

Cruising off the Coast of Lower California

Saturday January 7th 1854

390 days from sweet home

Wind light and pleasant weather. the land in sight

After dinner lowered the boats and started for the blackfish which were still chased by our neighbours 3 miles off.

The mate went in his boat so I remained on board of the ship and am glad to get off so. At 5^{1/2} took 3 to the ship, 2 to the bow boat and one to the starboard the starboard boat struck but drew.

S. Mechanic

Took supper and cleared them away and the watch mended the blubber through the night and the Capt went on board of the ship. Mechanic of New Port Capt. Cary 28 months out 14.00. Returned at 9 P.M. At 11 A.M. started the works. Lowered for a swordfish but he disappeared. So we caught a sunfish from the starboard boat on the crane.

Sunday January 8th

Another pretty Sabbath is passed but the excitement of the times has prevented our enjoying it as we should. At about 8 in the morning it was supposed to be whales breaching 80 miles off so the 6 or 8 men at the mast head was singing out there she breaches and there is white water till noon when it was found to be sea breakers so we were all disappointed. How easy it is to be deceived. Well the weather is warm and pleasant while that at home is probably cold and disagreeable but I suppose the people will enjoy themselves full as well as we do here in all this sunshine we do not hear the merry sleigh bells and I am sorry that I cannot hear the meeting bells and after service that I cannot join my little family. Thus we are losing half the enjoyment of life but we must be patient. I hope they have received our letters and little presents.

Monday January 9

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Pleasant weather. At 8^{1/2} lowered for blackfish.

The starboard boat struck 3 and saved two, the starboard boat struck one and saved him because I struck him with a barman (the barble did not go). The whist-boat struck and drew. We chased the school till noon, then came on board and took dinner on boats towing along side. fitted our craft and got all ready for a start. The land in sight.

Tuesday January 10th 1854

Pleasant still. After dinner lowered again for the same school of blackfish and chased two hours but could not find them again returned and fished the what we had. At 10^{1/2} lowered for more pulled a couple of miles but could see no fish but shipjacks. The Mechanic in sight and also saw a steamer.

Wednesday January 11th

Very calm and nothing in sight but a ship and land. Boiled the blackfish blubber. Here we are with nothing to do but think and dream of home well to have a good dream of home pleasing. The night before last our ship touched at the port of Bedford for something and the Captain went on shore with a boat crew and I happened to be one of them and as it was evening we were to stay all night and it happened to occur to me that I should have time run up home so I went to the Capt and asked liberty and he said he was willing but he thought of starting at one o'clock at night, I told him I would be ready. Off I started as you may suppose upon the run and I was not long in getting as far as New Holland ship and although dark still he was there sawing staves but I hurried past for fear he would see me no time to go though I was in so much hurry still I was looking in every direction to see the improvements I noticed that there had been much land made toward the water and I saw the new savings bank in course of erection it was built of brick and nearly high enough for the roof I hurried on. My legs began to fail not being used to traveling on shore I began to look for a carriage, soon found one and saw a man near it asked him if he was the owner of the cart he answered in the affirmative I told him I wanted a passage home he readily consented though my clothes were not over sleek I squeezed myself in and he whipped up and the joy that I experienced will never be equalled till I am actually in the streets of N.H. and as I was disappointed then I shall hardly dare believe till I am in the midst of my family I was then taking too much comfort and the pleasure was so great that I awaked before I reached that little wife and those little comforts I opened my eyes and looked around and found I was in a little berth only 2 ft by 6. instead of a pretty coach berth.

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