

June 16 - Reached the ship about 12 o'clock. she was then going at a good rate with a fine breeze. I changed my clothes and set to work immediately. a short time after I got on board we were called to dinner. I followed the others down into the fore-castle expecting to have a good dinner, but I was disappointed for I found nothing, but a kind of paste which sailors call "duff" and which they eat with molasses, I tried to eat some, but could not, so I dined on biscuits. I did not feel at all sea sick, but I was very lonesome. At sun down all hands were called aft and Capt<sup>n</sup> Shelton addressed them. after he got through the watches were chosen and I was put on the larboard watch under the first mate. At night we laid our course to south by east with a free wind. during my watch we saw a steamer apparently asleep on the ocean, but she suddenly she fired up and was soon out of sight to windward she was probably bound to New York. The watches on board ship are changed every four hours, there are 12 men in each watch; one night one watch is on deck 8 hours and the next night four. The crew are a pretty good <sup>lot</sup> of persons with the exception of one or two, who are rather disorderly, but every one seems to be in good spirits. I was very much pleased with the ship, she is a first rate sailer. Supper went off the same as dinner with me, I could eat nothing tho' I tried everything, I could not drink any tea or coffee, so I supped on biscuits. I went to bed at about 8 o'clock but before I could get to sleep our watch was called and I was thus obliged to go on deck and keep watch. I looked all over my clothes and other things to find a letter to send to mother but I was unable to find it. The weather was very fine all day and we were out of sight of land at sun down. The going down of the sun is indeed a grand and magnificent sight and one well worth seeing. The night on the ocean was very pleasant. the ocean calm, and the weather warm, with a