

Transcriber – James Canney, all rights reserved, copyright 2026.

Original material property of The National Archives – BT 98/4231.

Transcription of the Official Log book of the maiden voyage of the Josephine Willis 1855.

[Page 1]

[Printed seal of Naval Department]

Sanctioned by the Board of Trade, Nov. 1850. In pursuance of 13th & 14th Vict., c.93, s.85.

OFFICIAL LOG BOOK
KEPT DISTINCT FROM THE ORDINARY SHIPS LOG. - NO.3.
FOR
EITHER FOREIGN GOING OR HOME TRADE SHIPS.

Name of Ship.	No. and Date of Registry.	Port of Registry.	Burden.	Name of Master.	No. of his Certificate
<i>Josephine Willis</i>	<i>469/1854</i>	<i>London</i>	<i>786</i>	<i>Edw^d Canney</i>	<i>9389</i>

Date of Commencement of the Voyage – *Tenth October*

Nature of the Voyage or Employment – *New Zealand & India Trading Voyage*

Delivered to the Shipping Master of the Port of – *London* the *7th* day of *London* [sic] 1855

[Official receipt stamp of Gen. Register and Record Office of Seamen, dated Dec 13 1855]

[Page 2 & 3]

DIRECTIONS

The following are the Sections in the Mercantile Marine Act, 1850, relating to Official Log Books:-
[copper plate text not transcribed]

[Pages 4 to 7]

INDEX to the Entries relating to the Crew, and Report of Character.

No	1. List of Crew names at length.	2. No. of Register Ticket	3. Offences	4. Punishments	8. Ceasing to be a member of Crew	11. Ability in Seamanship	12. For Conduct
1	Henry Grey Ray	1 st Officer					
2	Robert Henry Lewis	2 nd Officer					
3	John Philpott	3 rd Officer				Very good	Very good
4	Thomas Atkinson	Carpenter				Very good	Very good
5	Henry White	Boatswain				Very good	Very good
6	Frank Needs	Steward				Very good [†]	Very good [†]
7	Robert Crick	Cook	Desertion Feb 9 th 1855	7 months goal	Deserted Feb 9 th 1855	Bad	Bad
8	W. Morley	Cuddy Servant				Very good [†]	Very good [†]
9	John Randall	Cooks Mate	Desertion Feb 9 th 1855	7 months goal	Deserted Feb 9 th 1855	Bad	Bad
10	Joseph Woodham	Butcher Cook				Middling	Indifferent
11	William Seymour*	Able Seaman	Refusing duty 25 th Jan 1855		Deserted [†]	Very bad	Bad
12	Henry Thornley	Able Seaman				Good	Good
13	Edward White	Able Seaman	Refusing duty 25 th Jan 1855		Deserted [†]	Indifferent	Bad
14	John Grindle	Able Seaman				Good	Good
15	John Trill	Able Seaman				Very good	Very Good
16	James Mess	Able Seaman	Refusing duty 25 th Jan 1855		Deserted [†]	Indifferent	Bad
17	John Shelly	Able Seaman	Desertion		Deserted	Very indifferent	Very bad
18	William Jones	Able Seaman	Refusing duty 25 th Jan 1855		In goal for refusing duty	Indifferent	Bad
19	John MacPhee	Able Seaman	Refusing duty 25 th Jan 1855		In goal for refusing duty	Indifferent	Good

No	1. List of Crew names at length.	2. No. of Register Ticket	3. Offences	4. Punishments	8. Ceasing to be a member of Crew	11. Ability in Seamanship	12. For Conduct
20	Alvan Vass	Able Seaman				Good	Good
21	James Cobin	Able Seaman				Good†	Good†
22	Edward Good	Able Seaman	Desertion Feb 12 th 1855		Deserted	Indifferent	Bad
23	John Arnott	Able Seaman	Desertion Feb 26 th 1855			Good	Bad
24	William Brevender	Able Seaman	Desertion Feb 26 th 1855			Indifferent	Bad
25	Henry Smart	Able Seaman				Good	Good
26	William Ormond	Able Seaman				Good	Good
27	William Hill Smith	Able Seaman				Good	Good
28	James Durston	Able Seaman				Good	Good
29	Samuel Singleton	Surgeon	Died		Died in Hospital 21 st March	-	-
30	George Summers	Boy				Good	Good
31	Henry R Mohun	Midshipman				Good	Good
32	Ararat White	Carpenters Mate	Desertion Feb 9 th 1855			Very bad	Very bad
33	Alfred Haven	Ord' Seaman					Good
34	Robert Jameson*	Midshipman				Good	Good
35	Thomas W. Fossey	Apprentice	Deserted March 18 th 1855		Deserted	Bad	Bad
36	Henry Frankland	Apprentice	Deserted March 18 th 1855		Deserted 18 th March 1855	None	Bad
37	Alfred King	Apprentice				Indifferent	Good
38	William Waters	Apprentice				Good	Good

