

Oct 19th 1855

Starboard watch on liberty. Broken out several bbls of lean oil and slush which is sold here. The 2 brigs are discharging coal. I learned this morning that no rain has visited the island for 3 years and the little vegetation that once was is now all dried up. The poor are poor indeed subsisting on produce from other islands and what occasionally comes from other parts of the world in the way of trade. Since we were here more than 2 years ago an additional pier for landing coal and one or 2 new houses have been built about the only changes wrought in the place so I am told. I think I should not care to live in this the most dead and alive place I ever saw by a great deal. Capt. on shore till night.

Oct 20.

Today our watch had liberty. I did not care to pass the night on shore and came aboard at 7 this evening tired of traveling in the sand under a hot sun and seeing nothing interesting. My only recreation - a few games of Billiards on a poor table. The mate also came off to night.

At 8 a British steamer came in and anchored quite near us. Others are expected soon she will commence taking her coal to night. Capt. on board to night.

Oct. 21 Sunday

Starboard watch on shore. One of the Brigs got underway also a schooner came in with provisions for the half starved inhabitants. Steamer left this evening having been detained only about 24 hours. She is a pretty boat. Head ^{pass} sailing for Rio, Pernambuco and other places on the S American Coast. Her name the Tamar of London.

Oct 22.

All hands on board and busy. Among the various kinds of employment staying the foremast and hauling the fore top mast forward and jib boom down. Consumed much of our time. Had strong breezes this morning and tried to haul under the lee by a kedge but could not against the wind and chopping sea. The sheet was to favor the overhauling of the boom where we supposed she leaked. Shall have to wait for a smother time. A small schooner came in this afternoon from Brava. A boat just left at 4 for our Capt. The very splendid moonlight evening.

Oct 23

Our watch again on liberty but as it was somewhat smothery I stayed on board and pried around the bow some but could not find the main leak and conclude