

Copy of  
"Journal of a Voyage from Boston to  
California, via Cape Horn  
Ship Lenore, with the Company called  
"The New England and Californian  
Trading and Mining Association"  
consisting of One Hundred Members,  
including President, Vice President,  
eight directors, and a Secretary.

Henry A. Hyde, Jr.

Saturday, Feb. 2nd, 1849.

All hands on board at 5 o'clock  
P. M., February 2nd, 1849. Out in the stream.

Sunday, 3rd. - - - 1st Day out.

This pleasant Sabbath morning found  
us out in the stream, where we had  
safely anchored for the night, as the  
sun rose as if from out of the briny  
deep, sending forth such rays of light  
from its golden face; gilding the  
troubled waters; then a kind of  
pleasurable emotion came over my  
soul, such as it called beautiful; then  
I could look up to Him, who is the  
maker and controls all things for our  
good.

Turning my back to this delightful  
scene, I beheld the goodly city of Boston



in full view. There were the wharves of all kinds, lined with vessels; further up on the rising ground could be seen roofs of houses intermingled occasionally with towering steeples from houses of worship, and to crown the whole and in the midst of the whole could be seen the dome of the State House. Overlooking all the roofs on the left side was Dorchester, and on the right East Boston.

About nine o'clock the pilot came on board, and took command of the ship for a few miles; slowly we glided over the waters, making our course toward the broad ocean. Yes! that hour---every moment left me farther from my dear England shore, that family circle, those religious privileges are like blessings I am leaving, leaving perhaps never to return; and while I am thinking of home, our position brings us in full view of Farm School, Fort Independence, and other islands we are fast leaving in the background; on my left the lighthouse and two or three rough rocky looking islands. At this time I can but just see Boston; I can imagine the good people going to their houses of worship, just such privileges I am

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leaving, and while thinking of these things, suggestions of repentings, repentings on the course that I have taken - while the steady breezes are fast taking me from the view of everything but the broad deep and the sky above

During the first week, there was a great deal of sickness and confusion among us - - - with but a few exceptions, all were sick. It was increased by the very bad state of the weather, rainy part of the time and cloudy most of the time. We had a good breeze from the time we started, and that increased until we had a gale.

Sunday, 10th - 8th Day Out.

Latitude  $37^{\circ} 24'$

Some were pitched out of their berths; dishes and pans were left scattered in every direction. To-day it begins to look lighter overhead, the thermometer stands  $36^{\circ}$ ; We are going about 7 m. an hour.

In the afternoon, our Chaplain, though not very well, went through the services to the satisfaction of the Company and with great credit to himself; he reminded us of the pleasant associations and homes we had left behind, also our



situation on the briny deep, commending us to the kind mercies of God, seeking his protection in time of danger, and especially did he pray that we might find peace of God and access to Him through the merits of Jesus Christ.

We are getting along nicely, considering the weather which continues to be disagreeable to us in our present circumstances; the sea is still rough. Seaweed can be seen for miles floating on the water on both sides of the ship. Sea gulls are hovering over our heads--- they appear to make their homes on the water--- some are sitting on the water.

Tuesday, Feb. 12th - 9th Day Out.

This P.M. we saw a vessel in front of us, it appeared to be eight miles from us. At 2 P.M. had a meeting of stockholders, the principal business was to provide the Company with stewards.

Wednesday, Feb. 13th - 10th Day

The vessel we saw yesterday had crossed bows during the night and taken a southerly direction. She appeared to be the Bark Drummond which sailed from Boston the day before we did.

The subject of ventilation is being



agitated; was engaged with others in putting up a ventilator by cutting through the forward booby hatch.

The weather has moderated some though occasionally we get a ducking from the spray which is thrown over the gunwale of the ship by the heavy waves.

Friday, 15th --- 12th Day out.

A pleasant morning, saw the sun rise for the first time at sea. Surely, it was a pleasant sight, the splendor of which no tongue could express or hand paint.

Our course is East by Southeast, position at sea being about  $37^{\circ}$  latitude and longitude, making our distance from Boston to be about 1531 miles. The sea is very calm, should judge we have been about 30 ms. to-day; although we haven't made great progress, yet the day was hailed with joy and thanksgiving, being the first pleasant day since we started. Saw what is called a Portuguese Man-of-War, or jelly fish. It seemed to slip over the water with great speed.

Saturday, Feb. 16th --- 13th Day Out.

Another lovely day has dawned upon us. In the morning it is so customary to



wash off decks that many are glad to get the exercise. Some are taking a shower bath by the -pailful.

At 9 we saw a ship on weather side in full sail, she appeared to cut our course at right angles. We hoisted our flag, could not discern hers. Should judge she was 2 ~~miles~~ from us. I was not speaking distance.

Sunday, 17th -- 14th Day Out.

Another pleasant Sabbath has come! A rush on decks with washbouts and towels; some are damming the soap, others are making sport with the water, one man used the seawater and soap on his hair and in a short time it was completely matted together like the hair of the beast that has been laying down in the dung. Was much disgusted by the low and profane language used by one in the fore-part of the ship. How much the lives of many are spent in useless conversation.

Our morning services commence at 10 A.M. and at 2½ P.M. by John, the Revelator 1-11. "I am Alpha and Omega." He spoke of the nature of God, His holiness, the mysterious union, and God as Saviour and Redeemer. P.M. 1st Tim 4:10. "Because we trust in the living God." First, God as the only living



and true God, as Jehovah; 2nd, as Saviour, first to all men --- again as special Saviour. The first was treated as the common allusion of the Apostle, last as of men's particular adaptation. The preacher gave many tender allusions of incidents of home, which touched the feelings and caused the tears to start. Monday, Feb. 18th. 15 Days Out.

Yesterday the Captain saw a whale; today it is rather cloudy. Nothing very remarkable is going on --- some are reading --- some waiting on the mate who seems to have work for most everybody; others sitting round in parties telling long yarns, while a few are around with their gruel pots and camphor bottles trying to drive off that disagreeable seasickness.

To-day our mate (who is obliging and ready to make improvements) is having made a windsail which is to catch the wind, and which is attached to a cylinder made of sail cloth. This cylinder sets in the hatchway and conducts the fresh air into the "between decks" which made fine ventilation when it is not stormy.

Sailors are busy picking old ropes in pieces, making mats, and repainting the rigging. One of the sailors is now sick ---



he has been in his berth one or two days. Two of us went down into the fore-castle (where the sailors sleep) for the purpose of removing him into the cabin. I found that the poor fellow had miserable accommodations. Their room is semi-circular two rows of berths forming a circle with that of the stern of the ship. In their berths, which are just the length of a man and room enough to turn over in, were blankets twisted and tumbled in all shapes; on the dirty and wet floor were a few chests, which answered for tables to eat on. They go in and out through a hole on the top of a hatch which is the only ventilator, and is the only place to let in light. Around the sides they hang up their wet clothes and oilskins.

Wednesday, Feb. 20th -- 17 Days Out.

This morning we saw a sail behind us. It appeared to be going in the same direction with us, but in a short time it took another course, when we had full view of her. She was a large ship; 'twas a splendid sight, but in about 3 h it could not be seen.

Thursday, 21st -- 18 Days Out.

Another fine day has dawned upon us. We are now getting into a warmer climate. Some of our crew are looking up the shady places. Thermometer stands  $72^{\circ}$  between decks. Two sails could be seen, the top of the mast



of one could be seen about three o'clock, every moment made her plainer to our view, until just before dark we were in speaking distance, All hands on deck and intensely interested in the scene before us, even our dog was for breaking through the crowd and claiming the privilege of speaking first. When within about 10 rods, our Captain spoke up "Brig Ahoy!" She reported herself as being the Brig Mary Jane from London, bound for Demerata, 35 days out. After they had finished speaking, we gave the Brig 3 cheers, which she answered, we in return by two hearty rounds. Our long.  $86^{\circ} 24'$  West and lat.  $24^{\circ} 36'$  North.

