

Wednesday 3rd Dec 1856

Gale & heavy sea which renders it impossible to do any work on deck.

~~The sun was out & the wind~~

Thursday 4th Dec 1856

The sun rose fine this morning and before 7 am all sail was set but before noon the sky clouded up again, the gale began to roar the waves to be & the sea by two o'clock PM the fore sail fore topsail & main sail were snugly furled and the main topsail close reefed and we were once more ~~under~~ laying to -

~~All~~ The wind continued to increase as long as daylight lasted and by dark it blew with great violence - now and then a roller of extra size would come dashing over the bulwarks making it a little study to keep from being wet to the skin: this was agreeably varied by an occasional sprinkling of hailstones -

~~and the sea~~

Friday Saturday 6th Dec 1856

The pleasant weather above described continued during the night of the 4th and all day yesterday - at dark it began to moderate; at this time (8 am) we are going under fore & main & reefed topsails - a ~~small~~ ship in sight this morning on lee beam carrying about the same sail as ourselves.

yesterday afternoon one of the men, ~~was~~

hove his fish line over the stern and endeavored for some time to catch an albatross or "goney" as they are so commonly called at sea.

After waiting patiently for an hour or two a goney seized upon the bait and was brot safe aboard.

The bird's ~~body~~ body was of the size of a large goose and his ~~wings~~ ^{measures} over six feet from tip to tip.

The head ~~was~~ ^{was} large and round & the beak very powerful: the wings ~~were~~ ^{are} of a delicate mouse color while every other part of the body was covered with a beautiful snow-white down. It ~~was~~ ^{was} snappes fiercely with its beak at everything that approaches it.

The huge wings appeared to be powerless on deck: quite a ~~hard~~ ^{hard} fought battle lasting ~~for~~ ^{about} half an hour ~~took~~ ^{took} place between the albatross and Deimos a fine little terrier belonging to the Captain - at first the dog was in doubt about approaching too near but the bird being set down ~~on~~ in a clear space on the quarter deck and the dog encouraged to attack him the fight began in good earnest. The goney kept his strong bill constantly in motion & the dog would now and then get a severe tweak: this enraged him ~~but~~ and he made ~~constant~~ ^{constant} efforts to seize the bird by the back jumping round & round him in great fury to the ~~great~~ ^{great} amusement of all hands who were looking