

Ship St Peter off Madagascar Tuesday Feb 26 1850

The day is beautiful with light winds from E to East standing N. by E. East Tacked ship at 6 bells and stood S by E. broke out after hatch for Bay of

In the afternoon the wind freshened a little saw the ~~Martha~~ 2 points of weather

Wednesday Feb 27th

The day commenced with light winds from E to East Tacked and stood N. by E. In the morning saw the ~~Martha~~ dead ahead standing for us till she came within 4 miles when she wore ship and stood off trying to leave us but the old St Peter was too good stuff and soon overhauled her when she again tacked and went astern very pleasant all day wind rising as usual towards night

Thursday Feb 28th

In the morning winds light and weather pleasant In the afternoon the weather became cloudy the wind rising and blowing

Ship St Peter Friday March first 1850

The wind blew fresh from E. by S. steering E. by S. weather cloudy. Passed the complement with a ~~French~~ Barque at noon

It continued blowing fresh during the afternoon In the evening continued

Saturday ~~Friday~~ 2nd

The wind blew heavy from E. by S. steering E. under double reef fore and aft Shipped a few heavy seas Everything snug. There must be some things in the long voyage to make the time pass away gaily or else the sailors life becomes one of dull monotony some thing must be done to raise the wind and set his jaw Tackles in motion or else he becomes the subject of a dull enui and his mind like a machine that has been laid by gets rusty by disuse This morning the mate got up earlier than usual and coming forward finds most of the starboard boats & crew (their watch being in deck asleep and being pretty full of the matter gets a large tub full of nasty water that some one has washed in and throws it all over them wetting them through & through and commences laughing. This is the way sailors get along laughing & laughing

Sunday 3rd

It blows a pleasant gale with frequent squalls of small rain Tacked ship this morn and stood N. by E. Afternoon wind fell a little

Monday 4th 1850

The wind fell and the sea became smooth The day very pleasant stood along under double reef jib and fore-pones The time passes heavily away with nothing to disturb its dull monotony But little to do and the mind becomes dormant except now and then a joke which serves for a time to take up the time But this is nothing every whole ship should be furnished with a good Librarian

Ship St Peter off Madagascar Tues March 5th 1850

Rainy weather has come on This morning it came on cloudy and at 10 o'clock it commenced raining hard with a strong wind from the S. Tacked ship at noon and stood E. N. E. looks very bad

Wednesday 6th 1850

The wind continued to rise At daylight carried away Fore Topmast stays leaving it all to pieces at the same time shipping a heavy sea which started everything that was loose on deck At breakfast time carried away fore brace and Block The wind lulled a little during the fore noon sea still running high. About 4 o'clock the wind commenced blowing hard again at 8 still rising at 4 it flew a perfect gale A. S. hove the ship too laying under close reefed main top Sail and fore Opened Tack in the foresail At 6 wind still rising we fastened down the Hatchets fore and aft shivered the Boats on the upper Deck and made everything fast At the wind seemed to have got to its ^{highest} pitch blowing furiously and the rain pouring down in torrents and the sea as far as the eye could reach a sheet of foam

Thursday March 7th

A little past one ^{noon} a heavy sea broke over us taking the Waist Boat from the Crews and sweeping the decks fore and aft pouring down the Forecastle in torrents With great exertion succeeded in lashing her till morning when we took her in on Deck In the morning the Starboard Wheel Trunk parted but having rigged a preventer Tackle no damage was done The wind continued to blow with unremitting violence during the afternoon with but little rain

Friday 8th

The wind increased if anything this morning Took in Main Top Sail & Tacked ship standing N. by West drifting directly towards land which is not far distant. The wind continued to blow with unremitting violence during the ~~day~~ the rain falling in torrents and our masts bending like willows. About 4 in the Afternoon the wind rose to a tremendous height. It seems as if it would tear everything loose the waves rising to a tremendous height ^{falls} and threatening at every wave to drive us under. Made everything fast as possible before dark. Tacked ship & stood S. by East the wind hauling Westward

Saturday 9th

Along towards morning the wind lulled and the weather cleared up except a shower now and again In the morning made sail on her steering E. by S. Wind N. by E. blowing very fresh. The ship rolled but lay by before the wind and quite a sea weather pleasant