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Scalar is a free, open source authoring and publishing platform that’s designed to make it easy for authors to write long-form, born-digital scholarship online. Scalar enables users to assemble media from multiple sources and juxtapose them with their own writing in a variety of ways, with minimal technical expertise required.

More fundamentally, Scalar is a semantic web authoring tool that brings a considered balance between standardization and structural flexibility to all kinds of material. It includes a built-in reading interface as well as an API that enables Scalar content to be used to drive custom-designed applications. If you’re dealing with small to moderate amounts of structured content and need a lightweight platform that encourages improvisation with your data model, Scalar may be the right solution for you.
the British Empire: The Voyages of The Clarence, 1858-73

by STSC 077, Fall 2015 First Year Seminar, University of Pennsylvania
"He is a bold man who undertakes to write a journal at sea..."

1st Class Passenger Robert Gow began his voyage on March 11th, 1871 in Melbourne. Traveling with him are his wife and three year old son, John Biggart. Even while the crew was busy getting everything "ship-shape," Gow reports that his wife and son are already experiencing seasickness. Gow finds that even though two clergymen are aboard, the busyness and bustle prevent the passengers from receiving their divine service. Gow is an observant man—he records 22 adults, 16 children, and 3 servants in the saloon while there are about 44 total passengers between the 2nd and 3rd classes.
Ms. Coll 832 at the University of Pennsylvania comprises a ship's log kept by Joseph Watson, master of the Clarence, in 1864-65, and a few other items from Watson's long career at sea (including a painting of another command, the Prince of Wales). The log, which chronicles a voyage from England to India, then Guiana and home, provides a fascinating glimpse of travel—and peril—in the heyday of Britain's global empire. In the telling, it offers vantages on military history, labor and economic history, the history of health and medicine, and environmental history.

Mapping the *Clarence*

Follow the ship on its travels, via a torque map made using CartoDB (thanks to Hannah Feldman for making the original spreadsheet):