Dec 25th When I left port I congratulated myself that I had been in Honolulu for seven weeks and escaped the "Bou-hoo" or "Dracui" fever, to which all foreigners are subject. But my congratulations came to soon, for after being at sea several days, the "Bou-hoo" seized me and I was sick enough, was obliged to keep my bed for a week. It is said to be a mild form of the Panama fever, there is nothing dangerous about it, but it is the most uncomfortable fever one can have. Such weariness and awful aches in the bones, that it is impossible to describe. Minnie had a very bad cold, and I feared that she would have an attack of it, but she escaped. We have all been afflicted with colds almost constantly ever since we arrived in port, and they seem still to continue. For the whole season hitherto we were not troubled at all - and it seems strange to have so many in comfortable weather. Minnie hung up her stocking as usual last night, and was fortunate in finding it quite full filled with the usual supply of candies nuts and oranges, also a book and transparent slate from me, and a 2½ gold piece from her Papa. A few days ago Mr Forsyth our mate gave her a very pretty little spy-glass, which she said she should call her Christmas present too. We are now bound to the Coast of California, for muscle diggers if we can find them and for wood. After undergoing repairs, it was too late to go on New-Zealand which we would like to have gone, but it may be all for the best for us to come here. Yesterday saw a ship, supposed to be a merchantman from California, and today the Island of Guadaloupe is in sight at a distance. In a day or two we shall expect to see Cerros Island where Samuel hopes to find a sperm whale. How I wish that he might not be disappointed.

29th Saw Cerros Island, but nothing around there that had life of the fish kind. There was a ship laying at anchor on the back side of the island probably after guano, he should have sent a boat in shore after fish but it was very rough and Samuel did not care to stop as there were no whales to be seen.

31st Yesterday we were following down the Californian Coast today we made Magdalena Island. P.M. As we were going up the Bay saw four ships at anchor. We went as long as we could see as Samuel wishes to go farther up the lagoon to get wood, and then probably we shall come down

again, anchored at dark in twenty-five fathoms of water - January 1st 1859. Oh that I knew it was a "Happy New Year" to one and all of my friends at home - that it may be in my fervent wish and prayer - May our good Father have them all in his holy keeping. For the many mercies which were showered upon us during the past year, may we be truly thankful and may we earnestly implore His guidance and blessing on this new year which has just opened upon us so fresh and bright. If prosperity attend us, may we thank the giver, and if adversity and trials shall be our portion, may we as truly thank Him, remembering that "what seemeth evil, is for our highest good".

This morning we received a visit from Capt. Chatfield of the Massachusetts, he informed us that the ships that were here were the Rambler, Capt. Willis and family, ~~Capt~~ the Scotland Capt. Weeks and family, Majestic Capt. Chester and the Bronco, Capt. May. also a potato schooner from San Francisco. After dinner Mr Huntley went out in a boat ~~after dinner~~ to see what he could find in the eating line, came home about dark with several buckets of very nice "quahogs" and about a dozen Mullet - Capt. Allen and a Mr Salter the Capt. and owner of the schooner came on board to tea with us found their company very pleasant.

2nd. All the boats went out this morning Samuel Minnie and myself went ashore, but as it was high tide our excursion was a very unprofitable one. It is a very dreary barren looking country with nothing of vegetation except Cactus's of the prickly-pear species which almost entirely cover the ground, rendering it rather unsafe to walk without extreme care. Some of them were in bloom, the flowers being singularly bright and handsome, we took up several specimens and procured a box of earth to put them in hoping we might preserve them. We saw while on shore what we supposed to be three graves - with nothing to tell who they were or how they died. I thought as I stood looking at them that they probably had wives mothers or sisters, who had not the privilege of weeping on their graves; and I gazed at them with tears in my eyes for their sakes. Those boats that stopped longer than we did better, at low tide they procured some clams also brought home some nice fish, and a large turtle.