

From the Diary of Bishop John Francis Norton – 1925

Inscription....

*Diary kept for my dearest Mother
on the P. & O Steamer "Mongolia"
by John F. Norton
With the Australian National
Pilgrimage to Rome & Lourdes 1925.*



6th May

It has been a good night for the Bishop, although the rest of the passengers complained that sleep was impossible. We were labouring along on one turbine till about midday when we got full steam up and it was delightful to see the ship cleaving the water and sending out a double row of waves from her bow. It is lucky that the break down occurred on this side of Aden, for our time there can be shortened. Originally we were to be there at 2pm and that would mean standing without a breeze in the harbour. Now we shall get there at midnight. I must wait up till we arrive for I want to send some cables, when the representative comes on board.

So that the Bishop might have an easy night in whatever breeze there may be, and away from the noise of loading, the Captain arranged for him to be carried away up to the boat deck. They fixed up an electric fan and he had one of his best nights.

About 10am the beam of the lighthouse became visible, but it was not till 2 o'clock that we came to rest. By night Aden with its lights looked well and the moon light softened somewhat the rugged mountains that rise behind it.

When the cable man came I fixed up my business and then went and had a couple of hours sleep.