

The Diary written (below) was an account of George Darling's voyage to New Zealand, on this ship also, were my GGGGrandparents George & Ann Day from Kent, England and their family

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE VOYAGE TO NEW ZEALAND ON THE SHIP
'ARAB'**

The following is an extract from a letter sent to Mrs.?? of Eastbourne from a distant relative in England and relates the circumstances under which a letter written by George Darling to parents and friends in Marywell, Angushire, Scotland, was found.

[My father was a country joiner and about 65 years ago when the local authorities decided that either the roofs of the single storey houses in a neighboring village called Marywell had to be raised or the houses would be condemned, my father contracted to take off the existing rafters. Resting on the ledge formed by the two feet thick stone wall was found a letter in beautiful script and bound by thread to form a small booklet.]

John Gould 1970

Wellington, October 20th, 1841

Dear Parents, and Friends, I have taken the opportunity of giving you an account of my passage from Old Scotland to New Zealand, therefore I think I will commence from London on 31st May. There was 2 Doctors examined our arms, they who had not had the Small Pox. In the evening Mr Mears and Smith gave us 7 shillings and sixpence and we gave 1 shilling each, so we had a very merry night. On the 1st of June there was 2 barges brought to Deptford Peir so we were very busy all forenoon getting our boxes on board of them, about midday we all got on board of them, and set sail for the ARAB which was lying 2 miles further down the river. We were all in high spirits so we gave old England three hearty cheers. We all got on board. Everyone was very anxious to see what part of the ship they were to be put in; by good luck mine was opposite the main hatch, as good a berth as was in the ship. There was three tubes about 30 feet long, one at each hatchway for to give us plenty of fresh air, she was fitted up in the first Style. On the 3rd they weighed anchor. There was a steamboat to tow us down the river. There was another ship sailed with us. Her name was the ORIENTAL. We sailed down the Thames close to each other. The ORIENTAL cast anchor at Gravesend, but we stood out for sea, the wind being favourable. The steamboat left us so the ARAB proceeded on her first voyage, about 10 o'clock in the evening. The wind began to blow some stronger. it stood out very well all night. In the morning the wind got right ahead of us till the 7th it changed about 2 in the morning. It came on in an instant. For about 5 minutes it was quite a hurricane. There was twice we were almost on our beamends. The PRINCE RUEPART, the ship who sailed 6 weeks before us was thrown twice on her beamends at the same place. She had to put in for a month to get repairs as she was waterlogged. The wind being favourable we shaped our course for Dartmouth. We got to anchor in the evening. There was 2 or 3 boats came alongside full of carpenters wanting to take the job. They got her all right on Saturday, but when we were taking up the anchor something gave way which made us stop till another

week. We were making way, on Monday afternoon but the youngmen went to the cabin and lodged a complaint against the steward. he was put to the bar and found guilty for a crime which I will not mention it was so horrid. The Surgeon and Captain went on shore with a Constable on each side of him. He was put into prison but how they had decided his case I do not know for he was only out of prison six months for the same offence. When he went out of the ship into the boat, everyone on board hissed and spat at him.

On the 15th we weighed anchor and stood out to sea. The wind changed just before we had gone 3 leagues, so by lying in Dartmouth we lost about 1500 miles, the wind being favourable for us all the time we were there, so we had to beat against the wind the same as before. In the evening of the 17th we were off Plymouth. The Captain spoke a boat fishing and asked if the ORIENTAL was in the harbour; the answer was yes; we had been 3 days and 2 nights in sailing 30 miles.

The 18th we passed the lands-end and the rocks of Silby. The coast being dangerous with rocks, the Captain stopt up all night to keep a good look out. 20th we got into the Bay of Biscay. There was a storm came on at mid-day which made the most of us go to bed. 21st much the same. 22nd the storm abated but still a head wind. The 24th - this day has been the worst. The ship rolled tremenduous. We close reefed the top-sails, the rest of the sails were all handed in.. There was a heavy swell in the sea, so we had to sail before the wind. They told us before the storm was over that we had been driven back till we were near the rocks of Silby.

25th. this morning there is nothing to be seen but everyone looking as if they were half dead for yesterday we had to keep bed all day without meat. There was a man and wife kept praying all night. The tin dishes and buckets going from side to side. The man and his wife were informed upon as they were annoying the rest. The surgeon told them if intended to pray, they must keep it to themselves.

