

Journal for the year 1862

Ship St Peter Thursday January 1st

We have rather bad weather to begin a new year with for it rained incessantly during the forenoon with a strong breeze from the north and steering close hauled about N.W. At noon the weather cleared up and we took up the jib and mended it. Bent and set it at 5 P.M. Ware ship at 6 and stood N.E. till midnight.

Friday Jan 2nd N.W. breeze and cloudy weather steering close hauled. Bent down the main topsail at 8 A.M. Finished mending and bent it at 1 P.M. and set main top gallant sail and flying jib. Look in light sail and double reefed topsail at 6 P.M.

Saturday Jan 3rd Ware ship at 6 A.M. and made all sail steering S.E. by E with a fresh wind from N. Saw spouts at 4 past 6 and at 9 saw breaches on the lee bow points. Hope the ship off till noon when we ran foul of a school of blackfish and luffed up to S by N. Sailed Bird Island at 3 P.M. to the northward. Can sail. One on the weather the other on the lee beam. Tacked at 6 P.M. and took in fore and mizen top gallant sails flying jib.

Sunday Jan 4th Good in to the westward with a good breeze from N.W. We ran off and bothered around all the morning because there was a craft to leeward which we thought was whaling. At 1 P.M. saw a Barque on the weather bow. Take a whale or whales alongside and begin cutting. Tacked off to the northward at 6 P.M.

Monday Jan 5th At 4 this morning I raised the light of the Barque hauled. She stood to the northward going about a ship's length across the weather. Saw the tacked at daylight and stood in our wake. We have a moderate breeze steering close hauled. At 10 past 3 P.M. raised breaches and tacked but when we were abreast of the craft that was backing she backed her main topsail and we ran off and went aboard the Bark United States. She took a lone 50 lb bull. Had a pleasant gam and came aboard at 8 evening.

Tuesday Jan 6th In the morning it was fine and pleasant but after noon it came on squally with much thunder and lightning. Double reefed topsails at 1 past 10. Afternoon light and variable wind.

Wednesday Jan 7th Grey taken in. Dropped the reef out of the topsails and set main top gallant sail and flying jib at 6 A.M. but coming on to blow with squalls took them in again and double reefed at 1 past 11. The Barque W. States ran off at 9 A.M. bound in at Make Road. At 11 P.M. and aboard ship. Handing in.

Thursday Jan 8th Stood 1 by till 7 A.M. and were around to N.W. and the wind drove us off to N. The weather continues squally. Took in all but double reefed topsails and fore sail at 1 past 10. The mate is turning cancer cane heads.

Friday Jan 9th Near Cow Island. At 3 A.M. this morning we were on soundings above to Cow Island but we made sail on the ship and stood off a few minutes more would have sufficed to strike the hard and fast on the C.B. reef. Stood till 11 A.M. with main top gallant sail and flying jib out it blowing a S.W. breeze from N.W. At 11 A.M. tacked and stood N.W. I Barque to the N.W. of the island and must be weathered.

Ship St Peter Saturday January 10th Archipelago

Fine and pleasant with a moderate breeze from N.W. steering close hauled till 11 past 11 P.M. when we made Cow Island and tacked standing N.E. by E under all sail. 4 sails are in sight to day. At 6 ran off tower the craft to leeward but she held her course and we hauled on the wind again at sunset and took in fore & mizen top gallant.

Sunday Jan 11th Pleasant weather with a good breeze steering N.W. till 10 A.M. and tacked to the northward and eastward. There is but one sail in sight this morning. The Captain came down foreward this morning and bled Gray in the arm. Senner's Island was on the lee quarter after we tacked. At 3 P.M. 4 Barques came together on our lee beam and had a gam. We were to face off to participate. Took in fore top gallant sail at 6 P.M.

Monday Jan 12th Bent down the fore topsail and mended it. Bent it again at 1 past 4 P.M. At 6 we took the Barque Cothranwood head and head and had a gam. She is 12 mos out with 430 spm. Allen is master. I have had something gathering in my ears for several days and to day they became so bad that I was obliged to knock off at noon. There is 6 of us on the sick list to day. Wood, Gray & myself. ~~She makes us rather sick~~

Tuesday Jan 13th At 10 A.M. took up some coils of rigging from the storeroom and bent new main topsail & fore top gallant braces upon top of reef tackles. Main top gallant & forelines served the main topsail braces in the wake of the backstay and crossjack yard. On account of the sick ones they are to stand boats crews watches day and night till they get well beginning to day. With starboard boat water steady on deck N.W. by W. forenoon below S.W. by W. afternoon S.W. Wood returned to duty again to day.

Wednesday Jan 14th Bound west. Continued to steer to the westward with moderate breeze and fine weather. Bent down the fore top gallant sail and mended it. Bent and set it at 3 P.M. We are bound off to the westward probably to the Americas or the coast. Gray is not as well to day. I am much better myself.

Thursday Jan 15th Fine weather steering N.W. with a good breeze from N.W. under all sail. We have a regular haul and pull half of the time now about the watches. No one knows when his trick comes and it is all rather a foul mess. I think it would have been much better to let the watches be turned out at 4 P.M. and stand a trick at the wheel.

Friday Jan 16th The weather still holds pleasant. Continued the course to the N.W. close hauled with a light breeze. It is quite evident that we are bound to the coast and perhaps off the Island of Cocotra. Returned to full duty to day. Bent down the lee board foot rope and brace block to the main yard and repaired them and sent them up again.

Saturday Jan 17th At 10 A.M. We were close hauled N.W. with a good breeze from N.W. Look in the fore top gallant sail at 6 A.M. We hold and washed decks as usual. The rest of the day is occupied in washing and mending clothes, scrubbing & mending. Look in main & mizen top gallant sails at 6 P.M.