

1851 -

Howard -

Sept. 17th - Early this morning about 4 o'clock I was
awakened from a sound sleep by Skiff's
sitting on my bed, looking somewhat pale
from the effects of too much (I don't know
how long before at a Texas dinner given to
Chadrough & Co. by the Indian. He came
with the unexpected intelligence that the
S. S. were to proceed to take them to embark
with as much despatch as possible for
the Cape of Good Hope. We were all some-
what taken by surprise at this sudden
order, especially so there were at the
time two Regiments the 1st & 2nd before
us for Foreign Service - but Skiff ~~was~~
Lt. Inf. were chosen for this service.
All the calculations were about as to Pro-
visions &c. for the men were the opinion
as to the probability of taking, going out
in brown work - this he soon made at
his service not to do - and at the same
time Fraser withdrew his name for purchase
and Skiff who had only been a
Regt. for a few months. purchased the
sailing and therefore goes out to command

2
the night. - Lambert also tells us - Sept. 19th.
The morning marched for Glasgow, where
the following day we put back for Glasgow
company. and on the Monday arrived
at Fife - having halted Thursday at Fife.
On Saturday evening I dined with some old
friends Mr. Mr. Dundas (Dundas Street) with
whom I became acquainted at the Falls of
Foyers in 1833 - I had met them and
lived there at home - long was the
chat we had of old times and by good
hours - she was as well as ever - and
her daughter was when I first knew
her was a little child just out of the
nursery - had grown up with a shape
of a young lady - but handsome face.
On arriving at Fife I stayed in the house
of the old and had a pleasant visit. Dundas
and some friends were by the office of the
former night. Both in fact showed me the
greatest possible civility and hospitality.
making us members of their dinner which was
unusually as we had no one else there.

3
the letters are an establishment of no more
for probably a short time only - It was very
interesting how soon the "Indian" steamer
brought her coming from Patna to Fife - but
the Dundas people had order to get her ready
for her with all possible despatch - But
the last government arrangements of this
last day took business much time to come
about as the Dundas people would have
done. The delay however was satisfactory
arrangements as it gave us ample time
to make preparations for the day and
day as a certain number of us were going
in a campaign against the traffic - Dundas
has been back Patna - from there was in the
night to a considerable number - but of the
former day for - (old) Americans & English
Merchants and the order of the day - but I
contented myself with a box of my good
length I travelled and a small number
are for the Patna - I purchased a Westing
ship from Glasgow - and had
some applications filed to my brother
in - which may eventually prove of use
when in the field - I also had a small

Petroleum just manufactured everything only
 12th. Which your business persons who know
 South Africa well. I am informed with the
 almost invaluable.

The Police was at last reported as having arrived
 in Lussington Harbour. Daily had our letter on
 the best out for him - and long morning was then
 done. Consulted as to his movements. She was
 nearly a week between Port. and the Hook - certainly
 a full year the West was blowing all the time.
 But we were sure she must be a terrible ship
 to have taken so long to go so short a distance.

This morning we walked down to the Quay and
 got on board the River Steamer for the purpose
 of going down the river for embarkation under
 the command of Shipworth. A Party consisted
 of 25 Officers, his etc. Major Fraser remained in
 command of the Depot - Poor old fellow - he was
 very much out of it at our leaving - as he was
 unable to see the Post again while he is in
 the service. The parting from them was highly
 felt by him - owing to his past command of
 them - a position to which he had been promoted
 for years. But owing to family matters he has
 determined not to throw away his money in

Oct. 10th

purchase - and thought it advisable not to
 risk any thing in a country like Kaffriland.
 In coming alongside of the steamer we found
 every thing in a most beautiful state of
 confusion - Part of our baggage which had
 been sent for embarkation the previous day
 was lying in the Wharf at Haulbolan - and
 the decks of the steamer were covered with dirt for
 good dust - for the charming operation of cooling
 and taking in water was no longer - then
 arrangements made by Col. Rensselaer the
 D. G. at Cape were most insignificant. Instead
 of that a board the lieutenant the ship arrived
 we ought to have remained at Cape till
 she was reported perfectly ready for service
 and all our baggage well stowed away.
 Had this been done, a fearful confusion
 and much annoyance to every body might
 have been avoided - but the cause for getting
 of this sort and looked for a certain
 amount of praise for his celebrity in causing
 us to be embarked in so short a time -
 owing to the above causes we had to remain
 in Harbour for two days. And did not sail
 till Sunday the 12th. We steamed out of

12th Oct.

