

The Journal of Boatswain John Walters of a Voyage to the North Pacific on the Brig *Pedlar*, Captain John Meek, 1819–23

James R. Gibson, ed.

Introduction

The Northwest Coast fur trade entailed the making of dozens of voyages from New England (primarily Boston) to North America's Pacific Coast from the middle of the 1780s to the beginning of the 1840s to trade various goods for sea otter pelts. Accounts of these ventures have dominated publications on the so-called 'Nor'west trade'. Other ventures, however, were also undertaken to the North Pacific from other American ports, chiefly New York, and for other natural products, especially sandalwood.

Logbooks and journals of considerable length were kept of these ventures, normally by officers and sometimes by passengers (and even by deckhands), the logbooks commonly describing daily sailing conditions and the journals relating commercial transactions. One of these journals, however, does not fit this mold in several respects, viz., it is titled a 'diary',¹ covers a voyage of four years (December 1819–August 1823) in only sixty pages, and is written in semi-literate phonetic English² by one John Walters,³ who first went to sea in 1797 at the age of 12 (perhaps as a cabin boy) and again in 1819 as a 34-year-old boatswain⁴ of the *Pedlar*⁵ who kept his own unofficial account in sporadic and seemingly hastily-penned entries in sometimes illegible and very 'broken' English), expatiating only on particularly interesting occurrences (e.g., extreme weather, the massacre of Northwest Coast natives, dalliances with Hawai'ian women, gruesome accidents, collaboration in trade on the Northwest Coast, bloody conflict at Canton) during what amounted to a 'fishing expedition' by the *Pedlar* for whatever profitable resources remained in the North Pacific (e.g., sandalwood and fur-seal skins as well as sea-otter skins) for exchange at Canton for Chinese goods (silks, teas, porcelain) — all in the wake of the depletion of lucrative sea-otter skins. And, after returning safely to the port of New York, Walters disappears from the written record, so we know nothing about the rest of his life on land or sea, just as we do not know whether he went to sea between his maiden voyage in 1797 and this venture, which seems not to have been chronicled by any other log.

Note: The author used no punctuation marks. To assist the reader, punctuation has been inserted in dark red: full stop . comma , semicolon ; The original spelling has been retained.

¹ The Historical Society of Dauphin County, Harrisburg, PA lists the diary on its catalogue record as simply MG 425 — Diary.

² The most egregious example is his misspelling of "island" in every single instance as "iland".

³ Nothing is known about the life of Walters apart from his birth in Philadelphia on February 28, 1785 and his first voyage in 1797, when he "strugeld against many stormes and ship wrecks and cannon balls and hugarly belly and cold biter night"— an example of his unpunctuated quaint English, which I have tried to preserve as much as possible, only correcting with brackets when necessary to clarify its meaning. Also, the number of paragraphs has been reduced by the amalgamation of those on a common subject.

⁴ A boatswain, pronounced bosun, is a ship's officer in charge of sails, rigging, anchors, cables, etc. and the duties of the crew.

⁵ The *Pedlar* was a brig of 224 tons, built in 1806 in Medford, Massachusetts.

The Diary of John Walters, November 27, 1819-August 6, 1823

New York November 27th 1819 shiped as Boswain on board the Brig Pedlar Capt Jam[es] John Meek¹ on voiage to the North West coast of amarica and round the world.

Dember the 3 All hands on board; saild from the North river² with A strong breese from the NW and cold. discharg the pilot; at one oclock that night it blowed A heavy gale with a heavy sea runing, which made the vessel wery laboursom; forst us to take in all sail but the clost reefed main top sail and fore sail.

the night dark and the vessel Shiping heavey seas that made our young lands men wish they ware by the fire side with thiere mothers, not being used to such wether and high sea pouring over them and the heavy roling of the ship that made them all sea sick.

January the 3 1820 made the Iland of sant Croix, one of the Cape de verdes. fine wether and all hands in good health and high spirits to meet the Sandwitch Iland copers coulerd lasses.

March the 3 made faulkours Iland³ near Cape Horn; the wether cold, saw a grate number of Abatroses penguins and other birds.

March the 5 made staten land, the east most land to the Cape; from that to the 25 nothing but heavey gales and the seas runing mountans high with plenty of sleat and snow and very cold. saw a ship ting tavo⁴. May the 18 made the Iland of Oyhee [Hawai'i] one of the sandwitch Ilands⁵ ware Capt Cook was killed by the natives when on discovery.

the 19 wee hove two off[f] ciamun⁶ and A canoee came off and informed us of the King Tamayama⁷ deth and Keanea the kings son king of all the Ilands and likewise they [had] a fight with the old kings neifu⁸ for the crown but he was kiled and his wife whoo whint in the batel and fought by his side and the rest of his gang was kiled and taken prisoners; then the young king broke all the tarbooes⁹, noct down the moraires¹⁰ and burnt the wooden gods which they formaly worshipe in the old kings time.

the 23 arived at the Iland of Wahoo [Oahu] an[d] came to anchor in the harbour of hanaroota [Honolulu] in 5 fathoms, a snug harbour, and then wee got our yellow leged Indian¹¹ lasses on board and plenty of fresh provisons and vegitabels of all sorts with plenty of fruite of the Iland produce and the crew going a shore at nights with their girls¹² and crusing¹³ about in their mothers houses eating fruite and so forth.

June the 4 sailed for Ohyee arived the 9 and anchored in 14 fathoms in ciarven¹⁴ bay the next day was visited¹⁵ by the king and his four wives¹ and all the chiefs atending him

¹ John Meek (1791-1875) was exceptionally long-lived, retiring in his thirties to Hawai'i. His brother, George, also engaged in the Nor'west trade.

² The North River is the estuary of the Hudson River between New York State and New Jersey.

³ I.e., the Falklands (or Malvinas).

⁴ Uncertain spelling and unknown meaning.