Saturday, 24th --- 25 Days Out.

I am amusing myself in my leisure hours in making a globe out of pieces of wood tacked together and covering it with paper pasted on.

This morning one of the members was caught by the mate using fresh water too freely, which caused severe language from the mate according to ship order and usage. This treatment started the ire of the land gentlemen, who thinking his dignity a little lowered by being treated like a dog, stood his ground firmly till the timely interference of the Captain, who



stated the duties of the numbers on board ship and commented on the character of Mr. D. as a mate and also stated that mates on board vessels have attained habits and manner of speaking peculiar to themselves, and must be expected.

Saw what is called a water spout. It appears like a burning bush at a distance. Many thoughts were suggested by its appearance, and questions asked by the inquisitive landsmen respecting the dangers when near it. This was settled by our 2nd Mate who said it was a humbug.

Spoke the Brig Dog Inan from Antwerp to Havana. She was nearly upon us when we first saw her; being dark and about 10 o'clock, some were afraid she would run into us. The 2nd Mate ran for a lantern and said, "Luff there." The Captain took the trumpet and sang out at the top of his voice, "Report Ship Lenore at Boston. - All well. Ay, Ay!" All done in one moment.

Sunday, 25th - - 21 Days Out.

This day was fine for a Sabbath, just cloudy enough to keep off the burning sun. No work is done except



that which is necessary on board ship. After waking up, some may be seen with Bibles sitting around the long boat, quarter deck, while others are rooting over their chests with little or no concern about the duties of the Sabbath. However, there is change enough in appearance of things to make the Sabbath a welcomed day, and different from the sameness of the other days.

When the hour has arrived, one of the sailors strikes the bell and the Sabbath going people seat themselves around the aft hatch, and the Chaplain stands on the first step which leads below. Text Eccl. 11-2, comparing what are supposed to be the thoughts of the infidel when viewing the works of God with those of the Christian; the one recognizes no order, sublimity or beauty, while the other looks up to One who is the Maker and Ruler of all we see. "With joy Great God thy works we see." Creation seems redemption's plan. This last affected me sensibly when I thought of the condition of those of our number who do not have any interest in that glorious plan of salvation. Just before dark, a few of us collected together on deck and had a grand sing, tunes selected from the *Armina Sacra*, with an anthem (Jerusalem) winding off

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with Old Hundred. Thus passed one of my most pleasant hours on board.

Monday, 26th of Feb.

This eve our band of music took the stand on deck, playing and singing songs of lower grade.

Thursday, Mar. 1st.

This eve the fiddler mounted the booby hatch, playing off dancing tunes, while two parties were dancing, much to their own satisfaction and the approbation of the crowd.

Friday, Mar. 2nd.

This morning found a flying fish in one of the bread barrels in the between decks. In color it was something like a mackerel, about five inches in length, wings about three inches. It was caught in the windsail which was over the barrel. These fish are often seen in large numbers flying about four feet from the water.

After eating a hearty supper of Indian cake, butter and cheese, went on deck and joined in with the crowd in conversation, and hearing the sailors tell their yarns. This eve we have a fine breeze, the studding sails are up in addition to the mainsails, pushing our proud Fenore along at the rate of nine knots. Went and looked over the stern of the ship where I could see the waters divided and thrown each way



in great agony, making a foamy appearance of the water for one or two rods. From there I went on the quarter deck, and could see for a great distance the path which the ship had just gone over. The light clouds were flying; part of the time we had the bright moon and when it shone upon our canvas the scene can better be imagined than told. Add to this the easy motion of the ship, and the healthy breezes from off the waters made it delightful.

About 8 o'clock five of our number were lying on the quarter deck, listening to the conversation of the Mate and Captain. The Mate was for talking about the age of the world, our first parents, etc.; he was puzzled to know where Cain got his wife and who she was. He thought the world many thousand years older than what is stated by the Bible, that it was made long before man. One reason was that all the stars had not made their appearance on account of the great distance from this world, and consequently they are every year making their appearance; then right in the midst of their conversation, the Captain comes out in quick steps and paces the quarter deck in his usual way, starting us up from our comfortable sitting by saying, "You are too thick, altogether too thick on quarter deck." Up we get, Mate, Chaplain and all, leaving the faithful Captain to himself, looking at the hoisted canvas, then at the clouds



inquires of the man at the wheel about the course, then continues his quick step.

And all this while the 2nd Mate is forward telling of scenes in his life at sea and damping the men who make a noise near where the mates sleep. This man is about 26 years old,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, thin face with coarse complexion, light grey eyes, brownish hair, retreating forehead, moderate intellect, memory good, can sing songs all of a low dirty sentiment, and can use profane language to perfection, to appearance has lived fast.

The first mate has an eye on everything that is done - it is his business to have a knowledge of everything that goes into the ship and to see that things are packed in a shipshape manner, and all seem to go to him as the man of the ship; while the other mates take right hold and work with the sailors and see that the work is done according to order.

Sunday, Mar. 4th.

Thermometer is  $78^{\circ}$ . We are going about 4 knots an hour. Our latitude is  $8^{\circ} 30'$  North. Two good sermons, John 13:1-17.

Monday, Mar. 5th.

Last Wednesday the company called a meeting and voted to celebrate the 5th, in honor of our President, and since that time they have been engaged in making preparations to that effect. Last night and this morning both stoves



were kept well filled with cakes and pies. All are busy without name or party in preparing for a great time. At noon thirty guns were fired and at each report, three hearty cheers were given for the men who rule over us, also our worthy captain and ourselves and along down not excepting the sailors in the fore-castle, then three cheers for everybody. At 2 P.M. our dinner is ready, placed on tables between decks (captain and officers occupying the center, right under mid-hatch. Our dinner consisted of prepared soup, puddings, pies and cakes in abundance.

After dinner our Toastmaster presented his regular toasts. The first was worthy Captain Green, though not verdant. Second, he alluded to the church, which called up our chaplain, after which others were called upon till nearly all had participated in the exercise. They were, as a general thing, of good sentiment some few of a low desire which plainly told the character of the deliverer. The best of them were responded to by hearty cheers, which gave us fine exercise. In the evening, the dancers (who had spent many hours in preparing their dress representing the character which they were to act,) came out in full costume. Some wore the costume of an Indian, one of a Moor, both good representations. In all there were about 20 including 6 or 8 ladies with flowing



white drapery. The Captain took the military dress, a good representation; it appeared at first as though the step was like play for a man of such dignity as he is the possessor of, but taking the occasion, the call, and the short time in which he indulged in it, it did not appear so bad. Our Vice President appeared as his (the Captain's) lady dressed in an old maidish dress.

Thus, passed a day on board a ship near the equator far away from home. The day was fine though warm (78°), with pleasant breezes. The call for the occasion, the excitement and the exercise did much in relieving our minds of the dull sameness to which we were accustomed.

Tuesday, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Last eve ~~got~~ into a dose while on my chest and awoke about one o'clock. Went on deck and found we had a good stiff breeze, and the old ship was going bravely on her course; soon went back and got into my hammock. In about 15 minutes we had a gale of wind on us. The rush and tramping on deck, the sharp and loud voices of the officers, the pulling of ropes, and closing of hatches, greatly disturbed the slumbers of half of our number. However, it passed into a calm, and nothing could be heard but the clanking the Captain was giving the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mate for not minding his duty.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>

Yesterday one of our number caught



a small blue shark about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long. It was cut and cooked for breakfast - this morn. Saw a school of blackfish, something of the shape of porpoises, about 8 feet long. I have a headache a short time most every day, partly owing, as I suppose, to my food which is not properly prepared, often have a dish which is not palatable. Our cook or steward has made biscuit for a third time, and each time they were as solid as any biscuit could be. However it was relished, and most all would eat all they could get of them. This kind of stuff, with cheese and butter composed our supper last night. Wams a joke have we had over the "pain creator". Very warm and uncomfortable weather for some ( $82^{\circ}$ ). For breakfast, hard bread and mincemeat with butter. At noon we had rice and molasses, for supper hot sweet bread and cheese.

