

Journal of voyage of the
Park Wave of New Bedford on a
30 months whaling cruise to the
South Pacific. (continued).

Sunday 28th Sept 1856

We of the fore-castle suppose
ourselves to be this day within
about 11 degrees or say 690 miles
of the Line: as there are only
two or three before the mast
who have ever crossed the line
before, the event is anticipated
with considerable curiosity and
interest: Father Neptune is expected
to make his appearance over the
bow and terrible doings are to
follow thereupon.

To day we are nearly
becalmed though for about a week
we have been blowing along before
the Northeast trade wind heading
most of the time S. S. W.: we have
~~now fairly lost the trades and~~
~~shall very likely be becalmed for~~
~~several days: it will not cause~~

Thursday 3rd Oct 1856

On the 1st instant we were
informed by our first mate that
hereafter we should have "watch"
and watch: that is to say and here
it may be well to give a brief
explanation of the term "watch" as
used at sea: it means either the number
of men as there are divided into two
companies called the "starboard watch" and
the "larboard watch" or it has reference
to the period of time that each of these
two bodies of men are on duty at
once. at for instance there are seven
watches in the 24 hours viz: 7⁰⁰ am
to 12 m, 5 hrs, 12 m to 4 p m 4 hrs 4⁰⁰ p m to 5⁰⁰ p m 1 hr 1/2, 5⁰⁰ p m to 7⁰⁰ p m 2 hrs 1/2 (these two are the
dog watches) 7⁰⁰ p m to 11 m 4 hrs, 11 p m to 3 am
4 hrs, 3 to 7 am 4 hrs — The duty is divided
thus say I am in the starboard watch
commence duty at 7 am, if I am the first man
in the watch I take my "trick" at the wheel
from 7 to 10 3 hrs, though the usual length of a
trick is 2 hrs: at 10 o'clock am relieved by
another of the starboard watch: at 12 m
the starboard watch goes below to dinner
and the larboard watch come on deck.
From 12 to 4 the larboard watch
are allowed to sleep or amuse themselves, at 4 p m