

Off Goodrich Island

Bound for the Sandwich Islands

635 *Friday September 9th 1854*
 Raining nearly all day with a strong wind from the S.W. by steering by the wind to the S. and E. The fly jib gaff parted in consequence of the strong wind weather. I don't see if there had been we should look to the beam. The fore top sail split a short distance but we cleared it up and patched it in the fore. Finished the turned work of a pair of swifts for friend Bakeman and stowed every thing of the kind out of sight and washed and shaved for Sunday.

636 *Saturday September 10th*
 The day has been spent in the usual way that is not very respectably. I have written to my wife and to my friend Nicholas. So of course my thoughts have been at home but I did not forget my stand at home as long as my mind has been on earthly things.

637 *Sunday September 11th*
 Various kinds of weather change some very bad as some very good but equally had her under close reefed topsails twice and split the foremast from the foot to the head so that it and supported to pieces. But another. Parted the fore place and some new ones. Sails and rigging very poor but we have a plenty of new of each kind here.

638 *Tuesday September 12th*
 We have seen the sun all day from dawn to dusk something we have not seen before since we took our last whale. At daylight saw the Island of Goodrich bearing to the S.W. 10 miles in within 20 miles and backed off shore. Saw a brig steering in shore. This pleasant day has passed and have seen no whale. The watch picking sticks out of the old foretop sail. Can't stop much longer.

639 *Wednesday September 13th*
 Mild but foggy the most of the day. Wind S.W. by steering by the wind to the southward. Nothing in sight but a few finbacks and birds. I have been very busy making a level on what I believe to be a new place. The natives are wonderfully astonished.

640 *Thursday September 14th*
 To day we see 28 months out and will have just recovered the length of time that must pass before we can see our home and make it 16 or 17 months more. Can we wait so long before we see our wives? Set in to rain during the night and rained all day so the watch commenced washing ship with lye and soap while I continued to stow about below out of the rain. A good birth and more agreeable than washing ship in the rain.

641 *Friday September 15th 1854*
 The watch driving a most of business in the rain washing ship. They all worked well off and all but of course they had to grow a little. It is tedious business. I suppose though I have not tried it. Finished my Gavel to day. During the night the wind hauled from S. to E. by steering south with a fair breeze for Oahu where we shall probably arrive in 15 or 20 days. Then we shall be as far as the pretty ones. Spent me in a hurry good day.

642 *Saturday September 16th*
 The rain continued to fall and the watch continued to scrub ship outside and in until dispirited when they finished by washing off deck. There is no clean sea now. Our wives could not come and board without dirtying their new dresses. Loaded most of the night but at breakfast time a good breeze sprang up from the N. so we kept on our way again to the south. The foremast of flying jib gaff parted on account of wet weather so we took them both off as the starboard gaff has parted twice before. The Ocean full of finbacks.

643 *Sunday September 17th*
 Weather favorable. Wind S.W. by steering S.W. We shall soon be in warm weather where we shall be most at ease as yet all hands are rather gloomy. This damp cold weather is rather depressing to the spirits. A few letters would produce a favorable change.

644 *Monday September 18th*
 We have been taking long steps towards port to day as we have had a strong wind from the N.W. by steering S.W. The ship appears to enjoy the short as much as any of us. It is all life now. I wish my wife could see her as she hurries through the water it is so beautiful.

645 *Tuesday September 19th*
 Wind blowing from the same quarter with a few squalls of rain. Steering S.W. and S.E. making 216 miles of latitude the last 24 hours some long. Lat 16.06 Long 152.00.

646 *Wednesday September 20th*
 Our fair breeze died away to a light one and during the night hauled to the S.W. and we were nearly head over heels. So we are making slow headway but we put on new fly jib gaffs and set the sails and bent the fore topgallant sail. I do not suppose we shall have to wait long for a breeze. Ripped to pieces an old jib. I have been busy engaged on my picture box for the last 4 days. This a long and difficult job.