

Continuing for Spanish Shakes

Tuesday December 26th 1854

Has been raining a part of the time and pleasant a good share of the day. The men busy at small jobs about the rigging. The blacksmith at work at the stove. Carpenter at work between signal on his furnace and Burns screwdriving on his primitive boxes. Bill and Sam Roper (Lacy's former gentry) on duty yet though stand no night watch yet. Nothing in sight but Albatross, Shearwater and Shrike. Steaming E. 1/2 N.

Wednesday December 27th

A light wind from the South East and pleasant. Steering by the wind to the Eastward. Capt. H. J. fastened to a shark with an iron and after depriving him of his life and the best portion of his skin we threw him overboard to feed other of the brother sharks. Turned the light and ports for Carpenter's furnace. Caught a few Shearwaters. Dull Moon.

Thursday December 28th

At 3 in the afternoon hove to for what appeared Spanish whales 7 miles distant. The wind being very light. Returned at dark 6 1/2 without seeing them from either boat excepting the Capt. and he only with the assistance of opera glasses. They were then 2 miles from the boat so they started for the ship all hands doubtful as to what they were. Lost another turkey by a natural death. 2 more left of the same sort nearly dead.

Friday December 29th

A Man overboard!! At 1.0 in the forenoon took in the flying jib in a squall. Samuel H. took with another went out to find it and then fell from the boom overboard. The excitement produced that usually attend a circumstance of this kind life or death. Hove down the wheel, hauled up the mainmast, hauled back the main yard, clear away the boat, call all hands, hear a hornet was all done in a breath. If there was not danger in the way it would be truly amusing to see the proceedings. But it is all heavy work like wild fire. It took him on board and it is generally believed he was glad to get back. When he got back he was very well.

Toward Cape St. Lucas Lower California
Saturday December 30th 1854

Another week has passed and it has been very equally one but as it is warm we can stand it very well. It is the last Saturday of the year and I feel a little solemn as I think of it. All the time that has been misimprovement or not improved at all is lost and that for ever it cannot be redeemed so we should make much of the present which is all we can call our own. Caught a porpoise.

The Last Sabbath of the Year 1854!!

I am anxious to see the last Sabbath and last day of another year. Many have been the changes that have taken place since this short year commenced, some pleasant and some disagreeable so of course good and some evil. Some have been called to another world while others are spared to prepare and finish their earthly work. I seem to be numbered with the last and I pray the Lord to make known my duty and give me a hint to perform it. I have noticed the effect of good and bad examples and that they have a powerful influence to deprave or purify, to depress or to elevate. Need never be doubted. The abused and common saying of the evil doer "It is none of your business how I act. I have my own sin to answer for" is proved to be false by the power of influence and that man or that woman who are groping in that darkness is certainly in a pitiable condition and need their eyes touched with the beautiful Continent of a Christian's love that they may see the importance of setting a good example by leading a holy life. "I have truly been made upright but has brought out many inventions." I have been wandering in ^{evil} ~~evil~~ works during my imprudent stay and regret deeply my weakness and ingratitude to him who is altogether lovely and chiefest amongst ten thousand and feel resolved to double my diligence in coming here. I have forgiven Nelson, Laura and those of my family the last week with much interest and am glad to forgive my father to be just what I want. This is the last day of the year and I think God there is the best man in the world in defense of those who would have a better year.