

Barque Cape Horn Pigeon.

Thursday November 18th 1854.

Fresh gales from the N. & W. with squalls of rain and a heavy sea running, ships lying to, under storm sails.

Friday Nov 19th Do Ob.

Wind continues the same, but clear weather, the ship still lying to. Long and myself pass most of the time below.

Saturday Nov 20th

Fresh gales from the N. and rigged weather, the ship heading by the wind to the N. & W.

Lat 57 58
Long 76 46.

Sunday Nov 21st

Fresh gales from the N. W. and squally, at 11 A.M. the wind shifted to the S. and W. & tacked ship to the S. dined on birds, at sunset, squalls very severe, took in all but storm sails.

Lat 57 17
Long 78 16.

Monday 27th Nov.

Heavy sea, ship lying to under storm sails, wind to the S. at 4 P.M. tacked to the W. and moderated, some rain, under sail, as it is too rugged to be on deck and we cannot hear from home, we will cut a loaf of cake for tea, and eat something that came from there,

Lat 56 25
Long 77 7.

Tuesday Nov 28th

Wind from the W. and rising, gale coming on, at 10 double reefed the topsails, furlled the jib and main-sails, at 11 P.M. close reefed the M. topsail, and furlled the foresail, wore ship to the S. and W. gale continued to increase, at 5 P.M. furlled the M. topsail, ship now lying under a fore topmast staysail and main-spencer, the wind blowing tremendously and a very heavy sea running, at night I went on deck to watch the sea as they came rolling on, one after another in wild confusion, soon a large sea broke against the side of the vessel, part of it coming in on deck, I then went below as I was some wet, as I was going down I heard Williams say, she got over that better than I thought she would,

Off Cape Horn.

It was about 7 P.M. the mast saw struck her forward and carried away bowsprit, jib-boom, fly-jib-boom, topmast, topgallantmast &c., George came down and told me what had happened. I went up and saw it hanging, it seemed as if I could hardly believe it. They had all gone forward to secure the maintopmast which all expected would follow. (as the gale was still raging with unabated fury) and happily succeeded.

At 10 George & I went to bed and was soon asleep. I did not see Williams after the accident until 2 in the morning.

Lat 55 -
Long 76 30

Wednesday Nov 29th 1854.

Gale abated, at 7 A.M. I went on deck, it was strewn fore and aft with torn sails, damaged rigging, and broken spars, not a very pleasant sight off Cape Horn, but we were very thankful it was no worse. All hands had been at work through the night in clearing the wreck, succeeded in getting it in on deck at 12 noon. in the afternoon sent down the M. topgallant mast. The beauty of the Pigeon diminished for a while at least, as she could fly very fast with her wings clipped.

Lat 55 30
Long 75 30

Thursday Nov 30th

Light winds from the S. W. and squally, saw 2 seals, homeward bound, also saw Blackbirds.

Lat 54 36
Long 75 - 6

Friday Dec 1st 1854.

Strong winds from the S. W. and squally, exchanged colours with an English ship, spoke the bark Hamburg of Hamburg.

Saturday 2nd 1854.

Strong winds from the S. W. and squally, the crew employed in preparing a jury Bowsprit and Fore-topmast, saw Porpoises.

Sunday Dec 3rd 1854.

Commenced with light winds and pleasant weather, latter part squally with hail and snow, all hands employed in fitting the ship forward, so as to put some sail on her, at night saw Blackbirds.

Lat 53 46
Long 77 18