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INCIDENTS IN A VOYAGE  
//  
FROM NEW YORK TO SAN FRANCISCO  
VIA CAPE HORN

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Diary of Albert W. Bee on His  
Voyage to California on the Ship  
South Carolina in 1849

This is the diary of our great grandfather's voyage from New York to California around Cape Horn in 1849. Albert Wilson Bee was born in Clinton, New York in 1821 and worked in New York and South Carolina in the dry goods business before his journey west.

Presented to the New York State Library by  
Frances Bee Carleton, Evanston, Illinois  
Alice Bee Corcoran, Schenectady, New York

May 25, 1982

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INCIDENTS IN A VOYAGE  
FROM NEW YORK TO SAN FRANCISCO  
VIA CAPE HORN.

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On the 4th of January, 1849 I left Columbia, S.C. in company with Mr. Wm. Sarley (?) for New York from which place it was our intention to sail for California as rapidly as possible. On the evening of the 5th we arrived in Washington City and put up at the U.S. Hotel. The next day being Sunday we went to Church in the morning in the House of Representatives, & in the afternoon at the Presbyterian Church in 4th St. & had the pleasure of seeing Mr. President Polk and family.

In the evening we took the cars for New York where we arrived the next day at 2 P.M. Nothing occurring in the day worth mentioning. I immediately entered upon arrangements for proceeding on my journey. The Packet Ship So. Carolina being considered the finest ship that was up for California, passage was engaged in her.

I went on board on the morning of the 24th January, and our beautiful ship was soon after towed out into New York Bay by the steamer Washington Irving. We had about 160 passengers all apparently thoroughly imbued with the Gold Fever.

Thousands of Ladies & Gentlemen were assembled on the wharf to witness our departure! The waving of Hdkfs & Hats, loud cheering made the scene very exciting.

(Note:- This account stops here and later is taken up in the Diary which follows.)

DIARY OF ALBERT W. BEE ON HIS  
VOYAGE TO CALIFORNIA ON THE SHIP SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN 1849.

Note:- The top of the first page has been torn away so there will be omissions at two points in the diary.

----- proceeded -----, and from thence by Steam Boat & Rail Road to Washington where I arrived on Saturday evening the 6th. Made the acquaintance on the way of Dr. Craig of Baltimore. We all took lodgings at the National Hotel. During the evening I called upon Hon. Timothy Jenkins M C and also Messrs. Calhoun, Butler & King, received letters of introduction from Mr. Butler to Gov. Smith & Gen. Kearney in California.

The next day being Sunday attended Church in House Representatives in the morning and in the evening at the 4th Street Presbyterian, attended by President Polk and family. Had the pleasure for the first time of seeing the President.

Took the --- cars at night and proceeded to Baltimore, Phila and New York. Soon after my arrival in N. Y. formed a company ----

(several lines torn out)

--- the fine ----- Carolina and was occupied until the day of sailing, the 24th Jany, in making preparations for the voyage & visiting friends.

Attended Church twice and heard Mr. Knox, my old pastor. Met Mr. Joys family and many & many others which renewed old associations & gave me a desire to relinquish my contemplated voyage? Received letter from home during this time, found that my mother was exceedingly grieved at hearing of my intention of going away, but "the die was cast", I could not do otherwise than go. As the time drew near for my departure I more fully realized then how much I was depriving myself of for the purpose of curing the attack I had of Gold Fever. My friends never appeared dearer to me than at this time.

Wednesday, Jany 24th 1849. Everything being ready repaired on board the ship at 10 A M. Found a large company on board. The number of passengers being One Hundred & Sixty-three. The Steamer Washington Irving took us inntow and we sailed gallantly forth upon the mighty deep. Thousands of Ladies and Gentlemen covered the wharves and rigging of the shipping to witness our departure. All was excitement. Loud cheers rent the air. Hats and Haks were waved on high. The words "good-bye" were repeated as long as friends were within hearing. But soon we were swiftly passing down the bay. New York and the cities in the vicinity never looked more lovely or dearer than at this moment. We all felt that we were leaving our native shores never to return. How often my thoughts wandered away to my home, how much happier would I have been if I could have said farewell to them before leaving. How dear is home & a mothers farewell.

Thursday, 25th. Upon getting outside of Sandy Hook found the sea quite rough, many were showing symptoms of sea sickness. I had been in poor health for some months & was among the first that was taken sick. I scarcely left my berth during this day, was very ill & could get but little sympathy or attention for each individual was looking out for himself.

Friday, 26th. Had a heavy blow in the night and a high wind prevailed all the day. It was in the right quarter & we made ten knots an hour all day. In the afternoon I made out to crawl upon the quarter deck & get a little fresh air, but was so ill that I was glad to get to my berth again. We passed two sail of Vessels this day bound for New York.

Saturday, 27th. We still have fair wind & a heavy sea. The waves run higher than I ever saw them. Have scarcely been able to leave my berth today. I have been relieved from my vomiting but was taken a-

bout noon with crampings & diarrhea. Can eat nothing & feel as though I would give all the world to be on shore. The Doctor gave me some medicine, but I suffered a great deal during the night.

Sunday, 28th. Our ship is bounding over the waves like a sea bird. The day is cloudy & looks like rain. I was able to be on deck a short time this morning, but felt quite ill, & no appetite to eat anything. This being the Lords Day, reading of the Scriptures & prayer was held at 10 A M.

Monday, 29th. Most of the passengers have now recovered from the sea sickness and are getting out their books to pass their time in reading. I felt very weak and quite ill all this day. Ate a bowl of soup at noon and felt a little better after it. Fair wind all day sailing South East.

Tuesday, 30th. Wind still fair & sailing under a full press of canvas. Some rain in the P M and rather squally. Saw a wreck in the distance, about 8 miles off. Appeared to be a schooner dismantled, and abandoned. Very heavy sea running, prevented running down to her. Was on deck about an hour today but felt very weak and very miserable, a kind of feeling that no one knows except those who have been sea sick.

