

May 1st 1884.

"All hands" at 5.30 AM. Washed down and cleared up decks the best we could so to make her presentable to the public to-day. Who wouldn't go to the Arctic? Called all hands aft and read out the articles of agreement between "Uncle Sam" and volunteers for Arctic service which we had to sign. Then we received our first year's supply of clothing and a good supply it is too. Our Uncle is very generous. I hardly know what to do with so many clothes but I'll try and find a place to put them. There has been an awful crowd on board all day a fellow can hardly turn around without bumping into a reporter or some person who wants to know this and another who wants to know that so you may guess I was glad when the order came from aft to clear the ship of strangers. Sicty Commander of the Navy Sicty, Lincoln of War. Maj. Gen. Hancock. Surgeon Gen. of the Navy. Gimmel and an endless string of Commodors. Captains. Lts. etc. were on board inspecting ship when the ship had been cleared of strangers. "All hands" were called to muster and the two Sicties inspected and shook hands with the crew. At 2.30 the Navy Yard tug came alongside and the welcome orders to "Cast off" were given and amid the screeching of the "Colorado's" band, churning of ships blowing of whistles we shoved off and was towed out into the stream where the tug left us to look out for ourselves. Down the river it was one continuous line of white handkerchiefs waving farewell, and the blowing of steam whistles was enough to deafen a person. Brooklyn Bridge was black with people all rushing to get the last look at the "Arctic ship". Just as we passed under the bridge Trinity chimed in her farewell making some of the fellows grin and down in the mouth as if they had lost their "Dull" or something else.

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Forts Williams, Vardsworth and Hamilton all fired salutes of 21 guns each which was answered by us by dipping of colors. Gov. Dock also fired 7 guns. As we steamed down the bay we were followed by the Tallapoosa which came from Washington the night before for the purpose, with the Sicty and party on board. The "Calappa" with another party and a lot of outside tugs boats cutters &c. They all left us before we got to Sandy Hook and once by ourselves we felt that we were off in earnest and went to work accordingly. Outside swinging ship to get local deviation of compasses then set course. Extract from the official log of "Thetis" from Meridian to 4 P.M. "Clear and pleasant moderate breeze from East &c. At 1.15 cleared ship of all strangers. at 1.30 Navy Yard tug came alongside and made fast. Singled all lines and made preparations to cast off from wharf. Mustered ship's company aft and they were inspected by the Sicty of War and Navy at 2.30 cast off from wharf and towed out of Wallabout. Tug cast off and we steamed ahead under steam down the bay. "Colorado" fired a salute of 7 guns. Vessels saluted us as we passed down. "Colorado" and "Alert" churred ship. All salutes and cheers were returned by us. by whistles and cheers. Gov. Island Forts Vardsworth and Hamilton all fired salutes of 21 guns which was answered by dipping colors. Comdg officer at the cor. Tallapoosa with Sicty and party aboard escorted us down the bay.