

1842 Journal of Ship William Thompson

Wednesday November 15

Wind continues the same, the poor indeed to be the Trade winds, we go along about 4 Mts. There is a great deal of talk about our stopping, at the Cape de Verde, some think we are to the S, others to, N, some say we are going to stop and then again some say we are not. This gives rise to a great many arguments on things in general. You may always hear Bill Smith's voice among the loudest. Thirliff is poorly I think he will not survive many days longer. Some say we will not have to bury him at sea. If we do he will be the first that I ever buried. Got a book case made to day Dick Miller and myself undertook to finish it off some, but after I have had labour we made one of the most horrid affairs ever I saw. To behold. To give it a name I cannot, but if you have the most distasteful idea of a most childish baby. Floundered off with Linen Paper and Pink Calico you may form something like it. After it was finished we had a hearty laugh which I think repaid us for all our trouble. Dick had a fine job in scrubbing all the Betty Paper off to day.

Longitude by Chron 27 17 W
Latitude by Chron 23 01 N

Thursday No 16

To day we took notice of the change in the water, it is of a dark greenish hue. It looks like land. We are now 100 miles from the Islands hope to make them soon, If we don't it will be

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pleasant to know we are to the S of them. The day has been rather foggy. There is some dew falling. I suppose by this time tomorrow we will be rocking out for land. The weather is very warm, and stilling, light breezes, and plenty of flying fish. Saw some black fish to day but did not lower because we had a fine fair wind.

Latitude by Chron 20 40 N
Longitude by Chron 26 33 W

Friday November 17

Made a good night's work of it. Sailed about 140 miles expect to land some time to day. The Cooper cut his leg very badly with an Adze. The Carpenter bears his tale with Christian fortitude and what is more wonderful still, he growing quite fat upon it. poor Thirliff is giving worth all the time I hope we will make land so that he may live. Some chance for his life. Our Mate who is quite a Doctor in his way, recommends him to eat bread and fat to make his liver grow. In the Christian country that I was brought up in, that would be called an odd prescription, however every Doctor has his own way. No land yet.

Latitude 18 00
Longitude

Saturday

at 6 P.M. we made the long wished for Islands, Every body was delighted. There is something very gratifying in seeing Terra Firma once more. Even if we don't set our foot upon it. The weather was very foggy we did not perceive it until we were