

Ship St Peter Saturday March 15th 1851

In the morning the wind was strong and variable from the westward. It commenced raining at 6 and shined powerfully till 10 when the wind fell to a calm which lasted till noon. The wind was light and variable the remainder of the day. In the evening it came on squally again took in top

Sunday March 16th Lat 8.56 S

At 1 in the morning it commenced blowing ~~strong~~ hard. belovd up and fustled main topgallant sail. Gray fell from the lee yard arm but caught in main topsail brace and brought in the mizen top without injury. At 2 the wind increased double reefed the maintop sail fustled the mainsail mizen topsail and jib. blew up the fore topsail but set it double reefed at daybreak. At 8 am the wind lulled turned reefs out main topsail set double reefed mizen topsail single do fore topsail mainsail and jib. steering close hauled. At 10 the wind continued to fall during the day made more sail.

Monday 17th Lat 8.55 S Cor 2.34 S

Light winds and pleasant weather. set all sail at daybreak. Spliced the larboard fore topmast backstay repaired the parcel lashing to the main topsail yard &c &c. Taped over a part of Papa de Malla bark.

Tuesday March 18th Lat 10.04 S

The weather showery with unsteady winds. Was on the banks at sunset in 11 fathoms water. Lowered the larboard and waist boat and caught good fare of fish. In the afternoon the wind held fresh from W. W.

Wednesday March 19th Lat 11.34 S

Fresh winds from the Westward. At 11 till noon then tackled and stood. At 1 PM saw a ship off the lee quarter at 10 A.M. In the evening the weather came on squally took in fore & mizen topsails.

Thursday March 20th

Morning squally with strong breezes from W. N. W. steering S. W. Double reefed topsails at 7 A.M. but the wind lulled and turned them out of fore and main topsails again. The weather continued pleasant till 6 P.M. when it came on to puff quite hard with squalls took in mainsail mizen topsail spanker & jib. At 10 evening took in fore topsail.

Friday March 21st

This is a horrible fine day as the fishman said when we turned out at daylight the wind had hauled to E and it rained thundered and lightened most beautifully. It continued to rain most of the forenoon. The wind was light and gradually hauling to westward. Set top sails and topgallant sails on the fore and mainmast jib &c at 11. In the afternoon the wind was fresh from W. N. W. steering S. W. reefed at 6 P.M.

Saturday March 22nd Lat 11.06 S

Pleasant weather and fresh winds steering close hauled. S. W. under courses topsails jib & spanker. At 4 the wind hauled to W. N. W. Tacked and stood. At 11 the wind coming to W. N. W.

Sunday March 23rd Lat 10.37 S

Strong gales from W. N. W. steering S. W. At 6 am. set fore and main topgallant sails. The weather is very pleasant today. Is spent like every other Sunday in eating and sleeping. Angry words and a deal of swearing. Interesting and instructive books are seldom found in their hands and the perusal of the sacred pages of the Bible is beneath their notice altogether. But the slate and pencil are in great demand for drawing ships obscene pictures &c &c. Took in fore topgallant sail at 3 P.M.

Monday March 24th

The weather continues fine with fresh winds from W. N. W. Tacked at 7 A.M. and stood close hauled. At 10 the mate began a coat for the foremast and it needs one very much every time it rains every thing is covered with water in the foremast.

Ship St Peter Tuesday March 25th Papa de Malla

Moderate breezes from W. steering S. W. We are now in a place where heavy tide rips follow each other in quick succession making a loud rushing sound which can be heard a considerable distance. A system of gambling has been carried on for several weeks which commenced in raffling for clothes and has resulted in playing for tobacco and more disputes and jaws arise than is comfortable. They dare not fight for fear of a flogging but jawing and swearing prevail.

Wednesday March 26th

Light winds and fine weather steering Northward. Raised a sail at 8 am. Tacked at 10 and brought the sail 3 points on the weather bow. At 12 past 10 she ran off and we hauled up the mainsail and backed the main topsail. On coming ^{down} we were a little surprised at her being the Wm. Lee. Capn. Long went aboard. She is now 30 months out and is about slitting for home. She has about 1300 lbs. all told. Sent a letter home by Fowler.

Thursday March 27th

Set all sail at 6 A.M. Steered S. W. with a moderate breeze. Blasted sunset fiction chafe gear &c. The weather continues fine. The Wm. Lee is on our lee quarter standing the same way we are.

Friday March 28th

Fine weather and light winds steering S. W. Raised a school of whales at 6 A.M. The first we saw of them was a calf that got lost from the school and was flying around like a cat in a strange gait. Lowered away at 7 and the waist boat fastened to a 20 lb. bull and turned him up. The rest were galloped by the ship so we struck no more. Cut in and began to mince at 4 P.M. The Wm. Lee here in sight again at sunset.

Saturday March 29th

Light breezes steering W. N. W. Began boiling at 8 in the morning and finished at 8 in the evening. The Wm. Lee in sight again at noon.

Sunday March 30th

In the morning the breeze was very light steering westerly. At 9 it came on a dead calm. Lowered light sails. At 11.30 a light breeze sprang up hoisted up the sails and ran off to the Wm. Lee. Capn. Lee came aboard at 6 P.M. and stayed till late in the evening.

Monday March 31st Lat 8.58 S Lon 39.08 E

Light winds from S. steering W. N. W. Took in the flying jib. mended the bent at 8 A.M. Caught 2 very large dolphins. Capn. Lee came aboard at 4 past 11 and stayed a few moments. After he went aboard he laid a and stood by. During the afternoon the wind freshened a little altered the course to N. W. W.

Tuesday April 1st 1851 Lat 8.55 S Lon 36.16 E

Moderate breezes from S. W. steering N. W. W. Caught a Porpoise some distance in the morning. Boasted on dolphin & breakfast. All the officers are making waifs and other whaling gear as if great business was to be done in that line. At noon altered the course to N. W. by N. and at 4 P.M. to N. N. W.

Wednesday April 2nd Lat 6.53 S

All hands are busily engaged in plating sunset when it is their watch on deck. Now newly tackled to the main top sail. Saw considerable whaleback about 8 A.M. luffed a point for it but saw no more of it. The weather fine and wind light from the southward steering N. N. W. Altered the course to N. at 4 P.M. There was 20 fathoms of sunset in the piece that Agent and me were.

Thursday April 3rd

Took up the cutting falls and shipped them. Put on new service and covered them again. The sunset work is still carried on. The wind light hauling to E. continued our course due N. At 1 P.M. was on soundings on the Port of the bank at 4 P.M. to run out 300 fathoms of line and found no bottom. Passed side of Platt in the evening steering N. by E.