

Oct 19th 1853

Exceedingly warm. Crossed the imaginary great circle some time this morning. Now for the first time I am in S. Lat. It is a long way from home and the line though not material I can almost imagine to be a barrier between me and that happy abode. Notwithstanding our large number of green hands there were no pretensions made to shaving or any thing of the kind. But as this is a practice seldom revived at this day I can easily account for the look of indifference manifest on our approach to the string. It has been a melting day and the rough handling of Old Sep. with his bucket of lather and rusty knife would have added nothing to our comparative comfort. ^{before} he didn't relish the idea of leaving his watery element and expose himself to a scorching sun for the sake of rendering service to our company without pay. Of course ^{by} instinct how many would have to be served in order to show no partiality. Our course has been S. by S. with light breezes. Lat 2° 15' South Lon. 19° 37' West

Oct 20th

No important changes Lat 2° 27' Long 21°

Oct 23rd

The wind and weather during the last 2 days had been quite uniform and without

Change today. Last evening killed a pig and turkey and have had another dinner worth the mention. I must say we had a portion of the Cape Verde pig ingeniously converted into a sea pie which reflected much credit on our Steward - C. D. Dexter - who so well understands the application of Skill and Science in this important branch of the Culinary art. Heatness all over the left By his own account his former practice in which he held the office of 2nd and after^{wards} Chief restaurateur during which time were vended Clam Chowders and oyster stews which he claims to have been perfectly irresistible judging from the encomi attached by those who had the good fortune to preside at his sumptuous regalements. Justly places him in the distinguished rank which he now holds with such unprecedented ability and honor. And were it otherwise to say nothing of inferior articles reckoned under the head of secondary refreshments in which he mentions of having dealt largely his delicate and feminine proportions ought in justice to secure a clear and undisputed right and title to this elevated station but for the fact that greatness and economy are wholly excluded from his system of procedure. Facts I cannot disguise where he holds dominion there dirt and filth accumulate. It begins to attract general attention and it is even rumored that certain amongst us will soon take him by surprise