Quarantine Station in good style being shared
by the various Indians as our friends. There were
also returned by post and with by our own hand.
It was some days before we could settle into our
places - we wonder where the considerable number
were crowded mustering over 1000 persons on
board of all kinds - The cabins were tolerably
comfortable, accommodating two persons each - In
fact I have my dinner subscription provided
as a companion - He had stowed himself
away the day before we arrived - having been
on the baggage forward - and imagined his
dinner had been a good one - He was very
sorry however, as events proved - for being
close to the boiler of the engine his heat was
insufferable - and many days while
steaming in the Gulf the thermometer was
constantly up to 94°. He had a large Port
in it certainly - but if ever there happened to
be anything like a ^{fire} we were forced to have
it closed for fear of being washed out of our
berths - and when open in the morning at
daylight when the ladies were changing their
dresses all the dirty water, or at least a very
great quantity, poured through some scupper

immediately over us. And described him
in fulling water - However one does not seem
to have to be comfortable -
The first week or two days of our voyage
were most watched - With only two exceptions
we were all sick and ill - I and Dr. ~~and~~
~~the~~ ^{the} ~~unpleasant~~ ^{unpleasant} ~~our~~ ^{our} ~~business~~ ^{business} was the fact that
our servants were especially watched and in
consequence perfectly useless - All was dis-
comfort - but Mrs. Row was so comfortable
with her and barrels of Provision so that
she had scarcely room to sit down to dinner
and told me not and drinks a certain
amount. There was no hope of improvement
as the store room appropriated to our crew
was as full as it could hold. However as
time wore on, things improved. And
soon we became as comfortable as our
circumstances would admit - But that
is not the place for a solution -
The Commodore had order to steam as much
as possible, to call anywhere he chose for coal
and to put complete his voyage in as short
time as possible - His former trip to the Cape
with the 74th caused much dissatisfaction to
the Admiralty as he was eight weeks on the voyage

2.
At that time he certainly would not let the Cooks
having sacks all the way with the exception
of a few days when crossing the line.

Going to the above mentioned the Commander deter- 5 P.M.
mined to put into Surinam. This announcement
was something but agreeable to the greater number of
us. We seemed somewhat nervous about entering
a port that has for years been considered the great
ground of Europeans - more especially as our
recognition on board was very great. and should
from our home make its appearance heaven
only knows what would have been the result.

The Commander was expected to lay over Medway
and the Lord of the subject. and he was
strongly urged to put into Surinam instead.
It was of no use and we passed this Island
with long eyes for many years. In the
evening of the 5th we anchored in the harbour
of Surinam about 11 o'clock. In about a
quarter of an hour after dropping the anchor
some officers belonging to a ship employed on
the coast came to supper the slave trade. Among
us board. They were immediately surrounded
by a crowd all anxious to hear the news
of what had occurred at the Cape. A few
little scraps of a tidings. What I really think

9
believed what he told us, said that we had
been defeated ~~at the~~ by the Kaffirs and we
said of officers to be killed and wounded.
I really forgot the numbers he mentioned - but
I know well enough it hit us all as the gun
bois - and many were the expressions of
delight at the chance of really having something
to do: as we supposed that the Kaffirs after
obtaining a victory over our ships would at
length gain more confidence and give us
a meeting in the open. However the following
day when we landed and got a look at the
last papers from the Cape we found that there
was little or no foundation for the reports in
question, and nothing very startling on either
side had occurred.

