

THE JOURNALS OF
MARINE SECOND LIEUTENANT
HENRY BULLS WATSON
1845-1848



Edited
by
Charles R. Smith

Occasional Paper

HISTORY AND MUSEUMS DIVISION
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1990

The device reproduced on the front cover is the oldest military insignia in continuous use in the United States. It first appeared, as shown here, on Marine Corps buttons adopted in 1804. With the stars changed to five points this device has continued on Marine Corps buttons to the present day.

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Foreword

The History and Museums Division has undertaken the publication for limited distribution of various studies, theses, compilations, bibliographies, monographs, and memoirs, as well as proceedings at selected workshops, seminars, symposia, and similar colloquia, which it considers to be of significant value for audiences interested in Marine Corps history. These "Occasional Papers," which are chosen for their intrinsic worth, must reflect structured research, present a contribution to historical knowledge not readily available in published sources, and reflect original content on the part of the author, compiler, or editor. It is the intent of the division that these occasional papers be distributed to selected institutions, such as service schools, official Department of Defense historical agencies, and directly concerned Marine Corps organizations, so the information contained therein will be available for study and exploitation.

The Mexican War journals and other papers of Marine Second Lieutenant Henry Bulls Watson came to the division's attention by way of the late Mr. Ralph W. Donnelly, former member of our Reference Section, who retired to Washington, North Carolina, in 1975. Mr. Donnelly, indisputably the greatest authority on the Confederate States Marine Corps, discovered a typed transcript of a portion of one of the journals in the Johnston County and Smithfield (North Carolina) Public Library while conducting research on Lieutenant Watson, one of several Marine Corps officers who participated in the Civil War on the Confederate side. Mr. Richard A. Long, head of our Special Projects Unit, visited the owner of the journals, Miss Elizabeth Sanders, who graciously loaned them to us along with other personal papers of her great-grandfather. Miss Sanders subsequently agreed to donate the journals and a portion of the papers to the Marine Corps Museum.

The journals, three in number, cover the periods 11 January 1845 to 20 May 1846, 21 May 1846 to 5 May 1848, and 9 July 1846 to 22 December 1846 when Lieutenant Watson commanded the Marine guard on board the Sloop of War *Portsmouth*. Two are "typical" journals, the third is what Watson termed his "military journal," containing his daily reports, in letter form, passports issued, and other material, while in command of the Marine security guard and local volunteer force at Yerba Buena (San Francisco).

Portions of the journals have been transcribed previously, by Miss Sanders, Mr. Long, and summer student intern Miss Catherine M. Corrigan, but Mr. Charles R. Smith of the division took on the task of transcribing, integrating, and editing all three journals. Mr. Smith joined the staff of the division in 1971 after completing his master's degree in history at San Diego State University and two year's service with the U.S. Army, a portion of which he spent with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He is the author of *Marines in the Revolution* and *U.S. Marines in Vietnam, 1969*, and currently is engaged in completing a series of histories covering Marine Corps activities from 1789 to 1859.

Lieutenant Watson's journals give a vivid and highly readable account of not only the shipboard and shore activities of a Marine guard in the mid-1840s and ports of call including Rio de Janeiro, Hilo and Honolulu, Monterey, San Francisco, Guaymas, Mazatlan, and La Paz, but also of important events of the Mexican War in Upper and Lower California and on the west coast of Mexico itself. In addition, Watson's observations on

contemporary society, from religion to public manners and dress, and on individuals, such as Lieutenant Colonel John C. Fremont, Commodore Robert F. Stockton, Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny, and Marine Captain Archibald H. Gillespie, are illuminating. We have published the journal entries exactly as they were written and have made no attempt to do any, in our opinion, unwarranted correction or editing. In pursuit of accuracy, the History and Museums Division welcomes comment on this publication from interested individuals and activities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "E. H. Simmons". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" at the beginning.

E. H. SIMMONS
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)
Director of Marine Corps History and Museums

Preface

"U. S. Ship Portsmouth. Norfolk Va. January 11th 1845—Joined this ship this morning, and obtained leave for two days." So begins the journals kept by Marine Second Lieutenant Henry Bulls Watson of a cruise that would take him around Cape Horn into the Pacific, to the Sandwich Islands, to Upper California, Lower California, the west coast of Mexico, and then home; a cruise of more than two and one half years during most of which time the United States was at war with Mexico.

The 20-gun Sloop of War *Portsmouth* had just completed her first sea trial, and had run from Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where she was constructed, to Norfolk, where she would take on additional crew members before joining the Pacific Squadron. Her captain was Commander John Berrien Montgomery, a veteran of the War of 1812 battles on Lake Erie and Ontario, and considered to be a just and God-fearing captain. Watson was in command of the ship's Marine guard.

Watson, the son of Willis Watson and Betsy Bulls, was born in Johnston County, North Carolina on 16 October 1812, and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps on 5 October 1836 after more than a year's wait. As was the custom, all newly commissioned officers initially were assigned to Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington where they received a period of military and administrative instruction. It was while stationed in Washington that the young Marine lieutenant met and married Mary Ann Higdon on 18 April 1837. Four days shy of nine months later, a son, Josiah Ogden Watson, was born. In late October 1838, Lieutenant Watson with 28 enlisted men left Washington for New York, where in early December they joined the guard on board the 74-gun ship of the line *Ohio* and then sailed for the Mediterranean.

Upon his return to the United States in late summer 1841, Watson was granted a leave of absence to visit his "native place (Raleigh)." Following his furlough, Watson returned to Washington where he remained through the winter due to financial hardships. In the spring of 1842, at his request, he was ordered to Norfolk. Subsequently, he was assigned to the Marine Barracks, Gosport, Virginia. In December 1844, Lieutenant Watson received orders from Brevet Brigadier General Commandant Archibald Henderson to "join one of the Sloops of War to sail from Norfolk on a cruise." Watson's choice was the *Jamestown*, which was destined for the coast of Africa, but command of the sloop's Marine guard was given to a more senior lieutenant, who, as Henderson noted, had the right to "the most responsible station and that which gave the best pay." On 9 January 1845, Lieutenant Watson was ordered to take command of the Marine guard on board the Sloop of War *Portsmouth*, with specific instructions to give "careful attention to the Military efficiency of the guard under your command, and to the health and comfort of the soldiers comprising it."

By 26 January 1845 when the *Portsmouth* slipped her moorings and put to sea together with the *Jamestown*, hostilities between the United States and Mexico seemed imminent. Mexican reaction to the annexation of Texas was predictable; she considered the annexation an act of aggression and claimed the right to recover her lost territory. President James K. Polk's hopes for a negotiated settlement were dashed temporarily. At the same time, California was in turmoil. In late 1842, the Mexican government in an attempt to strengthen its control, dispatched General Manuel Micheltoarena to California as governor. Micheltoarena's administration by early 1845 had so irritated the Californians that they drove him out. Micheltoarena's departure signaled an end to Mexico's efforts to maintain direct control over the area.

California in 1845 was ripe for acquisition by a strong power, and President Polk and others thought the United States should be that power. They worried over the possibility of acquisition by the other great power in the area, Great Britain. If she were to acquire California, America could not expand to her natural boundary, the Pacific Ocean, and American settlements in Oregon would be isolated. To prevent such an occurrence, the United States maintained a squadron of ships on the Pacific coast, commanded by Commodore John D. Sloat, to keep watch over its British counterpart, commanded by Admiral Sir George F. Seymour. Once she rounded Cape Horn, the *Portsmouth* joined America's Pacific Squadron.

It is assumed that Lieutenant Watson's purpose in maintaining a journal was to chronicle his naval odyssey. Unlike Ordinary Seaman Joseph T. Downey who, in his sketches and later articles, recorded humorous incidents and spun amusing yarns about the voyage, and Lieutenant Joseph W. Revere, who took a more topical approach, Watson, like the ship's surgeon, Marius Duvall, consciously recorded most aspects of shipboard life from the exciting to the mundane.* Watson however went beyond the listing of daily activities and the recording of detailed descriptions of ports of call and towns visited, to make observations and note his thoughts on individuals, governments, customs, religion, military tactics, and the actions of his contemporaries.

Lieutenant Watson's journals not only cover a more than two-and-one-half year cruise, but also include his observations on the Mexican War, the highpoint of the American expansionist movement. The *Portsmouth* was in San Francisco Bay when Sonoma was seized and the Bear Flag Republic declared in July 1846. Watson headed the detachment of Marines and sailors who took possession of Yerba Buena (San Francisco) and raised the American flag over the small and largely deserted town. Later he was given command of the Marine and volunteer force garrisoning the town, and occupied that position from July to November 1846. While he did not participate in the famous battle at San Pasqual, Lieutenant Watson did command a portion of the force under the joint command of Commodore Robert F. Stockton and Brigadier General Stephen W. Kearny, which marched overland from San Diego to recapture Los Angeles in January 1847. His detailed account of the force, its formation and tactics, the march, and the battles of San Gabriel and La Mesa, is a valuable historical document in the American conquest of California. As one reads Watson's account, one captures a glimpse of the force made of up uniformed Marines and sailors, exhausted and "naked" mountain men, and friendly Californians, moving northward with wagons, artillery, and cattle.

His lengthy descriptions of Kearny and Stockton add much to our understanding of the events and later conflict between the two men. Kearny, as Watson notes, carried all his equipment on two pack mules and was "kind and affable in his conversation, polite in his bearing and in a word he is both as a gentleman and a soldier one of the very first men in the army or in the country To the Military ability, and the natural fondness which the whole army had for him was the cause of our success." Stockton who, on the other hand, carried his equipment in two large wagons, was "without exception the most overrated man I have ever met pompous, inflated, phlegmatic, morose,

*Seaman Downey's reminiscences were published in Joseph T. Downey. *Filings From an Old Saw: Reminiscences of San Francisco and California's Conquest*, by "Filings"—Joseph T. Downey. Fred Blackburn Rogers, ed. San Francisco: John Howell, 1956, and Joseph T. Downey. *The Cruise of the Portsmouth, 1845-1847: A Sailor's View of the Naval Conquest of California*. Howard Lamar, ed. New Haven: Yale University, 1958; Surgeon Duvall's journal in Marius Duvall. *A Navy Surgeon in California, 1846-1847: The Journal of Marius Duvall*. San Francisco: John Howell, 1957; and Lieutenant Revere's diary in Joseph W. Revere. *A Tour of Duty in California*. New York: C.S. Francis and Co., 1849.

and not infrequently coarse and vulgar in his manners and conversation." Concluding, he felt Stockton was "totally unfitted for the position which he holds and the interest of the Government must be materially retarded if Stockton is left long at the helm of affairs out here." In addition, Watson gives us a fresh, if somewhat unfavorable view of that controversial Marine hero, Archibald Gillespie, whose harsh rule at Los Angeles would lead to his undoing.

Later, when the *Portsmouth* was assigned to blockade Mexico's west coast, the reader shares Watson's periods of boredom, broken only by the several forays ashore. As weeks turned into months and the *Portsmouth's* stay was extended again and again, we see his and the crew's desire to return home intensify, which at times verge on mutiny. On the morning of 3 January 1848, the *Portsmouth* finally got underway and sailed from San Jose del Cabo. That evening as the last high hills disappeared in the haze, Watson bid California farewell, "I hope for a long very long time, I dios, California."

During the cruise, Watson was promoted to first lieutenant and then to captain by brevet. Following his return, Watson again was assigned to the Marine Barracks at Gosport, where he served until July 1852 when he left in the Ship *Levant* to join the *Cumberland* in the Mediterranean. Upon his return in 1853, and following an extended furlough, Watson resigned his commission on 1 January 1855 and returned to Johnston County. Henry Watson's later life is somewhat shrouded in mystery. It appears that during the Civil War after drilling the local men, and serving as a colonel in the 56th Regiment in command of the camps of instruction at Camp Mangum, near Raleigh, and a camp at Weldon, he returned home, but could not stay. It seems he then enlisted in the Confederate Navy and was at Wilmington on the Receiving Ship *Arctic* and the Ironclad Gunboat *North Carolina*, first rated an ordinary seaman and then a yeoman. Unanswered, at least as yet, is why such a professionally qualified military and naval officer should have served in the last years of the war as an enlisted man in the Confederate Navy. He returned to his farm on the Neuse River in Johnston County at war's end, and on 25 January 1869 died at the age of 56.

In transcribing the three journals of Henry Bulls Watson, we have adhered as closely as possible to the original in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and abbreviation. When words or proper names are misspelled in the text, the transcription retains that misspelling, but if the word or name is so unclear as to be misleading, the missing letter or correct spelling is placed in brackets. Original capitalization, or lack of it, is followed, even at the beginning of sentences. Superscripts commonly used with abbreviations of the time, as with the "r" in "M^r" for example, have been lowered. When Watson inadvertently dropped words or punctuation, the appropriate word or punctuation mark has been added for the reader's convenience. These additions are enclosed within brackets. Damaged portions of the journals and indecipherable words have been noted and bracketed.

Watson in most instances did not include the full names or correct ranks of individuals mentioned. The editor has endeavored to ascertain the ranks and correct spelling of full names of these persons and to insert them into the text at the initial references. Where individuals appear frequently the full names have not been repeated; if they appear infrequently the full names have been repeated. As with all other editorial additions to the text, the ranks, full names, or correct spellings are enclosed within brackets. Journal datelines and the title or rank, first name, middle initial, and last name of originators and recipients of letters, precede the journal entry or letter. In the case of letters, if the recipient's name and title forms part of the complimentary close, it has been deleted, and the complimentary close itself abbreviated.

Footnotes provide only essential information about persons or subjects mentioned in the text, and their use is minimized with the hope that the reader will consult the ap-

propriate reference sources and relevant scholarship. Finally, it appeared not only useful but also of historical value to include selected muster rolls of the *Portsmouth's* Marine guard and Marine Captain Ward Marston's reports and list of persons arriving at Yerba Buena from 25 November 1846 to 4 February 1847, both included in Watson's military journal.

Among those who have been of great help in transcribing and editing the journals, I express my debt to Richard A. Long. He not only acquired the journals and papers of Lieutenant Watson for the Marine Corps Museum, but unhesitatingly offered assistance and suggestions. Equally valuable was the initial research of Ralph W. Donnelly into the life of Henry Watson and his rediscovery of the journals. And not least, to Miss Elizabeth Sanders and her family who had the foresight to save, maintain, and care for these historically valuable materials, we must all express our indebtedness.

Several institutions and libraries provided illustrative materials, most notably the National Archives and Library of Congress. Special thanks must be given to Charles Haberlein and John Vajda of the Naval Historical Center, Peter Blodgett and Aldo Perdomo of The Huntington Library, and Patricia Morgan and Evelyn Englander of the Marine Corps Historical Center. In preparing the manuscript for publication, Mrs. Catherine A. Kerns assisted in typesetting portions of the introductory material, while Mr. William S. Hill assisted in the reproduction and layout of the illustrative materials. The transcriber and editor alone, however, must be responsible for any error in the rendering of Watson's words and in the explanatory notes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles R. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "S".

CHARLES R. SMITH

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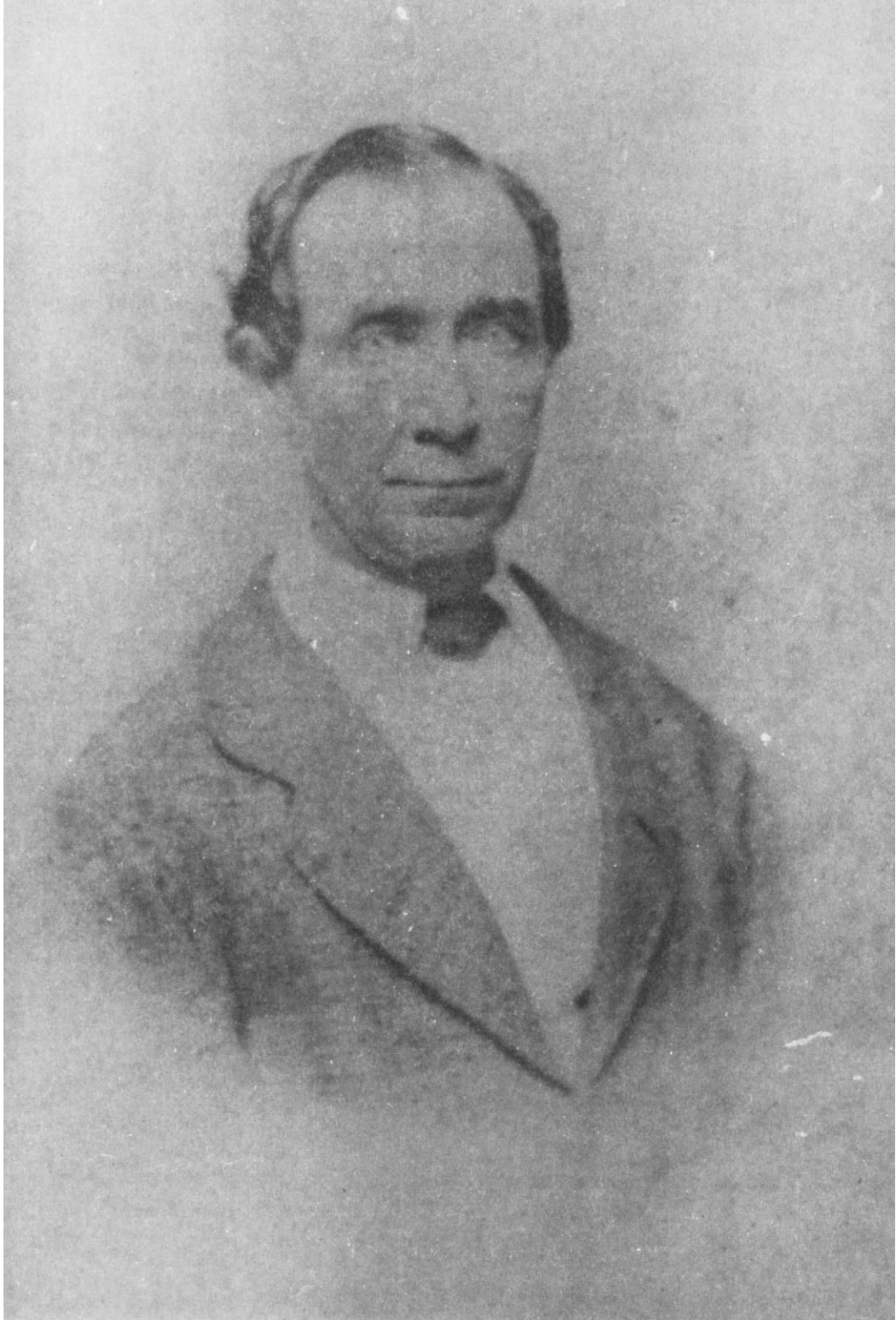
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Carte de Visite of Henry Bulls Watson, taken by J. Hobday, Portsmouth, Virginia in the early 1860s

Saturday, 11 January - Monday, 10 February 1845

U.S. Ship Portsmouth. Norfolk Va. January 11th 1845--

Joined the ship this morning, and obtained leave for two days--Jan: 13th Moved on board ship, but went home every night. From this time to the 23rd Jan. nothing worthy of note occurred.-- Drew two months advance from the Navy agent, went home and remained that night, the next day dropped down to Hampton roads, remained here until Saturday morning, got under way, stood out beyond the fort, (or old point) laid the ship to, and fired a salute of 13 guns to the broad pennant of Commodore Charles W. Skinner, which was hoisted on board the sloop of war Jamestown, Wm. [Robert] B. Cunningham, Commander. The Jamestown & Portsmouth sailed together until the 5th of February, when during a fresh breeze they parted company. The Jamestown sprung her mainmast between the 3rd & 5th day out from the capes of Virginia, and a day or two after she had sprung her mast, the main royal mast of the Portsmouth was carried away. The two ships came out on a Trial of speed, but so long as we were able to cruise together, it was impossible to award to either the victory both proved to be extraordinary sailers. The Jamestown apparently laboring much harder, and seems to be much more uncomfortable under her sails than the Portsmouth. The Portsmouth was very wet, but rolled exceedingly easy. A new principle in military etiquette introduced, that is all commissioned officers except the Capt. 1st Lt. & officer of the Deck, are confined to the Larboard side of the Deck in Port, and lee side at sea, in itself of but little importance, apart from the innovation on long established rules in usage, and the gratification of a petty pride or would be superiority, altogether at variance from and with the republican institutions of our country, the rights of man, and a less regard to the feelings and honor of others. This must as a matter of course be but an imperfect sketch of the first twelve or fifteen days of our cruise. I shall now commence from the 11th of February, and record daily all I deem worthy of note.

Officers.*

Capt. J[ohn]. B. Montgomery. Lt., [John S.] Missroon, [Richard] Forrest, [James F.] Schenck, [Washington A.] Bartlette [Bartlett], Master [Johnston B.] Carter, Marine officer [2d Lt Henry B.] Watson, Surgeon [Charles] Chase Asst. Surgeon [Charles H.] Oakly [Oakley], Purser [James H.] Watmaugh [Watmough], Pass Midshipman [John] Wilkinson, Midshipmen [Thomas] Roney, [Joseph] Parish [Parrish], [Pendleton G.] Watmough, [Elliott] Johnson [Johnston], [Charles S.] Bell, [David] Coleman, [George T.] Simes & [Charles] Gray. Boatswain [Robert] Whitaker, Carpenter [George] Wisner, Gunner [Andrew A.] Randall sail maker [David] Bruce, Capt. Clerk----[John E.] Montgomery Passanger [Delazon] Smith.

*For a list of the Marine detachment on board the Portsmouth, January-March 1845, see Appendices A and B.

Tuesday, 11 February 1845

Lat: N. 13. 42. 31x. Lon: 28. 54. Theremometer 75. The weather clear & fine, very similar to the month of May, at Norfolk. Thousands of Flying Fish around the ship to-day. It is said when they rise out of the water and Fly, that there chased by Porpoise. But I apprehend that the true cause, is there being disturbed by the approach of the Ship. Rose this morning before seven bells.--Breakfasted at eight. Dined at two, taking but two meals a day. Our regular hours for meals are eight, (B.) two (D.) six (S.)--All well.--

Wednesday, 12 February 1845

Lat: 10. 3. 6. Lon: 28. 54. 54. Thormometer, 78 in my R[oom]. The weather was fine this morning, the breeze was soft, and refreshing. A few floating clouds to be seen, exercised the Guard at the Manual exercise. A sail reported from the mast Head, standing to the westward.--All the Marines stationed at the Big Guns, at Gen[eral] Quarters and four permanently stationed which in my opinion a piece of very questionable policy, as it is injurious to the service, and an imposition on the Marine, of too much extra duty.

Thursday, 13 February 1845

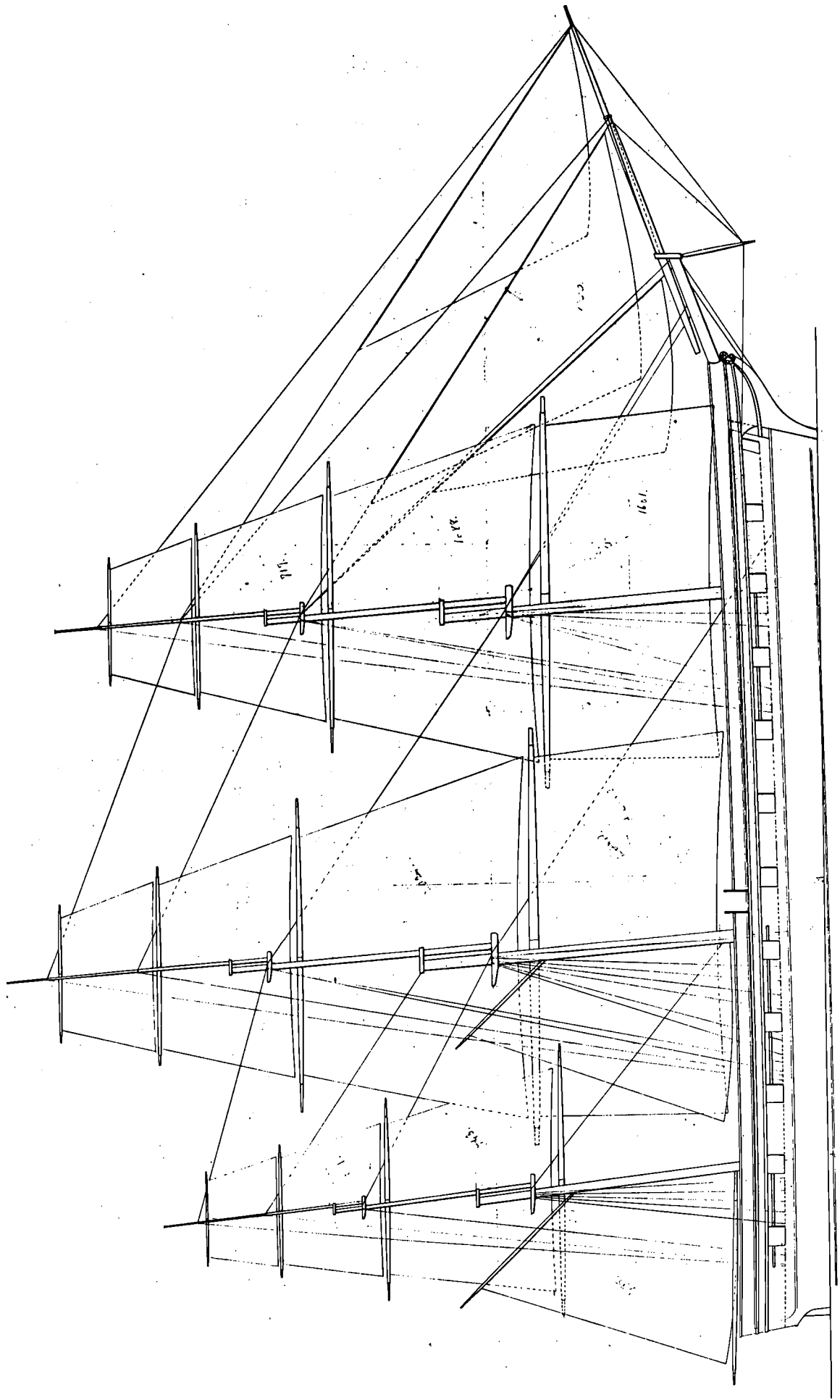
Lat 6. 4. Long: 27. 17. Theremometer. 83 in my R[oom]. The weather fine but warm, & a few light clouds passing, caught a small Tunny fish, about 18 in: long, creates quite an excitment among the boys, and at first some speculation with all as to its proper name and species. When it is finally decided that it is a King Fish. At three o'clock had General Quarters. Immediately after supper, we had a general desection of the character of some of the late officers, as also ones at present in service. Issued an order to the guard & directed them all to shave which was immediately conflict with (but one exception)--

Friday, 14 February 1845

Lat 3. 4. 10. Long: 27. 18. Theremometer 85 in my Room. The weather very warm, cloudy with occasional rain; had fifty blank cartridges made. The wind very light up to twelve o'clock.--continues cloudy with occasional rain, quite calm & sultry. A pretty general expression on all sides, of extreme uncleanliness of the ship. And a pretty general wish to leave her [at] the first opportunity.

Notes x The latitude here given is north of the Equator. [See entry for 11 February 1845]

I. M. R. Means in my room, (that is the average state of the Theremometer.)



Sketch of spar and sail plan for the Sloop Portsmouth, 1866

Saturday, 15 February 1845

Lat: 2. 32. 04. Long: 27. 14. 10. Thermometer. 85 I. M. R. The sun rose clear & beautiful, quite a calm. The ship going about a half mile per hour. Four or five of the ward room mess, that is to say, Lieuts: S. F. & W. M. C.x P. W.x and S. O. Clubbed and drew five quarts of whiskey or rather borrowed it. Captain J. B. Montgomery, Mr. D[elazon]. Smith, U.S. Commission[er] to Quito in Equator, or Ecuador, & Mr. E. Montgomery invited to dine with us to-day, raining quite hard during the forenoon, that is up to twelve o'clock. The breezes continue light, with rain. Set down to dinner at two o'clock and rose from the Table at half past four. We had cod-fish cakes, Ham, roast pig, Potatoes, macaroni, stewed apples, Pickles, plumb pudding, Cranberry pies, Apple pies, raisins, nuts & Coffee, with wine.--At half past nine took a bath. At half past twelve went to bed rained quite hard during the night.--

Sunday, 16 February 1845

Lat: 29 miles N. of the equator Long: 27. 6. N. Thermometer, 85 I. M. R. Cloudy with rain and nearly a calm, about nine A. M. a small shark was seen playing around the ship, every one seemed anxious to get him from his natural element, many hooks were put out for him, and in a short time she took the smaller bate and hook, after permitting her to play about for a short time, a rope was slipped just under her left forearm and she was hauled in over the stern. She was about four feet long, and weighed about 100 one hundred pounds. The sailor consider this animal as there mortal enemy, and consequently the ordinary humanity which is generally showed to most animals, that of depriving them of life before they are desected, was denied to this one, she was perhaps two years old. In consequence of the rain, there is no muster to-day. Eat a piece of the shark at Dinner. Pass two sail to-day, neither bound to the U.S. The first Lt: quite unwell & Mid. Bell very unwell for some days past. About three o'clock crossed the equator, and at four o'clock we struck the south East trade winds, & should they last us, we expect to be in Rio in about 10 or 12 days.--

Monday, 17 February 1845

Lat: 1^o. 59'. 42". Long: 30^o. 33'. 50". Thermometer. 84. I. M. R. The weather warm, breeze fresh, & steady. The first Lt: quite unwell was bled this morning, says he is much better this evening.--About six o'clock P. M. sprung the foretop-gallant-mast. This mast was a new one made since we left port.--The breeze freshen a little about night. At half past 10 o'clock A. M. I was sitting near the bow port, under the forecastle, reading, when a sea struck the ship and came in at the port, by which I recieved quite a ducking.