⁵ After the 4th Earl of Sandwich, who served as the First Lord of the [British] Admiralty.

⁶ Uncertain spelling; possibly Kaena Point.

⁷ Kamehameha I died in May 1819 and was succeeded by his son Liholiho, who served as King Kamehameha II until 1824, when he died in London on a state visit.

⁸ Unidentified nephew.

⁹ Taboos were various restrictions on daily life.

¹⁰ Uncertain spelling; unidentified but possibly rock temples.

¹¹ I.e., indigenous.

¹² I.e., *wahines*, Polynesian women generally and Hawai'ian women particularly.

¹³ I.e., "cruising" but probably in the sense of "carousing."

¹⁴ Uncertain spelling.

¹⁵ Uncertain spelling.

besides grate numbers of the common clase a trading and the girls flocking on board and swimming round the ship.

June the 15 sailed for wahoo and arived the 17 and came to anchor in 6 fathoms out in the raads². then capt. Pigot³ came on board and wee ware imployed in geting in fresh stock⁴ and vegetables and water for the voige to coast.

the 20 saild for Atooy [Kaua'i] one of the Iland to North; arived the 21 and anchored in 17 fathoms. the next day the king and all the royal family came on board with all his attendence and grate numbors of the natives a trading and wee had the ship swarming with the copper coulard lasses again and plenty of fruit.

the 23 sailed from Atooy with a fine breees to leave our copper coulard lasses. July the 12 the weather wery thick and the wind light. saw one of the fox Iland⁵ under our lee beam not more than 2 miles distant which the ship kept driving on⁶. their was such a heavey sewul⁷ on Shore and no wind to work the ship which alarmed all hands, noing that if she struck it wold be imposibel to save our lives, the sea dashing mountains high against rocks and the ship Still heaving on shore [and] we not being more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the shore; at len[g]the we let go our small bower anchor which brout her up. while lying to anchor saw A ship; we got under way and spoke⁸ her, she was A Rusian on discovery. we stood for the continent Asia and hove two off a vilage and a few of the natives came off but not willing to trade; we sent one man on shore to see if they wold trade, we keeping some of the natives on board till the man returnd, which was the next morning and they wold not trade with us.

the 25 Saw Kings Iland⁹ and anchored in 17 fathom and the natives¹⁰ came on board and we trated for fur and [walrus?] ivory and giving tobaco and beads in return. the natives seem to be a friendly; we let the chief have a musket, they not noing the use of it but we showed them by firing it off. I See one of them come forward and we had some hoges¹¹ under the [long]boat which grunted ; that fritend the fellow that he run aft in such a hurry that he fell his lenth on the deck as if the divil was after him, not seeing any before. they are a s[t]out clase¹² of pepol, broad faces and eyes resenbling the chinises; it is hard to till woman from the man by their dress, but I see som of them a[re] very handsom featurd. their clothing is of the rain deer skin and camalinks¹³ that is made of sea lion guts and throtes neatly sewed together which is fine for standing¹⁴ water. th[e]ir ornaments is ivory curiously carved which they do with stones. they live in caves under ground that will hold a number of them; they have A small entarance to gain [it] and ke[e]ps A fier of bluber that smells disagreeable but keeps them from the cold wether. their winters long and scarsely any day I have seen in the sumer the day light never out of sky and the sun not above 3 hours down; this time they are

¹ Uncertain spelling.

² Uncertain spelling; probably "roads", as in "roadstead".

³ Uncertain spelling; unidentified.

⁴ Uncertain meaning; possibly "livestock" or simply "supplies".

⁵ The Fox Islands are a small archipelago lying off the southwestern tip of the Alaska Peninsula.

⁶ That is, kept moving despite the anchor because of the strength of the wind and current.

⁷ Uncertain spelling; probably "swell".

⁸ I.e., hailed.

⁹ Presumably one of the five Pribilof, or Fur Seal, Islands in the southeastern Bering Sea.

¹⁰ Probably Aleuts (Unangax) rather than Eskimoes (Inuit).

¹¹ I.e., "hogs".

¹² Uncertain spelling.

¹³ I.e., "kamleikas" — light, tough, and waterproof Aleut pullover outer garments made of sea mammal gut.

¹⁴ I.e., waterproofing.

imployd in hunting and fishing for sea horse [walrus] and whale, seal and so forth. all this done with spears and bowes and arowes made of the sea horse teeth. their boats is lightly fro[sic: a]med and coverd with the sea horse hide when dried. their diet is of the sea horse, bluber, oil¹ and fish; they [have] no bread or any thing of the like amongst them. they sem to live happy in thier way.

the 26 Saw Cape Prince of Wales², the westernmost in amarica in the lat 65-12 N and long 168-18 West; while in the [Bering] Straits saw the continent[s] of Asia and Amarica at one time³. the 27 anchored in the straits and lay all night; the next morning we lost our anchor by parting⁴ the cabel. the 28 anchored in scots spere sound⁵ in 4 fath in the lat 68-30 N and long 166-10 W. found two Rusian Ships on discoviry; they saild the same day down the straits. we sent our pinice the chief officer and 7 men to look for the natives to trade but beeing gon longer than was expected made us oneasy for fear of som axident; the reast imployed in geting wood and water. the 31 the boat returnd with but litel sucksess; the same day we saild down the straits, the wether thick with light rain.

August the 23 saw Copper Iland⁶. the 29 mad[e] saint peter and saint paul [Petropavlovsk; the same [day] anchored in Kamachatsky [Avacha Bay] in 4 fathoms; this harbour is the snugist I ever see to be formed by nature⁷. we repaired our ship, what small jobes was wanting, and made some trade with the govener⁸; he is A fine man and speeks good english. this place is in siberia on Asia and seteld by the Rusians whare they send convicts. the inhabitans are very kind to us when we are on shore and treats us with the best they have got that is milk and beries. We fired a salute on the Emperors⁹ birth day of 21 guns. The next day was wiseted by the govener and his lady [Ludmila Rikord] which is a nice woman.

