

Off Cape Horn

Tuesday February 22nd 1853.

Here we have all kinds of disagreeable weather hail sleet snow and rain the wind blowing strong from S.W. Steering by the wind to the N.W. with all sail set. We raised 3 ships ahead but we have left them all astern we have not yet found any that can sail with us. I feel rather sorry to leave them behind for they are anxious to get round this great Point as we are. Filled six cargo casks in the fore hold with salt water for ballast. Disagreeable work for cold weather. So ends.

Wednesday February 23rd

Commenced with a fresh breeze from S.W. Steering by the wind to the S.W. At 1 o'clock sail the land stood in till sunset and tacked off shore. Hermit's Island Cape Horn bearing S. distance about 20 miles we shall soon weather this long point. The wind is very light and the current must be strong against us for we have made short tacks through the night and most of the day and now we are 10 miles farther off the land than we were at sunset but the weather is fair. Had one smart hail squall through the night. Employed in making iron poles and iron sheaths. We intend to get out 40 or 50 poles and as they are needed we will pick out the best till they are all gone. So ends.

Thursday February 24th

I had supposed that there never was any thing but unpleasant weather in this country but there never was prettier weather in New Bedford than the beginning of this day. A very light breeze from the S. hardly enough to fill the sails. At 4 P.M. it shifted to the W. and we squared the yards and set foretopmast studding sail. Steering S.W. by W. passed within about 20 miles of that much dreaded Cape Horn. Had a beautiful moonlight night and at daylight left the Diegoes off our lee beam and bid them good by for a great while and now we are fairly into the Pacific Ocean. Off the Atlantic the Ocean that washes the shores of our much loved homes but our hopes of entering it again is stretched to a length that is beyond description. Latter part the wind halled to the west and blew too strong for topgallant sails with steady rain. Took in topmast studding sail and halled to the wind to the S. and W.

Off Cape Horn

Friday February 25th 1853

The clouds parted off and let the sun shine upon us again yet the wind was against us. During the night the wind increased to a gale. Doubled reefed the topsails took in jib and mainsail. The leach of the jib parted and it was somewhat torn in consequence of it sent it in at daylight and repaired it. No sun and very disagreeable rather to be at home than porpoises. Ends with no brevitation. Our friends are at home.

Saturday February 26th

The weather is still very unpleasant the wind blowing a pretty heavy gale from the W. by N. with rain and no sun. Lying to under close reefed main topsail and fore sail. The morning dawned with better weather set double reefed topsails mainsail and jib. Marking and grinding irons which are to be stowed away and used as they are needed without any reference to the ground them. Mark them S. S. on one side and E. W. on the other for Ephraim Harding and ship, Saratoga. Lat 58. 18. S. Long about 125. 44.

Sunday February 27th

Another has perished and the question arises have we done our duty in the bible sense of the term. I fear this question could not be answered in the affirmative by many of us if by any. It is here we should all be brothers in the Lord if any where but I am sorry to say that there is the least of that feeling on board of a ship than any where generally. That sailors do not need this heavenly influence or is it that they are so depraved that they do not see the necessity of it. O I wish they could be warned in thunder tones that it would move upon their hearts to the conversions of their souls is my prayer. If any one needs religion it is the poor sailor. I hope the time is coming when none but Christian Captains will be accounted worthy of commanding a ship which would bring the means of salvation nearer within the grasp of every one speaking in the manner of men. What a good time we could have here. In this longitude we could have them the same time that they do at home have our prayers to ascend together such influence would be felt in eternity itself. But now I can only think of them.