occurrence - those of the young women whose names I have noticed before have not lately given more trouble than most of the others. We are now at anchor and have had a safe passage and all have been well cared for, having been on board 15 weeks

April 1st 1857

S Austen Matron

I have not received from the Surgeon the printed form of letter to be sent to the British Ladies Female Emigrants Society
Red Lion Square London

Notes on Transcribing

- The transcription is to represent the original manuscript as closely as possible to the way it appears in the manuscript
- Obvious misspelling remains uncorrected
- Obvious lapses in phrasing and sentence structure are to left as is
- Stricken material - what the writer puts down and then strikes out - is always included as part of the transcription
- A dash was commonly used to indicate a full stop at the end of the sentence and are to be shown were they are in the text
- All punctuation marks are shown as they appear in the text
- Text inserted by the author in the margins or by interlineation is shown as part of the running text in the order apparently intended by the author
- Words that are not clearly legible are treated as follows: if unreadable, the word in question is represented within square brackets as [illegible]. If there is a good indication of what the unreadable word might be, the likely word is shown, followed by a question mark in square brackets [?]