Our position at sea  $1^{\circ}-23'$  North Lat  $28^{\circ}30'$  West Long.

Saturday, Mar. 10th.

We now think we are on or near the equator. A great deal of sport is made of Old Neptune's frolics. The thermometer is  $84^{\circ}$ . In salt water  $78^{\circ}$ . In the evening it is but a few degrees lower. Saw a sail on our weather bow, it appeared to be going in a southeasterly direction. For breakfast, hot biscuit, butter and beans. Dinner, fried bacon and potatoes. This P. M. after cleaning up and setting things to rights, we were prepared for squalls or showers.

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but we were not participants in the healthy breezes quite so soon; while far away and around us could be seen the dark clouds and heavy showers.

We had a grand view of a water spout. It was about five miles from us. To appearance, the water was conveyed to the clouds in an inverted conical shape. Our Mate says that the water is carried up in a rolling motion. The top was carried from its perpendicular by the wind. At a short distance from the spout, the rain was coming down in torrents which is usually the case. The spout lasted about 10 minutes, when the end could be seen drawing in towards the clouds.

In the evening we had five showers, when all were eager with their pails and tubs to catch that which they have had in abundance before, but now through scarcity, know the value of the precious article.

Sunday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>.

We have a fine day; services as usual, text Deut. 28. 1. He discussed the laws of God, physical, mental and moral; the pleasure and happiness when we obey, and pain and unhappiness after we infringe on the laws of our constitution, his remarks were applicable to us in our present circumstances. He clearly proved that when we were in obedience to the Physical Laws, we were then better calculated for a higher enjoyment, such as the soul would seek with its God. P. M. Luke 9-55. "Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of." The disposition which each should exercise

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toward each other, especially that the Christian should guard well his character, exhibiting that which he professes. He exposed some of the uncharitable feelings which some denominations exercise towards others.

Wednesday, Mar. 14th.

Early this morning we heard the welcome news, "Sail over weather bow." This started us from our hammocks--all hands were interested. As soon as I could wash myself, comb my hair, and tie up my hammock, I took the "good book" went on deck and after reading I sat with the crowd. Then we could hardly distinguish whether the sail was a ship or not, all sorts of conjectures were made as to what it was, and if from Boston. We soon found it was a barque and every moment brought us nearer to it, although it was going nearly the same course as we were. At 11 A. M. we overtook her; it proved to be the "Philip," 46 days from New York, bound to the "Gold Diggings." When they heard that we were only 36 days out, we saw men getting down from the jib-boom and heard them curse their slow craft. She could not go so near the wind, wherefore, she cut across our course and took a more westerly course, not going fast at that, for we soon left her far in the background. I suppose there were about 50 aboard; among the rest were two females. After cheering each other, our company struck up a



song (composed by one of our members) when we were highly applauded; then we gave two or three hearty cheers to wind up the interesting and highly animating interview. We consoled ourselves over the speedy and safe voyage which we had so far experienced; and that the "Lenore" was not the slowest craft after all.

Saturday, Mar. 17<sup>th</sup>.

After eating a good supper, I went on deck, leaving below parties of four or five engaged in playing cards, throwing dice, etc. Had a good talk with a young man of reflecting and religious turn of mind. Our subject of conversation was to what extent should a Christian mingle with the world, and whether in his business affairs, he should continue to make his associates after his own turn of mind, or mingle without any foreselection. We finally settled on the latter as being more in accordance to Christian duties.

After discoursing on the peace and hope of the Christian, I left this interesting theme of conversation went forward, and while looking over the bow, admiring the beauty of the heavens, the brightness and splendor of the moon, the rolling deep below; thinking that these things show a great wisdom, and that there must be of necessity a Creator, that they show forth the glory and power of God, and similar thoughts, I was awakened from my musings by one of an infidel turn of mind. One of the darkest kind, who are against the Church and Bible, making the last a fable or



humbug, and those who composed the first  
a set of priest-ridden fools. I will not  
attempt to go into details of his views;  
but must say that most of them were  
low and inconsiderate; although he  
brought forward what he called contradictions  
in the Bible, some of which, I must say,  
were rather beyond my knowledge. I  
stood my ground to the best of my  
ability, and told him as far myself  
I was satisfied with peace in the  
religion of Jesus Christ; loved the Bible  
and would, so far as I could, live up to  
the commandments of God contained in  
the Bible. His views seemed to correspond  
with his build and conversation, which  
was profane and vulgar. His sympathies  
and feelings towards man were cold and  
indifferent. While in the height of this  
discussion, up stepped one who believes  
with the Universalists, to give me a  
dab. He said that 9/10 of the convicts in  
our prisons were from families of the  
Partialists, that missionaries have done  
more injury than good in foreign  
lands, etc.

Friday, Mar. 23d.

We had a heavy shower of rain, caught  
several hhds of water, which we make  
good use of.

Some of the, Division 3 and 6 have been  
convinced that the frequent use of  
profane language is growing upon them  
that it is unbecomingly and immoral, and  
they have taken measures to suppress  
this evil by forming a society, consisting  
of members not only from among themselves



but all who wish to forward the good movement; it is composed of officers and an investigating committee; the whole number now is 81. It has been a grand thing--- we do not hear so much of that vulgar and profane language which had gotten to be so common.

Last Sabbath we had quite an interesting time. Our Mate (who is a member of this Club) had a severe trial while "tacking" ship. By mistake some of the company got hold of the wrong ropes and thereby hindering, which got the Mate into a boiling and would-be swearing heat, but he knew that there were many around to hear what he had to say in this trying time, so he managed to keep down the bad words.

Tuesday, Mar. 27th.

Saw a sail about 10 ms. astern of us early this morning, and rapidly approaching us. As soon as we found that she had studding sails up, we hoisted ours one after another until all were up. Then the Barque was about 2 ms. behind us. It was a handsome sight---both vessels doing their best. Gradually she caught up until she was abreast of us. She was the Barque "Brunswick" London for Callao; 56 days out. She was snugly trimmed and well manned. Our Captain was much pleased with her appearance and highly complimented the captain of his fast sailer. Lat.  $32^{\circ}-4'$  South Long  $41^{\circ}-54'$  West. Thermometer  $70^{\circ}$

Wednesday, 28th

Could but just see the Barque-- she was as far ahead of us as she was behind us yesterday morning, which proved that she sailed about 20 ms. farther in a day than us.



Thursday, 29-th.

Saw a sail on the weather bow it is was the "Brunswick", bound Southeast. At 2 P. M. we were within 2 miles of her and fast overtaking her, which only proved that their vessel had not the same qualities for sailing as ours. She could sail better before the wind, but not as well at "close haul" or what is sometimes called "pull and tug."

Wednesday, Apr. 4-th.