Wednesday, 31st. Rain this morning with high wind. Still sailing So East. Have averaged two hundred miles each day since we left New York. All feel very much encouraged having so fine a run. I have not been out much today, do not feel much better, have a little appetite & think I shall now improve. We are all very much pleased with our Captain, officers and our noble ship. Saw number of flying fish today, the first that have been seen. It brought all the passengers on deck, both sick & well.



Thursday, February 1st. Fair winds all this day, if hold on expect to be in trade winds off Cape Verde Islands in a few days. Was on deck nearly all day, but could not walk about much. Two gentlemen entertained in the P M with music on the Guitar and Violin. In the evening we had the pleasure of hearing a few popular songs sung by a few of the passengers. The weather was now becoming warmer & having a moon we found it very pleasant on the quarter deck.

Friday, 2nd. Felt better today. The weather has been a little more settled, warm atmosphere & clear sky. Ate some apples & dined from a dish called on ship "Duff", made of flour & raisins. Saw sear grass, supposed to come from the Bermuda Isls that we have passed lying to the west of us.

Saturday, 3rd. Calm sea with fair wind. Found it pleasant on deck all day. Found among my fellow passengers a number of persons from Little Falls that I had formerly some acquaintance with.

Sunday, 4th. Sun rose clear with a fair wind. Tracts were distributed among the passengers in the morning. It was an interesting sight to see the groups upon the deck nearly every person having his Bible.

At 10 A M the Episcopal service was performed on the quarter deck. D.V. Stensbury of Brooklyn reading the service and Mr. Rochester reading a portion of a sermon.

At 3 P M a meeting was held at the same place by the Presbyterian and other denominations. At the request of the passengers I lead during these exercises.

I read a portion of the 6th Chap. of Matthew & read afterwards together with some remarks a portion of a sermon from the text "Lay not up for yourselves treasures oc.---". These exercises were very interesting and were listened to very attentively by all. A prayer

meeting was also held in the evening which closed these interesting exercises.

Monday, 5th. We are now in the trade winds and passing rapidly down towards the Cape Verde Islands. Saw a sail about ten miles off, the first sail seen in the last eight days. It created considerable excitement on board, & everyone was anxious to get a look at her through the Captains glass. Night soon came on and we lost sight of her. A report was spread on board that one of the passengers had the "small pox." The Physician of the ship soon contradicted it, having examined the young man. The symptoms were similar but he said it was not the small pox, which relieved us very much.

This evening was one of the pleasantest I ever spent on the sea! The moon shone brightly, the sea was almost a calm, & nearly all of the passengers were collected on the quarter deck. Two violins were produced & sets formed and an hour or more was spent in the pleasant amusement of dancing.

Tuesday, 6th. We still have fair winds. Our noble ship is now sailing under a full press of canvas; she presents a noble appearance. About noon the cry of 'a sail! a sail!' was passed through the ship. It brought all the passengers on deck eager to see the stranger. She was bearing down to us from the windward. When she had got within about a mile of us she tacked & stood off. We passed her exchanging signals. She proved to be the "Eulele", a Hamburg Skipper, bound for the United States. With our glasses we could see persons on her deck. At parting she ran her flag up and down three times & our Stars & Stripes were run up in the same way, a seamen's way of saying "good-bye". Our Captain said the reason of the Dutchman keeping off from us was that they saw so many on our deck and rigging that he was frightened.

Wednesday, 7th. This morning we had still a fair wind but a little squally accompanied with some rain. At 12 M the Captain took an observation. We were in 19:45 Lat., 32:47 Long. As near as we could calculate were about 2500 miles from New York. I did not feel very well this day, the effects of my sea sickness were still felt. My recovery was very much retarded by my being obliged to eat the sea fare, which was not like the fine eating to be had on shore.

In the evening we held a prayer meeting. It was conducted by Mr. Mallery of Charleston, one of our Mining Co. He is a gentleman about 50 years of age and a very devout Christian. It was a very interesting occasion.

Thursday, 8th. Wind still fair. We are making about eight knots an hour. Saw a sail about ten miles off to leeward. Did not get near enough to tell who she was. Running a little more southerly & nearing the Verd Islands. This the best course to take in sailing to the Horn. Can run down the African coast in the trade winds & can make better sailing than to go nearer the West India Islands.

Friday, 9th. High winds are tossing us about. We are sailing under close reefed sails. The sea runs very high. It is quite warm and most of the passengers are collected on the quarter deck. It is amusing to see the wetting we get when a sea dashes on to the quarter deck. At times when the ship rolls a dozen persons are sent rolling across the deck. It is a fine sight to behold the sea raging violently, the mighty waves rolling mountains high.

Saturday, 10th. The weather is very fine. We are now running down the African coast. The hazy atmosphere denotes a near approach to the Equator. We shall probably be there in about six days if the winds continue favorable. Saw a ship in the distance but, did not get near enough to speak her.

Sunday, 11th. The sun rose beautifully this morning, the air balmy & everything quiet. Which reminded me that it was Sunday & that respect for the day prompted all to observe it. An awning was put up on the quarter deck, & at 10 o'clock the passengers were assembled there and Episcopal service performed. Dr. Stansbury of Brooklyn read the service and Dr. Rogers of N.Y. read a sermon which was listened to very attentively by all! At 3 P M Presbyterian worship was attended at the same place. Our meeting was a very interesting one & was conducted by Mr. Danforth of New York. In the evening we had a prayer meeting in the forward cabin.

This night being very warm a large number of passengers took their beds up and slept on deck. I found it very cool & much more pleasant than in my berth.