27th. the wind is still ahead of us and we are thinking we have surely a JONAH on board. The sailors began and told us they were to cast lots. The wind being so long against us it is very sore work for them putting the ship so often about. We had public worship this forenoon for the first time, it being sabbath. We spoke a French bark, she wanted the jib-booam. The wind came round more in our favours, but it was a very small bit. We soon lost sight of the bark. We were sailing much faster, but she could stand better up to wind.

30th. A fair wind and all going on well.
July 1st. Still going on well.

2nd. We passed Madeira this morning at 6 in the morning. We saw it at three like a cloud in the air. We saw 2 ships behind us. There was one of them came up with us in the evening. We spake with her. She was the THOMAS ARBUTHNET from the Clide to Port Philip with Emigrants. We gave them three cheers and she gave us the same. She soon got past us for she had a good deal more sail than we.

The 6th. All is still going on well. We have the sun right above us so it is getting very warm - we have no shadow.

The 7th, We have crossed the Tropic of Cancer last night, we have got the poop covered with canvis to keep the sun off the cabin passengers. It was put to the rigging 8 feet above the poop-deck.

9th. We had a birth today - it was Mrs Hooper of a daughter, this same woman had a daughter taken very ill. The woman and the young child very bad.

13th. Sarah Hooper died this evening aged 16 years. It seems she had been very relaxitive in the bowels, the mother lying with 30 leeches upon her. We had this day a funeral. The dead body was sewed up in a hammock and laid on a board accross the side of the vessel. They fixed a bag full of bricks to her feet. The Doctor read the funeral service and when he came to the words we commit our sister to the deep, the board was lifted and the body droppoe; the splash it made was a thrilling one, unaccustomed as we were to such scenes.

The waters closed on their victim and the body sank to rise no more till the sea gave up her dead.

14th. Very heavy rain.

15th. A fair breeze in the morning about 6 o'clock there was a small vessel hove to right ahead about 12 miles. The Captain and Doctor went on the forecandle with the glass. They saw at one time about 30 men on board of her but as we sailed up to her the most of them got below. We were all put on the forecandle to see and fright her away but it was of no avail, the Captain gave the man at the wheel orders to steer right for her Stem. When we were about a hundred yards from her she went round on the starboard side of our ship. There was some of her hands up amongst the rigging keeping a good look after us. The side of their ship was all scraped - she appeared to have been a good while at sea. The Captain spoke her, she was bound for Sirrea Leon, they did not seek to attack us but if they had they might have got what they pleased for there was not a x gun belonging the ship, great or small. They hoisted American colours so the pirates let us pass, but was seen 2 mornings after that, but what she intended we did not know.

16th. The baby died, and the mother not much better.

20th. There was A-Baker from Edinburgh with one of the English women fought and got his rations stopt for 1 week.

The 21st - there was a child died today 2 years old.

22nd. We cross the line this morning, there was another birth today. Neptune was hailed in the evening but we would not let him on board, but they said they might come again in the morning. The second mate mixed some tar and okam and fixed it on the top of an empty cask and let it down into the sea out at one of the cabin windows. It was in the dark of the evening, it looked very well in the dark.

The 23rd. This was a fine morning and we had a good breeze of wind from the southeast. It kept us quite fresh. The oldest seaman on board never saw the like before, it is quite common to be becalmed for weeks but as neptune was to come on board today we were all ordered to go below to let the sailors get time to get on their clothes and make the preparations for shaving, so they went, they hoisted the barbers pole and sign at the main hatch, everything was filled with water that could be got, but however to work they went. There was neptune and his lady, the god and goddess of the sea, his barber doctor and 2 constables. They had the awfulest dresses that ever I saw. They commenced with the arab first, their soap was pig shit grease and tar. All the stopt on deck got their face shaven, for seeing the sport, we were all looking up to them, they threw down some tar amongst us and made some of us all spotted. After the sport was all over, they got some grog served out to them and they spent the day in music and dancing. There was another child died this evening, about three years old.

The 28th. We are getting our chests out of the hold. The porposises and flying fish have been passing us in shoals.

The 30th. The wind is still in the south east, and we are running near the cost of Brazile. There was another child born this evening and doing well.

