

N. They then experienced light northeast winds, with strong equatorial currents, which with the strength of the northeast trades carried them to leeward, and prevented their making the Hawaiian Islands. This rendered necessary the curtailment of the rations to less than one-half. The officers, with proper spirit, shared the privations of the men, and tendered their stores to the commander for the common stock.

On their way north, New York Island was seen; and on the evening of the 24th of March, they anchored off Honolulu, after an absence of four months and nine days, only eight of which were passed in port.

The results of this cruise of the Porpoise were satisfactory to me, although it had been found impossible to carry out all the duties embraced in her instructions. The performance of those that were accomplished was attended with much fatigue from the adverse state of the weather, an obstacle I was somewhat apprehensive of, but not to the extent that they experienced. Had I been at liberty, or had time allowed, I should have gladly chosen another season for it. With suitable weather, there would have been ample time to accomplish the whole.

While on this cruise, they were more troubled with sickness on board the brig than at any other time during our absence: several cases of dysentery occurred, one of which, as before mentioned, proved fatal.

From the report of Lieutenant-Commandant Ringgold, relative to the Porpoise, and on examination of her bottom, the copper was found so far gone as to make it necessary to re-copper her. This cause of detention was unlooked for, and I had been in hopes to give her crew a short relaxation; but there was no opportunity for it. The necessity of a speedy departure admitted of no delay. She was accordingly hauled into the wharf, and they commenced heaving her down. The crew of the Vincennes assisted in these duties. Some few difficulties occurred, but by the uninterrupted and constant attention of all, the work was soon completed, and the brig again prepared for sea.

During this time the effect that the introduction of French wines and brandies had had upon the habits as well as morals of the lower orders, became very evident; and to avert this evil influence from the crews of both vessels became one of the most troublesome duties the officers had to perform. So great is this annoyance, that I think it sufficient to prevent the making of any repairs but what can be done at anchor in the harbour, and will ere long, I fear, prevent this port from being the resort of the whaling fleet, or even of casual vessels.