Monday, 12th. The weather is getting very warm, thermometer at 85. We still have fair winds and are making unusually fast sailing. There have been one or two cases of a species of Varicloid Small Pox during the past week. A young Irishman was first taken. He took the disease probably before leaving New York. Others have taken it from him. There are now five sick & I think it has very much the appearance of small pox. The three physicians on board say that it is not the small pox. They no doubt wish to conceal it. A large number have been vaccinated today! We all feel very uneasy about it. We cannot tell who will be taken next. All are exposed, having so many passengers on board. Bathing and other precautions are taken to prevent the disease spreading.

Tuesday, 13th. A large number of passengers slept on deck last night. The weather is now very hot. There are no new cases of sickness. We all feel very lazy. Spend our time lounging about the deck, chatting, sleeping or reading, the latter being the principal occupation of all. I find pleasant acquaintance in Mr. Futer of Little

Falls and Mr. Curtis of Unadilla, late from Union College. Old Mr. Barnard of Little Falls has been very sea sick and is not entirely well yet. We are in 3:44 North Lat., 26:37 Long.

Wednesday, 14th. Much against the expectations of our Capt. we still have fair winds. The winds are quite variable in this Lat. & ships often beat about for a week without making much headway. Saw a ship in the distance. She hoisted her flag & proved to be an Englishman bound for England. We exchanged signals & found her to be the "Anax".

How many are wishing they could be on shore to get a good dinner. The sea fare goes hard with us all. Hard sea biscuit, salt beef, pork & beans etc., the latter I like very well, but we get no luxuries with them. The dish called "Duff" made of flour & raisins & boiled in bags is very good but very unhealthy to eat. The water is getting very bad, we can scarcely drink it! Today is St. Valentines day, very few valentines will be written on our ship. At 12 M the wind died away & we are in a dead calm. We regret it very much, a few hours longer fair winds would have taken us across the Equator & we should have made the quickest passage from New York on record.

Thursday, 15th. The weather is very sultry, not a breath of air stirring. Our ship lies perfectly still & the passengers are lolling about the decks trying to keep cool. We are somewhat alarmed for the health of all on board, two of the passengers being very sick with the Small pox. All are apprehensive that the disease will spread throughout the ship. The Captain took an observation at 12 M. 0:38 minutes Lat., 25:30 Long., making us only 38 miles from the Equator.

Friday, 16th. We had a slight breeze this morning and at 12 o'clock found we were only one mile from the Equator. We have been

dodging about all the afternoon and are now probably south of the line. Weather still very sultry. Held a meeting of passengers to take measures to prevent the spreading of the disease on board. I was appointed on a Committee to wait upon the Officers of the Ship to recommend measures to be taken to render us less exposed. Under his direction a tent has been erected forward & the sick are placed in it. Their beds and clothing has been thrown overboard. I have slept a number of nights in the same apartment with two men sick with small pox ! ! !

Saturday, 17th. We are again in a dead calm and the weather is very hot. There is a brig lying about three miles off. She is bound to Rio Jeneiro from New York. Our Capt. sent a boat to her with a letter addressed to the Ed "Herald". He would not let any of us write fearing we would report the small pox on board.

Sunday, 18th. We are still becalmed. Last night the rain poured down in torrents and has rained most of today. The Capt. caught eight Hogsheads of water. We had divine service in the Second Cabin in the afternoon and a very interesting prayer meeting in the evening. I have felt quite unwell for some days. The sea fare & extreme heat in a crowded ship is enough to make anyone sick.

Monday, 19th. We have no wind yet! I feel quite ill & rather downspirited, think often of home & the comfort there to be found. How many there are now on this ship who begin to realize the great sacrifice they are making in going to, California. A slight shower passed near us today. About 4 o'clock this P M saw a Water Spout. It was the first we had seen, & presented a beautiful sight. It was about two miles off, and we could distinctly see the water passing from the sea up into the clouds, in a large body. We are not far from the coast of Africa, if we are becalmed here much

longer I think I shall go ashore.

Tuesday, 20th. Last night we had a breeze for a few hours, but we have lost it today. I rose at daylight & took my accustomed morning ablutions, which consisted in having a few pails of salt water thrown over me. Should bathe in the sea if it was not for the number of sharks to be seen around our ship.

The sun rose this morning in great beauty. I never saw anything to equal it. Mountains of all colored clouds, hung over, and rose out of the sea, & the reflection of the sun upon the whole was magnificent. In no part of the world does the sun rise in such beauty as here near the Equator. I feel some better today. This day was spent lounging about the quarter deck. Reading, sleeping & Backgammon are the principal resources we have for spending our time.

Wednesday, 21st. This morning the sun rose in great splendor. The sea was calm and beautiful. About 10 o'clock a breeze sprung up in the right quarter & our noble ship dashed forward upon her course, which was gratifying to all after having been becalmed nearly a week. The men sick with small pox are doing well.

Thursday, 22nd. The fair wind we had yesterday continues to waft us along. We have now probably struck the South East trades & shall no doubt have fair wind for some time. In taking observation at noon today we found we were in 4:54 Lat., 26: Lon.

This being Washingtons Birthday according to previous arrangements preparations were made for celebrating it in a becoming manner. The ship was dressed out in flags at an early hour. The day was delightful in the extreme. At 11 A M all the passengers having assembled under the awning on the quarter deck the ceremonies of the day were commenced. A company of amateur performers with their violins, one flute & drum, entertained us during the exercises with excellent music.

PROGRAMME  
Anniversary Celebration of Washingtons Birthday  
On Board Ship South Carolina at Sea  
4:54 So. Lat., 26 Lon.  
Feby 22nd, 1849.

Officers of the Day

Dr. Stansbury      Pres.  
Dr. Kaye  
Mr. A. W. Bee      Vice-Pres.  
Mr. Danforth      Sec<sup>r</sup>  
Mr. Wilson      etaries.

Reading of Washingtons Farewell Address by  
Dr. Stansbury

Music

Address by Mr. Simpson

Music

Address by Mr. Rochester

Music

Address by Mr. A. W. Bee

Music

Address by Dr. Rogers

Music

Address by Mr. Southwick

Music

Address by Mr. Curtis

Concluded by singing the Star Spangled Banner  
with full chorus.

