

Lying off and on at Pernambuco

12.53

Tuesday May 20th 1856.

A fresh breeze the most of the time from the S.E. but it changed several times to E.S.W. in squalls. At 2 P.M. saw two sperm whales 1/2 of a mile astern of the ship. The two greater boats lowered with a rush of course but did not see them afterwards. They perceived the ship. The boats returned in an hour and the Captain said they had things to Mr. Oakman because he did not lower his boat as of follow. He did not understand it was expected. Kept the ship W. by W. an hour the direction the whales were supposed to be going but saw them no more though there were 8 or 9 men at the mast head. Course W. by N. by W. Tinned copper shingles for the Captains clothes line blocks. Lat 12. 08. S.

Saw sperm whales 8 boats - a great number of ships and schooners

12.54

Wednesday May 21st

Fine weather and a fine breeze from the S.E. Steaming for Pernambuco where we are expected to touch to get the news and perhaps see the girls and get some presents. I had rather get home before I gather point. The sailors racking the lower rigging. Saw two sail. Lat 9. 56. S. Long 36 00 West

Carpenters commenced the Captains boat again

12.55

Thursday May 22nd

At 9 in the afternoon the Captain and Mr. Flinckly left the ship for the famous City of Pernambuco with a picked boat crew and the honorable W. P. C. was among the favored and it would be no more than fair to mention that Mr. Warton, Potter, Hamilton, Robert and Bannister were the rest. He was along side of the guard boat, a little part four having pulled a distance of 6 miles. Found a number of ships at anchor outside of the reef one of which was the Godolight of N.Y. having lost her masts (fore and main) and is undergoing repairs. As it was the dear little Queens birthday and the people had suspended business to have a quadrille we were obliged to stay over night. We were conducted to the Sailors Home where we were well provided with food and lodging in the third story anything lower than that not being considered suitable for gentlemen of our respectability. Lat 8. 06. S.

Contains a population of 6000

Our party was very small and we were very poor

Octop birthday, I asked several oranges for her could do no more. Friday May 23rd 1856

Early in the morning we all started for a walk with a view of seeing the city and breathing the pure air but we found no pure air as the streets are very narrow, filthy and the buildings very high and immensely large and have more the appearance of prisons than dwellings and while there was much to be seen there was little to please a stranger. I had much sympathy for the poor slaves who appeared to do the most of the work and am highly pleased to hear that they are to be liberated in from 3 to 14 years. At 2 in the afternoon took 2000 oranges, 10 kegs of preserves a few bunches of bananas, as many pumpkins and cigars to the ship without the Captain and found the crew in a great state of excitement who said many improper things because he did not come. He returned immediately to the shore but he was not ready so we enjoyed ourselves at our home as well as circumstances would permit.

Saturday May 24th

Thirty seven years ago ~~the~~ woman was born! The English have had a great time here as it is Victoria's birthday. Much powder has been burnt and perhaps some liquor has been used and God save the Queen been the desire of many hearts and I say the same and all other good women though not so well known but quite as precious. The Lexington touched here today on her way home, sent from Talcahuano, reports the George Washington being burned at that port. At 5 P.M. got our small things in the boat such as 10 boxes cigars, a box of peaches a few eggs & feather dusters 3 lbs buckwheat flour in a bag, a little more sugar and grapes and a small basket and left the guard boat just as the sunset gun announced the disappearance of the great Paper of the world; we were much rejoiced to leave as we are in a hurry to get home but the Captain did not leave so willingly. Reached the ship at 7 in steering. Lat 6.

Sunday May 25th

At breakfast time kept her at 1/2 N. and soon made the land seen along shore within perhaps 5 miles to the right and called her up. Found ~~the~~ ~~men~~ ~~cannot~~ ~~forget~~ ~~the~~ ~~good~~ ~~wind~~ ~~they~~ ~~have~~ ~~lost~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~three~~ ~~days~~ ~~but~~ ~~I~~ ~~do~~ ~~not~~ ~~think~~ ~~best~~ ~~to~~ ~~put~~ ~~about~~ ~~what~~ ~~cannot~~ ~~be~~ ~~helped~~ ~~Our~~ ~~little~~ ~~dog~~ ~~dead~~ ~~in~~ ~~a~~ ~~pit~~ ~~and~~ ~~was~~ ~~thrown~~ ~~over~~ ~~board~~ ~~having~~ ~~eaten~~ ~~too~~ ~~much~~ ~~fresh~~ ~~meat~~