

Dec 29th 1854.

During the day wind has varied some but has now settled into the old quarter. Course N. S. W. Notwithstanding our predictions of a change it has not yet come. Clouds to night thick and threatening. Lat. 33° 40'. Lon 10° 10'.

Dec. 30.

All day raining sometimes raining hard. Took in some sail last night when the storm began and pretty soon the wind began to increase and to night till blowing quite hard in course of the day caught considerable quantity of fresh water for washing etc. No obs.

Dec. 31 Sunday.

Strong gales from the N. Weather thick and heavy. Laying to on the S. tack with sail considerably reduced. The last day of the year 1854. What an eventful one it has been to me. How quickly the years go by; and yet when I look back at the dawning of this dying year it seems an age and when I think on the shortness of life how it is but a brief period and like the departing year we must soon pass from this stage of existence to another world. It is with some thing of a heavy heart that I look forward to the many weary months that must still go by ere I can see home again. Just before night wind came to the S. W. and as expected now blows furiously from that quarter which no doubt lends much of the gloom that is now felt here.

ever as no obs.

January 1st 1855.

The gale continues in all its fury. Seas high and boisterous. With this morning some rain. Not a very gentle welcome for the New Year. But yet at least will grasp it with a friendly hand and give it a joyful welcome to our hearts. The old year is gone we shall know it no more. If I sit down now and reflect on the events which transpired during its presence and analyze my thoughts and acts I shall find much to regret and some to be thankful for.

I can't contemplate so seriously time idly spent which might have been improved but which it is now too late to remedy. Then since time once passed never returns let us firmly resolve that we will improve the present new year and make it a period of happy usefulness so that at the end we may look back on a year well spent.

This morning I stole a march on time or rather on some of our company before they turned out and wished them a happy New Year, but the Capt anticipated me and called out when I thought him asleep. I wish you a happy New Year and added with his characteristic good humor: "If you please I'll take it in tea".

This of course caused a simultaneous laughter from us all and before the rest could recover their gravity he had wished them too.