August the 1st. This morning is very calm and we have scarce a breath of wind to propel the vessel amongst the water.

The 3rd. There was a girl put into the hospital 4 years of age. The surgeon supposed she was taking the tipes fever. She died about an hour after she was put in. We saw a very large whale today, how beautiful it is to see the sun rise and set. We had the sea as still as every you saw, a mill dam. We caught 2 sharks. They were between 8 and 9 feet long. There is a small set of fish sails close to the shark, they are the beautiful fish that ever I saw, all rings red and blue.

The 5th. There was a sail in sight - we came close to each other by breakfast time. Her name was the TROUBADOUR from Cork in Ireland with transports for the Cape of

Good Hope. We were in 31 degrees 12 minutes west. Our Captain, as he had sent no word home, asked the Captain of the TROUBADOUR if he would take in a few letters to the Cape. He said he would. He asked our Captain to come on board with them so there was orders given to us if we wished to write to our parents he would take letters for us on board with him. Then was the time William Mather sent his letter to his father, I had no paper at hand and we had but very little time, there was about 60 letters wrote and taken to the cabin so the Captain and some of the men on board their ship, and some of their officers came on board and took our doctor and the rest of the cabin passengers with them. Our chief mate began to get very drunk and bad tempered. After he had got the ship clear he began to swear and drive about amongst us. In the evening the ships ran close to each other. Some of the Emigrants knew some of the soldiers after sailing this way for some time. They stood further off from us and every now and then we cheered so we had a holiday upon the waters but it got dark and we were still getting farther asunder. At last we saw a light at the side of the TROUBADOUR. At last we began to hear the boat parting from the ship. They came on board and the most of them were drunk. I could quite easily see how it was to end, but they all sat down to tea. The doctor began to boast how good the emigrants were done to by the soldiers. There was one of the cabin passengers of our ship named Capt Wilkison, A captain of the Guards, he spoke up and said the soldiers got half a pint of grog each day. The doctor and this gentleman had been living quite at nip-lug for some time because he thought this passenger was rather thrang with the emigrants. The Chief Mate spake up and said that Wilison was no gentleman, neither are you, was the reply, so up rose the old dog and let fly at Wilkison, so he was going to repeat the blow when the Captain started up to his feet and asked what was ado. The old porpoise was for at him again, Captain Wilkison capit the blow on his arm and gave him a push, f rom him he tumbled down and cut his head on the Cabin door. We got out with a laugh and by this time the things on the table, the Captain of the ship was for assisting his mate, and knocked his hand through one of the cabin-windows, and cut his wrist very sore. The second mate went in and got a blue eye. The four constables were sent for by the doctor, they were taken in but how they ended the affair we did not see, but he got very bad usage as there was about 8 of them upon him at one time and I think he would have done them all if he had got fair-play. There was none of the rest of the passengers interfered in the smallest. There was one of them gave the Captain a proper hearing and told him he had his men and he could take him in custody, but for to go and fight him it was so disgraceful, the Captain and Mates being all wounds. The Doctor took charge of the ship for the night, he made 36 of us watch the cabin door that night, but he soon got tired of his post, and delivered the ship up to one James Walker a man who had been often at sea, but the doctor ordered a lantern to be fixed at the mast head. It was lighted and hung on the point of the Jib booam as a signal for the TROUBADOUR to keep by us all night, by which she answered us by firing a squeeb in the air. The doctor said if Wilkison was not confined to his cabin or made fast to a ring bolt, he would give up his place, he would be called a liar if they did not. He commenced to give us some grog, but some got and some did not. The 2 ships kept about half a mile asunder all night, in the morning the doctor got the trumpet and spoke to the TROUBADOUR and said that we had mutiny on board and asked them to come on board after breakfast time, of which they did. There was 4 officers and the Captain. They soon decided it over a bottle of brandy. There was a seaman came on board of our ship belonging Arbroath in the name of Smith. He told us they saw the JAMES MORAN and went on board of her and he said he saw Smith Kydd and husband when they seed us first they took us for her, but our story was cut shorter than we expected they being ordered to man the boat after they got to their ship and their boat up, the cabin passengers of both ships went on their poops and drank their healths from ship to ship till they began to make the cure worse than the disease. At last we shook out our sails and was sailing about 8 knots per hour before the wind, and if they were drunk last night, they got worse today and