Tuesday, 18 February 1845

Lat. 4°. 50'. Long: 32°. 02'. Theremometer, 83 In my Room. The weather warm, cloudy, and the breeze steady, a majority of the officers and men have been vaccinated. I propose to be to-mor-row.--nothing worthy of note, turned in at 1 A. M.--

Wednesday, 19 February 1845

Lat: 8°. 27'. Long: 33°. 26'. Theremometer 85 I. M. Room. The weather clear and warm, awoke with considerable Headache, at eleven A. M. took a dose of calomel, at three P. M. took some salts, which vomited me very freely, tooke a seidlitz powder, and some arrow root, which can rid off the calomel, I feel much better my head much relieved, determined to drink no more strong liquors during the cruise. In this, I do not include wine. The breeze quite fresh during the day. At about 8 o'clock made & passed close by a bark, understood to be an American of this however there was no certainty;

Thursday, 20 February 1845

Lat: 11°. 20'. 52". Long: 34°. 10'. 12". Theremometer, 84. In my Room. The weather warm & cloudy, awoke this morning feeling much better washed ship outside to-day, one man fell over board intentionally it is believed, to take a wash, he caught a rope & was soon on board again. The Capt. had four of the officers to dine with him to-day. Lt Forrest our caterer, resigned his office, and the mess proceeded to elect another, when Lt Barlett was nominated by Lieut. Missroon & seconded by Lt Watson, as a proper person for that office, & he was unanimously elected, & forthwith entered on the duties of his office. There was quite a squall of rain about four o'clock P. M. Several sails reported in sight during the day. About 8 o'clock a small bird alighted on the rigging of the ship. It was caught & proved to be what is called an egg bird, why so called, I do not know.--

Friday, 21 February 1845

Lat: 13°. 45'. 44". Long: 35°. 26'. 31". Theremometer, 84. I. M. R. The weather warm, with a few passing clouds. Several sails reported seen from the mast Heads but not perceptible from the Deck. Had considerable Head ache this morning, took a seidlitz this morning.--Had General Quarters this evening, exercised the starboard battery only, went through all the motions of loading called away all boarders, the pikemen covered the boarders and the Marines covered the Pikemen. Punished private [Michael] Cummingham with one dozen with the colt, "For disobedience of orders, and Insolence to the ships Corporal.["] The ships Corporal was to say the least of it Tyrannial. There was however no succuring the Marine from punishment, as the illegality of the order was no cause why he should be inpuident. This poor fellow is a son of the Emerald Isle, possessing few of the finer traits of the Irish character but a super-

fluity of the reverse. 750 miles from Rio to-day. [The following addition was penciled into the journal] A solitary bird was perceptible soaring high in air, apparently motionless in stare for a moment in his flight, to gaze in rapturous enchantment on the magnificence and splendor of the brilliant planet that [illegible] for Day, as he rose from his eastern [illegible].

Saturday, 22 February 1845

Lat 16° 55' 24' Long: 36° 54' 31" Thermometer, 85--The morning broke clear & beautiful, a gentle & soft breeze carried us through the Water, about five knots per hour. All hands were busily scrubbing paint work & Holy stoning the decks. The sun rose, and with it the stripes & stars unfurled to breeze. The token that this was a day of proud and grateful commemoration. It is the birth day of the great & illustrious Washington, "Who was first in War - first in Peace - & first in the Hearts of his countrymen." At Twelve a National salute of twenty-one guns was fired. The reverberating sound of the cannon, as it died away in the Haize of the horizon, told a melancholy story, and was exceedingly emblematical of the reflection, that this national demonstrations of thankfulness for the birth of the Great & the good, and our gratitude for the great benefits resulting to mankind by this dispensation of divine Providence, stated in accents as loud as the cannon was that our benefactor had been long since gathered home to the mansions of eternal bliss, and that we who participate in all blessings which have thus descended to us, in full vigor of health and manhood were rapidly drawing pilgrimage to a close, & will soon be gather to the honors of our Fathers.--May we imitate the virtues of the great & Good Washington and however limited our sphere we may exert ourselves with as nearly the same purity of Heart for the amelioration of the condition of the poor and oppressed, as were so characteristic of the great pattern for the worlds imitation, and with the sage of other days let us say: De hoc multi multa, omnis aliqua, homo satis.--On this subject, many persons have said much, every body something, and no man enough.--

Sunday, 23 February 1845

Latitude. 19°. 24'-- Long: 38°. Thermometer, 86 I. M. R. These weather clear & warm,--The crew dressed in white Frocks & Trousers, And also the Guard. Inspected the Guard & found them looking very well. At 10 A. M. went to quarters. At 10 1/2 A. M. All hands called to muster Captain Montgomery read the first and [second] lessons in the book of common prayer according to the Episcopal church together with parts of two Chapters in the Bible. Among the diversity of opinions which it is but natural to find on board a man of war, I am persuaded that the adoption of any other, than prayers of a general character, perfectly free from any tincture of sectarianism, are the only prayers which should be permitted on board a man of war. For whatever may be the moral and mental deg-

radation to which the sailors are reduced, you arouse all kinder remembrances of their youth, and wound the holiest impulse of their nature, when you tell them of doctrines and attempt to enforce on them beliefs which are at variance with the impressions made on them in their infancy perhaps by a mother or some kind friend, who has planted the virtue of affection (in their now Iron hearts) but their in their infant and pliable nature.--Several sail in sight to day, one a brig within a mile or so. Hoisted our Flag, but the brig did not hoist hers, either from obstinency, or from Laziness, or perhaps she was a crusty John Bull. At 8 P. M. nearly a calm.

Monday, 24 February 1845

Lat: 20^o. 45'. 39". Long: 37^o. 40'. Thermometer. 86 i. m. R. The weather and warm with scarcely any breeze. Painting ship.-- The Marines employed in burnishing their muskets, Drew from the Gunner Department, Four bricks and six sheets of sand of paper. Private [John W.] Belford by my sanction employed at some fine Painting in the Cabin bulk head. (A bad piece of policy on my part.) Music [James H.] Crocker taken from writing the log at my suggestion. To this man's writing the log I was opposed for principle, although it did not interfere with duties, yet it was no portion of the duty which he contracted to perform. Fresh provisions all gone in the ward Room mess Consequently we are anxious to reach Port.--

Tuesday, 25 February 1845

Lat. 22^o. 19'. Long: 38^o. 20'. 37". Thermometer, 85 The weather very warm. A fine breeze with scattering clouds. The crew engaged in scraping the spar deck. I do not recollect to have mentioned that we go to quarters morning And evening.--Fish very numerous around the ship to-day, they were called Skip Jacks--a name as lovely as it is emp[h]atic nothing of much importance, yes. I had near forgotten a report made by the sail-maker a Mr. [David] Bruce who reported Corporal [John L. B.] Connelly for Insolence, & disrespect which he was unable to substantiate, & consequently his report had no effect. The corporal it seems has become the object of some ill grounded prejudice, that is so far as I am able to learn the facts. It seems that some years ago a man by inducing his to believe that he was dead, effected his nefareous design of seducing his wife from the path of virtue, and afterwards married her. In consequence of which I deem it prudent to send the man McCumell who was the seducer of this wife on shore. This I believe is the ground of all complaints against the Corporal certainly very shallow grounds for being prejudiced against him.--

Wednesday, 26 February 1845

Lat: 23^o. 20'. Long: 42^o. 26'. 07". Thermometer. 85. The [weather] warm, cloudy with rain, blowing quite fresh, at half past nine A. M. made Cape Frio, coast of Brazils, sixty-miles distant from Rio, between eleven & Twelve it fell calm;--At four P. M. it clouded

over and rained quite brisk. A large school of porpoise's around the ship to-day--A number of sail in sight.

Thursday, 27 February 1845

Lat: 22^o. 56'. S. Long: 43^o. 9'. W. Theremometer. 84. The breeze light, but fair: had approached very near the mouth of the Harbor. The Panaramic view of the coast and Harbor, is Grand beyond description. Myriads of towering peaks, bathing their gray summits in the clouds, very in height from one hundred feet to Fifteen hundred.--A large number of sail in sight. At 1 P. M. entered the mouth of the Harbor, Passed Santa Cruze fort, Hailed by a man from the Fort in the Portuguese language, but at so great a distance as to be inaudible. The fort is a very strong and well built work, an in other hands would no doubt be impregnable. Lord Hoods' nose, so called from its representation or similarity to his lordship nose, is quite a beautiful sight at a distance, but looses much of its similitude as [you] get near to it, it is the peak of a large mountain of rock, The sugar loaf is another magnificent and lofty mountain, it is the perfect shape of a sugar loaf. As you approach the coast, it looks like thousands of small islands, in the shape of sugar loafs, or spires. The bay is magnificent and amply large to contain all the navies of the world and also the commerce. There American, English, Portuguese and Brazilian men of war, in port, and the flag of almost every nation, represented among the shipping, which consisted of an extremely large fleet of sail. The commerce from appearance must be very great, particularly in Coffee & fruits. Made our signal, and fired a salute of Thirteen, to Comm. [Daniel] Turner on board the U.S. Frigate Raritan. At three o'clock, came to anchor. It would [be] utterly futile to attempt to describe the grandieur & magnificence of the scenery. Went on shore, called on my old Friends Mr Ferguson & family, found them well, delighted to see me.--

Friday, 28 February - Saturday, 8 March 1845*

*The following two letters are included in Lieutenant Watson's letterbook:

U. S. Frigate Raritan
Rio de Janiero, March 3rd 1845.

Sir:

Enclosed you have duplicate receipts for one Uniform Coat, which you will please sign and return as early as practicable.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt.

Lieut Henry B. Watson)
Comdg. Marine Guard)
U. S. Ship Portsmouth)

Wm Lang
1st Lieut Comdg Marines
Brazil Squadron

I shall now embrace from the 28th Feb. 1845 to the 8th March 1845.
--28. Saluted the Brazilian Flag with 21 guns which was returned.
His excellency Henry A. Wise visited the ship, he was saluted with
17 guns. Mr. Wise looked remarkably well;--The american consul, a
Mr. [George W.] Gordon visited the ship and was saluted with 9
guns;--The Capt. and his honor Mr. D[elazon]. Smith dined with the
Commodore today.--Mr. Smith was received under a salute of thirteen
guns. 1 Filled up with water to-day, a number of merchantmen of
all nations came in to-day principally Brazilians. 3 Sunday had
prayers by the Capt.--went on shore and dined with Mr. Ferguson;--4
Visited the Flag ship, went on shore, and went to the opera at night.
[Romeo & Juliet].* (Candiana premer Denna). 5 went on shore,
procured some gloves Linen & musket flints, [()for the Guard.) 6
went on shore. Bid my friends the Ferguson's good bye, went at
night to the soiree of the portuguese Commodore. His honor D. Smith
taken suddenly ill the evening of the fourth, was taken on board
ship the evening of the sixth. 7 Got under way and stood down to
the mouth of Harbor, & came to anchor, the wind being too s[light]
to take us out. 8 got under way and stood out to sea, during our
stay at Rio, there were several of men taken suddenly ill, from the
violent action of the heat on the head producing a fever on the
brain.--

Description.

The Harbor of Rio.--This large and spacious bay or more properly an
inland sea, extends into the interior as I learn about forty miles
containing many islands, giving quite a picturesque and fascinating
appearance. It's computed that a fleet many times the size, of all
the fleets of the world together including vessels of every descrip-
tion, might be moored in safety in this immense bay. It is effected
by the south East winds alone, which create a very considerable
swell that sometimes prove dangerous to small Boats and light craft.
There is continous egress of vessels during the morning hours, which
is caused to be more numerous as there is every morning quite a
fresh land breeze, which seems to be a wise and beneficent blessing
from the great Creator, not only to facilitate the purposes of

U. S. Ship Portsmouth
Rio de Janiero, March 4th 1845.

Sir:

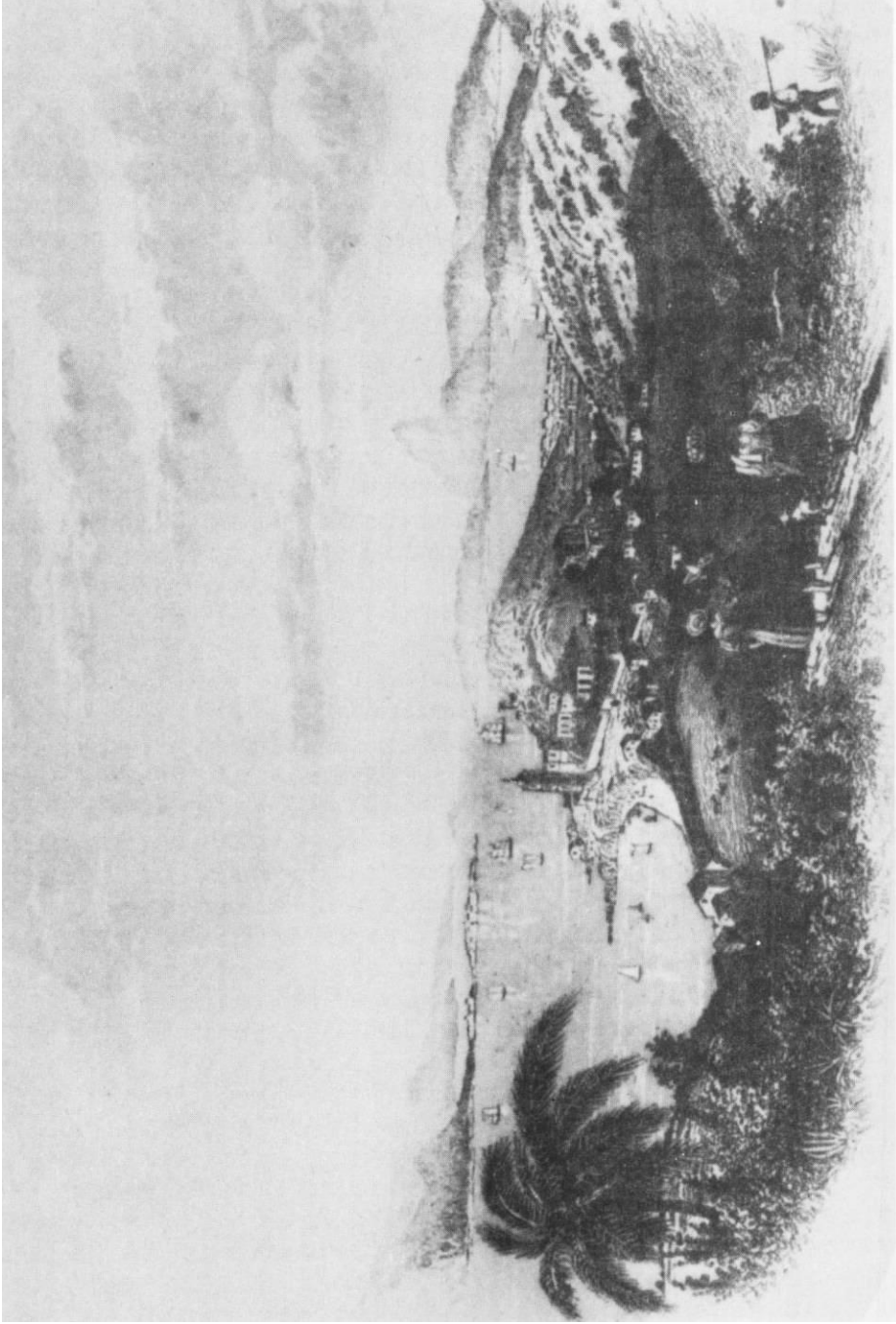
I have the honor to return herewith duplicate receipts signed
for one Uniform Coat.

Lt. Wm. Lang}
Comdg: Marines}
Brazil Squadron}

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your Obt servt.
Henry B. Watson
Lt: Comdg the Guard
U. S. Ship Portsmouth

*Author's brackets, not editor's.

commerce, but for the health of the city, (of which I shall speak in another place.) During the evening there is equally as great an ingress, as the egress during the morning, caused by a sea breeze which sets in every evening. The tide ebb and flows and about six hours, it is however much effected by the wind. The channel is without sounding's at the entrance, under a different government with all these advantages, Brazil would become a wealthy and powerful nation.--The City,--and surrounding country presents one of those peculiarly grand panoramic views, that are so seldom met with. The lofty and romantic summits which environs the city, are crowned, with stately mansions princely abodes, magnificent churches, and convents, while the still more lofty peaks bathe their spiral battlements in the clouds or reflect the brilliant rays of a rising or setting sun, And the red tile roofs and pure white washed walls of the palaces churches and buildings in the vast undulating Plains present a beautiful appearance, as a matter of views this view is taken from the bay with a glass, but let us approach a little nearer, The City is regularly built, with very contracted streets, and without any or the remotest attention to cleanliness; The street called the rue Deveda, has many very large and fashionable fancy stores, One in particular, which is the flower store, these flowers are made of Feathers, principally at Byia, a little farther down coast, they are made to resemble almost every flower known to be botanical world, many of them are truly magnificent, Most of the Churches are splendid buildings, highly ornamented with Gold and silver, and the more vastly ornaments richly displayed with diamonds. The Emperors Palace at the Head of palace square, has the appearances of a very ancient building. (which it is not) It seems to have been built by piece meal, and looks as little like the princely palaces of Genoa, as does a farmer's hay barn and sheds in the U. States, exteriorly, its interior I have not seen and consequently cannot speak. The buildings for Theatrical purposes are larger and commodious. The Hotels are very large and are arranged so as to afford the greatest comfort. The two most conspicuous are Pharoux and the Europa. The first is a large building with various saloons. My friends Mr. F. and family board at this house. It is noisy, the servants inattentive, and altogether but quite an ordinary house. It is very expensive at this house, but has something of a reputation for its good cooking and fine delicacies. It is situated immediately at the landing & from it there are many very fine views which make it desirable as a temporary residence. The second is retired and equally as commodious as the first in size. It is remarkably quiet, neat in its arrangements. The servants respectful and attentive. One of the ladies speaks English with fluency, and I am persuaded that it is far preferable as a private boarding house to the first, yet without the advantage of view which the first has. The population is about one hundred and twenty [thousand], said to be thus divided. Twenty thousand Whites, Thirty thousand Indians and mix breeds, and seventy thousand negroes, all slaves--The white race, seem to be effeminate, idle, cadaverous looking pusillanimous and degenerate race. The next partake much the character of the first. The last, are a race of beings, the most servile I ever saw, driven



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

from morning till night under the tyrant grip of their owner, who is only solicitous for their life and health for four or five years, at which time they [are] worn out, and present objects the most pitiable and revolting that can be imagined, and I am clearly of opinion that the whole civilized world is called on to raise their voices against the cruel barbarities and human degradation that is imposed on these people, notwithstanding their menial dependence on their cruel owners. Could I ever believe that my native land would ever such countenance such monstrous philanthropy, and mad Philosophy as I see and learn here, I should forthwith become an abolitionist of the most strenuous character. There are constant arrivals of these miserable creatures at this place and along the coast from Africa. And it is with much regret that I learn that the stripes and stars, which is the bearer of liberty to the oppressed of every country is the cloak now made use of to carry on this monstrous and nefarious traffic, but it is to be hoped that under the vigilant eye of our excellent minister the Hon. Mr. Wise these public prostitutions of our flag will be brought to light and suffer condign punishment. Our Consul at this place I am told, is a man possessing none the high and ennobling characteristic of our countrymen generally, but as I know nothing I will simply hope that the government will depose him if unqualified for the post and appoint a successor, who has the honor of his flag and country at heart, and will support it at all hazards. I regret also to say that our naval forces are imbecile, from the fear of responsibility, or imbecility of the Com. in chief; May these abuses be soon corrected.

All the tropical fruits are grown here in full perfection, they are very delicious and particularly so after a cruise at sea.--There are several places of considerable merit and very well worth the time and expense of seeing, but as our stay was so uncertain I did not see them, but should life last & we return this way and my health permits, I shall endeavor to do so, until then I must be content. Our commissioner to Equador was taken suddenly very ill on the night of the 5th of march, and was considered extremely dangerous for a day or two.--The Portuguese soiree. Oh ye notaries of balls and soirees, could ye have been at this, ye must have satiated ye hearts to their utmost content. First the decorations were of the most splendid order, the music was extremely harmonious & beautiful & sweet. The company a complete jam, almost every other man was epauletted. And the fair derlina's of Rio Oh heavens what beauty, of complexions. There was European, Creole, Indian, White, Mistiso, Mulatto Quarteron, Quinteron, Negro, Zambo and Chino, all mixed up to-gether, and such dressing, the dresses came just below the tit giving their bosom the most amorous appearance imaginable. There were Earls and Earlesses, Dukes, Duchesses, Marquis, Marquises, Count and Countesses, with a host of other asses and assesses, but to be serious. Miss Walsh the only american Lady in the room was by far the handsomest female there, although she could not make any pretensions to be what is called pretty, disgusted at twelve o'clock, I decamped [illegible]diently.--sent to Lt: Lang my returns to the Agt. & Governor.

Sunday, 9 March 1845

Lat: 26^o. 21'. 00". Long: 45^o. 00'. 00". Thermometer 80, in my room. The weather quite pleasant, blowing fresh, took some medicine, and feel much better this evening. Had muster and prayers by the Capt. some unpleasant apprehensions entertained towards a mess mate, by many of the mess.--&c.--&c. nothing occurred to day to make it interesting. A gull or so flying about the ship to day.--

Monday, 10 March 1845

Lat: 29^o--33'--35" Long: 46^o--36'--27". Thermometer 80 in my room.--The weather pleasant, breeze fresh, 12 M. passing clouds with rain, some Thunder, 8 P. M. sharp lightening, and looked squally. Divisional exercise to-day, exercised the guard at the Manual of Arms, divided the sergts and Corporals into three watches, which had formerly been but two, by the consent of the 1st Lieut. Made a requisition for some slop clothing and the purser's department for the use of the Guard. One Private sick. Read but little to-day, my not feeling very well, having had an annoying feeling about my head for some days past.

Tuesday, 11 March 1845

Lat: 32^o. 24'. 01". Long: 48^o. 37'. 16". Thermometer. 80. The weather pleasant, cloudy and some rain, the wind fresh and fair, the ship eleven miles per hour, served out some clothing to the Guard. The ship rolls very much to-day. My air port leaked considerable & my books and paper got wet through the carelessness of my boy. The weather growing cooler. We are nearly opposite the river La Plata: nothing of not occurred to-day, did not feel very well.--

Wednesday, 12 March 1845

Lat: 35^o. 18'. 20". Long: 50^o. 33'. 35". Thermometer. 80. The weather pleasant, but cloudy, wind fresh and fair. We did not pass the mouth of the river La Plate until this evening, consequently could not have done so yesterday. I was compelled to punish private [James] Mooney with one dozen with the colt, for Insolence to the orderly sergeant. Mr. Smith took pot Luck with us to-day.--The Purser, Mr. Watmaugh is quite unwell to-day. We had one of the most magnificent sunsets this evening ever beheld, the whole western horizon was most beautifully tinged with the most sublime drapery, fringed with a brilliancy vastly superior to polished gold. I have often witnessed the beautiful sunset the magnificent twilight and the soft and balmy Zephyrs of an Italian evening, but surely I never saw one that would compare with the brilliant and splendid beauties of this southern sunset, it is one of those beautiful sights, which we admire, but cannot describe.--

Thursday, 13 March 1845

Lat: 37°. 27'. 21". Long: 51°. 05'. 49". Thermometer, 75, in my room. The weather pleasant, cloudy, the wind ahead, and the ship pitching a good deal, saw a large Turtle, apparently reposing in sleep, but he must have been very much fatigued or inured to the heavy swell of the sea, or it would seem that he could not have enjoyed so boisterous a heave of the sea, it may be per chance that he had ceased to exist. A couple of the famed Albatross flew passed the ship to-day, one that I noticed particularly, a male bird, apparently about nine feet from the tip of one wing to the other, the body of this bird did seem proportionate to his immense wings. The feathers of the body are a snowy white, while those of the wings are quite dark. I shall however suspend any further remark until we are so fortunate as to catch one. When I can make a careful examination and then describe it more accurately.--Quite a flock of the stormy petrel or as they are sometimes called, Mother Cary's chickens, and also a quantity of the large uncouth looking birds called Booby were following in the wake of the ship nearly all day. In the afternoon the ship headed her course the wind having hauled more to the south east. Nothing more worthy of note, except a skay lark, between myself. Dr. Oakly the Purser and Lt Schenck, Midshipman Johnson quite unwell to-day.

Friday, 14 March 1845

Lat: 39°. 45'. 00". Long: 52°. 52'. 15". Thermometer, 73, in my room. The weather pleasant, winds light and baffling, during the morning, carried away the bolt of the inner bob stay this morning, about Meridian the breeze sprung up, and at four o'clock the ship was 8 [k]nots with larboard studding sails set. I was made very uneasy to day by a report from the orderly sergt. that one of the Guard was lost, which however proved not to be true. Diligent search was made for him both on the berth Deck and spar deck and the Boat-swains mates bellowed out all over the ship for him, but were not able to find him, serious apprehension was then entertained that he might have fallen overboard, either in a fit or accidentally or perhaps intentionally.

[At this point in the journal, sixteen pages either were torn out or fell out and subsequently were lost. The narrative continues in May of 1845 with Lieutenant Watson's description of Lima, Peru.]*

*The following letter from the period is included in Lieutenant Watson's letterbook:

U. S. Ship Portsmouth, At Sea, March 28th 1845.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith charges and Specification of charges against Phillip McGowen a private of Marines, and of the

It is impossible for a transient visitor and cursory observer like myself to be able from any sources of information which so short an acquaintance could give, to form just or correct ideas of the magnificence, and grandeur of so large a city as Lima. And it is equally impossible that I could form a correct estimate of the character Manners and habits of a mixed population so large as that of this city. I must therefore leave my remarks until I can inform myself better upon these general heads, The imposing appearance of Lima at the distance of Callao, impresses one with the idea of beauty elegance and magnificence, her thousand spires, Domes and towers all rising majestically above the City, veiled by a thin misty vaper which is constantly descending from the Andes, strikes one with the idea that it is the abode of wealth, the school of Art, and the proud palladium of civilization, How far I shall find these conceptions correct I must leave for another visit to determine.--

I had determined to leave this subject until my return to Callao. But I find that my memory will enable [me] to say much more upon the subject of callao, and although first impressions may not always be correct, they are nevertheless, most lasting, & I believe I may say, that I viewed every thing connected with this place with as much leniency as could be expected from a casual observation, and the credulity that we [are] apt to place in a very voluntary report of the people made by themselves. I have remarked that there were two public houses in callao. There are many more, but none but these two make any pretensions to respectability, boarding is very high, the fare is but ordinary,--and the crowds of idle young men, foreign officers and mustached men of more mature age, under the surveillance of the government police, all mix in one promiscuous assemblage to pass in listless idleness or drunken revelry a few hours in the fore part of the evening, Generally appropriated to playing a game known in all spanish countries by the name of Mantu [Manta],--All gambling is prohibited by law, This however is overcome, in this way, the men who devote their time to winning, cheating and defrauding strangers as well as their countrymen out of their money. When a favorable opportunity presents itself, they apply to guardians of the law. (I mean the police,) first giving them a bribe, and obtain permission to have a game only for diversion, but at this diversion you can loose all your money, to incite those who may choose to risk their money, they use all the little petty tricks, to which these degraded and rapacious villians are so universally addicted,--This evil I regard as the most permiscious of all the evils that at present distress the better portion of the people and the state of Peru, and these two respectable hotels, as

Guard under my command on board this ship.