The utmost enthusiasm prevailed throughout. The addresses were very fine and were warmly applauded by the audience. In the afternoon the Company assembled in the Cabin where toasts were drank and the convivialities of the day kept up until dark, when the company dispersed well pleased with the entertainment of the day.

Friday, 23rd. We have a strong breeze this day and are making about nine knots an hour. A ship hove in sight at 8 A M, and upon nearing her. she proved to be a Norwegian. We exchanged signals & passed on.

Saturday, 24th. We passed today near Cape St. Roque & have a fair wind and shall make a good run to RioJenerio. The weather is quite warm. I have been quite unwell all day & night. Those sick with small pox are doing well. There are fortunately no new cases.



Sunday, 25th. This is a beautiful day, the sun rose in great splendor. Episcopal Service was held at 10 A M and Presbyterian at 3 P M. The exercises were very interesting. We also had a prayer meeting in the evening. All are talking about stopping at Rio. If the winds hold fair we expect to be there by next Friday.

Monday, 26th. This has been a very long day to all. The weather is hot and we are getting tired of the ship, all resort to everything to pass the time. There is one young man on board sick with the Consumption. The Physicians advise him to go back to New York from Rio. He doesn't think he will live to get to California.

Tuesday, 27th. We have a fine wind and all feel in good spirits. All the talk is how the time shall be spent in Rio.

Wednesday, 28th. The weather is quite warm. We are looking out for land. It is expected that we shall see Cape Frio tomorrow.

Thursday, March 1st. We are in a calm this morning & no appearance of land. The time passes very heavily. We are all so anxious to get on shore.

Friday, 2nd. This morning we had a breeze that took us along at a fine rate & in the afternoon the joyful word "Land Ho" was sung out from masthead and all on board were immediately on deck to catch a view of the mountains of Brazil. We all gazed with interest upon the dim outline of mountains until night hid them from our view.

Saturday, 3rd. We found ourselves off Cape Frio about 20 miles from the shore. It has been perfectly calm all day & nothing has occurred worth mentioning.

Sunday, 4th. We rose this morning early & found the sea still calm. It was one of the most delightful mornings I ever saw. Relig-

ious service was performed in the morning and afternoon. About 3 P M a breeze sprang up & we soon were going along at a speed of eight knots an hour. In the evening as we neared the entrance to the Bay of Rio we discovered a ship off our lee bow and spoke her about 10 P M. She proved to be the "Tarolinta" bound for California. She left New York 11 days before us. We congratulated ourselves upon having made a much better run than she had. The evening was delightful & when the two noble ships neared each other, three cheers that rent the air, were given from each ship & the two Captains held a conversation with their speaking trumpets & messages were sent to friends on both ships.

Monday, 5th. We found ourselves about ten miles from the entrance to the bay & not a very fair wind. The shore presented the most magnificent scenery I ever beheld. The mountains were thousands of feet in height & run down to the waters edge. A ledge called "Lord Hood's Nose" is a remarkable phenomena of nature. It presents the following appearance. (Note:- Here is inserted a sketch showing a man lying on his back half submerged in water with profile of face and contour of body clearly defined) What appears to be the feet is called the "Sugar Loaf" & is at the entrance to the bay. At the entrance to the bay is a fort with cannon mounted & from the ramparts all ships going in & out are hailed. We passed the fort about noon and at 5 P M anchored before the City of Rio Janeiro. We were boarded soon after by the officer from the U.S. Brig Ferry to get the latest news from New York. Soon after the health officer came on board & inspected the ship & passengers. After a delay of about an hour or two those were permitted to go on shore that wished to. I concluded to wait until morning before I landed in the city of the Emperor of Brazil, but a large number of the passengers immediately went ashore. We were anchored about 3 miles from the landing in front of the city.

At the right of our anchorage high mountains enclosed the bay. Numerous convents and the villas of the Brazilians could be seen in the vallies.

The city presented a fine appearance with its forts and domes & high mountains in the rear. We all regretted that we did not arrive here a day sooner for this being the 5th of March, the day of the inauguration of "Gen. Taylor", our minister, Mr. Todd, gave a large dinner & invited a large number of Americans that arrived here before us on their way to California.

Tuesday, 6th. I rose early this morning and in company with Lieut. Bell & some other friends took a boat and went on shore. We landed near the "Grand Plaza" & in sight of the Palace. The boats were rowed mostly by slaves. Immediately upon landing we went to what is called the "Pharoah", a Spanish Cafe, and ordered breakfast. I had been so long deprived of fresh provisions that I could not half satisfy my appetite. The first thing we had a good breakfast of beef, ham, fowls, eggs, bread and most delicious coffee. We went to the market after breakfast & got oranges, bananas and various other kinds of fruits which we bought very cheap. I spent the day in visiting the places of note in the city. The Palace is a very fine building. It stands in the principal plaza, but is no comparison in beauty to our Capitol in Washington. Soldiers are on guard in and around the building at all times during the day and night, In fact the city presents a military appearance. Soldiers are seen marching through the streets at all times of the day. They are mostly native Brazilians & nearly as black as negroes & make very poor soldiers. The streets are very narrow but quite clean. The carts are mostly drawn by slaves instead of horses, which I thought rather a barbarous custom. The Churches are magnificent, being richly ornamented. There is one Cathedral that is not finished, it has been building forty years. The stores are very neat and mostly kept by Spaniards and Portuguese. I went into a number of them but could not talk to them

for all the Spanish I knew was "Buenos Dias" meaning "Good Day". They sold very rich goods & the merchants were fine looking men. I saw very few Ladies. It is not customary for them to show themselves in the streets. The residences are over the stores, the houses being built of stone with latticed windows & no balconies. I could occasionally, in promensding the streets, see a pair os black eyes peeping through the lattice, and sometimes hear the word "Americano", the name we went by in the city.

