

July 4th 1854

This day so dear to the hearts of our patriotic people has been remarkably fine and a light breeze gave it an air of comfort.

Narrowly limited indeed are our means of celebrating this auspicious day. Big guns and bands of music I suppose are now expressing the sentiments of thousands of our liberty loving people at home but we have only a few small arms with which most loudly to manifest our patriotism and have their echo there is no response to encourage us in their use.

Yet while debarred from society and denied the privilege of representing one among the happy crowd let us still cherish the feeling in our hearts and be thankful for even the comfort we enjoy. Our flag has been allowed to slumber undisturbed for we could not make a mockery by spreading it to the breeze when there was not even a distant sail to display it. Well may our friends be preserved to give us a good account of this day if we cannot enjoy it. To night the wind rises and sea growing rugged. Double reefed Lat 16° 24' Lon. 07° 07' W.

July 5.

Strong gales and heavy sea lying under short sail. Porpoises came round and one of our boatstewards struck one and after getting wet to the skin we hauled him over the board so we have a prospect of more balls. These when we can get them are admirable fodder.

Lat 16° 49' Lon. 11° E.

July 6.

No Change Lat 13° 25' Lon. 2° 45' E.

July 7.

These 24 hours more moderate and we have got some more sail on. This afternoon saw humpback but did not lower as there is small chance of getting them off soundings. Lat 12° 49' Lon. 4° 24' E.

July 13.

During the last five days the weather has been quite uniform and pleasant and have been working to windward and eastward under easy sail. To day light winds and warm. Lowered a boat and caught 2 loggerhead turtles about 2 feet in length. These are intended for soup tomorrow. To day we did chase humpback but could not get near them for the water is too deep and clear enabling them to see us plainly. I went in one of the boats and I like it much better than ship haling. Lat 9° 25' Lon. 11° 00' E.

July 14.

Light gales and pleasant. All sail on. We must now be near the coast if our observations are correct. Lat 8° 55' Lon. 11° 04'.

July 15.

Weather continues lovely with gentle breeze. Land ho! was echoed from aloft at 5 o'clock.