

121 days out Monday December 4th 1854

We are now favoured with a fair breeze from the E. by N. and pleasant weather steering E. by N. The watch is busy repairing fly jib and fore topmast stay. Carpenter repairing the starboard boat and cooper busy making pretty thing for the ladies. James picking oysters as he is not able to perform his duty. Carpenter and Bill gammon off duty with the Venereal disease. I ship off our starboard beam 5 miles off and has remained in that position all day. Saw several sparrows.

122 Tuesday December 5th The wind continued to the southward and the moon shone beautifully till toward morning when the wind changed to the N. and scattered the rain all over the ship and crew and continued equally through the day but I have been below at work on measuring stowage finished making 28 all told 10 of them were for the Capt the rest for my own disposal. Our neighbour has left us with rigals and topmast studding sail so we are alone again.

123 Wednesday December 6th The weather continued equally through the day. Wind E. During the night parted the leach of the fore top gallant and tore the sail so they sent it down and repaired it and bent it in the deck. They beated round the gears without letting go the lee top gallant brace which was the cause of the trouble. The watch very busy repairing sails and scraping the deck buckets and every thing that has the appearance of being dirty. I commenced 2 miniature boxes today.

124 Thursday December 7th Equally still but the watch managed to wet hold in the morning and washed off deck and out fresh pork for breakfast and a large stuff for dinner. Ripped to pieces an old fore topmast and topmast studding sail we shall have none to carry us home.

125 Friday December 8th Friday has passed with its squalls and its sunshin. The wind about south steering by the wind to the E. The watch to work on sails. Went to see whales.

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126 Saturday December 9th 1854

Pleasant weather with a south east wind and ahead at that steering by the wind to the E. Sent down the fore top gallant sail before light and as soon as it was light enough they began to repair it. Cut up the fore topmast and made a sail of it in shape of a topmast stay sail. I do not know what they are for. The Carpenter commenced making a piece of furniture for Mr. Lewis Sheriff at Chilo Chinghe.

127 Sunday December 10th Sunday has passed pleasantly and that Providence has taken a step forward is quite evident. The most of the crew take an interest in religious reading their in words something. The Capt was forward today and found in making a whale tooth and told him to put it away or he would find him a job he would not like. The boats were about having a piece of canvas sewed on the foot of the main sail where it chafes against the davit and was kept pinned along at the time. He asked me if I thought it would be long to do so in the dark. I told him I did not think it a case of necessity. He said the rope was chafed bad and told him tomorrow would be Monday and yesterday was Saturday giving him a hint that it might have been done yesterday or he put off till tomorrow. The Capt being present said let it be as it is Mr. Barton so it was given up. I wish every one would read the bible and follow its precepts would not not have a fine time. There is a great time to improve yet. Lat 24° 43' N. 10° 11' E.

128 Monday December 11th A fresh breeze from the E. by N. steering E. by N.

129 The watch very busy repairing sails. No wind can tell how busy unless they were here for Mr. Barton and a great number and is as busy as any body. Just after dinner the standing part of the fore topmast runner slipped from where it was secured fast in the top and they had to secure it again by the main and parted the left lanyard which was the only damage as good luck would have it. At day light saw a ship steering to the southward and westward perhaps for the same with Delanoes. Working on the furniture boxes.

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