

Surgeon has shot 2 Albatrosses & as we have had almost a Calm they went out in the Boat for the first & the other was taken up by one of the Ship Boys (Geo.) at the Larbord side of the Ship in the water. The Surgeon got down in the Boat but was glad to get back on the Poop again. . . . The first Albatross measured 9 ft 3 in & the other 10 ft from tip to tip of the wing. The first the Captain said was not worth preserving, it was so small, he has seen them 13 ft. The second was beautifully spotted; they are about the size of a large Turkey; they have been busy skinning the Birds perhaps to cure.'

The death of Mary Gray a few days later is recorded by both men, but only Hilliard sees it as an occasion for an outburst (piously retracted at the end) against the scheme of things: 'Poor Mary Gray died this night at 11 o'Ck of Decline—Consumption! the curse of England, thou insatiable Demon! who can stay thy steps? No mortal efforts can arrest thy progress, or unfasten thy fatal grasp when thou had once seized thy victim, & why dost thou generally fix on the fairest & the gentlest of our race, & blast the opening flower just springing into Maturity. None but the Almighty in his Wisdom can know. Enough for us to feel "Whatever is, is right."'

Because of the serious loss of time resulting from protracted tossing about in the Bay of Biscay, Hilliard put considerable pressure on the Captain (copying his formal communications into his diary) to divert course and put in at the Cape of Good Hope for more provisions. The Captain agreed, and did in fact change course (at the same time requesting from Hilliard a 'more peremptory order' in writing), but then silently reverted to the original course during the night. Hilliard tried to make the best of it, restricting rations still further, but the effect on the emigrants was one of confusion and anger. With much discussion, noted by Greenwood, they wrote a letter of protest to the Surgeon about the reduced allowance of water, and 52 of them signed it. Hilliard, after first observing that this letter had 'scarcely a respectable signature to it' did in the end find two among them who had paid their passages, and sent for those two. Repressing whatever impulse he may have had to tell them that he had tried very hard to persuade the Captain to put in at the Cape, he said that he had acted as he believed for the best and if the emigrants were not satisfied 'they could have their remedy against the Owners by an action at Law on their arrival at New Zealand'. And the next day he observed that 'the Emigrants seem to be reconciled to the disappointment of not touching at the Cape'. For their part, however, the emigrants never really forgave Hilliard and henceforth their need for a scapegoat was centred on him.

There was a double, if temporary, clearing of the air the next Sunday when rain came down in torrents and the decks were strewn with every available container for collecting water. Perhaps it was this that made