



Transcription of the journal of Emily Talbot Keller (1842-1931), November 17, 1858-February 12, 1859.

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Nov.

Wednesday. 17.

56

The winds been N. E. blowing a strong breezes[.] Saw a bark this morning steering [i.e., steering] for Rio. Exchanged signals with an English bark. She came almost within speaking distance. The Capt. was a mason. I know ~~by the~~ he hoisted a collar [i.e., color] and give it an awful pulling up and down. I asked what it ment [i.e., meant] and looked up just in time to see [Al?] give L. the wink. They tryed [i.e., tried] to deny it and said his color got tangled. Al said it was to let us know how many days she where [i.e., was] from Rio. We are not so green as we might be. Also the Capt. hoisted four small flags: we could not understand them, in the margin I have drawn representations of the shape and collar [i.e., color] of them, thinking perhaps I may meet with an opportunity to ~~of~~ ascertain there [i.e., ascertain their] meaning. I wish ~~she~~ we had spoken her. I'd given a farm. I think there was a sign given from this vessel with the burgee. I'm quite sure they were [i.e., were] well it useless to say any more about the masonic signs. At present I forgot to say that said bark was steering [i.e., steering] north by the wind. It' s a beautiful [site? i.e., sight]. It is but awful warm. L. owns that there was a masonic sign.

Nov.

Thursday 18.

57

Commences with the wind N.E. Weather pleasant and awful warm. It's almost calm. Has the appearance of a storm. Saw two barks steering [i.e., steering] N. wish they'd come nearer, for perhaps we might of [i.e., have] seen some more signs, and wonders. Hear after [i.e., hereafter] when I see a vessel I shall "take due notice and govern myself accordingly." Laura and I have passed away the day in embroidering. Mother's been making herself a dress. Helen gives L. [Lauren] and I treat twice a day on alwives [i.e., alewives] and pickles. For dinner we had roasted turkey, a lobster for dinner. I should like to know if it's thanksgiven [i.e., Thanksgiving] day down home to day. I hardly think it is, guess next Thursday is.

Friday 19

58

Commences with the wind S.E. have had a head wind for a rarity. It's ~~sew~~ very pleasant weather. It hasn't been so warm today, as it was yesterday. Saw a full rigged [i.e., rigged] Brig steering [i.e., steering] North. She came quite near. I finish my collar and I am not

sorry. It wasn't a very pleasant job. Laura's been sewing on a little of every thing. Mr. Harmon's got a sore thumb, Jim Demmon's got a sore hand. Mart's afflicted with biles. I feel sorry to pity. I cannot [unintelligible]

Wednesday 24

63

Heavy westerly gales and passing couds [i.e., clouds] and heavy sea. Quite cool. Have thought about putting on some extra clothing. Saw some birds called the Albatross's [i.e., albatrosses] Sewing has "been our chief occupations so far to day. Laura and I have been figuring this after noon to see how much our clothes has [i.e., have] cost for the last two years. Laura's came to \$134.36 cts mine was \$76.97. cts. Some difference. I cannot write any more tonight. For it's so rough. Josiah has had to hold me up while I've been writing this. [in margin: up everything we had even to a needle]

Lat 31°07 Long 37°21

Thursday, 25

64

Light head winds to day and awful rough sea. The little schr. has slat well, had to take in all the sails and let her roll and roll she did to perfection. It was delightful you'd better believe. Saw some Albatross' [i.e., albatrosses]. Ab. shot one. It was "a small one and he did not take the trouble to get it. We saw one cary [i.e., carry] a chicken. Haven't seen any before for some time. I've been embroidering, as usual. We have not seen any vessel to day. Wish we could see one. It's nine weeks to day since we left Boston. Wish it were nine times as many and we where [i.e., were] nine times as far above.

Nov

Friday 26

65

Commences with the wind N.E. have got a fair wind but not much of it. Jim Thomson saw two Barks this morning tearing North. None of the rest of us saw them. Laura & I made sixteen pies this four-noon [i.e., forenoon]. Mother made some doughnuts. I've been embroidering a little. Bub's been trying to catch an Albatross but he didn't succeed there has'ent [i.e., hasn't] anything happened to write today so I will have to lay this old journal by far tonight. We had some Tapioco [i.e., tapioca] for supper. [in margin: Lat 32°27 Long 37°27]

Saturday 27

66

Commence with the wind N. N. W very pleasant weather and nearly calm. Have'nt [i.e. haven't] seen any vessel. Wish we could see one for it's been quite a long time since we

have seen one. Laura's been sick we gave her a sweat and she's some better tonight. I been embroidering. There hase'nt [i.e., hasn't] anything happened today for a feller to write so shall have to lay this one side for tonight. [in margin: Lat 38°30 Long 37°17]

Sunday 28

67

commences with the wind N. W. Have had quite a breeze of wind all day. Have been reading all day. We have'nt [i.e., haven't] seen any vessel nor anything else. It's been a very lonesome day. Sunday's is a lonesome day to us out hear [i.e., here] on the ocean. What would I give to be in E.M. [i.e., East Machias] tonight to go to meeting and hear Mr. Sanborn preach and see some of my old acquaintances \$. Don't expect they'd give much to see me tho "There's better days acoming." Farther [i.e., Father] pulled a tooth for John today. No more.

Monday 29

68

Today the winds been N. and the weather been very pleasant and just about warm enough for comfort. We have not seen any vessels. I do wish we could. Should like to speak one bound North so we could be reported. I have seen quite a number of Albatross's [i.e., albatrosses] and [cary?] chickens. The water is very much discolored. It looks like shole [i.e., shoal] water period we sounded one hundred twenty fathoms of line and could not get bottom. For a rarity Josiah boiled us some molasses candy. Laura & and I worked it. I finished my embroidery today and I'm not at all sorry. As usual there isn't any thing of importance two right. Well another month is all most [i.e., almost] gone and we are making but very slow progress. I suppose there is a plenty of snow down home by this time, wish I where [i.e., were] there. I'd have a slide, see if I wouldn't just received [i.e., receive] a present of a pocket handkerchief.

