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Journal of a Voyage in Ship Gideon

1839
Weeds 27th Nov 1839 commences fine weather light winds from ESE steering E by E at day light saw Phel's Island three points abait the ship at 10 AM saw Netherlands Island ahead at 2 p.m. under the lee of it is a mile from it. It appeared to be nothing but a sand bank about 8 feet above the level of the sea was covered with locust trees & natives on the shore
Lat by Obsⁿ 17° 00' S Long by Lunar 177° 14' East

Thurs 28th commences clear weather light winds from ESE steering by the wind with 1 tacks aboard the watch employed setting up topmast rigging and rafting of down latter part wind hauled to the NW steering SE by E
Lat by Obsⁿ 9° 26' S Long by Lunar 177° 42' E

Frid 29th first part light winds from NE steering SE by E middle latter part strong winds steering E by E the watch employed in
Lat by Obsⁿ 10° 44' S Long by Chro 178° 26'

Sat 30th first part squally at day light saw whales lowered 3 boats chased them 2 hours and came on board were galled by the ship.
first and middle part steering ESE at 4 p.m. kept off W for Rotumah
Lat by Obsⁿ 11° 24' S Long by Chro 179° 57' 30" E

December 1839

Sund Dec 1st commences squally strong winds from the E steering S by W middle part fine weather at 2 p.m. raised Rotumah 4 points ahead at 4 p.m. raised a school of whale lowered 4 boats chased them till sun down got nothing they were galled by the ship before we lowered took in top galsails and stood on the wind heading NE by E so ended this day
Lat by Obsⁿ 12° 00' S Long by Lunar 178° 16' East

Howland Michael Baker Master

1839
Mon Dec 2nd commences fine weather strong winds from E at day light Rotumah 4 points off the lee bow kept off for it went ashore and traded with the people were very friendly and very civil. kept the chiefs son and discharged 3 white men at night braces forward and stood off shore

Tues Dec 3rd commences fine weather light winds sent one boat ashore to trade natives came on board with yams bananas potatoes &c. one man deserted from the boat that went ashore whose name was William Dennis middle part calm (boat went ashore and got one stuff and another latter part fine breeze

Wed Dec 4th 1839 commences fine weather light winds from E middle part calm latter part light winds from SW steering off N boats ashore a trading all day at 5 p.m. kept off for the line again at sun down land bore distant 8 miles

Thurs 5th first part light winds fine weather steering E by E Rhodysmar in sight bearing S by W turned up the S Boat and painted her middle and latter part fine weather light winds
Lat by Obsⁿ 11° 44' S Long by Chro 179° " East

Frid 6th fine weather light winds steering to the Northward

Sat 7th first part fine weather light winds from the S steering N middle and latter part the same the watch employed scraping and varnishing the Waite
Lat by Obsⁿ 10° 51' S Long by Chro 177° 16' East

Sund 8th first part light winds from NE steering N by W middle part the same latter part squally
Lat 9° 38' S Long 177° 6' East