

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ROBERT SHORTRIED ANDERSON

Section II

"It was said the 'Marchioness' would sail this afternoon Good Friday, and in case of missing my passage I hastened on board for good. There were only three or four passengers besides myself one of whom I was most intimately acquainted with all the time I was at N.Z. named Morris Croner - One german, and Mr. Campbell - My friend John Sutherland loaded me with all manner of luxuries to use on the passage - I found the 'Marchioness' a very different vessel from the 'Ariel'. she was remarkably clean, splendid and extensive accommodation and most excellent provisions served out - Captain Kreft is the sole owner of her, she was a splendid clipper of about two hundred tons burden and the fastest schooner out of Australia - . . . After all the vessel will not leave till 4 p.m. o'clock tomorrow morning. After tea on board I proceeded ashore and had one last farewell stroll through Wellington and embarked again at eight o'clock . . ."

"Saturday 11th April 1857. At four this morning I was on deck. We fired a gun, and weighed anchor. A fine breeze sprung up. As we were rounding Point Halsewell Seargent Styles met us in his boat. The "prefect of police" boarded us, and commenced a search through every part of the vessel with a drawn sword. He took away with him one of our three passengers Mr Campbell, because he had not given notice to the Customs of his intended departure from the Province. Every one leaving Wellington must give forty eight hours notice, and they have their names written on a board for the benefit of the public, many leaving the colony in debt.¹ This is done with a view of preventing it - We kept tacking with a head wind down the channel, and reached the heads of Port Nicholson about ten o'clock where the pilot boarded us, bringing with him the passenger Seargent Styles took away. Mr Campbell and his captor, roused the Superintendent out of bed and an explanation took place. He got permission to depart, he was furnished with a horse, and had a desperate race to reach the heads . . . and was just in time - the unfortunate man had [been] obliged to leave his box ashore containing all his tools, he was a saddler and had been engaged for twelve months to a man in Melbourne, and was in a terrible state about his chest . . ."

13th. The weather being very violent ran for Queen Charlotte Sound which we reached about noon, came to anchor in a smooth bay. A party of us went ashore to have a days shooting among the hills - and returned with several fine birds. and a numerous variety of fish - . . ."

15th. At 1 pm, made sail with a fair wind, and before dusk we saw the last of New Zealand . . ."