

126 days

Tuesday April 18th 1853

N.E. trades strong

repairing sails painted the barboard boat

The N.E. trades have set in in good earnest and as much as we can carry topgallant sails too. It seems old fashion for the ship picks more than she has for the last 4 weeks and the weather is much more comfortable. Several birds lit on board. One lit 3 or 4 times which was bloody on the breast and appeared to have been hurt recently by some means. Whalers call them boobys. He left the prints of his bill on the coaft and backboard while they were trying to do him a favour. So ends Lat Long West

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Tuesday April 19th

Commenced with a strong breeze from the N.E. and pleasant. Steering N.W. Yesterday we supposed we had got fairly into the N.E. trades but they left us again in the night and blowed from a half a dozen directions with rain and from 6 P.M. in the morning till 11 the rain fell in torrents. The men went into it like so many ducks and everything had to be washed in fresh water. It is precious stuff here. Lat Long West

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Wednesday April 20th

2nd Lt. to shore

The wind has blown fresh from N.E. all day. Steering N.W. with prospect of reaching whale ground by the middle of May I think that will be early enough. The watch almost idle. Goodness Lat Long West

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Thursday April 21st

The wind N. by E. a good whole sail breeze and pleasant weather. The Carpenter fitted a new boat for whaling. Two large Man of war hawks as the whalers call them lit on our mainmast and stayed round the ship a long while although there were men at the mast head. This is regarded as a favourable omen. Lat Long West

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Friday April 22 1853

The weather grows cool the wind a blowing strong from the N.W. and cloudy. Clouds are common in the N.E. trade winds. Not much to do and a plenty to eat. Fitting up for the N.W. Nothing in sight. Lat Long West

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Saturday April 23rd

Our course is onward. The wind and weather are the same. Steering N.W. by W. To day there has been great display of firearms cleaning them and running balls of various sizes. After they had finished the balls they put up a target forward and the Capt. and Mate put a few balls within 3 or 8 inches of the center. Perhaps this preparation would put a check to some that would like to be rebellious. Finished our Saturday work by mashing off the deck. Lat Long West

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Sunday April 24th

Another Sabbath has passed and we are all well and our prospects encouraging. Although my thoughts are turned to my little family and the separation is a source of anxiety yet I do not complain since my ^{separation} is for their good as I trust. My prayer goes out for them every day. O Lord protect my wife at home And the little ones I've left alone Be thou their guardian friend And when the voyage of life is o'er Conduct them to that heavenly shore Where praise shall never end Amen

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Monday April 25th

The wind strong and sky overcast with clouds but no rain. Jackets are very comfortable which a week ago we could not bear the thoughts of wearing. We are but now they huged as things to be loved. We still stand mast heads but there is nothing to be seen but water. Steering N.W. by W. with as much wind as we can carry topgallant sails too. So ends Lat Long West