

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Saturday 1 December 1849, page 2

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TO HAYES KYD, Êsq.

Surgeon-Superintendent of the Ship 'James

T. Foord' WE, the undersigned Immigrants per the

above-named ship, bound from England to Port Phillip, taking into consideration the able and efficient manner in which you have discharged the various and onerous duties of your highly responsible office, as well as the kindness and humanity you have displayed during the voyage and more especially during the period of a most appalling epidemic which broke out on board immediately on our leaving England, feel that our gratitude is called forth, and we beg as a mark of our approbation and esteem, to offer you our thanks and wishes. ,

[Signed by 74 Male Immigrants, and by the Matron, on behalf of 38 Single Women.]

Ship 'James T. Foord,'

November 11th, 1849, Reply of the Surgeon-Superintendent to the

above Address. My Friends,

Accept my hearty thanks for this kind Testimonial of your esteem and confidence.

Next to a man's own conscience, next to the moral conviction of having done his duty, the highest, as well as the most gratifying reward of man, is the approbation of his fellow-men.

It is the most pleasing recompense for past exertions, as well as the most flattering encouragement to future efforts.

This Testimonial, then, is doubly pleasing to me, both as a demonstration of your good feelings towards me, and also as a practical proof that I have not been unsuccessful in my endeavours to discharge the varied duties of my office.

It is a proof that I have accomplished those duties with at least some credit to myself since I have succeeded in doing so with satisfaction to you.

And now that our voyage has reached its determination, it becomes incumbent upon me to address a few words to you. As the representative in this vessel of the Government, under whose auspices and control you have been transmitted to the remote regions whose shores now spread out before you, I think it right, ere I surrender the high responsibility which has been imposed upon me, to take a short retrospect of the past, and an equally rapid glance at the future. Placed as I have been, in entire charge over you, and in constant communication with you, I have become, in a manner, identified with you, and I would fair hope, we entertain towards each other an identity of interest, of present good feeling, and of future good wishes. Asperities will roughen the smoothest career of life, and therefore 'we, when destiny is cast upon the wide ocean of fate, when beacon of hope guides us to distant lands, as the sphere of our enterprise, who seek, like, migratory, birds, the realms of summer, and who belong to the locust tribes of adventurers scattered over the earth's surface-it is scarcely reasonable that we should expect our course to be free from those thorns which beset even the most flowery paths of life-.

Our ship is a little world, and in its limited community, all the feelings and interests, the passions, prejudices and prepossessions of ordinary life, are displayed as in the wide world on shore, You should therefore regard the present as a transition period of existence, in which the energies of the mind should not have been allowed to sink into a state of listlessness and torpor, but should rather be qualified by repose for a renewed struggle with future obstacles, for a fresh display of activity, of energy, and of strength.

The time will not have been lost or misspent, if we only derive from the experience which had been afforded us, those instructive moral lessons which the proximity of our residence together cannot fail to have taught us.

Society is here confined within narrow limits and all its elements are presented to the eye of reflection, concentrated to a focus. From this point of observation, which our faculties are qualified to grasp, we cannot have failed, I should think, to learn that knowledge which is superior to all other wisdom, a knowledge of human nature.

And from our close observation of each other I trust we have advanced no short step, but even a stride, towards that pinnacle of human philosophy embodied in the aphorism of the Grecian sage "Know Thyself"

If such has been the result of your close social compact, if such practical knowledge has been involuntarily and unconsciously elicited from mutual contact and association, then I can xxx? gino nothing more advantageous than the transition state which you have passed through, some-thing more practically beneficial, or more

qualified to prepare you for a close encounter with that wider world upon which you are now about to enter.

It is not my intention to touch upon the religious topics which are sometimes introduced upon occasions like this-first, because you will meet with those on shore whose duty it discuss such subjects. Secondly, because you have books of accredited value; and no one, I presume amongst you, is without. "The Book"- I mean of course, the Bible. Lastly, because all of you have been taught the elementary tenets ??? practical principles of the highly practical as well as sublime religion you profess.

It is my function only to draw these moral deductions from the experience of our journey hither, the contemplation of which ??? not only to improve, but also to eMW^{ot} your minds. The first part of our voyage marred by a severe visitation of epidemic disease. Mortality was daily making its havoc amongst us no-one could tell whose turn would be next in ??? the sword of Damocles seemed suspended over every head, and Death, in his, apparent ??? tility and caprice, seemed to spare the feeble and infirm, only to level with the dust the young, the vigorous, and the athletic. But can we not learn a sound lesson of morality, and at the same time elicit a bright ray of gleaming hope, like the electric flash, from this dark cloud of doubt, of dread, and of despondency? Do we not have from thence the equality of man? - that disease and death, the instruments of Providence, are no respecters of persons? and that all, from the highest to the lowest, are subject to the same fate, susceptible of the same misfortunes, and liable to the same dangers? If, then, you are all equal in the sight of God-if all are subject to the same natural laws-there is no reason why you should not assert, defend, and maintain that manly prerogative. This then is the moral inference I wished to draw.

