

254 to the house to hear the debate on the frontier crisis.

Found the house crowded and my usual sanctum behind the Speaker's Chair locked up, so wrote a note to the Sergeant at Arms which after some time gained an entrance to that closed retreat, tho' the door keeper refused us admittance even when the Clerk himself in person demanded it, and it was not till a special order was sent that that stern janitor relaxed at all.

Paintin's motion to request the floor to proceed at once to the spot and settle the boundary question, (the true title of discord) was before the house and more rubbish than usual was talked. The motion was lost, and the argument of leaving his Excellency untrammelled to do what he thought best, signed as the reason. The fact is they shrink from their just position and are afraid to acknowledge their real status which the Colony holds viz: that of arbitrator and adviser to the border republics. And one which being granted and forced as it were on them should be, and would if Lincolnton had his way, a powerful engine in the cause of S. African progress.

Poor Lincolnton! I can imagine no man more con-

-fletch

isolated than he is, and the truth is, he is unrepresented in the House in any way. The officials are well enough from and so far from speaking his sentiments which alone they have seats, actually speak & vote against his own bills and are the greatest stumbling block he has to contend with.

Thurs. April 31<sup>st</sup>. A pension day, and full service in the Cathedral. Saw Harry Welby and had a good amount of annoyance about the Decha again. The Captain & Mr Van der Byl came again with a reduction of \$16 each dependent on one Scott giving up his two extra cabins. This he refused to do in spite of having no further need for them owing to their expected occupants having left 3 weeks ago. So we may wait for the next chance.

August's wife and two bonny brown beauties came to see me, dressed as if they were going to Court. She is a pretty little Malay woman and I liked the children much; Rod with Lulu and Feilden round the elbow which looked socher than ever. and their admiration was extreme, left them soon after to sleep for dinner and drove off to Bishop's Court as an English Ship, "The Deane"

236 was coming in; Found Archdeacon Trellby, Capt  
Holloth, and Miss Piers who has remained here since the  
fire, Spent a pleasant evening and after prayers returned  
to Capetown.

The Bishop mentions one of the many underhand influences  
which render the Executive Council so great a trouble to  
the Governor. It seems he is desirous of bringing in a  
most necessary bill for regulating the sale of Gunpowder  
and his Council refuse to back him, the Cause being that  
the House of Porter & Vanderbyl are the great importers of  
it and the Attorney General will not consent to a  
measure which affects his brother's interest.

Capt Holloth <sup>was</sup> is miserable about a dog which he has  
lost and which he thought might have returned to Parkes.

To my immense relief I found it at home as  
I had promised to take care of it in my own room.

Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup> Dined about with Lady & Fildes  
and then to Government House having received a note  
from Boyle asking me to dine there. Found Lady  
Grey in and after some time took little Dorothy by ap-  
pointment to buy a drum and back again when I

also saw Mrs Boyle looking much better than I expected. She has been terribly ill from Abscess in her back. After lunch went with Lane to enquire about a Dutch ship in Simon Bay, and am to hear more tomorrow. Hence to Claremont with Miss & F. by Bus. where I gave a Trumpet to Cecil and we walked thro' the woods to Myubung. They were quite astonished at the beauty of the scenery and especially at the plants with their circles of Proteas & Senecadenchons which they fancied were planted; I have often noticed the shrubbery like look of the field Senecaborts.

The last Boas having gone they carried it back and I & the Phillipsons spent the evening at old Miss Steadts where we should have been the better for a fire as the night was bitterly cold.

My long looked for box from Belvidere came at last. And all right inside; I also overhauled the three from Buscleugh and so I expected found one belonging to one full of fine specimens of the Silver Muschel and several heads of the Stelitzia angusta now in seed. It is a noble plant but the flower small.

238. Letters from home for "Deane". My father has been dreadfully ill with Erysipelas and for days was in great danger. Thank God he is recovering now but they have had an anxious time of it. I heard of it from William Newdigate by the Meteor, and I am been most miserable not knowing why no one wrote to me about it. Aunt Prunmy also sent me a long letter and I hear of Anna having been to her first ball, I wish I had been there to see her.

