

and finer sorts of albatross are few and far between, some of them measured ten or twelve feet from tip to tip of the wings but I must refer my readers to ornithological works for particular descriptions. They are also gale birds & Cape hens, they follow the vessel for the sake of the refuse thrown overboard, sleeping on the wing at night.

5th Blowing hard all day, in the evening the wind rose to a stiff gale, two staysails and one or two jibs gave way, we did not carry more than two sails on each mast, about 10 p.m. the ropes attaching one of the staysails snapped and the sail flapped about with tremendous violence, we all heard the noise in the saloon and could not imagine what had occurred.

Dr. Grierson ventured to the bows and was knocked down by a wave. At one time for about a quarter of an hour they were unable to keep the binacle lights burning owing to the wind, the captain afterwards informed us we were in danger of going down during that time. The motion was nothing compared to what one was led to expect, but the size of the vessel fully accounts for her sea going qualities, the companion hatches were not even closed, in any ordinary vessel we should ^{have been} shut up, and have had to "hold on", and the saloon would have been flooded probably a foot deep whereas we were not inconvenienced in any way by the motion, had free access to the deck, and only had the water ^{in exposed quantities} through our port holes to windward, they are now caulked up and we shall have no more open ports till we reach New Zealand.

7th Sunday. Yesterday morning we were almost becalmed, a perfect lull after the storm of the previous evening, the wind however gradually rose again and by this afternoon was as violent or more so than on Friday evening, we carried but one sail on each mast besides the spritsail and one or two others, all the rest was close reefed; for some hours in the morning we were again driven backward (about two degrees), the variation in the wind was caused by the near vicinity of land we being in the neighbourhood of the Desert or Project Islands, the worst possible for a ship to be near in rough weather.

8th The wind still continues very high and the sea is much agitated. I enjoyed a draught back at the bows, club in my backbitak somewhat to the amusement of the hands by, In the morning a dead whale was seen floating by, a large number of Cape pigeons have been caught today (about twelve) and their wholesal skinning and stuffing going on, much to the edification