

Ship St Peter December 1st 1849 Cape de Verdes
looked the face of the earth. The Island is high and mountainous and
rises in some places abruptly from the sea and in others high steep
banks rise to the height of 100 feet on which the sugar beats to the height
of from 10 to 30 feet and from these a plain runs back from 3 miles back
to the mountains which rise from 1000 to 1500 feet high. The natives are a half
civilized race going almost naked and many of them naked as they came
into the world. The City of St. Jago is situated on a small bay which runs
into the Island about 100 feet above the tide. It is regularly laid out and like all
other cities like it presents a picturesque appearance. The houses of the rich &
poor stand side by side the lofty mansion by the poor hovel. The buildings
are mostly of the better quality. Their religion is Roman Catholic. Their Church
is built in gothic style as is most of the other buildings and is rather
poor looking outside but inside is gorgeously decorated. There is a large fort
standing in front of the town covering about 3 acres and plenty of black
soldiers loitering around. While we were there a wedding ceremony was performed.
The party first went to the church the Bridegroom and bride taking the
lead where the ceremony was performed amid the shouts and chanting of
the crowd that followed. After the ceremony was performed they all
returned to the house singing & clapping their hands where they partook
of a great feast. The Custom House stands on the beach alongside of the gran
house where soldiers are constantly kept to keep people from smuggling
Tobacco but after all ^{myself} and the boat crew smuggled about 10 pounds
for oranges, Cocoa nuts & Bananas which we got very cheap for 4 hands of
the took ashore a barrel of oil and some bread for which we got a barrel
load of oranges and other fruit, 6 hogs, 6 Turkeys, 6 hens, 1 goat, 1 kid.
Sunday 2nd Got sail about 9 o'clock steering S by west wind fair fresh breeze
Monday 3rd do Yorktown Salem Phila. a chance Saw whale
Tuesday 4th Pleasant do Rigged out flying 1st Boom
Wednesday 5th Pleasant very kind N.E. Course south by West
Thursday 6th Almost a calm. Raised black fish at 10 in the forenoon
lowered away and pulled 5 miles before we ^{came} up them and just as we got
on them down they went and came up about 2 miles to windward and then
for another pull. They continued to do so for 4 or 5 hours when we left
them and returned to the ship leaving 10 miles to leeward. Saw a school of
porpoise ^{captain in the boat Mr. Gray with} Albatross and several other kind of fish to the amount of 1000
Friday 7th Almost a calm. Very hard showers during the night
Saturday 8th It rained hard during the night with sharp
thunder and lightning. It is the first thunder storm I have seen
at sea. The sharpness of the lightning and the deep rolling of the

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thunder as it boomed along the day was truly terrific. Still there was
all the time a dead calm not a breath of air stirred the face of the
mighty deep. I rained till 11 o'clock when a breeze sprung up from the
East steering south by West. To day struck 2 Albatross from the bows of the ship
Sunday 9th Commenced raining early in the morning. The wind fell to a dead
it rained till 10 o'clock when it cleared off and remained pleasant during
the wind hauled to East to East course to west by west. Breeze quite fresh
Monday 10th Continued to blow fresh from the same quarter. Nothing of note occurred
Tuesday 11th do Got up main top gallant rigging rattled royal
Wednesday 12th do Struck a cow fish at 4 bells. Rained our Boat
commenced to blow fresh from south east at noon. At 4 o'clock in P.M. raised
top gallant & flying gib. At 9 took in Main & kept company with 2
ships during the day. Crossed the line at 10 in the evening.
Thursday 13th Wind fell a little loosed sail at 4 bells. Left our neighbor
astern. For the first time we are in the south Atlantic but the sea is the same
is the same as rolling waves still rocks as it is quite cool fresh breeze blowing
Friday 14th Wind fell to a pleasant breeze. Sail ho astern again on us.
Saturday 15th Pleasant sail still gains on us. Square rigged ship
At 3 she is hull down and we are left alone on the dark blue sea.
Sunday 16th It continued pleasant wind and course as usual.
The first Sabbath in the South Atlantic. The sun is directly over head
and it is ^{quite} warm. Although the heat is not so oppressive as
I expected there is a fresh breeze blowing which makes it cool
and pleasant. The heat is about the same as the middle of July.
If there was not a breeze blowing the heat would be exceedingly oppressive.
Monday 17th The wind hauled to the East Course. Pleasant day
with a fresh breeze. To day we are 2 months out and during the
time we have passed over 50 degrees of Latitude & 40 degrees of Longitude.
Have caught one Whale one Albatross 1 Cow Fish have seen 5 different
of Whale viz. Sperm Fin Back Fin Hammer Killer & Pilot. Have lowered
Boats 3 times once for Whale once for practice & once for Black Fish.
Have had but one hard blow and a few squalls. The most sail we have
carried away is Fore top gallant do top jacksay Mizzen top sail and
spanker in the slings. The closest sail we have been under is close reefed Main.
The only land we have seen is Cape de Verdes which we made in 4 days
and sent a Portuguese Sailor at that price. I have for curiosities during
the time the wings of a flying fish the teeth of a whale the tail
of a cow fish 2 Coda nut shells from the island of St. Jago.
Tuesday 18th Wind East course South Pleasant day. Got up Main
for making top gaff which the larboard watch are rattling so a breeze