Tuesday December 19th 1854

A gaming gale from the E. to N.E. steering S.S.E. under double reefed topsails. The watch still busy fitting rigging. Yesterday broke out a bbl. of tongues and sounds but they had been kept probably 2 years too long. They had turned into remarkably sour chowder and smelt very strong so they were thrown overboard. Opened the stern locker and hilt them out to the needy at a fearful sacrifice to the owners. Pair of pair dusk trousers only 2 dollars so I did not take any and have not shed a tear yet on account of it. Nothing in sight the prospect looks dark.

Wednesday December 20th

A rather rugged day has disappeared and we are as rich and perhaps but little better. Got up the blacksmith forge and got ready to repair the trywarks by putting in new gratings the old ones having burned off.

Thursday December 21st

Commenced at midnight to wet hold to save time and wet 3 hours. It tends to pass off the watch but I believe it is not liked very well. The wind S.E. with a squall of rain. In the morning squared the yards and steered S.W. The Blacksmith and the right Honorable W. H. C. commenced taking the old gratings out of the trywarks two of which were burned entirely off and the other 6 very badly crooked by the heat. Straightened them at the forge and cut a 3 inch bar in lengths to take the place of the old ones. A pretty good job. I hope we shall not make such a bungling piece of work of it as I have in giving a description of it.

Got 6.35

Friday December 22nd

Wind light from the S.E. with some rain. Part of the time steering N.W. but in the forenoon luffed to E.S.E. there was a heavy swell a running and a N. West course brought us in the trough of it and rocked us badly to suit our work. The watch making seads and rattling down the Spiller rigging with new 15 thread rattling stuff. Blacksmith and Co finished the trywarks in a highly satisfactory manner. Tomorrow the blacksmith will whitewash it all over

Saturday December 23rd 1854

Saturday work is done and I am all ready for the welcome sabbath having layed by all my scrimshanting and shaved and washed and prepared my self to enjoy it.

A few minutes ago the Capt. called me in the Cabin and showed me the box of things sent him by his wife in the Mechanics Own. There were a pair of cloth slippers embroidered, a box of shaving cream, a portable inkstand, a few boards, a pincushion of pins, a work bag, a little letter in the inkstand and a larger one in the envelope, one sheet of letter paper with 2 or 3 lines of writing on it with a pen which was sent with it by one Old Aunt or (Maria perhaps) and a bottle of horseradish an inch long sent by his boy. They are trifles though I must be glad to the Capt. I shall be glad when I can see the one that sent them for I shall be near my darling. They are all fast asleep now and I trust warm, well and happy. The rain is falling fast on deck and I must turn in and read.

Sunday December 24th

This has been a rainy sabbath and but for a good book it would have been a lonesome one. It may have been a lonesome day for some at home with all their company and extra privileges but I hope it has not been an unhappy one to my pretty ones. I have passed the day by reading "Hints for the Household" and hope to be able to put some of them to practice in less than a day's age. Should I be successful in doing so all around me would be made happier. It is truly the work of a christian a parent particularly. Every one should read it.

Monday Christmas December 25

Christmas has passed and we have not been able to make merry with our friends by providing them with a good dinner and better wishes. They intended to have a root turkey in the Cabin that they thought they have been a stuffing with soaked bread for the last 3 weeks that last night so they had to make a dinner of beans with onions. We all have reasons to be merry and rejoice that a Saviour has opened a way to heaven which is better than many dinners. Moving N.E. with a gentle breeze. Got sick of the ground Noddies and all rain. Passed Cape St. Lucas