NOTE: The first 18 pages are missing. I have typed the journal exactly as it was written and where I found it illegible, I put in a blank line. I do not yet know the author (woman), nor the dates of travel ... it is still to be researched . This journal was found in the diaries that belonged to the Trask family and donated to the Dixfield Historical Society by Wirt Horne.

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I have been quite interested and amused in watching the three kinds of birds seated together on the water on rising on the wing, a skimming as they gracefully do, the surface of the water.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
25 Lat 36.350 S Long 34 W.

Before I left my state room this morning, Samuel came from the deck, and told me there was a ship in sight bearing towards us. So I hurried up on deck. It proved to be the William Godard, 47 days out from Boston, bound to Calcutta. She had no cargo, and had sailed much faster than us, having left Boston 10 days after. She soon came astern and spoke. Had no news for us. After the ships parted, the fore catch was opened to accommodate those passengers who wished to get to their boxes of warm clothing. As some of ours intended for the voyage had been put there, we had them brought up and opened and found some of the clothes that had been worn were moulded. I took all out, cleaned and towed them in the sea and are good as ever now. It took me all the forenoon. The weather cold and we are threatened with squalls.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Cold today and on deck obliged to exercise to keep warm. My principal exercise on board is playing the graces and I find it very good. I walk some but often the motion is so severe that it is difficult. I study daily except when suffering with the head ache, which I have been sorry to write of so often.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Sea rough – everything dull today. I am quite tired of being rocked so much. The evenings are so cool that Samuel and myself have given up sitting on deck, for our state room. Here

we spend the time very pleasantly. Samuel reads a part of the time to me then we talk the rest till worship time, which is 8 pm.

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After worship I spend an half hour in talking with the native boys on theology. And I then generally sit with Aunt Cutter. She is ever pleasant and cheerfull and I enjoy the company much.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Cold raw day and we are tossed about nicely. Have been busy all day. It is too rough to write so good night dear Mother.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

The weather is so cold that religious service was held in the cabin instead of on deck. Mr. Rimscard (?) preached. I was interested and enjoyed the sermon. After worship, Mrs. Wade & Ward held a season of prayer in my room with me. We all enjoyed much the season. It is sweet to draw nigh to God, and tell him all our needs. For he has promised freely to give what we ask. In the afternoon, we held a prayer meeting and I enjoyed that also. My heart on the Sabbath wanders very much to him, and past Sabbath privileges. The dear church and School are before me. My own dear class, I see them all as assembled in their places, and with their pleasant smile ready to receive me. I long to again be with them and talk of a Savior's love. I must not think too much of home tonight or I shall not be able to sleep with all the dear loved ones before me.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

To day it has been very unpleasant, on deck cold and rainy. This morn I took a tour among the invalids. Aunt Cutter was suffering greatly with the head ache, and dear Mrs. Ward was sick with the same in her berth. Mrs. Bronson seemed to be doing well. And Mrs. Vinton who suffers much with nervous complaints. I then went on deck and exercised a little with the grace hoop. I am well and cheerful – improving in my study of the Ascension (?).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

It has been raining hard most of the day. And I have remained below nearly all day. About 4 o'clock I went up on deck, as the rain had ceased, for awhile. But a squall came up and drove me

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down again. It is an uncomfortable day. Today at dinner a large wave washed into the stern ports and gave the cabins on the lee side quite a soaking. Mine fortunately on the weather side.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2
LAT 30.47 S LON 13.10 W

Weather pleasant. Yesterday I suffered greatly all day with pain in my head. The sea was very rough and I was obliged to remain most of the time in my berth on account of the severe pain. Samuel gave me medicine and the steward brought me gruel, nicely made. Towards night I got up but my head was aching badly. And all the night before I was awake with the pain. Today it is some better but not well. It was a sad mistake to send so many passengers in such a ship. There is no place like home for the sea (?) weary child. And a mother how priceless. Samuel is a capital nurse. He is so very kind and attentive.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