Nov

Thursday 30

69

To day we have a strong breeze from the N. W. and a heavy sea. Thick weather &c hello hey Ken how are you you not used it yet people don't yeah kind of like here where it's like the line and then yeah still the one uh-huh with like carabine them and stuff yeah when she was like. We haven't seen any vessels today. I really wish we could see one. Farther [i.e., Father] saw a whale this morning. It's the first one that's been seen since we came out. We've seen a plenty of Abatross's [i.e., albatrosses] and sea hens, cary

Laura mother and I have got the white ones skinned [i.e., skinned] and stuffed. Laura's measured 11 feet from wing to wing. Another's 10. Mine twelve period they were horrid great creatures. They were larger than Helen. We are a going to put some black beads in their heads for eyes. Jim T is a going to keep his alive as long as he can. There were one that reminded me of Mary Ennis very much. We coaxed them not to kill it so they let it go. Pity they hadn't all looked like her as some are good girls. (Farther [i.e., Father] Shot 1 this morning. We rocket ship three times for him but didn't get him after all the fuss. Saw three whole's some porpoise's [i.e., wholesome porpoises] and some sharks, cary chickens &c. Among all of the wonders we've seen today should thought we might of [i.e., have] seen a vessel. Almost a fortnight since we've seen one. 'Twould be quite a sight. Josiah's sick with a cold. We gave him a sweat and some herb tea &c. Feel in hopes he'll be better in the morning. And I'm blessed with the tooth ache to-night. It's delightful I think. [in margin: Lat 41°02 Long 49°00]

Saturday 4

73

Today the winds north blowing a fresh breeze period the weather's been very pleasant period we haven't had such a good time with the birds as we did yesterday. Have seen any quantity. Albert saw a whale. Josiah's no better today. I had an awful head-ache all day. There is'nt [i.e., isn't] anything more to write today. Last night the sun set clear. I don't like to see the sun set clear Friday night for it's a sure sign of a storm before Monday night. Jim T. set his bird free to day. Mr. Harmon had a fit last night. [in margin: Bird flew beauty this morning. L. had a blue ribbon around its neck and let it go. Lat 40°53 Long 49°58]

Sunday 5

74

Two day the winds then ask. W. Blowing a very strong breeze and rough sea but we expect to see rough sea and stormy weather about all of the time now as we are crawling along toward that horrid Cape Horn. It's cold weather here now. The men have to bundle up and wear their mittens. We have passed the day in reading. Josiah appears some better. He's been up nearly all day. He's very weak. All hands seem to be sick. Lewis Smith's keeled over. Mart Ames says he's got a "fundering" tooth ache. Farther [i.e., Father] isn't very well. Was [?] Laura's complaining. I've got an awful head-ache.

Dec

Horn. It would be quite pleasant to see a down east vessel. I think Mr. Foster had better send the old Dresden out to Oregon. She could sail as fast as this one does. If she could'ent [i.e., couldn't] I would'nt [i.e., wouldn't] give much for her. [in margin: Lat 47°21 Long 62°20]

Monday 12

82

[illustration of ship Toando] [in margin: Lat 47°14 Long 61°58]

"Toando in a storm"

To day the winds been South all day and blowed a gail [i.e., gale] and a tremendous rough sea. The weather's awful disagreeable rainy and snowy and cold but I suppose we shall see worse than this before we weather Cape Horn. This is a representation of the Schr. as she is to day laying too under a doubled [reefed?] foreseail and a storm trysail. We have a heavy hail squall now and then. This picture was drawn in the heaviest of the gale when she was a rolling and pitching beautifully. (she hasn't got December over it yet) so that it is not so perfect as it might be. Josiah lost the fifth hat today. Jim Densmore also lost one.

Tuesday 14

83

To day the winds bend to the Westward and blowing a strong breeze. Awful rough sea. Squally weather which is not a rarity. Farther's [i.e., Father's] jest [i.e., just] seen a sail from aloft. I hope she'll stay to say "good bye" so we'll see her in the morning. I had a bad head-ache all day dear me "who would sell a farm and go to sea" I can truly [i.e., truly] say it would not be me especially if it were to sail around Cape Horn but here I am and am likely to be for at least three months so must bear it as patiently as possible. I've been knitting all day and I feel ugly, lazy, sickly, and tired so I'll go to bed. Good night. Lat 47°14 Long 61°25

Wednesday 15

84

Today the winds been S.W. blowing a light breeze. The seas quite smart. We saw the same vessel this morning that was seen last night. There is'nt any thing to write to-day. I finished my dress and cut and made the waist of one for Bet. I had should'nt [i.e., shouldn't] wonder than [i.e., then]. I'm getting smart. I had a piece of gum to day. It was

a great rarity and very exceptiable. It is now half pass [i.e., past] six and the sun's not set. Last night daylight was seen at half pass [i.e., past] twelve. Beautyfull [i.e., beautiful] long days. I wish I could [poke?] into Mrs. Harmon's to see what cad Marissa & Frankful are up too [i.e., to] to night. I guess I should find Frankful making her wedding dress (if it's not all ready made and worn) if I'm not right you mustn't laugh for it's only a rough guess. How some ever it may be a true one. Strange things happen in this world. I guess Cad's entertaining [?]. And Melissa is cooped up in the corner with the tooth ache taking all the comfort imaginable [i.e., imaginable]. I won't guess any more to-night but will lay aside this old journal and finish a story I've been reading. So good night. Lat 47°55 Long 62°27

Thursday 16

85

To day the winds been S.W. and nearly calm. Cloudy weather. There is nothing occurred [i.e., occurred] to day except Lew and the cook had a row. It did'nt [i.e., didn't] amount to any thing serious tho. I've finished Bet's dress and knit the heal [i.e., heel] of my stockings. Mother & I made some apple & cranbery [i.e., cranberry] pies, bread, some doughnuts. [in margin: Lat 48°31 Long 63°50]

Dec

Friday 17

86

Today the winds been all around the compass. At P.M. the wind came around N.E. a fair wind but there's not much of it. The old adage is "be content with a little" for that the way it get a good deal. The men are a getting up the squaresail. For a rarity the sun has set in a cloud tonight. Sounded tonight in 50 fathom of water. The bottom was find white sand. The men bent the new mainsail this afternoon. Laura's been embroidering. I've made a sheet and a pair pillow cases finished my stocking. Quite a day's work for a lazy person. The day's [i.e., days] are so long that we have a good deal of time to work but I guess we should have time to do all the work we have to do before we get to Tekalet. If (unless we go farther [i.e., farther] than we have) the days were only two hours thirty minutes and three seconds long. Well do not think I've got nonsense enough in my head to fill up this page. However I'll say that in this country sun arises at four o'clock and sets at eight. Albert cut his hand quite bad to day. Good Night. Lat 47°20 Long 65°05