John B. Montgomery)
Comdg: the U. S. Ship)
Portsmouth)

I am Sir Very Respectfully
Your Obt: Servt:
Henry B. Watson
Lt: Comdg: the Guard

the greatest moral nuisance and national pestilence that can be possibly inflicted upon this exceedingly depraved place.

I have remarked that the bay of Callao was very capacious, and secure. In dispensations of divine wisdom this place seems to have been given all the necessary appendages for becoming a great commercial mart. It would be tedious to attempt to compute the the great number of ships that might anchor in this bay, in perfect security. And under a wholesome government, (it matters not much what its complexion, so it be stable) the great valley which lies between the sea and the Andes would become populous, and the great fertility of the soil and the ease with which it could be cultivated would induce a spirit of enterprise and industry, which would inevitably lead to wealth comfort and prosperity, the rues that are now perpetuated and engendered from the idleness and inactivity of the Mass of the people, would secure an antidote, that would at once paralyze its influence, by giving employment and opening a field to reward the industry of all classes of the community, It would place within the reach of the poor man the ordinary necessaries of life and prevent a good deal of that vice which seems to be [the] result of poverty, and it would find employment for that herd of vipers, who seem to live upon the little that they felch from the state or from the community,--I have spoken of the existence of a church at callao, and of the external reverence with which the people seem to regard the slow tones of its bells, It rings or chimes at stated periods of the day and even of the night, during the day when ever its sounds are heard the people in the street stop and make the sign of the cross. This they do under all circumstances, and at such times they uncover the head. I have seen them when engaged at work stop and go through this ceremony. In fact it matters not what they may be at, or how urgent so ever there business, they never neglect this external show of their piety, and I could sincerely wish that it was an honest impulse of the heart, but however reluctant I may to acknowledge the fact, (in consequence of my profound respect for the religion which they profess) I am constrained by the evidence of my own eyes, to pronounce nothing more than unmeaning external hypocrisy. For these instances yes of very ordinary occurrence, that your pockets are picked or you [are] stabbed by the rascal who has just made the sign of the cross and invoked the blessing of the holy ringer. Assignations are found in the doors of the holy edifice, the prowling and reckless libertine selects the object of his base desires by the very lights of the sanctuary. And I blush to record it, yet I am informed that even the professed christian teacher, not bonds himself for the filthy reward of a little gold to inveigles the young innocent females of his guardianship into the snares of these prowling destroyers of all human filicity; but even seduces them from the confessional for the gratification of his own sensual lusts, and appeases the goodings and remonstrances of conscience in these deluded victims, under the specious but diabolical belief that they can forgive their inprudence, or that there is no incurred by their complying with his request.--

If these facts were not established upon the most incontestible proof I would not believe, but from whence all this depravity, this profligacy of the church, this deep this lasting infamy of the clergy. The general depravity is brought about, first by the long civil wars and the inheritance of the lasciviness [of] their spanish ancestors--secondly from the extreme poverty of the middling classes the entire ignorance in which they are reared, and the complete ascendancy in consequence of this ignorance which the priest have over the people. The clergy not controled by any principal of virtue in the mass of the people, and holding the balance of powers in a pecunary point: between themselves & Arch bishop and the chiefs of the state, are thus enabled to cloak the enormity of their vices. For I feel persuaded that notwithstanding the great depravity of the people, that could the enormity of the vices of these men see the light [of] day, they would be driven by the very dupes of their clandestine intrigues and the hord of reckless dissipated and loathsome libertines for whose taste and appetites they have pandered, from the face of the earth. And melancholy as the fact is, I have found the general character of the priest on this coast from Valpariaso in chili to Monterey in California to be the same. The pious catholic raises [his] head in deep humility, and hears reproaches and gists that are heaped upon his church and faith, without being to offer one palliative in behalf of this people, he consoles himself with the reflection that the reputation of his faith and church in his own country is purer and more exalted. And if he cannot shield he at least can reprobate these men, and vindicate the honor and purity of his own faith. I have found no where, the same degree of degradation among the people and a total loss of all moral action and the licentiousness and total disregard of the most sacred obligations of the priesthood in no part of the world. In old spain, the intriguing chivalry of her nobility and young men receive a check to their licentiousness from the clergy however loose the said order may be. In France the land of intrigue it is in no part of their sensual delights to call to their aid the help of the clergy, for they exert an influence which I could wish existed here, that [of] restraining the depravity of the age. In Itily the clergy are a better class, and visit with the rigor of the cannon law all infrac-tions of its prerogative and if vice and licentiousness does exist there, it [is] under a more modified form and the sight is not disguised, by its votaries in the light of day. And if it cannot be controled, and destroyed or restrained altogether, it is held in such base and restricted limits that we seldom see its deformity, or its misery.--

Monday, 12 May 1845

The Commodore made signal at 4 P. M. for us to get under way. The Carge de Affairs Dr. [William] Crump and his son having come on board we up anchor and made sail, for Valpariaso.

Tuesday, 13 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremomter 65. The wind fresh, Cloudy and a little rain, nothing of importance occurred to-day. The passengers both sea sick.

Wednesday, 14 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer. 70. The wind fresh, Cloudy nothing worthy of note.

Thursday, 15 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 69. There was but little wind, Cloudy. Dr. Crump & son much better to-day.

Friday, 16 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 70. Winds light, Cloudy. Practiced the small arm men and Marines at firing at a target. They did very well for the first time.

Saturday, 17 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer. 71. Light airs, & cloudy. Practiced the men at firing the big Guns at a target, they made good line (shooting) shots; some were very good.

Sunday, 18 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer. 72. Light airs, & cloudy. Had muster, and prayers by the Capt. Dr. Crump & son quite recovered.

Monday, 19 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 70 The wind fresh and ahead, practiced a division of small arm men at firing at Target.

Tuesday, 20 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 69. The wind the same as yesterday, Lt. Barlette quite ill. Capt. Montgomery, Dr Crump our Charge de affairs to Chili, Mr. R. Crump secretary to Dr. Crump, & Midshipmen Davidson, Ganesvoort and Gamble dined with us to-day, we had for dinner Mutton soup, Ham, boiled, a saddle of Mutton baked a Turkey baked, cold tongues, and boiled Beef, Vegitable, potatoes, mashed boiled and baked, stewed apples and Cranberries, pickles, pies, Apple and Quince and Cranberry, pudding plumb, sauce sugar and butter, fruit Apples, banana, raisins and nuts and Coffee after dinner. Wines sherry.--Pass off well.

Wednesday, 21 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 69. The wind still ahead. Nothing new to-day.--

Thursday, 22 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 68 The wind same as yesterday. Nothing of note.

Friday, 23 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 67. The wind Light but ahead, cloudy with light rains.--

Saturday, 24 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 63. The [wind] ahead and the ship quite uncomfortable, had quite a severe attack of Rheumatism in my legs. Lt. Barlette much better.

Sunday, 25 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 60. The wind as yesterday, had quarters but no service. The Marines all taken from the guns.--

Monday, 26 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 63. The wind ahead and cloudy--nothing new.

Tuesday, 27 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 64 The wind Light, the ship heading nearly her own. Henry Lyndall Watsons birth day, according to the best of my recollection.

Wednesday, 28 May 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 62. A fresh breeze and the ship heads her course, nothing new except a large flock of the beautiful Cape pigeon around the ship to-day.

Thursday, 29 May 1845

A fair wind, had general quarters this evening, no body hurt, several of the officers practicing with pistols at a mark--The wind hauled ahead about 8 o'clock--and came on to blow, from the N.

Friday, 30 May 1845

Blowing a stiff Northern. We passed the island of Juan Fernandez on yesterday--made the coast of chili this evening--

Saturday, 31 May 1845

Lat. Long. Theremometer: 65 &c. Blowing fresh and ahead, made Valpariaso point.

Sunday, 1 June 1845

Came to anchor off the City of Valpariaso this evening, received news from the U.S. as late as the 1st of March some of the officers received letters from home.

Monday, 2 June - Tuesday, 10 June 1845

There was nothing occurred very interesting, we received on board sixty thousand pounds of Ships Bread--Land[ed] Dr Crump and his son. Dr. C. is our minister to chili--We found on our arrival The Brandywine, St. Louis and the Perry--all composing the East India Squadron and bound home. I wrote two letters by them to Mrs. W.--sent my May Muster roll home by the Frigate Brandywine.

Wednesday, 11 June 1845

We sailed to-day for Callao. Sent my June Muster roll & Quarterly returns to [Marine] Capt. [Ward] Marston to be forwarded.

Thursday, 12 June 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 65. A fine Breeze all day, the ship 11 & 12 Knots per hour.

Friday, 13 June - Wednesday, 18 June 1845

Lat: Long: Theremometer 67. The Breeze continues and we bid fair an unusual passage. In fact we had a fine Breeze all the way to Callao. The theremometer gradually rising--Nothing new occurred during the passage--And we came to anchor in Callao Bay the evening 18th of June, having made the passage in seven 7 days and four hours sea account.

Thursday, 19 June - Tuesday, 22 July 1845

The following are Principal occurances from the 19th of June to the 22nd of July. This is [the] season of the year denominated winter out here, but at no time has [the] Theremometer fallen below 65, and for by far the greater portion [of the] time it was 72, its average range is 68, although it never rains in this climate and at this season of the year you may see snow laying on the Andes, yet

the dews are most prodigious, very penetrating and will wet a person in a very short time but does not fall in sufficient quantity, to be of any or but little benefit to vegetation. Cattle and stock of every kind suffer very much at this season of the year, as the valley is apparently without vegetation or at least there is but little nutriment in what there is. Callao has no attractions as its amusements are only calculated to call in play all the evil passion, and practices of our nature. Gaming, Drinking, and the various other permiscous evils are here displayed in bold relief, to allure captivate and debase the thoughtless and wayward passions and appetites of the young and even of the old. On the 30th of June the Portsmouth went over to the island of St. Lorenzo, for the purpose of Practicing her crew at Target firing. The men did extraordinary well making shots with the big guns, that would not have disgraced a first rate riffle shot. The Marines were landed and prove themselves superior shots. I must here take occasion to say that the Marine Guard of this ship is one of the Most superior I have ever seen, and maintain with increased lustre the far famed reputation of their Corps. July 4th returned yesterday evening from the Island. This morning at 8 o'clock dressed ship in honor of this the anniversary of our Independence. At twelve o'clock The Savannah Portsmouth Levant, a French Corvette, the English 74, Collingwood and Frigate Fisguard [Fisgard], and the Peruvian Fort on shore, Fired a salute of 26 guns each in honor of the day. All the shipping in the harbor hoisted their colors, and the American merchant ships were dressed off with Flags. There were several dinner parties given, one by the Commodore, and a very large and splendid one in Lima, by the Americans, to [which] a large number were invited. This [day] over and all was quiet. July 21st The schooner shark arrived with the May Mail. We all got letters. I got two from my wife. The Levant sailed on saturday the 19th July and consequently lost her letters for the present. July 22nd this morning received orders to be ready for sea this evening. On the 12th July I resigned the Cater ship to Dr Wood with consent of all and much to their satisfaction as they had all become tired of me, and me of the cater ship--

July 22nd at 5 o'clock got under[way] and stood out to sea with a light breeze, bound to the Sandwich Islands, for provissions and from there for the North West coast and the coast of Mexico. All delighted at going to sea.--

List of the Officers

J. B. Montgomery commander,

Lieuts J. S. Missroon, R. Forrest, W. S. Schenck, W. A. Bartlette, Surgeon W. M. Wood, Assistant Surgeon C. H. Oakly, Purser J. H. Watmaugh Master J[ohn]. Wilkinson, H. B. Watson Lt: Comdg: the Marine Guard. Midshipmen, [William E.] Gamble, [Edward C.] Grafton, [Stanwix] Gansevoort, [Hunter] Davidson, [James] Herron [Heron], Parrish, [John H.] Tillotson [Daniel C.] Heguenin [Hugunin];--Capt Clerk E. Montgomery--Boatswain Whitaker, Gunner, Randell, Carpenter, Wisner; Sail Maker, Bruce.--

Marines--

Sergts Wiatt & Miller,
Corporal Smith & Heyler,
Music Crocker & Steele,
Privates Barlette, & Briggs
" Burnham, & Bernes
Belford & +Burke
Carlton! & ! Coolridge
Cunningham & Conolly
D'Arely! & +Kothe
McGowen & Miller
+Mooney & Moulton
Reamy! & Richardson
Sample & Scott
Scott & +Sullivan
+Waters & Walker
Wilder

+ Those marked thus have been sent to the Fr Constitution
! Those marked thus have joined from the Constitution
The first were sent home for discharge, their term of
service having expired.

Lt. Forrest & Schenck Surgeons Wood & Oakly and act. Md. Wilkinson
have all been detached from this ship, and also Midsh. Gamble,
Davidson and Tillitson. And Lt [Joseph W.] Revere, act. Lt. [Ben
F. B.] Hunter, act. M. Harrison Asst. Surgeon [Andrew A.] Henderson
& [Marius] Duval [Duvall] and Midship. [Charles S.] Bell & [Andrew
W.] Johnson have been ordered to this ship in place of those de-
tached.

Wednesday, 23 July 1845

I have dispensed with the Latitude and Longitude, as also the there-
mometer, as unimportant to my purpose. We are now fairly under[way]
and St. Lorenzo has sunk below the horizon as we hope to our view
for at least twelve months, The weather cloudy and cool.

Thursday, 24 July 1845

The weather cloudy, breeze fresh, and it is becoming much warmer.
The midshipmen permitted to take deck under the supervision of a
Lieut.

Friday, 25 July 1845

Fresh breeze. Cloudy with occassional showers, quite warm. We have
daily exercises of the Marines, and divisional exercises at the Big
guns by the sailors.

Saturday, 26 July 1845

Fresh Breeze, passing clouds, quite warm. A number of Flying Fish, and one or two whales seen to day.

Sunday, 27 July 1845

The breeze continues fresh and fair, Making an average of two hundred miles per day. Had service this morning.

Monday, 28 July 1845

No difference from yesterdays.

Tuesday, 29 July 1845

Same as yesterday. The Boatswain who has [been] very sick for a day or two past is much better to-day. Several of the officers and men complaining of rheumatic pains colds &c. consequent upon the sudden change from cool to warm weather.

Wednesday, 30 July 1845

Nothing new.

Thursday, 31 July 1845

Quite warm. Cloudy, Light Breeze the ships rolls a good deal, not much doing preparing for General quarters this evening. At three o'clock had general quarters. These are sham fights without powder or ball, consequently no body was killed or wounded. Nearly a Calmn, Latitude $1^{\circ} 53' 00''$. South. Longitude $104^{\circ} 15' 00''$ West. July Muster Roll sent from Honiolulu.

Friday, 1 August 1845

Cloudy Light breeze, nothing new.

Saturday, 2 August 1845

Light breeze Cloudy. Theremometer 76.

Sunday, 3 August 1845

Fresh breeze had service, very warm.

Monday, 4 August 1845

[Fresh breeze] very warm, cloudy[.] Engaged all day moving my bunk, and Bureau, my intention was to give more room in my room and make it more convenient, but I believe I have failed of my intention, however I will not yet despond.--

Tuesday, 5 August 1845

Fresh breeze, very warm, the crew put on white or summer clothing to-day. The Marines do not dress in a white clothing, arising from the facts that they cannot have their linen clothes washed at sea so as to make a respectable appearance, and also that the government allowance of linen clothing is not sufficient for the men to wear them when on fatigue duty.

Wednesday, 6 August 1845

Cloudy with occassional showers. The weather very warm.

Thursday, 7 August 1845

Cloudy and warm. Light breeze.

Friday, 8 August 1845

[Cloudy and warm] nearly a calmn.

Saturday, 9 August 1845

Cloudy with rain very warm & no wind.

Sunday, 10 August 1845

Very warm & cloudy had service, very little wind.

Monday, 11 August 1845

Very warm, Cloudy with squalls of rain and breeze much fresher. Thomas Jones seaman, received a dozen on bare back for Theft.

Tuesday, 12 August 1845

Excessively warm, cloudy and rain nearly all day, blowing fresh[.] At 8 P. M. reefed Topsails.

Wednesday, 13 August 1845

Continues warm, with rain in squalls.

Thursday, 14 August 1845

[Continues warm, with rain in squalls.]

Friday, 15 August 1845

[Continues warm,] breeze steady with rain.

Saturday, 16 August 1845

[Continues warm, breeze steady with rain.]

Sunday, 17 August 1845

Light breeze, and warm. Had service, performed by the Capt. using the church of England form, some rain during the day.

Monday, 18 August 1845

Fresh breeze but warm, considerable rain during the day and night.

Tuesday, 19 August 1845

Fresh breeze and warm with rain.

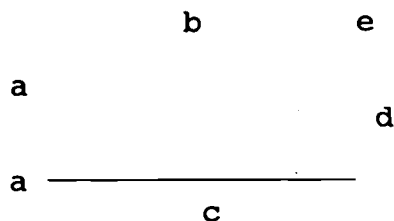
Wednesday, 20 August 1845

Made the land last night and stood off and on the shore during the night, took on board a pilot about eleven o'clock A. M. and stood into the harbor of Helo usually called Byron's Bay--where we anchored about four o'clock P. M. completely surrounded by the boats of the natives. They appear to be a happy race, nearly naked in fact they are entirely naked with the exception of a small strip of cloth around the middle fastened between the legs, they live on fruit and a species of bread fruit which is represented as a very wholesome article.

Thursday, 21 August 1845

Light breeze and quite warm--spent the day on shore. Landed at the mouth of [a] river from which we obtained water for the ship. The scene is majestic, the Banks are formed of steep and jagged cliffs of Rocks, with innumerable water falls and cascades, the limpid clearness of the water, and the rays of the sun as it penetrates thro the moving of the trees and shrubs which line either bank gave it not a romantic but a peculiarly pleasing appearance. Hundreds of the natives were seating upon either bank this being their usual place of bathing,--Men women & children bathing in the cool Clear waters of this lovely and romantic basins of this limpid stream, after amusing myself with viewing the natives, at their gambolings in the water, and having seen some young females 15 to 20 years leap from the peaks or cliffs 30 to 60 feet high into water, in which they seem as perfectly at home as so on the land and perform all the evolutions in most pleasing and graceful manner of a perfect unnason in swimming and impressing me strongly with the idea that they were amphibious in habit if not in nature. I ascended the hill and walk[ed] through some of their Torro patches. This Torro is nothing more than the wild onion or indian turnip of the U.S. I went into some of their houses where I was astonished to see, the extreme neatness and tasteful appearance of the decorations and

order and accomm[odation] which they presented. These huts are built by stakes being driving into the ground, at two or three feet apart, with a slight angle, which are weather boarded up with mats of straw, they are never more than one story which varies very much in height but generally about 30 feet, with shids on either side, the floors are covered with mats of extremely neat workmanship. The houses have a shid in front under which the natives sit in the cool of the evening, and rooms appear to built and attached to the main building, as the inmates are pressed for room, The main building is screened off with a mat about seven feet wide and the length of the width of the house, behind this the dirt floor is more elevated, and there [are] four or more thicknesses of mats laid on this upon which the whole family male and female adult youth and infants sleep, proving the old saying in relation to that worthy class the quakers, that in hot weather they all bundle, the houses very seldom have any windows and but two doors, vegetation grows up to the door. The tall cocoa nut tree grows here in all its native grandieur reaching from eighty to one hundred feet, with[out] leaf or limb except on the very top which resembles very much an open umbrella,--The bread fruit grows here, this tree attains various heights, but as a general rule seldom more than eighty feet. The limbs grow in a beautiful disender very similar to the large fig tree, The fruit was green, and had not arrived at maturity, it is round and about twice the size of the goose egg. This tree gives a very good shade, there are great variety of other trees, both useful and ornamental. I saw indigo growing wild in every direction, the natives appear to pay but little attention to it. Cultivation, a varity of flowers and other vegetation apparently from an exotic origin grow and flourish here, many of them the same as I have seen in N. Carolina. The lilac the sweet briar rose and many bulbus flowers, crab grass seem to flourish with peculiar exuberance. The soil is light of a dark reddish appearance, resembling much the soil of western N. Carolina. The whole country however is volcanic, and through all the valleys are very fine and never failing streams of water, fed by the constant rains and evaporation of the mountains above them, offering to the enterprise of man, water power and facilities equal if not superior to any in the world--The harbor of hilo is form[ed] by a coral weath which nearly [runs] from cocoa nut point to [the] opposite shore, the bay is in shape thus:--



A. is coconut point. B. is Hilo. C. is the river from whence the ship obtain water, D. is entrance. E. is a coral weath under water,

which with a strong wind from the seaward creates a very heavy swell, and would doubtless be dangerous and unsafe for vessels. This Island is called Hawaii and is the largest of the group. The Missionaries have several stations on this island. There is a large church at Hilo, of its progress I am unable to speak of its utility I cannot from what I saw form any accurate accessions. The natives, are homely with broad faces and a large flat nose, eyes of a yellow or reddish, with a skin of a yellow or brownish color, the mass of the people appear to have a cutaneous disease, and was revolting to the eye, as well as the fragrance of their bodies was offensive to the smell, It is said that promiscuous concubinage is not so great now as formerly, but judging from what I saw I infer that it is open and public exhibition is all that is suppressed. And if it was regarded formerly by natives as a virtue, it is now looked upon as means to procure money, hence parents are led to bring their children to the banquet of prostitution for sake of money of which they are peculiarly fond. And whatever good effects may have been introduced by preaching and practice of the missionaries, I am convinced that it is counterbalanced by the lurid and lascivious conduct of the crews of merchantmen and man of war which visit these islands and hence an argument is furnished for those who are really chaste and virtuous, similar to that furnished to the Bushman of the East, who are opposed to the many innovations made by their new task masters the missionaries upon their ancient forms and religious customs and ceremonies.

The Reverents Dr [Eli S.] Cowen [Corwin] and [Henry M.] Lyman assisted by their ladies have schools here for the education of the native children but I believe it is not contradicted by any that, but little benefit will be done for the present generation, and it is only to be hoped that the rising generation by becoming civilized and Americanized may be benefit, by the time this however is effected the anglo saxon blood will be pretty generally found penetrating the veins of the few surviving Hawaiians, The natives tractible mild and inoffensive and appear to have inbibed the idea or fact that there was cast under a more unfavorable star, than that of their new made friends, my own impression is, that in twenty years the native population will be extinct and these favored islands the property of some adventurous people, or potent state. England has dyed the sands of India of Hindoostan and of Affghastan with blood, she commenced by sending adventurers of the purple and robe under the garb of christian missionaries to ameliorate the benighted condition of the ignorant but contented savage, France has followed. Spain, is now reaping in tears of bitterest anguished and forlorn poverty the treasons inflicted under the sanction of a surplanted missionary the distresses she occasioned the races she has exterminated, the countries she has subsidized for the paltry accumulation of a little gold. And it is America the land of the free and the home of the brave, to be classed with this sacriligious band under the canopy of adventerous and bigoted system of missionaries, but enough.

Friday, 22 August 1845

nothing doing.

Saturday, 23 August 1845

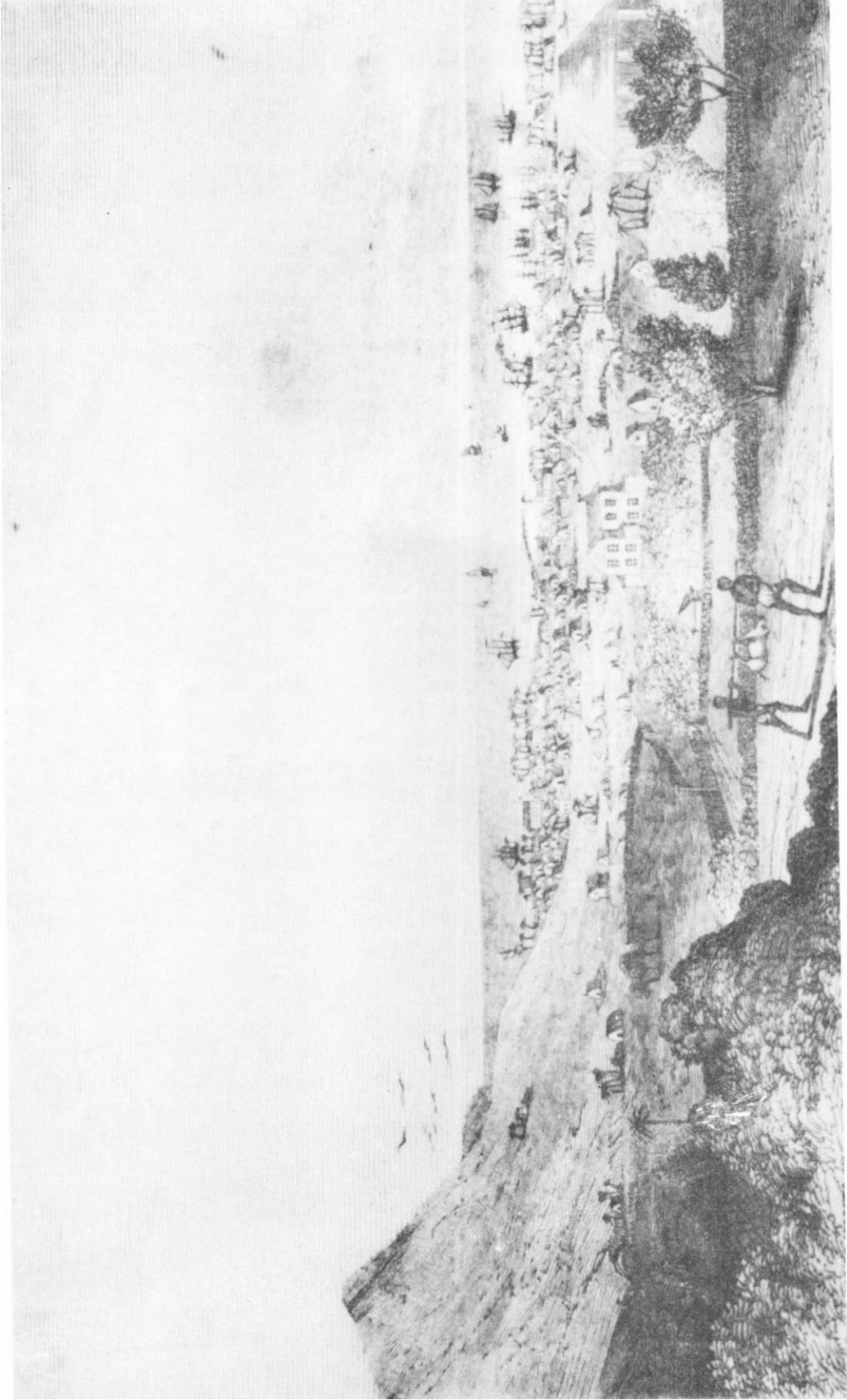
got under way last night about 12 o'clock bound to Honolulu island of Oahu.

Sunday, 24 August 1845

made the island of Oahu made the harbor about 11 o'clock took on board a pilot, and came to anchor about 5 o'clock, found the Levant Capt. [Hugh N.] Page here, she arrived this morning about two hours before us, she sailed from Callao three days before us, we stopped at Hilo three days thus beating clearly six days in the passage, and being 10 days a head of her as we are watered and she require[s] that time, to fill her water. The Brittish sloop of war Talbot went to sea this evening--

Honolulu, general remarks, hereafter, on various subject mater

It appears that the original discovery by these islands was made by a Captain [James] Cook in the year 1775. At which time the natives, were wild savage and addicted to cannibalism. Ruled by separate despotic Chiefs in tribes; the lives, liberties and property of the people being held only at the will and pleasure of the chiefs. They were entirely ignorant of all even the most remote idea of civilization or any of the arts consequent upon a knowledge of civilization. All the requisite necessities of life or for supporting life, was spontaneously springing from the soil, bounteously given by the hand of Providence for the support of these his creation. The natives according to the religious opinion of civilized man were idolitrous in the extreme, worshipping images, and performing human sacrifices, much after the manners of the ancients, Prostitution was legalized among them. Each chief having his long train of wives or concubines, and among the lower classes, as it is but natural it should be the obligations of matrimony was altogether unknown, And unfortunately, civilized man in his first communication with them, practiced widely different from the precepts which they preached, as I am informed that it is but recently that many of them have become contented with one mistress, and the appearance of half breeds is already quite numerous, Since the discovery of the islands the population has decreased in [a] most astonishing ratio. There are numerous causes assigned for this, but I am informed that no one cause has contributed so extensively as venereal diseases, this disease was disseminated among them by the sailors of whale ships and other vessels which have visited them, And at Hilo the mass of the natives appeared to be affacted with a scabby eruption on the skin and a species of serofulous infections, which appear to have been generated, by venereal complaints transmitted from Parent to child through several generations,



Honolulu, Sandwich Islands

Honolulu is situated in a delightful valley on the island of Oahu. It is the residence of the King, and the principal commercial Depot in the islands, The commercial portions of the inhabitants, are most american with some English, French, Chinese and a few native merchants, It has a very fine harbor, formed by coral reefs, which is large enough to accommodate about 100 vessels, The Missionaries established themselves on these islands in the year 1819 and have been successively augmented by reinforcements from the U.S. until the present time, when their number on the several islands collectively amounts to 61. males and 69. Females, Of these some have died and others have returned home consequently the largest number of operatives at any time in the field has not exceeded 80 or forty families, These people have been engaged in establishing schools, and reforming and civilizing the people, they have made considerable progress. The Missionaries are protestants and Catholics, The first belong to that class of protestants called congregationalist, differing I believe in no very essential point except in name from the Presbyterian, I learn that they the protestants, have 70 churches and 330 school houses, two hundred and thirty of these are now as churches, The whole number of person embraced in their denonations infants and adults amount to 43,000, number of scholars at the different schools is 17,000, and the number of Catechumen 12,000. They have a number of high schools which are I believe included in the above enumeration.