Chas. I was agreeably surprised at the sight
of Surinam. On going on deck we the through
the town off our shore to us. The houses looking
extremely but really very pretty. The street
built at right angles to the river. The houses
of various colors - red and yellow predominating
and instead of pavement or as one might
have expected a kind of gravel road, the
streets were covered with grass of a sort

brilliant green - We soon landed to get an
even view - and were surrounded passively
at all on land - The naked blacks of various
tribes ~~addresses~~ afforded laughter for many
hours of time - ^{were} standing about in the path of
nature, and many of the girls with no covering
save a string of beads over a certain part -
on the principle I suppose of native modesty -
We went straight to the Baugunda fort which
is situated at the top of a hill at the back
of the town - They were surrounded by two camps
of the 1st & 2nd West India Regt - the 1st Brigade of
Cavalry was then to be seen - the fort was
a capital account of the place, and such
it was not by any means so bad as represented
in England - but many were disinclined
to see it - but through our and attention
they could see through very well - He was
himself certainly an exemplification of his
rule - having been in the country five years or
more - and said he was as well as ever
although he had just returned from a

month's leave - The Colonel & myself dined
with him in the evening at the house of the
West India Regt - It was rather a comfortable
assembly - and I must say most of the
men looked somewhat the worse for wear -
and this was due to the state of being a
little dried up - So he wanted as long a list
of letters was something new - and there
was a great deal of improving their letters & at the
table was perhaps somewhat against the
Indians when - all this was passing -
We strolled down to the river and
were down on board - Left day to be a mile
with the ~~Lawson~~ - Stephen & ~~Pringle~~ - a command
the River - where they have been some
years I think - there through two or three
potentest villages - I think that the best
best reasoning was the scenery - The
River as they are called are the smallest
I ever saw - having the narrow - they are
more than about 10 yards high - but the
water they do is admirable for navigation
account - Capt. Smith I also met, being
being quartered in the place - When I had met

here he was with his son. Right the 17th son
 (Horned). Poor fellow, he seemed anything
 but happy - from family affairs -

We took them down to complete our landing
 and took in a fresh supply of water. I think
 I never shall forget the discomfort of the vessel
 during this operation - the heat - the noise
 around us by the Indians who were working
 the boat - all combined to the place it
 made. We should have been longer on
 than this, but there was no time for it -
 nearly two ships laden with goods they began
 to move on. They were gradually moved along
 and there was little difficulty in transferring
 the coal from them to us.

I think I never saw such splendid men
 as the Chinese in all my life - every one
 of them ought to have served as a model for
 our sailors - they looked like bronze
 statues unbound with life - their muscles
 stood out in a wonderful manner &
 being perfectly naked, except generally a
 small bit and very small patch of cloth
 round the loins, there was nothing to know of

them appearing to perfection - They walked
 seriously back and as one party
 tired they were surrounded by another -
 this went on all night - so there were
 little sleep for us, as they kept up a
 sort of chorus all the time they were
 working -

24th Nov. Since leaving Sierra Leone we have pursued
 a good steady course to the southward for
 westward ~~and~~ sailing and steaming
 in together - So far for the first time since
 we left Cape we have a right good breeze
 dead aft. blowing us along at the rate of
 between 9 and ten knots - This has put every body
 in good humor -

25th Nov. Nothing of note has occurred since I last
 wrote anything - Fair & good winds have
 fresh us on our way - We are to day making
 130 knots and fully expect to be in Sierra
 Leone about 8 o'clock in the morning - Thanks
 however our voyage is nearly ended, for
 every one is heartily sick of a sea voyage -
 especially as our stock has all been
 consumed for the last few days and we
 have been obliged to draw the ration of

two officers from the time of starting - to 1851 -
find us - and brightly from finding it in.
Salt junk and fish may be tolerably well
for a day or so. but for a continuous
season deliver me from such a punishment.

In crossing the line was not
celebrated as is usual on board ship
no better whatever was taken of the event.
The sea food not improving us with a visit.
I was by no means sorry for this - as I
had a decided aversion to being showed
with a tin lunch and in haste.

