

ADM101/39/2

The John Calvin

Surgeon: Mr. John William Brolas?

21st December 1847 to 23rd May 1848

Sir

I do myself the honor of reporting under the head of remarks for your information that I embarked on the 17th and 18th of January 18th 1848 at Kingstown, Ireland, from Grange Gorman Penitentiary one hundred and seventy one female adult prisoners- thirty three children of various ages belonging to the same, two female adult free settlers, one labourer and six children; all the prisoners had undergone previous to shipment six months imprisonment and many of them twice that period which had evidently impaired their general health and hindered their removal to a certain extent making the children who were allowed to accompany them through the voyage – as might have been expected were from neglect, the want of a proper and sufficient quantity of food, wasted and of sickly report with very few exceptions, the two both? Families of settlers embarked in excellent health and one of these, under the usual circumstances, the other had been permitted after passage having as was said given valuable information respecting the country riots which rendered his life and uncertain if not removed from his former associates.

The ship having been reported ready for sea and the preliminaries to the voyage closed with the government we set sail 24th January 1848 with an ample supply of good water and provisions including nautical items and that invaluable disinfecting fluid, the chloride of lime, without which vessel should be allowed to proceed to a low latitude, especially with female convicts; The prisoners embarked under most unfavourable(?) circumstance, the weather being cold, wet, and temperatures the thermometer averaging about 50 degrees Fahr. the first weeks run evidently altered our condition for the better and was strikingly manifest in the general aspect of my change although seasickness prevailed may(?) generally throughout, during the month and February and March and which the temperature was much increased and considerable additions were made to the sick list but only one case terminating fatally, the thermometer raised from 68 degrees to 85 degrees but one occasion only did the remarks(?) become very readily affected the mercury falling to 58.50(?) degrees immediately succeeded(?) by heavy rain. The weather in April and May was less uniform with variable winds rather an acquisition(?) to the sick list than otherwise, and disease allowed a more alarming character, one female prisoner died of protracted dysentery and three children sick(?) from convulsions twelve persons were sent to the Colonial Hospital mostly far advanced in convalescence, the rest of the convicts free settlers I am happy to say were discharged in better health than when embarked in Ireland and I hope with some moral improvement. I did not deem it necessary to touch at any intermediates(?) put(?) on my way not not(?) requiring any additional supplies, although many of the women and all the children from their weakly and delicate conditions another diet and permanent(?) stimulants.

I neglect to say I have had the opportunity of collecting specimens of natural history of any description here does an opportunity offer for my return to England from this. I have therefore

obtained His Excellency the name of a ship? a passage if possible Via Sydney, New South Wales, and have the honour to be sir your obedient and humble servant.

James William Broler