Dec

Saturday 18

87

To day its [i.e., it's] been calm and cloudy weather. Rained a little this afternoon. We sounded in 60 fathoms. As usual there is nothing to write to-day and I don't know as there ever will be. Anyhow there's slim prospects [i.e., prospects] of it for we don't get a head any but stay in one spot all of the time. I do wish we could have a fair wind "but if wishes were fishes we'd have some fried." Jim Thompson's been a fishing to day. He didn't catch any tho' so we cannot have any fried. For the sake of writing a few more lines, I'll sat that I've been employed in making "hoopskirts." Tomorrow's Sunday. I almost dread it it's so lonesome. If I were where I could go to meeting I should be glad to have it come but I'm not and there's none where we're going. I've got an awful cold likewise Albert & Laura. Tom Pierce is awful tired of a sailor's life, says if he ever get on shore again he never will go to sea any more. I don't blame him for I believe the sailors are a class of men that are exposed to the hard ships of this evil world more than any other class. Good Night friend Cad. [in margin: Lat 50°36 Long 66°30]

December Sunday 19 88

To day the winds been S.W. pleasant weather &c. To day all hands have been reading to pass away the time. I haven't got any thing to write to-day so I shall be obliged to close writing however I will not untill [i.e., until] I say that we had green peas and Lobsters for supper. I hope I shall have something more to write tomorrow.

Monday 20 89

To day the winds been W.S.W. blowing a fresh breeze and above all it's been fair, the weather is cloudy has the appearance of a storm. To day (after being thirty-seven days with nothing but the sky and water to look upon) our eyes were greeted with the sight of land—it was Cape [Iniz?]. As it's been foggy [i.e., foggy] we could not see it so plain as we should of [i.e., have] liked to. We could see snow on the tops of the mountains. If it had been Cape Cod I should liked it ever so much better but it wasn't so I suppose I shall have to make the best of it. I reckon it will be as much as one week before I see Cape Cod again. I have got a story to finish so I'll not write any more to night. I'm reading Mabel Vaughan. It's very interesting. Good Night to all. [in margin: Lat 54°08 Long 66°57]

Dec Tuesday 21 90

To day the winds been S.S.W. blowing a strong breeze. The sea is very rough. A squall now and then. This after-noon at two o'clock we made San Diego [Argentina] but it's so

fogy [i.e., foggy] that we cannot tell much about it at. All I can say about it is that is large mountains with snow on them. It's a very desolate looking place. I don't imagine I'd care much about living there. Should prefer Tekalet to it. I've seen a plenty of land birds of some kind to day. I do not know the name of them. Last night it was awful rough the wind blew awful hard. The little schr. made a very good cradle. She rocked a little to [i.e., too] much tho. I've been embroidering. Mother's not been very well. I got the head-ache so bad. I'll go to bed. Good Night. Cad. [in margin: Lat 54°14 Long 64°41]

Dec

Wednesday 22

91

To day we've had a heavy gale of wind from the S.W. the sea's run mountains high. The little schr. rolls and pitches enough to kill any body. Every time she rolls she takes us and everything else with her. This morning we eat our breakfast in our berths and eat our supper off of a

December

Lat 53°52 Long 65°07

trunk or any way we could catch it. We've seen three ships to day bound the same way we are. We have one blessed consolation that is we're not alone out here. There some one else that partakes of our enjoyment. It's delightful. The weather is cold enough to shave the hairs off of a dog and we have no fire in the cabin. I have'nt [i.e., haven't] seen a spark of fire for a hundred days. If Mrs. Lymons was here I don't know what she would do. Oh! She may bless her stars that she is not. She's better off where she is. I think if I were there I'd think to. I'll bet! Enough! about the dark side and a little about the bright. We can see to read on deck all night. We can see day lights all night. It's so cold that we cannot stay on deck much to enjoy the splendid nights tho I read in the cabin last night untill passed [i.e., until past] nine o'clock without a lamp. I've been knitting all day and the men say that I've knit up this gail [i.e., gale] and they are going to steal all of the yarn and needles they can find and hide them. Kittie says she don't like this home and she wishes she had a better one and I fully agree with her. Good Night. [in margin: This morning in a squall the mainsail I mean foresail brought top to the bottom.

December

Thursday 23

92

To day the winds been S.S.W. blowing a strong breeze. Weather cold as Josephine. We have to set in our berths with a shawl on and then we are half frozen. We've had heavy hail squalls every five minutes to day and yesterday rough sea &c. Saw a Bark and a full rigged Brig. I wish we could come a crossed [i.e., across] the Koloa somewhere in this vicinity the Oak Hill or some other downeast vessel. The men is after there [i.e., their] oil clothes. Look out for another squall. Don't begrudge us of our comfort Carrie. We

are in sight of San Diego how me! I don't believe we shall ever get to Oregon in the world. There's slim prospects of it and for my part I'm discouraged and home sick and I guess I'm not alone. Farther [i.e., Father] says if we was at home now nothing would tempt him to leave there but I trust it's all for the best. All hands been knitting. It we have a gale of wind it will be no rarity. I finished Mabel Vaughan to day. We've seen any quantity of cape pigeons [i.e., pigeons]. That's all well my hands are so cold I can scarcely write. However I'll try to write a few verses to my friend Carrie. I'll finish this line by saying that Bub's got a sore in his head. It pains him a good deal. [in margin: In a squall to day the flying jib got a rip. String beans [i.e., beans] for dinner Lat 54°15 Long 62°08]

"To Friends at home"

I've left my native home afar.
Beyond the dark blue main.
And many a month may come.
Ere I return again;
And months and years may come and go
As rolling waves depart.
Ere I forget to give you all
A home within my heart.

I come to you as swallows come.
I crossed the stormy sea.
My chief delight in other lands.
To sing my songs of home.
Nor will I once regret my home
And all the seas that part.
If you will only give me now
A home within your heart. Em

Dec

Friday 24

93

To day the winds been S.E. blowing a strong breeze. Weather cold as usual. We have'nt [i.e., haven't] had any squalls of any consequence since this morning. We've had a fire in the cabin all day. It seemed quite natural. Helen fell on the stove and burnt both hands. We have'nt [i.e., haven't] seen any ships. The ones we saw yesterday soon showed us a light pair of heels and if they couldn't [in margin: We saw a splendid rainbow tonight the old saying that a rainbow at night is the sailor's delight.]

