

Bound for Honolulu

Wednesday November 15th 1854

The order was to sail the first fair breeze. About 10 in the morning all hands were called to be ready short but the wind fell before we could make the water. So it was given up. The wind finally set in from the south and at times blew fresh with rain but we are not quite so near ready as in so much of a hurry as we were last night. I made a 40 gallon cask for beer for the Wright a beer dealer on shore. Charged 700 dollars. Yesterday Jones and Sam fugitives got started out and came in town for food when they were discovered by Mr. Baker and were lodged in the fort with Thait for safe keeping. Took on board 4 hickies & ducks and a few trifles.

Thursday November 16th

At daylight took our anchor with a light breeze and stood out and commenced Lying off and on a breeze we do not like but expect to have a good share before the Capt. will get ready to come off. The boat went in at 10 A.M. and returned at 5 P.M. with Mr. Rodgers and 2^d Mate and Jones, Sam and Thait who I believe are glad to get on board again. They do not like boarding in the fort. Dropped off 2 hickies and 3 ducks also. The Mercury started for home with all her signals flying firing the large gun frequently. Joy go with them.

Friday November 17th

The wind let in strong from the southward and by break fast time we was abreast of the false passage to Lahaina. We then commenced beating back but made slow head way. At 3 1/2 the ship Congress ran down and spoke us to wear round and follow her. Our Capt. was on board of her. He found we was out of sight in the morning and knew we was wind bound and made the right kind of a calculation to please us for we do not like to lay off and on. At sunset he came on board but the wind had died away so we made "slow" headway toward Honolulu. Filled the cask and put in in the boats while I spent the most of the time in writing home.

Lying off and on at Honolulu

Saturday November 18th 1854

The wind has been very light all day so we did not go on ship's light on shore till about 5 in the afternoon when a fresh breeze sprang up from the southward and westward. Steady ahead but a head wind is better than none. The water has been busy at small jobs & sail in sight going the same way. I have just finished a letter for my wife.

Sunday 19th November

The wind blew ahead 4 P.M. still a beating for Honolulu in company with a half a dozen other ships. There was in sight off the harbor. At 6 in the evening started in boat with the Capt. for the shore which was about 15 miles off. Reached there at 8 1/2 found not only the harbor full of ships but the city full of people. We made out the fort room enough to lay down and spend the night and that was about all.

Monday 20th November

Returned without the Capt. at sunset. Got a letter for my wife dated Sept 18th and 3 papers. Had my picture taken to send to her and have just finished writing to her. Bought a barrel of black walnut for scrimshanking purposes.

Tuesday November 21st

Went ashore again today and found another letter for me in the post office from Mr. Highland. Spent a few hours on board the merchant ship Mackenzie. Came back again at sunset without the Capt. He loves the shore.

Wednesday November 22nd

At 12 M. went ashore again for the Capt. and stayed till 5 and returned to the ship without the Capt. He thinks of coming tomorrow in a shore boat but another letter to my which makes 9 this time in post. Sent her a friend and subscribed for it for the coming year. Contributed a dollar for the intended Sailors Home. Another friend loan of war came in breaking 2 firth 2 English and 2 firth.

Thursday November 23rd

Another day has passed and still the Capt. has not come as he told us. He has been about there 4 or 5 days and we are anxious to get within our own little risk for whales. All hands sitting up and repairing rigging expecting the Capt. He has been cleaning to gather for & Jones with the Billings name. Portage & Thait.