

Journal on board

A.C. 11 December 1870

Tuesday Nov. 29th

Good weather nothing in sight but finbacks and humpbacks, and they are not what we are looking for, "could it grow and colder"

Wednesday Nov. 30

Course south, and her little moving power

December 1870

Thursday Dec. 1st

About the same thing, topgallant sail set a leading wind course, S. by W. nothing in sight

Friday Dec. 2nd

A gale of wind, was here to wind, closed up main topsail, cloudy, thick and cold nothing in sight

Saturday Dec. 3rd

A strong breeze in the morning, a school of killers came along close to the ship, and the men succeeded in killing one from the ship, but we did not stop to pick him up, seals and moggins in great abundance, and a long piece the latter made

Sunday Dec. 4th

Had a fair wind and enough of it Staten Land with its snowcapped peaks in sight, the sail merchants on one of the galleons seemed inclined to side with us, they had set out and we had made topsails, when they came up with us we set main top gallants, and left them astern for awhile until we had to chew up and chew down soon had a gale of wind, our main topsail and foretopgallant were badly split, sent it down at night and sent up a new one, squalls of rain and hail were frequent

Monday Dec. 5th

Real Cape Horn weather, I suppose, one hour blowing a gale and the next a calm not very favorable to getting around in the Pacific especially when the wind is dead when we have any

Bark Alfred Gibbs

A.O. December 1870

Tuesday Dec. 6th

Was under close reefed main topsail today very uncomfortable weather this, but we hope to be in better soon, two sails in sight

Wednesday Dec. 7th

This morning we had good weather and a fair wind and was showing some canvas but it did not last long we had head wind and came down to close up

Thursday Dec. 8th

A gale of wind accompanied with hail, snow, and rain ~~was here~~ ~~which~~ ~~our~~ ~~usual~~ ~~sail~~ ~~for~~ ~~such~~ ~~times~~

Friday December 9th

Had a little ice this morning and could almost head our course, now if we don't get such a gale as to blow us too far back we will soon be in better weather, nothing in sight

Saturday Dec. 10th

A fair wind and our course was N. S. W. but of course it soon came out ahead and closed again

Sunday Dec. 11th

Had sail again this morning had a head wind and so much of it that we took it in again nothing in sight but seals moggins &c.

Monday Dec. 12th

Good weather this morning but in the afternoon had a nice snow squall, a Dutch bark passed us, we were under double reefed topsails

Tuesday Dec. 13th

Our usual routine: to make sail in the morning and take it in just before noon that is all that can be said except it is cold here which any one would be likely to suppose

Wednesday 14th

Nice weather the whole day, and carried fore and main topgallants could head our course which was N. by N. and now I suppose we are far enough around Cape Horn to tell this was the Pacific Ocean