Sept 21 saild for Norfolk [Sitka] sound on the North west coast of amarica. Octb 8 mad[e] cape edgcomb and the same day anchored in New Arkangel in 7½ fathoms. this place is seteld by the Rusians whare they colect furs; those people agrees for seven years¹⁰ and comes from Rusia. hear we traded with the govener¹¹ and took seal skins in return. all hands imployed in geting wood and spars and water.

Novb 12 saild for the sandwitch Ilands to mete¹² the copper coulerd lasses and leave thoes cold snowey mountains for A short time. Decmb 5 arived at wahoo and anchored in the outer harbour in 5 fathoms. thier we had plenty of fresh provisens and our girls a gain to ly by our sides. we whare all hand[s] imployed in striping¹³ and over hauling our rigin and geting in a new fore mast and other nessary spars. we kept A mary crismas along with our girls and was just as happy with thoes naked Indians as at home.

¹ I.e., whale oil from blubber.

² The western tip of Alaska's Seward Peninsula

³ I.e., at the same time

⁴ I.e., breaking.

⁵ Presumably Shishmaref Inlet on the northern coast of the Seward Peninsula.

⁶ One of the two largest of the Commander Islands off the eastern coast of the Kamchatka Peninsula (the other being the site of the death of explorer Commander Vitus Bering in 1741).

⁷ Avacha Bay, like San Francisco Bay, is a drowned extinct volcanic cone (caldera) and consequently spacious, deep, and sheltered.

⁸ Commandant Peter Rikord.

⁹ Tsar Alexander I.

¹⁰ More commonly, five years.

¹¹ Either Leon Hagemeister or Semyon Yanovsky.

¹² Uncertain spelling.

¹³ I.e., dismantling.

January 7-1821 saild again from the land of plenty and from our girls to go and face the frost and snow again and to trade with thoes savages on the North west of amarica. the 13 I was taken sick that lasted 14 days but thank god I recovred and is in good health again. January 28th Made woody point¹ near naspart²; the mountains covered with snow. 29th made scots Iland³, the wether thick with sleat and snow. the 30 anchored Port Bull⁴ in 3 fath. the 31 saild up Johnstons straits⁵ and anchored in New Witty⁶ cove in 14 fathoms, the cove covered with Ice and snow. the Indians came on board and we traded for a few furs and shrouou⁷, giving blankets rice and molasses and tobaco. thoes people have the sugar loaf heads⁸, this is done when young by binding thier heads with strips of bark. they paint themselves and is very dirty; thier diet is fish and oile. they build large houses⁹ and has fier in the midel whare they _____¹⁰ round. feboury¹¹ 4th sailed from New wity for quen Charlots Iland¹².

the 11 arived at comashawas¹³ and anchored in 11 fathoms. their we traded a litil and took one Indian with us and saild for seabashes straits¹⁴. the 15 got in straits but blowing heavy and the weather thick with sleat and snow we was forced to anchor in a small cove in the straits which we named Pedlars cove¹⁵. the 16 hove up our anchor and found 2 strands of our cabel chaffed off by the rocks; the same day anchored in port jorge¹⁶ in 7 fathoms. the 17 sailed and anchored in Cotsack harbour¹⁷ in 10 fathoms. the 18 sailed and anchored in Nyes harbour¹⁸ in 8 fathoms. the Indians came on board and traded.

the same day anchored in Inacanoo¹⁹ in 8 fathoms, it blowing a gale with sleat and snow. the Indians came on board but with a few furs. the women hear and all to the north ware the wooden lip²⁰ wich I seen 3 or 4 inches wide which makes them look ugly in my Iye, and they are wery dirty with the smoke, their houses having no chimbelys by²¹. they paint them selves and in mo[u]rning [b]lack thier face and goes crying about the shore and making a dismal nois. thoes pepol have slaves whics they buy and sell from one to the other and when a chief dies they have som of their best slaves to be killed and go with them; they likewise make thier slave girls go on board of the Ships and sleep with the men for what they can get, whic they call stingistong; that makes the girls of more vallue than the man slave. amongst the chiefs women and the _____²² wivies the larger [the] lip the larger [the] lady²³.

¹ I.e., Cape Cook.

² Nasparti Inlet.

³ I.e., Scotts Islands.

⁴ I.e., Bull Harbour.

⁵ I.e., Johnstone Strait.

⁶ I.e., Newhitty, the Kwakiutl village of Nawitti in Queen Charlotte Strait.

⁷ I.e., shrowtow (or shrowton) = eulachon (or oolichan), also called candlefish oil.

⁸ Conical head shapes as a result of the practice of head flattening.

⁹ Timbered longhouses containing several nuclear families.

¹⁰ Illegible word; possibly "stow".

¹¹ Uncertain spelling.

¹² Haida Gwaii, formerly the Queen Charlotte Islands.

¹³ I.e., Cumshewa Inlet on the eastern side of Haida Gwaii's Moresby Island.

¹⁴ The locale of the Tsimshian village of Sebassa on Principe Channel.

¹⁵ Unidentified.

¹⁶ Unidentified.

¹⁷ Unidentified; a "cotsack", or "cutsark", was a cloak made from sea otter pelts.

¹⁸ Uncertain spelling; possibly "Nass".

¹⁹ I.e., Lanacoon, a Tsimshian village on Observatory Inlet.

²⁰ I.e., labret.

²¹ Uncertain spelling.

²² Illegible word.