The second day of our stay in the city, I went with a party to visit the country. We crossed over the bay by steamboat about 5 miles to Rio Grande and by invitation visited Dr. Burdell at his Villa among the hills, about half a mile from the landing. Dr. Messenger from our ship was with me. We had pleasant walk to Dr. Burdells place. He gave us some very good wine & refreshments & then took us through his grounds. He has resided in Rio ten years & likes the place well. In his garden we picked oranges, as many as we wanted. Coffee was growing in abundance, also cocoanuts and many other tropical fruits. We spent a very pleasant afternoon rambling about the country & returned to the city in the evening.

The natural advantages possessed by Rio ought to make it one of the finest cities in the world. It contains about 200,000 inhabitants, but they are a mixed race of Brazilians, Spaniards, Portuguese & possess very little energy or business talent. Among the Aristocracy you will see almost every shade of color from the mulatto to the pure white. There are many families of wealth and distinction that are black.

There were many things and places I saw that I could write about but I must leave the subject now. I will add though that the gardens in the city that I visited were beautiful, being handsomely laid out with statuary & fountains throughout.

I remained on shore three days & enjoyed myself very much! There was about 1200 Americans in the city at the time all on their way to

California & there was some 15 American ships in the harbor, all anchored a few miles from the city! There are no docks & ships are obliged to lay off some distance from the city. It was a beautiful sight to see the Stars & Stripes displayed from so many ships & it made us feel proud of our country, for we could readily see in comparing Rio with our cities that we were much in advance of them in commerce & in all the arts and sciences.

Saturday, 10th. All the passengers being on board & the Captain having obtained all the water he wanted, we weighed anchor at an early hour & with a fair wind soon left the city behind us. The weather was very warm & everything presented a beautiful appearance. The noble mountain scenery of South America makes an impression upon the memory & mind that is not easily obliterated. We were soon outside of the bay, the distance being only 4 miles to the entrance from our anchorage. A fair wind took us along at the rate of eight knots an hour & before night we were out of sight of land and bound for Cape Horn. A large quantity of fruit had been brought on board by the passengers & the day was occupied in storing it away and regulating things disarranged whilst visiting the city.

Little occurred of interest during the voyage from Rio to the cape, & I shall pass over it. We had a severe gale on the 20th March which lasted three days. On the 27th we came in sight of the Falkland Islands, but found that we were too far to the east, and we tacked ship and beat to the westward for two days and finally were able to pass through between the land of Patagonia & the Islands. The appearance of the latter was anything but inviting, high mountains & barren ridges was all that could be seen & the Islands appeared to be destitute of vegetation. It was our intention to have passed through the Straits of La Mère between Staten Land & Terra Del Fuego, but we were now in the stormy latitude of the cape and experienced

such bad weather that we were obliged to go outside of Staten Land. We all dreaded going around the Horn and were deeply impressed with the dangers attending it when we saw our captain taking down the top gallant sails and lashing everything about the ship that was likely to break loose in rough weather. Cape pigeons now made their appearance, their plumage is beautiful and a number of efforts were made to catch them with a hook baited and floated on the surface of the water!

But the noblest of the sea birds that hovered around our ship was the Albatros. They kept in company with our ship around the Horn. We succeeded in catching a number. The largest one caught measured eleven feet from tip to tip of the wings. On the 30th of March we experienced a severe gale. All hands were called up to reef & take in sails. The weather had now become quite cold and we began to feel that we were really at Cape Horn. The sea raged and the wind whistled through the ropes and for three days and nights we were obliged to keep below. Although the bulwarks of our ship were unusually high we shipped a great many seas, but no damage was done other than wetting many who might chance to be on the deck.

For two days after this storm we had better weather but we had head winds and the sea ran very high! And we did not make much headway. Another storm came on at the end of this time which lasted until the 9th of April, when it abated and we found ourselves off the most southern point of the Cape, which is in 55:59 Lat.

The Island that forms the Cape is high and barren mountains and is covered with snow. We passed within about 20 miles of the land. The next day another storm came on more terrible than any we had experienced. Our fore top sail was carried away & all our sails taken in except the main spencer & we were drifting before the wind. I went on to the quarter deck in the midst of the storm, and it was with difficulty that I could keep from being blown down. The scene before me was the most exciting I ever witnessed; our noble ship dashing

through the sea which was rolling mountains high, the sea at times dashing entirely over her bows. Head winds prevailed nearly all this time and we were blown far to the south into Lat. 60. Snow fell to some depth on our decks & the cold was severe. We were obliged to keep below nearly all this time & our accommodation was poor enough. Water was floating about our floor most of the time, seas were dashing over our decks & flooding the ship. One morning before daylight a wave came over and wet me completely through whilst lying in my berth. We all began to wish ourselves back home again & many and many times did we say that it would be our last trip around Cape Horn. On the 22nd of April the weather cleared up and by observations found we were off the Straits of Magellan, and now felt that we were what we could call around the Horn. We had been 35 days in doubling it, and during that time encountered severe storms & scarcely saw the sun during the whole time.

A sail was seen in the distance this day but we were not near enough to tell who she was. The winds were now fair and we were going on our course and each one as they came on deck would look back towards the Horn and apparently without any regret would say "Farewell". Few regrets had any of us at leaving the Southern Sea where we had experienced so much suffering. On the 24th April threatening clouds rose off our lee bow and before night we were in a violent gale of wind. All sails were furled except the main and mizzen top sails & main spencer. At night we felt much as we did at the Cape. The sea was very rough and we rolling about all day & night so that we could get very little sleep.

Wednesday, 25th. The weather cleared up this morning and having a fair wind all sails were set, and we were again making rapid progress on our course. Whales were occasionally seen near our ship. They were very large and all hands were on deck to see them.

Thursday, 26th. We are now getting farther north and the weather begins to feel much warmer. We have all been so long without washing our clothes that many are now engaged in that pleasant occupation on the forecastle.

