

Journal of the Bark John Dawson in the

Sunday August 27th 1865

Commenced with brisk breeze from the Westward trying to work to the windward under short tacks 12 vessels in sight at sundown ~~the~~ saw the coast of Africa bearing S by W distant 40 miles. Night - part light baffling winds steering N.W. by W latter part brisk breeze from the Eastward steering N.W. at daylight saw Gibraltar ahead at 12 M came to in 17 fathoms of water off the town.

Monday 28th

Commenced with light E. S. W. winds thick weather Captain on shore. Latter part strong breeze from the N.W. lots of vessels coming in.

Tuesday 29th

Commenced with strong breeze from the S.W. waiting for a fair wind. Latter part all hands engaged reaping the main topsail over, and carpenter putting new iron plates on the cutwater for the Bobstay finished and bent the main topsail and at 11 A.M. wind hauled to the Southward. got under weigh and also several other vessels

Mediterranean Sea James Cottle Master

Wednesday 30th

Commenced with fine breeze from the Southward beating out the Bay at 4 P.M. head of the hole plot and off Pearl rock and found the wind to the Westward in the straits and could not gain any, so we squared away for the town and the rest of the fleet also, and anchored in 13 fathoms. Mid part at 1 P.M. a huge spray up from the Eastward. call all hands and get under weigh and stood out the Bay. Latter part steering to the Westward through the straits at 10 P.M. passed Cape Spartal. Stowed the anchors and unbent the cables sent down the royals and unbent the studding sail and sent down the boom. We are once more in the Atlantic thank God fine weather.

Lat 35° 32' North
Long 6° 07' West

Thursday 31st

Commenced with fine breeze from the S.E. steering N.E. by N. at 3 P.M. steering S.W. by W. engaged repairing the royals lots of vessels in sight. Carpenter engaged fitting the Port end of the windlass for its rotten. Middle & latter part a little continues fine breeze from the S.E. at 7 P.M. steering S.W. watch engaged working in the rigging &c several vessels in sight standing to the S.E. fine weather.

Lat 36° 20' North
Long 8° 52' West