The Catholic Missionaires have been established but five years on the islands, they have 90. churches, 110 school houses, 14,000 members and 3,000 scholars. There are but nine Priest engaged in this laborious and praiseworthy and philanthropic service. It is not the place for me to draw comparisons, figures speak for themselves. A Seperate school is established for the education of the young chiefs, or rather Princes and Princesses, They are educated in the English language, and protestant religion. The King Kamehameha [III], has a very commodious Palace in the village and a very neat country residence, he is very closely watched by Dr [Gerrit P.] Jud [Judd] the Minister of the interior. The King is very fond of billiards and nine pins, and was formerly much addicted to intemperance, hence the careful guardianship of Dr Jud, fearless that if he should have too much his own way that he would take to drinking again--Property is here held very similar to the ancient feudal system of the English. The King and Chiefs being the only landed propretors on the islands, and the mass of the people being held as serfs or slaves. Required by the long established law or custom of the islands to work so many days for the King, that is one third of the time, and one third of their time for the particular Chief or Chiefs in whose district the[y] reside, hence there is but little time left to them, which they have uniformly devoted to sensual pleasures, and the performance of their accustomed religious duties. Strenuous efforts are being made to induce the King and chiefs to bring their lands into a fair and liberal market and encourage the natives to buy. This most assuredly would be a most just and wholesome regulation. For then every family would consider themselves

as forming a part of government, and feel himself operating not only for the good of the general government, but for his immediate family. There is no doubt that this system would do more to moralize and civilize the natives than are the missionary efforts which could be exerted. The rapid influx of Foreigners particularly from the U. States, will be of incal[c]ulable advantage to the progressive improvement of the natives in agriculture Mechanics manufactures, and commerce. And the observance of the faith which is usually observed between independent powers, be observed towards these islands there is no room to doubt that [they] will become a prosperous wealthy and an important people. The U. States has a capital of between 15,000,000 and 20,000,000, of dollars, invested in the whale fishing in these sea's, and these islands are the general rendezvous of the shipping for refitting and procuring supplies, hence it is of the utmost importance [to] the U. States that these islands should maintain there independence. And further in the event of U. States being driven into a war with England, in relation to the oregon question, it would be [of the] utmost importance that these island be kept neutral, or under the protectorate of the U. States. In a military point a birds eye view will suffice, to portray the large figure which the character of these isles and the influence which their position will exert in the prosecution and termination of such a war. It is true that the magnificent harbor of san sanfrisco [Francisco], could be easily taken from the Mexicans. I am however think that it would conduce more to the honor and integrity of the U. States, to maintain the independence of these islands, than pursue merely by the principle of Force, a line of conduct, deprecated by every principle of international law.

Monday, 25 August - Thursday, 4 September 1845

[No journal entries]

Friday, 5 September 1845

Got under way this evening at 5 o'clock, and stood out of the harbor of Honolulu. A Mr. [Francis] Johnson came on board as passenger, he being employed by the U.S. Commissioner the Hon Mr. [George] Brown as bearer of Dispatches to the government. This gentleman came on board at the last hour, it being the wish of Mr. Brown that the Hawaiian authorities should not be apprised of the capa[c]ity in which Mr. J. left the islands, and farther Mr. B. is solicitous of getting his dispatches home, before the arrival of the Hawaiian government Dispatch. My own conviction, is that Mr. Brown is a very poor representative, and inefficient Diplomatist, and also that the Ministers of his Hawaiian Majesty are [a] set of reckless adventurers, regarding the interest of the government only so far as that interest will conduce to their own personal advantage. Ready at all times to side with that government who will contribute most to meet their own personal desires. In short a set of political auctioneers. Having set a price upon the Hawaiian islands, but trying to get a much greater sum if possible a species of hired

legalized political gamblers. The Portsmouth behaved very well to-day, but was worked extremely badly, the men worked apparently without life, certainly without pride or amination, and the orders were issued with too much precipitation, and in a tone altogether too confused. I am however persuaded that the personal that is the crew possess the Capacity of making not only an excellent but a magnificent crew. The knowledge of human nature, does not appear to have attracted the notice or been the study of those who govern.

Saturday, 6 September 1845

A fresh breeze, but dead a head;--About 3 o'clock while tacking ship, A hammock was accidentally knocked overboard. A Boat was lowered and the ship hove too. The first Lieut in the Boat made an unsuccessful effort to find the hammock, after wearing [the] ship a time or two, and making a bungling fiat of it, the boat came along side when another very unseamanlike display was exhibited, finally they wore ship again bringing the boat that was down and to be hoisted up to lee-ward, the boat was hosited, and as is usual every thing became quiet and settled. At sunset when the hammocks were piped down it appeared that the lost one belonged to Edmund Burke, one of the Marines composing the Guard. By the loss of his hammock, this poor fellow has lost his mattress and two Blankets besides other bedding and articles of value to him. I regret it very much for besides this loss, he will be subjected to the heavy expense of an entire new outfit, an expense really heavy when we consider the very small pay of the soldier. I [was] just informed by Dr. Oakly that the sandwich Islands were dicovered by Capt. Cook in 1775, something which I was not certain of before. But the worthy doctor is in error when he fancies that I had informed him that they were discovered in 1750. Sent Augst. Muster roll from Honolulu by the Whale ship South America.

Sunday, 7 September 1845

The weather fine, breeze light. As usual the Capt gave us quite a long service to-day. After reading the prayers of the Episcopal church service, and two lessons from the Bible, the first from Daniel, In relation [to] Belshazzer celebrated feast, where he uses the sacred vessels, taken by his father Nebuchadnezar from the house of God. When a strange hand wrote something upon the wall, which much puzzleth the King. And he offers a robe of scarlet and a gold chain, together with office of rank and authority in the Kingdom to anyone who will interpret the writing, when one Daniel gave the required interpretation, and it came to pass on that night Belshazer the King was slain by Darius the King of the Meads.--The second was from Mathew, in relation to [the] estimate placed by mankind upon the goods of this life in detriment to the eternal welfare hereafter, after this we had a long sermon, purporting to have been delivered by a preacher by the [name] of Cooper. The Capt. no doubt thinks himself a pious man, and I believe he is honest in his belief. I

feel persuaded however, that he believes no religion as good as that he professes, hence a want of charity.

Monday, 8 September 1845

During Last night there were several very heavy squalls with rain took royals and Topgallantsails and took a reef in Topsails, made sail again at 6 A. M. blowing fresh,-- northing of note occurred during the Day until about sunset, immediately after quarters the Capt ordered all hands called to reef Topsails, The men were called and the top men sent aloft, the Mizen top men, being more expert got through first, The fore and Main through, the sails were set, when the fore and Main top men were called aft and reprimanded, for having made a bad reef and having been too long in executing the evolution, all which would have been very well if there had been any plausible or reasonable cause for it, but poor Jack must submit, however the sails were loosed and reefed over again. Issued some clothing from the Pursers Department to the Guard to-day, And Drew a pair of shoes and one yard of Ribbon, for myself. Price 87 1/2 cts. Dr. Oakly, Midshipmen Herron & Parish on the sick list.

Tuesday, 9 September 1845

The weather pleasant, breeze fresh, and still ahead, exercised the guard in the manual of arms;--Passed Midshipman Wilkinson (our Master) quite unwell to-day, said to have some affection of the liver. Dr Oakly complaining a good deal, the doctor's is a singular as well as a serious attack, it being a swelling behind the left ear, which has been gradually increasing for some four or five weeks, partially relieved at times of means of poultices, he contemplates having it opened. Midshipmen Parrish and Herron about the same. The first Lt complaining some this evening. The rest of the officers and Crew generally well. I neglected to mention in the proper place, a change which had been [made] in the ward servants. The old cook [Andrew] Robinson, was dismissed charged with a want [of] knowledge in the culinary art, as also a want of cleanliness, and his place was supplied at Honolulu by an artist as he calls himself, in the person of a French West India Negro, who really has some pretensions to a cook, but I am far from placing him so far superior to old Robinson, and I am persuaded that there are many worse cooks than the old man, who did his best to please. But I fear, that it is out [of] the power of one man to please so many different taste. The ward room steward applied for and obtained his discharge, his place was also [taken] at Honolulu by a negro so black that ebony would be a grateful relief beside him. There were some other minor changes among the boys. The cook and steward of a mess on board ship are the most important characters which figure in a sea faring life, and too much labor and care cannot be employed in securing persons of character to fill these important offices.

Wednesday, 10 September 1845

The weather cool and pleasant, breeze fresh and still ahead. Exercised the guard in the manual of arms. Dr Oakly and Mr Wilkinson quite unwell to-day, Quite a dinner party in the Cabin to-day, this being the anniversary of the Battle of lake Erie, in which Capt Montgomery was engaged: I heretofore determined not [to] advert to casual conversations which take place among the officers upon general topics, But the observations to-day turned upon a question, upon which I have somewhat reflected and have conceived it proper to commit my reflections, for my own satisfaction, Difficulties having arisen at Honolulu between the U.S. Commercial Agent and ministers of his Hawaiian Majesty, much has been said of a acrimonious character by both parties. It will be well for me to inquire into [the] character of the persons who figure in this business, and then into the causes which have led to the disputes. I may here observe that officers and strangers generally have aided with one or the party according to their bias. It seems that a Mr. George Brown, formerly an editor of a Political newspaper in Boston received the appointment of U.S. Commissioner to the Islands at the hands of John Tyler Esqr. President of the U. States for the purpose of concluding a treaty of Friendship and Commerce in behalf of the U.S. with these islands. There is also a consular and commercial agent appointed by the same authority to reside at these islands. The treaty I believe has never been finally concluded;--His Majesty the King of the Hawaiian islands in forming his cabinet, or rather in selecting his councilors and ministers of state. Selects from among the foreign residents. Men who have expatriated themselves from their native country, and become adventurers, ready for any and every employment. Dr. G. P. Jud, formerly connected professionally with the Americans board of foreign Missions, and was employed at the time in that capacity, was selected by his Majesty as minister of foreign affairs and a Mr. [John] Ricord a native of New York is appointed Attorney General. It will be observed that these Men have become Hawaiian subjects, by naturalization and have taken the oaths of allegiance. It appears that the King had pledged to the citizens of the U. States the rights and privileges that were extended to the most favored nations in friendship with these islands. A native is appointed Governor of Honolulu, and judge of the superior Courts, This is a man of standing among the Natives, and would have answered very well, for the present semi-civilized condition of the natives, as an arbiter for settling the various personal difficulties which might arise among them, but as profoundly ignorant of law the principles of law and the commercial regulations observed between natives as it is possible for a human being to be. Neither speaking nor comprehending the English language in which all their transactions are conducted. It appears also that by a treaty concluded between this and the English Government, that in all cases where an English subject is to be tried by a jury, that the English commercial agent shall be empowered to select such jury, and farther that the said jury, shall be all foreigners where question in dispute are between foreigners. And that one half of the jury shall be appointed as

above and of the same class where the matter in dispute is between an Englishman and a native, and the other half natives. It will be observed that this judge is both ignorant of the language and the law, and that this Attorney General is the constitutional adviser of his Majesty the King and his Excellency the Judge. And also prosecuting attorney before this Court. Now it appears that an American citizen by the name of Wiley, (a notorious character) is charged with the felonious crime of Rape, (Felonious by our law) But a simple Misdemeanor by Hawaiian law, punishable by a fine of Fifty Dollars and imprisonment. This This man is apprehended on a writ issued by his Honor and lodged in the Fort to await his trial, It seems however that he had a hearing before the police or inferior court and was fined \$50 and sentenced to two months imprisonment by his honor, who appears to act in the double capacity of Majistrate and judge. This man Wiley supported by the U.S. Consul appeals from his decission to a jury, it is granted through the interference of Mr. Brown. This appeal arising on the ground that there had been adduced before the Majistrate, no testimony which could [in-] criminate the prisoner. The Court meets. The Consul Mr. Hooper claims the right of selecting the jury, upon this head the Attorney General and Dr Jud demurred at first but afterwards accede to the Consuls demand. When the prisoner prayed a reversion of the former direction. Evidence is produced, when it is clearly shown not to be a case of Rape, but of seduction, by the consent of the female for and in consideration of the sum of \$10, however the jury find him guilty of a violation of the laws of these Islands, when by the influence of the same legal advisers, who had been prosecutors and persecutors, the judge confirms the former sentence. The Consul complained that the judgement was not correct, and also that he considered it an anomaly in jurisprudence for the prosecuting Attorney to be judge jury and prosecutor, and that the man was unjustly punished, as there was not evidence sufficiently clear to convict him. The idea of the Crime of Rape or Seduction bears on its face every thing that is repulsive to morals Reason or good order. But among the semi civilized race it is a thing of very common occurrence. For among the Chiefs, they but intimate to a female their desire and a non compliance is the forfeit of their lives, but this is said to be gradually subsiding. However the Crime was made a simple misdemeanor in the code of laws adopted by this Government, in order it is said not to excite the opposition of the chiefs. Now from all this I conclude. First That the man Wiley, is guilty of a violation of the laws of this island against Fornication, And should suffer the Penalty. Second That it was the duty of the Consul to see that the man had justice meeted out to him. Third That the Court is a farce, in consequence of the ignorance of the Judge. Fourthly That the man Ricord could not justly be prosecutor, and then leave the rostrum and ascend to the Bench and dictate the sentence to the judge. Fifthly that the man Ricord was primarily an interested person, and lastly, that Both the Men Jud & Ricord are seeking fortunes at the expense and disgrace of his Hawaiian majesties government, possessing no real attachment to his government, having no ties with the people, differing in their manners

and customs from the natives; that they are but adventurers; and weided by any influence which promises them the most success.

Thursday, 11 September 1845

The weather cool and pleasant, breeze light. Dr Oakly, and Mr. Wilkinson some better to-day. Had general quarters to-day. I may be permitted to say, that I conceive the improvement of the Crew in the exercise of their guns, similar to the improvement of Pat's Pig, backwards. It is very easy to stand on the poop Deck and give orders, and it is equally easy for the guns Crew to slight their evolutions, however as it passes in that glorious confusion, in which every thing that is done, is executed on board this ship, the assumption that it is done right, and executed in the most approved modern style agreeable to the very modern Tactics of that self constituted conniesure in military Tactics, particularly Marine Artillery and Naval gunnery, The beautiful and singularly decorous confusion, which ever accompanies, the evolution of repelling boarders, is not only entirely new, but exceedingly rich & racey. The stentorian thunders which are yelped out from the poop Deck, comes whistleing with so much jumbled confusion and gutterall harmony, that I defy the acute hearing of the most sensative ear, yea of the most acute apparation to find out the meaning, but it seems the masses move by instinct, as the mighty bleater of the poop Deck, assumes one [of] the most complaisant smiles, when he dilates his lungs and, his fancy chins falls bellowing to your quarters boarders. The Pickemen and Marines, stretched in single file the whole length of the ship, makes a furious onslaught, when they leave their half fought battle amid the thundering roar of away firemen away, and ere the buckets have lanyards, they are discomfiled, by the howling blast of away sail trimmers away, when these in their turn are arrested in their hurry^o to repair sails, by another thunder burst of silence run out and secure, when my complaisant trumpeter, takes a turn or two on the poop Deck struting as majistically as though he just [has] been proclaimed victor of Navarino, or a conqueror at Naupactus [Navpaktos], when all this delightful confusion is bought to a close by that still sweet voice crying beat the retreat, and lo the skipper walks around the deck to inquire how many shots have been fired, when to the utter astonishment of the amazed crew it is announced that one hundred and ninty-seven shots have been fired, when in fact not more than one third of that number had been the fact. The day closes by reefing Topsails.

Friday, 12 September 1845

The weather cool and pleasant, breeze fresh and fair. Two ordinary seaman punished to-day. The first Mathew Fagan, a smart active son of the Emerald Isle;--and very orderly and respectful man. He however is so unfortunate as to get into bad over, with _____ On this occassion one of the sub-captains of the Top in which he is station[ed], reported him for insolence to him, his superior, he is put in the Brig and kept there three or four days when he is brought

to the Mass, where the skipper delivers himself of a lecture, (of which by the by he is pretty generally pregnant). And poor Fagan is found guilty while protesting in his innocence, and is tucked up, and given one dozen with a ropes end, nautically called a colt. I believe myself that both Fagan and the other man were equally to blame and both ought to have been punished alike, And further the colt is contrary to Law, and prohibited specially by a regulation from the Navy Department. But this however is but in keeping with other illegal proceedings in this ship which I shall have occasion to notice. The other case was one of disrespect also. The prisoner in this was named Boody, a stupid aninate and indolent fellow, who has scarcely sense enough to obey an order or even to comprehend it when he is ordered. In this case the Carpenter gave him an order, to assist in taking down the railing around the after hatch, which he obeyed very reluctantly and spoke very disrepectfully to the Carpenter; I witnessed this case and am prepared to say that Boody deserved to be punished. He was punished with one dozen with the colt, the same as Fagan. Now independent of the positive regulation of the Navy Department, The law in relation to this case read thus at page 63 Article 30 of the law for the better government of the Navy. "No commanding officer shall, of his own authority discharge a commissioned or warrant officer, nor strike, nor punish him otherwise than by suspension or confinement, nor shall he of his own authority, inflict a punishment on any private beyond twelve lashes with a cat-of-nine-tails, nor shall he suffer any wired, or other than a plain cat-of-nine tails, to be used on board his ship;" There is another clause in this same article which is frequently violated, and often with severity, and poor Jack is made to suffer by such violation. The clause reads thus; "Nor shall any officer (except such commmander be absent for a time by leave) order or inflict any other punishment than confinement, for which he shall account on the return of such absent Commanding officer." If there was any necessity for law to be more plainly stated than above, I would suggest, that its interpretation by an intelligent Jury, and the emptying of the violaters pockets of some of the extravagant salaries which they receive would very soon put a stop to the infringement of this Law. Some time in the year 1835 or 1836 Congress passed a law establishing the apprenticeship system, which authorized the enlistment of boys as apprentices to serve not less than five years, in order to be made sailors, the government bind themselves by that law, to perform a contract that is to give the apprentice [a] certain amount of schooling, and also to learn then all the duties of a sailor. But unfortunately for the boys at least many of them, this law is not complied with. The first Lt of a ship takes a dislike to one or more of the boys and my word for it, the [boy] is required to do all the dirty work of the ship and at the end of the cruise is just as ignorant of the duties of a sailor is he was before he went on board the ship. Now on board this ship there is a boy by the name of C.....y who has been employed as a cleaner of the head, work which is generally performed by the most worthless negro on board the ship. This boy's time is now nearly out, and he states that he has had no schooling, and has not been instructed in any of

the duties of a sailor since he has been in the service. My opinion is that this boy can recover damages against the U. States before any court and jury in the country, and I am farther of opinion that the officers who have charge of these boys should be punished for neglecting to comply with requirements of the law. About four o'clock this evening the lookout at the mast head sang out sail, O, she [was] soon seen from the deck, when it appeared that she was anxious to speak [to] us, but regardless of her manoeuvres, this ship stood on her course, and when the ship found that she could not speak [to] us, she stood away on her course, showing American colors. Now what is the utility of the government of the U. States incurring the extraordinary expenses of Forty or fifty thousand dollars a year, in keeping this ship afloat in these seas if they are merely to run from port to port, and not speak [to any] American Whalers and merchantmen at sea when they meet them, now it may be that this poor fellow wanted assistance, and it is not improbable that some accident may have befallen him, for he was one of the hardy class, a large whaling ship, or he may have important information which it would have been to [the] interest of the U. States to know, but these are minor considerations. There are in these sea's, A Frigate at an expense of seventy-five thousand dollars a year, three sloops of War at an aggregate of one hundred and twenty-five thousand a year, one schooner at ten thousand a year and a store ship at about the same, showing the aggregate of two hundred and twenty thousand dollars a year, expensed annually for the avowed purpose of affording relief and assistance to our mercantile and whaling Marine. But so far as my observation has gone they are here to run from a few of the Ports on the coast and islands, in order for the officers to spend their time [as] pleasantly as possible. Further The Frigate has made one short cruise since she has been on the station, she has lain five months at a time in the bay of Callao, the Warren and Levant, have been running between the ports on the coast of Mexico, apparently to look out for American interest, but in fact to violate the laws of the by smuggling money jewels and silver Ware. The Portsmouth is now in her passage to Monterey. The Levant made a smuggling cruise on the coast of Mexico worth some thousands of dollars. Thus violating the laws of nations, and turning a national vessel into a piratical craft. One moment will suffice to show the injustice of this, Mexico has her tariff of duties, from this the government is supported, the U.S. has a naval cruising on her coast for the purpose of affording protection and assistance to our Mercantile Marine, but instead of affording this protection, they are engaged in violating the laws & smuggling. Again if this base practice is permitted by the government then the people should know it, in order that they might reduce the immense salaries allowed to these commissioned smugglers, & I may have occasion to advert [to] this subject again during my cruise. I will say no more just now, perhaps I may reflect some new light on the subject as all the squadron is ordered to the coast.

Saturday, 13 September 1845

Cool and pleasant, blowing very fresh all day, We had a dinner party in the ward room to-day. It will be remembered that [it] is [the] anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore, (our Carterer, Surgeon Wm. Maxwell Wood is a native of Baltimore,) Capt Montgomery and a Mr. Johnston, who is bearer of dispatches from our Commissioner Mr. Brown at the Hawaiian Islands, to the government at home, dine[d] with us. It was a very excellent dinner, and passed off very agreeably, I could not help remark what a change there seemed in wine bottles, I recollect the day when they would have required to have been filled up at least once or twice before the gentleman got through dinner, but on this occasion there was not, I am convinced a half dozen wine glass[es] used. In fact many of those who tasted it all merely sipped it when they were asked to drink wine, I was also please to remark that the Capt asked no body to drink wine, and I hope yet before the cruise is up to see wine as well as every thing else in the shape of liquor on board the ship specially prohibited. There are several now who do not use it [at] all, and I conceive it to be down right injustice to require me to incur an expense from which I shall receive no advantage or benefit. The weather so cool this evening that the crew were ordered to put on flannels and stockings a very wise and necessary order, had Quarters at sunset, and after quarters took one reef in topsails. Dr. Oakly and Mr Wilkinson some[what] better to-day but mending very slowly, the Dr is quite low spirited, and in fact I do wonder at it, as he has now been sick for several weeks, and there is little prospect of amendment.

Sunday, 14 September 1845

The weather quite cool, breeze fresh, some rain, had quarters at 10 o'clock as usual, the Capt inspected the crew, In consequence of a slight shower, the church was postponed until 11 A. M. when the Capt read the church of England service, and prayed, and a lesson from the Bible, he selected that beautiful passage or chapter from the sacred writings, in which our Savior has so beautiful set forth, the goodness of the creator in his dealings with his creation. It was the parable of the vineyard, in which the owner, went out at the 9th 10th and 11th hour, to procure laborers, and when the work was done paid them all alike, at which those who were first employed complained that those who had [worked] only half as long as they were paid just as much as they who had labored the whole day, for which our savior rebukes their envious and uncharitable manners. At sunset reef Topsails, Raining, About 11 o'clock Mr Wilkinson was seized with an extreme difficulty of breathing, which quite alarmed all hands of us, but which fortunately resulted in nothing serious. Mr Wilkinson has [been] sick now for some months, and his constitution seems to be considerably wrecked. It is thought that he will have to return home. Dr Oakly is something better, but still quite indisposed. The first Lieut has been complaining for a day or two, and appears to be indisposed, to be sick.

Monday, 15 September 1845

The weather cool, very little wind, and ahead. Exercised the Guard in manual of Arms, saw a good many of the black albatross flying around to-day. Reefed Topsails at sunset, cloudy and some appearance of squalls which are very common at this season of the year. Mr. Wilkinson better to-day, but still quite ill, Dr. Oakly still very much indisposed. Mr Herron who has been sick for several days, went on duty to-day, but is very far from being well and besides is very low spirited. I conceive it very imprudent in him to keep watch at night. Mr Parish who has been on the sick list for more than two months went to duty to-day, but the nature of his disease is such that a return may be at any time look[ed] for in a secondary form, The rest are all well.

Tuesday, 16 September 1845

The weather pleasant, breeze light but fair. Exercised the guard in the Manual of Arms, Mr Herron was discharged from sick list, was placed on it again last night he being yet too feeble to do duty or bear exposure to the night. Dr. Oakly and Mr. Wilkinson slightly improving. The rest well. The conversation at the tea table turned upon various question, some on the follies and improprieties of youth, and others on courting, and the merits of certain ladies. I have listened to the rehearses of persons in relation to their gallant exploits, but never in my life did I hear any thing so egotistical, and unmanly. A man with hardly a civil claim to civilization, but few well founded pretentions to good breeding, and less to good manners, by when nature has dwelt badly, as he has no pretentions to good looks ever, but rather is a tall loosely put together sort [of] walking apperation, with just sense enough to concoct mischief, but without sufficient brains to avert misery, discontented with the world, unhappy with himself and [illegible] to the good of all mankind, for such a character to attempt to speak of female beauty and merit is the height of absurdy, but what more could be expected from such medly compound of ill nature, ill looks, ill manners and illustrious ill luck which has attended this inellegant old man, whose disposition the frost of forty winters has not in the least improved, but congealed into a more obdurate moroseness.....--

Wednesday, 17 September 1845

The weather cool, breeze fresh, & fair. All the sick better to-day. The Coppers, a named given to madam rumor on board ship, is quite prolific in conjecture as to who will be the next commodore of the station, and the last name which she has divulged is Captain [George W.] Storer, I however expect that Captain [John D.] Sloat will not relinquish the command without [a fight] to retain it, at least a year or two longer. This change seems to be of the most exciting importance to many of the officers, I however care very little as regards myself, except that I should be very Glad if this

could be made the flag ship, as it would be of great pecuniary advantage to me, and no one needs it more than myself. At Tea table some sympathetic remarks were indulged [in] by several of the mess in relation to an unfortunate individual, who formerly belonged to the [ship], and was a surgeon. Dr. [Charles] C[hase]. was a man of most respectable deportment, of the most bland, urbane, and courteous manners, gifted with a mind far above mediocrity, with rare acquirements, and an exceedingly fair medical reputation, with great conversational powers, and every way very prepossessing in external appearance. But all these exalted attainments, these high mental acquirements, this extraordinary polish of manners, and singular combination of polish should be totally degraded by the delictorious effects of intemperance, his mind degraded and destroyed, his reputation forever gone, his wife doomed [to] a melancholy dejectedness, to penury and want, to misery and disgrace, his children beggars and orphans in his life time, all produced by the pernicious practice of dram drinking. Yet notwithstanding this glowing example, this misery depicted in such legible colors, that cannot efface, this disgrace visiting the sicken heart of woman and children, there are those of his former acquaintances and companions who still adhere to the baneful and disgusting practice.

Thursday, 18 September 1845

The weather cool and pleasant, breeze light and fair. Not feeling very well. I took a dose of oil this morning. The sick I believe are improving but very slowly. Saw a whale ship to-day standing to the westward, probably looking for whale. The discussion at supper turn[ed] upon intemperance, when the surgeon gave as the result of his observation that a man who was in the habit of drinking what is called moderately at twenty-five, is sure to be a Drunkard at forty-five, and many [illegible] very lamentable cases to prove his assertion. I feel persuaded that temperance is on [the] increase, and trust yet before the ship is laid up home that every soul in her may be a strong temperance advocate and practice what they advocate. A Boy by the Robbins was given one dozen to-day with the cat-of-nine-tails, on the bare back. It seems that a cross morose pretulent fellow who is playing [a] kind of second Capt in the mizen top reported the Boy for insolence, for which this punishment was given. Robbins is a lad about seventeen or eighteen years old, of a very mild and kind disposition, smart and active, vigilant and obedient, but perhaps may have been lead to commit himself by the vexations and tantalizing course of this old sailor, who feelings have long since been debased by the lash, and whose heart had no sympathy for the errors of youth, but took delight in seeing the infant back of this boy lacerated, and his feelings covered and debased. I was strongly impressed at the time with the fact, that this man should have received the punishment, and the boy chided or reprimanded by the Capt. But unfortunately for the child the man who reported him was a pet of one high in authority.

