

Off French Rock



1198

Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> 1856

No other other changes in the weather but the wind has hauled 2 or 3 points more to the South so we can head E but we are looking hard for a westerly wind and almost impatient for it. At sunset French Rock was off our weather beam bearing S by W distant 20 miles. This is said to be a favorite resort for sperm whales. I have not seen any and I am not particularly anxious to have a dog fight now and then to make the times exciting.

1199

Thursday March 27<sup>th</sup>

The wind not so strong but small rain and fog make it more disagreeable. Let double reefed fore and main topsails and jib. The wind still insists upon being contrary. "Portuguese" had a hard fight last night and has not yet recovered from the effects of it. Dull times.

1200

Friday March 28<sup>th</sup>

The weather begins to look more mild and a favorable change is anticipated. Toward night the wind changed South so we head E. S. E. right into a head beat. The pitch is hard but the foremast sail underwaken and split a place two feet long but this does not trouble us as a fair wind is promised soon. Lat about 31.

1201

Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup>

Three cheers for a fair wind!! During the night the wind gradually hauled to the S. W. so we checked in the weather braces and all have cheerful hearts pleasant faces except one and he was so unhappy last night that he was on deck long after midnight and I heard him threaten to do some one mortal injury if they were not careful. In the forenoon set the foremast Studding sail. In the afternoon carried away the gaff. But we bent the lead to another yard which is now obscuring at the rate of 10 horse power to a strong wind from the N. W. steering E. S. E. The girls and crew are sailing rapidly now and if cows something will be done for the hauler. It now rains hard and but fair to do so through the night but we can stand it well under present circumstances. "Portuguese" had 3 more fits this afternoon. Lat 31. 56 S.

1202

Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> 1856

The night was dark and rainy but the day was as has been pleasant with a strong fair wind hurrying us to our friends and home and how happy should we be if we should follow St. Paul's advice and let brotherly love continue. But there is a great want of this feeling here though I am glad to say we are not altogether destitute of this feeling. Bused myself as usual reading the Whole Duty World and feel as if I would try to imitate Little Ellen.

1203

Monday March 31<sup>st</sup>

Weather pleasant and wind strong from the N. W. steering E. S. E. Let our three cornered lower Studding sail and bent two topgallant Studding sails but Captain Bleaching did not think best to set them though we all wanted the use of them. The girls have done their duty today. Shape they will not neglect as tomorrow. Fitted the Mr. Royal's gear and got the rigging ready. Then lost his watch below for receiving the or water put by the lower Studding sail jib blocks for the water halyards at the foremast head instead of the topmast head so much for blunders. He killed our small pig. Lat 35. 23 S. Long West.

1204

Tuesday April 1<sup>st</sup>

During the night the wind was light with frequent squalls of rain but toward morning it cleared off and the wind increased to our satisfaction and we could not help from thinking that the whole family had hold of the rope. The night promises to be fearful. Took in studding sails and double reefed the topsails. Storm lightning. Lat 37. 15 S.

1205

Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>

The weather proved worse than we anticipated. At night the wind came in a awful squall with rain, lightning and hail. Scotting under double reefed fore and main topsails to the E. and W. by 10 A.M. she made a fearful crash and shipped a heavy sea which awaked all hands and the next thing we heard a groaning cry going on in the cabin and with it a loud call for all hands which left us in some doubt as to the cause but the damage was completed by the loss of the foremast and slightly shoving the La Edward boat and sending the iron davits and breaking our freshwater pumps. We hurried on deck secured the larboard boat and retired but not to sleep for the ship was laboring.

Portuguese had two fits this morning