began to jump over napkins, but at last Capt Wilkison and one Martinue jumped overboard which surprised the Gentleman of the other ship for they lowered their boat with all speed and we lowered ours at the same time but such a squal it caused on our ship the females were crying very loud, when they were taken into the boat. Martinue had to be fastened to the boat for he was determined for a drown and when coming out of the boat he would not stir so they had to put a rope round his waist and haul him on board, and he had to be watched for some nights, for fear he should destroy himself, and this parted the TROUBADOUR after 2 days sailing together. James Walker who had the charge of the ship the night before had his wife in the hospital lying in child bed, and of course through the night he went into to see her and their being some rum in a jug, he took a drink of it; the man who was assistant for the surgeon had his wife lying there and she told the surgeon and Walker was sent for and put to the bar for taking the rum. Walker said he thought there was no harm in taking a drop of it, but he supposed she had it there for her own husband. The surgeon said the Scots should be kept by themselves. Walker said he was talking like a child. The doctor sent for his constables and put him in darkness.

7th. We spoke a ship bound for Baltimore, her longitude was 28 deg, 30pts and 23 deg, 30 pts south;

The 8th we had another birth today, and doing well.

The 10th there has been several of the Emigrants rations stopt for very trifling affairs. The young women were taking a dance before they went to bed. The doctor put them on 2 biscuits and half water per day for a fortnight to see and keep them from dancing.

August 12th. We had another birth today - one of the young women. The father of the child is in England; they have told me since the child was born, that he was a very bad man for he had other three young women in the same way. I think our ship is like a little world as everything is going on in a small scale, we have got our number of people which we left England with. There was a very smart squall, all hands were instantly called to shorten sail. The watch that was on deck went aloft to furl the main top-gallant sail but it blew so hard the Captain thought the main top mast was broke.

He gave orders for them to come down, but they were down before he gave the orders.

When they were going out on the yardarm they were blown from it but they got hold of some of the ropes, their being but 2 of them and the wind blowing so hard the sail beat them. He called out their names twice before he saw them. He thought they were overboard. The second mate threw the log and she was sailing at the rate of 16 knots per hour.

the 13th. We are making for passing the cape of Good Hope. We have taken down the fore and Mizzen royal topmasts. Some is wishing us to go into the cape but the weather is so squally and I believe that we shall not see it at all. Our day is very short the sun rises 20 minutes before 7 and sets at half past 5.

The 15th. There was a man taken very ill today. His name was Vile and has a wife and four children and one dead since he came here.

The 19th. The sea is getting very rough the nearer we come to the cape.

The 20th. Last night was very rough. The things rolled about on deck and below. They made an awful noise in the night-time. There was 5 gallons and a quart of Brandy taken from a cask in the hold.

The 21st. We have had a tremendous night of it in bed. The sea beats against our vessel enough to shake her to pieces, yet she rides it out manfully. She rolls very much, those things above and below that were loose rolled about and kept up a continual uproar and it is almost impossible for any one to keep their feet it is so slippery. Our ship is become very leaky - she has to be pumped every 2 hours, and it keeps the deck wet.

22nd. Sunday and it acknowledges a day of rest. The sea is once more at rest. It is blowing a light breeze. We have been 3 months from Mary Well and we are not above half sees over.

The 23rd. We have had another rough night in bed, sometimes at the foot and other times at the head - sometimes our feet 3 feet higher than our head and next our head highest. Back and fore our bed was placed across the ship and she is rather light which makes her roll a good deal. There is a good many bugs and other creeping vermin and I like them worst of all, as there is many a night they keep us from sleep and it is impossible to keep clear of them there is so many children on board. We had to close our topsails this morning. The wind rose to an awful pitch and there was awful swell in the sea we had to go below and the hatches were put on and covered with tarpillion. We had to light the lamps, the daylight being shut from us. The sea was rising into large mountains and between these there was a great valleys by every mountain we thought she would have burst and precipitated us in the deep.