[*First name just initial in original.]

[† blank or unclear in Official Log, crew list used for info, BT 98/4321]

[N.B. - Behaviour and conduct lines very badly badly aligned between pages in original may contain errors as to whom refers in cols, 11. & 12.]

[Page 7 continued]

[bottom margin presumably written after the entries on page 8]

Monday 23rd Octr 1854 Off Lizard

Reported to me in the British Channel that the Dr and 1st Mate wished to buy Brandy from the Captain's Steward.

[Page 8]

Friday 10th November 1854 Lat 30.10 N Long 25.30 [?]

At about 6.30 PM Mr Joseph Brown came into the Cuddy and complained to the Captain of Mr Robert William Lewis 2nd Officer.

Monday 25th December 1854 Lat 43.10 S Long 43.15 E

Cook Robert Crick intoxicated challenging people to fight, not desisting when ordered Crick [?] not able to attend.

James Mess disorderly and insolent (shipped as able seaman) – requesting to be put in irons.

William Jones, shipped as able seaman, intoxicated disorderly – fighting making use of revolting and disgusting language hammering a twelve pound cannonade with his fist, swearing and making use of obscene language diametrically against the good order and discipline of the ship.

This statement has been read over to the said parties above named.

Signed Edward Canney Master, Samuel Singleton Surgeon, Henry Gray Ray Chief Offr

[left hand columns] Jones shipped as a native of London but in his mad drunken fit he openly attested he was a Yankee.

Seymour and Grindle fighting and quarrelling with a knife Seymours hand cut with the knife. EC

[Page 9]

Tuesday 26th Dec 1854 Lat 43.15 S Long 46.30 E

Robert Crick Cook off duty supposed to be from having been under the influence of drink on the previous day. The above has been read over to the Cook, Robert Crick

Signed Edward Canney, Samuel Singleton, Henry Gray Ray

Wednesday 27th Dec 1854 Lat 43.30 S Long [blank]

Robert Crick, Cook off duty for being drunk on 25th Dec 1854

The above has been read over to the Cook, Robert Crick

Signed Edward Canney, Samuel Singleton, Henry Gray Ray

Tuesday Jan 16th 1855 Lat 43.39 S Long 151.4 E

James Mess who shipped as an able seaman insolent to Mr Lewis 2nd Mate would not answer when called – commenced laughing and grinning at the officer of the watch. The said Mr Lewis being in charge

Signed Edwd Canney, RH Lewis

Friday Jan 19th 1855 Lat 39.00 S Long 162.00 E

Edward White seaman having been ordered to relieve the helm being his next turn refused to do so and went into the forecastle thereby refusing his duty. The said Edwd White has upon several occasions been insolent to the said Mr Lewis second officer making use of obscene disgusting and revolting language – in opposition to the good order and rules of the ship.

Signed Edward Canney Master, RH Lewis 2nd Officer

[Page 10]

Monday 22nd Jan 1854 [sic] At Sea Lat 40.51 S Long 166.15 E

John Shelly on being visited by Dr Singleton surgeon of the vessel – The said John Shelly, who has been in the sick list with few exceptions since the ship left England became very insolent on my threatening to report him to the captain, he swore and said he did not care about being reported. The said John Shelly will not use any exertion to get himself well, remaining in the forecastle in fine weather after being repeatedly ordered to come out.

The above has been duly read over to the offender. [Signed] Edwd Canney

[in left column] Signed. Samuel Singleton Surgeon, John Philpott 3rd Mate.

