

foresail by lashing together the two best sticks we had left for a mast. On the 16th we opened the hatches a third time, and, after a very long search, found the onions. The inside part of them proved pretty good, and, as our water was getting short, we felt truly grateful for this vegetable, and made use of little else from this day. On the 18th Paxton's foot was in such a swollen, painful state, he could not stand on it, or move without assistance, and I became very uneasy about him; Brown nearly as bad, and getting so indifferent to everything, that he rarely came on deck; yet, with so much to discourage me, I did not despair; and as the Almighty had preserved us so long, I cherished a hope I but rarely expressed, that after so much mercy, amidst our trials, He would ultimately save us from perishing.

Since the 5th, by my reckoning, we had several days made from twenty to twenty-five miles per day of our course, and much rain on the 17th and 18th induced me to hope my calculation was not much out, which on the 18th made Berumda bear East 65 miles distant. It was our custom when the weather was moderate to keep the American flag (the only one on board) flying with the stars downwards as a signal of distress. On the morning of the 20th, when giving it to me to hoist, Paxton asked me to pray for its success, saying at the same time he was in very great pain and unable to move. It was quite calm and the sun just above the horizon, when the sight of a vessel pretty close to us struck me almost senseless with joy.

They and they only who have been in situations similar to ours, can form any idea of what our feelings this moment were.