Friday, 19 September 1845

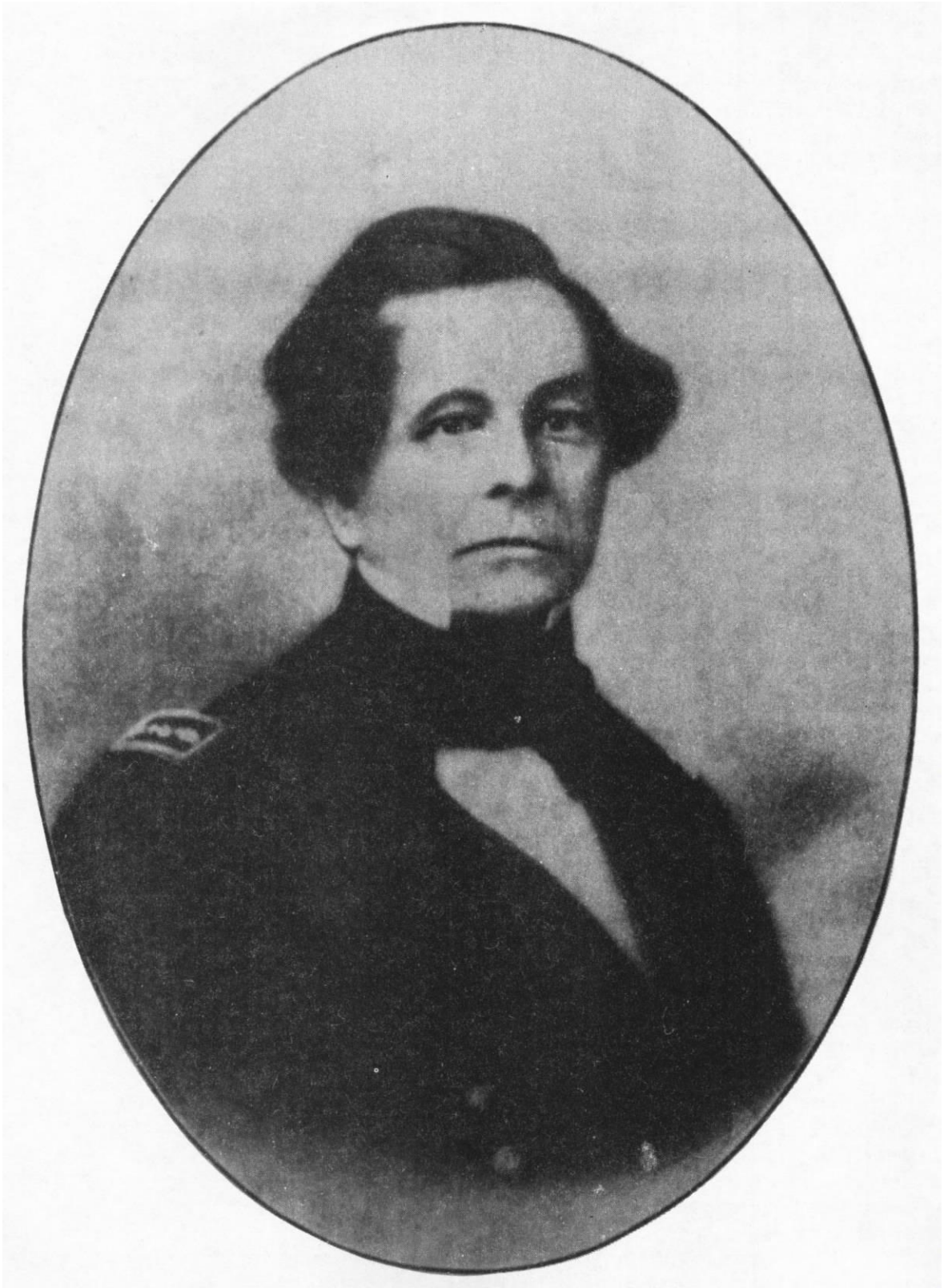
The weather cool and pleasant, the wind variable, and light, some rain squalls this forenoon, Saw a ship standing to the westward supposed to [be] a whaler, she showed her colors but was at too great a distance for us to distinguish them. The Capt give another little dinner party to-day to which myself among others, were invited, that is to say, Lt. Schenck and myself from the ward room, and Midshipmen Herron and [Daniel C.] Hugunin from the sterrage,-- At half past two P. M. we sat down to dinner. The provission was very sumptuous, but I regretted to see how the good nature of our Capt was imposed upon by his steward (who is an englishman) The first course was soup, which was very fine, the second was boiled fish (salt) which would have been excellent if [it] had been properly soaked before it was cooked. The third was, roast fresh pig, bake Turkey, ham, baked potatoes cabbage boiled potatoes and boiled onions with some mixture of onions, tomatoes and cabbage as a species of cold slough, all [of] which was very good, but badly served, thro the carelessness of his steward, The fourth was Tapioca pudding peach pie and nuts, to which was added what had or ought to be included in the third course, that baked macerony and cheese,--The fifth course was Coffee, very little wine was drink, the Capt rather discouraging it, as he is no doubt, [(]at least I hope so) oppose[d] to its increase and would like to see it entirely dispensed with, The dinner passed off without much conversation except of a general character, Allusion was made to the marrying of Ladies while there is an uncertainly as to the [whereabouts] of their first husbands. It seems that a lady in Honolulu whose husband had been absent on Merchantile business in France for several months, and who had taken passage in the unfortunate French ship, on board of which there were several french missionaries intended for the sandwich Islands and is supposed to have foundered off Cape Horn as nothing has been heard of her since she was at the Catharine Islands, This lady in the very short space of twelve months after the supposed loss of said ship on board of which her husband was, married again at Honolulu, proving at Least that her bereavement was the source of no very great distress. Now supposed the unfortunate individuals were wrecked on some island or even on the coast of Patagonia, and have only been prevented from communicating with their friends by want of an opportunity, and suppose by some fortunate accident they should have or meet an opportunity so to do, and suppose by said opportunity the said supposed husband of the said lady was to return to Honolulu, what would be his feelings in finding another man in the quiet possession of his wife is more than I am able to say by supposition, but were I in his [place] I would give a receipt in full, as a very slipery disposed creature, without a full share of human sympathy,--Our unfortunate first Lt. is becoming more and more odious to many of the officers, but may he be rewarded according to his deeds--

Saturday, 20 September 1845

The weather cool and pleasant, the breeze light and variable, little of importance going on to-day, A discussion on the subject of raising children, and the propriety of giving them a mechanical knowledge, agreed upon. I hope it may be practical, for I feel sure if it was there would be less misery and poverty in the world.

Sunday, 21 September 1845

The weather cool and pleasant, breeze fresh and fair--At 10 A. M. mustered the Crew at quarters, At half past ten had service, The Capt read the church of England service and prayers, with parts of the psalms and parts of two chapters in the Bible, he then made a short lecture to the men, after which he read a sermon, The purport of the Captains lecture was this, He remarked that the sabbath day was intended to be kept sacred, that is that it was strictly enjoined by the sacred scriptures;--He also remarked that he had observed with extreme regret and dissatisfaction, that the men on sunday after the morning service, they engaged themselves with playing backgammon, checquers, domino's, &c. He stated to them that in the U. States, the desecration of the sabbath in the way just mentioned, was not permitted at all, and he hoped that he the practices of such desecrations on board this [ship] would be dispensed with from this day forth, if it was not, that he should be compelled by the authority vested in [him] as the commander of this ship, to put a stop to it, by all the means in his power, under that article of the regulation for the suppression of dissolute and immoral practices. Farther recommending to the men, the perusal of the Bible and other good books, which were abundantly supplied on board the ship. I readily perceive that the skipper is anxious by this to do away with what he conceives a grievous sin, and also to induce the men to read the Bible, He farther stated to the men, that in no part of the U. States by no sect or society or community were the desecrations which he complained off known or permitted. Far be it from me to criticise the Capt motives and still farther from me, the idea of speaking lightly of the Bible, Yet I may be permitted to remark, first that but a small proportinate number of the men can read at all, second those who can read a passage in the Bible, when the whole party, then discuss it, which the results in a multitude of crude and ignorant assumptions over which, the argument [illegible] warms, when all parties enforce their favorite ideas or opinions by the most obscene and indelicate language, associated, with the most disgusting and original oaths,--Thus a multitude of sins are committed of almost a sacrilegious character; originated in the ignorance of the men, Those who cannot read at all may escape this particular sin, but for the want of the usual employments are had to originated the most revolting stories, and here said falsehoods, and also to engage their already too fertile immaginations in conjuring new sources of devilment and mischief, Whereas while I believe that the worthy Capt will not be born out is his assumption as to the various grades [of] society, who practise



Commander John B. Montgomery

and vary other innocent amusements, I am convince[d] that the vary amusements which he has this day prohibited, conduced more to the innocent occupations of the minds of the crew, and render them contented and happy, at least amid the dull monotony of the scenes at sea, I readily admit that if all could read and understand what they read that it would be much the best mode, but how few understand the sacred writings, and I have been lead to believe that the reading [of] them carelessly or lightly was a greater sin that not reading them at all.

Officers. Captain J. B. Montgomery Commander, J. S. Missroon 1st R. Forrest 2nd W. S. Schenck 3rd and W. A. Barlette 4th Lieuts, acting Master, Passed Midshipman, John Wilkinson, Purser J. H. Watmaugh, Surgeon W. M. Wood, Assistant Surgeon C. H. Oakly Lieut Comdg the Marines, H. B. Watson, Midshipmen Davidson, Herron, Gamble, Ganesvoort, Parrish, Tillottson, Grafton and Hugunin. Boatswain Whitaker Gunner Randall, Carpenter Wisner, Sail maker Bruce, Capt Clerk E. Montgomery [torn] L. Montgomery, Bearer of Dispatches-- Johnson.

Monday, 22 September 1845

The weather is quite cool, blowing nearly a gale. Made a sad discovery in my Department. It was this, having occasion to go into the Marine store Room, I discovered that the Moth had made their appearance among the clothing, and committing very considerable damage. Some experiments were being made during the day in trimming ship, but with what success I am unable to state. One thing is certain that by moving guns to the different parts, in such numbers, (as there were four abaft the mainmast this evening) strains the timbers of the ship, and thus does injuries, which it will require thousands of dollars to repair, and this incurred to gratify the speculative and idle curiosity of the premier tenienty. The constructor on turning the ship over to the officers, stated her trim precisely, and one would think that he ought to know, but it is generally the case that idle, ignornant and visionary minds, destroy in a day what the genius, talent, industry and application, of a presevering and active mind is months accomplishing. The sick gradually improving. We have chapter on the Carpet in relation to his excellency ex-President John Tyler, and his amiable lady, as is usual it was ridiculous in the extreme, speaking despairingly of both these distinguished individuals. I have often reflected, how uncalled these remarks are among officers, Many of whom have doubtless received favors from these very individuals. It cannot be denied that officers in their individual capacity have rights and privileges in common with the rest of their fellow citizens, and should doubtless express, act and express their opinions on all great questions affecting either the policy or the interest of their country, but I opine that they should never indulge in virtuperative abuse, nor private detraction and I deem it altogether at variance with that gallantry of conduct, and chivilery of sentiment which should ever characterized the public officer particularly the officer

who is bred to the profession [of] Arms, either field, or Marine. I know it to be beneath the soldier and I had hoped that it was also beneath the sailor, but unoccupied minds always love to prattle, and the more innocent their victim the more virulent their remarks and denunciations. How unmanly this habit in full grown men, how much at variance with a rectitude of mind and a magnanimity of thought and feeling. How many prejudices are created by reckless assumptions and false illustrations, by which many an innocent individual is made the creature of detraction, and base invectives. How cowardly this in an intellegent mind, how contemptible in a christian community to give credence and report to such infamous slanders, how like the assassin to make them behind a man's back. When these very same persons, to the face of those they abuse, would be, the most obsequious, complaisant yes even like fawning sycophants, begging, to do their pleasure, but amen.

Tuesday, 23 September 1845

The weather cool. The breeze fresh and ahead. (600 miles off) Nothing worthy of note occurred to day, made a regulation, concerning the Marines turning in and out of their hammocks, that who they shall berth with. The sick do not appear to be any better to day. Mid. Davidson sick to-night. At Tea the conversation turn[ed] upon matters of religion, and as is usual all the sins impieties, and absurd ideas, which have been produced either in the minds of mad and capricious speculators, or the production of some anti-christian and factious cabal self styled doctors of Divinity, were lavashed in the profuse manner imaginable upon the Catholic Church, and that too by a man professing to be a christian. But such contemptible and slanderous abuse, defileth not the purity of that holy church, and I can only say. The Lord have mercy on her revilers. For their sins are many, and their days are few.

Wednesday, 24 September 1845

The weather cool. The breeze light and fair. (about 500 off) Last night in the middle watch, Lt Barlette being officer of the deck, in setting or trimming sails and yards, some one of the rope or rigging or running gear had become jambed on the fore yard, which it was necessary should be cleared and a Topman by the name of Whelan was sent out to clear it. This poor fellow in applying to much force to clear it, lost balance and fell to the Deck, almost mangling his whole body, one leg was broken in four places below the hip, the other considerably fractured, and face very much broken and fractured. The doctors think there is a possiblity, but a bare possibility of his recovery; the chances are however that he will die. He is now suffering the most excruciating agonies. Whelan is about thirty-five years of age, of a very strong and vigorous constitution, he was very stout and also quite a corpulant man, and weigh about two hundred or two hundred and twenty-five pounds. He is an exceedingly active man, a fine seaman and a very subordinate and well disposed man. He is an American. Some convers[at]ion

this evening in relation to the monster of the deep, mevelous stories indeed, but sufficiently uninteresting. Over hauled and aired the Marine Clothing today--made some issues to the Guard. Prohibited bartering or trading among the men. The poor fellow Whelan lingered until about half past four o'clock of the 25th Sept 1845, when he died apparently without a struggle. Poor Whelan was committed to the deep at half past eleven o'clock this morning. This is the first serious accident which we have had since leaving the U. States, and I sincerely hope that it may be the last. This man is name John Wheelan and not Timothy.

Thursday, 25 September 1845

The breeze fresh and fair, weather cool, (about 350 miles off.) I omitted to mention yesterday the punishment of two seaman, their crimes were some trivial omissious of duty, they were given one dozen a piece, with the colt or rather rope's end. The use of this article I hold to be unlawful, but the powers that be, may be acquainted with some lope hole by which to avert the just operation of the law. The sick improving. Timothy Whelan seaman died at 1/2 past four o'clock this evening.

Friday, 26 September 1845

The weather cool. Blowing nearly a gale of wind, (about 100 miles off.) At half Past eleven o'clock, all hands were called to bury to dead. The order had been previously issued for the crew to dress themselves for Muster, and the officers ordered to appear in undress & Epauletts. The guard was under arms. Poor Whelan had been brought on deck, neatly sewed up in his hammock, with two thirty-two pound shot at his feet; All hand being assembled, the corspe was placed on the sliding board in the weather gang way, (Port) the Capt. read the Burial service according to the Church of England Service, when the body was committed was committed to the deep. This man four short days ago was in health and vigor, and perhaps totally thoughtless on the subject of death, or a future state, laying on doubt his plans of enjoyment, as sanguinely as any of us, and indeed with as bright a prospect of realizing them as any man in the ship, but alas poor fellow, both him and his anticipations are now buried deep in the sea, where they will moulder until demanded by the great and merciful Creator, at the resurrection, how this accident verifies the truth of that remark, which says "in midst of life, we are in death," and ["] how necessary it is for us to be always ready, for we know not the hour." I came very near receiving a serious injury this [day] myself. I was on the poop deck sitting on the spanken bomb, the ship was rolling very much. The whale boat which was placed up there for repairs, not being properly secured, slid with [the] rolling [of] the ship. I had my hand on it when it slid from under it and I fell with my hand to the deck, which nearly dislocated my shoulder, but it was only sprained, which has undered it very sore. The sick generally improving. Mid. Gamble went on the list

this evening (with swelled Testicles [the diagnosis has been crossed out])

Saturday, 27 September 1845

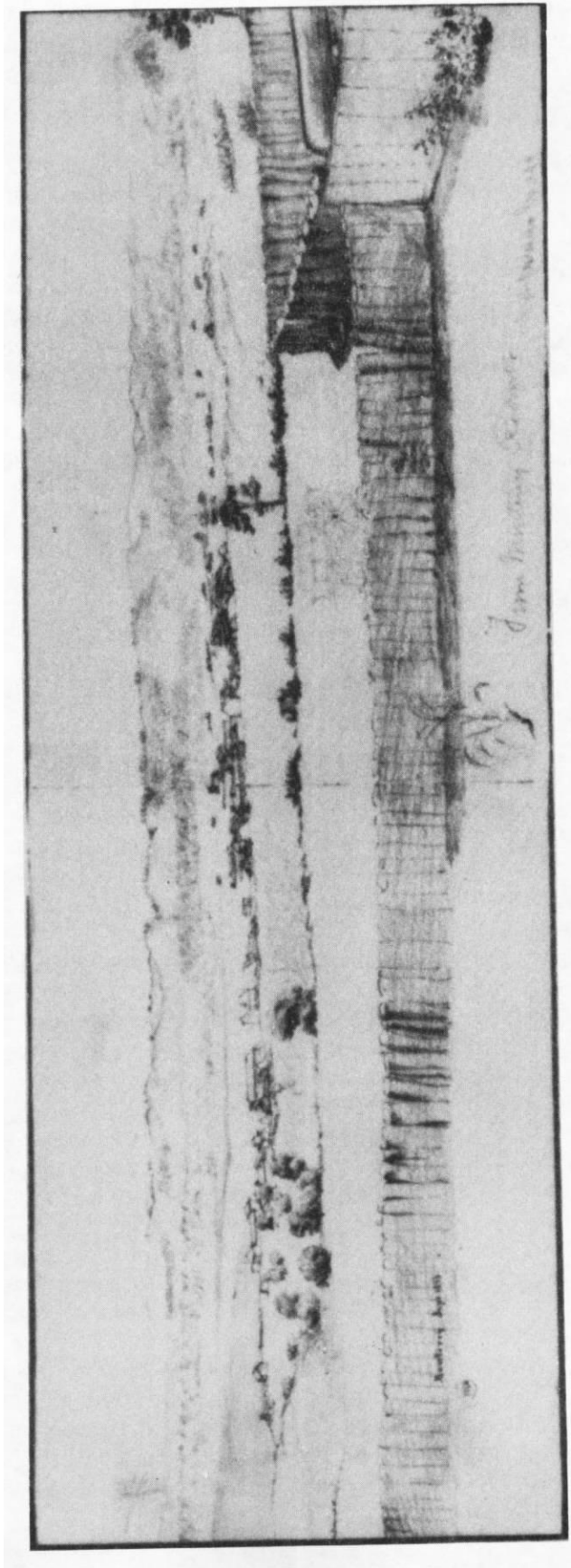
The weather cool and the breeze fresh. Made the land about 12 o'clock and stood up the Bay of Monterey, came to anchor off the fort (a miserable looking mound of earth made with mud walls) about four o'clock, found at anchor here the american whale ship "United States" and the american merchant ship, "Tasso" with a mexican Brig & Schooner; Mr. [Thomas O.] Larkin our Consul visited the ship and received the usual salute. I suffered the most violent pain all night last night, and consequently feel very much out of sorts to day. The doctor prescribed some camphered linement for my shoulder, and although it is yet very sore, it is better and not so painful as it has been. Dr Oakly went on duty to day. The the rest of the sick gradually improving. Reported news from Mexico that active preparations were making for a war with the U. States, Brittish Capitalist advancing Mexico funds.

Monterey, Bay, City, and forts with some general remarks &c. Commodore Jones, & Lt: Robbins.

The discovery of this spacious Bay is said to have taken place in the year 1602, and to have been made by the Spanish Navigator Viscaïno under orders from the vice Roy of Mexico. He named it Monterey, in honor of the said vice Roy. Whom he recommended to establish here a colony, and to build forts, which was done not long after its discovery by the Spanish. This is an immense Bay, or arm of the sea running several miles into the interior. The water is very deep, but on the North side near the town the anchorage is good. Ships are protected here from gales very little, and it is said to be not only insecure, but extremely dangerous, as many vessels have already been lost in this Bay. Whale run up into the Bay and are frequently taken in it. Sharks are said to be numerous. I saw nine. Fish are very abundant and of a fine quality and flavor.

The city is composed of not more than one hundred and fifty tenement, and perhaps a population of from three to five hundred inhabitants. The buildings are constructed of Wood, adobes and temporary shids, principally in the spanish style.

The forts. I know not how to seriously speak under this head, for what are represented as forts are too contemptible for even a jest. The[y] are without walls or guns, and I saw but two small pieces of ordinance and they nearly useless, as the carriages of Iron rust assisted by a constant exposure, and neglect to the weather, will in a short time leave California without a gun. The country just in this vicinity is mountaneous, with many deep ravines, which seem to be the effect of the heavy rains during the rainy season, but they are perfectly dry, the forest is composed of a species of scrub pine, nearly all sap, and the under brush is kept off by being burnt



"Monterey from the Redoubt, September 1851," by William R. Hutton

very frequently--Squirrels which burrow in the ground are very numerous, with Partridges Ducks and deer. There is some small live oak trees growing here. On arriving at this place, I confess that my curiosity and attention was considerably excited, as the [place] had been rendered [illegible] by the daring and gallant and successful attack of the chivalrous Commodore [Thomas Ap Catesby] Jones. The[re] was mingled with this curiosity a painful reflection, caused by the report of the said Jones in relation to an honorable and high minded officer of my Corp. Lt. [George W.] Robbins landed at this place under the guns of the Frigate and a detachment of seaman for the purpose of storming the fort, on reaching the dirt breastwork of this would be formidable catch he found but five superannuated soldiers, who were protected from the encroachment of Bears, by a faithful Bull dog. As the attacking [force] advanced the gallant chief observed some of his hord not drawin their swords, he turned and said gentlemen draw your [swords] and be prepared to receive the enemy. They reached the entrance of the enclosure, not a sound is heard not a human being is seen, but the five poor old mexicans are after a diligent search found crouched together in the corner of a thatched hut, in order to hide themselves from the pertentious forebodings presented by this formidable array. I believe the gallant chief permitted a capitulation, and the old mexicans with their faithful ally of the canine race were permitted with them to retreat to the interior. It was the taking of a Town and Fort like this, inhabited by a species of san culotts, that the noble generous urbane and accomplished Robbins, is accused by this renowned chif-tain, for a burst of capacity and energy. This noble youth now lies in his grave. But his traducer revels in courtly favor, apparently without a single feeling of remorse. (May justice yet be done.)

Sunday, 28 September 1845

The weather pleasant, Had quarters at ten o'clock and prayers by Capt. The afternoon was spent by many of the officers and nearly all the ships company in fishing which are exceedingly abundant, particularly mackerel. They are of a very fine flavor and more so when corned, a large quantity were caught for the purpose of salting. The French whale ship sent her boats out this morning and took a small whale in the Bay, yeilding about twenty barrels of oils. They have here the most delightful Beef I have ever eaten and charge but six dollars for a Bullock without the hide and 8 dollars with it, plenty of venson, vegitables are scarce, and the fruit but indif-ferent--except at Mount Carmel, at which place there is a Catholic Mission, with schools and farms attacked, (I had not time to visit it)

Monday, 29 September 1845

The weather cool, quite calmn. Made every preparation for get-ting under way, but the sea breeze did not serve until it was too late. Went on shore this evening and took a stroll through the

woods. Gave the orderly Sergt permission to go with his musket, nearly all the officers went a gunning (see preceding page)

Tuesday, 30 September 1845

The weather cool, calm and thick mist, Some of the officers and two of the Marines went out hunting this morning, returned not having been very successful. The sea breeze was late making, however the Tasso got underway, about two o'clock, when the Capt. ordered the Portsmouth got under way which was done in a much handsome style than I ever saw before, The Breeze freshened a good deal [and] we stood out handsomely. Nearly all the officers had made arrangements and laid plans for a regular hunt this evening, but they were sadly disappointed.

Wednesday, 1 October 1845

The weather cool, cloudy with light winds and ahead, Four of the sailors were punished, their offenses generally sprung from intemperance. One Marine punished by the name of [James M.] Wilder, he is a boy about 18 years old but of a bad disposition, & requires the cats save him, nothing more worthy of note.

Thursday, 2 October 1845

The weather cool, cloudy and calm, nothing of note to-day, except that Midshipman Herron, was slightly poisoned by eating Mackerel, which it is supposed had been feeding on a copper bank.

Friday, 3 October 1845

The weather cool, cloudy and calm, & number of birds flying around the ship to-day. Some fin back Whale blowing very near to us, and a Shark or two seen to-day. Some conversation, of a commendatory character and some reverse, in regard to officers of the Navy, all which in my opinion was highly reprehensible.

Saturday, 4 October 1845

The weather cool, Cloudy and Fresh breeze. Several land birds found on board to day of the lark, snipe, Wren species, which are becoming tame quite fast, There were a number of men flogged this morning, all for sleeping on their Watch, and one of the Marines also was flogged for sleeping on the deck during his watch, this has been the universal habit in this ship, and I think it late in the cruise, to make alterations.

Sunday, 5 October 1845

The weather cool, Cloudy and fresh breeze, Mustered at quarters at ten o'clock, and had service by the Capt, The Rules and Regulations were read.

Monday, 6 October 1845

The weather pleasant, Cloudy and fresh breeze, Exercised the men in the manual of Arms, Passed the island of Guadaloupe, it is about thirty miles long, very little vegetation. It is uninhabited except by the sea birds, and a species of wild goat. It appears to be volcanic.

Tuesday, 7 October 1845

The weather pleasant, Clear & fresh breeze. Exercised the men in the manual of Arms, Boy Adams confined, with orders that he is to speak to no-body, no communication in any other manner. This is a bad boy.--

Wednesday, 8 October 1845

The weather pleasant, fresh breeze. Exercised the guard in the manual of Arms, About 12 M. hauled up for the lobes islands, but could not find them consequently it is to be inferred that are not correctly laid down on the charts, this is to be seriously regretted as some ship through ignorance may be lost, Borrowed one dollar from Dr. Wood. The sick nearly all well or convalescent.

Thursday, 9 October 1845

The weather warm, fair and light breeze, Had general quarters with the usual formal performances. Saw the land to-day about thirty miles off. Private [John] Richardson on the sick [list] with sore eye.

Friday, 10 October 1845

The weather warm, Clear and light breeze, Cape Saint Lucas in sight. The coast looks barren, There is here a roman Catholic mission.

Saturday, 11 October 1845

The weather quite warm, Clear and calmn, Cape Saint Lucas still in sight, Some scrubbing and cleaning going [on] to-day. Lt. Washington A. Barlette asserts it as a fact that Robert Lenox of N. York City gives to charitable purpose, particularly to building churches \$30,000 and even sometimes rises to a sum not less than \$60,000, Wonderful indeed. I wonder what persuasion he belongs to,

Sunday, 12 October 1845

The weather excessively warm, the theremometer standing at 86 in my room, in the ward room, and at 85 on deck, perfectly calmn. Had service at eleven o'clock it was long a very fatiguing, not to say anything of the heat and monotony, general and particular of late. The Purser and myself between whom some misunderstanding, had arisen

about what the pursur knew not, consequently this evening he came forward [to] where I was sitting and propose[d] to speak to me to which I assented, when he said that he regretted that he should [have] made use of any remarks to me or about which gave me offense, and hoped I would pardon then that he had acted improperly, I readily consented to this, and thus all matters of difference between us was disposed of to the mutual gratification of both.

Monday, 13 October 1845

The weather very warm, and it is still a calmn, we are off the mouth of the gulf of California, All earnestly praying for a breeze.

