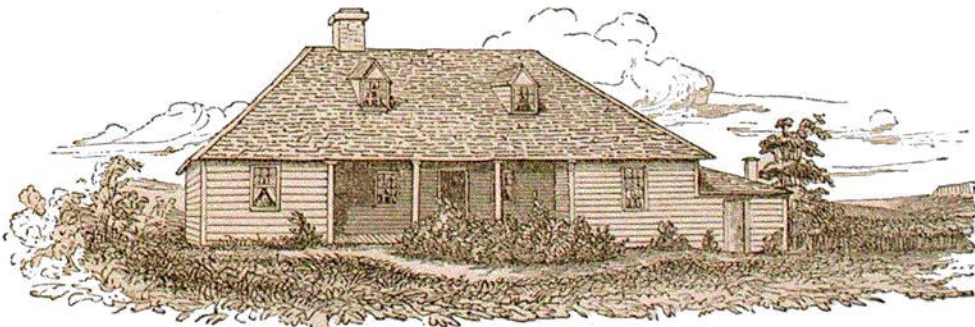


and we did not get to sea till the afternoon. When we were about passing the Heads, our worthy consul and some others of our countrymen took their leave, and by way of dispelling the gloom that was naturally felt at parting, and to show the good wishes entertained for their welfare, we gave them at parting several hearty cheers, and then bore away on our course.

It falling calm, the Vincennes and tender were obliged to anchor between the Heads. The Peacock and Porpoise succeeded in getting outside, and when the tide made, we weighed and stood after them. On getting to sea, although every search had been previously made by the master-at-arms, I learned that there were two strangers on board, who had contrived to evade his watchfulness, and on beating to quarters, and mustering the crew, they were among the forthcoming. Their appearance was any thing but convict-like; but I felt after all the attentions heaped upon us, it was seemingly but an ungrateful return, to appear to have committed an infraction of their laws, and this after I had received intimation that an attempt would be made through us, to effect desertion among the troops. From their appearance and carriage I thought they showed the drill of soldiers, and at once told them and the assembled crew, that they were mistaken if they expected to be harboured as such, and that on my return from the south, I should send them back to Sydney to be delivered over. I then entered them on the rolls for provisions only, until I ascertained whether they were entitled to receive compensation; and after telling the men they must look forward to a hard and dangerous cruise, and saying a few words relative to what was expected of them by the country and myself, I enjoined upon them the necessity of economy in their food and clothing, in aiding me in my endeavours to promote their health and comfort. We then piped down, and set about preparing the ship for the Antarctic cruise, the events of which will be detailed in the following chapters.



DAISY BANK.