Wilful disobedience of orders

Thursday Jan 25th 1855 8pm Laying in New Plymouth open Roadstead

Discharging Cargo at 8PM ordered the hands to chalk for watches desiring an officer, man and boy to be in each watch of 2 hours duration. this five of the hands, viz, Jones, Mess, White, MacPhill and Seymour ABs refused to do thereby endangering the safety of the ship and lives of the passengers.

Signed

HG Ray Chief officer in charge

[left column signatures] John Philpott 3rd Mate, Sam Singleton Surgeon, RH Lewis 2nd Officer.

Friday Jan 26th 1855 4/30PM Laying in New Plymouth open Roadstead

While in the main hold I discover that a case of brandy was broached and upon enquiry found the culprits to be White and Seymour, William Smith ord [ordinary] seaman having seen then commit the act.

RH Lewis 2nd Officer, HG Ray Chief Officer

[Page 11]

Saturday Jan 27th 1855 5.30 AM Laying in New Plymouth Roadstead

Turned the hands out and commenced discharging, five of the hands viz Jones, Mess, Seymour, White and MacPhee, refused to work after assigning no reason for so doing, owing to these men refusing to do duty made but slow progress in discharging at 10 PM received orders from the Capt on shore to prepare for sea, got all ready, and commenced heaving in chain but found in consequence of the above men having knocked off that we could not purchase the anchor, the vessel eventually was got under weigh by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Class passengers and the rest of the crew and officers.

The particulars having been read over to the offending parties they remain for higher decision than my own under existing circumstances. Signed Edward Canney

Saml Singleton surgeon. Hgray Chief Offr. H Chas Webb Chief Cabin. Robert Turnbull, first class passenger, RHLewis 2nd Officer.

Ship valued at £17,000 Cargo at £20,000, the persons lives on board of more consequence than all.

[in left columns] a cask of vinegar [illegible] having been Broached [illegible] of spirits and spoiled up with a nail, several gallons deficient.

I had almost forgot to mention that 5 hands were sick and unable to perform there duty at the time these men [continues at top of next page]

[Page 12]

[top of page continues from last page] knocked off duty and behaved in such a mutinous manner at New Plymouth . EC

Sunday 28th Jan 1855 At sea off Kiahara

Jones, Mess, McPhee, Seymour, White still off duty. ~~doing no duty~~ [last crossed through].

Monday 29 Lat 36.05 S Long 172.30 E

The same five seamen doing no duty but trying to annoy them on duty.

Tuesday 30 off the Three Kings

The mutineers still off duty

Wednesday 31st off the Three Kings

The five seamen – Jones, Mess, McPhee Seymour and White off duty.

The watch below complain that in consequence of the above seamen making so much noise in the forecastle they are unable to get their necessary rest. The forecastle is more like a Pot House than anything else.

Signed HG Ray Chief officer, Samuel Singleton Surgeon

[Page 13]

Thursday Feb 1st 1855 Off the North Cape of New Zealand

The five mutineers continue still off duty singing and making a riotous noise molesting and interrupting the well disposed part of the ships crew.

Signed Edward Canney, HG Ray Chief officer, Samuel Singleton Surgeon

Friday 2nd 1855 Off Knuckle Point

Complaint made by the Chief Officer of the turbulence of the five mutineers interrupting and distracting the rest of the crew in the execution of there duty.

Signed Edward Canney, HG Ray Chief officer, Samuel Singleton Surgeon

Saturday 3rd 1855 Off Cavalli Isles

Mutineers still off duty smoking and enjoying themselves as if nothing was the matter.

Signed Edward Canney, HG Ray Chief officer, Samuel Singleton Surgeon

Sunday 4th 1855

The five men still off duty endeavouring to annoy the other men at work.

Monday 5th 1855

Anchored in Auckland when the five mutineers were taken into custody by the authorities

[Page 14]

Monday 5th Feb 185 Auckland

The five mutineers were taken into custody about 6.30PM when I minutely observed, Robert Crick Captain's Cook shake hands with the five men and said to the persons standing by the main hatch to cheer them. About three weeks or a month ago the said Robert Crick complained on the quarter deck that the crew were the most grumbling disagreeable set that ever went on board ship.

H Chas Webb Chief Cabin Passenger, Edward Canney Commander Ship Josephine Willis

The above has been duly read over to the defendant.