Tuesday, 14 October 1845

The weather is excessively warm, Clear and calmn. The ship has gone but twenty-five or thirty miles for the last twenty-four hours. Took a dose of medicine last night in order to assist my digestion, operated very well but has left an uneasiness or rather annoyance of the stomach with some symptoms of diarreah;--The allowance of water, that is one gallon to each man per day does not hold out [in] this warm weather. Some conversation on the gross misrepresentations, and palpable falsehoods contained in Alison's Chapter, in the History of Europe on the subject of the U. States, In which he not only misstates facts, but lies in the most gross manner upon subjects, and policies, the truth and utility of which has recommended itself so forcibly to the mass of mankind, that their adoption is rapidly taking place and gaining ground all over the civilized world. The first Lt: comfort and repose was somewhat interfered with this evening by Mid. Tillotson, It seems that Mr. T. is a lively and playful youth about fifteen years old was amusing himself with some of his mess mates in their apartment, and happened to speak rather louder, than the acute sensibility of the 1st Lt thought polite, consequently as he the 1st Lt was clothed with a brief of authority ordered him on deck to keep an extra watch by way of punishment, This is all wrong, for I think the lad should have been permitted to enjoy the bouyancy feeling and gait of heart with commendation rather than restraint, but the weather is too hot to enlarge now upon the subject.

Wednesday, 15 October 1845

The weather very warm, fresh breeze, a large number of islands in view as also Mazatlan anchored about 2 o'clock about three miles from the City.

Thursday, 16 October 1845

Saluted the mexican flag with 21 guns which was promptly returned. The Consul [John Parrott] visited the ship officially and was given the customary salute, This is my birth day and also that of my daughter Mary, and I humbly pray that her health is as good as mine,

Got under way about three o'clock, bound to San blas, with a fine fresh breeze, the weather very warm. This is the birth day of Mary F. Watson my eldest daughter. [The last sentence was crossed out.]

Friday, 17 October 1845

The weather warm and breeze fresh, and fair, sailing along [the] coast of Mexico, with a large number of islands & solitary rocks, rising above the level of the sea, and presenting a very romantic and pleasing appearance;--Came to anchor off San Blas about nine o'clock P. M.

Saturday, 18 October 1845

The weather warm, and sultry, A number of the officers went on shore to day. I did not go, but contented myself with taking a birds eye view of the surrounding[s], It appears on one side of the Town, [there is] a continuous and dense forest, covering both hill & dale and on the other side a long low nook of land making out into the sea, covered with but little verdure, or any other, enticing appearance. The town is hid from view, by a solitary knoll of earth, on the top of this mound, stands the melancholy ruins of a once formidable castle, from whose porticoes the mandates of imperial Phillip, once struck terror to the wild and passive Indian, and in whose halls, the lusty dons of this blood stained Prince reveled in stately magnificence, But they now stand as the mementoes of the mutability of all human grandieur, The Prince that planned and the ministers civil military and ecclesiastical that prosecuted as well as the thousands of servile slaves who executed, together with the lofty domes they reared, have all long since maundered and given way to a new race of beings, The stately castle princely halls and spired Cathedral, erected upon the ruins of the montazuma's have in their turn given way for the neatly thatched cottage, of the much abuse[d] and persecuted Indian, who amid all this wreck of magnificence and mortality, has survived to see those who oppressed and plundered and violated the rights, liberties and chastity of his fore fathers in their turn become the slave of every daring demagogue, hunted and driven like so many animals to the sacrifice of a wild and fierce ambitions but such are the wise regulations by which justice is even administered, and the oppressors in there [turn] are oppressed. The Capt quite unwell this evening, Got under way about seven o'clock, wind light, but fair. Procured some fine fruit at this place.

Sunday, 19 October 1845

The weather very warm, breeze light and fair. In consequence of the indisposition of Capt Montgomery there was no service to-day, and which by the by created quite a vaccum in the fore part of the day, as we have been so accustomed to it, that it is looked for, however this was in a measure filled up by having a muster. Passed and spoke [to] an English merchantman or rather store ship, called

the Medora, having stores for the English squadron in these seas, last from Valpariaso no news, When this vessel first hoisted her colors and in fact until we had spoken [to] her she was supposed to be a Sardinian vessel. In consequence of which she was hailed in the Italian language, John Bull somewhat puzzled to comprehend our true character, very quietly sung out and asked "what do you say" so we were forced to sail under our own colors, to the no little amusement of Bull and discomfiture of the Yankees. Some islands the most prominent of which (were the three Marys) between which and the main land, we sail along, with the sea as quiet as an inland lake, with the surface just ruffled by the zypher like breeze which was moving the ship about three knots. I omitted to mention that Mr Johnson who came with us from the sandwich Islands, and is a bearer of dispatches from our Commissioner Mr. Brown at the islands to our government, left us at San Blas on his way to the U. States via the City of Mexico, Vera Cruz, and N. Orleans.--

Monday, 20 October 1845

The weather very warm, breeze light, but fair, running along the land all day, Several pieces of wood seen floating by the ship to-day, exercised the men in the manual of Arms to-day, not much doing, The first Lt. is making some changes in his station bill, but this is nothing new, for changes in [the bill] has been taking place ever since the ship sailed from the U. States, and I presume there will be no let up until she returns. Mr. Wilkinson our Master went on duty, he having been sick for some time. Some grumbling among the watch officers, about the watches, as the Capt. has positively prohibited Mr. Wilkinson from keeping a watch, this may be all night for aught I know or care, but it seems to me, that the objection on the part of the Capt proceeds from feelings altogether [of a] personal cause, by the present watch officers enforcing implicit obedience to the etiquette of [a] man of war, and the observance of properly discipline from two of the Capt childrens, one of whom is a notoriously bad boy, hence I feel persuaded that [the] Capt should be prohibited from taking their children to sea with them, If the master kept a watch, it [would] give the officers one night in four to sleep in, but as it is now they are never more than eight hours off duty, which is very fatiguing during this extremely hot weather, My opinion is that the Capt in this matter is influenced by improper feelings, arising from a pusilaminous spirit of revenge, without regard to the interest of the interest of the service or the comfort of the officers--

Tuesday, 21 October 1845

The weather very warm, that is the thermometer has not varied from 87 for the last six or eight days, The wind light but fair, we have had the land in sight ever since we left Mazatlan. To day we passed several beautiful Bays with small secure harbors. The coast is covered with a very luxuriant growth of Forest trees and underbrush, About five o'clock this evening we entered the magnificent

bay of Manzenillo, to the left of which is the beautiful and secure harbor of St. Diego, and on the right the small but commodious harbor of Manzenillo, but in consequence of bad management we were unable to come to anchor to-night, A boat was sent in to reconnoitre, and had there been any signal in the boat to give us information as to the soundings we might have come to anchor to night, but this was neglected and hence we have to stand off and on until morning. The first Lt engaged in stationing the men, all well;--Corporal Heyler reported some of the men and he was reported by them, both parties to blame and both punished.

Wednesday, 22 October 1845

The weather very warm, Came to anchor in the neat and beautiful harbor of Manzanilla, The mountains rise from the water's edge about five or eight hundred feet, densely clothed with a rich foilage of Forest trees, and shrubery, among which the cactus, Locust and prickly pear are very numerous, all in the various wild flowers in full bloom. The lime tree richly laden with delightful fruit. A solitary ravine stretching across and dividing the mountains, which affords a cool fresh breeze at all times, a few small and neatly thatched cottages located immediately on the beach and shaded by several magnificent trees, With various domestic animals gamboling on the beach, The water seemed alive with the various kinds of fish and turtles. In fact every thing seemed to promise a most pleasing and delightful sojourn for a few [days]. This isolated and secluded [place] was never before visited by a man of war, & had only been resorted to by smugglers, and persons engage in a contraband trade, There resides here five men and three women, employed as a watch or coast Guard. They are dirty miserable looking creatures, resembling for all the world just what one would imagine a spanish Brigand or Banditti to look like, they are supposed to be rather assistant smugglers than a guard to prevent it. The men were in fact san coulottes, and the women but little better, they appear to live in perfect harmony, either not knowing or regardless of the obligations of morality chastity and religion, but least I should judge harshly and be lead into error. I must confess that these conclusions are the result of supposition, and not derived from any well authenticated information. They are secluded from all intercourse with the world, and have not heard from the city of Mexico since April 1844. The cottages of St. Diego are represented in a more forlorn and wretched state even than the Manzallaian, what a reflection, here are the descendants of a civilized people, now on the very verge of a wild barbarian. Well may the persecuted Indians in bitterness of soul say, "Art thou too fallen, Iberia? Do we see. The robber and the murderer weak as we?"

I went a shore after dinner. But oh heavens, what a dissapointment. Just imagine yourself in this beautiful [place] to which distance has lent so much enchantment, and then draw a picture, It is this. We landed on the beach, a fine sandy beach, shaded by trees, In this sandy lay apparently at first, but to our greivious

and sore visitation myriads of sandfleas whose hungry appetites soon relished our own easily penetrated and savory flesh. We were literally covered from head to foot. With all possibly expedition we retreated to the woods, but alas here too we met an army of countless millions of black ants, armed to the [illegible] ristless for the slaughter ready to attack us at our approach, this overwhelming army of foot soldiers charged in regular columns, while engaged with them a multitude in the shape of flying artillery, called by some Musquitoe's, charged us with a resistless fury, Before the formidable display of this immense army, of well trained troops, we soon sued for peace but blood thirsty villians know no peace. We returned to the [ship] with all possible dispatch hoping at least to leave them behind, but not so. I have never in my life witnessed so much misery and suffering in as short a time as I did this night. The decks were literally covered with sand flies and mosquitoes, and the heat was almost insufferable. The first part of the night, every means was resorted too in order to obtain some sleep, nearly all the officers carried their beds on the poop Deck, but there was no rest here, some attempted to sleep in the ward[room], but they were driven out, beaten and bitten in the most painful manner imaginable, among the crew, it was still more distressing, they tried to sleep until about 12 o'clock at night, when they give it up, uttering the most Blasphemous imprecations against these vermin I have ever listened too.

Some of the men and officers tried the tops with little better success, the men greased their face feet and hands, & some used white wash but all did no good, and they were compelled to walk the Decks all night, fighting these animals to keep them off. The Skipper was walking the deck nearly all night, lamenting his sad misfortune, In fact I have never seen human misery so strongly depicted or so painfully realized in my life. In fact I very much question whether all the evils to which human nature is heir, had been loose upon this unhappy ships company, if their misery could have been heightened. After battling the watch with them until nature was nearly exhausted, many of the officers and men took to fishing, which was kept up until all hands were called in the morning, we caught a very delightful perch equal in flavor to the famed hog fish Norfolk. Some went turtle hunting as soon as the moon rose, and others went to haul the seine:--At three o'clock the Capt came out on deck again, and enjoyed the full reality of all these annoyances he ordered with the dawn that all boats should got in and every preparation made for getting under way. At four o'clock I went to my room hoping to get an hour or two sleep, which I did, but the heat was so intense, and I perspired so profusely, that I derived no benefit from it, rose and eat a hearty breakfast feeling very nervous. The men and officers were so badly bitten that they must suffer for many days from the effects. Got under way and stood out to sea, bound Accapulco where the heat is equally as intense, and it is feared that the mosquitoes are equally annoying. Men should be well paid for have to suffer so much, for really I am persuaded that no pecuniary compensation can renumerate me for the

annoyances, and the detriment to health which he undergoes in making a cruise on the coast of Mexico at this season of the year, or perhaps at any other season.

Thursday, 23 October 1845

The Capt gave orders for us to get under way with the first appearance of a breeze. It made at 12 o'clock, and we with joyful hearts bid adieu to noxious poisonous and annoying inhabitants of Manzanilla. This evening fumigated the ship to drive off the mosquitoes and sand flies. I fixed a mosquito bar by stretching a flag over my berth, and although I was not annoyed by the Mosquitos or sand flies, I was nearly suffocated by the heat I however made out to get a few hours sleep which was very refreshing after the horrors of last night.

Friday, 24 October 1845

The breeze fresh, the weather intensely warm, The mosquitoes and sand flies have nearly disappeared but a large number of the officers and men have been so badly bitten by them, that they are suffering the most annoying itching and pain imaginable. It is hoped that this will soon disappear, and that nothing of the enticing and lovely appearances of the famous Manzanilla will be left, but the unfortunate and melancholy reflections that we have been there.

Saturday, 25 October 1845

The weather very warm and nearly calm.

Sunday, 26 October 1845

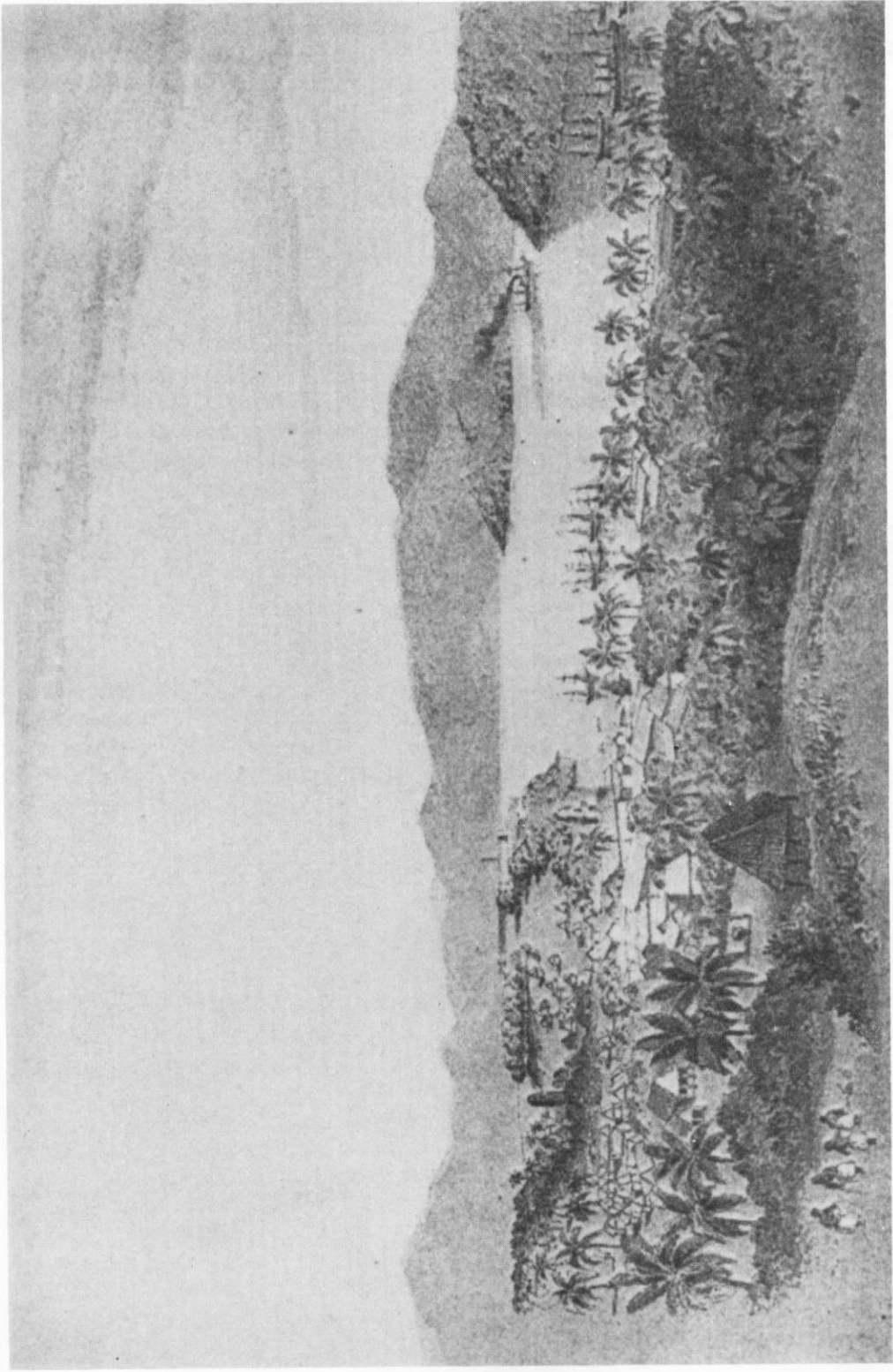
The weather very warm, breeze light, had church service, and sermon by the Capt. made the harbor of Acapulco about four o'clock, stood [in] and anchored about 10. Visited by the Capt of the Port, no news of interest. An American commissioner received at Mexico for settling all difficulties, it is hoped that he will be successful.

Monday, 27 October 1845

Warped ship up to the proper anchorage, saluted at twelve o'clock the Mexican flag with twenty one guns, which was promptly returned.

Tuesday, 28 October - Monday, 3 November 1845

From the time of our anchoring until Tuesday 4th Nov. all hands were busily employed in getting water wood, and other necessary articles, for the ship. The officers all had washing done. I went on shore repeatedly, (See next page) Three men deserted Riley Truman and Gibbons, all very worthless men, several persons taken sick, the bilious fever, fever and ague very Prevalent at this place, All very anxious to go and we are delighted now that we are off.



Acapulco, Mexico

Acapulco. Situated in Latitude 16° 50' North and Longitude 99° 46'. West. This city some half century or more ago was the most commercial save Lima in the pacific, and had a population of 60,000 inhabitants, here the spanish governor revelling in all the magnificence of princly luxury, issued the cruel mandates of his master the cruel but imperial Phillip, and dealt with a bloody and rapacious hand towards the innocent and passive indians. But all seem to have passed away, and nothing remains, but the mouldering ruins of this once mighty people and wealthy city. The castle which defends the city and harbor is a very extensive work originnally intended to mount one hundred and seventy guns. It may however be destroyed by an invading army from any of the numerous commanding heights. It suffered much from earthquakes, which are very frequent here during what is called the rainy season, and the breaches thus made are suffered to become enlarged by the ravages of time and weather. The city is built regularly, and the houses are but one story high very slenderly built in consequence of the frequency of earthquakes, The people are mostly the descendants of spaniards some few Indians intermixed. In morals they are more depraved than any spaniards I have ever met with, this is in a measure accounted for, and is said to arise from the instability of the government, and frequency of civil wars, ragged and almost starving they drag along a miserable existance, not knowing but that to-morrow they may be summoned to answer for some frivolous offense with their life. We had two arrest of public officers while we were here. The first a young man by the name of Puente a Naval officer, who had dared to express his opinion of the bad management and tardy preparations, which attended the getting up of the Military expedition intended to be sent to California. This was a spirited young man, and possesses very considerable talent, he discovered the farce which was being played in order to deceive the public, and in a letter to a friend in the city of Mexico, he presumed to discant with some severity upon the duplicity of the minister of Marine. Showing clearly that the object of the Mexicans was not raise funds and Troops for California, but that it was made a pretext to raise these funds for other and private purposes, which would be of no advantage to the Mexican nation and was only required for the purpose of supporting party factions. The[re] was a military officer who had been confined to the city of Acapulco, with the priviliges of the Bay, he however expressed a desire to visit our ship and was accord[ing]ly invited to do so, which he did and in the evening of the same day he was placed in close confinement in the castle of San Carlos. A nation distracted by party fiuds so malignant can never be properous. I am not at all surprised that the provinces revolt for every tie social rational and political is broken by such virilent proscriptions and aspirities. The moral degradation which is brought about by the heartless murders and confiscations that are constantly being [undertaken] is appalling and lamentable. The results of [the] Santa Anna revolution, has debased the whole population of Mexico at least fifty per cent. In this place chastity is a gem scarcely known, and indeed I was informed by persons living here, that nearly every women in the place was either a prostitute, or had intrigues and assignations privately,

children who had scarcely reached the age of puberty, running about streets and prostituting themselves for the most trifling rewards. The ignorant and untaught Hawaiians are more virtuous than this professed christian community. They amuse themselves with fandango's and other immoral dances. We watered [the] ship at this place, which is considered the best place for watering that there is on the coast. The poultry at this place is the finest I have ever seen, the chickens are large and fat and as not deteriorate by being kept in cufs on at sea, vegetables are very few, and of an inferior quality. There are no potatoes raised in this part of Mexico. The Houses at Acapulco, are but one story high built of reeds, or sticks covered with skins, some are built of dirt or mud, some of adobes, and a very few of tile brick. The streets are contracted and filthy, and squalid misery, poverty and vice meets one [on] every corner and every in every place.--Ma[n]y [illegible] fruits grow here, the sweet lemon is very large & fine. The weather is excessively hot and billious, intermittent and remittent fevers prevail to a great extent carrying off hundreds of a person, during the prevalence of these fevers, the bodies of those affected become covered with putrid sores, not dissimilar to the plague, they present in this state I am informed the most loathsome and disgusting appearance. There is no medical aid, and I learn little or no medicines in the place. Hence disease rages, assisted by filth, dirt and all the attendant evils.

We painted [the] ship at this place, while this was going the Capt lived on shore as also several of the officers, the rest of us slept and mess on the poop, We had the awnings spread at night and the weather being mild and pleasant, we were very agreeably situated for the greater part of the time, We felt while at this place two very sensible shocks of an earthquake the last one was very heavy and created a very considerable commotion both on shore and [on] board ship, the [ship] was very sensibly shaken by it, There was preceeding the shock some very vivid lightening, and heavy thunder, with the wind blowing almost a hurricane, and the rain falling in torrents, This took place about ten o'clock P. M. just after we all had our beds spread out on the poop Deck; bedding and clothes were all bundled up to-gether, and huddled down through the cabin sky light, in the shortest possible time, officers in their shirt tails letting themselves down through the same scuttle made quite a Luderous scene, We all however got our beds safely spread with a slight sprinkling and after the excitement of the Earthquake and our visible faculties had subsided we took quite a comfortable sleep, the next day we all moved back to our respective apartments, we were again comfortable. The castle called San Carlos, which defends this place, is Pentagonal in form, and can when in [Here the author inserts a drawing of the five pointed star] complete repair mount about 170 guns. The armament at present consist of a number of 18. and 24 pounder Iron cannon, which are much honey-combed, badly mounted and extremely dangerous to the men engaged in working them. The balls from exposure and want of care, have become small and defective by rust. Some nine, twelve and one or two

eighteen pounder b[r]ass or composition cannon are all that there is in good order, these however are but poorly mounted, and I understand that [the] Governor sells these as fast as he can find a purchaser.

Tuesday, 4 November 1845

The weather as usual was extremely warm. Got under way with a fine breeze and stood out of the harbor all perfectly delighted to get away from Acapulco, and should have no regrets if we never see it again.

Wednesday, 5 November 1845

Very warm, cloudy and some [rain]. Five of the mizen top men punished with one dozen with the cat for neglect of Duty.

Thursday, 6 November 1845

Very warm, thermometer 88, cloudy and some rain. My air Port being out this morning, I shipped a sea which wet my bed and bedding, this annoyed me a good deal, but I soon became reconciled to it, two seamen punished with dozen with the cats, one for desertion and the other for disobedience of orders. Two of the Marines with half a doz each with cats, as follows, [John H.] Kothe for disobedience of orders. It appeared that [a] Private was taken sick on Post, and this man was ordered to relieve him, which he refused to do, the other Private [James M.] Wilder an incorragible little fellow was found skulking, that is [he] had stowed himself away in the stern of the launch & went to sleep when it was his watch on deck. Lt Forrest who was at the time officer of the deck, made a counter report from the one that I had made, but the [captain] chose rather to take my report and consequently the man was punished as he deserved to be.

Friday, 7 November 1845

The weather very warm, a few passing clouds, nearly calm, Placed a Sentinel on Post at the galley, with a multitude of orders.--

Saturday, 8 November 1845

The weather warmer than yesterday, the thermometer is 89. Every [one] seems languid and fatigued out by the heat. But such is our nature, that we are seldom ever satisfied with our lot, however, there is no help for it. It is somewhat annoying as we cannot read or study with any comfort or attention. We are bound to the West and hope for more pleasant breezes and cooler weather.--

Sunday, 9 November 1845

The weather excessively warm, and nearly a calm, We had a long winded service from, who I am persuaded considers himself a good deal better man or christian than many of his neighbors. I would not marr his happiness. But candidly I do not believe him a good man, for he has prejudices that would disgrace any man, much less a christian. To day he read us a hymn after the Presbyterian form, he then read the church of England service; he then read and commented upon the parable in the old Testament in relation to Jonas that was in the whales belly, he then read the prayers of the Episcopal service, and the creed according to the English form, he then read one chapter of Paul's epistle to Timothy, he then read and discanted upon some long winded sermon, impressing as far as in him lay the impossibility of repentance after death, and the positive certainty of our going either to heaven or hell immediately upon our death, and the utter impossibility of a persons ever reaching heaven who is in the habit of Dram drinking every day. He no doubt means well but some of these are queer doctrines--

Monday, 10 November 1845

The weather still excessively warm a light breeze to-day, and not so much swell as usual. Lt Forrest went on the sick list this evening. The Seaman [Robert] Parmentier who has [been] seriously ill for several days with intermittent fever, is reported convalescent. Midshipman Herron is still suspended, he was suspended on the 30th Oct. while at Acapulco for some trifling offence.

Tuesday, 11 November 1845

Very warm with a light breeze, we bid fair to have a long passage, as it is however consumed in the cruise, we are satisfied notwithstanding we feel extreme solicitude to receive letters from home, and hear about the great Mexcian war, as we would like to blockade some ports on this side.

Wednesday, 12 November 1845

Quite warm, blowing fresh from the S. E. the ship going 11 knots on her course, cloudy with rain.

Thursday, 13 November 1845

The weather warm, blowing very fresh, a very heavy sea running, and rained in perfect torrents all day, The ship rolled very heavy and was exceedingly uncomfortable. This morning the fore topmast studding sail boom brace parted, and the steering sail boom was carried away. About three this evening the weather had the appearance of blowing a perfect gale of wind, consequently the main sail was hauled up and three reefs taken in the Top-sails, and the royal yards was sent on deck. The birth deck and ward room was very wet all from

the rain & several seas which were shipped, All hands wet & uncomfortable. The sea frequently came over the hammock nettings. We passed a bark to day, she was laying too under her fore and aft sails, Made the most southern the islands called the three Mary's, At 6 P. M. the breeze died away and the sea went down. At 8 P. M. the breeze sprung up and sail was made on the ship, Lt F still sick.

Friday, 14 November 1845

The wind blowing quite hard, and the [weather] uncomfortable with rain, Made Mazatlan distant from 15 to 20 miles, The wind dead ahead, Sent up a new fore top-mast studding boom,--

Saturday, 15 November 1845

The wind blowing very hard in squalls with rain all night and during [the night] the ship about 20 miles to Leeward of the Port. Sail[ed] in company with a Brig to-day, while beating up for the Port, we could out sail her but she went to windward much better than we did. It is thought by some on board that the Portsmouth is not a weatherly ship. It rained very hard to night. Lt. Barlette left the last evening for the shore, but did not return until this morning, there was no news of importance. One of the boats crew by the name of [Joseph] Osborne, the same that deserted at Acapulco, Deserted again at this place.

Sunday, 16 November 1845

The gale seems broke and the weather clear the wind fair and light, had service as usual by the Captain, quite calm, about two o'clock the sea breeze sprung up and we stood up and anchored about five P. M. Dr Wood went on shore this morning, as soon as the boat returned, by which we learned that the difficulties between the U. States and Mexico seem to be in fair one way of reconciliation, We are all anxiously expecting the mail to night, by which we shall [learn] farther particulars--

Monday, 17 November 1845

Fresh breeze all day. About 10 o'clock A. M. The Frigate Savannah bearing the broad Pennet of Commodore Sloat came in & anchored she exchange salutes with the Mexican authorities, she is thirty-five days from the sandwich islands, no news of importance. Lt James M. Watson U.S. Navy came [as a] passenger in her bound to the U. States--

Tuesday, 18 November 1845

Light breeze in the fornoon but quite fresh in the evening. The U. States Sloop of War, Levant Capt Page hove in sight this fornoon, Midshipmen Gamble and Tillotson detached from this [ship] and ordered

on board the Flag ship Savannah for duty, Our Master Pass. Mid: Wilkinson, applied to the Com. for a medical survey, which was ordered forthwith, and the said survey pronounced him immediately unfit for service after a careful survey, They consequently condemned him and recommended his immediate return to the U.S. The Commodore gave him orders to return without delay. At 4 P. M. all hands were called to up anchor. When we got [under]way bound [to] Guyamas for money, we stood down under the stern of the Levant and exchanged salutes with Capt. Page. I mean the cannon civilities, he was last from San sanfrisco, All well, We rounded too under his stern we then filled away he having filled away before us, we were to leeward at this [time] but in half an hour with the same sail, we were at least two miles ahead and to windward of him. Both ships was closed hauled on a bowline, and both carrying Royals, the Portsmouth was not going her usual rate, as she was going but seven, whereas she generally goes nine, but enough is as good as a million, But I do not like this wild goose [chase] we are going on now, it seems to me to be a wild goose chase of no very pleasant character, for it savors a good deal of a violation of the Mexican Revenue Laws and her regulations of trade, And I question very much the propriety of using a government vessel for carrying money, she seems to me to be intended for other purpose, rather than a licensed smuggler merely because she has force. Mexico would not be permitted to send her cruisers on our coast for the purpose of carrying, much less smuggling specie, and I cannot see why we should not do as we would wish to be done by, surely it is not creditable to the stranger to impose upon the weaker and is contrary to all international Law.

