

Ship St. Peter Friday August 8th Coast 1851

Fresh winds and pleasant weather steering close hauled S.W. under the same sail as yesterday, viz, courses, whole main, single reefed fore, and double reefed mizen topmast, jib, spanker, main, topmast, and flying jib. About 11 A.M. packed a sail on the weather for standing toward us. When she came on our beam, we tacked and stood along with her to the eastward till 6 P.M. when we both tacked and stood S.W. by W. She is a ship and we think a merchant.

Saturday Aug 9th Lat 3.38.0
Stood in S.W. by W. till noon when we was about 18 miles off the coast. Tacked and stood E. S. E. with moderate winds and cloudy weather. Pumped 1000 strokes at sunset.

Sunday Aug 10th Lat 4.48.0
Strong breezes steering E. S. E. Turned the reef out of the fore topmast and set mizen topmast at 6 A.M. but the wind freshening was obliged to put them again in an hour. Raised the whales at 10 past 8 A.M. but did not lower the boats till 10 P.M. but having run over the whales with the ship and galley, we were not so fortunate as to get fast. Tacked at 12 miles and set mizen topmast at 11 A.M. and did not take them in again till 6 P.M. The wind was whaling Sunday, pulling to windward for 4 hours steady gives one a relish for dinner. We had a bit of a row between Wiley and the Cook this morning but nothing serious took place.

Monday Aug 11th Lat 3.38.0
Moderate breezes steering close hauled S.W. till 9 A.M. then tacked and stood E. S. E. Weather pleasant. The current here is stronger than any we have yet encountered and we drift to the northward at a rate varying from 3/4 of a mile to a mile an hour with a strong breeze carrying the sail we can now cruising off the coast of a whaler which is in sight nearly every day. Had a main topmast sail and fly jib set from 6 A.M. till 12 at night when it came on to blow fresh.

Tuesday Aug 12th
Fresh winds and cloudy weather steering close hauled E. S. E. In day all the forward hands are quite sick caused by eating fish that have laid in the where the moon shone upon them. It is curious to see how differently they are affected. Some are so cold that they are almost frozen. Others are almost melted with heat. I have a violent headache. Some are heaving. Others the opposite. On the whole we present the most laughable scene that has occurred for a long time. We got orders to day not to fish any more on the job. Clewed down and double reefed the fore topmast at 8 and the main at 6 P.M. Afternoon and evening squally with unsteady winds. At 9 in the evening a large ship passed about 1/2 mile to windward of us steering E. Pumped 1000 strokes this morning.

Wednesday Aug 13th
Blow a half a gale. Hauled the mainmast at 6 A.M. hauled up the spanker. At the same time wore ship and stood S.W. The old drift is getting to look considerably better. When we first came out we only could from 4 to 500 strokes a week, but since we took the last whales she has leaked almost as many thousands. This morning we pumped 440 strokes. My wheelmate is off again now from having sores on his legs and I have to stand at the helm. 6 or 8 hours out of 24. We have all got over our fish sickness but the old man is as fast as catch them as ever. In the morning now or night finds him in one of the quarters. In fishing, we caught a porpoise to day and is the first since we have been on this coast.

Ship St. Peter Thursday August 14th Coast 1851
Fresh winds steering S.W. by W. Tacked both reef out of the main and set out of the fore topmast and set the mainmast at 6 P.M. We are now standing in shore again having stood off about 200 miles. Made a log for the crossjack yard and got out some iron poles. Double reefed the main topmast at 6 P.M.

Friday Aug 15th Lat 3.38.0
Unsteady and variable winds steering westerly. The weather in the morning was cloudy with light squalls. In the afternoon clear and pleasant. The Chipp had a great time fishing this morning. A large Alouacore took his hook, line, pole, and reel near taking the "old man" himself. Set main to galant 2 and fly jib at 6 A.M. and took them in again at 9. Tacked at 11 past 8 A.M. and stood E. S. E. Tacked again at 10 and stood S.W. by W. Saw a waterspout.

Saturday Aug 16th
Stood S.W. by W. with a strong breeze under topmast &c. Broke out for water under the main hatch at 4 past 12 M. We raised a whale pupping close to the ship. Lowered and Mr. Byder fastened in 3/4 of an hour. We fastened to the same whale as soon as he broke water again. When we went on to lance him he came near striking us with his jaw. Mr. Lee then came up to lance him. Lost the whale and had just struck him with the lance when the whale hit the boat & each with his flukes under the quarter and then killed as quick as lightning and stove her badly with his head between the bow and midship. Thwarts there caught the boat in his jaw just shaft the after thwart and cappled her on top of his head staving one side nearly all in. We picked up all but 2 men the other 2 being on top of the boat. Mr. Byder soon picked them up and lanced the whale again which made him let go of the boat. We picked up the boat bars &c. and Mr. Byder repaired the whale and we went along side about 2 P.M. This whale was killed the quickest of any I have seen yet. In 30 minutes from the time he was struck he went into his flukes. Cook the skin, cut up and out in the whale finishing at 7 evening.

Sunday Aug 17th
Pleasant weather and moderate winds standing E. S. E. Started the works at 11 A.M. To day we had the long promised Doughnut.

Monday 18th
Pleasant. Finished boiling at 6 P.M. Raised a sail at 4 P.M.

Tuesday Aug 19th
Fresh winds and cloudy weather steering S.W. under double reef. Commenced repairing the waist boat. Saw a sail again this morning on the blue beam.

Wednesday Aug 20th
Strong breezes and cloudy weather. Wore at 7 A.M. and stood S.W. by W. Continued repairing the waist boat.

Thursday Aug 21st
Moderate winds, standing S.W. by W. Wore hauled. Turned both reef out of the main and reef out of the fore topmast at 6 A.M. Clewed up the mizen topmast and mended it. Finished the waist boat and got her on the cranes at 3 P.M. In the evening it came on to blow so hard that we were obliged to double reef topmasts and haul of the mainmast at 1/2 past 10.

Friday Aug 22nd
Clear. Is waiting with steady breezes under topmast &c. for the boat is done. The "old man" is at the old game of fishing. In the afternoon we saw an Alouacore. Double reefed the main.