

Lying at Anchor at Cape St Lucas

400 days from home Tuesday January 17th 1854

PM. A light breeze from the southward making the best of our way toward the Cape. The watch at work the most of the night hauling up the cables and up the fish tackle, getting up shank, painters, ring stoppers, shackles and all things appertaining to the anchors. At daylight the wind died away and left us within 4 miles of the tower so at 8 lowered the boats and took the old ship in tow. At 10 1/2 dropped anchor in 15 fathoms of water. Mr. Pritchard acted as pilot. The ship Benjamin Coffin lying off and on with a raft on shore for water. The ship has 3600 bbls oil 80 sp Capt. Pringston 25 months out from home. The Capt went on shore at 11 So ends

401 Wednesday January 18th

Set up 12 shooks for water and sent them ashore with 10 more for water, at 3 PM took off 12 of them. The Carpenter talking ship and the blacksmith boiling tar to pay the deans. He was a stranger to this kind of business, his pot was an old fashion dinner pot this was filled with tar with a little rosin and placed upon the forge and while he was blowing fire the tar boiled over and flame spread rapidly and ended with the top of the tar with a small portion of the tywork cover. I made a chair of a tierce to hoist in ladies in case any should favour us with a visit. Capt. Pringston, boats crew stopped with us last night and sailed this afternoon for Talcahuana and home.

402 Thursday January 19th

Very busy getting off wood and water and cutting up the wood and stowing it away with the water. Carpenter and 4th Mate talking and paying the deans, it keeps the blacksmith all the time to boil the tar. The Capt came off in the morning with Mr. Pritchard and took breakfast and when they went back the sent a larger pot for boiling tar and sent off 2 dollars worth of oranges to me for the churn. At 10 AM Glen Pritchard's (Magister's) sloop of war Amaranth came to anchor for company. Last from La Paz. I believe she has been surveying in the Arctic Ocean but has been looking of late for some of the Fillibusters from California who has been disturbing the piece of the inhabitants of the coast. One of the men bit or stung by a scorpion but it proved to be nothing serious.

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403.

Friday January 20th 1854

Driving business early and late. The Carpenter and 4th Mate talking blacksmith heating pitch and boiling paint for the bands. Took off the last of the wood cut it up and stowed it away. Sent on shore one box of medicine, 125 lb sugar to go with it, 3 bbls of flour, 55 lb of corn & bbls of bluish (all we have) and 10 lbs of coffee. The Lieutenant came on board a few minutes and presented the Capt with a small package of something. Commenced painting the bands 50 ends

404

Saturday January 21st

The starboard watch ashore on liberty that includes myself. I spent my time with the crew of her Majesty's ship, and it was lucky for me that I had an invitation to go on board and take dinner as there is about as bad as nothing on shore to eat. On board of that ship I found one of the officers showed me round the ship each the instruments of death was truly well arranged and in the best of order. She carries 25 guns and 240 men. After dinner we went ashore again and stayed till sunset when a boat came for us and we all came on board except Mr. Gambert who went to the fuses. Two men nearly or quite drunk Lincoln and Lyons. Then watch painting and mashing ship.

405.

Sunday January 22nd

The Sabbath is passed the starboard watch on shore and returned at sunset the worst of them the worse for liquor. I am glad to say there is a few exceptions even before the Mast. Mr. Cannon (boosterer) managed to walk and that is all and I fear that my best friend F. R. C. had indulged in that poison too freely for the first time and I hope the last time. I thought me very much to be men in this way but I think the Capt is to blame for giving them a licence to get drunk. I called them all aft and told them he was about to give them a run on shore and should any one get drunk they should be hoisted in and good care should be taken of them. This is what I call giving free liberty to get drunk. How much better it would have been if he had told them to have behaved themselves and keep sober and he would give them more liberty in a better port but they are prone to cavil as the sharks fly upon their Majesty's ship left us at 10 1/2 AM. Wish them a good pleasant passage home and that they may all live to see their little Queen again.