Two unfortunate women died on board -
their deaths resulted from the excessive
heat and want of proper ventilation
in their room - a few days after their
burialment - Mrs. St. Saunders opinion
been attended to, they never would have
been allowed to embark with the Regt.
but El. Pennington insisted on their
proceeding with the Regiment - and the

result was a shock - For Captain
they were tossed overboard with a Captain
of Vessel shot back to the feet - ^{Captain} -
and Robert officiating as Harbour master.
The melancholy occasion -

22nd The morning about breakfast time we
arrived at Lewis Bay, and anchored about
half a mile from the shore - and then
directly commenced operations looking for
to continue on day after - I landed and
got a look at the shore.

23rd All our heavy baggage together with the stores of
the women of the Regt were this day disembarked.
The former to be left in store here - and the latter
to proceed immediately to Cape Town to reside in
Providence, where it appears there are already
the women of several other Regts. The ship then
left for Cape Town this morning with the order
for us to go on board to Buffalo mouth where
we are to disembark and march on to King
Williams Town the Head Quarters of the Navy
South - and expect days we are to be attached
to the division - We landed with the heavy

and one over as well for it seems that paper 11 Dec.
 are always worn in the frontier with my bag, 1851-
 Rules - Several boxes were embarked to day
 having been purchased at Cape Town by some
 of our people - the gun has been thoroughly
 lately - for an amount that is worth to 10. to
 one will take less than to 25 - I tried to get
 one here but was disappointed - and must
 get from my gunshop told I cannot as they
 frontier - We all have that provision to
 anything is dear beyond conception at the
 cost of War - so we have had in a stock
 of Tea, sugar, Brandy &c - My hat I have
 reduced to a small compass - I saw Patman
 today with his horse and sufficient for my
 clothes &c - In addition I have a kind of
 bed made of the cushions of my own chair
 which with a small Patrol I am to be
 packed in a canvas bag - Near with
 a bundle of brushes in constant use
 couldly good for the frontier -
 for this last three days it has been blowing
 with force so that it is impossible for us to
 leave the Harbour - We are perfectly ready for
 war, and any wind, about a fair wind

London Town is a wretched place, supported en-
 tirely by the ships of the Navy and a few
 merchant men who come into it - The conse-
 quence is that everything is bad and of an
 inferior description - There are about two
 boats only for landing people so that it is an
 perfect monopoly - and the vessels charge
 what they please for landing one - and if
 it blows hard they do not come for hours before
 they will leave the shore -
 The Commodore Admiral Wyndham has been
 very kind and has done everything he could
 for our accommodation, especially as regards
 embarking the horses -
 We took in all our camp equipment on the shore
 of Duto, (camp kitchen &c - so that we are regular
 in our work - and what is something to the
 purpose we have secured an advance of
 Field Allowance for six months, which you
 see is a capital somewhere about £23 which
 is acceptable to give me an outfit -
 13th Dec. This evening although it was blowing very hard
 in the Wind. The Commodore ordered our ships
 out of Harbour, and we started with an
 armed deck ahead - However when we were
 well clear of the land we found the wind

to have been lost - and although what
arrived there was, was against our state.
we got in well enough with all the bidens
at work.

About 12 o'clock this morning we arrived off
Buffalo river, where such our baggage - then
previous morning we had anchored in the
bay. for the purpose of disembarking Capt. Stanley
and his detachment at Fort Tifft.

As soon as we anchored a small boat was sent
from shore and succeeded in taking only
part of one of the Captains. and for the fol-
lowing morning we again were at work
and by the evening the whole fleet had landed
with our light baggage and horses - On this
part of the boat, nothing could be done without
the help of boats - for the landing without them
is always attended with great danger. And
too only occasionally even that there can be
made efforts - for a whole fortnight previous
to our arrival. The sea had been so high &
the surf was in consequence so heavy that
no boat could put off - so we may be con-
sidered as having been tolerably lucky - My
Company was the first that landed on the

