Journal, 1836

From 18 years of age upwards the American adventure had often occurred to me. I had read much and pondered more on the subject, and from all I could learn it appeared to me the only field in which I could employ my education and capital to advantage. It also appeared likely to improve my constitution, embittered by long ill health, which prevented me from launching into any speculation at home. On this subject, I consulted the celebrated Dr. Abercrombie, whose opinion coincided with my own, and encouraged me in the enterprise. From the moment the resolution was formed, a cheerless anxiety took possession of the mind till the long expected morning arrived—the morning of the first of June, when I was to bid adieu to friends, country, and all I held dear. During the bustle of the moment in removing my luggage, I felt, as I had all along been, quite at ease, and could converse on the uncertain journey before me with perfect composure, but on grasping the hand of a friend for perhaps the last time, I was so overcome as to be unable to speak; even the tears, in spite of every effort to restrain them, came trickling down my cheeks, and in an instant all my resolution failed me. Till now, I never had the least idea that the wind
farewell could have made such an impression on me. But no sooner was home out of sight than my former peace returned. In Dublin I had some matter to arrange, and also to meet my brother John, who was to accompany me to the Western world. An omnibus conveyed us to Glencaple Quay where the Wexford Steamer was preparing for Liverpool. My brother Alexander, my sister Catharine, and a few acquaintances were with us, while my eldest brother James attended upon our luggage, which was being conveyed to the vessel in one of his own carts. The Quay was much crowded at the time, and the number of passengers destined for Liverpool more than generally happened. Several of them were my intimate acquaintances, and like myself on their way to America. Our luggage being on board, we withdrew to an inn till the moment of final separation arrived. Before I went on board, I remained some minutes a silent spectator of the moving scene around me when friends drawn in tears were parting perhaps never to meet again. Exactly at noon we set sail amidst the waving of handkerchiefs, and the shedding of tears, and while I could distinguish the feature of a friend or mark the spot where he stood, I soon buried my eyes another way. Finally too I watched the receding slopes of my fatherland on which I gazed till it sank beneath the distant wave. So powerful was the fading view that a tear stole forth as I missed
amidst a crowd of heedless strangers

"Scotland, the land of all I love

"The land of all who love me

"Land where green and my youth has trod

"Where rest shall lie above me."

Uncertain as the concluding sentiment might be it was deeply
rooted in my mind, and I seemed confident, go where I would,
that time would yet restore me to my native shores to breathe my
last amidst associating men which remembranceingers with
the greatest fondness.

The day was really delightful, and the voyage would
have been so had not the deck of the vessel been crowded with
sheep for the Liverpool Market, a great nuisance to the pas-
penger, who had scarcely a place to stand on. Towards evening
the wind blew fresh, and sea-sickness attacked many of the
passenger, but did not trouble me. We reached the Clarence
Dock, Liverpool, at midnights. And the moment we landed the
side, the vessel was boarded by four excise officers on duty for the
prevention of smuggled goods. The late hour of landing made
it necessary that our luggage should remain on the ves-
sel till morning. Having seen several times in Liverpool, I
visited my brother and a relative, William Cimweedie, to my
amustioned place of rest, but here we were disappointed, every
bed in the house being occupied. However, a policeman, on duty,
after several ineffectual attempts, apostled us on finding lodgings, and we got to bed about 2 o'clock in the morning.

Thurs. June 2. Dumville and myself astir before 6 o'clock, called on Jas. and Thos. McMillan, two fellow passengers from Pumpsig, and also in their way to America. Made a short examination of several vessels preparing for New York and particularly the Thomas of Whitehaven, lying in the King's Dock. We next went to the Nithsdale, and found all hands busy discharging, while the preventive officers were actively on the search for contraband whiskey, the only saleable article. About every box and package underwent examination. Some were tried with prongs, others were forcibly opened if not opened for their inspection. A trunk belonging to J. McMillan took their attention, and nothing would satisfy but the contents turned inside out. My acquaintance acknowledged he had one bottle of brandy in it, the gift of a particular friend, but, on examination, it proved to be a bottle of small beer which caused no little confusion to the officers, and others who were curiously watching the result. Some money was passed on MM. and the temperate gift of his friend which he felt poignant but answered coolly as the bottle was replaced in the trunk. MM. was quite as much confounded as the officers, and could not account for the mistake. This circumstance alarmed me considerably as my brother had secreted three gallons of malt liquor in a barrel of potatoes, co-
read at one end, with a piece of sack cloth. This also became an object of jealousy, and was scrutinized as narrowly as the external surface would permit, or the prying would penetrate. I however had the luck to escape. My brother was not present and had the secret been discovered, I should have made up my mind to destroy the package—as it carried no address.