The 24th. Still very stormy. We had our cabin windows beat in. It has been the worst night we have yet had at sea. The Bay of Biscay we thought was rough, but it was a fly's bite in comparison to this. The waves dashed against the vessel and over her in an awful manner - the weight of the water falling on the main deck you would think every crash she must give way. I got no sleep all night. At 4 o'clock in the morning there was a brig before us and not above 100 yards when she was first seen. It was the man at the wheel that observed her first. She was hove too right in our course, but the man brought up helm and passed to windward of her. He thought it safest as she was drifting to leeward. He alarmed the rest, the second mate was running to alter the sails, but there was a sea shipped which sent him to the other side of the ship. They let the one side of the foresail go, they got past each other, but that was all for they said we passed as close as you could have stepped from the one to the other. The captain jumped out of the Cabin but we was not able to speak one word, for he thought it was to have been a watery grave for us all. There was a wave got between us and put us asunder, to the joy of us all. If that wave had not put us assunder they would have struck the aftend of our ship and it would have been death on one side and perhaps on both, for we were running nearly 12 knots an hour before the wind. I think I will remember it as long as I live; she was taken for a Scots brig. The second mate spoke her and they all were well; we was abreast of the cape today but we did not see the land. We were 37 deg. South.

The 25th. The storm is a good deal abated. The wind has fallen off, but there is still a heavy swell in the sea. We have got our hatches taken off and enjoying the day below. There is a good many large birds sweeming close to our ship, Cape Pidgeons, Mather Carey Chickens Moleyoaks Abertrosses and Cape Hens. There is a little speed to be made today the Captain about 12 o'clock if wind is favourable. There has been stolen from the hold of the ARAB 12 bottles of porter in possession of the surgeon and he has put up hand bills in the space atween decks, that whoever shall inform on such person or persons if they be not the thief should be rewarded with 2 guineas for doing so.

The 26th. We have a fine light breeze and all is going on well. We have the main royal set which is rather a rarity at this season of the year. We have rounded the cape today. In the latter part of this day we were becalmed - the weather is so unsteady. There has been some of our constables nocking about drunk and some of the Emigrants wrote a letter and directed it to Captain Summer, and put it into a birth where they thought it would be delivered and he was to give them 5 pounds if they would come forward and prove their words. About 9 o'clock we had a beautiful breeze of wind and we were sailing under full sail running 10 knots. It was a beautiful night, we never was so delightful. The moon was shining beautiful but in ten minutes there was one of the severest squalls came on that ever we had witnessed. The fore top-sail sheet gave way the sail flying in the air and claping like thunder. All hands were called on deck and as many of us as would come, before they got the sails taking in, she overpowered the man at the wheel and you would actuly thought the sails would been torn

from the yards. There was 2 men placed at the wheel for as beautiful night as we had about half an hour before, it got as thick as we could scarcely see the length of the ship round about us. We took all sail in but the foresail. We never saw the wind above half as high. The wind was whistling through the blocks as loud as an engine. The masts were bending like bows without any sail set there was one of the hilards broke before the sail was all taken in, they got things to rights and I went to bed. In the morning the sea was roaring dreadfully - this is the worst day we have yet seen and more than ever I should wish to see again but in the forenoon the ship became unmanageable and was worn out, no farther would she go, but she lay too the Captain was very happy she did ly too he was intending too have too some time before but he was afraid she ran from side to side and then began to drift about. This was another day that we was in danger and I may say as Burn's says

"The wind did blow as twad blown its last. The ratlin showers rove on the blast."

There was some seas going over us mast high and the deck was many times up and down. There was a cask full of coals came in contact with one of the young men and bruised him against the butwarks. That was a man named William Vile died and left a widow and four children. He had a girl died a month before him, but it was so rough that we could not get him interred. He was to had sailed with the PRINCE RUEPART but he took the inflamation which made him stop till our ship sailed. When we came to the depot at Deptford the surgeon was attending him. He got a good deal better before we sailed. He was used to drink and here he got none which was rather a quick check on him. He was quite hearty till about the time we crossed the line when he became very bad. He died at last with appappalation at the heart. The main royal began to unfurrel and flow in the wind. There was a boy went up to unfurrel it but he was not abel. There was a man went up and he sent it down yard and all and if you had seen him you would have thought the mast and him would been in the sea.

The 29th. William Vile was interred into a stormy sea this morning. I think it very odd to see them plunged into the deep but it makes no difference where the body lies as to dust it does return and it will be as safe there as in the Church Yard.

the 30th. There has been another course night and especily in the morning but it ceased towards daylight.

the 31st. We have lost our wind this morning. but slowly over the waters. We are sailing

September 1st. We are standing still for the wind died away.