1851 -
Dec. 13th

16th

Morning of the 17th. We started instantly to
our camping ground close to the dense forest
and in very few minutes I got my Company
and my own tent pitched - I went to the
River - and really got a capital dinner for
such a new settlement - for the Town called
East London has only been built very few years
and the various Kaffir wars which have con-
stantly taken place have put a stop to its
advancement. Particularly on the Buffalo
river on which it is built divides the Colony
from Kaffir land - We succeeded in purchasing
some cups of sugar. I got a Pang from an
officer of the 73^d. a Mr. Vincent who was an doctor
came there for £20. Certainly in England
I should not have given more than half that
sum for him - but everything is at low prices.
Bottled Ale 2/- and 3/6 - for bottles hold do -
and Brandy scarcely to be got.

18th This morning started to Fort Gray - then
last evening and in the morning
done up, lots of Kaffirs. friendly to us at
present - and belonging to Simbhallan and
Patos tribes were to be seen along the road.

telling with to the men - They seem very
 fine powerful men - but owing to their
 perfect nakedness they seem ~~very~~ larger
 and more enormous than they are in reality.
 The country through which we travelled was
 very beautiful - and resembled very much
 a gentlemen's Park, with the exception that
 the trees are all very small - There were
 clumps in every direction and there were
 large open spaces covered with grass with
 occasional low and slender interpenetrant
 tall ones. Every time we halted along the
 road when the men wished to get water
 they were always accompanied by some
 armed party for their protection - and to
 guard against treachery, for his dependence
 is in the hand of the savages - They are
 an ugly race - and most indolent ac-
 cording to our notions - Most savages have some
 thing to cover them, but these have nothing
 as nature made them except - - -
 Marched to Fort Pat. as named after 19th
 the Kaffir Chief - and on the following

day we halted at Fort Murray a long march
 and somewhat fatiguing - halting however
 for two hours on the road was of great benefit.
 We arrived here after 60th miles with long marches
 came to welcome us to this infernal country -
 Capt. Selous & Fitzgerald - They brought us some
 vegetation to devour for the following day.
 The nations which are desert out daily from
 Capetown - certainly there must be a better
 more palatable sight to some extent less tough
 than the food of the 1st of the desert - and
 certain quantity of rice - together with tea or
 coffee, sugar, soap and tobacco, so that men
 can live on our nations after a fashion -
 It is raining and our new tents are not
 proof to the weather - I hope I shall not be
 washed out - but the weather is raining through
 every part -
 2nd Marched this morning into King Williams Town
 the head quarter of the Governor Sir Harry Smith.
 The force stationed in the camp is at
 present but small as the principal part
 of the troops comprising this division of the army
 is at present beyond the river Kei engaged
 against the Kaffirs - We found here detached

of the 12th Jan'y. The 2nd & 6th 60th Rifles
73rd ~~and~~ a lot of Sappers some Artillery
a lot of various Colonial Levies and Fuzes.
Our Camp had been laid out by the 60th of
the 60th and we were but a short time getting
our tents pitched. This accomplished, the main
part breakfast: supplied to them by their old
Comrades of the 60th and the Officer adjutant
to the 60th of the Officer where they were
received & in the most hospitable manner.
Kani Williams Town is a miserable little
village - The inhabitants are patterning on
the Military - Everything is at war prices.
Provisions dreadfully dear, and as for other
things they have risen about 200 per cent.
The difficulty we have experienced in pro-
curing the necessary articles for the 60th has
been something extraordinary - There is but one
saddler in the place - and he charges just
what he pleases, as he knows we have but
the alternative of going without things when
we employ him - Had we known the station
of affairs we might have laid in our
requisite at Cape Town, which would have

