

CHARLES DUKE'S DIARY

Quarantine Island, 6th December 1872 to 28th January 1873

1872 Dec 6, Friday

Reported myself to Mr Allan, Immigration Officer, as ready to commence my duties as Baracks Master Dunedin.

Sat 7th

Received instructions from Mr Allan to go into Quarantine with the passengers per Christian McAusland to take charge of and serve out Stores. Arrived at the Island about 5 p.m., great confusion and a fight before bedtime.

8th Decr Sunday

Miserable night, wind blew right through the Building. No sleep all night [with] Constable and D Miller. a wet day, nothing but discontent and the usual growl all round.

Monday Dec 9th

Slept well, did not feel the wind in consequence of hanging calico round our stretchers. Carpenters came back to resume work, having slept in their [house] had to gather up my traps, and Quite Decided to sleep in the Store Room and Milk all turned Sour as soon as brought on the Island. Complaint about deficiency of stores got a pretty good supply during the day and in consequence the people more contented. Board of visited the Island today. No new case having broke out we hope to be out in 3 weeks there is a decided improvment in the People in their Language and appearance but some of Brogdens [men] and their [wives] are very low and most of them come from England. I am ashamed of them they Disgrace the old Country [greedy and] ungreatful I have not heard them sing individually or collectively. How different when I was in Quarantine 9 years ago the people used to sing from morning till night. I trust they will improve.

Tuesday 10th

No case has broken out since we have been here and all things are going on more satisfactory as a whole, except in 2 cases, one the case of a young Woman suffering from white swelling in the knee, Dr thinks she will not leave the Island, the other a little girl who caught a severe cold which settled in her throat. I have just spoken to her Father who told me she said today she was going to heaven to see her little Brother who died on the voyage after a short illness if they loose the Girl they will be Childless. I have seen several children who have had the Fever also one man, they Look very sickly and their skin peels off and this is the danger, the particles of skin are no doubt ~~floating~~ floating in the air and hanging about their clothes. Their clothes are to be burnt tomorrow and I have received instructions from the Board of Health to value them this is not a plesant thing to do but I will try to do what is right for all parties. Dr Miller in walking round the ground caught a man tharashing his wife she in return swore at her husband the case was

reported to the Dr who said HO this is nothing new on the way out the men were constantly knocked their wives down and jumped upon them M was wrather officious today over the [sergt] who put him Down Beautifully I have not received that consideration from the Dr which I had a right to expect, and Miller told things which were spoken in confidence about the newspaper, the newspapers were prohibited as having a bad effect on the passengers I stated to M it was my duty to obey and I would strictly carry out the order but in my Judgment I differ from him as a most unheard of thing, so he thought to put me down but he found he had got a very tough customer snubbing went on more plentyfully even before the Board of Health but today I am most happy to say we are becoming more friendly he began to see that I know something about Quarantine regulations my past 2 years experience is of great value to me.

Wed Dec 11th

The Dr reports a case of scarlet fever today the first that has occurred since the passengers came here so we are sure to remain 3 or 4 weeks from this date. We have received our first Lot of Government Stors today A carpenter Cut his leg I got my arnica applied some and Bandaged it up for him he appeared very greatful 24 sheets of Iron blew of a Tempory Building we are thankful no one was hurt seriously Mrs Duguld was knocked down and seems to hav got a bad shaking, her finger was cut which I [bond] up for her The Dr pointed out a woman to me as being the worst Devil on board the ship. She heard him and said nothing to the contrary They are many of them a Blackguard Lot, I had a very great difficulty to get them to carry up their own food from the jetty they are so lazy. There was a great cry out this afternoon that the water was nearly out we stop all washing Mrs [Blesby] hoisted a lynch and the police boat came and an order was sent for water. I had a very long job today weighing Tea Sugar and Butter for one week for the passengers their conduct is improving the Dr says he cannot understand it they are so Different now.

Thursday Dec 12 (10 p.m.)

Capt Thompson came this mor in the Pensular at 7 a.m. Told us that the present board of Health has been superceded by another that the genl Goverment were not satisfied That no unnecessary expense is to be incurred I have no Doubt that we shall have new regulations Julia[n] who supplied us 9 years ago with Water fill our Water Tanks this Morning so Washing TeaMaking and Cooking may go ahead now. Mifs Forbes the matron in charge of the girls she is well able to Look after herself, she got her meat for dinner from me and also sent to the cook and got 2 Chops and Dr allows her 2 Eggs and a pint Mik Daily and this dose not seem half enough for her capariceus appetite Received letter from wife Will and Mr The Flowers Mr Murray sent me I took round and showed the People who wer Delighted to see such Beautiful Flowers I clap them up to their noses, and they almost danced with satisfaction. I then sent them up to the Hospital for the patient with the white swelling. Short of Bread today I counted my Loaves, only had one pound for each adult and the Grumblng was not more than I expected. I require 73 four pound loaves and all I had to give them was 47. They are allowed it 1½ per day How can I give it them if it is not sent I am afraid we have another case of Fever a child I hall hear about it tomorrow. a Boat came off Capt C with 18 loaves I Distributed it immediately, and with a few pounds of Potatoes managed to satisfy them pretty well