Excluding of my brother, Pinwiddie, the McMillans, and myself, five other individually joined us as adventurers to America, and with the exception of one were all from the neighborhood of Pennpoyz. Rob. Armstrong from Crossgyle, near Nonghean, and John Edgar, that Smith, Mary White, and Ann Fisher, from Kirkmuhon. The two latter being on their way to meet their future husbands. Nearly all our company had met, and having held a short conference, it was agreed that the luggage should be collected in a body to remain on the quay in charge of two. While the others made a proper examination of different vessels, in order to select one for the voyage. It was my desire to get aboard a packet ship could such have been attained. But yesterday we had sailed, and eight days would elapse ere another followed. Liverpool, indeed, at this time, afforded few opportunities to New York. Having executed our commission, we selected the Britannia, a merchantman, and an old British ship, but American built. It afforded better accommodation than any other, being large and
very, upwards of 600 tons burden. But what was of some consequence, it was the first advertised to sail. The passage money at this time, compared with the spring of the year, was high and we had some difficulty in striking a bargain. But owing to the number of individuals in company it was reduced to four pounds, fifteen shillings, each, besides four and sixpence a piece for hospital money. We all to the number of eight, the McMillan family excepted, agreed at the above sum for a passage in the 2nd Cabin each, giving in a deposit of one pound, the balance to be paid when every thing was safe on board which, according to our agreement, we had the liberty of doing as soon as the luggage quiet work in the evening. This was considered a favorable circumstance and we had our luggage hastily conveyed to the vessel, but while in the act of discharging the cargo, we were told to save our trouble for not a single article would be got aboard even for three days. It was to our purpose we represented our agreement with the agent S. McShaw, who unfortunately by this time was not at the office but the written orders of his brother had as little effect as we had upon the "lumpers", those engaged in loading the vessel. The only alternative was to let our luggage remain all night under the eaves of the shed beside the dock, agreeing among ourselves that a strict watch be kept over it.

During the afternoon the McMillans deposited their luggage alongside the rest. They had made up their minds
to sail in the Berintheian, but had not entered into any agreement one of the agents' clerks was aboard and the matter was settled on the same condition. — a deposit was made, and a receipt granted. Things were so far well, and we remained wonderfully content by the side of our boxes till evening when Edgar, Armstrong, and T. McMillan, were appointed watchmen for the night. The two latter, presuming to taking their station, accompanied T. McMillan and myself to Mr. M.'s lodgings where we partook of a hearty supper, proud of the idea of keeping all together across the Atlantic. Passed the night with Mr. M.