As there is no natural boundary between the ranks of the human race, so endeavour to overcome the artificial barriers of custom and prejudice.

As there is no natural limit, so let there be no artificial limit to your ambition.

Remember that labour is not only honorable, but dignified; that the greatest of the sacred kings was a shepherd - that the greatest men of all times have risen from the ranks of industry-that Rome, the imperial mistress of the world, was twice saved by a man taken from the plough -that He whose precepts you have been taught, and by whose name you are distinguished, was born under the lowliest circumstances-and that those who were chosen to propagate his doctrines throughout the world, and who succeeded in *V so in spite of the bitter opposition of the, mightiest empires, were selected, not from the ranks of the learned or the high-born, but from amongst the humblest and hardiest sons of toil. It is in the power of every one of you, to improve

your condition by your own efforts-by rectitude of action, resolution of purpose, and constancy of mind.

You have left a country where labour is over-stocked for one which wants your energies, and invites you within its wide and warm embraces. To you, sons of Britain, I would appeal in the language of your greatest Bard,-_« And you bold yeomen,

Whose limbs were made in England, shew us here

The mettle of your pasture"--Demonstrate to the land which you are about to enter that you bring with you that which is more precious than wealth, viz. the energy to undertake, and the capacity to perform, the various routines of life for which you are qualified. Show that you are worthy the land from whence you sprung-

That as it is the most enlightened on the face of the earth, so you bring with you a share of its enlightenment.

As it is highest among all nations, in the scale of civilisation, so you carry from its shores the seeds of social happiness.

I will conclude this short homily by observing,

that I could not allow you to separate without a departing word of admonition, as well as of encouragement. This is a duty imposed upon me by the position in which I have been placed, with relation to you, and I can only hope, that however deficient I may be in power of expression, that as it is given with the utmost sincerity of heart, so it may be received in the same spirit by you.

Let me conjure you to dissipate from your minds all bitter reflections and all unpleasant dealings.

To a community like this, enclosed within our little Ark, and tossed, for months, upon the foaming billows, it becomes a necessary consequence that many of the comforts of home will be wanting, and many discomforts and apparent hardships will have to be submitted to.

Discontent is thus apt to appear, and acrimonious thoughts to spring up. Let these thoughts be dispelled, and endeavour to act up to that religion whose designation you bear, in virtue of our country, and whose pervading principle is charity.

Let your charity be illustrated in your conduct towards each other, in the solicitude you display avoid tarnishing by the breath of slander, the reputation of your neighbour. Hold in respectful deference each other's fair fame ; and let not your tact, in the country of your choice be to ire any one by an evil or an ill-timed word. As for myself, the duties I have had to perform, have been far more onerous than usually fall to the lot of the Surgeon ; I trust I have performed those duties efficiently. At all events, I have acted so conscientiously and devotedly.

The early part of our voyage was in every respect the most eventful epoch of my life. My mental and physical powers were tasked almost beyond the capability of endurance. I was weighed down by the accumulated pressure of incredible anxiety, ceaseless toil, and want of repose. I solemnly believe, that if it had not pleased to arrest the dire disorder which stalked a spectre among us, I should soon have sup-1, in my own person, another victim to the heartless pestilence, if not by the stroke of it» itself, at least by exhaustion of the vital tn. . . .

The eye of reflection, however, can now regard with serenity, the terrors of the past, and the contemplation of them inspires my mind with iludo to that Superior Power, by, whose hand the sword of the Destroying Angel was stayed, by whose strength my own mind was fortified, my own physical energy aided and preserved. see the departure, however, of this severe situation, my life has been in every respect the rsc of an easy or an, indolent one.

Severe maladies have frequently invaded you, many cases of a critical and momentous challenge have occurred. Thus the anxieties peculiar to my office, have been relieved only by brief intervals of tranquillity.

My conscience tells me, and I trust I say it without the appearance of presumption or egotism, that I have performed my duties towards you, at all events I have done to the utmost of my ability. It has been heartfelt desire to promote your happiness, and to minister to your wants; and if I have not succeeded in these functions to the complete satisfaction of you, it must be attributed, not to the want of will on my part, not to a laxity »i but to my defects of judgement, or to my deficiencies of experience. Let us not part, then, with mutual coldness and indifference. Accept from each and all of you, my best wishes for your success-my earnest prayers for the accomplishment of all your hopes, and the realisation of all your dreams of happiness-and believe that every warm sentiment of my soul will devoutly breathed in our final parting word farewell.

. HAYES KYD.