Friday, 27th. Our main top gallant sail was rigged again today and unfurled to the breeze. We have also had out fore and main studding sails. The wind blows quite cold from the south. What seems most strange to me is that we here look northward for the sun instead of south! The stars appear different from those I have been accustomed to see. These changes in the heavens make me realize more fully that I am many thousand miles away from my home.

Saturday, 28th. The winds today are light but favorable. The Albatros and Cape Pigeons have nearly all left us. Saw a ship off to leeward that appeared to be a whaler homeward bound. She was too far off to speak her but appeared to be an American. We were this day at noon in Latitude 36:30 minutes.

Sunday, 29th. Divine Service which we had been prevented holding regularly during our passage around the Horn was again resumed today. I took charge of the service this morning. Our meeting was held in the Steerage and was attended by a large number of the passengers. The subject of the sermon read was "The Crucifixion". Many who had been before careless about our meetings now attended and appeared very much interested. The dangers we had passed through no doubt led them to think more seriously upon the subject of religion. Our service in the afternoon and prayer meeting in the evening were very interesting. We have had fair winds today and feel rejoiced that we are lessening the distance between us & California.

Monday, 30th. We shall be obliged on account of our long passage



from Rio to stop at Valparasio or Juan Fernandez.

Our captain has now decided to stop at the latter place. I am pleased at his decision, for the latter place has many associations connected with it on account of the story of Robinson Crusoe, that will make a visit interesting. This evening we saw a rainbow by moonlight, a most remarkable phenomena. A freak of nature that I never witnessed before.

Tuesday, 1st May. Our course now lies toward the Islands which we expect to see in a few days.

We are almost becalmed today and there is nothing to disturb us. The motion of the vessel is very unpleasant, the long swells of the Pacific rock us about as though we were in a cradle. This evening was beautiful moonlight and the weather mild enough to allow us all to be on deck. Groups were collected around the quarter deck, some discussing prospects in California, others talking of home and friends left behind, whilst another group were listening to "Billy Van Wyck" and a few others who were singing songs.

Wednesday, 2nd. We have fair wind today and are making good progress toward the Islands. The passengers are all overhauling their firearms and expect to have a hunt on the Island. The Magellan Clouds are yet to be seen, they are three small black clouds, stationary in the Milky Way and only seen in the vicinity of the Straits of Magellan.

Thursday, 3rd. We were all roused from our berth this morning at an early hour by the cry from the forecastle of "Land Ho". Upon going on deck land could be seen off our bows probably 50 miles distant. We had light winds all the morning and were not able to get up to the Island until late in the afternoon, and on account of the rocky shores & uncertainty of the harbor or anchorage ground we lay off and on during the night.

Friday, 4th. This morning we found ourselves about 5 miles from the shore, the sea perfectly calm. One of our quarter boats was lowered and the Mate was rowed ashore. He returned about 10 o'clock & reported that the anchorage was safe and we could get plenty of water. At 12 o'clock we were boarded by a boat from the shore that had fish for sale. We took all they had, some of them weighing 25 pounds. They were of various kinds and amongst them I observed some Cod and Crawfish. In the P M a breeze sprung up and we ran into the bay and anchored at 5 P M in 45 fathoms water.

The approach to the Island was magnificent in the extreme! The Island is about 15 miles long and 5 broad, it is covered with high mountains and scarcely anything like vegetation can be seen except a small strip of land behind the landing. The Island is volcanic in appearance, and has been visited by Violent Earthquakes. The rocks are piled up until they reach the Clouds, presenting a bold or rough outline. The Island lies in Latitude 33:30 and is inhabited by one American and some 15 Spanish Chilians. They live in straw huts and are supported principally by supplying ships with water and fish. Goats are abundant and there is also a few mules & horses.

Peaches, quinces, cherries & radishes are cultivated to some extent. The Peaches we found in the Vallie at the foot of the mountain, the trees were hanging full and we got as many as we could eat and carried a quantity on board of our ship. The fruits on the Island were planted by "Lord Anson" and other foreigners that visited there some years since. About 10 years since, the Island was occupied by Convicts sent there by the Chilian government. They were quartered in caves dug in the side of the mountains, and were employed in constructing a breakwater at the landing. At that time there was a small Fort and a Governor of the Island, but now the convicts and governor are gone, & the Fort is in ruins.

At 6 P M I took my blanket and some provisions, and with a party

of friends took a boat and went on shore. We were rowed by Chilians who resided on the Island and paid each 37½ cents although the distance was not half a mile! It was with pleasureable feelings that I landed on this Island. In approaching the shore at sunset it presented a scene to my view, magnificent beyond description. Trees could be seen on the sides of the mountain and in the Vallies. Goats were leaping from crag to crag on the mountain side! The sharp report of the rifle in the hands of our companions who had preceeded us in pursuit of game could be heard, and everything gave a romantic appearance to this remarkable and almost classic Island.

Immediately upon landing we stopped at one of the huts and bought for "uno real", that is 12½ cents, a small basket of peaches & then after allaying our thirst at a cool spring of water we took up our line of march for the side of the mountain, where we intended to encamp for the night in order to escape from the fleas that always infest the cabins of Spaniards. After considerable toil we ascended about a mile up the mountain, and finding a good place to encamp, we built a fire, and despatched a slight lunch, after which we made arrangements for sleeping. The moon shone brilliantly, our campfire shed a cheerful light abroad, the mountains echoed the sound of our voices, and our noble ship could be distinctly seen safely moored in the bay almost at our feet. It was the most enchanting moonlight scene I ever witnessed! In the course of the evening, two of our party went down to the cabins and procured two Turkies, that we picked, dressed and cooked on spits over the fire. They were eaten with a good relish, the flesh being quite tender. We disposed ourselves to sleep about midnight and found our blankets quite comfortable in the cool mountain air. At daybreak we were all up, and soon made ready for our contemplated trip to the top of the highest peak of the mountains whose craggy heights hung almost over our heads.