Wednesday 7th Feb 185 Auckland

9PM being the time appointed of putting out the lights in the fore-castle forward. The second Mate Mr Lewis ordered them to be put out but no attention paid to his order he very properly put the light out himself, afterwards I saw the light three times between 9 and 10 O'clock and heard John Kelly who has been sick and just recovered [continues next page]

[Page 15]

[continued from previous page] yelling and screeching like a wild cat in opposition to the order that there shall be no noise or singing after 9 o'clock at night – wilful disobedience of orders.

[Left hand columns against the above entry] The above has been duly read over to the defendant

Signed Edward Canney

Thursday 8th Feb 1855

Sent for Robert Crick the Cook and in consequence of his diabolical conduct inciting the mutineers to cheer going out of the ship according to his own unknown acknowledgement – he wished them to sing. And keeping the galley in a filthy state and not cooking the food in a proper manner disgraced [?] him and placed him as an ordinary seaman on board.

H Chas [?] Webb Chief Cabin Passenger, HG Ray Chief officer

[Page 16]

Sunday 11th Feb 1855 Auckland

Gave the following five seamen liberty to go on shore visit – Trill - Arnott – Bravender – Grindle and Good to return on board at sun set.

At 4 PM Good returned on board intoxicated sent him on shore to get sober.

Monday 12th Feb 1855

Good absent from the ship refused to go on board when ordered by the Captain.

[Page 17]

Friday 23rd Feb 1855 Auckland

4 PM James Cobin seaman obliged to be hoisted out of the hold drunk makes use of disgusting and obscene language – would not go forward when ordered by the Captain, told 2nd officer Mr Lewis to ex [expletive?] his ass. Signed Edwd Canney

9 PM James Cobin came aft for Gray when ordered to go forward – called the chief officer a Bugger and told the 2nd mate and captain to ex [expletive?] his ass – making an disreputable noise and destroying the peace of the ship having to be hoisted out of the hold. Strongly suspecting of embezzling ships cargo. Signed Edwd Canney

Sunday 25th Auckland

About 10 AM the following seamen had liberty to go on shore viz -
Trill, Thornley, Grindle, Arnott and Bravender – with liberty till sun set.

Monday 26th Auckland

The five seamen absent from the ship.

Tuesday 27th Auckland

The five seamen still absent from the ship.
Four of the seamen returned, one hand John Arnott absent.

[Page 18 & 19]

James Cobin	A.B.	Bilious Fever	Sick six days Oct 24 to Oct 30
Ararat White Carpenters Mate		Abscess in the side.	Sick two days Oct 26 to Oct 28
Alvan Vass	O.S.	Warts on perinaeum	Sick fourteen days Oct 28 to Nov 10
John Grindle	A.B.	Diarrhoea	Sick seven days Nov 4 to Nov 10
Alfred Haven	A.B.	Rheumatism in knee	Sick seven days Nov 4 to Nov 10
Alfred King	Boy	Debility	Sick seven days Nov 4 to Nov 10
John Trill	A.B.	Injury of the elbow joint.	Sick twenty five days Dec 17 1854 to Jan 10 1855
Alfred Haven	O.S.	Typhus Fever	Sick [blank] days Dec 17th 1854 to ?
James Mess	A.B.	Ulcer on Heal	Sick two days Dec 17 to Dec 18
John Shelly	A.B.	Stomach affection	Sick [blank] days Dec 18 1854 to ?
Frederick Young Midshipman		Neuralgia	Sick one day Dec 18th
Alvan Vass	A.B.	Abscess in groin	Sick three days Dec 28 to Dec 30

Edward Good	A.B.	Inflamed Testicles	Sick [blank] Days from Jan 1st '54 to ?
William Waters		Fell from mizzen stay.	Sick two days Jan 9 and 10 1854.
Apprentice			
W. Seymour	A.B.	Wound in hand, caused by taking knife away from Grindle the latter being intoxicated	Sick twenty three days from Dec 25th 1854 to Jan 16th 1854.
John Grindle	A.B.	Constipation	Sick four days Jan 13 to Jan 16 1854
J R Blaithwayte		Typhus Fever	14 Days. died Feb 3 1855 at 6a.m.
Passenger Steerage			

[Page 20]

Sunday Feb 25th 1855 Auckland New Zealand

Gave the following seamen liberty to go on shore viz Trill, Grindle, Bravender, Arnott and Thornley. At sunset sent the boat on shore to bring them off but they were not to be found. [Signed] HG Ray Chief Offr in charge

Monday Feb 26th 1855 Auckland New Zealand 11AM

The afore said men not returned on board to their duty.