Friday 13 1872

Capt Thompson came at 7 a.m. in pensular, brought our Bread and meat, 70 Loaves I am thankful we are all right for Bread to day meat and Potatoes were all served and by eleven the Child suspected yesterday has turned out to be a fever case and of course sent to The Hospital the place where the child slept Has been thoroughly Fumigated with Chlorine Gas The Dr seems to take a great interest in his patients. Yesterday he shot a Rabbit the day before, a and sent them to the young woman in the Hospital The Sergeant Mr Blesby is a great service to us he maintains his position in a very Gentlemanly manner He is respected by us all and he deserve it. I receive very great kindness from Mr & Mrs Dougell The Sergt has his pitched tent in a suitable place and has a board up with the Word Police I hear the passengers by the Palmerston are likely to be free before ourselves D Miller has been in contact with one of the Hospital Patients He took money from the Patient, an old man, and brought it down to Mr Dougell, to purchase tobacco for him and when I remonstrated with him he said he would take the Money back to the old man thus breaking the Quarantine Regulations twice in one day For the Goat Hunt I must refer to a letter Sent Home.

Saturday Decr 14

Capt Thompson Dr O'Donnoghue came over about six this morning in the Pensular, Bread and meat came I am still short of Bread I require 73 loaves and on Thursday I only received 16 Loaves On Wednesday I received 3 Bags of Bread from Dunedin and it was not enough for 2 days even with the 18 Loaves sent from the Port and I have been short every day since The Dr wrote to the Board of Health telling them that they treated him in the parsimonious manner, Quite different, quite different to that he received on Board the Ship and in the Australian Colonies He told them that the articles he ordered were not sent promptly and he hoped in future to receive that consideration which he had a right to expect. His letter had the following effect an apology, Ham new potatoes sausages Leg of Mutton Cheese after this he appeared satisfied by the bye I had a parcel sent to me as Store Keeper Leg of Mutton and some sausages [HG] I heard the young men were to be liberated on Monday and the Palmerstone passengers were to be put on that Island I have received a full compliment of Bread to day and the passengers are satisfied. The Young woman is not expected to live through the night a change has taken place Dr said 3 Gallons of water came from her and he could not account for it came and filled our water Tanks Dr has very grand views concerning good Breeding and Blood if a man has got good Blood in his veins even if he is illegitimate he is to be preferred to one of Low origin born in Wedlock I combated the argument, Quoted Major Richardson and the Poetry, Honour and from no condition rose, Act with the past there all the Honor his He evidently is disgusted with the free and easy manner of the Colonials Went to bed about eleven

Sunday Decr 15/72

Capt Cumming came over this morning with a matrefs and pillow if the Doctor is correct the poor girl will not want it for long I gave yesterday a man's wife some pain killer she was suffering from Diarrhoea Drs medicin failed PK cured her This evening the young woman is somewhat revived This afternoon a man thrashed his wife because she was not Quick enough in reaching his food from the Shelves Sargt put him Down at once, soon after



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two Women were falling out close to my window I ordered them to separate The little Girl with the abcess looked better today A young Man named Tapp is a consumptive his Lungs are gone, he seems better since he has been here, he gets new Milk Eggs Wine and Brandy Dr thinks he will not recover. I missed the service very much today no one was thoughtful to send us suitable reading for the day

Monday 16/72

Capt Cummin came at the usual time this Morning Brought [letter] and C went and fetched our milk Dr O'Donoghue came over to tell us that the Patients on Board the Palmerston were to be landed here, when the Men and Women became aware of it they got into arage and swore that they would not allow them to land the Patients, soon after Capt Thomson came with stretchers and the men went down and told him what they intended to do if they attempted to Land the Patients By this time the Pensular was coming from the Palmerston with the Patients the excitement among the People was intense, so Capt Thompson had to Hurry back to the Pensular and the result is the Patients will not be landed here.

Tuesday 17/72

Last night the Dr told us about bed it was likely a woman would be confined and he had no place for her except the Surgery just above we were not interrupted and to day a large Tent is to be pitched with all speed, the Goat Hunt has made the Dr very poorly, in fact he is afraish he is going to have the fever I hope not, we shall be in a Dilemma if he dose Yesterday finding that I had sufficient meat for two days I served out two Days rations of meat accordingly I have not required meat from shore to day and sent word to that effect yesterday and none came one man brought his meat back this morning because it was Fly Blowed, it had been in his possession 24 hours he has a lot to learn About the Blow Flies of N.Z. Saw the little girl this evening took her two Pictures and some nice Pudding she was very Pleased with the Pictures and I think she is somewhat better I took the young man Tapp his Eggs he is very ill today told me he had been vomiting Blood which I saw an other Child is very poorly this evening the Dr too is still very ill I hope he will not take the Fever a very large Tent has been pitched for the confinement Had a good stock of provisions sent today served out Tea

Wednesday 18th

The Pensular is knock of Capt Cummin came over in a waterman Boat Dr is still very poorly but he manages to see his Patients and we see him once or twice a day Dougall and Sergt is very busy to day fumigating the Building They say it will take them all the week to do them.

The Heating Apparatus dose not answer it was tried two days ago. It was heated up to 210 (Boiling Heat) and it Burnt some bedding at this heat to Destroy the infection it is necessary it should be as high 220 & 30 The Washing still goes on I have just commenced my forth Box of Soap One of the Children taken with the fever here last, was out in the Hospital ground to day I hear favourable accounts of the young woman (Grace) the porter told me she was Mending Tapp is very ill today I think Dr has change his medicin.

The little @irl (Connor) with the Bad throat is some What better the People hope to get away on Saturday