2nd. This is the best night, we have got the best night in bed tonight f or a month before. We are opposite Madagascar and in 38 deg South. There was one of the women put her child in bed and went on deck, returning in about ten minutes. She asked her husband if the child was asleep. He said he supposed it was dead for he had never heard it since she went away. The woman went to the bed and found it to be dead. The doctor was sent for but the vital spark was fled. It was born that day we crossed the line, and has been very healthy ever since it was embowled. There was nothing wrong with the inside the heart was as big again as any child he ever saw of the age. It seems it died in a convulsive fit.

Sept 4th. The wind has been very changeable, changing from quarter to quarter. There was 2 constables went to serve out the water for tomorrow. They served out so much. They went to a brandy cask and drank the strong drink till they were not able to serve out no more water, so they drank till asleep. The second mate went down and found out the rogues. The surgeon was sent about and he brake them both. There was one of the Emigrants told him he might take down his hand bills about the porter. He said nothing but tomorrow the bills all disappeared.

The 10th. The wind has been very squally. It blows very hard, almost to a hurricane, but it lasted but a short time. We place 2 men at the helm. The wind went round from the north west to the south west and before they got all righted there was one of the sails went in

two. We have but the fore and main topsails set and they are close reefed and we are running 10 knots.

The 13th. The wind changed right ahead of us this morning and we had a very rough morning with wind and rain. We was to pass St. Polule today but we are driven a far way of our course to the north. There was a woman brought to bed but the child was dead borne. There has been a good many birds caught. There was one Abertross which measured 10 feet.. Some of them measure they say as high as 20 feet from tip to tip of the wing. There has been several moleyoaks caught and cape pigeons.

The 14th. This has been a beautiful day. The woman have taken the opportunity of washing today as there has been a good long time of bad weather.. The island of Amsterdam in sight this morning.

The 15th. We saw it 40 miles off. It is a high mountain. The island is only 3 miles round. It is the first land we passed since we passed Madeira. Our constables that drank the brandy got on their posts again.

Sept. 16th. The weather is more pleasant and the breeze is standing out well so we are getting on very fast. Another child died this afternoon, about 16 months old. The wind got more behind us which makes us roll very much. We had some steadying sails up and when we was taking them down the man at the helm was ordered to keep her before the wind. He misunderstood orders and put her about, and she took a reeling till pigs children and buckets and pieces of wood all going from side to side. She lay over till the water was coming over the bullwarks. The wind was very high at the time.

The 18th. The weather is getting very cold. We have sailed 240 miles from yesterday at 12 o'clock to the same time today, and sailed all night with 2 close reefed topsails. The doctor gave out grog to us as the decks is so damp and we are to have it all the time we are to be on board.

The 25th. This day looks very well. We have the coast of Australia on the north side of us. The day being rather fine we have put out the top-gallant sails and we have not had them set for 6 weeks before.

The 28th. We had another birth today and doing well. There was a girl 8 yrs old was taking off her clothes to get to bed. She was sitting on the form with her knees and she chanced to loose her balance and slipt down in the f loor and broke her leg across the knee. She did not fall much above a foot in height. The doctor soon got it set again. We saw a whaler cruising about this morning but she got nothing as long as we was in sight of her. She belonged to America. We was to speak with her but there was a squall came on.

The 30th. This morning is very calm and we are taking the opportunity of taking down the fore topmast staysail, foresail and main topsail and put up 3 new ones. They were all new before we left London but they are almost done and they are all holes.

October 1st. The wind is still ahead of us and we are 4 points out of our course. There has been taken from the hospitle 6 shillings and the people have lost 5 before, it shows there is a good many a light hand of gentry amongst us.

October 4th. We are opposite King Island this evening, we are going round Vandiemens Land.

The 5th. Vandiemens Land was seen this morning at 6 o'clock we were 20 miles off the southern point at 12 o'clock.

Oct. 7th. There is a strong breeze this morning and all going on well. The Captain was scarce in bed last night as we passed some reefs and the ship was in very shallow water and a strong breeze blowing.