The mountains were enveloped in a thick fog, and we were ourselves soon almost hidden from both heaven and earth by the thick atmosphere which soon wet us almost to the skin, but the sun soon rose in great splendor, the clouds were soon dissipated, and a party of ten of us commenced the toilsome ascent of the mountain. After two hours toiling, over rocks, through bushes and up steep precipices, myself and two companions reached the top of the mountain, and seated ourselves on a narrow ledge of rocks that composed the peak, from which we could see far out to sea and nearly all over the Island. Our companions who had not been able to reach the summit with us had returned into the valley and from the height which we were, that was estimated at 3000 feet, they looked like Lilliputians, the distance having so diminished their height.

Our provisions were now produced and we made a very good repast from our stock of broiled fish, smoked beef, crackers and cheese. We regretted that one of our companions who had not been able to reach the top, had carried down the mountain with him our canteen, which deprived us of water, that we now stood very much in need of. We fired our Pistols, gave three cheers, and collected a few curiosities, after which we accomplished the descent of the mountain, arriving in the valley, where we picked plenty of Peaches, about 12 o'clock.

We spent an hour or two visiting the old fort, the caves, and picking a few flowers, and gathering some shells from the sea shore, when we repaired on board the ship. Our captain having obtained all the water he wanted we weighed anchor at 4 P M & stood out of the harbor. At the moment of leaving, two California ships came in & anchored. From them we had later news from the States. It put us all in good spirit, for the news from California was good.

After leaving Juan we took a western course having light winds and the next morning passed the Island of Massafuero, about 70 miles

to the westward of Juan Fernandez. Nothing occurred to disturb us for some days except the fleas that annoyed those who were so unfortunate as to have slept in the cabins on the Island. I relate a trait in the character or custom of the poor natives who reside at the place where we landed. They live in miserable cabins made of straw with small holes to admit the light. They have only one room in each where they eat, sleep & live! The cooking is done in a small cabin in the rear. They were far from being cleanly in their habits, and when we called for dinner we all wished ourselves on board of the ship, for the preparations did not suit our palates. One thing I observed that was sufficient to spoil my dinner, it was necessary to wash some spoons before the table was set. The woman took them in her hand and would spit in a spoon, then rub the bowl out with her thumb and wipe it with her old dirty calico dress!! This was too much for me, I took a little fruit and went off without my dinner. No one could have done otherwise who was at all fastidious.

In the eight days after we left the Island we had variable winds and consequently made but little progress, but fortunately after being becalmed three days in Latitude 25 degrees, we got a favorable wind and made a good north west course.

Friday, 18th. By observation today we found we were in 17:40 Latitude and 91:30 Longitude. We have favorable winds, and our captain thinks they are the South East trades, that usually prevail south of the Equator. If so we expect to make a good run to the line. We have now all the sails and studding sails set. Yesterday a skysail was rigged and sent up to masthead. It is the highest sail on the ship and is the first time it has been up since we left New York. The weather is now warm and we spend most of our time on deck. Last evening a brilliant meteor was seen in the west. The whole heavens was lighted up and we were all very much astonished at the Phenomena. I have spent hours each night since we have been in this latitude watching the

Shooting Stars. The sky is continually alive with them.

I have said but little in my journal so far, about my fellow passengers, or about the regulations on board of the ship. I had thought it would be uninteresting, and therefore would not touch upon it, but I have now concluded to devote a small space to the affairs that have been passing since we left New York. It is almost impossible to describe the situation of a passenger on board of a California Ship, but a five months voyage on board of one will thoroughly initiate any person into the mysteries connected therewith.

We have on our ship 170 passengers. There is about 60 in the cabin and the balance are between decks. To those unacquainted with the different parts of a ship I will say that the between decks is that part of the ship below the cabin and is entered at the main hatch, through which light is partially admitted for the benefit of those below. There are no windows and lamps are kept burning through the day and evening to give the passengers light enough to see to eat and walk about. Down in this place berths were erected through the center and around the sides, two persons sleeping in each berth. One Hundred and Ten passengers, of all ages and grades, were crowded for a five months voyage into this small space, and myself among the number, far too many for the comfort, convenience or health of any one. We each furnished our bedding, dishes and everything else necessary for the voyage. We had to wash our own dishes and keep them in our berths or trunks, there being no convenient place provided for that purpose. Our trunks and chests we kept under and in front of our berths and used them for seats, not having any chairs or stools provided for us. We were divided up into eleven messes and one of the number acted as captain whose duty it was to bring us our food from the galley on the forward deck where it was cooked by a negro, in large kettles. We drink our coffee out of great cups, made of tin, and our tea

the same. We never use a table but always take our pewter plate and cup and hold them in our lap and eat the best we can, sitting at the time on our chests having scarcely light enough to see our food. On Saturday of each week, we have our rations served out to us, or rather a portion of them, consisting of molasses, butter, cheese, sugar and pickles. Of these we were only allowed 1/2 pint molasses, 1/4 lb. butter, 1/4 cheese, 14 oz. sugar. I could eat the whole in one day but I was obliged to make them last a week.

On Sunday morning we have had bread & coffee. The bread we soak in our coffee, it being too hard to eat dry. For dinner we have Duff, which is made of flour with raisins & is boiled in bags. It is very heavy and more like dough than anything else. We eat it with molasses and make our whole dinner from this one dish. They give us boiled corn beef with the duff, but we cannot eat it, for it is so poor. For supper we have tea and hard bread.

On Monday we have for breakfast coffee and hard bread. For dinner we have boiled pork and beans. The beans are served up in a ~~wood~~ wooden tub, our mess get around it and each one dives in with his spoon until he thinks he has got enough in his cup or on his plate. The pork is very good and we can generally eat some of it, although both of them are rather flat, our not having anything to season either with, destroys the relish we should have for them if they were properly seasoned. For supper we have tea and mush, but only have the latter three times a week, that being the number of times we have pork and beans each week. Mush is quite good and eaten with molasses we consider it a luxury. It was not put down in our bill of rations but Capt. Hamilton gave it to us knowing well that our fare was anything but good.

