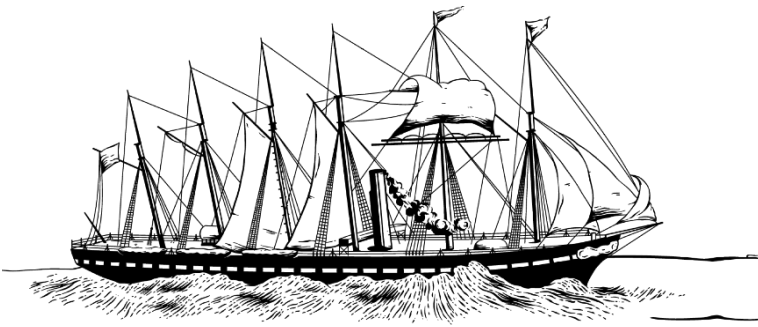


# Passenger Diaries Frances Duberly

Departed: Cork, Ireland on  
24 September 1857

Arrived: Mumbai, India on  
17 December 1857



Frances Duberly was married to a British army officer, who was in charge of soldiers travelling to India on the *SS Great Britain*. She and her husband had been in the Crimea, where the British were fighting a war against the Russians, and they were both worn out by the experience. When orders came to sail for India, where the British army was trying to suppress a rebellion by some of its Indian soldiers, Frances felt overwhelmed by the difficulty of the voyage and the uncertainty of the future in India. However, she was a brave and resourceful woman, and loyalty to her husband made her follow him despite of the dangers. Writing long letters to her sister Selina helped her to cope with her feelings of worry and exhaustion.

Learn more about Frances and her journey using Global Stories:  
[https://globalstories.ssgreatbritain.org/\\_traveller/36616/](https://globalstories.ssgreatbritain.org/_traveller/36616/)



14<sup>th</sup> October 1857

*My dear Selina*

*We left harbour about six o'clock on Thursday October 8th. The whole of the previous day it had blown such a hurricane that several chimneys in town were blown down and the telegraph between Cork and Dublin was torn away in two places. When we got outside didn't we catch it!... I did not attempt to get up for two days, and then was obliged to be put under the doctoral supervision, I was so weak and exhausted. The fact is, that the Crimea has done me up and now I am too old and shaken to bear much noise. My pluck is coming back now, but generally I sit quiet by myself and cry. It seems such tremendous separation from you all. It is like dying and being transported to another existence.*

14<sup>th</sup> October 1857

*There are two men on board who are still unable to rally from sea sickness and one, they say, will never recover as long as the ship is in motion - fancy allowing him to come out... everybody is very civil and kind to me and I like the captain better than I did. He is very jolly... he was only sick at first... and has been most kind and attentive to me ever since I came on board.*

14<sup>th</sup> October 1857

*We get champagne Wednesdays and Sundays and last night they opened the Claret. The soda water they kept for the tropics. The crowd was so great at dinner that I could not stand it.*

