

Am always ready and ever have been to do duty when ever I have been able and more than once have done so when positively ill. But where is the sense where is the justice and economy in sacrificing health here when there is so much need that we rather ^{should} have a few days of undisturbed rest and liberty. A few days here can make no material difference to the prospects of a voyage, and how much might it make to us and how much more cheerful and contented we could go to sea again after a thorough ramble over the hills and dales and among vines and fruit trees and all the green things. Notwithstanding I believe we are to get away as soon as possible and preparations are going forward by those who are able, for getting water. After an officer boarded us Capt. went on shore taking with him the pilot who has been on board since we first came in. This afternoon it has rained some and the work does not progress very fast. Took 2 boats of wood and 2 casks of water. Capt. came off at night quite wet. If he don't get sick it will be a miracle. Our hatches are to be sealed every night and broken every morning while we lay here by a man from the port whom we have to fetch and carry for that purpose. 2 Brigs passed up to town to day both Merchantmen.

March 20.

The weather to day though we have had some rain is improved. With a cold I have a severe sore throat but others are

getting better. I have taken 90 lbs. of water and 3 boat loads of wood. This afternoon were boarded by half a dozen soldiers headed by a dignitary with a long sword. Their object was to search us for a slave woman supposed by some to have been on board as we left the city about the time she was missed. We had to send for the Capt. who was on shore at the time before they could commence legally. Soon came a search ensued lasting about half an hour when they left us satisfied they had called at the wrong place. In fact they didn't much think of meeting with their victim but were obliged according orders to institute a search. If they had known our ideas on the subject they might have shared themselves the trouble of visiting us for that is a kind of merchandise we would not intentionally be burdened with. Within a few ~~days~~ years there have been quite a number of slaves taken from here in whale ships and that causes them to be on the alert. Capt. is on board to-night.

March 21

Good weather. All hands "so as to be round" myself excepted. Finished wooding and have one more raft of water to come get then we shall be nearly ready for sea. Some talk about sending down our lower yards but I guess it will be all talk. Have not done anything to day.