My head is well. Today is Captain's birthday. 26 years of age. The flags are flying. The men for awhile off duty and it is quite a holiday. He invited Samuel and myself to dine with him. This we declined as we saw before when we dined, a few felt slighted. We had lemonade sent down to us and drank to his health. A gun was fired at nine o'clock in honor of the occasion.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

This morning was like a home spring morn and we almost fancied with shut eyes [that] we could hear the birds sing. Saw several large whales. I enjoyed much exercising with the graces. I have a nice new hoop for accidently I have thrown three overboard. The day has been delightful. I have studied and wrote as usual. Last evening I lost the pretty cap I made him, overboard.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

It has been a clear cold day, and we have had public worship in the cabin. Mr. Vinton preached. I enjoyed the female prayer meeting very much. I then went into Aunt Cutter's room and had a sweet season of prayer with her. I then took a walk with Samuel on deck and there read till tea. I have enjoyed the day. Now while I am writing (a little after 8 o'clock in the eve) you are probably in the house of God, perhaps at this moment partaking of the emblems of our Savior's death. How this brings to mind the many previous seasons I have there enjoyed. Blessed privileges, sweet to have the heart melted with love to our dear redeemer and then recall his dying love to us. And oh for me pray that I may be an humble instrument in leading the dark minded heathen to a knowledge of our Jesus Savior and his holy word, which has in my dear native land gathered privileges so great. I am well today and cheerfull. I enjoyed much today in bringing those I so dearly love to the mercy seat and there pleading for their happiness and prosperity. May God hear in behalf of my darling brother and sister who are yet out of the arms (?) of safety. Mrs. Bronson has had a severe nervous fit tonight.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7
LAT 32.17 W LON 2.25

Today the weather has been very pleasant. I spent the forenoon in mending some of Samuel's old ship clothes, recited Assemese (?) ~ played the graces with Samuel and then with the Capt. In the eve our monthly concert was held. And Mr. Wade gave us a very thrilling account of his suffering and exposure to death at the time of the War in Rangoon.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

We today crossed the meridian of Greenwich and to our joy are in East Long not quite 1,000 miles from the Cape or Cape Town, which place we hope to see in a week. I long to once again set my feet on land and again get a taste of fresh provisions, for the continued salt food is injuring my health. I am of late hardly free from severe pain in my head. For it

is very difficult for me to digest the food after having eaten it. Today, I have been in my berth more than one third of the time suffering with an almost distracting pain in my head and this is greatly aggravated by the noise and motion of the ship. This eve it is better and I hope to sleep for I could not last night. Good night dearest mother.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9

The day is cool - too cool to stay much on deck except to exercise. I have been writing to brother today as we now soon expect to reach Cape Town. The Captain says today we are only 800 miles from there and with fair winds we shall reach there by Monday next. This I can assure you is joyous news. For to see nothing for 76 days but ___ and water gives us who have been accustomed to land, an earnest desire to again set our feet on shore. I have been very well indeed today. No pain in my head and I am cheerful and happy. I watch with Mr. Wade on deck this eve and amused him by asking how I should act on shore, how to walk and how to behave there. The sea is very rough and if you would like to know how I manage to write - step in my state room and you will see me standing by my berth with the writing desk in it raised on pillows where I place my paper and hold on as the ship rolls with one hand on to my berth. I write in a great hurry to get through before I am rolled over. This will account for my bad writing. When I write in the day time I have to stop every few moments for persons to get off my sky light as one step of them makes it dark.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10

Eleven weeks at sea and contrary winds are driving us from the Cape so that we are now as far off as yesterday, and we know not when we shall get there. The last pig was eaten today and there is now no fresh meat on board. The Steward gave us cold bread for breakfast and this I relished as much as anything I have eaten on board. For the bread was first rate and we have good butter. He has promised to give it to us every morning instead of the hot rolls. Much to our pleasure I am very well and happy today. Mr. Wade said this morning he had not seen me with a long face or cross since I have been on board. Was that not a compliment? And am I not a silly girl for writing? I would not to anyone

else. But I must confess Mr. Wade has not seen me at all times, or he could not have said that.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11
LAT 33.18 W LON 1.39