²³ I.e., the higher her standing.

the women has all to say in trading; they will come a long side in their camooes snow or blow and cold a nuf to frees a person with nothing but a blanket round them and some will have a hat made of spruce roots which they work tight and hamsom. they bring all the famaly eving to the infant lashed up in bark that it cant move neither head or foot. the men are imployed in hunting for sea outer and other furs. they cath grate qantitys of fish which they dry for the winter. they are all ways at war one tribe against the other and the prisoners is sold for slaves. they are a savage set and will take a ship at any chance but we keep a good look out; when their is a grate many canooes alongside we keepe our boarding nets¹ up and not let many on deck. our fore _____² is well armed; besides every man has a musket and sword below in case we should be drove off deck.

the 7 sailed from Inacanooe; the same day anchored in port Arm Strong³ in 11 fathoms, a snug harbour and no Indians thier; we war imployed in getting wood and water. the 11 sailed but the wind blowing in was forced to anchor in the harbour mouth. the next day saild up the straits. the 13 came to anchor in hudson hoo⁴ in 6 f⁵. the Indians came off and traded a littel, not having many skins, the wether too cold to hunt for sea auter. the 14 sailed down the Straits and at the mouth spoke ship Hamilton of Boston Capt Marton⁶ bound up. the 16 us and the Hamilton anchored in hanaga⁷ in 13 fathoms. we had but _____⁸ sucksess, the weather cold and bad for hunting; we got one Indian on board that spoke good english for interpeter. the 17 sailed for klyganny⁹ in company¹⁰, the weather dirty and blowing heavey. we split our main sail and bent a new one and lost sight of the Hamilton. the 22 anchored in tutels cove¹¹ in 10 fathoms, found the Hamilton thier and the ship mentor of Boston Capt Porter and the Brig Lascar of Boston Capt Harris¹².

the 29 sailed in company with the Hamilton, leaving the Lascar and mentor. us and the Hamilton whent in[to] partner ship with what fur we could get: we sent one man on board of them to look out [for our interest] and they one on board of us to lok out. the 30 parted; she steared for stikean Straits¹³ and we for seabashes strait. the 31 we anchored in the Straits in 8 fathoms with small bower but it not holding we let go the other, the ship still drifting till her stern took the rocks but the tide rising we run out a keg anchor¹⁴ and hauled her off. while we ware all hand imployed getting the vessel a float two canooes full of Indians came a longside and began to muster on deck with muskets but we discovered the[m] and drove them over the side [—] which iff all the tribe had been thier they would have taken the ship in spite of us; for [I] sware they will take first ship they get a chance, and about half a hour after geting afloat the whole tribe was thier, sory¹⁵ to see us off and prepared [to fight?].

¹ Boarding nets of rope hung from a ship's mast and encircled its deck to prevent enemies from boarding.

² Illegible word; probably "castel", i.e., "forecastle".

³ Unidentified.

⁴ Hoodsnahoo (or Khootznahoo) in the Alexander Archipelago.

⁵ I.e., "fathoms".

⁶ William Martain.

⁷ I.e., Hanega, theTlingit village of Tuxecan on Prince of Wales Island.

⁸ Omitted word; presumably "little".

⁹ Kaigani, or Casam (Kasaan), a Tlingit and Haida village at the southern tip of Dall Island in the Alexander Archipelago.

¹⁰ I.e., in company with the *Hamilton*.

¹¹ Unidentified.

¹² James Harris.

¹³ Unidentified; possibly Clarence Strait.

¹⁴ I.e., a kedge anchor, which was used primarily to haul off a ship after grounding or to shift its berth to calmer waters.

¹⁵ Uncertain spelling.

April the 3 sailed for quen Charlots affter getting a few skins. the same [day] saw the Lascar in the mouth bound up¹ but when she saw us she hauled her wind² and stood out to sea. the 4 saw the Lascar under the land³. we stood for skittigets⁴ bar and struck on it but [no] more than ten minuets and anchored in the harbour in 14 fathoms. The 8 sailed in company with the Lascar after getting a few skins.

the 10 anchored in Camashawas⁵ in 13 fathoms but litel trade; sailed the same day for Hanaga, the wind NW. the 16 Anchored in 13 fathoms and got a grate number of skins. the 22 got under way but the wind blowing in was forced to anchor. the 23 sailed up Chattan Straits⁶. the 24 Anchored in Inicanoo⁷ in 10 fathoms and got a number of skins. the 28 sailed for hudsonhoo⁸. the 29 Anchored in 12 fathoms. the 30 the ship mentor arived thier; they had a fight with the Indians few days before in clemmon city⁹ but thier none of the crew [was] hurt. May the 8 we sailed for hanaga and the mentor [sailed] hier up the Straits. the 10 Anchored in 12 fathoms. the Indians come on board trating; we cut Spars and got wood and water. while laying thier a row began between the officers and crew, so we sailed the same day f[or] klyganny¹⁰ on the 15. the 17 Arived and got ready to paint ship and over haul our rigan and tar it. I had a girl on board a chieffs daughter and one of our men hove an ax and cut her heel so I had [to] keep her on board while we lay thier to get it well for fear of the Indians killing our men when on shore for water; they are such a Set for revenging themselves¹¹.

the 19 the mento[r] arived from chattam Straits¹²; she had her chief officer and a boy killed by the Indians laying in Chucknahoe. thier had been a canoo a longside that morning a trading and she¹³ went off out of the bay and was supposed to land on the other side and com threu the woods and lay in am bush, expecting some of the crew on shore for water. a bout 2 hours after they went, Mr Jacson¹⁴, seeing some eagels on a tree close to the beach, he wanted to go on shore to shoot them but Capt Porter told him he had beter not go but he seill¹⁵ insisted on going and said no Indian wold hurt him; the Capt told him if he whent to take no one along with him but he wold sooner he wold not go. so sayny the Capt whent below and Mr Jacson got his gun and whent to the gang way and one of the boys was baling the boat and he told him come up but then said never mind, and going into the boat the [boy?] sculled on shore; Mr Jacson whent out of the boat and walked up to the tree ware the Eagels set, the boy stood in the bow of the boat looking at the eagels, an[d] the moment Mr Jacson fired an Indian a rose from the bush and shot the boy and and another was seen from the Ship to run to the boat [and] shove his dager in him 8 or 9 times. Mr Jacson leaped in to the water to swim to the ship and got about half way when a Indian fired and shot him; they fired from the ship and see one Indian fall. they got the ship under way and Stood out of the bay. that night

¹ Presumably bound up Hecate Strait.

