

returns of the day, but not being there I heartily wish it here. The Boys I suppose find that the vacation was too short, and are not much rejoiced at the idea of going back to school on Monday. I trust they will return there well disposed and determined to improve their time and behave themselves as they should. Father is I suppose by this time far from home.

September 1st Weather today is fair and the Saturday-minds have freshened up a little so that we make a little headway. we expect to cross the line in about a week - nothing doing today at all. course S.E.

Sept 2^d It is rather cloudy today and threatens Sunday - to rain. the sea is pretty rough there being a heavy swell - as we all expected this afternoon the rain came down in torrents and promised to do so for sometime to come. I do not fancy bad weather at sea it is dull enough on land but much more so on sea. course S.E.

Sept 3^d Rained all night and all day today Monday with unabated fury and still promises to continue so. we filled several casks with rain water, which we will drink up. winds very changeable and the seas heavy. course as much as possible S.E.

Sept 4th Rain still continues. nothing doing Tuesday. everything looks dull to me and I feel homesick and downhearted.

Sept 5th Last night it cleared up a little Wednesday, and this morning it does not rain at all. still it is cloudy and unpleasant we are fast approaching the line and expect to cross it from one day to the other now. preparations are making to receive Neptune. I can say nothing of him but after we have crossed the line

I will be better able to form an idea of the imposing ceremony which always takes place on board of all ships crossing the line. Sept 6th Weather pretty fair. nothing doing Thursday at all. all hands idle - boats crews are chosen today and I am placed in the bow boat and pull the after oar. there are nine sails in sight today all making for the line.

Sept 7th Weather continues fair. I had eight Friday hours on deck last night and during my watch we tacked ship so as to gain more to the southward. five sails in sight this morning. nothing doing today. exchanged signals with an English man of war. nothing of interest.

Sept 8th Weather fair and the winds pretty strong Saturday. this not exactly as we should like them. nothing doing but eating oranges and other fruit. nothing seen from masthead.

Sept 9th Weather and winds fair. nothing doing Sunday. it being Sunday. all hands lounging about the decks spinning yarns or eating oranges. course S.W. by W.

Sept 10th Weather and winds fair. from observation taken at noon we found ourselves twenty eight miles from the Line, so that we will cross it tonight.

Sept 11th Weather and winds fair. as was Tuesday. presumed we crossed the line last night and are now in the South Atlantic Ocean, making for the Browns banks to cruise a while for sperm whales. our oil is out so we have to slush it. that is to say use grease.

Sept 12th Weather and winds for the most part Wednesday. fair. it was little squally in the afternoon but not much of any consequence. a sail was seen from masthead heading the same