Still driven out of our course, and we have given up all hope of reaching Cape Town for several days. I long to be again on land. Yet am not very impatient. Today have studied and wrote. My health is very good. The sailors caught a porpoise this afternoon and it was hauled aboard. The poor thing was so sadly mangled with the spear that I could not look at it. They say that it is good eating. I have no desire to taste it. The weather is quite cool, and we still have to wear a good supply of winter clothing.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12
LAT 34.47 LON 1.46

Have been overlooking boxes, drawers etc. to see what is best for our use at the Cape. Though we are still as far off as we were several days ago. And we begin to realize that it will probably be another week before we reach there. Had a game of graces with Mr. Wade and afterwards a pleasant promenade with him.

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
LAT 35.38 LON 3.24

We have had a charming day. The weather has been delightful. And to add to our pleasure we have been borne along more in our course. The service was held on the quarter deck which was most tastefully decorated with colors. Mr. Wade preached a real sermon's sermon using abundant illustrations all in seamans' terms. I was greatly interested. I am sorry to say there is no peculiar interest for their souls manifested by the sermon. Samuel preached to them in the forecastle and enjoyed it much. Samuel and myself had a sweet season of prayer in commending our loved friends to God and praying for rich blessings to

be bestowed on them. And for the heathen we prayed that they might know a savior's love. We look forward to our labor in their midst with hope and pleasure.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14

Still making very little progress. And we can form no idea when we shall reach the Cape. This is indeed a long passage. Our ship is in truth a slow sailor. No fresh provisions onboard, except ten little pigs two weeks old. Our health is very good. Mrs. Wade and Cutter with myself have been free from the head ache to day. I have not had it for near a week. I have left off drinking tea and coffee. And so use cold water, when I must drink. I had my dinner brought into my state room for there was nothing I felt I could eat from the table. So I asked the Steward to make me a bowl of gruel which he did. This I much relished for I find it much more nourishing than salt beef and pork. The steward is very kind and were there not so many of us, I might have had these little comforts often. But some need it more than I. And he cannot do for all at once. He has never refused us. But I know he has all he can do and I don't like to ask him for

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extra dishes unless I am sick and I do not then always.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Not making much progress toward our port. Last night we were pitched about in a very tedious way so that I slept but little. Mrs. Kincaid is very feeble and suffers greatly. She is confined to her bed. There is nothing she eats but greatly distresses her. I wish for her sake we were in Cape Town. I am still free from the head ache and happy as ever.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

The weather is cloudy and very foggy. And we are quite becalmed. This morning quite a number of albatrosses were near the ship. The Capt. took his pistol to fire at one and it did not go off. He looked to see what the matter was when it went off and grased his nose badly. There was a ball in it, and it was a great mercy he was not killed. As it is he is not much injured. The mate with a hook caught one of the albatross and it seemed quite

indignant to be brought on deck, and showed such evident disposition to fight that they tied his bill that he couldn't fight. His wings from tip to tip measured 10 feet. After we had seen him all, we wished he was thrown overboard uninjured. He seemed delighted to regain his liberty and sailed away from the ship quite a distance. Another bait was thrown out to catch another. Quite a large albatross came near it to take hold, when the one who had been taken went rapidly to him and with his wings beat him away from it. Then five or six more sat upon the water with the two. And they held as we supposed quite a meeting about it for they chatted and made quite a noise. We supposed

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the captured one was telling him of the danger for not one of them afterward came near the bait. I was much amused and interested in the affair.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

