

mud oysters on the beach; they are large and resemble the Stewart's Island oysters. Tired with the day's tramping, everybody returned to the ship in time for dinner at 6 p.m. The fishermen had again been most successful, having boatloads of fish, chiefly schnapper. After dinner a change came over the weather, the wind coming on to blow hard and the sky becoming overcast. We left at 8 p.m. for Ship's Cove, where we intended to anchor for the night. Immediately after leaving the harbor the wind struck us like a shot from a gun. How it did blow! The little craft rolled and pitched fearfully. Most of the passengers were in their berths, but sleep was impossible, and it took considerable manœuvring to keep from rolling out. I was stranded, sitting on the skylight and unable to reach my cabin on account of the sea washing over the deck. On entering the French Pass the sea was calmer, and at 3 a.m. we were anchored at Ship's Cove.

This place is interesting on account of Captain Cook having made use of it to overhaul his ships.

Next morning at 8:30 we left for Picton to witness the regatta. The wind blew a perfect gale, and the prospect of a day's enjoyment seemed very unpromising. We steamed through Queen Charlotte Sound, but, owing to the squally weather, the prospect did not afford the pleasure it would have

done had the weather been fine. We arrived in Picton Harbour about 11 a.m., passing H.M.S. Curacoa at anchor. It was quite a gala day in Picton, and the township looked very gay. The wind blew very strongly, and clouds of dust were swept everywhere. There was no escape. Some of the events had to be postponed, so the regatta was not so interesting as usual. Most of the passengers, however, enjoyed themselves in various ways, and, in spite of the weather, appeared to put in a pretty good time.

Shortly after midnight our steamer left Picton wharf for home. The weather was very rough, and, after a good pitching and tossing, we arrived at Wellington about 7 a.m. in a drenching rain. Everyone seemed pleased with the trip, which was really most enjoyable throughout, and all expressed themselves sorry that it was over, and so parted, hoping to meet again on the same boat next year. The captain, engineers, officers, crew, and stewards were most obliging, and did everything in their power for the comfort and enjoyment of their guests. The cook, too, contributed in no small way to the success of the trip, for the food supplied was excellent. As regards the passengers—the greatest harmony prevailed, and each seem determined not only to enjoy himself thoroughly but to do everything in his power to promote the general happiness.

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