

respecting both, and myself  
I would rather observe, that whilst present circumstances, drive  
us nearer to God, and unite us more closely to each other. They  
also tell upon us, affectionately to sympathize with our dear Bro'  
and sister Robert, and earnestly to recommend them to our common  
Lord. Their situation is indeed peculiar! Mr Robert has been  
very unwell ever since we left the British Shore. When we  
last anchor, that the weather was remarkably fine, and the sea  
unusually calm, such was her weakness, that she could not bear  
it. The motion of the vessel caused her to faint away  
and on Tuesday here was likely to be, that it was thought best  
to attempt to get her on shore. But when the storm came  
on, we were all alarmed, and knew not what to do for the best.  
However, the vessel yesterday morning continued to pitch, and roll  
in such a manner, that the Doctor gave it as his opinion  
that the attempt was absolutely necessary. A chair, and other  
necessary articles were prepared, meanwhile Mr Robert, and the Doctor  
went at the hazard of their lives went to seek a suitable lodging  
for some time they remained. They had taken an apartment in a  
house, and for Mr Robert alone, were to pay 4 Dollars, and a half  
Dollars. However this seemed the only remedy. Mr Robert, Mrs Buchanan  
and daughter were all put in the boat. Mr Robert, and the second  
ladie, Gladly would we have shared their danger, if we could have done  
so without increasing it. But the Captain advised us not to accompany  
them. We could only stand on the deck, and with painful anxiety looked  
on our dear friends as they went. A shower of rain came on, which  
increased our fears. But we breathed after wards, that  
the vessel was safely landed. But we learned after wards, that  
the vessel was in great difficulty. Poor Mr Robert was too far  
to be sensible of the danger. He remained in the ship, and such a  
sufferer. I never had before. A vessel lies at anchor near us, and  
the Captain feared that her cable would break, and that she would  
sink. However, Mrs. Mary no accident has befallen us.  
This morning heard nothing of Mrs Robert, but all girls  
are so accustomed to the raging waves, in order to get some  
foundation.

Monday morning March 15<sup>th</sup>. In rather awkward  
circumstances, and in a gloomy state of mind. I thus tried to  
express my feelings, on Thursday morning; and as it is probable  
I shall leave Madeira to-morrow, I think it necessary to finish  
this. When we got on shore, we enquired for Mr Robert's  
place, and were glad to find it. Mr Robert  
was better, since then she has (apparently) continued to gain strength.  
As Mr Robert is about writing to Mr Buchanan, you will have better  
information on this subject than I can give you. He had no idea  
of being here so long, nor would this have been the case if the weather  
had been fine, but for several days the sea was in such a state  
unprofitable to get any of the cargo on shore.

And from this you will be able to form some idea of our situation.  
The motion of the vessel was so extremely unpleasant on the Wednesday  
evening, that we could not sleep, and hence it seemed absolutely necessary  
that we, as well as the rest of the passengers, should spend a little time  
on shore. With being tossed about so much, in the ship, our spirits were low  
and our strength exhausted, and considering that we had a long voyage before  
us we thought ourselves justifiable in leaving the ship until Saturday  
evening. This of course has been attended with some expense, but if  
we still find no other place till we arrive at Baylen we hope the money we  
have will almost be sufficient for us. However, be that as it will  
convinced any we shall not be extravagant, and if you receive any  
of our fathers, and brethren in the Committee know all the particulars of our  
conduct we are certain they would meet your approbation. Our situation  
now, is by no means enviable. While the rest of the passengers are enjoying  
themselves on shore, we are frequently racked about in the cabin alone. The  
Doctor, and others sometimes wonder at this, but the fact is, we wish to  
spend as little as possible. In reference to preaching on the island, we  
feel much disappointed. We thought it most advisable to work in the English  
Church. Mr Robert called upon him. He said to him it was very kind  
and obliging, but at the same time gave it as his opinion we had better not  
make the attempt. The very properly observed, that the Protestant cause  
was only in its infancy. He enquired us that the Church which they are  
now building, I have carried on thus far with much opposition, and  
that if we make the attempt, it might so arouse the minds of the  
people as to produce greater opposition, and that in this case we should  
ultimately hinder the cause, and instead of promoting it. And indeed  
as this is the season of Lent, we should have found it very difficult to  
collect a congregation. They had yesterday a very grand Procession. Bro'  
Robert, and I went to see it, and such a scene we never witnessed  
before. The town was quite thronged, and the streets crowded with people.  
Every thing had the appearance of a Feast, or Fair. The shops were dirty, and  
streets of people were carrying baskets abundantly filled with sweetmeats, and  
other articles they had for sale. In almost every street there was some painting  
representing Christ, Jeremiah, the Apostles, or our Lord, and when the inhabitants  
passed these paintings they pulled off their hats, and very reverently bowed.  
After we had walked about a while, we very fortunately met with the Captain  
the Doctor, and Mr, and Mrs Robert, of Mr Gray's, who lives exactly opposite  
the convent, from whence the procession set out, and from the window of his  
house we had a full view of the whole scene. About 50 soldiers with their  
bayonets fixed to their guns, were drawn up before the convent door, and these  
were accompanied by perhaps half as many with drums, and other instruments  
of music. Some kind of service was going on in the convent which was crowded  
to excess. Perhaps it contained 2, or 3000 people. At length the service  
within was concluded, and a man dressed in black, having his head covered  
with a black veil, blew his trumpet, to signify that the procession was  
about to begin. He was followed by more than 20 torchbearers, and shocking  
clothed in sackcloth, covered with a veil, and each carrying a cross. After  
them there came a poor wretch, whose arms have been amputated, and  
apparently that he made an attempt for them he must fling himself with  
it which he was followed by another, pitiable indeed. He was next to this time  
and had his arms extended, and tied to a gnawing piece of iron every time  
50 paces. Then the King approached dressed in black, and each carrying  
a lighted torch. And after them was the image of the Redeemer.