

Lying At Anchor at the Port of Backland

Saturday March 1st 1856

1172

Weather very fine. The Eastboard watch went ashore on Liberty and all went from aft that chose so of course I went particularly to go to church. I attended what is called the Independent Church (Orthodox) in the forenoon and listened to a fair sermon and congregation singing which was not so good as a choir with instruments. The Lord's Prayer was read; the second verse of the same Psalm used for a text. The Lord's Supper was administered to a few known to be members, no general invitation given as is usual at home.

In the afternoon attended the Church of England and saw 8 or 9 infants baptized which was a very solemn and interesting performance. In the evening went to a preaching meeting at a second Independent Church and so finished the day quite profitably. The people are very respectful and ladies and children very plentiful being about 6 children to one female so I think the climate must be very favorable to the increase of population. It is enough so and way perhaps the women should have the credit I would not strip them of their laurels.

Three of our men returned drunk viz Lincoln Williams & Tim. Three others forgot to come viz Blacksmith Lyons & John one of our new men. The Capt will not look for them. Eight fine boys and some girls were on board to eat and 4 left to dinner.

Sunday March 2nd

1173

Commenced painting ship outside but quit early as it began to rain. Put Robinson (Colored) in cook in place of Lyons who deserted yesterday. Robinson shipped for that business at home but was soon put on shore as he could not suit our particular Steward. I lost was sent for "pippin" a small species of guano of which the shore is covered but they do not get but a few as they were not larger than an English Shilling.

Monday March 3rd

1174

Last evening our Officers went on shore with a boat crew and did not return till midnight. One of the boat crew Joseph Charles had with him so much of the spirit Barkers that he was entirely helpless. The men have no difficulty in getting liquor with but money. A new Theater opened last evening and there was a great rush as is usually the case with the gay and thoughtless. The weather has been fine and we have nearly finished painting. The Capt has been on board and appeared to be very much out of humor something rather uncommon with him. Took the tobacco out of the box and intend to smuggle it on shore this evening. Filled the box with bricks and carefully replaced for the inspection of the Customhouse Officer. The boat crew have been clamoring and got several barrels of clams and oysters. Tried fishing but got but a little ones.

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Tuesday March 4th 1856

1175

Very pleasant weather. Finished painting ship excepting the stern. Bent a new Mainmast and foremast, new masts topsail and fly jib. As respect to go flying when we do start. Took on board eleven hundred lbs of Ammons. The boat went in to market at about this morning but the Capt said if the men foremast wanted fresh they must go a fishing for he should not get any meat for them. He is determined to aggravate them to leave if possible. They get no bread here but the potatoes are very nice and are a good substitute. They went a fishing this afternoon and caught two little fish!

The boat on shore this evening with a boat crew. A lot of boys aboard.

Wednesday March 5th

1176

Took on board 600 lbs of Irish potatoes and sent a new Mainmast sail so we are nearly ready for sea. All the sails new excepting the jib. One of our officers asked the Mate permission to come on board last to stay a few hours and was told to go for good and it proved a favor as he had only a half mind to leave. His name is John Gessen a secreted himself on board at Honolulu. He is here as he does not enjoy good health and is young and needs a parental care. The Carpenter and I of our Officer were on shore with a boat crew and will probably attend the Theater. It will be my turn to tread terra firma tomorrow. Our deck had been nearly full of boys; they enjoy the privilege very much.

Thursday March 6th

1177

Took our bread new from the bake house 1500 lbs. Spread it on a rail on the house and let it dry till the middle of the afternoon when it was put in casks for sailors use. Very sweet bread but dark colored and hard. Filled 16 bbs and filled others with oil which will be sent on shore tomorrow and a small sack also, the gauges are in. This made quite a dirty job; shook at the empty casks. A boat crew went a fishing and after an absence of 2 hours returned without a fish. Caught a few deep from the ship. Oakum showed off by striking Joseph Charles with his fist because he told him not to give back answer and so said he had not. The Officers were out till past midnight and do not feel very good natured. Carpenter got nearly lost and has him off duty to day. The Capt paid us a visit in a short time and we are waiting for a chance to repay the visit.