² I.e., turned.

³ That is, not in the open sea.

⁴ I.e., Skidegate.

⁵ I.e., Cumshewa Inlet.

⁶ I.e., Chatham Straits.

⁷ I.e., Lanacoon.

⁸ I.e., Khootznahoo.

⁹ I.e., Clemencitty, a rendezvous for native and non-native traders on Tongass Island near the mouth of Portland Inlet.

¹⁰ I.e., Kaigani.

¹¹ Uncertain spelling.

¹² I.e., Chatham Straits.

¹³ I.e., the canoe.

¹⁴ Presumably "Jackson".

¹⁵ Uncertain spelling; presumably "still".

a canoo came alongside with three Indians; they got them on board and nocked them in the _____¹ with the ax and shoved bording pikes in to them and hove them overboard. the next morning they saw another canoo full of men [and] women; they fired and killed all of them, [but] one left to padel a way.

we had a row with them wile lying [at] klygaryn about staling two fowling pieces²; we took one Indian prisoner till they ware returnd, and they mustord with their muskets behind the rocks but we cleared away our grate guns³ and small arms and soon made them cry out kildsly⁴ and return the fowling pieces again and be friends. the Lascar and Hamilton arived and we devided Skins all together.

June the 9 sailed in company with the mentor for chattam straits. the 15 anchored in hudsonhoo in 17 fathoms. the 19 [sailed?] from hudsonhoo; left the mentor. the 22 Anchored in Inanacnoo in 16 fathoms. the mentor arived the next day. the 25 sailed [in] company down the Straits but the wind faded⁵; bore up and Anchored in hudsonhoo in 17 fathoms. the 28 sailed hier up the straits and Anchored in chuckanuck⁶ the same day in 20 fathoms; the mentor went up to chilcarts⁷. we herd from the Indians in the straits of the arival of the Brig Arab Capt Meek in Norfolk sound from Amarica. the 29 sailed down the straits. the 30 saw a sail which was the Mentor from chilcarts.

July the 4 parted off Cape omany⁸, the Mentor for masset⁹ and we for hanaga. we arived the same day and fired a salute and was answered by the Indians with Blunder bucheses, and they had the amarican ensine flying and they came and traded brisk. the 11 sailed for Klygaryn after getting a grate number of skins.

the 12 Arived and no vessels their. the 13 sailed for Cocklanes¹⁰, Arived the same day and found the Brigs Arab and Lascar; [came] to anchor in the outer harbour in 15 fathoms. it began to blow heavey. we all run into the iner harbour and we began to cut wood and spars and get and [sic] ready for to get in a new main mast which we done in one day and all well unto the same night. the me[n]tor Arived and staid with us for fear of the Indians rising on us when our mast was out. the Arab and Lascar Sailed; the Hamilton Arived from newwity. August the 9 Sailed for hanago, the Arab and Hamilton the same day. the 13 Arived [and] anchored in 15 fathoms. the 18 Sailed for Klygarney after get[ting] in a few skins and wood.

the 19 Arived [and] anchored in 10¹¹ fathoms. all the vessels their wating to divide [skins]. we got wood and water and ready for Sea. the 28 Sailed in company with the Mentor and Arab to the grate Joy of all hands to leave that Savege¹² biter cold coast and return to the lasses at the Sandwitch Ilands whare there is plenty of fresh provison and fun. on the passage we caried a way our main topgallant mast but soon had [new] one up.

¹ Missing word; presumably "head".

² Light guns used to hunt game birds.

³ I.e., cannons.

⁴ Uncertain spelling; presumably an indigenous expression meaning "enough!".

⁵ Uncertain spelling.

⁶ Unidentified.

⁷ Presumably Chilkat.

⁸ Uncertain spelling.

⁹ Masset on the northern coast of Haida Gwaii's Graham Island.

¹⁰ Cocklane's Harbour; location uncertain.

¹¹ Uncertain figure.

¹² Uncertain spelling.

Sept the 17 Arived at wahoo in company with the Arab and mentor. we hauld into the harbour and had our girls flocking on board to welcom us back. we found the Ship William and John¹ of New York Capt Ebets²; one of our owners he sent [to] us to trade the remainder of our cargo [a]round the Iland for sandel wood and get ready to Sail for canton that Season, which pleased all hands in hopes to go home from thier. Capt Ebets sailed in the later part of Octber in William and John.

December the 25 we sailed for Atooy; the 26 Arived and Ancored in 19 fathoms. we got some Sandel Wood and fresh Stock. Capt _____³ came on board to go [as] passenger to Canton, having sold his vessel to the Iindians⁴, they buying sevaral vessels to trade about the Ilands. one of thier vessels Arived from Kamaskatsy⁵ while we lay thier, having white men to navigat her for them.

the 28 Sailed for Canton with a fine breees and good wether. January the 25 1822 [saw] the Agrigan Ilands⁶. february the 3 Saw the Bashee Ilands⁷ on the coast of laconia⁸. the 4 saw formosa, the entrance of the [South] china sea. The _____⁹ Arived at Macoau¹⁰ and anchored in 9 fathoms. the compadores¹¹ boat came a long sid and we Sent on Shore for a pilot; She returnd the next day bringing fresh provision. The 8 got under way for wampoo¹². the 9 amchored at wampoo in 5 fathoms, the ship Williams and John lying thier and a number of a amarican Ships. we herd of a man taking out of a Baltimore ship _____¹³ and strangled to death¹⁴ by the Chines on a count of A woman geting drouned a long Sid of the ship [by] accidnt; the man was heaving a gun into her boat and it fell over board and she reached to get it and fell overboard. she was picked up some time after by the china men and [found to be] cut in the head; they said this man had don it and the man damiens came a long Side of the Ship [to] get the man but the Capt wold not give him up. they stoped all trade till they got the man which they Said they wold return, which they did but dead.

