

Capt. Blake, 12 weeks from Sydney, clean. Got a few late Sydney papers, and heard of the death of the Emperor Nicholas. Set boat's watches.

Dec. 13th. Fine. Light breeze from the E. S. S. Saw the brig to windward. Ran up to the land, lowered the mist boat, and the old man took the brig's rope ashore. Lat. 31.19 S.

Dec. 14. Fine. Light breeze from E. Close hauled heading S. E. by S. mending old topsail. 9 A. M. raised a merchant barque two points off weather. She was steering to the S. & W. after dinner she was about four miles to windward of us, and the old man sent the mate aboard in the last boat to get some papers. It was the English barque Frances, of Port Philip, from San Francisco; with 20 passengers, bound to Sydney, and was ninety days out.

Dec. 15th. Fine. Wind E. N. E. Steering S. E. mending old topsail. 4 P. M. unbent fore topsail and sent up the old one. Wet hold. Lat. 33.37 S. 159.22 E.

Dec. 16th. Fine. Wind light E. N. E. 7 A. M. sail four points off weather bore course S. 7 1/2 luffed

up on a taut line, heading S. E. Raised a ship off weather bore trying out. The first sail proved to be an English merchant barque on a broadline, bound probably from Sydney to New Zealand. We exchanged signals with her, when she was off our weather beam about five miles, but could not make him out. When he was square ahead of us he tacked and was evidently bent on a race. We did not start tack or sheet till 4 P. M. when the Englishman's topsails were just visible, off deck, on our lee quarter. At 5 o'clock we tacked, leaving the English ship three points forward of our lee beam about ten miles off. Current shortened sail.

Dec. 17th. Breeze. Strong breeze from S. E. ^{Lat. 31.28 S. Long. 162.04 E.} Kept topsails. Ship to windward trying out. 3.4.57 A.

Dec. 18th. Double reefed topsail breeze from S. Breeze 4 P. M. spoke the Ocean. She had 1800 bbl. 35.22 S. 161.26 E.

Dec. 19th. Blowing a heavy gale from the S. & E. Laying to under close-reefed main topsail. No sea.

Dec. 20th. Clear weather. Strong reefed topsail breeze from W. Reefed topsails out. Sail off the