

To the Westward of Cape Horn

Monday February 28th 1853.

77 days

First part a strong breeze from the N.W. and pleasant weather tacking ship as often as the Capt. thought best. About mid night the wind increased to a heavy gale with a plenty of rain commenced tacking in sail immediately but although it is a fair weather before it could be taken in it was thought best to call all hands excepting myself and the Carpenter. It took 3/4 of an hour piece to furl the foretop sail and close reef the main top sail 2 reefs having been in before. A heavy sea running the ship rolling dreadfully. The Capt. thought it too bad that it should be used so once in 13 years. I told him I could steady it if it should not happen oftener than that. No observation.

78

Tuesday March 1st

The weather more favourable. Made sail but before midnight took it all in to a close reefed maintop sail. Daylight returned with better weather. Made sail again. Wind varying from N. to S.W. Course N.W. by W. Boatsteers grinding irons. Cold work for them. Gave a ship steering toward home. Went to put letters on board but she passed 10 miles to the westward of us. Lat 55.42.

79

Wednesday March 2nd

The wind still continues to be unfavourable to our progress sometimes blowing a gale and varying from N. to S.W. so it keeps us making sail & taking it in and tacking or rather wearing ship often. Very disagreeable weather. Wet often with fresh and salt water. Saw a cark which appeared to be full of oil cark and empty. Too rugged to lower.

80

Thursday March 3rd

In the afternoon the wind died away to a calm. At 9 in the evening it sprang up from the S.W. steering N.W. by N. but it soon backed ahead and increased to a gale took in sail to a close reefed maintop sail. Latter part more pleasant. Saw a merchant ship which passed a half a mile to the westward of us with 3 masts and 2 topmasts and lower straddling sails set steering for home to the S. and E. Supposed to be a freighter. At sunset the Capt. called all hands aft and asked them

if either of them knew who had been in the habit of wanting bread that he had seen it go to waste after they had emptied their dust bucket and he had seen it in other places about the ship. But no one knew. Moreover they were continually applying to him for something for biles while they had ~~used~~ nearly all the blush that had been made made during the 80 days that we had been out not having gained over a half of a bbl. He considered it (blush) unholiness and that he should do what he had never done before that is to put them on allowance of about one third less than they had before until they should eat every crumb. No blame for not wanting it wanted but I fear that many will have to suffer for the neglect or carelessness of a few. There was no reply made at the time but in the middle watch one of the hands sung out more Johnny bread and when the officer of the deck the 2nd Mate ascertained where it was he called him aft to hall in the fore or main topsail brace and he approached near enough he up bit and knotted him down and I am told he repeated it five times as fast as the fellow could get up when he was stuned down and as he layed upon the deck apparently helpless he let out the rest of his friendly cruelty and barbarity by kicking him until he appeared to be satisfied. This was not enough. In the morning I suppose an evil report was made to the Capt. and he thought best to give him about half a dozen more lashes with a rope over his clothes. This is too bad if it is the Capt's place to inflict punishment why do the officers assume a right to abuse a man and then have him flogged again by the Capt. Oh my ears pierced my soul is rich with every day repent of wrong and outrage with which the earth or ship is filled. They are me like a gentle man and I should be proud to say the same of them with regard to the usage of the foremast hands. I hope and pray that their eyes may be opened. Lat 56.40 about

On allowance for a fortnight

Packed 22 hams into a bbl after covering them with cloth and headed them up tight after filling up the vacancies with charcoal when it was put into a larger bbl. and then filled with strong meat brine. About 50 days ago we packed some sheets in the same way except the charcoal for which we should have substituted whitewash if it had the time had been handy but it was not we let them go with out. I shall report when they are opened.