Wednesday, 19 November 1845

A fresh breeze, but dead ahead & we are making but slow progress. The weather has become much more pleasant. Midshipmen Ganesvoort has been given a watch, he is the youngest Midshipman there is [on] the ship, and although he may be as well qualified to keep a watch as any other one in the ship, I nevertheless conceive it a great piece of injustice to the others who are much older and more experienced and certainly are as well qualified for the Duty. However he is a favorite of the 1st Lt. and hence this innovation. Much speculation is manifested by the officers in regard to the movements of the squadron, and considerable anxiety is also fealt about the return of the ships to the U. States, whose term of service is now about expiring. It has often been remarked that sail was carried on this ship with perhaps as little judgement as ever was carried on a ship in the world, and we had a proof of it last night or rather in the Middle watch. About six bells in the Middle Watch (Lt Schenck being officer of the Deck) The Fore Royal and Topgallant Mast was carried away, the Cap at the Fore Topmast head was split, and the ternant [tenon] in the Topmast wrenched off. Fortunately no body was hurt. The wood was sound and if it had had a fare chance, could not been carried away so easily,--I am informed by Mid. Ganesvoort that he has heard from unquestionable authority that the Commander

of the U.S.S. W[arren]. buys pigs and takes them to sea, where he sells them to the sailors messes at an exorbitant price. What is the Navy coming to--When the U.S. ship Portsmouth was at the islands, a board of officers were ordered to survey provisions, when they condemned a considerable quantity which had recently been brought from the U. States, The store keeper believing it best to sell then did so, the meats were purchased by a Mr Grives, for 1/4 of a cent per pound. The Commodore arrived shortly after and wanting provisions, he was compelled to buy there not being sufficient in store. When the same provisions which had been sold were resold to the government for six cnts per pound, strange survey and stranger economy. Surveyers Lt. J. S. Missroon [Lt.] J[oseph]. H. Adams Purser [John B.] Rittenhouse

Thursday, 20 November 1845

The breeze fresh, and weather pleasant, but owing to the very strong current which is setting out of the Gulf we are making very slow progress. Cape St. Lucas reported just at night. Midshipman Herron restored to duty to-day. Several men quite sick.

Friday, 21 November 1845

The breeze light, weather pleasant. Making but little head way. Cape Palmo & Cape St Lucas both in sight.

Saturday, 22 November 1845

Light breeze and ahead making very slow progress, however by little's the grandest objects may be obtained. Galt who has been sick for several days, considered dangerous ill.

Sunday, 23 November 1845

A Fresh breeze, and we are making a little [progress]. Had service by the Capt as usual. A sail reported, but could not be seen from the Deck. There was a shark caught yesterday, and another struck by the grains but he got away. The man who was so sick yesterday, gradually sunk under a rapid debility died to about four o'clock. This [man] constricted his disease at Acapulco but it did not come out on him until we reachrd Mazatlan when at its first attack the whole system seem to be paralyzed and all the usual remedies and careful attention on the part of the Medical officers on board proved ineffectual to afford him relief. He was a foreigner and his name was antonia Galt, a native of Trieste in Austria, his reside as near as I could ascertain at Pomania, he left some clothes and two hundred dollars in money. Saw several lights on the shore this evening--

Monday, 24 November 1845

A Fresh breeze. And the weather growing cool. About half past ten o'clock All hands were called to bury the Dead, when the burial service of the Episcopal church being read his body was consigned to a watery grave. His name is not Galt is stated above, that being merely his ships name, his real name being Francisco Caladossa, he left nearly three hundred dollars in money. We have ascertained that our charts of the Gulf are very incorrect, and a large number of sunken rocks and one island not noticed on it at all, which makes the navigation very intricate. We have however a very excellent pilot on board. The coast a long here is barren, but I learn that in the vallies, It is not only fertile, but extensively cultivated, and abounds in large herds of cattle, The population is sparse, and are a mixture of Spanish and Indians.

Tuesday, 25 November 1845

The weather growing cool, the breeze light, a very large number of islands in sight to day, that is ten or twelve. They all appear to be barren--

Wednesday, 26 November 1845

The weather cool. Blowing fresh; Made quite a large and dangerous rock that is not put on any chart. It is just in the track that vessels would be most likely to take in beating up the coast. Took one reef in the fore and Mizzen topsails, split the bonnat of the Jib, and some other damage to the sail, The ship pitching a good deal, very wet and uncomfortable, The sea is very high, and is that peculiar short [of] chopping sea which renders every thing unpleasant. At 7 bells A. M. split the weather leach of the main topsail. Lt S. having the Deck. The men were sent aloft at 5 minutes past seven bells, to unbend the sail preparatory to sending a new one aloft. The old sail was unbent and sent down and the new one sent aloft and bent in one hour; Twenty minutes was long enough for the work to have been done in, according to the testimony of old fashion soldiers. At 2 bells P. M. the [order] was given to tack ship, the men went to their stations, when usual orders were given to man the braces, over haul the lifts and crieses and bear abaft back stays, and rise tacks and sheets. All this was done, but the order "Mainsail haul," was too soon consequently the Main yard and Topsail yard swung square and there they stuck, the ship got a six knot stern bound on her, the orders were then given to haul up the mainsail and brail up the spanker, when the ship was wore round. Midshipman Ganesvoort had the Deck. The first Lt. 2nd and 4th Lts were on the deck with him and would be naturally led to believe that they would have told him that he was hauling his head yards too soon, for I saw land lubber as I am that she could not possibly go round. It is good working breeze and the ship properly managed [we] would have tacked like a top. The clumsiest merchantman that ever crossed the line would have felt himself disgraced. It

was amusing to see the confusion which this produced among those who should always be calm and collected heaven preserve us, if we should get into serious trouble. During this scene, there was some water taken into the stern cabin windows. We bid fair to have a long passage.

Thursday, 27 November 1845

The breeze very fresh, the weather cool. At 8 o'clock last night the ship missed stays again. About 10 o'clock last night the breeze freshened a good deal, hauled up the mainsail, took another reef [in the] Topsails, and one reef in the foresail. About 8 o'clock this morning the wind lulled a little and sail was made in the ship. However a reef was soon after taken in Topsails. About 8 o'clock P. M. the ship missed stays during the day they have been in the habit of hauling up the mainsail, when they were going to tack [the] ship. The island of Catalina bears just ahead at sun set, it is calculated that we may get in, in about four days, if we are at all favored. Lt. F still on the sick list.

Friday, 28 November 1845

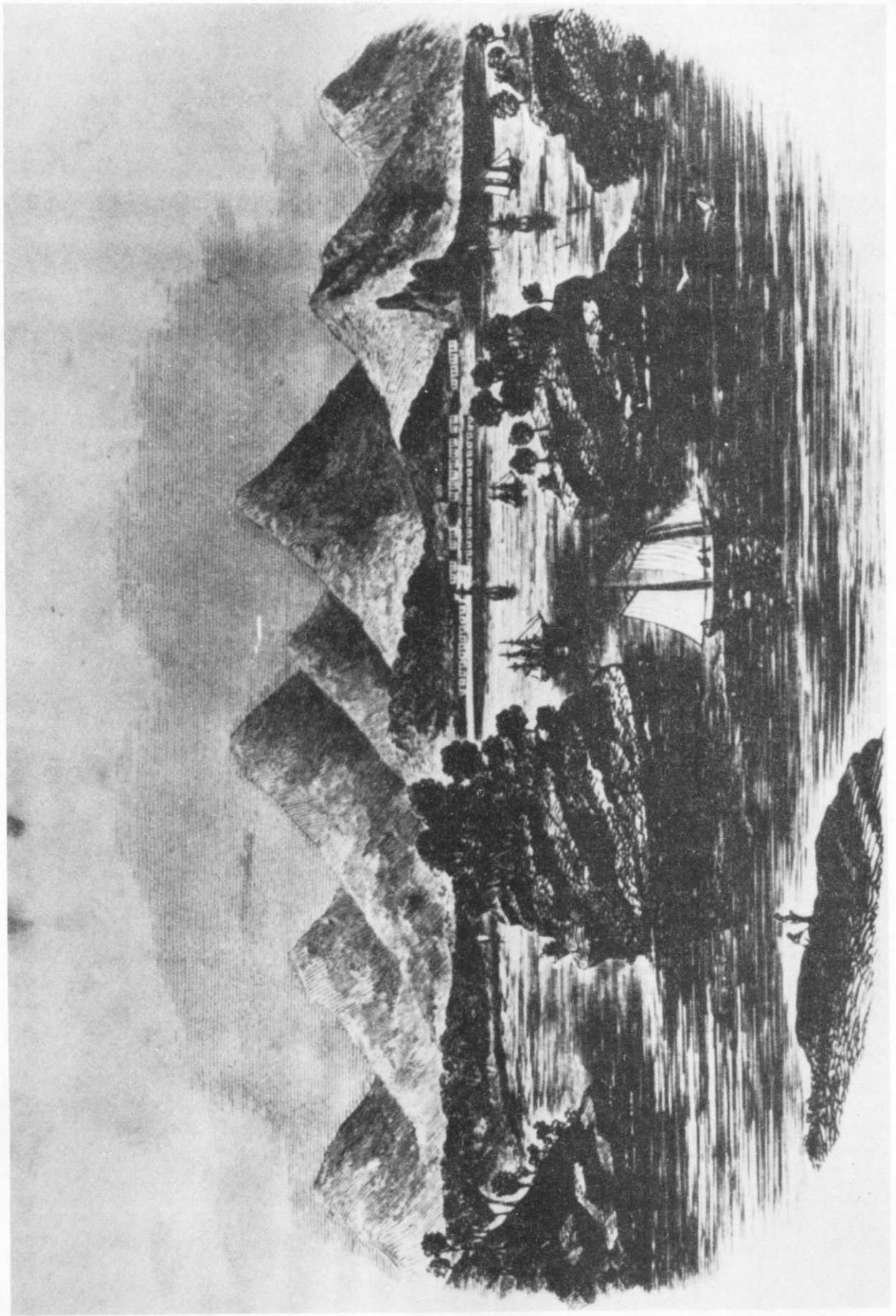
The weather cool. The breeze fresh. At 8 A. M. made sail in the ship the wind having lulled a good deal. About 11 A. M. the weather leech rope of the main top gallant sail parted. It was sent down [to be] repaired and sent up again, passed near the Bay and town of Loreatta [Loreto]. The paint work work of the ship particularly on deck a good soiled by the great quantity of salt petre contained in the air during this blow.

Saturday, 29 November 1845

The breeze very light, but fair. The temperature of the weather more moderate, innumerable islands to be seen this evening. The high lands of Guyamas in sight this evening. New troubles constantly arising in the ship, but I have concluded not to mention these things, unless they be very flagrant, or affect me personally, suffice it to say that the first Lt. or Capt Fordgee as he is called, and he is some times called sir R. Peel, the first name is dervived from his universal pusilanimity, and the next is given from him in consequence of his extreme pompocity and assumed airs. To him and him alone is the trouble and all the unhappiness on board the ship to be attributed. Yet we hope that there may be a change soon, by which we shall get clear of him--

Sunday, 30 November - Saturday, 6 December 1845

The wind light, but we made a tolerable good run during the night. And anchored off the village of Guyamas about 11 A. M. The surround[ing] country is totally devoid of all forest scenery, natural or artifiical, and the b[l]ank cliffs and mountains present nothing but barrenness sterility and gloom, It may be that there is an



Guaymas, Mexico

occasional spot of wild sickly verdure, but it's so withered either by the fierce rays its scorching antagonist the sun or chilled by the rude blast of the mountain winds that it seem as though it was endeav[or]ing to hide itself from all contact. Notwithstanding this great sterility, there is a silent beauty a composed sweetness which insensibly steals over one while viewing the rugged rocks, or the parched sand plains. The gentle ripple which plays upon the surface of its almost placid waters, the flight of the thousands of comorant, which cast a dark shade around in their evening flight, similar to the inviting shade of the tall forest oak. The numerous Gulls and the lusty but uncouth Pellican, mingling their croaking sounds with the gentle zypher that floats around us, gives a degree of cheerfulness which would chase melancholy from the worse hypocondriac. There is not that [illegible] beauty of the sun set which might be anticipated in so mountainous a country, the reflection is too glaring and dull for romance or the picturesque. The Bay the islands, the bays, and the valleys in and about Guyamas are exceedingly beautiful, the meanderings th[r]ough which a ship must pass in order to reach the anchorage, is romantic and exciting. The immense valley which borders either bank of the river Yacker [Yaqui] extends a great distance in the interior, with many beautiful spots and fertile plains. On the northern bank a large tribe of a once powerful and respected tribe [of] Indians called Yackers [Yaquis], still live in all their primitive simplicity (vice and ignorance,) and happiness, their manly frames [have] not yet been deformed by spanish tyranny nor Mexican cruelty into the degen[er]ate slave, their wigwams are neat, their women are chaste and virtuous their young men are engaged in useful occupations, and their old in the duties of teaching and inculcating the tradition of their ancestors and the value of their desert home and liberty. No storm unaided by white men ever darken the bright luminary of their happiness, but unfortunately for the good of this people, for honor of civilization and peace of man, white men for the sake of gain and for other more vile and villanous purposes, annually distribute barrels of poisonous liquid called wine whiskey or a miserable combined of log wood and Alcohol. And while under the influence of these deadly poisons, they commit the most revolting crimes, such as rapes, rapine, murder, and in fact every other crime, that is revolting to humanity or religion.

There appears to be at this a contention, attended with frequent skirmishes blood shid, murder, rape theft and tryanny, before unpractised in civilized communities or among christian people. It appears that two of the bloods from the city Mexico have been sent or sent themselves out here as the governor of this province. They have each assembled a small force of reckless high way robbers, & assassins, to back their pretensions to the governorship, and are actually proceeding in the spirit of a Caligula or a Nero to remove every obstacle to their succession. The peaceable inhabitants of this [place] are thus harrassed, their homes burned, their effects pilfered, their wives and daughters violated and turned into the mountain, while the husband is dragged to shoot his neighbor his

friend or it may [be] his brother, or if he is obstinate & will not do this, he is made to expiate his obstinan[c]y with the loss of his life such is the state of one of the fairest provinces of Mexico, And the supreme government lounging at ease amid the revolutions of the capital, wince at these blood thirsty cruelties upon her citizens, and not one voice is raised to put down these cruel factions and hell deserving actors. A recent hostile meeting took place, between the two rival parties, At the capital of this province called Pitic [Hermosillo], this province is called Sonora, and is but thinly inhabited, except by Indians, from what I can learn, the former governor (civil) that is Governor [Jose] Urea [Urrea], attempted to blend the civil military government into one head, this pressing hard upon his colleague in the military line, General [Antonio] Campo Santo [Campuzano]. A revolution was the result. The government at Mexico disapproved of Urea's conduct, and ordered him to close his accounts & leave the province, but this he declined doing. The Lt Gov. it appears took sides with Urea and his party, they persuaded impressed and by whatever means they could got together and armed five hundred men, determined to hold the capital and its sea port Guyamas to the last extremity. Campo Santo, having of regulars volunteer Indians and impressed natives a force of 1500 men, appeared before Pitic about the 20th of Nov. when the fight took place. Some five hundred persons were killed and wounded and the city surrendered to Campo Santo. The Lt. Governor was among the wounded and it is reported that he is since dead. Urea fled upon the first signs of defeat, he [is] represented as a most consummate coward, and judging from what I see he was evidently a most profligate governor. Nor does it appear that his conqueror is any better except that he is braver, arising no doubt from his superiority of numbers. To sum up all this the following seems to be the result. The supreme government (centered at [the] city of Mexico,) being weakened by the continued conflicts of contending factions for the control of the public Treasury render the efforts of all well disposed men to ameliorate the condition of the country unavailing, and hence the great national calamities. There appears to be a party in the Republic, whose actions seem to spring from high and noble principles, Democrats in principle and state rights in government. They [are] striving to have the state governments established and their property liberty and privileges established on a firm institutional bases, delegating to the Government certain privileges, such as regulating commerce, foreign relations and all the other paraphernalia of a concentrated head. Could the principles of this party succeed, a bright star would rise in the political firmament of this harrassed and troubled country. But [the] rapacity of her military chiefs the poverty and distress thus created, and the hords of reckless adventurers who flock to [the] standard of every revolting chief keep all the ties social natural and political, in that high degree of ferment and excitement, that one tragedy of blood of which has hardly dried upon the earth, before another more bloody is in full course of preparation. Mr. [John A.] Robinson our consul at this [place] Guyamas is a venerable looking gentleman, urbane and polite kind and hospitable, he is a wholesale and retail mer-

chant, and does a very considerable business, with a capital estimated at six million dollars, he is extremely wealthy, most of his wealth however has been made by smuggling. It was amusing to see how easily some people can be duped. The Capt of [the] P. is principled against, and offend to take any monies as freight which should come through the custom house properly shipped. Now the consul had to pay but five dollars for custom permits, and the money which should have paid twelve dollars on the hundred, does not in fact pay one cent on the thousand, but the conscience of the Capt is appeased by the sight of the paper, and had there been little more money I have no doubt but his scruples would have [been] entirely over come. McDuffie once said every man has his price, it is true, and the christian professor can stretch his bigoted conscience as far as others, we [were] entertained by the consul with a very fine dinner, after which there was music dancing and singing which all went off very pleasantly. Dr Wood who went to Pitic to render some surgical aid to the Lt. Gov. of the Province, returned friday night leaving the governor much better and a fair prospect of recovery. He met there a Dr Keith, formerly of N. Carolina, who says he has been a wanderer all his life, has amassed about six thousand dollars and now intends to return home, there [are] a good many american (U.S) scattered over this country. The Brittish brig of war Frolic came in on the 4th from Mazatlan, and went into the inner harbor. She had a passage of eight days, and we were eleven days. We remained at this place until saturday night the sixth, when we got underway about 4 o'clock A. M., there was much ear[n]est solicitation for us to remain, as there was to be a concert at the consul's on Monday evening, but the Capt could not or would not gratify his officers.

Sunday, 7 December 1845

The breeze fresh, weather pleasant, had service by the Capt. which was long and tiresome producing no good, but I fear much harm. However he no doubt believes that he discharges a duty imperative in its character as regards himself.

Monday, 8 December 1845

The breeze fresh, the ship averaging nine knots, & going sometimes twelve knots. Cloudy during the day, Private [Michael] Cunningham was punished with one dozen with the Cats, for neglecting or rather absenting himself from his duty while on shore in charge of some boats. Private [Rufus] Briggs received a reprimand for making false complaints, ought to have been flogged. Two seamen were flogged deservedly for neglects of duty. The man Briggs is the nephew of the present Gov. Briggs of Massachusetts and requires a very taught run to keep him in his place.

Tuesday, 9 December 1845

Light breezes, hove to in the night.

Wednesday, 10 December 1845

light breezes, arrived off the Harbor.

Thursday, 11 December 1845 - Saturday, 31 January 1846

Came in and Anchored last night about 12 o'clock, found here the Frigate Savannah, the Warren gone to Panama, and the Levant to La pas.--

Found Mazatlan like most [of] the other towns on this coast, supported by the very considerable illicit commerce which is carried on. Found four English man of war Boats laying here at anchor, smuggling money, said to have smuggled between three and four hundred thousand dollars in gold and silver, On the 22nd the Brittish raze Frigate America came in and anchored she is commanded by Hon Capt [John] Gordon brother of the Earl of Aberdeen present Prime Minister of England. This gentleman so respectably connected and with so fine a command, is busily employed in smuggling money. On the 14th of Dec. the Sloop Levant arrived from La pas.--A court Martial was convened on board of her which has lasted several weeks. Two midshipmen were tried and several men. On the 26th the Brittish Brig Frolic arrived from Guyamas having on board near a half million of dollars smuggled out of the country, This was taken out of her by Capt Gordon of the America, and she was sent off to look for more. Dec. 27 Gen. Fatio visited the ship and was saluted with 15 guns, on the 23 arrived a Russian man of war Bark. On christmas day high doings on shore. Every species of gaming going on in the plaza, the streets from this time to the 6th Jan. crowded by villians of every cast and harlots of every degree. Two open murders committed, the criminals go unpunished. The only amusement on shore is rolling nine pins. On the 14th, this is the birthday of Josiah Ogden Watson, the Frigate Constitution arrived from the islands, some sickness on board. The French Frigate Virginia arrived on the 2nd, she sailed on the 7th for Acapulco and the islands. The English Frigate Talbot, arrived from Valparaiso, sailed in a day or two in search of money. The Frolic arrived a second time with some money. Capt Gordon gone up to the mines to facillitate the smuggling of money, Rascally proceeding. Jan 21st the Sloop Cyane, arrived from Callao 28 days. A number of merchantmen arrived and smuggled most of their goods on shore. 22nd Jan half masted the colors and at twelve o'clock fired twenty-one minute Guns, in honor of General Andrew Jackson, who died in June last.*

*The following letter is included in Lieutenant Watson's letter-book:

U. S. Ship Savannah
Jan: 17th 1846

Sir:

Have you any pompoms to spare. Lt. [Joseph W.] Curtis [of the Dale] has written to me for some, if you have I will thank you to

Sunday, 1 February 1846

We have had some exceedingly disagreeable weather for a number of days past, but two [day] it is much more pleasant, had service, the Capt. unwell.

Monday, 2 February 1846

pleasant, we find that the worms are injuring the boats very much, had the launch hauled up. A court Martial convened on board the Cyane--

Tuesday, 3 February 1846

Nothing new, a Mexican schooner came in from the south[w]ard, pleasant.

Wednesday, 4 February 1846

The weather cool, fresh breeze from the N. W. Purser [Daingerfield] Fauntleroy and Lieuts [James W.] Cooke, [William A.] Wayne, [Johnston B.] Carter and Professor [Kempster M.] Knap [Knapp] of the English Frigate America dined with us to-day.* Lieut brought some spanish ladies on board to tea, after which there was some dancing, the Ladies left about 8 P. M. They wished to borrow my cloak, but as I had seen the ill effects of loaning on a former occasion I determined not to loan it. In consequence of which Lt. Schenck felt himself called upon to make some highly insulting and ungentlemary remarks, thus closed the day, and but for the latter, it might have been good.

Thursday, 5 February 1846

Cool and cloudy. Lt. Schenck made an apology for his remarks last night, so ends that matter. A Mexican brig sailed to-day to the south[w]ard. A brig in the offing shows Hamburg colors. A red flag with a white castle in the centre. Strong sprinkling of war with England in relation to the oregon territory. I perfectly agree with the President on the subject of the oregon territory, And I conceive that every effort should be made to meet every contingency

let him have a few. The mice have destroyed all he had, he wants them by Monday as I am to inspect his guard.

H. B. Watson)
Lt. Comdg: the Guard)
U. S. Ship Portsmouth)

Respectfully
W[ard]. Marston
Capt & seinor officer

*Purser Fauntlerory and Lieutenants Wayne and Carter were from the Savannah, while Lieutenant Cooke was stationed on board the Constitution.

MAZATLAN

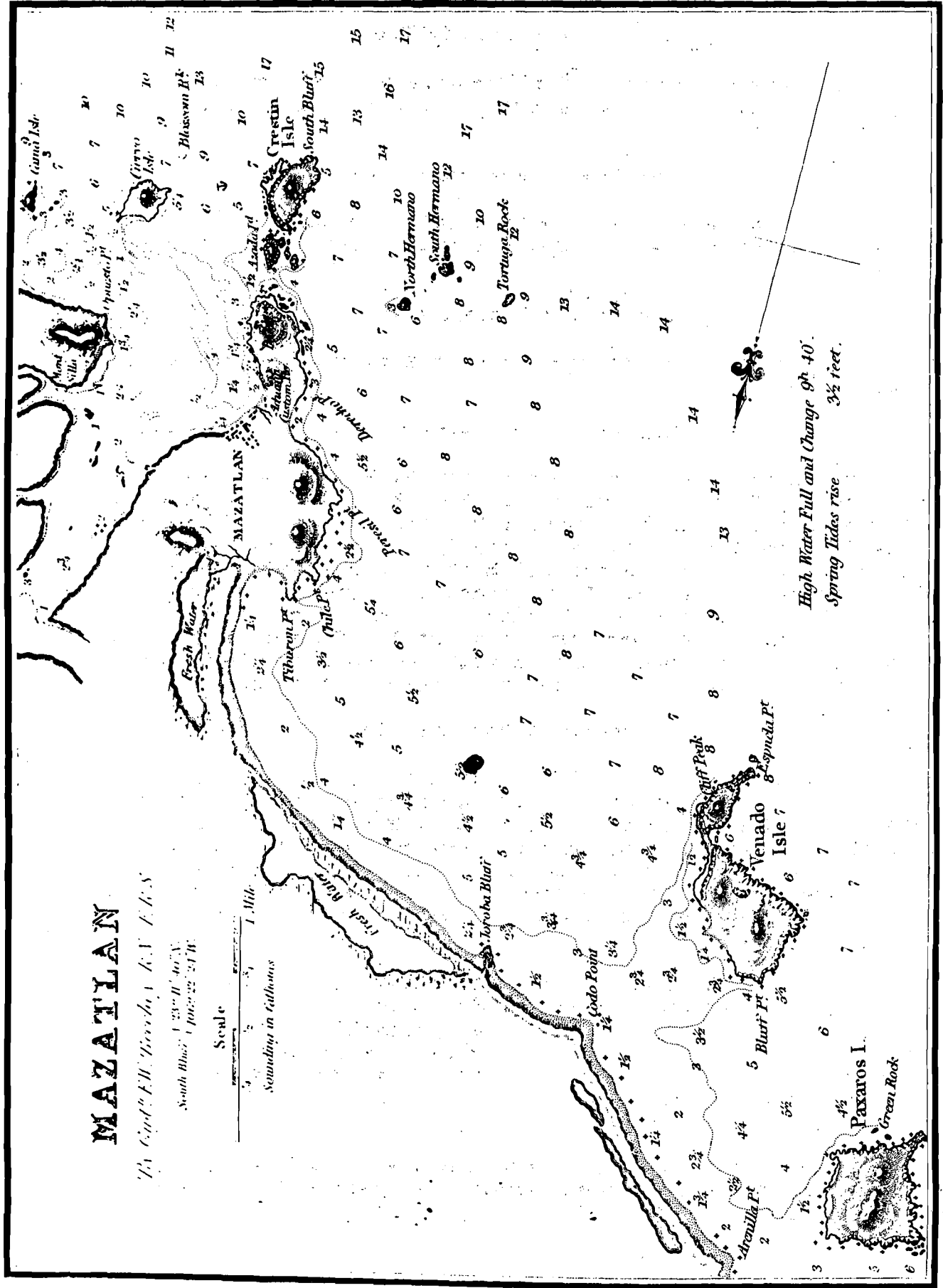
By Capt. F.H. Piercy, U.S.N.

South Bluff 1 23° 11' 40" N.
North Bluff 1 106° 22' 54" W.

Scale

1 Mile

Sounding in fathoms



High Water Full and Change 9h. 40'.
Spring Tides rise 3½ feet.

likely to arise in relation thereto. We have the secretarys report a severe, but just and correct paper in all that it says about the service. As regards the marine Corps, I entirely concur with him and until these aged veterans shall be provided or some appropriate duty assigned them, I can see but little prospect of the Corps being benefited--

Friday, 6 February 1846

Clear but cool, the wind as usual from the N.W. Yesterday there was a revolution, bloodless it is true, The party opposed to Paredes, declared against him, deposed the Governor & called upon Gen. Fatio to assume the government, this he declined leaving the revolutionary party to govern themselves, last night The soldiers got up a countre revolution, and declared in favor of Mirymone so recently disposed.* This [day] a number of arrest took place, and a Lt. Colonel who leaded the revolution of yesterday, was placed publicly in the plaza, with his confessor. The soldiery being determined to shoot him at noon. This however they did not do, owing to the little resistance made to their lawless proceedings, and the interference of some good disposed citizens, A salute was fired or rather a feu de joie was fired in honor of their triumph. A murder was committed openly yesterday in the street, various robberies, and other crimes, (all of which were unpunished) were committed during the general confusion. This man Mirymone has been governor but two or three weeks, has it is said accumulated or rather filched from the revenue not less than Forty thousand dollars, It was this extraordinary and reckless thieving which disgusted the less favored Lt. Col. hence the revolution. Drunkenness and debauch, murder and robbery, the gratification of the most reckless passions and desires, the wanton violations of innocence and the open seduction of chastity, and a total disregard of every christian obligation, almost invariably follow these anti christian and hellish feuds and discontents, engendered in private animosities, kept alive by reckless inducements and terminated in the accomplishment of every vice that is revolting to the human understanding. Men torn from their families in the darkness and stillness of the night, their property seized by the self constituted and Licensed robber, their wives insulted and their daughters willingly or unwillingly seduced or violated, unfortunately for the honor of the human species licenciousness is but too plainly developed in the female character of this country. How long the civilized and christian will permit this state of things cannot be conjectured, but certainly the voice of humanity of charity of jus-

*Major General Mariano Paredes y Arrillaga became President of Mexico on 2 January 1846 following the ouster of General Jose Joaquin de Herrera. With Paredes' assumption of power and his inaugural oath to uphold the integrity of Mexican territory as far as the Sabine River, war became inevitable. Although negotiations would continue, neither Mexico nor the United States would modify their position.

tice and of religion demand that this worse heathen government should be abolished. I looked on and [have] seen the human mind and the human heart reduced by the repetition of these party movements. And I felt humiliated at my own species may the vengeance of indignant heaven be averted and may this unhappy people report the error of their ways--

Saturday, 7 February 1846

Clear and cool. Nothing worthy of note occurred to-day.

