

30th colder and still colder, when the weather permits some of us amuse ourselves with skipping. Mr. Grierson shows himself an adept at it. I managed one day to keep up fifty six turns.

I am happy to say my bird has quite recovered the use of its leg. I tried various remedies, I commenced with spermaceti ointment but it produced no effect. I next tried warm water and alcohol, then arsenic, then poultices composed of bread water and olive oil, and lastly solution of esudic. The poultices I think were most effectual, but whether the foot was cured through the instrumentality of the caustic or in spite of it I cannot say, at any rate it rapidly healed after its application three or four times. I cannot imagine the cause of the malady, it appeared to be some sort of scrofulous affection, the foot was three times its ordinary size, much inflamed, and covered with a loose scab which extended up the leg and over the lower part of the body, from which the feathers all came off before it recovered the other foot became slightly affected but the caustic stopped all further progress. I consider the bird now a living evidence of my medical skill (I was strongly advised to kill it and put an end to its misery, as no one expected it to recover) and hope to take it out safely, the other two are molting and have consequently lost their voices, however I trust they are in good health.

31st Sunday. For the first time we were unable to hold service on deck, owing to the weather, consequently it was held in the saloon, an excellent sermon of Dr. Guthrie's was read on "Neglected warnings." The wind had been high all day, and a stannick (or studding sail) was carried away twice towards evening it increased slightly and became rather squally. For the weather has decidedly set in fine weather is now the exception and wind and rain the rule, but we have little cause to complain, on the contrary much cause for thankfulness for two months we have had the fairest weather imaginable our portholes seldom closed even at night scarcely a shower and no gale worth mentioning, the only fault being the lack of sufficient and favourable wind during the whole time we have not once reefed topsails which expands volumes.

August 3rd the best days run we have made yet, one part of the day we were going more than fifteen knots an hour we travelled a distance of 310* miles ^{in the four or twenty hours for} seven and a half degrees of East longitude, a degree in the latitude in which there are being only about forty two miles. * We have since done 380 miles in twenty four hours.

4th The wind changed and we were compelled to go considerably north of our course with a head wind, in the course of the day however the wind returned to its right quarter, and we resumed our course. The number of birds flying about our stern has vastly increased the last few days, there are now large flocks of the two there is some doubt as to what the majority of them really are some call them boobies, some mollymawks, others a species of albatross, the larger