

Barre Baltic Feb 26th 1857

Made fresh Cogellant sails and covered them with the canvas so that a tar could get on the sails, sent down mainsail and are busy tarring down the left rigging. The messes are playing around the ship all day: missing under topsails only nearly dead.

Small
The messes are under the stern that is a bad sign in my opinion. I heard some of the sailors speak of strange games about sharks following a ship. I heard him tarring down Cogellant Backstays.

Feb 27
The sharks still stay with us following us up through some port overboard with a hook & line, tried to get them but they would not bite on the lower end and our Boat-tried to harpoon one of them during 6 times but could not strike either of them. Finishing tarring down today & about the top off of the side of the ship getting ready to paint the hull inside and out and my work by hand & clothes would look beautiful. For some reason the sailor I see they rock follow the paper but I cannot get the tar out. The old man says he intends to have me tar down the rigging a few days before we get in New Bedford so that I shall not forget to see that I have been a sailor.

Sat 28
The last day of Feb and I have bought 13 yds of Skinfence out out a shirt and pair of pants and intend mending them before in place of buying any out of the shop. I also got for the Port for 4 weeks of salt meat. I had some all over the decks and had a long time sweeping Monday, covered painting ship.

Barre Baltic Feb 2nd 1857

45
Saw a shark try at the wheel from 10 to 12 am. and a boy in the boys said their was a dolphin under the stern when they all run off got 10 o'clock lines and submerged. I saw Mr. Stiers among the rest he caught 3 and their flopping around. Dick Brown got the old man up out of the cabin. He drove all the men forward. It then he and Mr. Stiers set to & had a regular old fashioned family quarrel. The first one they have ever had. The old man will not have anything going on Sabbath day. It being my wheel I heard all that was said on the subject. And their was some high words passed.

Monday
All hands on Deck all day painting no match. Below for our watch until 11 PM.

Feb 29
I came to do 4th watch on only got 4 hours sleep out of the last 24 but the rest on Deck at 8 hours.

Feb 30
No day watch & watch as usual & as are most done painting finish to day & then on 1st deck have nothing to do for the rest of the week as we want the paint to dry.

Feb 31
Something very strange to us on Jan nothing to do now. all hands are loafing around Deck same as on Sunday. The ropes & rigging are all laid around the ship. It is that nothing will be against the paint.

Feb 32
Doing nothing. I have finished my pants & shirts and are now all ready to go ashore in Blue Trowsers and are in latitude 9 north heading N.W. with a good fresh breeze in shade of nothing happens each week about the 25th of this month.