

Off New Zealand

Friday February 4th 1856

We have had a gale from the N.W. since 8 o'clock and we have driven her very hard over on through a heavy head sea under double reefed topsails. The D. had a short distance to the windward doing the same. She has been in the same direction all day but is farther to the windward the holds on better than any ship we have seen. Opened a bbl of hams that we put up three years ago and found them as nice as when first packed. They were first covered, then placed in a bbl with charcoal round them and headed up tight and the bbl placed inside of a bbl of larger dimensions and filled with pickles or brine. We have Red Sea which was preserved in the same way excepting the charcoal. One ham is now hanging under the house for the Capt to look at and talk about, & others he thinks of taking home, the rest have been carefully seen hung under a beam head.

Saturday February 5th

The sun has shone very pleasantly but the gale still continues from the same direction lying to under easy sail. Have done nothing but stow a half a cask of morning bread for the sailors. They have had but little since Saturday (see particular on 328 page) the Captain calls them a dog pack of dogs and should only let them have it three times a week a half a basket full at a time. Nothing more than that each meal that added to our short allowance of thinking meat is very hard living. The meat is so stinky that I get along with the same without eating it. The Captain is glad it is so for he says they will not eat so much. Lat 38.29 S. Long.

Sunday February 6th

The wind has gradually died away till the weather has settled into calmness. We have passed the day as pleasantly as we could by telling over many second handed stories and reading some good and some not profitable according to taste and a few letters from the land ones at home. Cape Bird (New Zealand) in sight. Last light of the Daniel David and saw another

Monday February 4th 1856

Every stick of sail in back a close reefed main top sail and a gale from the N.W. we were obliged to sublime through our blocks and rigging. Had some taken it easier than the ship has as we have been furnished with a greater watch below. Foggy and foggy all day. Had some rain which made it rather cold and disagreeable.

Tuesday February 5th

The wind abated before noon but set double reefed fore and main top sails. Had still S.W. and N.W. with squalls and rain occasionally.

Wednesday February 6th

Weather a little better but disagreeable still and continued. The crew complain of suffering much with scurvy. Their meat is tainted and scanty and about half enough potatoes, and one period of poor bread per week is all they are allowed. This is not as Uncle Abner Ashby would have it. About 10 days ago the Captain ordered the steward to tell the warm bread for the first table only saying the fellows at the second table would eat all the flour and butter in the ship if they had warm bread but we have had it constantly but he don't know it.

Thursday February 7th

Very pleasant pleasant weather again. After supper took ship to the N. and set the topsails out of the top sails. Had a taste of a hot for the first time. Boy was moved to the fore castle as the house too cold and damp for his disease. Lat 42.20 S. Long.

Friday February 8th

Very light breeze and pleasant weather. Ran about the fore topsails, repaired it and set it again. Great credit in the Capt. Planning for lowering a boat for the stowage but which was lost overboard. He had some good water.

Saturday February 9th

Light breeze and more with a fair breezeance fine weather. The Capt. ran about the fore topsails and repaired it and set it again. Fixed on a watch by setting sail and making off deck.

Opened a bbl of hams

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