in two days after thier was another dust [up?] with them and the English for killing three china men at lintin¹⁵, and they wanted three English men to kill but they wold give non[e] so the Chinamen Stoped all trade with them, and the Ships whent down the [Pearl] river below the Boge and tiger¹⁶ to Champu [Whampoa] to wait for orders. the 21 march our cabin was robed by China men; they broke open the Cabin windows in the night and to[ok] the amount of 7 hundred Dolars _____¹⁷. March the 25 sailed from wampoo in company with the ship Willam and John Capt. Ebets down the river. the 27 anchored at lintin. the 28 got under way and parted with the William and John, She for New York and we to our grate

¹ Unidentified, but possibly named after William Webb and John Allen, shipyard owners on Manhattan Island.

² Captain John Ebbets (1775-1835).

³ Illegible name.

⁴ I.e., the Hawai'ians.

⁵ Unidentified.

⁶ Agrigan, or Agrihan, is an islet at the northern end of the Mariana chain.

⁷ The Bashi, or Bachi, Islands are islets in the Bashi Channel of the northern end of Luzon Strait separating Taiwan and the Philippines.

⁸ Unidentified, but presumably a onetime name (possibly in corrupted form) for Taiwan (formerly Formosa, from the Portuguese word for "beautiful").

⁹ Illegible date; possibly the 6th.

¹⁰ The onetime Portuguese colony of Macao had been founded in 1557 on a peninsula some forty miles west of Hong Kong.

¹¹ A "comprador" was a Chandler, who was appointed by the Chinese side to supply foreign trading vessels with provisions.

¹² Whampoa was Canton's outpost on an islet in the estuary of the Pearl (Chu) River.

¹³ Illegible word.

¹⁴ I.e., garroted.

¹⁵ Lintin was a islet at the entrance to the estuary of the Pearl River.

¹⁶ The Boca Tigris ("Tiger's Mouth" in Portuguese, and "Lion's Gate" in Chinese), the point at which the Pearl River entered its estuary.

¹⁷ Illegible word.

mortification to the North West Coast. that night anchored under the Iland of lancow¹. the 29 heaving up our Anchor [we] parted the cabel and lost the Anchor; we let go the _____² and got some Chines fisher men to Swe[e]p for it and got it again.

April the 1³ we left the pilot and proceded for Norfolk Sound. the 9 Saw the Iland of Formosa in the lat^{td} 21= 54 N and long^{td} 121=5 E. the 10 saw the Iland of Bottel Tobago⁴ in the lat^d of 21 – 59 N and long^{td} 121 – 48 E. April the 21 Saw the Iland of Tatsisic⁵ in lat^d 33-13 N long^{td} 140-12 E on the coast of Japan. May the 12 saw Cape Edgecumbe in lat^d 57-2 N long^{td} 135-34 West; the Same day arived in Norfolk Sound at the harbour of New Arkangel and disposed of part of our cargo to the Rusians for seal Skins and got wood and water and small spars, and likewise we took 5 men out of the 10 that left the ship Sultan of Boston Capt Clark for bad usage⁶.

June the 10 Sailed for the Sandwich Ilands in company with the Rusian Brig Buldakov, she bound to hanalasky⁷ with the goveror⁸. the 28 saw the Iland of Mowee. the 29 Arived at Woahoo and anchored of[f] the bar in 13 fathoms and our girls come flocking on board to See us again which they ware happy [to do. the 30 sailed for Oyhee taking our girls with us and having more than we had men that come to se[e] us. July th[e] 2 Arived and Anchored in 17 fathoms; thier we traded for Sandel Wood. the 4 Sailed for Woahoo; the 6 Arived and Anchored in[side?] of the bar in 13 fathoms. the 7 whent into the harbour and Anchored in 4½ fathoms. thier we hove the Vessel down and repaired the Copper on her Bottom and put our rigan in order and what jobes was wanting.

August th[e] 12 firing a salute one of our men by the name of Charles Colburn was blowen a way from the gun by carelesness of the man not stop[p]ing the went⁹ when raming home the cattarige¹⁰ and very much shatterd his right Arm and his face and iyes; their was no doctor thier to cut it off So the misonars¹¹ don the best they could wit it and cut it off but it mortified in a few days and he died on the 20 and was buried on the 21 with a handsom funiral of all the crews of the Amarican vessels and the Captains and officers and had prares red by M^r Bingham the head misonary¹²; his clothing was Sold and at Auction for the good of his girl and her mother whoo took grate care of him before he died. We traded round the Ilands and disposed of our cargo for samdel wood and we got fresh Stock and water.

December the 23 Sailed for Atoo Whymee. the 25 Arived and Anchored in 19 fathoms. the 26 lay off and on for the Brig _____¹³ Capt. Lewis¹⁴; the 29 She arived and got stock for the passage. the 30 we Sailed in company for Canton and left the Sandwich Ilands and our girls again. the Present king and the chiefs is getting more christan ways with them and wares our country clothing and likewise attends the c[h]urch; the kings wives they dres

¹ Unidentified; presumably one of the several islets at the entrance to the Pearl River's estuary.

² Omitted word; probably "cable".

³ Uncertain figure.

⁴ Unidentified; presumably one of the Ryukyu Islands.

⁵ Uncertain spelling; possibly the island of Sumisu in the Bonin archipelago.

⁶ I.e., mistreatment by Captain George Clark.

⁷ Unalaska.

