

Cape Horn and Home!

1213

Thursday April 10th 1856

Wind strong from the N.E. by E. and bowery. Steering S. by E. part of the time with Mr. T. Gallant Studdingsail & F. T. So. but we took them some time ago as the wind had blown ahead. Finished the Lath House all but covering with canvas which will be done soon. The sailors ripped to pieces an old Mr. Tapanis for the purpose. The house is 5 ft by 6 ft on the floor and 5 ft high: just my height and for my accommodation. It is to be placed on the forward part of the former house.

1214

Friday April 11th

This Royal Highness ~~Hummer~~ singer has at last been appeased. We had a stormy and boisterous night which kept us busy all night setting studdingsails, taking them in and taking in the gullant sails and reefing to sails which lasted till a quarter before 7 in the morning when we were wet, cold, fatigued and hungry but instead of having a little rest and breakfast and an early start below we were set to scrubbing decks till after 8. This is truly discouraging and if this was the beginning of the voyage I should despair but now I encourage myself with the thought that it will not last much longer. Run and tobacco and setting up till past midnight. Throw dice with Mr. Plunkly accounts for the want of sympathy with the crew as well as his ugly ill nature. The rain and salt water have no trouble in finding a way through our poor and scanty clothing to our skin and the Captain could make things more pleasant if he the feelings of a man. I am sorry to record so much to his disadvantage but duty compels it but I have not told the half.

1215

Saturday April 12th

The weather still wet and disagreeable with a heavy dew but less wind. Steering E. and S.E. according to the light of the sea. Wind N.E. by E. The Captain still as ugly as his nature will bear. Thashed off deck after 4 P.M. though she had shipped water by the ton all day and was rolling so we could hardly stand and frequently slipping the men in the chains half under water. He can't get us out enough to suit him with this weather. It's but little more to put on by. Nothing doing during the night of it out and past then rain. The poor sailors live in and the life for one man.

1216

Sunday April 13th 1856

The day has been foggy and dreary and as much wind as we could carry Mr. T. G. left and Mr. M. Studdingsail to. Though we have been met and could not read any stock still it passed with flying agreeably than many when we were blessed with pleasant weather.

1217

Monday April 14th

This evening Portuguese had eleven fits this evening it is supposed to have been caused by a little hard bread and meat that he eat at noon it being the only food he can get through his sickness plenty of rice on board but the sick has no more from our leader. We have still a good three or four of the N. W. by steering E. half S. Took in E. R. M. Studdingsail at 11 P.M. it cleared up for a few hours and we found a wind. Latitude 36° 53' S. Longitude 119° 00' W. Good.

1218

Tuesday April 15th

Went to the N. W. steering E. with the N. M. Studdingsail. Spring and trim and the long point at the rate of 9 knots. Succeeding in getting our latitude again 34° 37' S. Longitude 120° 40' W.

1219

Wednesday April 16th

Wind still heavy from the N. by W. steering E. by S. Had to take in N. M. Studdingsail and Mr. T. G. and boy with some rain but the whole family were hailing the rope. Calm at noon. Longitude 121° 50' W.

1220

Thursday April 17th

Weather a little better. Like studdingsails before. In the afternoon "Portuguese" had another fit. In evening 1221

1221

Friday April 18th

Carried our ship studding the mast of the three masts this afternoon. Made a list of the wind N. by W. by S. and rain. Took them all in with the foremast jacks and foretopgall sail. The Captain very cross about this. F. T. Studdingsail tried to work up some weather. Portuguese cold wet and disagreeable. Lat 35° 55' S. Long 121° 17' W. Quantity less.

1222

Saturday April 19th

The day has been remarkable for the heavy squalls of wind from the N. and S. and so hard as to make the studdingsails. Though the wind is a good strong it is only a short time out of which makes us think that we can't get to the most desirable place. Latitude 37° 00' S. Longitude 120° 30' W. All.