

166 Ship St Peter Friday June 27th 1851 Nohanna

In the morning took about a few potatoes and turnips. At 8 have short and yet ready to sail but had no wind till 1 P.M. when a light land breeze sprang up and we got under way and stood out to sea. Stowed the anchors at 2 and run down the chain. Saw a ship supposed to be the *Lee* after we got clear of the land stood E under all sail. Took in light sail at sunset.

Nohanna or Anjouan

This is one of the largest of the Comoro Islands situated on the East coast of Africa. It is of a triangular form and appears to have been once volcanic the rocks being green where volcanised. It is entire mountainous and is covered over its loftiest peaks with vegetation. The principal articles of produce are yams sweet potatoes, cassia, coconuts, rice, plantain bananas oranges, lemons and limes. Other tropical fruits also grow in considerable quantities. Yams and sweet potatoes form the principal articles of trade and for these nearly all the whole ships in this ocean put in here. Bullock too are raised in large numbers which are sold in considerable numbers to the same class of vessels besides English ships of war and East India traders. The inhabitants are of middling size and well formed but with small limbs. They profess the Mahomedan religion but the native African worship of Fetiches is still very prevalent. They are governed by a king who was formerly styled a sultan and governed the whole Comoro group but he is now entitled to the simple title of king and only governs the island of Nohanna. He is a man of about 60 years old well built easy in his manner and always carries a smiling face. He is much beloved by his subjects who pay him great respect and never approach him without kneeling.

The town of Sultan in which he lives is built principally of stone. The houses are but one story high and very closely built the streets being only about 4 or 5 feet in width. The ruins of an old fort is situated back of the town and is armed with 16 guns of different sizes varying from 6 to 12 pounders with out carriages. The king is about repairing the fort however and soon expects to have it in a serviceable condition. The people of rank all go armed with swords slung over their shoulders and the common people all carry knives or an apology for the which gives them a rather ferocious appearance but their courage is rather below par when brought to the test. Their dress is made of nothing more than a piece of cloth fastened around the waist a loose dress thrown over the shoulders and a turban on the head. They are very fond of tobacco and will give almost anything to obtain it. They also chew betel leaf & nut with lime which makes their teeth very black and hard. Slavery is carried on to a considerable extent each native owning from 1 to 200 slaves. Polygamy is also tolerated and a man may have as many wives and concubines as he chooses. An English government resides in the interior and an English fisherman resides in Sultan who does all the trading with ships that put in here but is obliged to pay the king 1000 dollars per year for the share of Nohanna is situated in 12° 15' S. Lat and 44° 35' E. Longitude.

Saturday June 28th

Flood E with a moderate breeze from S. In the afternoon the wind hauled to E. S. E. Breeze up and stood close hauled N. E. In the evening the wind was variable.

Ship St Peter Sunday June 29th bound to Aldabra
Light and variable winds from the southwest steering
easterly. Weather pleasant but hazy.

Monday June 30th

Strong and variable winds steering close hauled N. E. with starboard tack aboard. Spoke the *Bargey* *Meria* at 9 P.M. Cape Moore came aboard and stayed till 7 and the day was very much enjoyed.

Tuesday July 1st

Strong winds from S. E. steering close hauled E. N. E. Put up starboard fore rigging sent in the flying jib and sent another one lighted Aldabra at 3 P.M. 3 points on the lee bow. Tacked at sunset standing S. W. Saw a sail on the lee beam.

Wednesday July 3rd

Pleasant weather and strong winds from S. E. steering E. N. E. hauled. Lighted at 11 A.M. bearing E. N. E. At 1 P.M. it came on to blow so hard that we were obliged to double reef topsails the old ship pitching into a heavy head sea in good earnest. At 6 made the island and sent the last boat ashore with the

Thursday July 5th Aldabra

In the morning we were about 15 miles to the westward of the island. Flood up and took the boat aboard at 8 A.M. with 5 turtles. The wind holds very strong from S. E. steering E. N. E. Pleasant weather but a dirty sea on which makes it rather uncomfortable. Double reefed topsails and fuiled the mainsail in the E. 2nd watch.

Friday July 4th

Blowing 3/4 of a gale from N. E. steering E. N. E. under double reefed fore and main topsails and foresail. Turtled the spanker mizen topsail and jib at 6 P.M. Tethored 4 turtles to the ring bolts around the main hatch. Took out water &c. Starboard watch below in the forenoon. Turtled to eat all day. What a treat for the 4th of July at 6 P.M.

Saturday July 5th

Unsteady winds with squalls till 10 A.M. when the wind became strong and steady from S. E. steering S. W. Jib and spanker at 7 and at 8 tacked reefed out of fore and main and loosed mizen topsails but coming on to blow double reefed fore and main topsails again at 9 P.M. Tacked ship at 6 P.M. and stood S. W. bound for the coast.

Sunday July 6th Bound to the coast

The wind very fresh from N. E. The old ship pitching heavy in a heavy head sea. The old man turned out at 6 and came on deck and finding the old craft pitching into it so nice he but her off before the wind going S. W. bound for the coast of Africa under double reefed topsails and foresail.

Monday July 7th

Moderate winds from S. steering S. W. till 3 P.M. when they raised a school of sperm whales and kept off to S. by W. steering several different courses to northward and at sunset steered S. W. E. etc. came to the wind on the starboard tack steering S. E. Sent down the main topsail and stepped in new pieces in the middle and patched the foot.

Tuesday July 8th

Strong breezes from S. E. steering S. W. most of the day. Saw many spouts and breaches during the day but they were nothing but fishbacks and conifers. Towed thin stuff for the old man for fancy for set out 6 horses. The cabin kicked up a row with Robinson to day about a knife that Robinson took from the cabin and lost. Told him to buy a knife and hand and the cabin say. His knife was taken from him.