20th Dec^r 1857. - I have a world of property and am
 1857. - a miserable deal of money - I have purchased
 another horse for £15 - then I have expended
 £35. in horse flesh - for a couple of animals
 that may fetch when the time is over £20. perhaps
 but we must leave these things - I wanted
 very much to get down timber to make a
 stretcher for my bed for laying on the damp
 ground under our tent is anything but pleasant
 and for lack of money I could not get it
 and even for a small table for a Pottery tent
 I cannot get sufficient wood - In fact there
 is scarcely any in the place, and those persons
 who have it will not sell it at any price -
 The morning after our arrival we all paid
 a visit by to Sir Henry Smith. by his desire
 Sir John Astor, he made us a shunk, which
 from any one else would have been very
 complimentary - but as he says the same to
 every fleet on their arrival in his command
 we did not let much value on his compliments

For three days after our arrival it rained almost constantly - to the discomfort of our camp during such a time. I wish that I could say that it is disagreeable.

So day and in fact the last few days the
heat has been immense. I scarcely know
what is more - heat or not - but one
did not come here to be comfortable -
I have dined in my tent a few times over
my Rations - The meat of it can be collected
is like the tough heat of leather - and the
only chance of making it of use, is to stir
it for hours in a camp kettle and make
some kind of soup - Washed down with
a glass of hot brandy and water, and demands
in falling over self certainly - And this is
all - however, I have dined ^{at} the 6th
Mess - where one meets all kinds of Officers -
Warreny officers, only one of the 6th is there at
present but they have kept their Establishment
open for the convenience of Officers stationed
here - We intend setting up a scratch mess
ourselves. ~~for~~ We have succeeded in
hiring a house half built - containing
besides the three above four more - Rent \$30.
per month - four of the rooms will be occupied
by Officers and others are to pay \$2. per month each
This will come \$10 - to be defrayed by the Regt.
The rest is enormous - but what is to be done

28th Dec. The casual band the Commission to ask us \$1000
10th a month for a watched house - one ought
really to be made of money -
The order has been given for the Regt. Office to allow
this band's ~~some~~ teacher to grow up they ought
to be most necessary things in this country
as an immense number of our men have
been like wasted apples from the effects of the
dew and wind -
Several times lately the Kaffir Chiefs have sent
their emissaries to the foreman to ask what terms
he will give if they surrender - This answer
is nothing but an unconditional surrender
will please him - and that he will have nothing
else - It would seem by their talking of peace
at all, that are becoming tired of the war
but, when anything definite ^{can be} concluded -
a mystery - The war may last another year -
They have held out more than a year: then
24th of the month was the anniversary of the
breaking out of the war - The expectations beyond
the Regt, may be production of some changes -
At present there is no news from them -

30th Dec. Having received orders yesterday to prepare for over-
first Patrol. three companies of the 6th under Capt. ^{of which mine was one} [unclear]

together with butchers of the 12th Kansas, & Engineers
2nd Regt 1st Div. Cape Mounted Rifles a few Tagles
above and lower of Mountain Men - the whole resembles
the Government of St. Louis - making altogether an
army of about 500 or 600 men. situated about 20 miles
from the mouth of the river for the purpose of securing a number of
hundred horses containing provisions ~~and~~ for
Fort White and for other are supposed to be near about.
We had to travel through a part of the country which
and in part the whole distance is filled with timber
it was with us - the Indian extended over several
distances of a good English horse when the horses
were thereby slow - but occasionally that distance
was increased when the road was difficult to travel
over. We anticipated about 10 miles on the road
for the purpose of breakfasting and feeding when
the horses and cattle - all the officers rode and
the they had also a horse house each - on which was
provided one small Pottery Pot and a couple of
saddle bags containing linen & clothes, and
was there of the kind for our Company's use -
We were not long in lighting a fire - the men
having been obliged to collect dry wood as they
travelled for nearly a mile and half before
we came to our first halt, as water being sometimes
scarce in this country, one must be careful
as to the choice of a spot to encamp - but there
in this Pottery is a well suited to the work.

1451.
Dec 29.

The tent is made of Buck Cloth, something in the
shape of a shooting tent with lot of poles - a waist belt
and trousers of Fur or Leather - Pottery is our
kitchen, and a fine headed with hall, strong at
one saddle, ready for some apartment Kuffin, a very
fine idea. The government issued out to each officer
24 rounds of ammunition.