Awoke early this morning--heard one of the sailors call the watch below in a loud, shrill voice, "Starboard lines, Ahoy!" Seven bells. "Do you hear the news?" It must be an unwelcome sound, for each watch has only four hours to sleep, and that is often disturbed. But our sailors are doing well. They appear to be healthy and rugged. Had a look into the fore-castle while they were at breakfast. They had their pots of coffee, pan of fish, and potatoes and a pile of hard bread. They sit around the pile eating with their fingers or case knives. They seem to enjoy themselves except when they grumble, and that is a habit that has grown upon them, which they claim is one of their privileges, which no officer can take away from them. They have but little care upon their minds--when an officer says go, they go, or do this, they do it without asking any questions. Such a discipline is necessary on board ship. Some of the seamen on board have been mates of other vessels; they had once given up the seafaring life for a home on shore. But this gold excitement has induced them (as it has hundreds of others) to leave once more those homes, pull the ropes climb the rigging, breast the storms and hardships in hopes of



the glittering prospects that are held up before them. One of them has the features and complexion of an Indian, has a surly look as though he would help no one, but injure many. But after an acquaintance he is found to have better feelings than his appearance indicates.

We have made but little progress to-day, but our time is spent in mending the rigging, putting in new ropes, and making other preparations for the severe weather which we anticipate in going around the horn (which we are now near.) Lat  $40^{\circ}$  South, Ther.  $68^{\circ}$ . To-day we are on soundings, the water looks darker. The weather is cooler and foggy with fair wind, 10 knots an hour.

Saturday, 7th.

In the 24 hours from yesterday noon we had a stiff breeze from the west, which carried us right on our course at the rate of 9 knots. All our principal sails were set, also the fore-top and main-top gallant studding sails. While we were so highly favored, our hearts were glad and our anticipations high for a speedy and safe voyage around the Cape. But we were not long permitted to enjoy things that were so pleasant, this fair wind which we had enjoyed had now become more violent, bringing with it a heavy sea and occasionally a squall. Our men were taking in sails one after another until they had got down to a close reef fore-top sail. All this put a different aspect to on the scenery around. The old ship was heaving and pitching,



leaving a foaming track behind. Several times the waves would let a sheet of water over the rail, just enough to give us a good ducking! It was so confused below that I did not want to go to bed, but I could not find any other place. This is suffering for the sake of Gold.

Sunday, 8th.

This day we have no regular services. The wind dies away but it is cold.

Monday, 9th.

I can think of nothing of very great importance that I could note down this week except that I have seen heavier seas than at any other time.

Thursday. - We were sailing along beautifully, the sea was calm as a millpond, but before morning we were thrown and tossed upon the mighty deep. This is the greatest change we can witness at sea. The labor and pleasure of yesterday seems to have passed away long ago, this ship which is our home stood erect and we could walk the deck with pleasure; but the next day threw us upon a different scene. We look out upon the broad expanse and see nothing but the rolling and confusion of water. Clouds are flying swiftly overhead, the winds are whistling through the rigging, and we are huddling together betwixt the decks.

Monday, 16th Apr.

Yesterday we had services in the forenoon. As it was not pleasant enough on deck, a place was prepared below by placing a blanket on a barrel for the



Chaplain's desk. A tune was announced and 4 or 5 of us sang, after which the minister stands before an audience of all sorts of characters and sentiments, who are sitting or lying down at their pleasure. A part of our number seem to have some regard for the sacredness of the Sabbath.

This morning at 4 o'clock, one of the sailors sang out "Land Ho!!" "Where away?" said the Mate. "Over the weather bow." answered the sailor. This was what was expected, for our officers told us we should see land this morning. As soon as light had come, I got up but could see nothing more than what appeared to many to be a cloud, but at sunrise every doubt was removed, for about 4 miles from us we could see Staten Island. It looked like a rock a thousand feet high. When the sun shone upon it, causing some parts to glisten and shading others, then I thought it an object worth the sacrifices and expense to visit it; for we had not seen anything that looked like land before since our departure, being 71 days. This island is a desolate and bleak looking place, not a vestige of anything green could be seen but a few shrubs. It was of a ground color, except where the heavy sea dashed upon it from the southeast. There were also a number of small rocks near and around the larger island. and when the water dashed upon them, then there would be a pile of foam. Just at night, a heavy gale of wind blew upon us from the southwest, the sky



was overcast, and there was every appearance of hard times. Just before this heavy wind, some of our number caught two Albatross with hook and line. Their bills were 7 ins in length, and when the wings were extended measured from tip to tip 10 feet, and weighed about 25 lb. apiece. After having sport with it on deck, they were killed, one taking a quill, another a wing, another feathers, in this way dividing the spoils, throwing the body overboard.

This squall, which did the most execution, came upon us suddenly; we hurried down below leaving the sailors taking in sail, barring down the hatch, taking down the mizzen to gallant-yard-arms, and other preparations for hard times. The wind blew with a tremendous force, and with no abatement for 24 h. At night the sea was heavy, we were under a close reef main top-sail. Our chests, dishes, and other things were tumbling about -- all this with the howling of the wind through the rigging made it anything but a place to sleep for many of us. In the cabin the "mighty element" had all the sway, tearing away the table and smashing it to pieces.

This is Cape Horn pure enough, and I am satisfied. I think I have seen enough of the mighty ocean. I omitted to write about the rainbow, which was between us and the island, and just before the blow came on, it was splendid.

Wednesday, 18th Apr. -- 72 days out.

The sea has gone down --- we were on our course but not going very fast. Wind S by E. The lowest the thermometer has gone yet



is  $45^{\circ}$  above.

Saw a sail over the weather bow

Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> -- 73 Days

This is a pleasant day, but the wind has not gone down yet. Our course is S. S. E. At sundown the wind changed, and we were on our course again, which is S. W. Ther.  $50^{\circ}$

This morning, two pretty doves rested themselves on the main top gallant-yard. They were perfectly white. One of our company got within a few inches of them. Our Division has pigeon soup for supper. -- they were caught with a hook and line.

Friday, 20<sup>th</sup>.

To-day we have the even part of the time. We are going on our course part of the time at the rate of 7 <sup>ms</sup> an hour and beating against a strong current of 2 or 3 knots.

I have been engaged in stuffing some of the Cape Horn pigeons; we were anxious to have some relic of Cape Horn

Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> -- 76 days out

Yesterday our Captain said that we were west of the Cape; but to-day owing to the calm, and current from the N. W. we were drifted back.

A meeting of the Association was called to-day and the best of feeling seemed to be among us. Ther.  $51^{\circ}$ . Saw a sail over the lee quarter.

Sunday, Apr. 22<sup>d</sup>.

We have a cold and rough day of it. Ther.  $42^{\circ}$ . We have no preaching. It was thought best to dispense with it. Neither do many of us feel inclined to read much. Have seen 3 sails.

Monday, 23<sup>d</sup>

"Land Ho!" was the news early this morning



As soon as the sailors discovered it (Island Diego) we changed our course and went around it. This island is about 9 ms. long, with many small rocks projecting out of the water near and around the main one (which is said to be all rock.)

Latitude  $56^{\circ}32'$  south, Long  $68^{\circ}36'$  west  
This morning we were sailing along pleasantly without those large swells which we found at the Cape. It seemed like the waters of the Atlantic. Rate 7 ms. an hour. Ther  $53^{\circ}$ . Saw a sail astern of us. She is now gaining fast upon us.

Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> - 80 Days Out.

This day we have the S. W. wind. Course 'N. W. by W. just wet enough and cold enough to make it disagreeable, frequent squalls, though not heavy.

This morning saw a sail over the lee bow 8 ms. distant. Spoke and passed her under close haul at 4 P. M. She was the Barque, "Asim" N. Y. with 47 passengers, 89 days out. She is a fine looking craft, and said to be a fast sailer.

Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup>.

This day have a heavy wind, high seas, dull time.

Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup>.

For several days past, our progress has been very slow. Our course was N. N. W., but heavy winds from that quarter and west winds have kept us off; part of the time the wind blew up heavy, and we were obliged to lay to. Nothing up, but a close reef main top-sail. Some of the rigging was carried away, but none of any great consequence. These heavy winds are common in this quarter.

