

Sept 19th 1853

Slight changes in wind steering N. S. W. and fine weather 7 A.M. made the Island of Sal or Salt - one of the Cape Verde Islands. Shortly afterwards caught a large porpoise. 4 P.M. made a sail proved to be a merchant man running free. Lost sight of her on our larboard quarter. Lat. 17° 17' Lon. 23° 49'

Sept. 20th

Have the trades steady from the N. E. and good weather. At 7 A.M. made other of the Cape Verde Islands and at 11 anchored in St Vincent harbour. This is a fine anchorage and well protected from the sea by St. Nicholas an Island lying near its mouth on either side of which is the entrance. Found a number of vessels lying here employed in various kinds of business but no whalers most of them had discharged or were discharging coal for the Steamers which stop here some of them - the line Steamers - regularly. Capt and a crew went on shore soon after we dropped anchor. Came off at 3 P.M. Are to get water paint ship and I hope enjoy a few days liberty. The inhabitants are nearly all coloured still I should like to take a stroll on the Island.

Sept. 21st

To day have been very busy. Took on water I worked on board. The Casks were

taken ashore filled and rafted back. Does not prove to be the best water being somewhat salt. It is hoped it will work clear in the hold. The Island seems to present an uncommon share of low marshy ground and this perhaps is one of the causes of a fever which sometimes prevails here even to an alarming extent especially dangerous to strangers unused to the climate if exposed to the night air or rather fog or mist which rises from the lower tracts of land.

Some parts are however high and mountainous but apparently of a dark rich hue and unproductive. In fact the whole island I am told is mainly dependent on the adjacent ones for fruit and other productions not supplied by the many vessels which stop here. From the facilities of the harbor these may be said to constitute the chief support of the town by giving employment to a large portion of its inhabitants. Two vessels left this afternoon and also 2 arrived.

Sept. 22nd

The Starboard watch has had liberty while the other was employed in ship duty painting tarring &c. At 5 P.M. the American Brig of War Perry, Capt Page came in and dropped anchor. She is from a station on the African Coast for the detection and apprehension of Slavery. Looks like a very pretty craft. Soon afterwards a large British line Steamer arrived. Capt. came off at 6 P.M. quite