Tuesday Feb 27th 1855 Auckland

A crate of gin hauled up out of the hold five bottles deficient, supposed to be plundered in the hold by James Cobin he having had to be hoisted out of the hold drunk.

[Page 21]

Sunday Feb 25 1855 Auckland

At 7.30 James Durston ordinary Seaman was sent on shore in charge of the gig to bring off the seaman from the shore with orders from the Chief Offr to return immediately, which he did not do, having been kept on shore by the Steward and 3rd Mate. Immediately he returned the Chief Offr gave him an unmerciful beating. Myself being absent from the ship. On Tuesday about 4 PM Henry Thornley, seaman, informed me the Boy was very ill from the beating he had received from the Chief Offr.

Dr enquired if the officer that inflicted such wounds on the boy was sober or not. said little more would have cost the boy his life.

Monday 26 Feb 1855 Auckland

The Boy Durston still laid up suffering much. [Signed] Edwd Canney

Tuesday 27th 1855 Auckland

The Boy Durston still laid up suffering much. [Signed] Edwd Canney

Wednesday 28th 1855 Auckland

The Boy Durston still laid up suffering for his back being black and blue. [Signed] Edwd Canney

Thursday 1st March 1855 Auckland

The Boy Durston still laid up [Signed] Edwd Canney

[Page 22]

Feb 28th 1855 Auckland

Rolling a cask, Alvan Vass desired the 2nd mate to assist in rolling. The 2nd mate declined doing so stating there were sufficient without his assistance. He sat down and said damned if he could do it. The 2nd officer then ordered him on deck, he refused to go, he jumped up and told the 2nd mate to ask his bloody ass upon which you asked him what he meant – he told me to go to hell, and a scuffle ensued when he bit me in the left breast and struck me in the left eye.

[Signed] Edward Canney Com. Ship Josephine Willis / R H Lewis 2nd officer.

March 2nd 1855 Auckland

The Boy Durston still laid up and suffering from the wounds inflicted by the chief officer. Eighteen inches of his back being quite black and blue according to his own account sent for a Dr from the shore who asserted he was better. [Signed] Edw Canney

Durston states the Chief Mate through [sic: threw] him off the Rail calling him a Bugger that the Dr was drunk and the chief mate very much excited.

[Page 23]

March 5th 1855 Auckland

Deserted from the ship John Shelly Seaman and John Arnott able seaman

March 11th 1855 Auckland

Deserted from the ship Will Bravender able seaman.

March 18th Auckland

Deserted from the ship Thomas W Fossey apprentice.

Theophilus Frankland apprentice.

March 20th Auckland

Alfred Haven, boy, flew in a desperate rage with the 2nd mate made use of horrible and disgusting language. [Signed] Edwd Canney

Chief officer wanted to leave the ship arguing the point with me because I was against his going on shore to see the Dr. [Signed] RH Lewis.

March 21st Auckland

Died in the hospital Dr Singleton the late surgeon of vessel. Disease Delirium Tremens.

March 26th Auckland

1st mate went on shore came on board the third day rigging very slack – required to be set up. [initials] EC

Coming through the Torres Straight

Cowen who shipped as an able seaman could not leave the head. [Signed] Edwd Canney

[Page 24]

April 27th Off Timor

Went on deck found everyone of the watch asleep but Mr Lewis the 2nd Mate. John Cowen having the look out.

May 2nd 1855 Lat 11.10 S Long 115.00 E

John Cowen who shipped as an able seaman entirely unfit for the duty of an able seaman, could not out the Top Gallant Stud sail before the sail. [Signed] Edwd Canney

May 14th 1855 Lat 8.30 S Long 83.30 E

Chief officer's watch upon deck. I was out from the poop enquiring if there was a good look out forward and received no reply when reaching/asking[?] Henry Smart seaman to go and look out which he refused to do by saying it was not his look out.