Sat May 2<sup>d</sup>. Went after breakfast to sketch in the garden and wrote home for Meteor. The Bishop & Archdeacon called. Walked with Phillipson round by Proteus and home over the hill. I never saw the Mountains so clearly and the whole walk was most enjoyable. The Sugar bush (*P. Mellissina*) was in profusion of flower, and the pale yellow of the Sea Cedar down common, with the deep green of the single fir trees & rich Satiny grey of the Silver birch mingled most strikingly. One part of our road lay through the blackened acres which were burnt four months ago - on which occasion  
Bishop's Mount

released by a miracle, and there, the flowing  
Cherry Colours of the Erica Cerinthoides put the whole  
hill side in a blaze, it was really magnificent.

On the lower sides the large Lobelia showed its deep  
blue heads and the spiny looking plants of purple  
bells of the Rosella Ciliata with occasional sprigs of  
polygala and Mesembrianthemum varied the some-  
-what sombre grey of the Adenandra which is not yet  
in flower, but which when in blossom yields to none.  
This is the Queen of the Distance and I should much  
like to see it again before I start for England.

A fight about a Chimney on ~~the~~<sup>the</sup> ~~place~~<sup>place</sup> kept us alive  
in the evening and the Lieut Baker readily sent us  
supper to bed.

Mr Goddard Dr. C for Guelandtown complained  
of what he called the "Caecitis Sombendron" which  
he said promoted so much ill feeling in the Country.  
It is a fine thing to hear the misgivings every  
now & then in the house.

240, Sun May 4<sup>th</sup>. Morning Service, and after dinner  
spent an hour with the Students, who showed me some new  
drawings of flowers which they had done for me. I have  
8 or 10 Capital Specimens now.

Capt Hallett amused me at Bishop's Court by  
extracts from an old Colonial book on Etiquette. One  
was under the head of Advice to young Dutch Gentlemen  
and as follows.

"Always wipe your knife on your bread before left-  
-ing yourself to Salt or Mustard."

Henry & I find sailed from Plymouth on the 16 of Jan  
for the Prince, in the Pompano.

Mon. May 5<sup>th</sup>. Went to Cape town by the Omnibus and  
found Paul and Feiden at Parke's, who told me  
that he had a good chance of taking our passage in  
the Gof Smith (whatever that may be) now in Simon's  
Bay. I rather like the idea of sailing in a Dutchman  
being landed at Rotterdam, but our chance depends  
on Old Mr K's Prince declining to go, and I hope  
to know my fate tomorrow morning. Paul tells me that

Gawle has been fired at by Kaffirs in the 241  
discharge of his duty as Magistrate, Col Bisset, his Cor-  
respondent, thinks matters look gloomy.

Boyle Jeffreys Esq and a Portpois, and made  
a feeble attempt at packing up which I am becoming  
dissatisfied about. Went out by the Omnibus, leaving it  
at Sans Souci where I called, but found Mrs Seales  
at, and walked back to Wynberg finding the Arch-  
deacon at the Parsonage, Mrs Gray coming soon;

Phillipson and Mrs P. went to the Service at the  
Hats in the evening leaving me to write alone.

Sunday May 11<sup>th</sup>. I have a long and tedious week of  
packing and other preparations to fill up, and can only  
recopy a few of my doings.

On Tues. I sketched and young Dumbleton came  
ask me to go with him on the <sup>very</sup> day tomorrow morning.  
Alden & Leal came to lunch, with news of Mr Prince's  
not going, so they were en route to Simonsdown by the  
trip Fox Point and if favourable to take on Calcutta.

I therefore made my last ramble on the Hats, by  
Alphen



Hydeburg Church  
and Eastern Face of Table Mtn.



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and never enjoyed myself more though the thought, as I filled my lands with the superb heads of Erica and Leucadendron, that I should see them no more in their wild beauty made me feel melancholy. Smith (alias Rhubarb) came in the evening.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb'y. Saw one in Town by the 9 1/2 o'clock and Feilden & Earle joined me in the evening on the jetty, with such accounts of the ship that we at once agreed to go and secure our passage. Next day we laid in our provisions at Macquays, including Wine, Spirits & Liqueurs, and took a charming ride round by the West-brook woods calling on Mrs Rawson and then by Protea to Westbrook and home again. A very queer Dutch Naval Officer named "Lidenan", one of the Top Smit paperys is at Parker's and talks in English broken fast mending. He claysed the writers as "Stupid, like I never saw anything in de World". On Friday I called at Fort House and found the Bozels and Rivers, and after a visit to the Botany Garden to see the Secretary Bird, returned to pack up and pay bills. Dined at Fort House and had a pleasant evening. and after promising to lend Lady Grey a Durand's, and

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