

“The officer in charge shouts... ‘Lower away.’ The tremendous log hovers over the hatch and then disappears into the bowels of the ship...theres a moments pause, the rope strains and groans... that rope breaks and comes clawing at us, a mass of bent and broken wire. As we scatter that great log goes with a crash into the hold, fortunately not through the ship’s bottom.”

Victorian female explorer Mary Kingsley describes wood being loaded from West Africa into a ship setting sail for London. (Kingsley in Latham pg 58-9)