The company is doing well, though many are complaining of cold, wet feet causing



chillblains, which are very troublesome. Some long faces are seen this bad weather. Books are laid aside for a lounge on the chests, telling old country stories and warmly engaged on some subject.

Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> -- 85 Days Out.

Today there is some abatement in the wind. Occasionally, the sun would make its appearance just long enough for us to secure our longitude.

May.

On the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> days the N.W. wind blew at a furious rate, but to no advantage whatever. I heard the report that we had gone 20 ms. in one day westward. These winds are prevailing in these regions, especially at this season of the year. Mr. Wilkes speaks of them in his voyages (which we are now reading.)

This is what I should call the worst of sea life. Clothes get wet and no chance to dry them, and we are sure to have wet feet, for no tallow or composition can prevent it. But it is not always for us to enjoy the good things of life. God so ordered, that we should meet with these to fit and prepare us to appreciate all the blessings of life.

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> May - 90 Days Out.

Today the wind is fair but very light. The sails have been flapping all day, perhaps we have gone 12 ms. The sea is going down, but it takes a long time. Great swells will be rolling when we have had no winds for 24 hrs. Very unlike those on the Atlantic.

Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup>

We are now going before the breeze---



favorable with a stiff breeze most of the time. Rate about 10 ms. an hour. The bright rays of the sun, dry decks, smiling countenances, and many other things we have to praise the Lord for. Our sailors are cheerful and talkative after so long a storm.

Tuesday, May 8th -- 93 Days.

Had a meeting of the Association to ascertain their views in regard to going into port. A majority were in favor of going in, and they decided to go into the port of Talcahuano.

There was a great dispute among the company about the quantity of water on board. Our Mate thought we had water enough for 60 days and was opposed to going in -- he thought we had used 9000 Gals. so far out. But we wanted flour and other articles and thought it was running a risk as to water.

Saturday, 12th.

We are now in sight of land (the entrance to the harbor of T.), which we saw on the 10th and then supposed we were 15 or 20 ms. from it, but owing to head winds our progress has been slow and discouraging. We have tacked ship about once in two hours for two days past.

The hills that line the coast are steep at the shore, reaching to a height of 200 feet; near the water some of the rocks have become white from the water that has dashed upon them. Further back the hills are much higher, spotted over with patches of copper colored earth, large squares of green grass



dotted over with scattering clusters of dark bushes.

About noon we entered the harbor having cleared the rocky breakers on our right (pilot on the point of the island which is in the center of the two entrances.) We found the wind much lighter, and all is still save the parting and ripple of the water and the expressions of a delighted ship's company. This is delightful. The mild, mellow breezes, the bright warm sun that we feel, and the beautiful verdant scenery we see as far as eye can reach, with the thought of our stepping on shore once more and that too of So. America, caused the blood to start up with renewed vigor, and our feet to tread quicker and lighter. From the entrance to the town is about 10 ms. At three o'clock we dropped anchor in that beautiful harbor, which is about 4 ms across. There were 17 vessels in port, 3 or 4 of them Californians, among the rest was the Brig "Almora". She came in two days before us.

I saw my friend Chas. H. French. He was well and in good spirits -- was glad to see him.

On the right I could see trenches, which water has worn away on its course down the hill, at the foot of which the natives are seen at work filling casks for the vessels now in port. The rest of the day we spent in making preparations to receive goods and water casks.

Sunday, 13th.

Early this morning, the weather did not look very favorable but it soon cleared off, which a part of the company improved by



taking an excursion into the country as far as "Conception," 9 mi. Most of them hired horses, others went on foot. It did not seem that I was disposed to join with the rest, but spent the day (as I thought) in a more appropriate manner. I took Mr. French for my company. First we went to the Roman Church situated on the N.E. side of the small plaza in the center of the village. It is a building about 40x80 on the ground, with posts 16 ft. high. For the entrance are two large doors (similar to the folding doors of a New England barn), and large brick for the floor. I did not take particular notice of the frame work, but the roof was supported by posts like those in a barn; they were rough just like the hewer had left them.

Just before we went in, the male portion of the congregation were forming themselves into double file and marching in dipping their fingers in a bowl of holy water. They had no seats. - I saw one or two benches, but they were not used. The priest was in his seat dressed in glittering and rattling beads. A number of candles were burning. The priest was reading his Latin prayers, which were repeated by his devotees. Occasionally a coarse sound would be heard resembling the sound made by holding a stick against the spokes of a revolving wheel. Then each of his worshippers would touch their face 3 times for Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Part of the time they kneel down, and they feel



offended if visitors do not do the same. After the males were through, they went out in front where they took their blessings for the week, and the very moment they were through they ran for their "ponchos," a kind of outside garment with a hole in the middle large enough to admit the head, which they left over the doors and on the roofs of the low houses, some of the men whistling and forming into groups the same as boys just out of school.

From this place, we went on to some of the large hills just back of the village. The earth on these seems to be copper colored, which has been broken and torn away by the rains. Where there is grass, it is short with many little flowers, which we call "buttercups." On the top of one of these hills is a hospital built by Americans. Everything around here looks old, and is fast going to decay. They have but little fencing. Their fields are open for horses, jackasses, cows and sheep (though but few of the latter.) After walking over the hills until we were tired, we started for the village. There were stores open everywhere, where most any light articles could be bought, though the Spaniards, as a general thing, do not keep their stores open only morning and evening of holidays and Sundays. In the afternoon went on board the "Almena" and took supper.

In the evening of Sunday they have about as much noise as can be heard in



most of our New England cities on a week day. Thus has passed one Sabbath which I might have spent differently, but in order to learn something of the natives, I took this course.

At Talcahuano the Lat is  $38^{\circ} 41'$  south, Long.  $73^{\circ} 9'$  W. The natives carry most of their burdens on donkeys and in ox carts. In approaching the shore, nothing can be seen that the eye loves, to dwell upon, no order or symmetry in the buildings. The ground is not in a cultivated state in fact everything bears the appearance of a dull and indolent people. This day (Tuesday) is pleasant, Ther.  $70^{\circ}$ . The climate is very healthy. I am told that it is seldom cold enough to freeze to the thickness of window glass. The large hill keeps off much of the wind. The Spaniards have a little of the Indian blood in them. They are about five feet in height, copper colored, dark eyes and black hair. Their foreheads are rather small and reasoning organs small. The females are smaller in stature, of a lighter complexion, and have lighter hair than the males.

Their houses are only one story, posts are set in the ground, the roofs are covered with cane and bamboo instead of boards, over which are earthen shingles of semi-circular shape. They have no chimneys, but use instead an earthen pan in which they burn coal. These are placed on the floor over



which they must stoop to do their cooking. I have passed by many houses where I saw them sitting around the fire stirring it and picking the food out of the pot and eating with their fingers. Many of the houses are made of straw, sticks, and mud. They keep their potatoe bin, cooking utensils, and bed all in one room.

It was really amusing to see the marketeers rattling the streets with their old carts. The wheels would squeak and wobble from side to side, the drivers would hiss and holler. The yokes are fastened on the horns of the cattle, and the driver goes before. I saw they made use of the jackasses to carry various articles on their backs. They would carry water and bread and small articles in two boxes fastened onto each side of the animal; also wood by fastening around the body of the beast. This method is quite simple and ancient and seems to correspond with the capacity and talents of this simple people. They keep up old customs and habits, and are opposed to improvements. It is unfortunate for them to be so ignorant from the fact that foreigners are leading them in trade and making money out of them, using them as laborers. The principal stores are kept by foreigners. Near Conception there is a flour mill carried by steam, and it is owned by a "Yankee," (Mr Boynton.) It is the only steam



mill in the country and he is making money. For sports, they have horse racing and cock fighting. They indulge in vices to an extent as to make it a business. Many of their dances, for instance the fandango, are got up for the purpose of carrying out their vices. This business is destructive to them, shortening their lives, and ruining our sailors. This I am told by the Physician who says that they live but a few years - then die to make room for others.