⁸ Probably Matvei Muravyov.

⁹ The vent was the firehole for igniting a muzzle-loading cannon.

¹⁰ I.e., cartridge, shot in this case.

¹¹ I.e., missionaries.

¹² Hiram Bingham (1789-1869) was the leader of the first missionaries (in this case American Protestants) to arrive in Hawai'i in 1820 in order to convert and "civilize" the inhabitants.

¹³ Illegible name; unidentified.

¹⁴ Uncertain spelling; unidentified.

of the uropean fashion which they get made by the misonarys wives. they seldom go naked but when swimming that they do 3 or 4 times a day, both men and women young and old, for they can swim like fish when they are 2 or 3 years old. the king has four wives and they are the larges women on the Iland; I have seen them a swimming start naked and has been a swimming with them, and they put mee in the mind of a large whale roling on the water. while we lay thier a small chieff had connection¹ with on[e] of the kings wives and was caght by one of the others; and the king he told the fellow to go home, which [he] did, and that night while he was sleeping with his wife the king sent a man to cut his head off with an ax, which he don in a shortt time.

Those pepol has Snug houses made of straw and covered the flore with mats which the women makes. their diet is mostly raw fish and Salt and poey² and at times they have a dog baked underground; they rais plenty of hogs and go[a]ts tarrow and potatoes and other sauce³. when I was first at thoes Ilands I have [k]nowing the mother[s] to bring thier daughters on board not more than 12 or 13 years old for the men [to] sleep with; the man that takes her gets a present from the father and mother and give one in return, then she belong to him and if he goes away and she gets a Inaian⁴ husband, when he return he can take her if he likes. thoes Ilands are geting more nautorilsed⁵ Since the misonarys came thier, but they will never Stop the girls from going on board the ships. They⁶ have got 10 or 12 sail of vessels which they buy from the amaricans and pay for them in Sandelwood.

January the 28 - 1823 Saw the Iland of Uraxcas⁷ one of the Agragans⁸ in latt 20-25 N 146 long^{td} 148-15 E. Febuary the 7 Saw the Bashee Ilands in latt 21-8 N long^{td} 122-9 E. the 8 Saw formosa in latt 21-54 N long^{td} 121-5 E the entrance of the China Sea. the 11 saw Pedro Branco⁹ a high white rock in the China Sea. the 13 Arived in Macow roads and Anchored in 7 fathoms and Spoke the Ship Importer of New York Capt Kean¹⁰ bound up the river¹¹ from New York. the 15 the pilot came on board and we got under way for wampoo; that night run into the fishing Staks¹² of lintin and stove our whale boat on the quarter[deck]. the 16 Anchored at wampoo in 5 fathoms; their was only 3 Ships thier, the Importer and Citisen¹³ of New york and Jorge¹⁴ of Provedence. She¹⁵ sailed the same day for Chille¹⁶. we dscharged our cargo and took in another for New York.

April the 6 Unmoored Ship and droped down in a fair way¹⁷. the 7 recived chou chou chop¹⁸ and secured the hatches and got the long boat in and ready for sea. the 8 got underway

¹ I.e., "connexion", meaning sexual intercourse.

² Uncertain spelling; presumably "poi", made from the fermented root of the taro plant (*Colocasia esculenta*).

³ Presumably "sauces", but the meaning is unclear.

⁴ Uncertain spelling and meaning; possibly "Indian" in the sense of "native".

⁵ Uncertain spelling and meaning.

⁶ I.e., the Hawai'ians.

⁷ Unidentified; uncertain spelling.

⁸ Presumably "Agrihan" in the Marianas.

⁹ Pedro Blanco ("White Stone" in Portuguese" and "Big Needle" in Chinese) is a coastal pinnacle about 50 miles east of Sai Kung.

¹⁰ The ship *Importer* of 384 tons was commanded by Captain Elisha L. Keen.

¹¹ I.e., the Hudson River.

¹² "Stacks", i.e., "pillars".

¹³ The *Citizen* of 498 tons was one of seven ships owned by Thomas H. Smith of New York.

¹⁴ Unidentified; possibly *George*.

¹⁵ Uncertain identity, referring to either the *Citizen* or the *Jorge* (or *George*).

¹⁶ Uncertain spelling; presumably "Chile".

¹⁷ I.e., "fairway", a navigable channel.

¹⁸ I.e., the "grand chop", the departure permit.

and proceeded down the river; at six PM came to with best bower¹ in 7 fathoms and Spoke the Ship William and John from New York bound up the river. at eleven PM got under way; at seven came to below Champee² in 9 fathoms. at half past eleven got under way with a fair wind down the river for macaw.

the 10 left the pilot with a fair wind down the China Sea bound home. the 13 sounded³ on Macclisfald bank⁴ in 25 fathoms. the 18 saw pula sapata⁵, a white rock resembling a shoo in the lat^{td} 10-02 N long^{td} 109-10 E. the 23 saw the Iland of grate natunas⁶ in lat^{td} 3-45 N long^{td} 108-15 E. the 24 Saw a large log susposed to [be] from twenty to twenty five feet round. the 25 Saw timberlans Ilands⁷ in lat^{td} 1-00 N long^{td} 107-36 E.

we saw some Malay proes⁸ and cleard our guns and loaded them. the 27 past Saint barbe⁹ in lat^{td} 7 mins.¹⁰ N long^{td} 107-15 E. May the 1 Saw Gasper¹¹ Iland in lat^{td} 2-26 S long^{td} 107-5 E, the entarance of the Straits. we came to with the small bower in 18 fathoms till day light. the 2 got under way and proceded _____¹² the Straits. at 12 oclock passed michel Iland¹³, that night clearing the straits of gasper and anchoring in the Java Sea¹⁴. the 4 saw the North wacher¹⁵ in the entarance of the Straits of sunday¹⁶ in the lat^{td} 5-12 S to long^{td} 106-32 E. the 5 past the two brothers in lat^{td} 5-9 S long^{td} 106-5 E. the 6 came to with the small bower of[f] anger point¹⁷ in 20 fathom[s] on the Iland of fared¹⁸ in lat^{td} 6-4 S long^{td} 105-5 E. the 7 weighd and run closer in to the village and came to in 17 fathoms; we got a supply of wood and water and monkeys fowls¹⁹ and birds. that after noon Sailed down the Straits of Sunday with a fine bree; that night past princes Iland²⁰ in lat^{td} 6-35 S long^{td} 105-9 E. the 8 cleard java²¹ head and unbent the cables and Stowed our Anchors and put the guns below and steered for the Cape of good hope.

