

Friday, D. January 23, 1863

- 48 days from N.Y. -

Latitude South. Longitude West.

Had a good breeze during the past night - and a splendid morning. The sun was well up when I came on deck... The sea had gone down and we were now smoothly gliding along... From the cry of Sail! Ho - brought every eye toward the direction given by the person who had first seen. Far away - in the direction which we were heading the Top Gallant Sails of a vessel could be defined - looming up on the distant horizon. By the glass we could make her out to be a Brig. standing a little across our bows. We were soon up with her - and standing away to the Northward - was soon out of sight. Still another Brig came in sight which we set our colors for. She proved an Spanish Ship - but could not reply to our signals. After dinner - land down for a sleep. Mary came and called me - saying that there was a Ship ahead - standing across our bows. Which George said was a Whaler. Going on deck from this to be the case. And by the glass could see her boats - very plain. Soon a boat lowered from the whale ship - and pulled towards us and came on board. Consisting of the Mate - and a crew mostly - Negroes. And Portuguese. They informed us - that their vessel was the Barge "Wye" of New Bedford. Capt. Barker. 27 months from home with 570. Barnes Green Oil - was last from Fish Bay Coast of Africa - and had been in to St. Helena. The Mate Mr. Potter - invited us to go on board of the Barge after which the Capt. would return on board of our vessel. So Mr. Evans - George and myself went off to the Barge and was well paid - for the opportunity.

We had now been to sea - 48 days from N.Y. - and during that time had not put our foot off the vessel. Now getting into the whale boat - brought back to my memory - of years gone by - when a boy of 14. I was on the same business - dropping astern of our vessel - the Mate gave word to give way - and with a will the men bent the oar blades - and away we go - with a rush - We have now a fine chance to see our vessel under full sail - One of the most glorious sights - which I never before on shore ever see - We were soon on board - and introduced to the Capt. - He is a young man about 36. or 40. Years. And has been in the business a long time. He immediately returned - in the same boat - on board of our vessel.

Soon as we had exchanged compliments with the Capt. - I took a look around the decks. They had but just got through boiling a Sperm Whale which they took the previous Saturday. - But every thing looked clean and well cared for. on deck was - a Pig - all black and shorn - as if he had been recently polished - also - a Parrot which during our stay - was speechless - and - a small Dog - (a recent acquisition from the Coast of Africa -) which barked at our approach. - Then a good Portulac of Sails - Gentlemen - 8 or 9. Portuguese - a sprinkling of - Americans - made up - the crew - of 25 men all told. The Land Mate was a "Black". The Mate invited us on the Cabin and going down a small small Staircase we groped - our way in partial darkness - through a small Anti room used for eating - then meals - to the Cabin - which was hardly enough large to seat our party - of four - on the floor was an Oil cloth - the Tugues of which was nearly worn off through constant use - A Sofa - placed along the Transom - made room for 3 to sit - which with a space of 4 feet - brought us against the Table which stood at the end of the Cabin near the entrance - on this were books of various - Titles treating mostly on Navigation - Selling ourselves down in this small space - Paper was brought on - with Exercise that nothing stronger was to be had. - Then came Stories - mostly connected in some manner with women - and lastly but not least. The Mate produced his Stock of Daguerotypes - which numbered - I should think about 50 - and were the duplicates of several generations - from Mother - to Sons Children - A choice collection no doubt - to the Mate of several young and middle aged Ladies - which he challenged the world to produce better looking or warmer features - than the same originals - No doubt - he shows to all his sincere regards for these same Ladies to every party - that chances to come aboard - and aboard of his vessel - Going again on deck - found that during our stay - in the Cabin - the Wye had come up with our Ship - which was abreast with the Main Yard - And the Passengers was looking at us - Clumping up on the rail - could see Charley swinging his Straw Cap - Thinking that our turn was nearly up - George and myself took a turn around decks and up - on the waft boat - when we entered into conversation with one of the boatstewards - who had ship in St. Helena. He had been laid up about 6 weeks - and was then off duty - On he said - he would have gone on board of our