Mr

Mr Mr

1.

Sunday Oct 22 / 52

Dear Father, Mother, Brother, and Sister,

I now have the pleasure to inform you that we have arrived safe in Hobson's Bay on the 18th of October being 77 days from Plymouth - Beating every other ship that started about the same time with the exception of the Calcutta steamer and she arrived the day before us - the Marco polo has not arrived yet - We had some very rough weather but I will give you a description below - I have also the pleasure to inform you that Mary was confined on the 15th of September being a fine Boy and his name is Thomas Kent he was born about eleven o'clock at night being a dead calm and the ship was as still as in a house mary was taken ill and before we could get the Doctor or the woman that attended her the child was born and as fine a child as ever you saw and thrives and gets on wonderfully and I am happy to say that we had no deaths on board - there were two more children born and the mothers and the children are doing well - I wish that Sarah Ann had been confined on the ship it would have saved a great expense for a Doctor will not attend under 6 guineas and a midwife 3 - and she expects every day - I hope the next letter that

that she will be safe over her trouble - I have put you a bit of Tom's hair in the letter for he has a famous head of hair - We had beautiful ~~wet~~ weather till we got to the line and after that we had very bad weather and almost every one in the ship were sea sick and poor Sarah Ann poor Girl was dreadful for nearly a month and used to throw up every thing she took with large clots of Blood and the Doctor and all thought she was going to miscarry But she got over it - But after the cocoa was gone she never lodged anything to drink till we landed - but I hope please God we shall have our health and strength there is no fear of getting on - But before we got on shore we were dreadfully down for people that came on board gave us such bad accounts that trade was so bad -

Well we got on shore with our luggage for 16/- and we left Mary and Sarah Ann and the Children on the Jetty and George and I went to look for a house - the first we looked at the man wanted 30/ per week and it was nothing more than 2 small rooms on one floor - Then we went nearer Melbourne and after searching for 2 hours the cheapest we could get was a 2 Roomed Cottage for £1 per week payable

in advance ——

Then we travelled back to the Beech and hired a dray for 7/- to take them to the house it being Friday afternoon we could not look out for anything to do — We had to pay 1/6 for a 4 lbs loaf — On the Saturday morning we started for Melbourne and we called at Mr Hyams store to see if there were any letters for us and Mr Sirannie asked us if we had anything to do and we told him we had not — He said he could give one of us work at present and that no doubt in the course of a week he could give the other work, and he asked which it was to be at present, and George said me — Mr Sirann said he thought as much — he said he would give me £3 - 10/- per week for the present and I am going to morrow (monday) — It is at the selling store in Bourke street —

Now I will give you a short discription of the place where we live — It is called — Emerald Hill it is about one mile from Melbourne — the place is laid out in nice wide streets but the houses are of all discriptions from a Canvass tent up to Brick — Here perhaps you will see even Houses + stores — Then a weather boarded cottage or store — Then you will come to a Canvass public House with a great

flag and a flaming sign with "Board & Lodgings" in fact you would think you were at some fair or races on a very large scale for I dare say there are 500 houses scattered over some miles - It shows you how this place grows for when George left there were not above a dozen houses - From what I have seen of Melbourne it is a very nice place the streets are wide and the houses well built of Brick and Stone - Now I will give you a short discription of the trade of Melbourne every other shop is either a Gold Broker's or an Auction Mart and there you can buy every thing and I think cheaper than in England -

Wednesday Oct 25th

I have the pleasure to inform you that I have got a place at Mr Ryan's store at £3-10/- per week from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. the hours are short - but the work is hard, but I do not mind that - George has nothing to do yet for trade is quite at a stand still, but those who have work the wages are good - there are a very deal out of work but they start to the diggins or up into the Bush - George went to a land sale and bought about 3 acres of Ground at a place

called ..... about 4 miles from Melbourne for £50 no doubt in a few months it will treble its value when the trade turns again —
— Mr Piane has promised George a job — in the course of a week or two at the warehouse

Now I will give you a few remarks on the voyage — At 2 a.m 26 July we left the East India Docks and anchored at — Gravesend — At 4 am. 28 July left Gravesend At 4 am. 30 July sighted Plymouth and anchored the same evening — On the next day the Panama sailed for australia — August 1st Ship with Troops came to plymouth with Cholera on board - lost 4 while we — stopped and laid ill —

