

On Board Ship Columbus

November 1851

Monday 11 This day commenced blowing strong from the N.E. steering S.E. under doubled reefed top sails and foresail at 7 o'clock the wind hauled to very light in the last 24 hours we have had a great deal of rain and at the present hour the prospect is fair for a great deal more. It is fair for as able as the most of others to bear it. Employed at fitting boat and making scrub rooms. The boat crew french gets a better the stowage of green and the cook is a better. I believe this to be all the crews of the day.

Tuesday 12 This 24 hours strong winds from S with heavy squalls of wind and rain. Employed at common ship's duty and fitting the boat. Steering by the wind heading S.S.E. Lat 37:40 Long 43:40

Wednesday 13 Commenced with strong winds from S. Saw a sail to the westward steering by the wind to the southward at 5 o'clock. We tacked to the southward heading S.E. under doubled reefed topsails at 6 o'clock the wind hauled N.E. steering by the wind to the southward and eastward we have a strong head current to contend with. The latter part employed at fitting the cutting gear. Lat 37:30 Long 43:30

Thursday 14 Light part of this day fair weather and fine winds from the N.E. Employed at common ship's duty chose the boats crews. Middle part strong winds latter part squally under single reefed topsails and foresails. Saw a sail to the N.W. steering S.E. one of our boats unhooked. Course S.E. by S. Lat 37:50 Long 41:50

Friday 15 This day commenced with strong winds and heavy squalls of rain and wind. At 3 o'clock at 4 o'clock blowing heavy from N. called all hands to take in sail furled the courses close reefed the fore topsail furled the mizen and doubled the main set the spencers and made all ready for the night course S by S do hands the first part.

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Middle part strong gales from N with a heavy swell latter part more moderate. Made all sail. Course S.E. Lat 37:50 Long 38:35

Saturday 16 Commenced with strong gales from N.W. under all sail tacked up the waist about the ship labours heavy. The sick boatstaves a better. Middle part light wind from the westward forced the yards and set the courses. Latter part strong winds from S with heavy squalls under top sails and fore galleons steering by the wind to the eastward saw a sail to the southward steering off all under all sail employed at repairing the fluke chains and setting up the fore top gallant rigging. Lat 32:50 Long 29:40

Sunday 17 Commenced with strong winds from S with heavy squalls of rain steering by the wind under topsails and courses. Middle part strong winds with heavy squalls of rain doubled reefed the topsails and furled the 4th and main sail. At 4 P.M. we had a heavy squall of wind and rain which carried away the fore cat head which set the fore sail all a drift latter part calm with a heavy swell. Lat 33:50 Long 32:10

Monday 18 Commenced with light winds and heavy squalls made all sail saw a ship to the N.W. steering by the wind to the southward and westward wind S. Middle part clear and calm latter part strong gales from S.S.E. doubled reefed the topsails. Saw a sulphur bottom got the boats ready to lower before we discovered what kind of a whale he was he was this day like all the rest in bad weather we have had nothing to do since we left home but yet we may hope for better days steering by the wind heading S.W. by W. Lat 34:00 Long 33:00