

Journal for 1851
Wednesday Jan 1st Lat 5° 38' S

I. e. dead calm. At 5 A.M. lowered the topsails and fastened the wheel amidsthips. In the morning started the main topgallant stay. The crew are about various duties such as plating, sennet, strapping, blocks, making signal halliards &c. In the afternoon sent the main tack & sheet, sewed them with sennet and other repaired them also sent down the main topsail sheets and sewed them again. The calm continued during the day.

Thursday Jan 2nd

Moderate and variable winds with rain, weather steering N. by E. at 8 A.M. under main and fore topsail. Lowered the topsails at 8 P.M. steering S. by E. at 10 P.M.

Friday Jan 3rd Lat 5° 58' sighted English and the three brothers

Shower with a good breeze from N.W. steering under foresail fore & main topsail & main topgallant sail. Towards night the weather became pleasant. Double reefed topsails.

Saturday Jan 4th Lat 6° 09' S sighted land

Fine weather and pleasant breeze. Raised whales at 8 A.M. Calm lowered at 7 P.M. and the larboard boat fastened about 9. Took him alongside and began cutting in at 11 finished at 6 P.M. & backed the case, started the works at 8 in the evening. The Barque Mariah was to weather, she lowered her boats but without success.

Sunday Jan 5th Lat 6° 13'

Light winds and pleasant weather. Continued boiling, was steering westerly.

Monday Jan 6th Lat 5° 16' S

Fresh winds and a few light showers. Finished boiling at 8 A.M. Saw benches early in the morning. Made all sail but topgallant sails steering East & West wind variable.

Tuesday Jan 7th Lat 5° 34' S

Rainy with variable and unsteady winds steering westward. Broke out for Beef & Pork in the after hold. At 4 P.M. saw a sail off the weather, bearing S. by E. at 10 P.M.

Wednesday Jan 8th Lat 6° 40' S

Fresh winds and cloudy weather. In the morning steered southward. At 10 A.M. came to a steady course due N. by E. running 3 points free on the larboard tack. At 10 A.M. the Skipper of the Barque Mariah came aboard and a gam was kept up during the day. There is almost 15 mos out and only about 65 lbs of oil. Come to the wind at 7 P.M. and backed the main topsail.

Thursday Jan 9th Lat 6° 21' S

Braced forward at sunrise standing flat on the starboard tack close hauled. At 8 P.M. wore around to E. Lighten Danger & Eagle Is at 10 A.M. right ahead kept off to S. at 1 P.M. and at 4 P.M. made Eagle Island and came to the wind on the starboard tack steering West. Took up the cutting falls and repaired them. Ripped a new runner to the fore topsail halliards. Kept at night as usual.

Friday Jan 10th

Light winds and rainy weather. Danger & Eagle Is. are just to leeward and the wind is not strong enough for us to withstand the current so we are drifting directly on shore. Tacked ship several times during the day. Stood under double reefed topsails and foresail all day. Light breeze at 6 P.M.

Saturday Jan 11th

Rainy with unsteady wind from 8 till 10 run off before the wind steering S. by E. then hauled on the wind steering S. by W. under double reefed topsails.

Sunday Jan 12th

In the morning the weather was quite pleasant and the wind was moderate from W. but about 9 P.M. it came on squally and the wind variable till 9 P.M. when it stopped raining. Steered Southward and westward. To day the Cap'n sent forward some Day Springs a very welcome visit.

Monday Jan 13th

Squally with variable and unsteady winds steering Northward. Raised a lone whale at 10 past 8 A.M. Lowered the boats about 11 past 9. At 1 P.M. time after we lowered a heavy squall struck us and we ran up more of them. Continued at 2 P.M. till 4 P.M. when we were obliged to look out for the ship.

Ship St. Peter Tuesday Jan 14th 1851 Lat 6° 06' S

The forenoon was squally with strong breezes from N.W. steering N. by E. Overhauled the sail room and dried the lines &c. Afternoon pleasant.

Wednesday Jan 15th Lat 8° 1' S

Weather squally wind variable and unsteady. Towed down 60 lbs of coil in the fore hold. At 6 P.M. took in all but double reefed main topsail and foresail. Cleared Northward and westward under reef.

Thursday Jan 16th

In the morning had light showers and moderate breezes from the S. at 11 P.M. but about 10 P.M. the weather came on squally and the wind very variable. In the afternoon it rained powerfully till night. At 2 P.M. took in under double reefed main topsail and locked the wheel.

Friday Jan 17th

Moderate winds from W. S. W. steering N. till noon when we wore around to S. At 1 P.M. it began to rain and rained without intermission till 6 when we took in sail as last night. The Moon was eclipsed in the evening.

Saturday Jan 18th

In the morning set the courses fore and main topsails fore & spanker having fresh winds and frequent squalls. At 11 past 8 A.M. fished the mainsail and at 10 double reefed topsails. Rained all the afternoon.

Sunday Jan 19th

Moderate winds and pleasant weather steering N. E. at 6 A.M. lowered all but main topsail and topgallant sail. Cleared one of the larboard fore shrouds at 5 A.M. Lowered topsails at 8 P.M. and let her lay.

Monday Jan 20th Lat 5° 48' S

Almost a calm steering N. E. with a very light breeze from S. Sent down the two after larboard fore shrouds and bent new ones. Come up with the fore stay and commenced repairing it in the Cyls. Took my violin to pieces in the evening and put it by for the voyage.

Tuesday Jan 21st Lat 4° 40' S Lon 76° 24' E

Light winds from W. steering N. E. In the morning had a few light showers but the remainder of the day was pleasant. Came up with the main topmast stay, turned it in anew and set it up again. Finished the fore stay & ratted down larboard fore rigging also came up with main topgallant & main topmast stays. Repaired and set them up again. Lowered topsails at sunset holding the courses N. E.

Wednesday Jan 22nd Lat 3° 20' S

Pleasant weather and very light winds from S. steering N. E. Worked in the rigging most of the day repairing lifts & stays &c. At 6 P.M. took a light shower after which there was a dead calm. Lowered the sails.

Thursday Jan 23rd Lat 3° 11' S

Light winds and showers set all sail but courses. Saw the Maria in the morning and at 2 she crossed our stern and spoke us. Cap'n Allen went aboard and spent the afternoon and evening. Bought some bird rigging of her and paid them in bread. At night took in topgallant sails and lowered topsails. Kept master Abbot & officer Allen & crew.

Friday Jan 24th Lat 1° 03' S

The wind continues calm and weather pleasant but very hot all sail set but courses. At 6 P.M. fished topgallant sails and lowered topsails.

Saturday Jan 25th Lat 1° 30' S

Calm till 9 A.M. when a light breeze sprang up. Made sail as getting. After breakfast half of us were overboard swimming till sail was made. Towards night it came on calm again. Fished the light stays and lowered topsails. The Maria just about 6 miles to leeward. She lowered her boats.

Sunday Jan 26th Lat 1° 11' S

Had a light breeze in the morning but it soon died away and was perfect calm till sail set. But courses & half of us were overboard again for day. Light breeze sprang up at 6 however & the light sails and rigging.