Thursday, May 17th.

This morning the wind is fair, and we are ready for going to sea. At 8 A.M. we weigh anchor, when the light winds carry us slowly along over the peaceful waters in company with five other Californian vessels. Thus has passed four days much to our pleasure and profit, for we have gotten much valuable information relative to the affairs in Cal. The news is encouraging, though some are suffering for the want of food. The latest news was up to the 13th of April. We have bought flour and fruit and many other things, which will seem to make the remainder of our voyage short and pleasant.

There was one incident which occurred in port, which forcibly reminded me of the frailty of our bodies and the certainty of death, for it was such a scene as we often witness at home - it was a funeral. The subject was a young man belonging to one of the whale ships, he had some sort of



difficult, with one of the Spanish girls, was poisoned in some drink she gave him, and died soon after. About 200 persons marched in the procession from the shore to the burying ground, over the hills. Most of the procession were Californians. Then upon the ground we formed into a circle, prayer was offered, and the coffin was lowered into its last resting place. I was as still as death and the sun was going down. All nature seemed to mourn the sad event.

Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> - 104 Days Out.

Ever since we left port we have been highly favored with fair wind. It is a N.E. wind. They have been steady with the exception of one day, and then for about two hours it was so still that not a ripple could be seen. This is pretty sailing - most of the time we have 8 studding sails set, gliding along as though we were in the trade winds, although we are not, for I understand that they set in about Lat. 25 or 30. Our "Lenore" does not excel in going before the wind, yet on the whole she has done better than we expected, and even beat some of the crack vessels close by us. Our mate is anxious to make a quick passage; he closely keeps the run of the wind, and keeps up every bit of sail that the ship will bear. We have indeed made a shorter passage than any other vessel that was in port. The "Almena" was next, 105 days out. The "Oxford" was 124, and one the "Florence" was 139 days, while we were 104 days.

The quickness of the voyage, with the last news from California has given a new impulse



to our feelings and desires. All hands take hold and are interested in work for the Association.

One gang is at work making tents, another is at work picking oakum, carpenters are busy and the sailors have been at work fixing and repairing the rigging. In order to dispatch business and take advantage of the fine weather, the officers ordered the sailors to work 8 hours instead of watch. By this movement, it brings the two watches together a few hours, but in this the sailors would not agree to, but actually disobeyed their orders upon this. They were called aft by the Captain, and a plain understanding of the case was made known. He was very liberal in his views and dealings with them, if they would only do their duty-- but they would not agree to any such regulation. The Captain then sent them forward, also told the the Company not to have any conversation with them whatever-- they don't belong to the ship.

Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> -- 105 days Out.

Many of us are washing clothes which has hitherto been a difficult and unpleasant job, but now we have heart to do it well. Washing them in salt water on a washboard without any soap will take the dirt out.

The sailors who refused to do their duty come on deck with the rest of the crew, but are not set to work-- they sit on the hatch and in the windlass and appear to be in a deep study.

Thurs 70<sup>o</sup>

Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Pleasant Sabbath. Divine service all day. Text 1st Kings 4: 29. He first proved the Scripture biography to be interesting. He spoke of the heart under difficult circumstances, whether rich or



poor, in prosperity or otherwise. The heart, he says, is the mortal and moral part of the soul. A large heart ventures on large matters, accomplishes much, and seeks the good of others. Luther had a large heart. The Puritans dared hazard their lives for the purpose of establishing the principles that come from a whole soul and a large heart. The narrow heart does narrow things, seeks not the good of others in word or example; is avaricious and crowds others to gratify its desires. He concluded with the desire that each of us have a large heart, to cultivate good feelings towards each other, try to do each other good, sympathize with those in need or trouble.

The mutinous sailors went to the Captain and made acknowledgments, and agreed to obey his orders.

Tuesday, May 30th - 109 Days Out.

We are still on our course with a good breeze. Different kinds of business are going on of late. Some half doz of us are making gold sifters.

Two sails are in sight, supposed to be those that left port with us for we have kept the run of them since.

This evening, and for several past, we have listened to lectures on Anatomy and Physiology by our physician. He takes his stand on the main hatch, where a crowd gathers around.

Thursday, May 31st, 1849.

This morn. found a sail over the lee bow. She "luffed to" that we might come near to speak, which we did about 8 o'clock. She was the Brig Charlotte which left port the same time we did. We exchanged cheers and joked each other for sport, and then kept on our course, leaving her to the leeward.

Friday, June 1st. - 111 Days Out.

Early this morning the "Charlotte" came up



close behind us, and could not go to the windward. She gained on us in the light breezes during the night. She is a close match for sailing with us. Some of the time we would be ahead, then she would lead.

Five evening; the moon is bright and clear; but a few clouds can be seen and those are in bunches. Right ahead of us is a large body of clouds resembling a bank, it is said that these are indications of trade winds. They prove to be so, as we have steady trade winds.

The principal thing on the minds of the crew, after discussing the legality of some of the proceedings of our meeting, was about our comrade ahead of us, and to devise some way of beating her if it is a possible thing. Some are suggesting a plan for this and a place for that sail -- all are interested but the Captain (for the mate made several attempts in the stowing of the cargo and other ways, but was prevented) and now while the "old man" is asleep, the mate and others are spreading more canvas; one sheet over the spanker boom, a lee main top studding sail, and one under the fore-sail --- all this in a stiff breeze -- but we cannot gain on the Brig. Lat  $13^{\circ}$  Ther.  $72^{\circ}$

Sunday, June 3d

Services ~~are~~ usual. Text Eph. 4:3. There have been a good many hard words thrown out by different individuals against others and wrong feelings exercised towards each other while together as a company, and the text which we had explained to us is applicable as we are now seeing we are about to go into business; endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit and the bond.



of each, he went on in his plain manner to explain how societies and individuals ought to make sacrifices - to throw around such influences as will make peace. I do not recollect anything of importance that would be worthy of note. His sermons, as a general thing, are not very interesting.

Monday, June 4th. - 114 Days Out.

Today we have a meeting of the Association for the purpose of altering an Article in the Constitution. It was for a long time a subject of dispute whether the Constitution could be altered without the signatures of every member, because there is no provision altering it. It was finally settled that two thirds could alter it, and took measures to carry it into effect.

There was an incident in the proceedings that will long be remembered by every one of the directors. It was a recognition which one of the directors made, which was accepted by the Association, giving for the reason that there had been dishonest proceedings in the board while at Boston, and said he, the corruption did not stop there. He thought that an explanation was due the Association and that it was his duty as an honest man to come out and make it known. For, said he, complaints had been made against the Board for measures that they had taken, and they were just and he wondered why more complaints were not made. He stated as briefly as he could what course he should take to make it known, leaving the matter just as it was, for future investigation.

Tuesday 5th. - 115 Days Out

This day we have a continuation of the



altering of the by-laws and making amendments. It has been a difficult business to get at the real meaning so as to make it acceptable to all. It has been said that some of the Articles admit of a double construction, especially when going into particulars. One, for instance, which has reference to consignment, whether the person who puts goods in this way is trading on his own account. They also had a great deal of dispute about the 8th Article, in reference to disease of any of the members; it was finally agreed upon to deprive the person of his share of the profits when sick.

Friday, June 8th.