Sunday, 8 February 1846

Cloudy and cool. Had service as usual. Purser [Rodman M.] Price of the Cyane and a Mr. Bissel dined in the ward Room to-day with us. A very good dinner. Dr Wood quite unwell ashore. Capt Montgomery unwell as he has been for some time past.

Monday, 9 February 1846

Clear and cool.--The Court Martial still in session and in fact they say that it will [be] some time before they get through for almost every day there is some new case. About 11 o'clock to day The Flag ship hoisted her number, which all the other ships followed. We were all on tiptoe to find out what it meant, all the spy Glasses was immediately put in requisition, and the horizon was carefully surveyed, but nothing was to be seen, men were sent to the mast heads but nothing could be seen in all directions except one, and the island of christone [Creston] obstructed the view in that direction, consequently the most intense anxiety was excited. There were ships expected, The Warren, Erie and Shark. We were however not kept long in suspense for soon the Erie and the Shark made their appearance from behind Christone, we were all then with palpitating [hearts] anxious for them to get in and anchor, & then for the letters; There was a good lot of letters and papers, nearly all got letters, when we soon appeared like so many judges, quietly and silently digesting there contents and so far as I could learn all receive good news, Although they were old letters, none later than the 25th June 1845. I received one & although it was truly gratifying, yet as painful as it leaves in uncertainty. By it learned that I had another daughter [Alice Elizabeth] born on 21st of June, and that Mrs W. was doing well--some of my family however were sick which is a source of anxiety--To day we learned that Mr. [Francis] Johnson and Lt [Archibald H.] Gillespie of the M[arine]. C[orps]. were [at] Tepic, and they arrived this evening about sun set. Mr. Johnson came on board the ship, and by him two others of the officers got letters from their families as late as the 15th Dec. '45, and papers to a much later date. Lt Gillispie is on leave

of absence and I believe is on his way to china.* One excitement only gives way for another, we heard to day that the packet left Norfolk for the Pacific ["the Pacific" has been crossed out] Charges on the eight of Dec. and as the[y] arrived at Panama about the same time that she did, and therefore gets her mail, we anxiously looking for her arrival which may be hourly expected, so we go, constantly feeding on hope.**

Tuesday, 10 February 1846

Clear & cool, some visiting to-day, and talking over the news. The Brig Leander sailed for San Blass last night, a Mr Kelly went [as a] passenger in her, by him I sent a letter. Another man assassinated in the street today this makes the fifth assassination that has occurred since we have been here. The Mexican Brig Republicano came in last night, nothing off at sunset. The Com. has been regulating signal Books to day, we expect upon the arrival of the Warren, and the adjournment of the court Martial, to go on a short cruise-- A good deal of excitement about some anticipated changes, some officers making application for those ships which are to go home soon, some from a dissatisfaction to the ships there are in, and others from one whimsical excuse or another, probably none will be satisfied with what they get. Nothing has astonished and at the same time pained me more than the suicidal conduct of a man for whom I intertained the highest respect. A woman somewhat famed for the number of her amours and the proflagacy of her life, had been for some time the mistress of Purser S. after [having] been so

*In October 1845, First Lieutenant Archibald H. Gillespie, who had just returned from a cruise to the Orient, was briefed by the Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft and President James K. Polk, and given instructions for Thomas O. Larkin, the American consul at Monterey. These instructions have yet to be found, Gillespie destroyed his copy after memorizing their contents while enroute to Veracruz. From Veracruz, he proceeded across Mexico to Mazatlan where he reported to Commodore John D. Sloat. Why Gillespie was chosen for this "secret" mission is unknown, the Marine officer, however, did have a knowledge of Spanish.

**The following letter is included in Lieutenant Watson's letter-book:

U. S. Ship Savannah (Mazatlan).
Feb. 9th 1846.

Sir:

I have received an invoice of Marine Clothing and will thank you to send me a list of clothing you may want.

Very Respectfully
W[ard]. Marston
Capt & Seinor officer

H. B. Watson
Comdg Guard Sloop Portsmouth

for many other persons--the ship to which he was attached being ordered home, he took it into his head to marry her. His friends took into consideration and used every argument that could possibly arouse either his sense of pride, honor or feelings to prevent it--several gentlemen who kept this notorious character came forward and told him that they had kept [her] and that she was but a common whore, and that he would entirely destroy himself by marrying her, but all to no avail. They then went to her and told her of the mischief that she was doing in causing this young man ruins, she protested that it was all his doings that she did not want to marry him. The friends of the gentleman even went farther, and made an application to the Arch-bishop not to grant a license, on the ground that the gentleman had a wife in the U. States. But notwithstanding all these representation, he would follow the bent of his own wild inclination and marry a woman, who was but one third white and two thirds negro, and worse than all a common prostitute, who before his ship was out of sight had put her eye upon a new keeper. Thus has a man who was regarded as an ornament to the service an intelligent and until now considered an honorably highminded man, destroyed in a moment by the vile seductions of a common prostitute, and the uncontrol passions of an evil inclination. I pity his relations and deplore his loss to them to himself to the service and to his country, for but for this woman he would have been an honor to all.

Wednesday, 11 February 1846

The weather pleasant, nothing new.--

Thursday, 12 February 1846

Pleasant. Mr. Johnson, & Lt: [James] Alden [Jr.] dined on board to-day, I went on shore this evening, rolled one game of ten pins, was successful in beating my opponent, quite a number of officers on shore--Many changes spoken of.--

Friday, 13 February 1846

Pleasant quite a number of orders afloat to day. The Capt had a little party this evening, borrowed the Commodore Band and there [was] some dancing. There was a very handsome collation of sandwiches, pialico [piccalilli], fruit, wines and coffee. Two of the ladies were quite sea sick, the party broke up about eleven.

Saturday, 14 February 1846

Pleasant, loose sails this morning. Lt. Forrest of this ship ordered to the store ship Erie, Lt. Schenck of this ship ordered to the schooner Shark, Lt. Revere of the Cyane ordered to this ship. Pass Midshipmen B. F. B. Hunter of the Cyane ordered to this ship as acting Lieut. Pass Midshipman N. B. Harrison ordered to this ship as acting Master Pass Mid. [Edward] Higgins of the Erie ordered to

the Cyane as acting Lieut. Pass Mid. [James D.] Bullock of the Erie ordered to the schooner Shark as acting Master. Pass Midshipman [J. Fenwick] Stenson of the Cyane ordered as master of that ship. Passed Midshipmen [Tenant] McClennahan [McLanahan] and Boxer of the Cyane ordered to the store ship Erie to duty--Thus this day has been one of unusual excitement & bustle, many other changes among the Midshipmen are spoken of, and one in the medical department, A sail off to night, but could not be made out.--

Sunday, 15 February 1846

had service as usual nothing new.

Monday, 16 February 1846

The weather cool. Capt [William] Mervine of the Cyane had a dance this evening made extensive preparation, but none of the officers from any other ship [came], and there did not but six ladies attend four of these were sea sick no go, Capt Mervine--

Tuesday, 17 February 1846

Nothing new.--

Wednesday, 18 February 1846

Busy all day getting on board provisions. Midshipman [Hunter] Davidson ordered to the Erie. Mids. [Charles S.] Bell & [Elliott] Johnson [Johnston] ordered to this ship the first from the Erie and the latter from the Shark.--all right.*

*The following letter is included in Lieutenant Watson's letter-book:

U. S. Ship Savannah, Mazatlan
Feb. 18th 1846.

Sir:

I wish you would send to-morrow at 10. A. M. on board the U. S. S. Erie for the following articles of Clothing: Viz:

- 25. Twenty-five U[niform]. Coats
- 1 One Music U. Coat
- 50. Fifty Linen Overalls
- 50. Fifty U. W. Overalls
- 50. Fifty Shirts
- 50. Fifty pair of shoes
- 25. Twenty-five Fatigue Jackets
- 50. Fifty Fatigue Overalls
- 60. Sixty Linen Jackets
- 75 Seventy-five Pair of socks

Yours &c.

H. B. Watson

Comdg Guard sloop Portsmouth)

Ward Marston

Capt & Seinor off

Thursday, 19 February 1846

The weather cool. Received a lot of Marine [clothing] to-day. A great deal more than was necessary for the use of my guard, told the Senior Officer so, but he could not otherwise disposed of it. Made a requisition for 500 Flints, went on board the Commodore, got a blowing up for leaving the U. States without flints fault of the Quarter Master's department, ought to be altered,--An English vessel went to sea to day bound to England.

Friday, 20 February 1846

The weather cool, ask[ed] [for] a survey on some damaged Marine Clothing.

Saturday, 21 February 1846

Quite warm, took the second cutter & went a fishing to-day, caught a fine lot of Fish and saw Turtle. My face was very much sun burnt.--The Marine clothing was surveyed to-day in my absence. Lt. [Charles C.] Turner and [Marine] Lieuts [William A. T.] Maddox, & [Joseph W.] Curtis on the survey, condemned only part, all wrong. I hope they will have to pay for it. Visited the Cyane & Constitution on duty. The court Martial adjourned sine die to-day, so we go.

Sunday, 22 February 1846

The weather pleasant. Had church as usual by the Capt. The Sloop of War Cyane, got under way and went to sea to-day bound to the Sandwich islands with letters for Commodore [Robert F.] Stockton. A mail arrived to-day bringing dates as late as the 17th Jan. from the U. States. Nothing very important, our affairs with Mexico has assumed a more pacific character, while those [with] England are rather portentous and squally.

Monday, 23 February 1846

Yesterday being Sunday the honors due the occasion were deferred until to-day, when at 12 M. all the ships fired a salute of seventeen guns, in honor of the birth of the great Washington a name ever dear to Every american bosom and every lover of liberty. The Hon Capt Gordon of her Majesty's Frigate America did not deigne to notice the day. This bigoted and bull headed Englishman, is the brother of the Present Earl of Aberdeen, and belongs to the ultra tory party, hence his very uncourtious conduct on this occasion, he is a man without brains.

App. John D. Sloat
Commodore

Tuesday, 24 February 1846

The weather pleasant. Sold some Marine clothing to-day, which had been condemn[ed] by survey, all wrong.--

Wednesday, 25 February 1846

The weather pleasant, went on shore.--

Thursday, 26 February 1846

Quite warm. Went on shore, rolled nine pins, the exercise was too violent hence I paid for my whistle.

Friday, 27 February 1846

Warm, a danish ship off. The Frigate America (English) the Hon Capt. Gordon, got under way about twelve o'clock and stood out to sea, said to be going to Valpariaso, she is a fine ship but her commander to use a modest expression is a blackguard. Went a fishing this evening had bad luck, came on board at sunset determined to try it again soon.

Saturday, 28 February 1846

Very pleasant, Applied for a survey upon some Marine clothing. Capt. Montgomery, Capt Marston and Lt. Curtis were ordered on it. I was astonished to find that Capt Marston and Lt: Curtis were so ignorant of their profession and more particularly of the rights of the soldier--

Sunday, 1 March 1846

Quite pleasant, had service. The Hamburg barque Theresa went to sea to day a man named John Christian, (seaman) of this ship who had been discharged at his own request, took passage in her for hamburg that being his native place. A Mexican brig went to sea also to-day, bound to san blas, having on board his excellency the ex-governor Fatio of this place, he is bound to the city of Mexico having been recalled it is said for some Foreign mission. The Mail arrived but no news. A Danish ship which had been off for several days came in and anchored, a sail off at sunset but too far to make her out.

Monday, 2 March 1846

Quite warm, a hamburg Brig off, came and anchored, she is from central America. There has been a change of Governors without a revolution, The sentence of the court Martial in the case of Richards a seaman belonging to the Savannah was carried into execution to-day, he received fifty lashes on the bare back on board the Savannah with a cat of nine tails, he was then taken to the Levant

and was given twenty-five more, and then to this ship where he received twenty-five more making in all one hundred Lashes on the bare back with a cat of nine tails. His offense was some mutinous conduct, and threatening and insolent Language to Lieut R[obert]. Hitchcock first Lt. of the Savannah, while he Richards was under the influence of liquor. James Osborne (O.S.) of this ship received his punishment to day also, he was tried and sentenced by a court Martial recently held to receive seventy-five Lashes on the bare back with a cat of nine tails. Both [of] these men were revolting looking objects, incorrigible and unruly as their conduct may have been, yet it is both painful and heart rending to see the mu[tillated] flesh as it quivers under the blows of the cats, indeed the flesh looked just like it was charred. They are also sentenced to be discharged from the service--A difficulty both uncalled for and unpleasant, took place between the Purser and myself, in relation to some accounts as regards the sale of marine clothing. [(]I believe and was ordered by the Capt. to retain two copies of the sale,) that I was compelled or rather to enable me to settled my accounts with the Quarter master's Department, he contended differently the consequence was that it produced some unpleasant remarks between us. He may have been correct in stating that he ought to have the accounts, but be that as it may, I led from a knowledge of his character to regard him as too contemptible for notice it may [be] said that this proceeds from a fear of consequence but it is directly the reverse, for there would be less to fear from a man when [he] goes to bed half drunk every night and whose nervous system has long been poisoned by dissipation than from a man of more moderate and temperate habits, and apart from every other consideration, I do not feel quite assured that I should gain any desirable distinction even by fighting him in mortal combat, and I feel convinced that it is quite sufficient for him to have made a blackguard of himself without my following his example. Several sail in the offing. We sincerely desire that one of them may be Warren.

Tuesday, 3 March 1846

The weather disagreeable. Cloudy and rain squalls. The Court Martial convened on board the U.S. Frigate Constitution. Capt. [John] Percival President, this being the fifth since we have been at this place and the seventh since this ship has been on the station, a Hamburg barque off.

Wednesday, 4 March 1846

The weather pleasant. Hamburg Brig came in and anchored, some caulking going about the ship.--

Thursday, 5 March 1846

The weather pleasant, Sent some of the Marines on board of the Sloop Levant, to attend the sale of some condemned Marine clothing,

a Brig off this evening, There is some probability that the Warren may have gone to Calao, that is, if one of the officers who is reported to have come out from the U. States, has brought out dispatches for our charged des Affairs at Peru, This however is all conjectural--No news from Mexico, or from the U. States. Here we are in a glorious inactivity, and monotony--

Friday, 6 March 1846

The weather pleasant, a little cool. Went on board the Frigate Constitution, as I witness before a court Martial, in the [case of] [James] Welch a seaman, of this ship, this man drew while drunk and attempted to thrust [thrust] into Sergt. [George M.] Millar [Miller] while he Miller was confining him; dined on board the Frigate. The Frigate Talbot (English) Sir Thomas Thompson Comdr. came in and anchored, seven days from San Blas. no news Left at San Blas [by] The English Frigates Fisgard & America.

Saturday, 7 March 1846

Quite pleasant to-day, a little in the middle of the day, went on board the Constitution, to attend the court martial, did not want me. Commenced taking the evidence on the part of defence, close with the evidence for and against, gave the Prisoner until Monday to make his defence. A mail from durango, Matemoras & the U. States, dates as lates as the 29th of January, no news of importance, various specluations as regards the Oregon and Mexican question, general impression that there would be no war, at least it is said that is the opinion of the great money brokers of England. The Messrs Barring & leo no animals, and no news to-day.

Sunday, 8 March 1846

The weather very pleasant. Had service as usual, An English Whaling barque standing off and on, a Mexican Schooner standing in. The Brittish Brig of War Frolic (Capt [Cospatrick B.] Hamilton) went to sea this evening it is said that she has gone to Guaymas. The mail arrived this evening from Mexico bringing dates from the U. States as late as the 20th of Jan. By letters received on which reliance can be placed we are gratified to learn that the Oregon Question will be settled amicably by negotiation, Dispatches were received here for our commissioner at the Hawaiian or sandwich islands, Mr. [Anthony] Ten Eick [Ten Eyck]. We learn that the man John Ricord, who has been appointed by the sandwich island Gov. Attorney General, and who has figured considerably in that capacity, particularly with the late imbecile American commissioner Mr. Brown that a power of attorney has been sent out by our Government to arrest this man as a defaulter, he having held some in our country which gave him the charge of money, and of which he absconded with \$14,000. Unlucky rascal, he is an exceedingly smart fellow, & his talents merits a better fate, but he justly deserves punishment--The new Governor

General of this Province arrived here yesterday accompanied by a band of 150 of the most cut throat looking rascals I have ever seen--

Monday, 9 March 1846

Pleasant during the day, but cool at night, nothing new, no sails in the offing, everything quiet on shore. I hear of some cases of drunkenness in the squadron, sailors are tried by court martial, and their are lashed for this offense, but their superiors in rank are let off or it is smothered over, how long such vile and disgraceful practices or habits will disgrace our [Navy]. Nay I do not know but I hope not long.

Tuesday, 10 March 1846

The weather pleasant, rather warm. The Court martial before whom the two men from this [ship] were recently tried, permitted the men in their defenses, to use abusive language in relation to witnesses in their cases, and also permitted them to depart from the charges and in an irrevalent manner bring officers into their defense for the purpose of abusing them, all wrong and contrary to law. A Mexican Schooner came in to-night from, the winward. nothing in the offing--

Wednesday, 11 March 1846

The weather pleasant. Went with a boat which was going to get some sand, and picked up quite a quantity of very pretty shells. But my not being any thing of a conchologist I am unable to give them proper names. I however will reserve them for future study, should I be spared, and the instruction of my dear little children. An English Brig off. A Mexican Schooner went to sea this evening bound to leeward. Welch seaman recently tried for mutinous conduct, has been sentenced to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back. A man by the name of [Joseph T.] Downey, was confined this evening, and charges have been preferred against him, for reading among the ship's company certain libillous and mutinous papers, purporting to be, the defense of the men Welch & [Warren] Spencer, thereby exciting the crew to the commission of mutinous conduct or using mutinous words towards the officers of the ship, and thereby subverting the discipline of the ship, as also creating a spirit of discontent among the men. As a military rule it is necessary that men being for trial or under sentence of Court Martial they should always be in Irons. And as a security from disertion, or improper correspondence between them and others of the crew, it is rendered still more inperative that they should be kept in Irons. But the Capt of this ship seems averse to having them put in Irons, from what this species of clemency proceeds I am unable to perceive. It is undoubtedly from some mistaken notion humanity. But on the score of public utility, I am persuaded that the man would be much more secure by being in Irons, and there can be little question that the sentry

who guards him would greatly prefer it. I do not consider the sentinel responsible when there are a number of Prisoners for them unless they are in Irons. Nor does the law in fact regard them so.

Thursday, 12 March 1846

The weather was pleasant but a little warm. The prisoner Welch by means of some preconnected plans with some of his shipmates procured liquor, on yesterday, which he concealed until this morning, when at eight o'clock he was informed that his punishment would be inflicted at nine, he eluded the vigilance of the sentinel and drank his [fill] while his irons were off on purpose, for him to dress himself. It was not however discovered until after his punishment was inflicted. He received one hundred lashes on the bare back without any favor or leniency from the boatswains mates. Although this man richly deserved to be punished, yet I could wish it had been lighter. The spictable was appalling indeed.--Two Mexican schooners went to sea this evening--Gen. Urea left Mazatlan to-day as I understand by order of the Government at Mexico, a dangerous character. Everything appears quiet at this time. no Warren yet.--

Friday, 13 March 1846

Quite pleasant. A party was made up to go a shelling consisting of Lieut [Belfield] Wholcom [Woolcombe], and Dr. [Robert T. C.] Scott of the British Frigate Talbot, Mr. Sloat of the Savannah and Dr. Wood of this ship and myself we took the third cutter, and went along side the Talbot for the two above named gentlemen, Dr. Scott was not on board, and we found that the necessary provission had not been made for the boats crew, so we returned to the Portsmouth and procured the necessary grub for the men, when we returned to the Talbot, and at 11 o'clock we were all ready and got under way. --Mr. Sloat had a dredge. We divided into two parties. Mr. S. and Dr. Scott went in the boat to dredge, while Wholcom, Wood & myself, went on [the] beach. Our success was not at all what we expected at first but leaving the sea beach and dredge, we went in among the mangrove and along the estuaries formed by the ebb and flow of the tide where we were very sucessful in getting a great many shells, some very rare. about four o'clock we all assembled and partook of a very handsome cold repast which we had provided before leaving the ship. We got on board about sunset perfectly delighted. An English Brig came in and anchored from the sandwich Islands. I did not learn whether there was any news--Lt. Barlette who was to have been one of the shelling party, was prevented from going in consequence of indisposition, but he is better this evening.

Saturday, 14 March 1846

The weather has been very pleasant to day, a little cloudy and some appearance of rain this evening. A Mexican Schooner came in this evening from the leeward. There was a picnic on the island to day,



Mazatlan, Mexico

given by some of the officers of the squadron. I have not heard how it passed off, but I presume very pleasantly. Some two or three of the Midshipmen of the squadron ascended christone this evening. This mountain is six hundred feet above the sea, and these young gentlemen amused themselves by throwing large stones or rather rolling them from the top to witness the report which they made on desending to the base below, in some instances it resembled distant thunder. I feel a good deal fatigued from my exercise on yesterday--

Sunday, 15 March 1846.

Cloudy, but pleasant, Mustered the crew at quarters when they under went the usual inspection by the Captain. At a quarter past ten had the usual service, by the Capt. The subject of the sermon to day was taken from Mathew "Narrow is the gate that leadeth unto life and few there be that find it. Broad is the gate that leadeth to death and many there be that entereth therein.["] Several sail in sight. One believed to be the Warren. I hope so. The mail arrived this evening no news of importance, papers as late as the 23rd of Jan. 1846. The War seems the absorbing subject both in and out of Congress. (something definite should be done).

Monday, 16 March 1846

Cloudy some rain and quite warm, The long look[ed] for Warren arrived this morning from Panama having one hundred an ten days in going and returning to this port. Lieuts [James M.] Gillis [Gilliss] & [William] Rockendorff came [as] passengers in her, the first as bearer of dispatches, and both to join the squadron, the Warren brought us [mail] as late as December 1845, by which all I believe received the grateful news that our families were all well, which I pray God they continue to be--

Tuesday, 17 March 1846

Clear & warm, Warren Spencer seaman who was tried by a court martial for mutinous conduct, was sentenced to receive fifty lashes on the bare back with the Cat of nine Tails. This sentence was carried into excecution. I never saw boatswain's mate do their duty better, indeed their blows were inflicted with their force, cutting the skin at every blow, it is a revolting, humiliating and degrading to human nature to witness. Dr Wood our esteemed mess mate and caterer, resigned his caterership to day, preparatory to leaving the ship, he has orders to join the Levant which ship is to leave for the U. States in a few days. Dr [Edward] Gelchrist of the Levant is to be ordered to this ship. It is rumored to day Lieut. W. S. Schenck had tendered his resignation to the Commodore. This same gentleman is said to have ruptured a blood vessel to day but no serious consequences resulted therefrom. It is said the Warren will leave in a day or two for the Sandwich islands, A Mexican Schooner came in [and] anchored to-day, and one went out. A number

of whales were seen playing off the harbor to day. Wrote letter No. 21 to Mrs W. to-day. A good deal of mystery is made to hang over the movements of the squadron:--all for effect:--no use in it.

Wednesday, 18 March 1846

The weather pleasant. We learned to-day that we were to go to sea within [a] few days, bound to the Northward, A number of changes spoken off, some resignations threatened in the squadron but I suppose it is all talk. Two expresses from the City of Mexico to-day, one to the Governor and the other to the American Consul or so reported. I have not learned the purport of their dispatches. An English Bark went to sea to-day, bound to the Orkney islands, and a mexican Brig came in from the southward. Andrew Smith a landsman was punished with six lashes with cat of nine tails for drunkenness--An order has been issued for sending home the sick and those whose term of service has expired. We shall separate here from the old squadron and wet no more in these sea's--

Thursday, 19 March 1846

The weather pleasant, Various rumor's afloat to-day as to the movement of the squadron, Went on board the Constitution to get some marines to exchange, selected six. Midshipman Herron tendered his resignation this evening. The change contemplated between the Surgeon of this ship and and the Surgeon of Levant is not likely to be made and one or two assistant Surgeon's will be detained out here. A mexican Schooner came in this evening--

Friday, 20 March 1846

The [weather] moderately warm and pleasant. Much mystery still seems to hang over the movements of the squadron changes to a very considerable extent are about being in the crew of this ship, Quite a lot of Muskets and rifles were received on board to-day, We have many congratulation as to the cruise we are about to make, It [is] said that we are bound to Monterey, San Sanfrisco, Columbia river and Nootka Sound, or Huan de Fuca. And it is also said that we are to make survey's of some if all these places, There has been quite a search through the squadron for Thermomiter's and Theodolite, drawing paper &c. An express is reported to have arrived from Mexico last night, what it brings I have not learned. Midshipman [Frederick] Kellog, of the Warren tendered his resignation to-day he was charged with a most unnatural, and diabolical crime, the charge was Arson, or in nautical parlance it is called (buggering) [the word "buggering" has been crossed out]. Several instances of this unnatural connection of man and man are reported to have occurred in the squardon but with what truth I am unable to say. It is to be hoped for the sake of humanity and decency that most if not all the rumors are unfounded. A Mexican Schooner went to sea this evening. That august assemblage called a naval court martial has not yet closed it labors. For the purity of our laws, for the honor of the

criminal code, for the sake of humanity and for the preservation and reputation of our civil and military jurisprudence it is earnestly to be desired that this may be the last not only here but elsewhere, that shall transmit to posterity the recorded evidence of the perviaity of the age in which we live, and the levity of our august judges. I have often been struck with the parable of courts martial a body of men assemble to judge of crimes, many of whom are not only profoundly ignorant of the laws, but are governed by a species of nonchalance as to the destiny of their victim, Prejudice and partiality are too often the ruling principle.

Saturday, 21 March 1846

The weather pleasant. Quite a fete is coming off on shore to night in the shape of a public ball given [by] a portion of the American Officers, and the English Officers, A good deal of bad taste has been displayed in this matter, the night selected is injudicious, as the commodore objects to his band's going on shore saturday night a good many officers who in all probability would have gone objected on the same scene, some little ill feeling has shown itself, particularly so far as this ship is concerned, as the Surgeon Dr Wood & myself were not invited, neither of us would have gone, even if the invite had been extended to us, men when they lest think it show the cloven foot, they have however chosen the wrong individual for their target. As it is neither the shafts of envy, the coolness of neglect or the triumph [of] ill breeding, that excites their notice or troubles calmn serenity of their mind or the tranquil and peaceful paths lived--may they enjoy their victory, and contribute a laurel to their countries fame. Visited the Commodore to day found him unwell, had some conversation in relation to the Guard, effected some changes, &c. A medical survey was held, on the sick to day, several condemn[ed]. Assistant Surgeon A[ndrew]. A. Henderson appointed Surgeon of this ship. Dr. Wood detached and ordered to the Savannah. Dr [Marius] Duval [Duvall] ordered to this ship from the Constitution, A number of men exchanged between this ship & Constitution, Midshipman Johnson restored to duty to day, he has been suspended some three weeks for disobedience of orders. Two sail off to night, a brig went to sea this evening--

Sunday, 22 March 1846

The weather pleasant. Had service at the usual hour. Hamburg barque went to sea this morning. The party last night was rather a failure, as there was very few ladies and a superabundance of gentlemen. A mail from the U. States Dates as late as the third of February 1846, the news is not of much interest. The Commodore has a letter from Mr. [John] Slidell the minister to Mexico but nothing has as yet leaked out. I trust there is nothing that will detain us here. Some sails off this evening. A Mexican brig came in & anchored.