Our second officer Mr Johns has been out of health for some time. Yesterday he went to consult a physician who told him that he had a disease of the heart and the sooner he could get home the better. & Samuel felt that he must give him his discharge and he is now in the Hospital. He has always treated me well and I shall be very sorry to part with him, he has our best wishes for a safe return and speedy recovery-

12th This morning a Schooner arrived with the California mails, bringing us a number of those inky messengers of love and affection from friends far away- One from S. P. Bourne, Celia & Celia Maria, one from Sarah and a note from Elizabeth Robinson and a note for Minnie from Willie, a letter from Brother George from New Bedford and one from Sandwich from Lissie. Not a word from Father, Mother, Willie & Cynthia. I know it is because we were in earlier than we intended, but I am extremely sorry- Lissie wrote that my dear Father's health was poor, but she had seen him much more feeble than he then was- I think much about him and hope and trust that he may yet be spared to his family three many years- Times have been very hard for the last winter at home every one has been more or less affected but fortunately we knew nothing of ~~them~~ it, until they were growing brighter. He who ~~kindly~~ tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, has kindly given them a mild winter, so that there has not been so much suffering as if the winter had been as severe as for two winters past. I was pained to hear of the death of our neighbor Mrs Swift. Her death comes nearer than any that has transpired since leaving home, and it leaves a vacancy that can hardly be filled. She was a kind neighbor and loved and respected by all- This afternoon I went on board the Addison with Minnie and Lissie Bigelow. We saw the Young Hero of Nantucket Capt Long getting under weigh, and as we were returning in the boat she ran into the French whaler Napoleon & slightly damaging the latter and the former to the value of 8 or 10 thousand dollars as was judged

14th Went to church once again this morning for which privilege, I hope I am truly thankful. When at home I always liked to attend church and was seen in the habit of letting trifles absent one from the house of God. Still I think I never realized what a privilege it was until since I have become a wanderer upon the sea. Mr Bishop has a small congregation and Sailors generally do not attend. I do not think he is exactly fitted to their wants. To day I was made very happy by the arrival of the Speedwell Capt Mitchell, she and I were school-mates together, and with what pleasure shall we renew our acquaintance in this far off island of the sea- Just before sunset went down to Mrs Braytons to see them found them well, Mrs Gibbs looked very natural but had grown to resemble her Mother very much since I last saw her. They stopped at Fayal where they saw our Brother Thomas & wife, brought us letters from them. They have been there several months while their ship has been out on a short cruise, Mary has another little daughter born at that place, they had no name for it unless they decided to call it Brianna which they thought some of doing as it possessed the accomplishment signified in that name to a great degree-

17th. Last night the whole town was alarmed by the sound of fire which proved to be the Young Hero set on fire as was supposed by some of the crew. They were helped by the crews of all the ships in the harbor, but it is still burning and they will probably lose the ship. Mrs Gibbs passed the day with us at Mrs Bigelows and we passed the time very pleasantly in conversing of by gone days-

18th. Last night we were awakened by the cry of "the fire has burst through to the outside of the ship". We got up and looked out of our window which commanded the whole view of the harbor and found it to be even so- it was a grand sight and still a very melancholy one- this morning it is burning with redoubled fury, as I sit by my window writing looking up I have seen the three masts fall one after the other, and now nothing remains but the hulk. Minnie has been in tears all the morning it makes her feel so sad to see the destruction of a noble ship- what would I give to know the feelings of the man or men