

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.*

8th May

The Red Sea continues to do wonderfully. The breeze I mentioned yesterday has now grown to a North wind which although warm and laden with moisture, still is refreshing. We passed opposite to Mocha yesterday - the coffee place.

We meet a great number of vessels for the Sea is only about 120 miles wide on an average and so the ships must keep within its channel, 50 miles wide or so.

Since Colombo and Aden the "Mongolia" is quite full. The new arrivals are all from the Services in India and they are of the intolerable brand of Englishman who looks down on the rest of Creation. One would think they owned not only the "Mongolia" but the whole P & O Line. It was such as these that Macauley wrote that they returned from India "with a bad liver and a worse heart." How different from the type of real English gentleman, such as the Captain is. He is such a charming man. We have become great friends and he rarely comes on deck without finding me out and having a word with me. He has loaned me books and we have most interesting chats. Dr Mannix teases me by saying that I am trying to convert him.