Dec

I wouldn't give much for them. We saw a seal to day. He played around the vessel some time. Al tryed [i.e., tried] to harpoon him but he could'nt [i.e., couldn't]. Its head looked just like a dog's only it didn't have any ears. Al caught a penguin. The sea come over into the foresail and drowned the men out. Mart said he went and put on a dry pair of stockings and when he put his foot in his boot it was half full of water so he had to put on an other pair and a pair of draws [i.e., drawers] into the bargain. There hasent [i.e., hasn't] any thing more happened to day of any account. To morrow is Christmas. I wish I were where I was a year ago tonight. [Let's see?] in the first of the evening. Thankful And I dressed dolls to put in the young ones stocking and Laura & Eliza Ann Hartley was to our house in the last part of the eve. Thankful and I filled Frank Harmon's stocking with vegetables, doughnuts, sticks &c. Cad was up to the Academy practicing for the Exhibition. Bet talks of hanging up her stocking to night. I guess she expects a Patigaian on board. Cape St. John is in sight now. I cannot tell much how it looks for it's so hazy. All we can tell about it is that there is high mountains with snow on them. [in margin: Lat 54°20 Long 63°50]

December 25

Saturday

94

To day we've had a strong breeze from the W.S.W. the weather's been quite pleasant and sea rough. We've seen a ship and a bark and a full rided [i.e., rigged] brig. We think they are the same ones that we saw Wednesday. They are bound the same way we are. The ship came quite near. They are a showing us how to walk as fast as they can. We (the men) killed one of the pigs. We had a pot pie made of pork if it for supper. It was only big enough for two messes. To day is Christmas. I wish you all a "Merry Christmas" and I've no doubt but what is will be merrier than ours. I suppose there's a tea party in Popes Hall and you are all prepairing [i.e., preparing] to go about this time. If so I wish you a pleasant time. A year ago to night Thankful and I took a walk around the square with F. Huntly and Ambrose Whittemore. Bet got a dress skirt, two books, a bookmark, and a pickel [i.e., pickle] & hard bread in her stocking. I got a present (I dare not tell you what) from Josiah bit the best present we received was a fair wind. We doubled Cape St. John. The eastern end of [Staten?] Island. Mother & Laura been sewing. I finished my stocking. I have'nt [i.e., haven't] any thing more to say tonight so I'll turn in. "Good Night." Lat 55°65 Long 63°30

Dec

Sunday 26

95

To day we've had a strong breeze from the W.S.W. The sea has been awful rough. Weather cloudy. We have'nt [i.e., haven't] seen any vessels not any land. There is nothing to write to day. It's been a lonesome day. Last night we had some very heavy squalls. We've had to eat off a trunk. Just think of it Carrie. What would you think if you had to eat of [i.e., off] a trunk with the [vilets?] and dishes on the floor half of the time, at that. I reckon you'd say you had rather have a tin peddler [i.e., peddler] for a husband than a sailor. Well I guess I'll bid you "Good Night" Lat 55°05 Long 63°31

Monday 27

96

To day the wind has been S.S.W. blowing a strong breeze, but it is as usual dead ahead. The sea is tremendous rough. Weather thick. We have'nt [i.e., haven't] seen any thing to day except shy and water and a few birds. Saw one white Albatross swimming. Mother, Laura, and myself have all been busily engaged in sewing. I don't think that we agreed to hurt ourselves to get our work done for it we don't get along any father than we have for the last fortnight we shall have time enough to do three times as much as we've got to do and time to spare. [in margin: Lat 56°52 Long 64°29]

Dec

Tuesday 28

97

To day the winds been S.W. when there's been any at all. Part of the time it's been calm. Weather cloudy. Occasionally a light rain squall. Saw a ship this morning steering [i.e., steering] the same way we are. Albert thought that it was the same one that we've seen two or three times before. It's a little consolation to a body to know that there's some one else banging about here and cannot get ahead any but go astern if any thing "misery likes company." I do really believe that we shall never get down to Cape Horn in the wide world. We were ninety-five miles from it last night. Guess we're a hundred now. I do wish we could be favored with a fair win. All hands seem to be discouraged and cross as bears with sore heads. Since I commenced to write the wind has breezed up strong and by the appearance of things I guess we shall have a squall for a rarity. I have been embroidering all day. Laura's made all most [i.e., almost] two pair of draws for Albert. Bub and Bet have been a washing a few dirty duds. I don't believe I shall know how to wash or do anything else by the time we arrive in the great city of Tekalet if I ever did. [in margin: Lat 56°35 Long 65°36]

Dec

Wednesday 29

98

To day the winds been West blowing a strong gale. The weather's been some better than usual. Sea rough. Last night the wind blew awful hard and the sea was tremendous rough. One big sea stove one of the whale boats to peaces [i.e, pieces] and it's a wonder it did'nt [i.e., didn't] stave any thing else. The little schooner layed to windward a double reefed foursail and storm try sail and reefed jib. Laura's been embroidering the rest of us has been sewing. We have any quantity of time to sew. Sun rare this morning at ten minutes of three. Good night old journal. Mr. Harmon had a fit to day. in margin: Lat 56°55 Long 65°40 [in margin: Jim Demmons is sick]

Dec. Thursday 30 99

To day the winds been West blowing a gale the weather has been remarkable all day but tonight it's cloudy and has every appearance of a storm. Come to think of it I guess I have'nt [i.e., haven't] got any thing to write tonight. There's nothing been seen except a whale. The wind is still a head and we're all hands getting all out of sorts and I do hope we shall have a fair wind soon for I'm ugly, lazy, cross, sea-sick home sick & tired and all out of patience with every body and everything. Methinks I hear you say you always was. However I'll admit it'd be the truth tho I hardly think I was so bad as I am. [in margin: It's fourteen weeks today since we left Boston Lat 57°40 Long 65°42]

Dec Friday 31 100

To day the winds been West blowing a heavy gale. The weather been quite pleasant. Have had a few now and hail squalls. The sea's been quite smart. I believe there is not much to write today. Have'nt [i.e., Haven't] seen nor heard any thing. We are in the Longitude of Cape Horn now but we shall not see it. I feel quite sorry for I'd liked to of [i.e., have] seen it. Laura and I were a going to have it sketched on our books if we'd seen it. Last night Al read in the cabin untill [i.e., until] one o'clock with out a lamp. We are now 490 miles from where the sun does not set at all. This is the last day of the year 1858. I hope I shall not be here the last day of next year if I'm alive. Dear me. It's one hundred days since we left Boston and we're not half way to Oregon. If we've got to be a hundred days longer I don't know what we shall do. "Who would not sell a farm and go around Cape Horn". Cad how would you like to be here with us? If you were here we would not be so lonesome. I hope you'll get a sailor for a husband and he'll make you go to sea all of the time. Please excuse. I almost forgot to say that we are on the broad Pacific Ocean. Good Night to Cad and Good bye to the old year. [in margin: Lat 58°66 Long 68°16]

