

Ship St Peter Monday February 11th 1850

In the morning it looked squally the wind fresh from E. N. E. steering her course N. by West at 11 altered her course S. W. by West. It cleared up during the forenoon and continued pleasant all day.

Tuesday 12th

There was an Eclipse of the sun this morning with about half of its surface covered. The day is very pleasant with a fresh breeze from the North East course S. W. by West. In the morning I put down old fore sail and bent a new one.

Wednesday 13th

A pleasant day with the wind S. E. In the forenoon course North by West at noon tacked ship and stood E. by S. Saw the ships Martha and Leonidas in the morning. Signalled the ship down Mizzen top sail and mended fore up old fore sail.

Thursday 14th

Pleasant weather during the day with a fresh wind from the N. E. Standing S. E. by E. on the Starboard tack. At noon tacked ship and stood N. W. In the evening came on cloudy with very sharp lightning to leeward.

Friday 15th

In the morning cloudy and looked like rain wind S. W. course N. W. by W. At 10 sighted Madagascar bearing N. W. by N. At noon ship and stood S. E. Afternoon clear pleasant. In the evening heavy masses of clouds to leeward.

Saturday 16th

The first part of the day very rainy with fresh winds. In the forenoon calm and pleasant. In the afternoon it came on cloudy again but calm. Broke out beef and pork. After we got through breaking out the old man says come wash your hands and bring your fields aft. I have not heard a tune for some time. So I washed and went down in the Cabin and had beer there about an hour when the mate came down and says Black fish six miles off. Now for it says he we must try by fiddle and jumped on deck with me close to his heels. Down Boat says he and down the went by the run and pulled 5 or 6 miles and got nothing. The sea calm and smooth as a mirror. After they were down we pulled for the ship hoisted our boats and got supper. At sundown when we took a pleasing incident occurred. In reefing the main topsail the men on the lee yard were careless and did not knot at 3 points and when they came down the old mate asked who left those reef points loose. Well one laid it on the other and the other laid it on the other and they had a few words so they were both sent up to fit them while on the yard they had a regular yaw so when they came down the old man sent them both to sit on the main top gallant cross beam till 9 o'clock for their amercement. When they came down they felt very bad.

Ship St Peter Sunday February 17th 1850 + mor

The day is very calm but cloudy. No steerage way land in sight. In the evening it blew a fresh breeze from E. N. E. steering S. E. looks like Monday 18th

In the morning calm & cloudy with some rain. At 8 a fresh wind from E. N. E. it suddenly veered S. E. steering S. E. by S. In the afternoon the wind fell again. Weather still cloudy. Lost sight of Madagascar to day.

Tuesday 18th

The day is cloudy but no rain & pleasant breeze blowing from E. N. E. steering S. W. by W. and S. W. by W. At 4 P. M. Afternoon cleared Craft.

Wednesday 19th

In the morning and during the forenoon it rained hard with a fresh wind. About 3 miles to leeward it is as pleasant as ever day done. During the afternoon it cleared up and the evening was very beautiful.

Thursday 20th

Very fine with light winds. Saw a ship to leeward in the morning attached and stood for her. At 3 came up with her she was the Boston George Washington of New Bedford built 20 mos 500 tons. Went aboard of her with Mr. Rider had an excellent time. Returned to the ship at 9 in the evening a fresh breeze blowing with very bright moonlight which made it very pleasant being on the water.

Friday 21st

Light winds in the forenoon. Weather rather hazy got potatoes from after hatch and pickled over. Course S. W. by W. wind S. E.

Saturday 22nd

In the forenoon almost a calm. Afternoon light wind from the Eastward steering S. W. weather very hot and sultry. In the evening the wind was quite fresh with a smooth sea.

Sunday 23rd

Wind fresh from the eastward steering S. W. The forenoon very pleasant. We are now cruising off the coast of Madagascar between Lat. 22° 26' and 23° 26' S. In the afternoon the wind fell to a light breeze. Saw 2 ships to leeward.

Monday 24th

Saw the ship Canton. Taber master of N. Bedford about 7 miles to leeward standing on the same tack. She stood along with her till noon when we run down and spoke her. She is out 29 mos 1500 tons 500 tons. Cap. Taber. She aboard of us Mr. Rider went aboard the Canton. Jammed till midnight. Sailing was the order of the day aboard of the St Peter. The night was very beautiful the full moon shone in all its splendor and the men seemed to forget all their hardships in the merry dance. The wind was light from the Eastward steering S. W. by W. land in sight to day.