Lying at anchor at Helo Oewyhee

270 days

Friday September 9th 1853

Pleasant all day At 7 AM. I had the pleasure of going on shore on liberty with the Starboard watch and it was pleasant and good to walk on terra firma after an absence about 9 months. I was glad to find the natives more industrious than our crew. Perhaps the law keeps them so. Nothing but root beer to be got so our men came on board all sober. I payed Mr. Lyman a visit the Missionary and found him to be very much of a gentelman. He has lived here about 20 years and has a wife and 7 children. Two of them are young men each teach an english boarding school for the natives. Mr. Lyman took me into the school and showed me the mode of instructing them and there sleeping apartments which was quite tidy; then went into the dining room a house seperate from the school & and there was a table about 20 ft long with bowls about a foot apart full of poy a favourite dish with the natives. In another building close by was their cook house where there were 3 iron pots for boiling taro or poi and a 4th pot for meat and there was half a dozen bbls of prepared poy. These pots were set upon stones with no chimneys and the inside of the building well ornamented with many goat skins which formerly inclosed the victims which fell to sustain the poor native schollars. These schollars are very apt at drawing singing playing at the flute and excell in arithmetic. Many of them have got as high as to study algibra. They go through with it like water through a seive and those of them who cannot get german flutes make them of bamboo which answers a good purpose. Go ahead Hanaokes.

I then took my leave of Mr. Layman proceeded towards a sugar works all in sight from the school house and perhaps about a 1/4 of a mile off. On my arrival I found 7 or 8 men and boys at work at with a pair of rather poor looking oxen grinding or rather crushing or squeezing the cane and boiling the sweet juice. It is conducted by a sage looking China man. The machine is very rudely constructed of wood and the rolls for squeezing the cane is of wood and covered with iron hoop and is after the principle of and old fashioned cider mill and is operated upon the same way by the poor oxen above mentioned. I saw some samples of sugar which is very fair considering the way it is made. At sunset we all return to the ship.

There is several Kanakas here who are now working and will return at the end of the season when I shall learn their names from Captain Stimpson.

Lying at anchor at Helo Oewyhee

Saturday September 10th 1853

At 7 in the morning the Larboard watch went on shore on liberty. They had a good time ashore but just as they got ready to come off it set in to rain so they all came off with wet jackets. We have been rather busy all day break out all the slops and boxes of cloth we had on board and arranged on the quarter deck. At noon Mr. Putman came on board with the Capt when we opened every box and every cask of slops and Mr. Putman selected there from enough of clothes hats calico and tin pots and pans and many things I cannot recolect as I saw enough to fill a 5 bbl cask besides there he had a box of boots and 20 shoes 20 do. Medicine and a cask of dried apples and one of bread and a bbl of pork and a box of prints and a few beans and probably about 6 gals of cranberries the last were for the ladies they are generaly very fond of them more particularly so at particular times. I hope they will do them good.

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Sunday September 11th

Rained nearly all night but very pleasant in the daytime. At 8 the Starboard watch went ashore on liberty. About 9 the native sabbath school commenced. They have a short recep when the meeting begins and lasts till 12. I was pleased with both but I could not understand one word except the text which he was good enough to read in english for our benefit which was from 1 Kings XXII chapter 34 verse. The schollars of Mr. Lyman was all there 55 in number and formed the choir and carried all 4 parts of music with great credit to themselves. The Native church is built in their stile (thatched roof and sides) and is about 120 ft in length and 40 ft wide with wooden seats with backs of the rude est construction. Reverend Mr. Cochran the Missionary addressed them and in the afternoon he preached at the Bethel for the marines taking his text from 2nd Corinthians 5th chapter 20 verse it was a very good text and handled well. Mr. Cochran's daughter a girl of 12 years of age played the Seraphim well and the female voices that accompanied it contrasted agreeably with the harsh music that we have been in the habit of hearing at sea. At the tunes we old fashioned I volunteered to assist. The first tune is one we used to sing in the hymn of "Welcome delight morn" the next was the Portagues hymn. Came off about sunset well satisfied.

The Larboard watch was allowed to go ashore in the afternoon to meeting.

The fort is built of stone and will seat about 150 men but is used for a school room.