January 1, 1859 Saturday 101

To day the winds been S.S.W. blowing a strong gale occasionally a snow squall. We have had one. Quite a snowstorm to day as it was the first this year. Laura & I had quite a snowball last night and this morning. It seemed kind of natural. Saw a ship last night steering [i.e., steering] the same way we are. Likewise one, to night. About half an hour ago we made the Island called Diego Ramirez. We cannot see it very plain for it's twenty four miles off. It's nothing but mountains. Make the best of it. Well as it is the first day of a new year. I'll address a few lines to Cad "I wish you a happy new year" and oh, if wishes of mine could make them so, many of them to you would be happy indeed. But Cad we are separated now. Broad oceans roll between us and my influence towards your happiness though never great must now be less. Yet the happy times we have spent together (I say happy because they were to me) shall ever retain a place in my memory. And I shall look forward to the time when we may meet again; talk over times [in margin: Lat 57°63 Long 62°35]

January 1859

And pleasing events long passed; and again be happy to gather with feelings of sincere pleasure. I feel that to night you are thinking of me. I think I hear you say I wish I knew where she is and what she is doing and thinking of. I wish I could tell you now, but I cannot so it's useless to wish. I'd give a good deal to know what you are a doing and what's a going on in that cherished village of East Machias. Last New Year's Eve I went to an exhibition in Washington Academy to see "Kittie" the chamber maid. I wonder if she'll steal any specticals [i.e., spectacles] to night. "It's no harm for a poor girl to revenge herself when she is wronged." Perhaps I've not got that sentence as you spoke it but it's as near as I can remember. Well friend Carrie I bid you Good Night.

January Sunday 2 102

Today the winds been W.S.W. and blowing a strong gale. The weather has been stormy and tonight it's very fogy [i.e., foggy]. If this is what they call there [i.e., their] summer in this country I never wish to see there [i.e., their] winter. We saw a Bark tonight steering [i.e., steering] the

January Lat 56°58 Long 69°2[?]

same course and was on the same tack that we are. We've all hands been reading for amusement to day. The sea is so horriable [i.e., horribly] rough that I cannot set in one

place three seconds and I feel inclined to plead the head ace so I'll chase writing and go to bed. Good night Carrie.

Monday 3

103

To day we've had a strong gale from the W.S.W. and a tremendous [i.e., tremendous] rough sea. I have to cling to the table with all of my might. The weather as usual is stormy. I never want to hear tell of Cape Horn again. Never! I don't know how it would seem for us to have a fair wind. We should be all out of sorts, more so than we are now. Last night after I wrote in my journal the Bark I spoke of came within a miles distance of us. She was a clipper. I wish we had her insted [i.e., instead] of this vessel to go in but what is the use to wish. We may as well try to fly against the wind and we've got so strong a breeze to do that even if we had wings. I really believe I'd rather be on some lonely island wandering about like "Robison [i.e., Robinson] Crusoe" than to be here. [in margin: Lat 57°21 Long 70°00]

Jany

Tuesday 4

104

To day the winds been West blowing a gale and the waves are mountains high. Weather's foggy [i.e., foggy]. There's a great big ship in sight. She showed us her colors but it was so foggy [i.e., foggy] that we could not make out her national tho' she's quite near. Is a little consolation to think that there is others that can enjoy this beautiful weather besides our selves. Is a pity that there are so many that are deprived of the pleasure it affords. I'd be quite willing to give some one my place but it is of little use to grumble. I suppose we must "hope on hope ever." I've embroidered a little to day. Laura's been making tape trimming. John shaved Helen's head she says she's a little boy now. She grows like a weed and is as fast as a pig so is Tom P. and Jim Thompson. Bet's think as a weasel. [in margin: Lat 58°23 Long 70°35]

Jan

Wednesday 5

105

Oh! Dear what's the use for me to write there's nothing new. I have to write one thing over and over again. Weather stormy and a gale of wind from the W.S.W. and tremendous heavy sea. I have to brace and hold on with one hand to keep my self up and scribble as fast as I can with the other. I shall be so glad if we ever get out of this mess.

Jan

For almost three weeks we had a gale of wind steady so that we've had to keep the sails double reefed. Dear me why can not we be favored with a fair wind. I'd really [i.e., really] believe there never will be one again. If this gale continues to blow much longer I don't know where we shall find our selves. For my part I'm all out of pacience [i.e., patience] and I should guess by the looks of the long faces there is around that I'm not the only impacient [i.e., impatient] one and who would not be? With nothing to keep up a fellows courage but a gale of wind dead ahead stormy and cold weather rough sea cross young ones &c. How some ever I suppose I may as well try to keep up a stiff under lip for all the grumbling in the world will not help us to Oregon. Laura's been making tape. Triming [i.e., trimming] to day the rest of us has been sewing as usual. For supper to night we had green peas. They were very good but not so good as if they were fresh from the vines. Laura's sewing now. Ab's holding his hands. Li's reading. Mother's making her bed. Farther's [i.e., Father's] asleep. I thought that I'd just tell you now we were all occupying our selves as I wanted something to fill up the page with.
[in margin: Lat 58°08 Long 70°40]

[pages missing]

a hundred and ninety-nine days. If it will make any shorter faces around for such sour looks I never saw before in my life. All I ask is to set my foot on shore again then won't I be a glad child. I'll bet I will. Well I won't write any more. Good Night. Sail ok! Must wait and see what she is—she's a ship on the other tack—good night. Lat 60°04 Long 75°31]

Sunday 9

109

To day the winds been S.W. Weather quite pleasant for this country. We lost our fair wind this afternoon. A fair wind won't stay with us long. However I live in hope that we shall have a change by and by to get along. It's been a tremendous lonesome day to day. We've got about all of the books and papers read through. I don't know what we shall do to pass away the lonesome moments after this. For dinner we had roasted turkey. Should rather had the privilege of roasting it myself. I wish I had something new to write. I'm tired of writing the same thing every night. Good Night. Lat 58°45 Long 72°14

Jan.

