

Wednesday December 15th 1852

The wind changed to the West and increased. Saw porpoise and blackfish. Middle part took in topgallant sails and doubled reefed the topsails. All hands employed in clearing deck and getting the boats ready. Most of the men however and Seavick two distressing complaints.

Thursday 16th

First part a strong breeze from the West making rapid strides from our home but we have one thing to cheer us that is we are leaving cold weather and for warm the icebergs begin to leave us and we bid them a hearty good bye. Lat. 38. 18 N.

Friday 17th

The wind hauled to the E. wore ship heading S.E. the wind increased to a gale with frequent squalls of rain and hail and some lightning the sea running mountain high and breaking upon us with great violence took in sail to a close reefed mainmast &c.

Saturday 18th

The wind blowing a hurricane the sea making a clean breach over us not exactly over us but onto us in such a manner that it is impossible to keep dry but as we are in the Gulf stream the weather is warm but not comfortable. I have had occasion to wring long stockings it being no use to put on dry ones. At 9 A.M. the wind hauled to the N.W. So ends.

Sunday 19

This for more than 8 years past has been kept as secret. But alas what a change it is known only by name it is with great difficulty that I can persuade myself that it is Sunday.

The wind is a whistling the rain is blown into fog the sea is lashed to its very bottom the ship is a tumbling and groaning at every sea.

the rigging and spars seems to taper to their utmost. Such a Sabbath I have not seen in many years and do not expect to see many more. I heard one of the poorest hands say he thought it to be that the Lord should drive hard over such a rough way. Their fellows they look as if they had lost all their friends. I endeavored to keep run of the meeting hours thinking how beautiful the bells were pealing forth their musical invitation to the multitude; and I felt a satisfaction in the thought that the prayers of the righteous was for the poor weather beaten Sailor, as well as ^{others} under the bondage of sin and I felt to put my trust in Him who can say to the dead Peace, be still and can say altho he slay me yet will I trust in him. So ends.

Monday 20th Decem

At 1 P.M. the gale seemed to abate a little. Let the foresail and kept the ship off E. by S. the wind about W. There is great danger of losing the boats as the ship rolls and as they are frequently but we must.

Letter part quite moderate set a double reefed fore topsail a job steering S.E. All hands employed in putting on chafing gear &c. So ends.

Tuesday December 21st

How beautiful every thing appears after a gale we certainly should put on cheery faces for this change. What a contrast; yesterday the elements seemed to threaten destruction but now all is sunshine again the seas are tranquil and we are permitted to pursue our way rejoicing and we will forget past troubles exchange them for beautiful prospects for the future that is when we shall see our friends and home which will be a just recompense for all our hardships.

Letter part made all sail steering N.E. by E.

The watch employed in fitting rigging and repairing damages caused by the late gale.

Nothing in sight but the ocean and heavens we might suppose that we were the only ones living if experience had not taught us better. Lat. 34. 31 N. Lat.