Tues. June 3. By the time I got up, Armstrong and T. McMillan had arrived to breakfast, which discussed, we made off to the Berintheian, but still no prospect of getting the luggage aboard. The main obstacle was the principal lumper, a restless fisherman, who riding far above all commission, exhibited the most striking instance of domineering arrogance that can be conceived. While his eye was over the laboring "lumpers," he kept walking about in a tattered great coat as if he had been my Lord Duke, & applying to his native brogue with disdain to whoever spoke to him. It was our belief that a bribe would have set things to right, but this we considered too much condescension to such a brute; and as we had called twice upon the agent without finding him, we could not hitter ourselves. During the dinner, kept the captain, who had now his control over the vessel, but
dilemma to see our situation, gave his orders to take the boats aboard, and it is almost impossible to conceive with what avidity each commenced the work of embarkation, while an obstinate underling, the man stationed to partition off the bathy and receive the hospital money, endeavored in the height of a passion to put a stop to our labors. The agent himself arrived at this critical moment. It was then agreed that all the baggage should go aboard, and that the balance of the passage money, including that for the New York hospital should be immediately discharged. While the rest of the company were getting the boxes in the 2nd cabin, I. McMillan and myself accompanied shaw to his office to complete our respective portions of the agreement. Others immediately followed. Our way thing was soon settled with respect to eight of our party, but the McMillans were unable to get the agreement to their satisfaction. Besides the two brothers, their sister and her husband there was a little boy and an infant at the breast, for both of which full pay was demanded. This my friends strenuously opposed, and requested the agent to return their deposit money (5 sovereigns) which he refused to do. I could not remain silent at such injustice. And taking Mr. Mc's part, got myself involved in a quarrel that was bitterly contested for ten or twelve minutes when matters ran so high that we were ordered from the office. Deliberating on the truths, and entirely at a loss what to do.
were unexpectedly accosted by an individual, who being in Shaw's office at the time, heard the whole dispute. His advice was to apply to Lieut. Low, the government agent for emigration, and what do you think he did? He took proper advantage of it and we were taken over by him. The man was kind enough to conduct us to the office of the Lieut., who was absent, but a ticket on the door showed he would shortly return. In the mean time we paid a visit to the ship where excepting some boxes belonging to my brother, every article was under the cover of the deck. The Lieut. was in on our return, but was not a case that did not properly come under his jurisdiction. However, he accompanied us to Shaw's office, but Shaw was absent and we remained long for his appearance to no purpose. The Lieut. left such word as eventually procured Mr. M. the whole of his deposit money. We were thus disappointed in proceeding together across the Atlantic, for he very shortly afterwards engaged in board the ship Thomas of Whitehaven. Nothing could show more forcibly the anxiety and insolvency of these shipping agents. Their object is to get you to part with your money, and then to treat you like brutes. Indeed, what are we to think of men who after signing an agreement to take our luggage abroad, should at the same time place undertakings for the express purpose of preventing us. The more I ponder over this matter it grieves me to think that such rascals should be permitted to dishonor offending strangers.
My mind being now relieved respecting the boxy, I decided to next a friend from St. Albans, Mr. Renwick. We set up late together, and contrary to his wishes set out to reach my brother's lodgings, but lost my way in the dark. I managed however to find the place I based on former visits to Liverpool.

Sat. June 4. Spent the greater part of the day alone, traversing the city, most noted for brothel or厦门, and regaling my eyes with whatever was interesting in the windows of magnificent shops, where panes of glass were frequently met with four or five feet long and proportionally wide. Renwick, though unwell, accompanied me in a long walk during the afternoon. At his desire we went on board the bainthian, and had my fiddle converted to his room, where we passed a merry evening. The landlady had two young daughters, who, in return for my performance, favored us with a few songs. Returned with my friend.

Sun. June 5. This was the day appointed for the sailing of the bainthian, and I took a walk towards Prince's Dock to see what was transpiring. Was well aware I would find her unprepared for sea. The morning was wet, and the wind, which had for many weeks been from the East, was blowing strongly from the West. I felt sorry at this, as I stood on the deck of the deserted ship, which, to all appearance, might be several days before it was in a condition to go to sea.

called upon the Mr. Millang, and went to Edge Hill where
the great Liverpool and Manchester Railway, after passing under the city, emerges into open country. We intended to have spent an hour in St. James' Cemetery, but found the gates closed—the public it appeared being prohibited only on the Sabbath day. St. James Walk and the adjoining shrubbery afforded us a pleasing retreat instead. From hence we wandred on steps to the Prince's parade at this time crowded with visitors enjoying the airy and delightful prospect on the river. It was full tide and several American ships moved gallantly into the docks.

Mon. June 8.—The birena thean still unprepared for sea, and why so is difficult to conceive. Her full cargo seemed to be aboard, and all labor had ceased, but ropes, tackle, boxes and planks lay everywhere on deck in a careless and neglected manner; and save the boats the mate, and two or three boys, no seaman to man her had ever been observed on board. I grew hardly tired of this state of things, and aware how long it might continue, and every representation made to the agent was answered with the resolute will sail tomorrow. It was part of our bargain to have our expenses paid from the day of sailing till we actually sailed, but the wily agent found a substitute in the contrary winds that now prevailed. The docks, streets, and everywhere was become wearisome, and the only respite I had was an hour in the evening with Renwick and my fiddle.