

8th July 1861 Friday

In the morning blowing a gale but before night it was a frightful storm, we carried away many sails, each sail went like a clap of thunder, we shipped many heavy seas; I could not help laughing often at myself and others lumbering about the deck. Towards evening we were ~~running~~ being too under mizen staysail and close reefed lower ^{main} topsail. we saw one Albatross a cape hen and many cape pigeons, the Albatross would measure about 14 feet from tip to tip of the wings, it was a large one. The cape pigeons are like our blue land pigeons with white marks on wings and body only larger.

Took down our royal yards this morning

9th July 1861 Saturday

Lat^o 34.52 S. Long^o 22.55 W.

About 4 A.M. the storm abated, and after breakfast it was quite calm.

Saw ~~an~~ Albatross and many cape Hens and Pigeons. before dinner caught a cape hen measuring 6 ft. 9 in from tip to tip of wings, it was black and like a large duck, we caught it with a hook ~~and~~ ~~but~~ it came swimming under our stern. At 3 P.M. Weir, Meek, Howell and I had a swim over board, and about 10 minutes after we came in there was a large shark under our stern it played about the hook for some time but would not take it.

I took the skin of the breast of the cape hen and have preserved it, if I can get another they would make a very warm muff.