

and found 80 fathoms water with a fine gravel bottom, if the winds continue fair we shall be off Cape Horn in a few days

Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Not having had an opportunity of writing Thursday - up my journal since the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. I now with pleasure seize the present. We made Cape St. John, which is the most eastern point of Staten Land on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> inst. distant about thirty five miles, we were then going along, under full sail and a free wind at the rate of 9 to 9 1/2 knots, so that we doubled the Cape before noon, and luffed to the wind. Staten Land is situated to the southward and eastward of the main land and is separated from Tierra del Fuego by the Straits of Lemaire. It is a dreary, rugged and barren piece of land, uninhabited and uncultivated. it is however, ~~uninhabited~~ visited by sealers at different periods of the year, for seal are quite numerous in this quarter. As we passed the land, we could easily distinguish the snow on top of the mountains. We made good progress during the day and at night the land was out of sight - astern of us. That night about 11 o'clock a heavy squall struck us, all hands were called and in a short time the ship was safely riding the gale under the close reefed main topsail and fore topmast staysail, we laid to about 24 hours and then were enabled to proceed, the next morning several sail were in sight on our weather bow, we soon however passed them and on Friday evening at 9 o'clock we found ourselves off the pitch of Cape Horn, and next morning at four were off Diego, that came morning we came up with two sails one of which

proved to be a whaler, and the other a small topsail schooner, during the course of the day it being calm the whaler lowered a boat and the Captain came on board of us, the ship was the India of New Bedford, just four months out, she had 22 barrels of sperm oil, which she took off Pico, one of the Western Islands, she had followed the same track as ourselves but had seen no whales since she left the islands, she was bound to the northwest coast. She came thro the Straits of Le Maire, instead of doubling Cape St. John, and came near being lost on shore in a thick fog, the fog cleared away just in time for the ship was a few fathoms from the shore. We had a good and quick passage around Cape Horn, the weather was not very cold, and the winds were mostly favorable. We shall soon be able to shape our course to the northward and again be in warm weather. Our highest latitude was 57° 18'. During the night of the 13<sup>th</sup> another heavy squall struck us, and the main brace having parted we came near losing our main yard, but fortunately it was saved. After this we had fair wind and made good progress to the northward, we averaged 9 knots an hour for several days. On Saturday the 16<sup>th</sup> we lowered for blackfish but got none, the Captain thinks they were sperm whales. on the 17<sup>th</sup> we chased night whales but did not get any. On the 18<sup>th</sup> we spoke the "Gertrude" from Boston 110 days from Boston and bound to the Sandwich Islands #