

Forward Cape Horn and Home

1223 days from home

Thursday April 20<sup>th</sup> 1856

This morning at 4 o'clock Mr. Mayhew got scared and called all hands to shorten sail and succeeded in hauling the Old Man also so we had to leave our warm berth and climb the icy snow covered rigging which was a caution to cold fingers and we reduced sail from M.T. sail to a close reefed M. To sail, reefed fore sail and storm sails. The wind had changed from S.W. to S. with long squalls of hail and snow which froze in the cold parts of the ship. We got below at 6 and thought our berth the pleasantest place this side of Cape Horn. It is now nearly in the evening and more moderate, we have just swept the snow from the deck and set double reefed F.S. and let two out of the M.T. Wind I west. Steering W. by N.

Lat. 56° 36' N. Long. 84° 36' West.

Monday April 21<sup>st</sup>

The wind is now as light as lighter than we desire. It is favourable being about astern and we have our studding sails helping us slowly toward the long point. The land showed himself long enough for us to enable us to determine our position on the big. Land Jan proposed.

Lat. 56° 06' N. Long. 84° 36' W.

Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Last night the wind hauled from S.W. to W. by N. with rain. So we had to douse our studding sails and as the officer felt some fear of a gale, took in top gallant sails. Before morning it changed to the W. and we set two studding sails which we carried till near night and the rain continued to fall just enough to keep up moisture. It is now 6 o'clock in the evening. Wind S.W. by W. Steering E. by N. The barometer has not stood so low but once the voyage (3 days from home) which is a source of some fear with the leading members of society but I don't fear what may happen, it will be time enough to fear when it does happen. Have not seen the land today but the Capt. thinks we are about 100 miles to the N.W.ward of Cape Horn or rather the Diegois and if this breeze stands we shall be abreast of them by 3 o'clock in the morning. We shall look sharp for land through the night which bids fair to be a stormy one but the fear of Cape Horn will soon be over.

1226

Wednesday April 23<sup>rd</sup> 1856

The dread of Cape Horn is over

The day has been wet and windy though it cleared up in time for us to find our location. Double reefed the topsails. Last night but at noon set M.T. sail over single reef. Tops and while we were doing so saw land about 10 miles distant 3 points off our larboard beam. Having passed inside of the Diegois Islands without seeing them. At 4 in the afternoon left Horn Island (Cap. Plaine) astern which spread a broad smile over every man's face from the Captain to the Cook. The Capt. bragged on his navigation and we were all glad to give him credit. Packed the last barrel at 4 with a noble breasted fellow. After steering W. by N. and now my watch are below and about ready to turn in very cheerful though clothes ringing wet and a prospect of another dacking in four hours from now. Though cold and wet it don't do us a thing and I am not sorry that I shall never see R. H. again. A very little snow on the land.

Lat. 56° 24' N. Long. 88° 24' West.

1227

Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup>

Last night was an awful tedious one for the weather beaten sailor. It blew very hard and the rain and salt water which came by the wholesale kept us comfortably soaked to the skin. At midnight we were abreast of the Straits of Lemaire and the wind kicked up a dreadful sea and the ship labored very heavily so we came very near losing the inevitable break her gunnail and several streaks beside streaming her very much so we have only two boats fit to lower. The wind has been light through the day and ahead the most of the time and now it becomes strong from the W. by N. with rain and bids fair for a foul night. Boreas at 10. Water land in sight at times bearing to the S. by W. and N. by W.

Lat. 56° 46' N. Long. about 94° 24' W.

Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>

Last night was as dreary cold and disagreeable as is plenty of rain and a cold wind from the N. by E. comes as the barometer indicated a gale. we double reefed the T. sails but we did not move the wind we made land again before breakfast to a breeze from the S. by E. and let a studding sail.