Monday 10

110

To day and last night the wind has blowed a hurricane from the W. and such a sea I never want to experience an other such a gale. Farther [i.e., Father] and Albert say they never knew the wind to blow so hard before and I guess they never wish to again. Such rolling and pitching I never would believed a vessel could live through. I thought sometimes she would roll over and I hardly know what hindered her for my part. There was one great big sea came over her and covered the house and quarter deck all over. I cannot describe it any other way than to say that it was like lifting up a two story house and letting it fall on us. I cannot imagine how the men hung to her at all. I hadn't the least doubt but what some of them would be laid. Poor Tom P. came awful near it. There was a great big ugly looking sea struck him and knocked him over the wheel and Farther [i.e., Father] caught him by the legs just as he was going over the quarter rail. It hurt his arm quite bad. Jim Thompson got a rap with the main peak down hall in the face. When Lewis Smith stood to the wheel he got knocked down and got his head hurt. Father got knocked against the wheel and lamed his hip. No one else got hurt. We had to eat our breakfast just as we could catch it. Dinner and supper we got none. The galley was full of water and the cabin floor was washed quite well. It needed it bad enough. Who would not sell a farm and go to sea? Especely [i.e., especially] around Cape Horn. It would not be me. I'd rather live on one potato a day. I guess if Liss was here now she would not think they had a gale of wind going to New Bedford. I hope we shall have no more such gales as this one is a great plenty. The new mainsail got split last nearly all of the sounding line. Al lost a hat likewise Tom Pierce. We ought to feel thankful that we did not loose [i.e., lose] any thing more. The hand of Providence was in it. Well I'll not say any more about the gale to-night for I could not describe it. I should try a week. The wind blows quite hard yet. Good Night. . Lat 58°27 Long 80°07

Jan Tuesday 11 111

To day the wind's blowed a strong breeze from the West N.W. sea tremendous rough weather stormy and disagreeable is all I can say. Tom is quite lame. He has not been on deck untill [i.e., until] this afternoon. I do wish we could have a fair wine. I'm disgraced sea-sick home sick tired &c. Good Night [in margin: . Lat 57°39 Long 79°12]

Jan Wednesday 12 112

To day the winds been about W.S.W. blowing a strong breeze. Sea rough & weather cloudy & calm. Saw a ship on the other tack. Saw the same bark we saw yesterday. Mother made some doughnuts. Sewing has been been our chief occupation to day. Al.

made Mart Ames a pair of canvas pants and some of the rest of the boys some oil clothes .They have'nt [i.e., haven't] any of them got any that's good for any thing. We have not got wood enough to last a week longer. We shall be forced to burn coal ("A cold fire is it?") all of the time. We've had to some now but it burns the stove out awful bad. Shall not have any stove long if we do not call some where for wood. And I don't know as we shall ever get along any further. We are only twelve miles from where we were last Sunday. Since the first of January we've made three hundred and twenty miles and that not on our course. "Well done good and faithful Toando." I think we've got a smart vessel but then we've had a head wind and blowing a gale all of the time. "We'd give her her due I suppose." I've just been on deck and seen two beautiful rainbows. Well I shall have to go to bed or far worse for I'm almost frozen. I'd like to know what Cad's doing to night, sliding sleighriding or at spelling school I guess. Good Night. [in margin: Lat 57°33 Long 79°15]

Jan

Thursday 13

113

Commences with the wind N.W. blowing a strong breeze. Weather looks stormy sea rough. We've been all most frozen all day. Could not have any fire in the cabin. All hands engaged in sewing as usual. There's nothing of importance happened to day so I've got nothing to write. Albert's got a sore coming on his thumb. Last night the flying jib got split all to pieces. The men then bent the new one. I guess we shall have no sails at all if we keep on as we've commences. Sixteen weeks to day since we left Boston. Time passes away faster then we sail away. I guess 'twill be another sixteen weeks before we get to Oregon. "It's all for the best" I suppose. A fair wind we've given up all hopes of ever having another one but the old saying is hope on hope ever. We've hoped on and shall ever have to I guess. If we hope untill [i.e., until] we get a fair wind. To all a kind "Good Night" Barometer falling for a N. Wester. Lat 56°36 Long 78°30

January

Friday 14

114 days

Commences with a strong breeze of wind from the N.W. rough sea cold and stormy weather. The Barometer's a falling suppose we shall have another gale. It blows quite hard now. I've been embroidering all day. Albert's thumb is no better. Edward Durgan got a lame arm. I'd wish we could get

into better weather for all we have is stormy disagreeable weather and rough sea. I have to squeeze in behind the table and keep my feet braced. "Cease thy roaring foaming ocean bear me not so rudely o'er." I think we have need to day it's a hundred and fourteen day since we came to sea. If we are that much longer I shall not know how to walk nor know what it is to be clea for all I walk is three or four times across the cabin in a day. Sometimes not that. I have'nt [i.e., haven't] seen any thing clean for—well I cannot remember when. "Patience" patience. Good night. Lat 56°51 Long 82°16

January Saturday 15 115

Commences with the wind a head blowing a strong breeze. The weather has been quite pleasant to day but has the appearance of a storm very much now and it's quite cold and we cannot have a fire on account of the wood. I don't know but what we'll have to eat. Our grub saw "how some" ever. I'm not much alarmed for there cannot be much danger in a wooden country. How Mr. Foster would hollow if we should burn his oak shingles deck load &c. Helen says he'd say "land a marry what did they burn them shingles for." I've been embroidering all day, last night after I wrote in my journal. There was a vessel in sight. Saw some Albatrosses & penguins to day. I guess I'll write [in margin: (?) Lat 56°28 Long 80°05]

Lines to Carrie

Farewell! Farewell! My far off friend!
Between us broad blue oceans flow.
And forests wave, and plains extend.
And mountains in the sunlight glow.
The wind that breathes upon thy brow.
Is not the wind that breathes on mine.
The star beams shining on thee now
Are not the beams that on me shine.
But memory's spell is with me yet.
Can you the hours that's past forget?

January Sunday 16 116

Commences with a gale of wind from the N.W. and continues so through the day. The sea has been tremendous rough. About every Sunday and Monday since we come to sea we've had a storm or a gale of wind. I don't see why we cannot have a fair wind so that we can get into better weather. Cape Horn. I wish there never was such a place even thought of and I don't believe it was ever intended for one except savages. I'll lay this one aside and eat some supper. Had hard-bread & rice boiled in water. That would make a hog a great tea made of the same. Sailors' fair I suppose. This has been a long lonesome and disagreeable day to me and I guess I'm not along. It's so awful rough one cannot do one thing or another. However I'll go to bed. Suppose I shall be rolling out of my berth the vessel on the wrong tack for my convenience.

January

Monday 17

117

Commences with a head wind usual rough sea. Squally weather and no prospect of its ever being any different. Mr. Harmon had a fit this afternoon it was quite bad but he soon came out of it. Sewing as usual has been our (Laura, Mother & myself) occupation. Come to think of it I guess I've got nothing to write to night so "good night" I hope you are enjoying your-self far better I and myself. Every dog must have his day" mine will come by & by. [in margin: Lat 55°26 Long 77°45]

Jan.

