

On Board Ship Columbus

December 1851

Another of our sick men complains of a pain in his side his prescription was a blister of Spanish flies mixed with ~~the~~ super-sauce he wore it & was contented for a few hours. very well pleased to think he got so easy but the war at was to come out 10 o'clock last evening he came aft and wished the captain to take off the blister but that was no go it had to be on so many hours to be of any benefit so he must grant and bear it he sent once for camphor as he felt very faint but camphor is not the medicine used for a pain in the side so as a matter of course he could not have that wish granted but the blister was taken off in due time and rather than have another put on the other side he came on deck to his duty we hear no further complaint from him on board of a whale ship where we have no doctors the crew will try to take the advantage and play the sick man with out a cause but there looks most always betrays them and there the only way is to give them the most disagreeable druggs which will make them sick and how we wish they wish to be or else we are sure to have them to their duty in short meter. The 2 men that the captain has cured in 6 hours would off laid below for weeks if they had been cursed and humored as a sick man would be of ship is a hard place for a sick man but when a man is sick he is treated as well as a man can be at sea and that would kill a landsman But the sailor is nobody it is but lately that the great discovery was made that declared the sailor a human being In the days of old times he was supposed to be a mixture of monkey, mermaid and hungout tany but there is great discoveries made in those golden days

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13th
14th
15th
16th
17th
18th
19th
20th
21st
22nd
23rd

beginned with light winds from S.E. steering by the wind to the westward saw several sails 2 brigs and one bark Middle part fine breeze latter part the same employed at duffing down the mizen rigging we have one thing to console us that is we have beat all the vessels that we have been in company with we hope that before the next day is ended we shall be in the South Atlantic offidly part strong winds from S.E. steering by the wind heading S.S.W. and all sail fatter part the same saw several barks and brigs steering the same as we are we passed one never brought to our hear of name which was Bark Hill of Liverpool but we have the pleasure of beating every sail we see

24th
25th
26th
27th
28th
29th
30th

beginned with fine breeze from S.E. steering by the wind under all sail 28 miles heading S.S.W. got a line of vision South saw a break and several sails passed all that was a head of us in the morning so ends the last day to the Northward of the line and over a part of this has been there in 3 months more I hope to be after the Sandwich Islands or at all events on the Equator in the Pacific but if we are we shall have to have better winds than we have had since we left home we have had plenty of wind but a great share of it has been dead a head but we are in hopes of a good run through the S.E. trades but it is the wrong time of year for strong winds as the sun is over her utmost limit to the Southward but let the wind come as it may I hope we shall have patience to submit to them with out a murmur