October 10th. The Doctor gave us his farewell sermon today. There has been public worship every sabbath since we passed the Bay Biscay if it was not some of the days that she was rolling so much. About an hour after dark there was a squall came along. We close reef

the topsail. The sea was all illuminated. We had seen her illuminated before but never to such an extent, but this evening it appeared to be large spots of fire.

Oct.13th. The land of New Zeland was seen this morning. We stood in for it and it proved to be Cape Full-wind on the west coast of the southern island. We then stood more to the north and passed Cape Farewell and entered Cookstraits. There seemed to be a great number of coves and arches amongst the rocks between the capes, but after we passed Cape Farewell the north-west point of the southern isle, it appeared more wild. We hove to in blind bay the first we were in Cooks straits it appeared to be all hills as far as the eye could reach and everyone looking over another and the snow on their tops their appeared to be a green foilage on them but what it was we could not say. The Captain stopt up all night keeping a good lookout as there has been none of them here before. There was 13 of us put to each watch to help the sailors. We saw some fires by night.

Oct.14th. At daybreak we got under way out of Blind Bay. We put all sail up, it being very clear we got a good view of the south isle but we did not think so much of it as we had done the night before, the coast being more wild and great rocks running into the sea. The mouth of the Strait is 120 miles broad so it was through this forenoon we got the first sight of our adopted country. The first of it was Mount Egmont 14000 feet above the level of the sea. It appeared to be in the shape of a cone. It was covered with snow but we saw no more in the southern island we have the land on both sides of us snow before us we passed Stephens Island and hove too before we got into the narrow.

Oct.15th. We got under weight at half past 4. We had a view of both islands, the breadth at the narrowest is 12 miles. They have a very wild view. There was a boat which we took for a whaler boat we saw leave the north island and make towards but they passed along there was 4 or 5 whitemen and 2 natives and some dogs. They passed by and went to the other island. When we came to Cape Poliwer we did not know the entrance and I think we would have passed it but as we were passing along they observed a brig at the other end of the port going into the bay. There they observed the smoke of the town. The thing that made the Captain doubt it he had 6 charts and there was not 2 of them the same, so we began to beat up about 12 o'clock at noon the wind was right ahead of us. The entrance was quite narrow, we had to put the ship about every 10 minutes and sometimes every 5. The brig had seen us and told the custom house officers so the chief magistrate came off to us to see what we were. They had a chief son in their boat. They came on board of our ship and I assure you there was a questioning at the sailors for once about the place and the price of provisions. The Chief Magistrate was Mr Murphie. He assisted the Captain in taking the ship into the bay. It was about 2 o'clock in the morning of the 16th before we dropt anchor being 14 hours in making 8 miles the most part of the men stopt up till it was let down, being the first time since we weighed it at Dartmouth, having run 25000 miles since we left London. If we had got a fair wind it would only been 16000 miles, but thank god we are here at last. There was 202 of us went ashore, having only lost 2 of what we left Depford with. We had 6 births and 8 deaths and one that we dead born. The first child that was born lived for 7 or 8 days. The child that was second born died also. The rest were all quite hearty. I may also mention this that all the Scots arrived here in safety and 3 more being born to their number. We were all put ashore today and a sorryfull landing it was. There was scarce a woman but was crying it had so bad an outlook it had so bad an outlook as employment is near at a stand we were expecting to see masters come on board to engage us but we got a disappointment. Joiners does very well. They get 10 shillings per day. Bakers gets 30 shillings and there victuals and a free house, Shoemakers does very well especially if they bring a stock of leather out with them. Shoes are more than double the price they are with you. You can't get a house below Ss. a week for the very worst of them about as large as a pigsty and suppose you put up one for yourself you will pay 18 pence for the stance per week. The houses are all wood, they are afraid to put up brick ones for fear of the earthquakes shaking them down as they are very frequent. I saw in the Montrose review that the masons had struck work because they would not work at 12s. per