This morning we crossed the equator. - It is 3 months since we crossed on the other side. The weather is warm and the wind moderate. Ther. 80°. Many are busy on tents. Many are around electioneering or in other words discussing the abilities of candidates and proposing them for office, which makes it appear like the political excitement at home.

Our mate has caught a porpoise, as it was the first of our luck, it was thoroughly examined, one taking the jawbone with teeth, several trying out the oil which is of excellent quality. This fish was about 5 ft long, of a blue and slippery covering, the tail is horizontal with the upright position of the body, which enables the fish to leap out of the water which it does. It was dark and pliable like India Rubber.

Sunday, June 10th. - 121 Days Out.

This day is rather rainy, which makes it rather inconvenient to have services on deck, though it is pleasant enough this P.M. But there seems to be a general lassitude in



any effort of like nature; it was so in regard to lecture on Phrenology.

Monday, June 11th.

A meeting was called and was opened by the report of the investigating committee on the charge brought forward by Mr. Jameson. They were headed as charges against three of our officers, or more particularly against one who is now with us (the other two are left behind.) First, gross deception; second, misrepresentation, false statements, drunkenness, etc; in all, 5 charges. After they were read, the offender arose and denied them from beginning to end. After which they were taken up one at a time and particularized by Mr. J. he stating the course, the quorum of the Board managed to get the business into their hands. The fourth was our former Vice-Pres., who as we think intended to defraud the company out of \$1500.00, also in a management of his, in trying to sell to the company an old ship in which he had a share. The few men, as I understand, so managed as to lead the rest of the officers, and completely take the business out of their hands, and this was the cause of all the trouble. They were men once in business, but had failed; they were intemperate, reckless, and unprincipled men, and as Mr. J. expressed it "they intended to ride roughshod over the Association with a sloop rigged dickey on."

Tuesday, June 12th.

We are now out of the trade winds, which we left at 5 North Lat., and from the time we left port up to this date we have had fair winds; so favorable for us that we could keep our studding sails set, <sup>all</sup> but one



or two days, most of the time these winds were from the S.E., and in this case we could keep the studding sails up on both sides.

I had heard much about the beautiful and mild Pacific, and I am satisfied, that it is such as has been represented, for there were no sudden puffs of wind, but steady and healthful breezes so that we glided along almost imperceptibly. This appears to be the pleasant part of the voyage, for I presume we have left the tedious and the angry ocean far behind for others to experience, for I never wish to return the same way, and this agrees with what many others say.

Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> June

We are now in what is called the variable climate, and we see every exhibition which indicates it. First a heavy wind, then a squall; next day almost a calm. Last eve. we were going along nicely, - soon the wind began to brisk up, clouds gather, until it was as dark as crepus. About nine o'clock sharp, vivid flashes of lightning would dart around us to attract our attention. The distant rolling peals of thunder like a voice from heaven sets off the grandeur of the scenery, while we were majestically ploughing the deep and breasting the storms that were upon us. In all these we see the wisdom and goodness of the Creator. Thunder, lightning and rain purify the atmosphere. The broad ocean is rendered as a means of travel and intercourse of one nation with another - its saltiness preserves the vast body of water. Oh! Ye! Heavens! Praise Him. Let the seas and all the rivers praise Him. Let all the nations praise him forever more.

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - 128 Days Out.



For two or three days past, we have not been so successful as before we crossed the equator. We have had winds, copious showers, and a great abundance of rain water. It seems from what I can learn that this state of weather is very uncomfortable and very uncommon in this latitude ( $15^{\circ} 30'$  North) because we are far enough north to take the regular N.W. winds.

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> - 130 Days Out.

We are on our course. Heavy winds blowing storms furiously from out of the Gulf of California. Very wet and disagreeable in between decks. Many of us have wet bed clothes; water runs down the hatches, also leaks through the decks. Ther  $74^{\circ}$

Friday, 22<sup>d</sup> - 133 Days Out.

Once more we are permitted to enjoy the dry decks - dry clothes - and the light and warmth of the sun. And there is nothing so delightful and welcome after so many days of rain. Many of us are busy in spreading out our damp clothes and mouldy boots, and brushing them up, some are finishing up the work on the tents and clearing up the work that is on hand, for we expect that a few more days' sailing will bring us close to the shores that we desire to reach.

This morning the Mate orders the lead and oils to be brought forward and mixed for painting and sends one man out on to the jib-boom to paint. He is also getting out fixings for making ropes for tents, and seems to take great pleasure and pride in the management of things; moving around as though he had a whole corporation and all the business on his hands.



Saturday, 23d. - 134 Days.

Have been to work on an arm for the figure head, it was rather a difficult job but I succeeded so as to satisfy the crowd.

About 9 A.M. saw a sail ahead coming down upon us, we thought it was a Chilean Brig, but we soon found it was a Gal. and proved to be the Brig Forest from Boston. Left Jan. 11th. After she spoke us, she hoisted sail and went our course but could not keep up to us.

Thursday, June 28th. - 139 Days Out.

This morning we have warm biscuit and butter for breakfast. Coffee is made, but little is used. In fact, about half of us do without drink with our meals. For dinner we had green peas and salmon which is very nice and quite a luxury. For supper we have biscuit and butter, sometimes sauce or molasses. This bread we have is nice and much better than that I find at boarding houses at home. This fare is similar to our everyday fare. Sometimes we have beans and rice, but does not go so well as when there are private stores about.

Yesterday was calm in forenoon. Light breezes in the afternoon.

Saturday June 30th. - 141 Days.

Early this morning saw a sail over lee bow and at eight o'clock spoke her, and found her to be the Chilean craft, "Europa" from Valparaiso bound for the Golden Land. It was rather a dirty looking craft, some of the sails were badly torn. The Chileans are no ship builders, but they buy a great many of these small vessels of English and Frenchmen. Many of these vessels are well worn out before bought, but they give nevertheless good prices for them. The brig was well loaded with the natives, with



some women. There was something rather amusing at the time we gave three cheers, which was their yelling or giving cheers. Just as we commenced they meant to give vent to their feelings in good season. They are ignorant of our customs. We understood them to say they were 47 days from U. We see vessels every day or two, now being within 4 deg. of our destination.

Sunday, July 1st.

Fine day. We are now going very slowly - almost a calm. Spoke the Brig "Attila" from Boston. Had quite a long talk with them, and we told them we had a letter for one of their numbers. They immediately lowered a boat and made for our ship. Some of our company were quite inquisitive, for they had as much as they could do to answer the questions. They left B. on the 13th of Jan. and had a middling good passage, but not good luck when they stopped to the Alpagos Islands, where they could not find water nor provisions. They said they did not see a person on the Island. We gave them some potatoes, squashes, and apples. They were much pleased with the donation, especially the apples which they immediately attacked with great eagerness. Soon a breeze started up. They went to their own craft - we were left on our own course, but in a few hours left them far astern.

In the afternoon we had services. Gal 6: 9. "Be not weary in well doing." He gave us good advice and reminded us of the address of Doc. Beecher. He hoped that we would be upright in all our dealings and that we would be successful in all that was lawful, and finally arrive safe at our homes. He wished



us to remember the Sabbath day and the commandments of God. We finished the service by singing a chant, supposing this would be our last Sabbath on board ship.

Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1840.

This is the glorious Fourth the 73<sup>d</sup> anniversary of the independence of the United States. We had addresses from three different persons; viz. the Parson, Doctor, and Mr. Warr. They were good.

The sailors are drawing up the chains, cables and fixing the lead. 70 miles from port.

Thursday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

At 4 o'clock the good news from on deck was "Land Ho!!" and "Sail Ho!" Fair wind - going 5 knots. I was soon on deck, found it a beautiful morning, almost a clear sky. For several days past we have had winds from the same quarter N.N.W. & N.W., blowing sometimes almost a gale; not a cloud could be seen - these winds are very common in this latitude.