After about 3 hours halt we started again - to
look to pass through the celebrated deserts - there
some time since the Kuffin at the tent was made -
desert or party of soldiers proceeding to King Robinson
Town - another party of about 15 under the charge of an
Lieut. were sent out to bring in their dead horses, so
they should the same fate as their comrades - since
the last officer his shot has been considered as
very dangerous, and we had not, unless I to be
compulsed of ourselves as an attack might be made -
It is a kind of pass between the mountains (the
Buffalo Range) and is covered with low brush,
not very thick. My Company formed the right
flank Pottery - and remained in this order, with
on the look out till the whole column had
passed through. We saw a few Coppers at the edge
of the brush but not within range, although
the Cape Mounted Rifles galled us as we
could, and got a few shots without effect.

the rather amusing thing took place just after
my company rejoined the others - Capt. Milledge
73. who accompanied us as Dr. W. J. French found
as did several others that he saw a number of
Kaffirs some distance up a hill and he requested
permission for the lance to charge - This was
given and away they started full speed but
to his disgust he found his enemy consisted of
a flock of Siskin Mustards, who flew from him pretty
smart - nothing of consequence occurred on our
march and we arrived at Fort White about 4 o'clock
P.M. - Distance marched about 10 miles - extremely
hot - On this patrol the men carried only a goldfish
blanket and their dress their gun looking - We soon
pitched our tent and went into the long
building a dinner - The men looked themselves in
guilt - and I dropped myself to my blanket
and slept tolerably well as the heat proved -
disturbed occasionally by a horse rushing about
our camp, he having broken away from his picket -
Next morning we rode off at day break to Fort
Fox - distance 7 miles - in a most lovely country
surrounded by the mountains. There was an
detachment of the 10th here some 2 companies
under the command of a Major. One Officer had
been living here 4 years - and kindly told me
some of it - These forts are in most excellent
spots, and the inhabitants are more civilized

A few yards outside their walls - the perfect
improvement - for if they went half a mile
they would be surrounded and murdered
to a certainty. The Officer gave us breakfast & a
cure, which was a luxury after ~~the~~ going
through the last 3 miles of thick brush in storming
order, under the impression that we might be attacked.
The heat today was intense, I never suffered
so much from it - being in somewhat bad condition -
We started about 2 hours after breakfast back
to Fort White where we halted for the night &
early next morning marched for King Williams
River - I was on the rear guard - After we had
reached the settlement some of my men said
they saw a Kaffir at the edge of the bush I
made one or two of them fire - but they missed
him - and he returned on foot but without
effect - Some of Maitland's men who were in range
soon blazed a few shots into where they saw
the flash of the Kaffir's fire - with what result we
do not know - When about half way a violent
thunder storm commenced, with rain such as
I never saw in my life before, I was drenched
to the skin as was the whole of us - All night
the thunder kept up a terrible row - and the

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lightning was magnificent. I should have enjoyed
the splendour of the very much, but I was too busy to
at all. And having the continual fear of my
habitation being blown about my ears, or being disturbed
with rain as I lay on my back but on the ground.

3 Jan.

His morning was spent in the story of Major
Whitcomb's death (B. Whittington). He was one of the best
active commanders employed in the war. He was
wounded at Fort Pickett - and received his death when
in battle. His party under him were very much
some of his men; he was wounded, but his head
into one when he was immediately freed at his
animosity and was killed on the spot. In general order
to say his loss was deeply regretted by the frontier
and no man could have been spoken of with
higher terms of praise and admiration. He
was the only one of his party killed.

Another party under the command of Col. Shipman
was ordered off to day to escort prisoners for their
times under Col. Whittington's eyes beyond the river.
The escort consisted of 470 men of various regts and
series - 8 Comp. of the 43rd were amongst them, Grenadiers,
Buffs and Dragoons. They carried a Partisan with
them to be used in transporting the prisoners across the
river which is reported to be much swollen by the
late heavy rains.

Journal
commencing 1st 1851 -