Tuesday 18th

118

Commences with wind N.W. at 1 P.M. It came around to the S.W. in a squall which makes it almost a fair wind for us (she go her course) and I hope it will keep so for sixty eight days but I guess we may bless our selves if it remains favorable twenty four hours, so it won't do for me to "crow before I'm out of the woods" for the weather and winds are so uncertain in this country. The weather's been squally all day and the sea is dreadful rough. "I hear the words take in sail! Ever our luck if we chance to have an hour's fair wind. It blows so awful hard that we have to take in sail the first thing, is it not discouraging? Ever body on board the schooner looks as savage as mad dogs. I've complained enough for one day so I'll rest a while. Al. rubed [i.e., rubbed] the cooks arm so hard yesterday that she rubed [i.e., rubbed] the skin off in a [...?] [in margin: Lat 57°57 Long 79°50]

Commences with the wind W. and continues so throughout our fair wind was of short duration. Rough sea cloudy weather &c. I finished Bet's dress and a took up a stocking for myself. I'm a going to see if I cannot knit up fair wind. I cannot possibly raise a gale and if I did it would be nothing new for we have any vanity of them. — "Good Night"
This is L. Smith's birthday.

An Acrostic Carrie

Carrie while musing here to day
And thinking of the past
Reflections sad my heart held sway
On hours to [i.e., too] bright to last
Long o'er my heart this soft regret
In lonely hours will rest.
No I can never once forget
Each scene or friend I loved the best.

Gone from my view; that village home
Has still my kindest thought
And all the friends I called my own,
Reflection says are not forgot.
My darling friend; oh Cad do you
One gentle thought bestow on them
Now far away? And one is Em?

An Acrostic

Earth has no fairer flower than thee
My true and sincere friend
In all her bowers where e'er you be
Loved joys on all decend.
Your presence all delight to seek
That each may of your friendship speak.

Kept as you are by hands Divine
Each feels thy gentle power
Lingering round the heart and mind
Like sunset hues at eve's sweet hour
Each joy and pleasure of your heart
Reflects on every friend a part.

J.H. Munson

Jan. Thursday 20 120

Commences with moderate breezes from W.N.W. and for a rarity pleasant weather we are about out of the bad weather. The good luck will have today for the first for a month. We've had the four gaff topsail set. Any quantity of Albatrosses around Albert took and tied two or three spun yarn on to each other and tied four pieced of park on them and tied it over the board to them & they were so greedy that four of them swallowed a piece of the park whole and found themselves [?] together by the bill. All hands been knitting to day no more tonight. "Good Night" Had roasted chicken beef & bread for dinner. Bread & beef is the sailor's relief. [in margin: Seventeen weeks today since we left Boston. Lat 57°29 Long 79°10]

January Friday 21 121

Commences with moderate breezes from the N.W. pleasant weather. Sea quite smooth. I suppose I can say to night that we are a round that doleful Cape Horn. It's called getting around to go from the parallel of 50. One side of Patagonia to the parallel of 50 the other side. Mother & myself have been knitting all day. Laura's been making a sheet & putting tape trimming [i.e., trimming] in its well. I guess I haven't got any thing else to write at present. Good Night.

We have been 34 days from 50° South on one side of Patagonia to 50° S. the other [in margin: Lat 57°05 Long 78°20]

January Saturday 22 122

Commences with moderate breezes from the South. She's held her course all day. Weather been cloudy. Once more I've got the privelege [i.e., privilege] of saying that we have a fair wind. The men are now setting the square sail. It's a great stranger for it's

& I've been embroidering. There is not anything to write to day. So I shall have to bid you "good night" Lat 45°01 Long 84°31

January Wednesday 26 126

Commences with light breezes from the S.W. pleasant weather and quite warm. The men killed the pig this fore-noon, this after-noon they've been mending sails. Mother's been knitting Laura's been making barley trimming I've been embroidering part of the day, the other part knitting. There's nothing to write these times. We have'nt [i.e., haven't] seen any thing except for a few Albatrosses. I'll tell you what we had for dinner and then bid you good night. We had baked pear, bread & butter &c. for supper pig liver applesauce doughnuts &c. Lat 44°02 Long 85°33

Jany Thursday 27 127

Commences with light breezes from the S. W. Weather awful pleasant sea smooth. Three ships in sight to day. It's quite pleasant. to see a vessel once in a while. Laura & Mother's been sewing. I've been knitting as usual. The men

Jan

been mending sails and changing them. Laura & I have had our dresses strung out to air. It's the first time since we left home. Mr. Harmon says tell Mrs. Harmon that he thought of her when he was frying fresh pork for breakfast this morning. We had a roasted spare-rib for dinner. It is all most dark now. The days are growing short. "good night" Lat 42°44 Long 86°46

Jan Friday 28 128 days

Commences with light pairs from the S. W. and tremendous pleasant weather. There's been four big ships insight all day all steering the same way we are. I wish we could get near enough to some of them to speak them. I'd give a farm with a hen on it. Mother & Laura's been sewing. I've been knitting. I shall have to say "good night" for there's nothing else to write.

Lat 41°33 Long 87°56

Jan Saturday 29 129

Commences with light airs from the S. W. Pleasant weather and quite warm. Saw the same vessels this morning that we saw yesterday. Laura & Mother's been sewing. I finished my stocking. Al. had his hair cut. I saw one cary chicken. I guess there is nothing else happened worth mentioning, so I'll bid you "good night" and hope you'll

have pleasant dreams likewise not one wink of sleep—please excuse! [in margin: Lat 40°37 Long 89°23]

January Sunday 30 130

Commences with the wind S. W. by S. and the weather is lovely, sea smooth! If it could always be as beautiful sailing as this I should like to go to see that is if the voyage were short. Laura and I dressed up in hoop skirts and cloth boots clean dress's [i.e., dresses] &c. Today it seemed quite natural. I shall be glad when we get to Oregon so a fellow can be decent once in a while. If we could get there in two months I would not grumble one bit. Any quantity [i.e., quantity] of cary chickens today we have not seen any Albatrosses, saw one yesterday. Well friend Doe I shall have to bid you "good night" [in margin: Lat 38°58 Long 91°12]

January Monday 31 and last 131

Commences with a calm and continues throughout, weather pleasant. Laura & I have just been on deck singing or trying to. I expect I charmed Jim Thompson he stood to the wheel. Laura's been sewing today, Mother's been knitting, I've cut two dresses for Laura (one was calico the other Oregon Plaid) and run the heels of my stockings. I guess there's nothing else to write of to-day. Seen some Albatrosses. This is the last day of January. I hope that the last day of March will find me in Tekelet—Well friend Carrie I'll leave of writing and put down some Latitudes & Longitudes for Josiah Lat 48°31 Long 81°09 Good Night.

