

Cruising off the Coast of California

342 days out

Sunday November 20th 1853.

Again we are blessed with the enjoyment of another beautiful Sabbath. The day has been delightful in every respect though we have disobeyed the Makers law by lowering for blackfish and I am glad to say we did not catch any. Saw a steamer perhaps bound to Panama with letters and passengers I hope to have a chance to send a letter (which I am writing) by one of these steamers. The land about 20 miles distant which is very uneven and presents a barren appearance from the ship. This day has been too pleasant to pass over in silence but my mind refused to give ideas so I must with a thankful heart for having been spared for enjoy it lay by my pen.

Monday November 21st 1853.

343 Weather still delightful. Steering to the southward with shoaled, the Coast in sight though some 30 or 40 miles distant. 13 canoes. Shooked 11 water casks and 2 bread casks. Saw humpbacks.

Tuesday November 22nd

344 Weather still more pleasant if possible. Steering S.E. Wind light and from the N.E. Groups of canoes in sight which has the appearance of islands and about 20 miles distant. Saw a steamer bound to San Francisco fitting and setting up the head stays.

Wednesday November 23.

345 We are blessed with the same beautiful weather but no whales in sight this is a little discouraging as our expenses are increasing and we making nothing to meet them. Fitting the head stays. Land in sight.

Thursday November 24th

346 Continues the same. Employed in fitting the fore topmast rigging. Our new mate gets along well but the under officers appear to dislike and have tried to injure him by making false reports to the Capt. but it did not work so well as it used to with Mr. Taber. The 5th mate undertook to tell him something last night and the Capt. stopped him immediately and told him never to say another word that they had drove one mate out of the ship and they should never drive another out but they may go as soon as they choose. I am glad to see him stand up for his mate who is a worthy man.

Lying off and on at Cape St. Lucas

Friday November 25th 1853.

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Three rocks are of a dirty white color and on a nearer approach appear more separated 6 or 8 houses at the right hand end.

View of rocks off the town bearing N. 2 miles distant.

At sunset within a few miles of the town if you can call 6 or 8 houses a town and layed with the main yard aback through the night. At 8 in the morning the Capt. went ashore. Repaired the missern topgallant sail. No chance to send letters to my poor wife yet. Took bad. Left 22 and about 30.

Saturday November 26th small

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Wind very light. At 5 P.M. the boat returned with 3 bbls of sweet potatoes (not much sweet about them) 9 buckets of oranges 5 of which was sent forward, 2 in the in the storage and the remaining 2 in the cabin. This is the nearest sight of any thing I have seen before. One turkey also. The Capt. did not come but 3 spangars came in his room sent for 2 boxes of prints one cask of bread and a bail of goods but the wind was so light during the night that we could not get near enough to send them in the forenoon. Sent off a gold watch for me. The Capt. begged it for me saying to the owner it would be just such a machine as I wanted. Washed the ship inside and out.

349 Steamboat passed during night Sunday November 27th

At 1 P.M. sent the boxes of goods and two boxes of tobacco. At dark the boat returned minus one man the blacksmith he has remained but spangars and dogs were sent for him. At 5 in the forenoon sent the boat in again with the cask of bread. The returned soon with the empty cask and the blacksmith. The poor fellow was taken this morning a few miles from the place making his way to the next town St. Jose. Perhaps it is well he was caught for of all places this appears to be the most unpromising of any abode of dissipated people. The Capt. soon followed in a shore boat with 6 men from the shore one of which was very ragged and I gave him a shirt for which he was very grateful. There is a boat 20 inhabitants here. More men than women. I asked a man how they managed if they should want a wife. He said he would take some body.

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