day, a most infernal lie. There was a stone mason came out with us and he has no work nor yet have they found stones as yet that is fit for building. We get 14s. per week, 7 lbs beef, 101bs of flour to work on the Companies roads they get to go on survey in the bush 101bs of beef and 10 lbs of flour, 1½ of shugar and 4 lb of tea. The hours of working is from 8 in the morning till 5 in the afternoon and out of that you have 1 hour for dinner, and as for the natives they are a considerable degree better than we are. They go to church 2 times every day and 3 times on Sunday. They are always at the church by 6 in the morning. They have a missionary of their own tribe their is some of tatood that you can't see the natural colour of the face, but they are putting a stop to it so all the young chiefs have plane faces. They look very well, being round faced and not much blacker than some Europeans men & women goes about with a blanket round them and there is some dressed the same as we are. On the Sundays they never come near us to sell anything or barter with us, as for the white people they go a-shooting, fishing and everything that is bad on the Sundays and for drinking it excells all the places ever I was in. There is Police here and if they find any one drunk be they man or woman they put them in the prison. They are kept one night in then they have to pay 5s or sit 4 hours in the stocks. This is for the first time and for the second it is doubled. The stock is 2 large sticks which locks together and when there is a person into them they are unlocked and there is holes for their legs and the upper one is locked down. They sit on a stick without a lean to his back. There is a good many sailors run away from ships and they are imprisoned 14 days. The drink is much the same as at home. Bread is 1s the quarter loaf, flour 3d per lb, beef if fresh 1s per lb, fresh pork 8d per lb, tobacco 1s6d per lb, sugar 6d per lb, soap 6d per lb, butter 4s per lb, milk is 8d the English pint. Clothes is not much more than at home, salt 1d per lb. Starch is 2s per lb, but shoes is two prices their is the richest vegetation on our hills that I saw anywhere, their is onions, straw, berries, carrots, cabbages and all sorts of garden vegetables growing in their wild state and for shrubs there is all sorts especially of the laurel kind and all sorts of wood fit for any purpose whatever. There is good timber as anywhere I suppose in the known world. Sawers does very well here. They get from 18 to 20s for the 100 feet the reason that laboureres is so very large there is a great number of Capitalists come here to commence and clear their ground and when they come here their ground is not measured and they have to live on their money till it is all spent and then they are not able to commence but if it was cultivated I think it would carry good crops for it is a good soil, some of it black earth, and some of it clay. On the tops of the hills the ground is very strong. I have not seen any of the kind of the trees that grow in Scotland here, but I think we have every sort varying in all the shades of green and is ever green. The ORIENTAL landed here on the 23rd. They had but 1 death. The ship that left London on the 15th of June, the day we left Dartmouth landed on the 31st of the month. The PRINCE RUEPART, which sailed 6 weeks before us has never been heard of. Now I have given you my opinions of New Zealand, altho' it be a little ackward, me and Isabella have been very well since ever we left you. We are living in Wellington and working on the roads at present, but I must make an end. I have been some days at the roads and get 14s a week with 71b of beef and 10 lb of flour, but I have engaged to go on the surveying and I get 1 & 10 1b of beef and 10 1b of flour, -4 lb of tea, 1½ ,lb of sugar. There is a scooner to sail for London direct so I have taken the opportunity. The Emigrant vesels generally go home by the East Indies or I should have sent the letter by the ARAB. I sent John Millars letter into the Post Office with another along with it. I hope if ever this comes to you you will be kind enough to write and let me know if you received it. I stopped 3 weeks in the depot here and had 3 weeks rations. I have taken a house in Wellington at 4s per week. if any person you know that is coming out bring plenty of clothes and shoes for they will find them 30s a pair and if there's anything that you want to know which I have not mentioned write it in your letter and I shall answer you if I can. We all thoughtvery little of this place when we came here the first 2 or 3 days but a person can do better here than in Scotland. I should be very thankful to see any of you out here and I think by the course of a 12 months it will be better worth coming to, as the people will have their

land and have a road to it. Don't let the voyage frighten you for we had it as rough and cold between the Cape and Vandiemans Land as many of them had seen it and if I had plenty of money I should not fear her yet. There has no word been heard of the PRINCE RUEPART. The ORIENTAL and the GERTRUDE arrived here in safety. This leaves us both in good health. Isobellas crockery land here in safety and everything else. I don't wish you to make this letter public as I was rather in a hurry when I wrote it. Give our best respects to our old shopmates and acquaintances while I remain your affectionate son,

George Darling

George Darling, aged 27, Agricultural Labourer, and his wife Isabella, aged 21, were passengers on the 'ARAB' which arrived at Port Nicholson on 16 Oct 1841.