August 2nd Left Plymouth 1-30 am —

August 7th being Sunday we had prayers on the quarter deck the Captain being parson + reading prayers from the poop having the Union Jack laid over the rail to represent the pulpit —

August 9th Saw lots of Flying Fish some of them flew on board —

August 12th at noon were a 1000 miles from Plymouth —

Aug - 13th passed by Madeira and it was a very fine sight - same day one of the

sailor Boys flogged by the Boatswains Mate –

Aug: 14 – saw some sharks –

Aug: 15 – Becalmed at 7 o'clock in the morning caught one of them measuring 5½ feet long, but what was the most curious (you remember giving me 2 Books one of them the "Wide World" this one I lent and the person dropped it overboard for which I got 1/-) – when the shark was cut open one of the leaves was in his belly

Aug: 18 Had rough weather lost 2 sails

Aug: 19 lost another –

Aug: 21 another Boy flogged – same day butcher got drunk and was going to jump over board

Aug: 23 – Neptune's secretary came on board that was one of the sailors dressed up to represent him being dark they had flaming torches and drew him up from over the side –

Aug 24 – We crossed the equator + the sailors had a holiday they got the cannon + decorated it + the sailors dressed themselves in all kinds of ways and Blackened their faces one was Neptune and one was Neptunes' Wife they sat on the Cannon Waggon + were drawn by six of the sailors round the ship then they got some grog from the Capstain – they then went onto the forecastle

and the shaving commenced - and such a sight you never beheld, they were not allowed to shave the passengers, but there were 5 sailors 2 midshipmen, the Doctor and the Cabin servants those they all shaved - after that was over they had singing and dancing and by that time they were all drunk - it being very near a calm there was not much danger - we had all sail set at 5 o'clock I was gone down to get Tea ready - George was gone up the rigging to take some clothes in he had washed - there came on a squall, turned the ship right on her side - rocked Mary and Sarah Ann down - I was between decks - It made all the things come off the shelves - and the - women and children began to cry out, but what was the worst the sailors could - hardly get in the sails but they did manage at last and that was the worst squall we had - We had plenty but they were - prepared for them -

Sept. 2 - Heavy storm very cold and - cheerless -

Sept 15 - Mary was confined

Sept 16 - Caught another shark -

Sept 18 - Very rough took 3 men to steer the ship -

Sept 19. Still very rough a wave came over stove in one of the boats and split one of the Boards on the Forecastle and broke the Sop off the fore mast and the martingale.

Sept 20. 21. 22. - still very rough -

Sept 23. The main Chain fell -

Sept 26. Heavy mist -

Sept 30. Lost 2 sails -

Sept. 1. Very squally with heavy hailstorm

Oct. 8 The main chain broke -

Oct. 10. 11. 12. Very fine - another child born ran 260 miles that day being the greatest distance we went during the voyage -

Oct 14. Another Child born -

Oct. 17. Every person on the look out for land at 7-30 we sighted the land and then there was such confusion as you never saw for it was quite a novelty after being so long without seeing anything for it was a month since we had seen a ship at 5 p. m the pilot came on board and at 10 we anchored in Hobsons Bay -

During the next day every body was packing up their things and one by one went off the ship - We did not go till next morning we had 2 cats kittened and one Bitch pupped during the voyage -

Since I commenced this letter the Marco Polo has arrived —

Will you be kind enough to let Mr & Mrs Briggs see this letter and thank them for the kindness they shewed towards us and tell them that I would have written but the Great Britain starts tomorrow and I have been three nights at this already — for when I get home from work I am very tired — but I will write to them by the next mail Tell him also that you can get your likeness taken for in frame for 5/— After this letter is read in Leeds send it to Offord and then to Mr Holloway in London and we all thank them for the kindness and the trouble that they took in our welfare —

George bid me say the money was all right and likewise the letter — But he will write to Mr Holloway in a short time.

Tell uncle Walton that we have no tidings of Evans — give my best respects to all my old shop mates and I hope they are all well

So now my Dear Father, Mother, Sister & Brother and all relations and Friends I must conclude hoping it will find you all in Good health as thank God it leaves us all here at present —

I remain, Yours till death –
John Holloway –
for George, Sarah Ann
& Mary –

Ellen Brisco's sister's husband.

January 1853

J. Holloway 1st
letters to his Brother