On Tuesday morning we breakfasted on coffee and hard bread. The coffee we drank without milk. It was weak and hardly fit to drink, but we could get no better and we were obliged to make the best of it. For dinner we were given boiled rice and corned beef, both of which I be-

came so heartily tired of after being out a few months that I could not eat them. For tea we had tea and hard bread.

On Wednesday we have beans; on Thursday we have duff; on Friday we have rice; on Saturday we have pork and beans; these kinds of food we get regular. They are cooked more as you would cook feed for hogs, than men. It came very hard for me to eat this food when I first started on the voyage, I was very unwell and had no appetite and would often go nearly a week without eating food. After being out three or four months I became sick and heartily tired of this kind of living. It could not be otherwise for we had the same kind of fare over and over again without anything for a change. Many times would I have given anything for a piece of fresh bread or a piece of pie, things I saw cooked every day for the cabin.

Where a person is brought up on such food, he can get along very well, but such is not the case with regard to myself. I have always been accustomed to good living and the great change affected me as I thought seriously, for with the best living most of persons will be affected with a sea voyage and I had to contend with hard fare, sea sickness and not a very strong constitution to endure either.

I was fortunate in selecting my berth near the main hatch, so that I had good light and fresh air which made it much more pleasant for me. Amongst the passengers between decks were a large number of young men, of gentlemanly character, and I spent a great part of my time pleasantly with them. I have a number of warm friends among the cabin passengers, and have received considerable attention from them. All this has tended to make my unpleasant accommodations, poor fare and long voyage bearable. But I never would advise any of my friends to take a voyage around Cape Horn between decks. It is too long a voyage to go in that way. To go a short voyage in the steerage will do very well, but five or six months is too long for comfort or health.



Nothing short of the California fever would have taken as many that way at this time, & if it was to be gone over again very few I think would take the Horn route. I will crave as an excuse for the bad writing & bad composition in this journal that I am obliged in doing all of my writing to sit on my chest and put my paper or book on a board in my lap and then write the best I can.

Thursday, June 21st. After getting the south east trades we made a fine run to the Equator which we crossed on the 27th May in Long. 108. Four days after crossing the line we were becalmed three days, during which time we amused ourselves fishing at which sport we were very successful. I caught a dolphin weighing about 10 pounds & Mr. Harris of Little Falls, N.J. caught a shark. It was a monster of great curiosity to us all. On the 4th of June we had a severe storm, & although I had been to sea a number of months it made me quite seasick, being the third time I had been sick since leaving N.Y.

We took the N.E. trades after the storm which was unfortunate for us for we could not make the course we wished to. The wind being N North East we were obliged to run too much to the west. We have been making a North West course until today. The wind has now died away and we are in a calm. We are all very impatient to be at the end of our Voyage, and the head winds that have prevailed so long have been very discouraging. The weather has been most of the time quite cold with rain, the sky being continually overcast. We have resorted to many things to pass away the time. Mending and washing our clothes preparatory to going on shore has occupied some of the time. Reading we are all tired of, and as to conversing with each other, that is almost out of the question for every subject that can be thought of has been talked out long ago. A premium was offered a few days ago to any man who could start a subject for conversation that had not already been discussed! We are now in 37:20 Lat. and 138:40 Long., much out of our course, & far to the west of

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San Francisco. A fair wind would take us there in a few days, but everything is so uncertain that there is no betting when we shall be there. Our water is getting short & the captain has today put us on allowance.

The weather is now quite warm. We are basking under a tropical sun and the fine sunsets we witness reminds me of what the poet says:

"We are afloat upon the tropic sea!  
Here summer holdeth the perpetual reign:  
How flash the waters in their bounding glee!  
The sky's soft purple is without a stain!  
Full in our wake, the smooth warm trade winds blowing  
To their unvarying goal still faithful run;  
And as we steer, with sails before them flowing,  
  
Nearer the zenith daily climbs the sun,  
The startled flying fish around us skim,  
Glossed, like the hummingbird, with rainbow dyes;  
And as they dip into the waters brim,  
Swift in pursuit the preying dolphin hies.  
All, all is fair; and gazing round we feel  
The South's soft languor o'er our senses steal."

There are many pleasant scenes to be witnessed in a long voyage like the one I am now on. Many evenings have I spent on the quarter deck with a friend, enjoying the moonlight scene and talking of our homes and friends left behind us. Last Sunday a sail was seen in the distance, to leeward. Upon nearing her she proved to be a Bark and hoisted the Stars & Stripes. We would have spoken her but the sea was very rough and we could not do so.

June 25th. We have now a favorable wind and have a fair prospect of seeing the land of golden promise in a few days. The passengers are overhauling their baggage & preparing everything for an immediate exit to the mines. All is bustle & confusion and I begin to think matters are coming to a climax.

June 30th, 1849. The weather is fine and from the change in the color of the water we think we are near land. All hands are now on deck and some more venturesome than others have ascended to the top of the tall masts in order that they may the sooner see land.

Land Ho! I hear shouted from one end of the ship to the other, and it is no hoax for a rocky point of land can be seen in the distance. How pleasant for us to feel that our long & tedious voyage is now at an end. We near the land, see rocky islands covered with millions of birds. Beyond is the main land. The sun is about an hour high as we enter the straits that lead to the harbor of San Francisco. Our noble ship sails in with a fine breeze. The shipping in the harbor gradually appear to our view as we round the point & finally 200 sail of vessels are before us and just as the sun sinks behind the horizon we drop our anchor before the town of San Francisco. The town presents an irregular appearance & is composed of a motly group of houses of all sizes and shapes, principally adobes and canvass.

Albert Wilson Bee

June 30th, 1849.