At 7 o'clock we enter the harbor with a pilot on board. At 8 we dropped anchor in the harbor of San Francisco, which is about 7 miles from the entrance. We see about 77 vessels of all nationalities lying around us. I see nothing on the hills that looks like cultivation, a few bunches of green bushes scattered here and there on the hills which enclose the bay. They (the hills) at a distance have a sandy appearance, but the opposite is the fact for the soil is rich and at this season of the year is hard from the heat of the sun and weather, with no summer rains to moisten it. And it was the tall wild oats



of the hills which were all parched up that gave at a distance the hills a sandy appearance. But on nearer approach, the oats can be seen waving in the wind, like the billows of the sea.

The City (of tents) sits on gradually rising ground from the water to several hundred feet to the top. Facing E. S. E. houses and tents are scattered or dropped down all the way up this hill. I should judge there were a thousand people here. There is such an excitement about the gold, it makes the population a stirring one. Land and lumber are so high that people have to camp out on the beach. Gold is \$16.00 an ounce. People are continually bringing it from the mines. The news is that it is plenty.

We have now finished our voyage. We leave the ship with a sigh of relief and a pang of sorrow. Sigh because we are now to try and realize our expectations, and a pang of sorrow because of some good times and the safe and quick voyage we had in her. 146 days from Boston.

We expect great things, for we have a good and well organized company.

Friday and Saturday.

We are busy in hauling out boards and other lumber from the hold of the ship and taking them ashore, for which we expect a great price -- boards from \$250 to \$350 per thousand; shingles \$30; brick \$100 per thousand, and all such in that proportion.

After we got our work done, we took a



a cruise through the city and over the hills, till we get tired and then are glad enough to go aboard, for it is rather an uncomfortable place when the dust blows from the hills and streets to fill our eyes. I see many here from the States, with dry goods. They rig benches and shelves, covering them over with canvas in the form of a tent. Dry goods are most as cheap as in Boston. Money is so plenty that they deal it out by the handful -- it is carried in bags and boxes -- everybody has gold. Even the man who shovels the dirt and wheels the wheelbarrow will get his \$10 <sup>or</sup> \$12 per day. Gambling is carried on on the largest scale. Men will sit up to the tables and handle doubloons and Mexican dollars with a perfect looseness. Thousands of dollars exchange hands in a few minutes. Liquor is sold in most any quantity.

This is San Francisco, and this is American soil, but how different from law-loving and God-fearing New England is this country where there is no law, and every man's hand is against his fellowman.

On Sunday the 8th, our Captain saw fit to weigh anchor and sail for Benicia, about 30 miles up the harbor. It was a fine pleasant morning, the tide was going out, and although we were ready to go, it was against my wishes to go on Sunday; but we must. There was no wind, and we had to be governed by the tide. It was a narrow



escape from hitting some of the vessels in the harbor. I went down to fix up for the day. I soon came on deck and saw islands and highland all around us, as we looked a few goats could be seen --- quantities of birds were seen. Most all the vessels in port were in sight. One party on board was firing guns at the birds, another was just starting for the hills. But the sad news came that we were aground. The rest of the day was spent in getting off, which we were lucky enough to do and to get in at B. at candle light. But this was not the least of our trouble, for we were fast aground again, and obliged to anchor again till morning. Thus passed a Sabbath not devoted to the worship of God.  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

This Sabbath is another fine day --- just warm enough to be comfortable. I have been here just a fortnight and a greater part of the time it is cool enough to wear an overcoat, and even when hard at work. There are scarcely any clouds and no rain, yet the N. N. W. winds blow steady this season of the year.

We are building a steamboat which is near the water where we have a full draft of this wind.

This place has been built up within 6 months. A very wealthy man by the name of Vallejo (pron. Valde-ho) sold the land for the sum of one dollar. He owns all the land from here to Sonoma, and as far in



width up the river (Sacramento), and as soon as people settle here more thickly they will buy of him. I now see only about a dozen houses, a few stores, one gambling shop, one or two restaurants. It seems to be as good a place as could be found, being at the head of the San Pablo Bay, which empties into San Francisco Bay. Ships can come and unload up to the very banks with but little expense. Seven miles from here the Government is building a Navy Yard and are now building three buildings, dwellings for officers. Their progress is slow for everything is so scarce or hard to get.

This Sabbath day, August 19th, there is a man by the name of Rev. Dr. Hoodbridge, who teaches school week days and preaches Sunday. His text today was from Joshua, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He clearly proved the existence of a deity by many good illustrations, and very applicable, for which he has a peculiar taste. He spoke of the affection which God has for his children, the same which a parent has for his child. He does not use notes, but spoke from the Bible as fast as his tongue could give utterance. These meetings were held in an out building belonging to Mr. Cooper. The shed adjoins a yard where are his cows and calves, which are noisy when the evening meetings are held. He had an audience of 66, very orderly



and attentive.

We have just finished a building for the town (18x32) in which he will preach after this. Took the job for \$3800. and on which we realized \$20 a day.

Yesterday we launched our steamboat, and all hands said it was a splendid launch, but there was not power enough in the engine to send it along to meet our expectations. Many a long face could be seen on the result of our mode of going and carrying others to the mines.

To the Gold Mines we go--or at least set out to go. This on the morning of the 23d of August, 1849. The carpenters were all ready and we started on a trip to Sacramento. I provided myself with everything I considered necessary for my comfort while in the mines. The bundle consisted principally of a hammock, blankets, 3 sets of clothing, a small bottle of camphor, some soap, etc. It was about seven o'clock when we pushed off, being against the tide we could not make much headway but we made out to stem the current. While passing the vessels on our way, I was tempted to hide my head from the eager gaze of the spectators which thronged to the decks of the vessels.

On Friday evening we had just got nicely anchored at the mouth of the slough, when a crowd of mosquitoes came out to make themselves acquainted with us in their own familiar way.



Soon we spied the long boat coming down the river, her men were our directors, and one passenger whom we were glad to see; one of them was sick. Our officers did not report very favorably. They all came aboard the steamboat and we all passed the night as comfortably as our ravenous tormentors would let us. In the morning, it was decided that the steamboat go back with the load of the longboat; on this we started, but on account of one of the flues stopping up could not get steam enough to carry us 15 miles. This carried us into the midst of mosquitoes again. They were so annoying that we could get no sleep; our sick caused us the most trouble, but we made out to get along. Next morning, we fire up again to do the best we can, although there is little hope of making progress.

On each side of the river for many miles are stretched the tule swamps, which are low land, over and through which in the winter time salt water flows and which are abundant with a coarse, heavy grass peculiar to the tules. Over these lands are sure to be mosquitoes.

In the morning there is a kind of fog or light mist, which lays only about a foot from the water, which occasions the fever and ague. The water in the river, although fresh, is not suitable for drink, but could be used in making tea or coffee. Some of our number had liquors.



On Monday we tied up the sides of the steamboat,

Sunday, Sept. 19th.

This Sabbath we have no services. The day passed off rather heavily to many-- some 8 or 10 of us sick. Those at the mines are doing better on account of the weather.

Here ends the narrative, or all that  
I can find to copy, but the object has  
been accomplished; that is, of safely  
arriving in California.

G. E. 2.

To the Reader.

The preceding journal was copied from the original by the undersigned. Some parts of the original in copying, owing to decay, had to be left out or guessed at. But in the main it is the same. The journal, although it may not be interesting to some, yet it contains, especially on the last pages, considerable truths of historical worth. And the names of the members may be interesting to some.

Your most ob'd't servant,  
Mass. George E. Hyde.

Framingham, Mass.

Oct. 8th, 1873.