Swan's scrimp ed pages of writing
Day 30: on p. 33, Days 6-10, I have used mention of weather taken "at 7 each morning, two in the afternoon, 9 at night." (cut marked)
the diaries are not much travel-stained: only the old manuscript from Britain, which looks as if it could have floated back from Liverpool in a bottle.
The ledger diaries are recopied in handsome, careful handwriting—his clerking hand, would be; the words in haste into his pocket diaries often were scrimped and mysterious—
Swan's writing becomes telegraphic (in PT yrs)
serge (plain words) instead of satin
characterize Swan's language
reading the diaries:

00 00? 00? (mock words to show deciphering of S's handwriting)
Swan's British trip: the manuscript looks as if it came ashore in a bottle.

Surely the oldest of his written words, dating from 1841.
Writing hands touch across the years to other writing hands, and with his Northwest Coast pages open before me I can feel nothing but amazed admiration for Swan for stepping out of the nowhere of the frontier, putting together so highly readable a manuscript, and achieving prompt print.
S's handwriting: sometimes A'd at end of word is like musical note. (other times, normal) Commas when they exist are tiny, specks. Handwriting slants to the right, about 60 degree angle.

In journals (1863, for ex) each page has elegant heading of month and year: "March" begins with sweeping loop of M. At times, writing is more straight-up and widely spaced; difference caused by mood, time of day (bending closer over light instead of ease of daylight?)

He uses bracket out of right side of his 3-line listing of weather readings (7 am, 2 pm, 9 pm), like elegant version of flying birds. He made thousands of those brackets.
S's handwriting (Pocket diaries)

1863, the smallest, is size of deck of cards, written in pencil. Words squinch together: "Webster" becomes a name of all spikes, like some wildly-sparred-and-masted ship's profile. Size of writing shrinks by about half. Word such as "arrived" becomes 4 sharp squiggles and a musical note.

I count at least 2 handwriting styles in journals, and 3 in diaries. (check)
"S's commonwealth of words"
Make a point of Swan's good humor