

Our Ship in the South Atlantic Ocean

Friday December 18th 1868

This day wind from S.E. to S.E. East all sail set steering S. East by South employed making spars smaller and other jobs about ship - two sails in sight the day end beautiful weather - Lat in 27.10 South

Saturday 19th This day pleasant weather wind S.E. East, steering S. East by South the watch employed breaking out for water, and flour, and other small jobs - one ship in sight - ends pleasant windy light find our ship to day to be in the latitude of 28.20 South and in the Longitude of 26.00 West

Sunday 20th This day blowing a good breeze from the North to S.W. West steering S. East by South - not much doing to day as it is the Sabbath day the day end having the appearance of a change, nothing to be seen from mast head - where is the sperm whales

Monday 21st This day wind shifted to the South and breeze and some with rain part of the time the watch employed making coverings for our hatches, setting up rigging for our hatches work is nearly done - have seen porpoises to day - our ship in the latitude of 31.00 South and in the Longitude 27.27 West

Tuesday 22nd South, S. East wind good weather our ship on opposite tack the watch employed in ship's duty made new foot ropes to fore and main top gallant yards Lat in 30.40 South

"I have a silent sorrow here,
A grief - it'll never impart;
It breathes no sigh, it sheds no tear,
But it consumes my heart."

Steering towards the S. East - bound around the Cape of Good Hope

Wednesday December 23rd 1868

This day light winds from S. East to S.S. East, good weather the watch employed in ship's duty, two sails in sight from mast head, at 4 P.M. lowered our boats down again to exercise the crew this is the second time since we left home the day end good weather - no observation

Thursday 24th This day wind from S. West to S.S.E. good weather our ship on opposite tack we sail in sight the watch employed in ship's duty killed one of our pigs for Christmas, that we bought at the Cape de Ward Islands the day end good weather - ship heading S. West

Christmas

Friday 25th This day with us is Christmas, and you will hear each other wishing them a merry Christmas - we have kept this day by making spun yarn, repairing sails &c for dinner in the Cabin we had fresh pork and potatoes, apple sauce pumpkin pies, bread and butter - the men in the Storage and forecabin has a plenty of fresh pork to day - some of them wishes they could have some whiskey to drink to make them merry we have seen birds, and fin back whales, find our ship to day to be in the latitude of 31.38 South Longitude in 17.56 West