[In left margins] Wilful disobedience of orders

A few minutes after the wind being right aft ordered the lower stud8 sail to be bent and set when James Cobin began the curse and swear saying the stud8 sail was only untied yesterday being Sunday and it was a Bshame. [Signed] Edwd Canney

[In left margin] Insolence to 1st Mate.

[Page 25]

Thursday May 17th Lat 4.0 S Long 83.0 E At Sea

1.30AM Squally with rain hauled the main sail up J Cobin A.B when ordered by the 3rd officer to get up and go to work with the rest of the watch told him (the officer) to go to !BUGGERY!
[Signed] HG Ray / Edwd Canney / John Philoptt

Sunday May 20th Lat 3.0 S Long 83.04 E

Never heard any Bells strike from one bell to four. Went on deck and found 2nd mate [illegible] sitting on the fore part of the sky light in a sleeping position. Of course he denied being asleep knowing he never heard or saw me come on deck till I took hold of him. [Signed] Edwd Canney

June 3rd 1855 Off Bishops Collings Calcutta

Pilot anchored the ship with both anchors, left orders with the 1st mate to furl sails and moor the ship immediately after the sails were furled I observed the crew all standing about doing nothing.

[Left margin written sideways] I asked the 1st mate why he did not moor the ship in accordance with pilots orders he flew at me like a mad dog and said it was not a proper time to moor the ship till the ebb tide made. Shorthanded as we were 27 hands on board. [Signed] Edwd Canney

[Right columns overwritten sideways] He said Captain Chapman told him he had to bully me into doing my duty when I was an officer which I know is a great falsehood as I do not think he ever saw the Captain Chapman I sailed with as his officer. [Signed] Edwd Canney

[Page 26]

June 4th 1855 Calcutta

I told the 1st Mate he could leave the ship if he thought proper and take his friend the 2nd Mate with him as I [illegible] consider either of them any use to me.

June 6th

Calcutta

Joseph Woodham who had agreed to undertake the cooks place for the voyage told the captain the duty was too arduous and that he could do it no longer. Shipped another cook this day.

The 2nd mate Mr Lewis went in the hold, found William Ormond, seaman lying on the broad of his back on the cargo absent from his work, asked him what he was doing there and told him to go on with his work. He asked me what I wanted there if I was coming to fetch him, as I was coming up he gave a shovel full of ballast at me. [Signed] RH Lewis: Edwd Canney

June 16th 1855

Calcutta

Ordered the 1st Mate to stow the whole of the dead weight in the body of the ship, found he had been stowing sugar aft instead of having it for linseed. When spoken to said I told the Stevedores one thing and him another. I told him I had never spoken to the Stevedores. Appears quite confused about 3 or 4 in the afternoon.

The 2nd Mate Mr Lewis went in the hold and found Mr Ormond Seaman lying on the broad of his back on the cargo absent from his work. Asked him what he was doing there and told him to go on with his work. He asked me what I wanted there if I was coming to fetch him, as I was coming up he gave a shovel full of Ballast at me. [Signed] RH. Lewis 2nd Officer, Edwd Canney

June 16

Calcutta

Chief Offr wanted grog for the 2nd Mate before noon one reward for himself and same for the 2nd Mate. Officers of the ship have acquired Forecastle habits smoking and drinking common coal[?] haisean [sic] pipes all day and night. [Signed] E Canney

[Page 27]

June 17th 1885

Calcutta

Joseph Woodham neg duty to feed two Berkshire [or beautiful] pigs for 48 hours both died. [signed] Edwd Canney HG Ray Chief Offr £3-10-00 [Amount of any Fine or forfeiture inflicted]

1st Offr declared it was very hard for the crew to work - as they did not in other ships.

[left hand marginalia] Chief Offr smoking on the Poop at 10.30 AM all hands on deck. Told him I would not allow it - if he persisted in disobeying my orders to leave the ship. [signed] EC

June 24

do [Calcutta]

Cobin Seaman drunk - taken into custody 1st day absent

[left hand marginalia crossing whole page] The 1st mate was ordered to stow half the Buh? And Pals? on deck contrary to my orders he stowed all it below.