May the 12 double-reifed the fore top sail and singel reifed the main [sail]. the 24 Saw a ship to the south ward of us Stearing about W by S but did not speak her. the 26 past the Isle of france²² in the lat^{td} 20-10 S long^{td} 37-29 E²³. the 28 Shifted top Sails. the 31 double reift the fore and main top sail, the wind Strong. June the 4 Close reift the fore and main top sail, sent down the fore top gattant yard and mast and main royal mast and main top gallant yard. I was on the fore top sail yard when the lightning struck so close as to Shocked my leg

¹ The bower anchor is either of the two on the ship's bow.

² Unidentified island.

³ I.e., measured the depth of the sea.

⁴ Unidentified; possibly Makasar (Makassar or Macassar) bank somewhere in the Makasar Strait between Kalimantan (Borneo) and Sulawesi (Celebes).

⁵ Unidentified.

⁶ Great Natoena (Natuna Besar).

⁷ Kepulauan Tambelan.

⁸ I.e., "proas", swift-sailing out-rigged canoes manned by Malay pirates, who preyed on larger merchant vessels in the often narrow and shallow channels of the straits of Malacca and Sunda.

⁹ Uncertain spelling; presumably Selat Berhala.

¹⁰ Uncertain spelling.

¹¹ Presumably the island of Bangka or Belitung in Kelasa (formerly Gaspar) Strait.

¹² Missing word; probably "down" or "through".

¹³ Uncertain spelling; unidentified.

¹⁴ The immediate Indian Ocean.

¹⁵ Uncertain spelling.

¹⁶ I.e., Sunda [Soenda] Strait.

¹⁷ Unidentified.

¹⁸ Unidentified; possibly Panaitan.

¹⁹ I.e., the monkey flower (*Mimulus ringens*), or mimulus, an orchid-like wildflower.

²⁰ Unidentified.

²¹ Uncertain spelling.

²² I.e., Mauritius.

²³ The longitude east of Greenwich is 57° 30'; Walters may have been using a different prime meridian.

and stunted me So that it nearly nocked mee of[f] the yard, and more of our men was Shocked by it. we run the vessel befor the wind and She recived bu[t] littel damage; it lasted about 2 hours. the 18 saw a Ship to the southward. the 19 saw 2 more to the northward of us, all stearing for the Cape of good hope but spoke non of them.

the 20 Sounded on lagulis bank in 82 fathoms off[f] cape lagulis¹. the 21 got up with the Cape of good hope, a long look for². the 22 doubled the Cape and shaped our cours for saint Helna. July the 6 made the Iland of Saint Helina in the lat^{td} 15-55 S long^{td} 5-51 W and past it about a leaug distant. this Iland is whare they had [Napoleon] Bounapart on when he died. we shaped our cours for the Eacunachil line³ with a fine breees at SE.

July the 15 John Merkins the chief mate died after 3 weeks illness and we comited his body to the deep in the lat^{td} 4-0 S long^{td} 28-10 W. the 18 Saw a brig standing to the NE supoesed to be from the Brasiels⁴ bound to urope⁵ but we did not speake her. the 17 Saw a ship Stering about NW by N but we did not speake her; that night corsed the Equator in the long^{td} 31-30 W. all lands imployed in painting ship and puting our regin in order. July the 22 in the lat^{td} 8-40 N long^{td} 37-20 W about 12 at night Saw the moon in total eclips, the wind light and bafaling. the 28 Saw a Ship supoesed to be bound to the west indies by the cours She Steared; we had a strong breis from NE.

Agust the 2 Saw a brig Stearing to the sowthward and westard. the 4 Saw two sail; one brig pased with in half a mile stearing about WSW. the 6 Spoke the moforadite⁶ Brig aurora of piladelpha bound to San thomas 11 days out lat^{td} 28-46 N long^{td} 64-4 W. Agust the 8 in the lat^{td} 30-52 long^{td} 66-18. Saw a Schooner standing to the Suthward which showed british coulars but did not speake her. the weather squaly with showers of rain and bafling winds. the 10 Saw two sail but Spoke non of them; Strong breees from SW. 12 saw a vessel standing to the SE and got sounding in 30 fathom. the 13 Made the land near barnygat⁷ on the jersey Shore after a pasage of 1011⁸ days. the 15 got a pilot and anchored the same night at the quarintien ground at Staten Iland after a voige of 3 years and 9 months round the world⁹.

¹ Cape Agulhas is the southernmost point of South Africa, marking the dividing point between the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. It lies some ninety miles east-southeast of the Cape of Good Hope, a rocky headland on the Atlantic coast of the Cape Peninsula.

² I.e., Walters had long anticipated seeing the fabled cape.

³ I.e., the equinoctial line, or Equator.

⁴ Uncertain spelling; presumably "the Brazils".

⁵ Uncertain spelling; presumably "Europe".

⁶ I.e., hermaphrodite brig, one that combines square sails on the foremast with schooner rigging on the mainmast.

⁷ Uncertain spelling; presumably Barnegat [Inlet], New Jersey.

⁸ Uncertain figures.

⁹ Walters departed on 3 December 1819 and returned on 13 August 1823.

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