

Best Ball Feb 10th 1857
 Sunday. It has now been nearly two months since
 I have written anything to you in my
 Journal. Since my last there I have
 been nothing of any consequence happened
 my one all through making ship
 punching and sand. and a part of the more
 in the digging is over with
 the old man has put up a reward of
 \$20 for any one that raises a specimen
 of any kind and for get him makes no
 difference if he does not make but a
 little. I have now made the
 force the and changed it all out and
 in an end looking any other.
 I commenced standing my watch a few
 days ago. but I can do nothing but
 stand watch heads. as my right shoulder
 is still very lame also my breast
 I think seriously if I do not get any
 better when we arrive at Parrish island
 of getting any discharge and going in
 the hospital and try to get cured. I
 now putting cod liver oil in the parts
 that are painful. not taking any
 medicine. It is getting very hot weather
 on an in Sat. 26. the old man talks of
 if trying to go in at Stearns island
 again. two of the Hancock are laid
 up sick. one of them with the scurvy
 8/27

Been busy painting ship on the outside
 making open yards sunset. the mid came
 ahead and we could not reach
 the island not in sight. I am getting
 now almost as well as in even. so that
 I can do my duty. the old man gave
 me a regular blowing up this morning. because
 I did not know how to make a proper
 mat. he had heard of the boys from
 and he thought all of us ought to stand

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 Best Ball Feb 23rd 1858
 Had it now and in have quite an addition
 to our family. the old man has had four
 black pigs. the old man makes them as
 carefully as he could a baby
 Feb 28th
 Had a very strong squally m. B. saw
 several water snakes but none nearer than
 a quarter of a mile off so that it caused
 us no impression. the old man has been
 endeavoring to make the mangrove island
 after being 3 days he gave it up in
 despair. and said that his cronometer
 was badly out of order. I have been
 thoroughly scolded 3 times this week. and
 caught cold getting in my teeth. and my
 arms and breast are again lame. in
 Sat. 18th I have seen a good deal
 of very sharp lightning for the past 2
 nights. I am badly afraid it shall never
 be so strong and frequent again as I was
 formerly. One of the blankets on tonight
 was during the latter night. he had to get
 to get some I was said as from have
 and I sincerely hope it may be the last.
 Head m. and list. all the folks
 are busy making jam. for
 this m. children & sunset hours

Feb 27th
 Yesterday Land was seen out from
 the mast head and it proved to be one of
 the mangrove groups. the old man had no idea
 we were within 200 miles of any land. his
 chronometer is some 3 degrees out of the way. if
 it had of been in the right position we
 had stood up from being up the rocks
 we took ship and stood off from the
 land with the intention of going in to get
 some fruit to day. but this morning the
 breeze has all blown away but we have in
 plain sight of 3 islands