A breeze has sprung up and we are being borne along in a right course so nothing is now talked of but our arrival in Cape Town and we hope to reach there Saturday. I have begun a letter for you dear Mother today. But the motion is so severe I cannot write for first I am pitched one way and then another notwithstanding all my efforts to keep still. And every now and then one thing and another "fetches away" as the Sailor's term it all about me. Samuel had to stand up against the stomachitis? Tonight at tea for he could not keep his seat. My head began to ache again.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

We are rapidly approaching the port. Last night had a most uncomfortable time. The vessel plunged and rolled greatly. Some of the time our berth was in the position of an inclined plane (5.4.40) and required a strong hold to keep from pitching out. I slept but little and got up once and tried my easy chair for awhile. My head ached and altogether I had a sad time of it. We could not help laughing, however, to hear the things "fetching away." Books, boxes, baskets and other things strewn on the floor. Today my head pains me and I have not been able to write before. This morning busied and amused myself making ____tes flowers in wire. The little bouquet was quite admired springing so

suddenly into existence. Barbat the native girl was delighted. And pleased ___ was begged as usual when she sees anything new.

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

To day all are busy getting ready for shore. Our ship has been nicely painted over the outside. The mast deck and all in good order. The Sailors are in fine spirits. And so we all are. We have now been out 86 days. About noon, the cry sounded on deck "Land ho." I went on deck and by the aid of Captain's spy glass and my own imagination I saw something resembling land, a high mount. This is no doubt Table Mount and is on the south coast of Africa. About four o'clock I again went on deck and the land was so near that sand on the shore was visible. I never had such peculiar feelings as when seeing for the first time after 86 days at sea land in full view. I was delighted and wanted to gaze all the time. But we were fast reaching port. So I hurried down to pack my trunk for shore. After this was done, I again went on deck. It was after tea. The sun was setting in golden beauty, the moon rose full and clear over the harbor and we were sailing beautifully along. We had passed the Devil's Point and came aside of Lion's Head as if to guard the harbor a huge mountain lion is crouched. Table Mount was fast being covered with huge masses of white clouds which rolled over the top and came down the side. These clouds are called the Devils Table Cloth and when this is on top of the mount they say no vessel can enter for then a furious gale blows. We were now in view of the Lion's whole body. For first his head is only seen. It is quite a high mountain from one to one and a half miles long. All along its side beautiful white cottages are placed surrounded by trees and shrubs, presenting a most beautiful appearance.

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We were all delighted. This part of the suburlie (?) is called Green Point and is about 2 miles from Cape Town. We could not see the city till we had passed the point opposite the Lion's rump. The clouds on the mount grew thicker and thicker and whiter and resembled immense masses of pure snow. We hoped however to reach harbor before the gale came on.

In this we were disappointed for as we reached the Point the gale blew furiously and we were in great danger of being blown on the rocks. At one time we were blown in full view of Cape Town. And there we were obliged to blow back to the Lion.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

We have again tried to reach harbor but the wind is so violent we were obliged to head out to sea where it is a perfect calm. But in front of the mountain the gale is furious. A large ship in sight is laboring hard against the wind. No prospect of reaching Cape Town today. Mr. Wade preached in the cabin. My head ached so severely I was obliged to remain in my berth. I lay till afternoon when feeling better and went on deck and found we were further from land than before. It is trying to be near shore and not able to set foot or have any one come to us from the land.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21

This morning we came in nearer the harbor. The white cloud is of the mount, but the wind is nearly all gone and the current drifting us towards the breakers. Captain feared he would have to let go anchor. But a favorable breeze sprung up and at 12 o'clock we anchored in the harbor a mile and a half from shore, in full view of Cape Town. This place as viewed from here strikes me oddly with its low thatched houses and quite three sides surrounded by

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mountains. I have been charmed with the view as we came into harbor. The bold high cliffs. The pretty village on the Lion's side and Cape Town with its rocky mountains side. Samuel and the other gentlemen have gone ashore to procure boarding places for us. I have felt very sad and homesick since we anchored for I feel more forcibly than before that home is far distant and I am going to a land of strangers.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

