

depend upon the quality and circumstances of the crop. These are the largest kind of estates, and seldom include less than five to eight thousand acres.

The sale or transfer of land was also novel to us. No land can be sold, unless the persons make application at the Cape, to officers appointed, called commissioners, whose duty it is to see that all liens on the land, such as bonds and mortgages, are all paid up; and the liabilities are fully protected; and the person wishing to sell must have permission of the one who may hold any claim on the estate, before he can legally dispose of his property; and the consent of the mortgagee must be obtained in writing before the debt can be transferred with the property.

The day previous to our departure, I had the pleasure of again meeting Captain Belcher, who was now on his way home in the *Sulphur*. He had just arrived with his ship in Simon's Bay, where the English men-of-war anchor, as Her Majesty's dockyard is situated there: it is considered a safer harbour than Table Bay; but from what I heard of its conveniences, it seems ill adapted for a place to refit; and, indeed, I was told that this is seldom attempted. Our stay was not sufficiently long to enable any of us to visit it, and little inducement appeared to be held out to go there by those under whose guidance we had placed ourselves. Having transacted all our business, and finished our necessary observations, we prepared for departure. Before taking leave of the Cape, I must be permitted, in the name of myself and of the officers of the Expedition, again to tender our warmest thanks for the attention paid us by many gentlemen, who afforded us many facilities in the acquisition of information or the pursuit of pleasure. Among those to whom we were chiefly indebted for these kindnesses, were our consul, Isaac Chase, Esq., and Messrs. Thompson and Pillars.

Supplies of all kinds can be obtained at the Cape, and usually at reasonable prices; the bread we purchased, made from native flour, was of excellent quality; fruit also, though considered out of season by the inhabitants, could be purchased in any quantity, either in the markets or from the bumboats alongside of the vessels. The usual facilities for watering are rather deficient: there are no floating tanks, and some inconvenience results from the use of casks.

On the 17th, we got under way with a light and baffling wind. The air was from the eastward aloft, while a westerly breeze blowing below it, often took our lower sails aback; still the upper ones were full. By constant attention and frequent swinging of the yards, we effected a passage through the northern channel, passing at a short distance from