June 27

do [Calcutta]

Cobin Seaman brought on board by a policeman - and came aft to the Cuddy door to know from the Captn why he gave him in charge. I told him for getting drunk. He replied he would do no more duty on board and would not go home in the ship. Gave him 24 hours to consider about it. [signed] Edwd Canney Com^d / EG Ray Chief Offr / RH Lewis 2nd Officer

July 31st

off Sand Heads Calcutta

About 3.30 PM the clew[?] of the Mizzen Top Sail broke, clued[?] it up [?]. The ship being about to go on the other Tack. told the Chief Offr to bear hand with it as the ship was dull in tacking. Helped

Mt Ray from the poop and to my astonishment saw him smoking under the poop awning. The 2nd Mate at the same time serving out provisions. All hands on deck working ship. I told him it was no time to be smoking and that I did not allow smoking in working hours. He replied he had been up since 4 o'clock and was tired. Spoke to me like a mad man. I told him if he persisted in going against my rules and regulations I would dispense with his services altogether. [signed] Edw^d Canney

[Page 28]

15th Aug 1855 Thursday Lat 9.00 N Long 88.20 E at Sea

Frank Needs the Steward reported to me that the Cook was quite incompetent to perform his duty, having found the Galley in a filthy dirty state not a sauce-pan in it clean. Unless he improves very shortly shall be under the necessity of reducing his wages for incompetency for a considerable amount. [signed] Edw^d Canney / Frank Needs

Thursday 1855 Lat 7 N Long 90 E at Sea

Lewis 2nd Mate taking sail off the ship without orders said he had got four men laid up in his watch which is false there are but two men on the sick list Wallen [probably means George Walker or William Waters] & Grindle. Always chatty and talking about having so few men in his watch and the fact is he cannot manage a watch on duty with those he has so that more would be quite useless. [Signed] Edw^d Canney

[Page 29]

Thursday Lat 6.37 Long 90.06 at Sea

While working my lungs [?] the watch were standing arguing with each other about sending up the Main Top Gallt Studg sail booms, one appeared for sending it up one way and another the other. I did not know there was an officer on the Poop directing them. I saw them bending the boom on the wrong way. I ran out and bent the halyards the proper way when the Chief Mate began to take me to task to know why one way was not as good as another. I replied, I do not wish to be tasked by you, I have had more insolence & annoyance from you than I have ever had from any individual during 30 years at Sea - He said the 2nd Mate had abused me most shamefully, so that it must have been behind my back - as usual he wanted to go before the mast that always appears to be his wish. I told him he should not go but if he did not do his duty I would confine him to his cabin and dispense with his services altogether. [Signed] Edw^d Canney

His conduct was so bad in Calcutta there I told him to leave the ship and take his pot companion the 2nd Mate with him.

[Vertical Note:] This is not the first second or third time I have been interrupted in the execution of my duty by the 1st Mate. [Signed] Edw^d Canney

[Page 30]

Augt 22nd 1855 Lat 1.00 S Long 91.30 E 2 AM

Went upon deck, 2nd Mates watch, found him lying on or sitting down on the poop. Ship going back- up on the Starbd Tack instead of SW [South West] on the port tack, put the helm down let the vessel come round on her port tack with a fair wind. [Signed] Edw^d Canney

Augt 24th 1855 Lat 1.30 S Long 90.00 E 8.30 PM

Went on the Poop found the 2nd Mate Lewis again sitting or lying down on the hen coop. Told him if he could not keep on his legs for four hours to go below and that I would keep the watch. I said I was not surprised at the men lazing about on the wheel when the officers set them this example. [Signed] Edw^d Canney

[Page 31]

Augt 27th 1855 Lat 11.45 S Long 82.00 E

At about 8-30 heard Robt Jameson Midshipman crying bitterly on the Poop - went on Deck and - the said Robt Jameson informs me Mr Lewis had struck him. I told him I did not allow him to strike any one, after which he said he would strike any one that gave him the lie - I told him if he beat the Boys who were not able to take their own part I would serve him worse than he could serve the youngsters, he was very impertinent and in consequence of his continually quarrelling with members of the Crew, disrated him from being 2nd Mate having been twice asleep caught in the Act [Witnesses:] Robert Jameson, Henry Mohan [Signed] Edwd Canney Master

[Vertical text in margin:] The youngsters are sent on board under my protection not under the officers, and if they require punishment it must be applied to.

