

Lying at Anchor at Miami

283. days out

Thursday September 22nd 1853.

To day we have painted both sides of the ship within 44 in of the rail a job that will make a man sweat to look at in this hot weather to nothing of working at it. But we persevered till we finished (4 of us). Mr. Fisher was discharged to day and left on friendly terms and was paid of and took his things ashore. Allowed him 32^{cts} for oil and 22 for bone. John Clark still in irons. The Ship Holston went to sea this afternoon and our letters started for Calcutta this evening. I sent 10 and shall send 3 more soon. It is said the mail leaves for California in 10 days if so our friends will hear from us soon and we expect to hear from them sooner.

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Friday September 23rd

Bury times. Break out the after hold for the purpose of driving the bread and flour which had never before been driven since we sailed and it was a considerable of a job to get it out this warm weather. The Carpenter and myself painting the most of the day. I have spent about 4 hours ashore to day and have given power of attorney to Erastus H. DeLeon which cost me the round sum of 7 dollars the lawyer fee 5 and the American Consul 2. I visited the reading room but strange to say there was no one there although it posed many attractions. Took 60 bags of Irish potatoes. Unbent the mainsail which is to work in lime water. Bent a new mizen to prevent

Saturday September 24th

The first thing in the morning the Carpenter commenced painting the stern and commenced giving the white streak a second coat. The Carpenter finished his job at noon and went ashore on Liberty and I finished my job at 1^{1/2} and went to scrimshawing. The rest unbent the maintop gallant sail repaired it and bent it again; washed the mainsail with lime water and whitewashed the rigging and scraped and sanded the capstan and finished the day by working off inside and out. At sunset hoisted up the boats and took out the thelepins and plugs to prevent the men from running as there has been such a report has been reported in the ears

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Sunday September 25th 1853.

This Sabbath has particular charms. In the morning I went ashore to the Capt and asked permission to go ashore to church and he consented to my wish. So I went just in time (11 o'clock) Mr. Bishop addressed the Mariners who was born at Cork but of American descent. Meeting was opened with a short and appropriate prayer; he then read the 8th psalm and made another prayer then sang a beautiful hymn and I assisted with great delight the singing was assisted also by a seraphine which was played by a native to a charm. He then read a part of the 11th of Luke commencing at the 19th v. he then took his text from the 22nd verse of the same chapter and did well considering his age and experience (being young) (being well met). When meeting was over I fell in with our old mate Mr. Fisher, Mr. Bryant mate of the Euphrates and Mr. Merchant mate of the B. Oscar and after having and introduction to the best named gentlemen Mr. Fisher gave us all an invitation to his house which was once by a Mr. Phillips who are spent a couple of hours very agreeably; then I had an invitation from the two last named mates to go and visit three ladies whose husbands were in the Arctic. Mrs. Edwards' husband is master of the George Washington; Mrs. Gauds is Do of the Benjamin Tucker and Mrs. Coons husband is master of the Barnstable. They are all looking for their husbands daily. They belong to Vinland. What appeared to me to be the most remarkable is that they all have had a little one a piece since their husbands left them here. One was about 3 mos. old one 2 mos. and the other a little older and all very pretty Babies which brought many pleasing thoughts to my mind. There was also a older one also running about and one little girl in particular put me in mind of my little Cottie. Two of the babies were girls and one had a name which was liable to be changed when the father arrived but the other name was agreed upon long ago, this was all very curious to me and I thought the mother blushed a little at this piece of information was given. Well we spent 2 hours very pleasantly with these ladies it being the only white women I had spoken to for more than 9 months. At sunset I came aboard very well satisfied with the morning. I have spent the Lords day it being the 2nd meeting I have attended since I left my home. It is in the offing and probably the ladies ashore will be in good luck.

Our great men are all dead and I have refused to work by adding the best men