The gentlemen found board for us in a private boarding house. All our Assembly and Mr. and Mrs. Wade are to be accommodated at one house. The rest at a little distance from us. Board is high in this private house. We have to pay nearly a dollar, or four English

shillings each. We left the ship about 10 o'clock. The Capt. taking five of us ladies in his own boat. As we stepped on shore we were surrounded with "coolies" who wanted to carry the travelling bags. These were marlays (?) with a red cloth on their heads. We thought, as our principal baggage had been left behind, we should not have to stop at the Custom House. But the Coolies would not go without so we all proceeded into the office. Capt. told that we were missionaries and they allowed the baggage go on unopened. Our boarding place is in a very pleasant street. The landlady, an English woman, received us, and offered us wine & bread & butter. The latter I relished greatly, it was so homelike. The wine I did not take tho it is the pure piece of the grape. My room is large and airy with a large window. The house is built, as nearly all are in Dutch style only two stories high.

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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

I have been [paper torn] today. Could not sleep at all [paper torn] of the fleas. I was bitten unmercifully [paper torn] if I had the small pox. Samuel had [paper torn] place is to be found where they are now [paper torn]

_____ are intolerable. We for our co [paper torn]

Told the whole place is equally infested! [paper torn]

Cape Town is renowned for its superior quality of fleas. Oh dear what shall I do to be feasted upon for 10 days. Our table is well supplied and the change of food is delightful. The fresh oranges are delicious. Took a stroll this eve with Samuel and Aunt Cutter and find we are objects of great curiosity as American ladies. So few have ever been here.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

Slept some last night but the fleas are bad enough. Notwithstanding we took the precaution to perfume ourselves with the essence of pennyroyal. Have been busy all day. Aunt Cutter and myself went a shopping in the morning and took Burbang with us. Nearly all the people speak what they call the Dutch language. But is truly a mixture of Dutch, Hottentol, Bechema, and other native sounds. We were recognized everywhere as

Americans, and were gazed at accordingly. We had some amusement in our ignorance of the English coin which we used, as our American gold is at discount. I bought worsted knitting, cottons to use on the voyage. We were treated with great respect wherever we went. I was often amused while in the shop to hear four or five fat Dutch women chatting in their jargon language about some gay colored calico. We returned home about dinner time a little before 3 o'clock.

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In the afternoon Miss Thompson, sister of the missionary, Rev. Mr. Thompson late from Madras called upon us. She is from England having been here about four months. He is now agent for the _____ Mission. Rev. Mr. Morgan of the ________ Kirk also called and Rev. Dr. Adamson and several other clergymen.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

Today have taken a ride about Cape Town and a few miles in the Country. The Country is indeed delightful. We passed fine estates houses all built in the Dutch style and in the country from the Mansion to the Cottage universally thatched. The houses look very pretty standing at a distance from the road with avenues of English oak and hedges of roses leading up to them. We found the Cullen growing wild by the road sides and in the fields the different species of geranium in full blossom. It is one of the most romantic and delightful places I have seen. The tall Table Mount with its rocky side – The crouched lion covered with verdure. The harbor with its many ships and distant mountain shore, present a scene of great beauty and grandeur. We got out of the cart to gather wild flowers as they grew by the roadside and we formed in our bouquet – the rose, geranium and a variety of other kinds of _____ as we have in our hot houses and is as full perfection as those that are reared so carefully. The Calla was as common as our Dandylion and in front of a low native house in front of a ditch its pure white blossom would put forth as if to shame the filth and impurity around.

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[Sadly, the rest of the journal is missing!]

GAME OF GRACES - Opponents send gaily beribboned hoops whirling towards each other to be caught on the tips of slender wands in this exciting and elegant outdoor game. The game of Graces was considered proper and beneficial exercise for young ladies in the early 1800's, and it was proper as well for boys to join in the game as a "lark.