

March 9th 1855.

Last night wind sprung up afresh and today we are hove too in an E. N. E. gale. Sail pretty well reduced. In addition to strong wind and prodigious ^{leaves} which dash over us had some rain during the afternoon and some of us constantly drenched all day either with fresh or salt water - Fine weather for young ducks. No observation.

March 10.

During the night wind and sea went down and just after midnight we kept off N. and spoke out raze.

Before daylight set N. T. gallant sail and courses. Through the day the wind has been favorable but light. Perceiving by our latitude at noon that we were too far to the south for the island of St. Catharine's we heeled too on the starboard tack and pretty soon discovered land on our lee bow. To-night it is plainly to be seen stretching from four points on our weather bow to nearly ahead. This afternoon got the anchors on the bows the chain up and everything in readiness for letting go. We are all quite elated at the idea of visiting even a small part of S. America for I am told only a narrow passage divides the island from the main land and that there is much fine scenery along the coast. As near as we can judge the island bears to night N. N. W. 30 miles.

March 11 Sunday.

Kept off at 1 o'clock last night with a light breeze and at 2 P.M. gained the mouth of the channel. Here on the main to the right is Santa Cruz a few houses scattered along the coast with rugged hills rising abruptly in the back ground overgrown with trees of various description forming altogether a pleasing picture to "we salts". Nearby is a small island containing the fort of Santa Cruz. Arrived opposite this we hove too and waited for instructions as to where we were to anchor. Officers soon came off from the fort and finding that we drew less than 11 feet of water - those drawing more are not required to go farther - we were informed through an interpreter that we would according to custom have to proceed under a pilot up to the city about 10 miles higher and situated on the island. The pilot arrived at 5 P.M. and we braced forward and stood along. Our hatches had been previously sealed to be broken by authorities up town. The wind dying away and night coming on we were obliged to let go our anchor in about 2 1/2 fathoms. The weather to night is very fine and the light air agreeable and exhilarating.

March 12.

Took our anchor this morning and with a light breeze made a little headway towards