Robt Jameson states the 2nd Mate said he had told an abominable lie and he asked him what lie, it was when he came and struck. [Signed] Edwd Canney Master

Sept 1st Lat [?] Long [?]

Cobin turned away from the Helm when drunk

[Page 32]

Sept 30th 1855

Passed an American Ship hoisted our Ensign the vessel returned the same afterwards hoisted our number being a New ship few vessels have the third [?] pennant.

1st Mate told me I was wrong and did not know how to Signal ships - Mentioned several Cpts he had been with to my certain knowledge he has never been with but three his unmeasurable presumption and assurance in his own abilities is beyond belief - I was thoroughly acquainted with the Signals before he was born it is only on this voyage he has learnt to know the flags.

[Page 33]

Oct 11th 1855 Lat 5.00 S Long 18.00 W

Reported to me that both watches last night were Men drunk - Steward told me they were drunk - Morley Cuddy Servant - that Cobin was drunk - un-accountable where they got the Grog from, but I will find out before I pay their wages - reported to me by 1st Mate, Smith Able Sea[man], Thornley - do do, Cobin - do do, [witnesses] Ormond - do do Grindle [Signed] Edwd Canney

Oct 21st 1855 Lat 7.30 S Long 26.30 W at Sea

at 2 AM heard four Bells strike, laid awake till 3 AM, never heard a voice or a foot step upon the Deck which induced me to go up. I then found Mr Ray 1st Mate stretched out on the Top of the Sky light fast asleep - Shook him and woke him up, asked him if he could not keep a four hours watch. Stated to him that he had lots of sleep in the day time. Never by any chance missing a single watch[?].

The vessel being in the track of all outward bound ships when a good look out is requisite.

[vertically in margin] Ship value £13,000 Cargo £30,000 - £43,000.

[Page 34]

Oct 23rd 1855 Tuesday Lat 11.33 S Long 28.14 W

Went on Deck at 1/2 past five PM, found the Yards braced when the wind nearly aft, after remaining on deck for some time, the 1st Mate squared a little of the Yards. Never making any attempt to Set any Studg Sails as usual, at 6 PM the 2nd Mate relieved the Deck. When I requested him to Set Main Top Galt Studg Sail - & Lower Studg Sails, the wind being rather light, I told him not to swing the Lower Boom. At 8 PM the 1st Mate again took charge, wind increased, every appearance of it being steady for the night when I requested the 1st Mate to swing the Lower Boom. A little before 9 PM I left him his orders and requested that if he could not keep his eyes open for four hours, as I caught him lying fast asleep three nights ago on the Poop, to give me a call and I would keep the watch.

He replied in the most violent manner that he could keep a watch better than I could -, I told him to go and do his duty and every one would respect him. He said he had always done it. I replied you have not, is it your duty to go to bed in the afternoon when all hands are on deck setting up stays, after a continuance of heavy Gales. I never saw an efficient 1st Mate of a ship go to bed in the afternoon, particularly when they have light hours in every night, I have had to do your duty and [continues of next page]

[Page 35]

[continued from previous page] my own to the whole of this long voyage, after he had swung the Lower Boom I was about going to bed he passed my cabin enquiring if I was going to take charge of the watch, I distinctly heard him say he would do no more duty. I had hardly undressed when I went on the Poop and he wanted to know in what way he had not done his duty. I told him to step into the Cabin and I would tell him, when he began to raise his voice to the highest pitch - He said if I shewed him anything he did not know that I made such a to do about it and apprised all hands of it. I told him it was an abominable falsehood and that it was not the first one he had told. He told me in Calcutta that one of the Capts Chapman told him he had to Bully me into doing my duty - I feel persuaded either of the Capts Chapman I sailed with never asserted such a thing. I also mentioned that he was muddled with Smoke & drink the whole time the ship was at Calcutta, which I can prove - at this he flew in a most desperate rage putting himself in a fighting attitude hitting his fist on the Cuddy and made use of the following gentlemanly and delicate language - viz, You are a bloody thundering liar. This he repeated twice or thrice and went out of the Cabin when I told him his services were no longer required as an officer on board this ship consider yourself as a Passenger for the time being. [Signed] Edwd Canney