1859 February 1 Tuesday 132 days

Commences calm & ends,. Pleasant weather and warm period I do wish we could have a breeze of wind so that we could get along For I am tired, tired, and double tired of the sea. I wish I were at home tonight. I give all of the gold in California were it mine to give But what is the use to wish, here I am and here I'm likely to be. Any way their's [i.e., there's] slim prospects of ever getting anywhere else. This ocean is rather to Pacific now. Laura & Mother's Ben sowing. I commenced to embroider a pair of under sleeves for Laura. Mothers had her beds on deck airing to-day. Tom Pierce fixed my trunk, Al's been covering Li's. Mr. Harmon's got a breeding sore on his finger, John's got a sore coming on his fingers--well goodnight friend Cad. Lat 37°52 Long 92°45

Feb, Wednesday 2

133

Commences with strong breezes from the N.W. Sea rough, weather pleasant &c. Last night I wished for a breeze of wind, & for once I got my wish but its [i.e., it's] a head and I'd almost as lives have none. There's been a ship insight all day, steering the same way we are. It caught a porpoise this after-noon it was an awful great creature--we had some of the meat free for supper, it tasted very good. I could not eat much of it for I kept thinking that that [sic] it was a porpoise & I saw them when they

cut the harpoon out of him. It had an awful bill of its own--John had his thumb lanced—Mother & L's been sewing. I've been embroidering—Well friend Carrie goodnight, I hope you have'nt [i.e., haven't] got a bean tonight for I have'nt [i.e., haven't]--so I don't want anybody else to--a selfish creature I am. Lat 36°27 Long 92°09

Feb

Thursday 3

134

Commences with the wind West. Weather pleasant sea quite smooth. This morning we saw a ship steering [i.e., steering] the same way we are. This after-noon we saw a full rigged [i.e., rigged] Brig bound home around Cape Horn. I wish she could of [i.e., have] come near enough for us to speak her .We could of [i.e., have] sent some letters home perhaps. Laura says tell Cad that I've got the tooth ache so bad that I'm almost mad--Mr. Harmon cut Li's hair today, and when he was cutting it, he told Li that there might be such a thing as he'd be his soninlaw some day. I expect he'll get Cad—would'nt [i.e., wouldn't] I laugh! I'll bet I would. Well I won't laugh now but will go to bed & dream about it may-bee. Laura & Mother's end sewing. I've been embroidering—“good night.” We had porpoise liver for breakfast and you could not tell it from pig's liver--but after all it was a porpoise. It's nineteen weeks today since we left Boston for the great city of Oregon once again good night. Lat 34°33 Long 91°19

Feb

Friday 4

135

Commenced with strong breezes from the N.W. Rough sea. Cloudy weather occasionally [i.e., occasionally] a light rain squall. Saw a ship to Leward [i.e., leeward] steering [i.e., steering] The same way we are. Laura's been half dead with the tooth-ache all day. I finished laurenz undersleeves. I figure up a sight for josiah now and then & other

Commences with light breezes from the N.W. Pleasant and warm & I do wish we could have a fair wind so that we could get along for it is discouraging when we've got such a long road to travel (I don't believe Jordan was ever half as hard) yet and head-winds all of the time. Only think: we've been 138 days on the water and have hardly seen land. That is enough to discourage me if we had pleasant weather & a fair wind all of the time. If ever I do get a share again I'll bet I'll have one Jubilee. Well it's of no use to complain. I suppose it is fate. I've been embroidering the rest sewing all day. It is so dark that I can scarcely see. So Good Night friend Cad. Lat 33°19 Long 95°50 .[in margin: Last night we had some very short lightning]

Tuesday 8

139

Commences with light breezes from the N. W. It's been showery all day. This afternoon in a squall the outer jumper stay parted. Laura & I have been washing a part of the day the other part I've been embroidering. Dear me! There isn't anything to write So what is the use of a fellow to set down & make believe right. I do wish we could have a fair wind but i suppose it's all for the best [?] Providence sees fit to [order?] it otherwise. [?]°31 Long 95°34 Good Night.

Feb.

Wednesday 9

140

Commences with light airs from the N. W. Pleasant weather & smooth sea. We exchanged signals with an American ship this four-noon [i.e., forenoon]. Her name we called "Alice [Counee?]" we could not make out the last part of it. The Burgee curled up so much. She had five whale boats on deck. The folks think they are the ones we left. I wish she'd come near enough for us to speak her period she could just all as well as not if the Capt. had been so minded. It was as good as a treat to exchange signals with an American. Laura's been sewing on her dress. Mother's been doing a little of everything. I've been embroidering. No more tonight Carrie. Lat 33°03 Long 97°11

Thursday 10

141

Commences with strong breezes from the N.W. Pleasant weather rough sea throughout. We saw the same ship this after-noon that we saw yesterday. There's nothing to write except that we've got a headwind and have had it for ninety nine days more or less. I shall be so glad when we get in the Trades for perhaps we shall have a little better chance to get along. Laura's been darning embroidering as usual & Mother was here this four-noon [i.e., forenoon]. It's twenty weeks today since we left Boston dear me & in that time we've had the [torn]. [in margin: Lat 31 [torn]]

Feb

Friday 11

142

To day we've had strong breezes from the N.W. I believe I shall always have to say hereafter [i.e., hereafter] that the winds N.W. but I hope not for I'm about tired of writing it. There may be something for us yet tho it looks dark now. I shall try and hope for the best. The weather's been cloudy all day. The Barometer is falling now, I suppose we shall have to make up our minds for a storm. We haven't seen any vessels to day. The old ship soon showed us a light pair of heels. We could not see her heels for [dust-water?] I mean. I've finished the insertion for Laura's undersleeves & commenced mine. There's nothing more to write so good night Lat 30°01 Long 95°72

Saturday 12

143

Commences with light airs from the S.E. It's a fair what little there [i.e., there] is but it's nearly calm weather pleasant. Saw two whales & a Tropic bird. I've been embroidering the rest of the folks sewing. Dear me. I wish we could have a breeze of wind so that we could get along for I'm sick of the sea. I'd like to get a shore and have a good rain. There is nothing to write as usual. So good night. Pleasant dreams be thine is my sincere wish. Lat 28°25 Long 95°29