

MS. 60/1

George & Martha Clarke to Edward Bickersteth

On Board the Hermes Capt Orsler [?]

Rio de janeiro South America –

June 24. 1822. – –

Rev^d & Dr Sir

Our Captain having occasion to put in at Rio de janeiro for fresh water: gives me an opportunity of acquainting you with some of the particulars of the voyage to this place, the Ship Lindez [?] being about leaving the port for England

We sailed from Gravesend on the 28 of April and arrived at Rio. de. janeiro on the 20th of June being a passage of 53 days during the voyage I have had about fortnight sea sickness and M^{rs} Clarke has been sick all the voyage but is now far recovered on the first of May we entered the bay of Biscay on the 14th came in sight of Tenuriff in the 15 we had Terre and Gomero in view, and on the 20 came in sight of the Cape Verd Islands here we began to feel the heat oppressive and many of the passengers are complaining from the 29 of May to the same of June we were becalmed within about three degrees [f] of the line many of the Passengers overcome by the heat although the thermometer was no more than 88, The Captain has manifested the greatest kindness to us ever since we have been on board he has to the present always Manifested a willingness to have service on board when the weather will admit of it, the passengers and crew have been also very attentive so that although some few are contentious the greater part seem considerate, we have services twice on the Sunday and I generally ^{^write out} two short addresses for the Sunday I have also opened a

George & Martha Clarke to Edward Bickersteth

school among the passengers Children amounting to about 20 in number. Since I have been at Rio I visited one or two of the monasteries with M^r Braint, but he found them very ignorant they could neither answer him in Latin nor in French, here every thing that is called religion is offensive you are disgusted with the ceremonies of Popery Theatres open every Sunday evening Shops all open and trade carried on as ~~Sundays~~ other Days, but I was glad to find a Protestant Church in this Dark Land, I attended on Sunday Morning and was glad to see three landed [f] Englishmen Rev^d B. Crane Minister, sent out by the Bartler Burberry Society I had some conversation with him after service, he tell me popery seem very much on the decline here are about four hundred Englishmen and till this last few weeks were destitute of a place of worship, I had an invitation to spend a few hours with him at his own house, but at the appointed hour I received summons from the Cape to be on board immediately. I left your address with him as he requested. M^{rs} Clarke joins with me in Outs [?] to you, Remember us kindly to our Gen[?cut off] Brethren [?ripped page] M^{rs} Coats and M^{rs} Pratt

Yours dutifully

George & Martha Clarke