

Log Book of Ship Ma. Phelps of Houghton Billings Burtch Master

- Days from
Home. Thursday April 29th
574 Ship Massachusetts in
Company
Saw another Ship
- Commenced with a strong breeze & snow storm
from S. under double reef topsail & gill, steering
S. by E. along the edge of the pack, at 2 P.M. hauled
on the Wind. headily, S. by E. at 5 P.M. saw the
ice bearing S.E. wore ship heading W. S. W. at 5 P.M.
thick bad weather, the snow storm continues till
at 2 P.M. fore part of A.M. calm, at 5 A.M. took breeze
from S. W. ship heading S. by E. at 7 A.M. blowing strong
under double reef topsails, Lat. by Obs. 52° 52'
Long. by Chron. 153° 28'
- Friday April 30th
575 Massachusetts in company
- Commenced with a strong breeze from S. heading
S. by E. under double reef topsails at 4 P.M. set
Moderated some, set single reef topsails & gill,
the last part of P.M. calm, at 3 A.M. took a light breeze
from E. & steered S. at 10 saw some ice bearing
S. W.
Lat. by Obs. 53° 24'
Long. by Chron. 154° 50'
- Saturday May 1st
576 Massachusetts in company
- Commenced with a strong breeze from E. heading
S. by E. at 3 P.M. snowing fast, also blowing
strong, double reefed the topsails, at 5 P.M. felt the
with large bodies of ice, wore ship heading S. by E.
at 6 P.M. took in the fore sail & gill, at 7 P.M.
blowing a gale, carrying a close reef fore & main
& double reef main topsails to keep to windward
of the ice, at 8 A.M. the gale moderated a little, at 8 A.M.
the wind chopped round to S. W. & commenced
blowing again, wore ship heading up S. by E. at 10
took in the main topsail.
- Sunday May 2nd
577 Massachusetts in company
Spoke Ship Hillman
of New Bedford.
- Commenced with a heavy gale & snow storm from
S. W. heading S. by E. under a close reef fore & double
reef main, in order to hold our ground, we kept in
one side & land on the other, at one P.M. close
reef the main topsails, at 3 P.M. wore ship heading
W. S. W. last of P.M. Moderated but still continues
to snow
Lat. by Obs. 53° 58'
Long. by Chron. 153° 18'
- Monday May 3rd
578 Massachusetts & Hillman
in company
- Commenced with a moderated breeze from S. by E.
with some snow, under easy sail steering to S.
at 3 P.M. hauled too in a thick snow storm, the last
of A.M. Moderate steering S. by E. along the edge
of the ice,
Lat. by Obs. 54° 45'
Long. by Chron. 154° 17'
- Tuesday May 4th
579 Ship Massachusetts
& Hillman in
company
Saw another Ship
Saw 3 Bowheads
- Commenced with light air from S. by E. at 2 P.M.
calm, with a heavy swell setting in from S. by E.
at 6 P.M. a strong breeze from S. by E. hauled too
under three close reef topsails, at 3 A.M. made all
sail, & steered the ship into the ice, at 10 A.M. passed
through to the S. of it, heading S. by E. W.
Lat. by Obs. 55° 40'
Long. by Chron. 153° 30'

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- Days from
Home. Wednesday May 5th
580 Ship making great quantity
of salt water ice
- Commenced with a strong double reef topsails
breeze from S. by E. heading S. W. by W. at 5 P.M.
took in gill & main topsail at 7 P.M. took
fore topsail at 8 P.M. close reefed the main
topsails, blowing strong, at 8 A.M. Moderated
some, set a double reef fore topsail, heading
W. S. W.
Lat. by Obs. 53° 55'
Long. by Chron. 157° 20'
- Thursday May 6th
Weather intensely cold
Saw several B. Headed
Whales, a going quick
- Commenced with a strong breeze from S. heading
W. S. W. under double reef topsails, at 6 P.M. set
single reef topsails & main topgallant sail.
A.M. Moderate heading W. S. W. at 11 A.M.
Lat. by Obs. 55° 36'
Long. by Chron. 159° 56'
- Friday May 7th
Saw several Whales
going quick
- Commenced with a moderate breeze W. heading
S. by E. at 6 P.M. lowered fore & B. Head
Whale, struck him killed him & took him
alongside at 10 P.M. at 4 A.M. called all hands
& commenced cutting, finished at 9, weather
pleasant, seen no Whales A.M.
Lat. by Obs. 55° 48'
Long. by Chron. 159° 48'
- Saturday May 8th
583
- Commenced calm, crew employed a cleaning
Boat at 7 P.M. commenced boiling, seen no
Whales, at 4 A.M. took a light breeze from S. by E. ship heading
S. W. at 11 A.M. saw several Whales, lowered & killed
one.
- Sunday May 9th
584
- Commenced with a moderate breeze from E. the boats
off fast to a whale, took him alongside, at
one P.M. took dinner & commenced cutting, at
3 P.M. sent 2 boats off to catch another whale,
finished cutting at 7 P.M. A.M. strong breeze from
S. by E. crew employed at boiling, saw several Whales
Lat. by Obs. 56° 00'
Long. by Chron. 158° 57'
- Monday May 10th
585 Saw several Whales
going quick to, W.
- Commenced with strong breeze from S. by E. lying
too under a double reef main topsail, crew
employed at boiling, last of P.M. Moderate
A.M. heading on again, at 4 A.M. blowing a double
reef topsails breeze,
Lat. by Obs. 56° 12'
Long. by Chron. 158° 27'
- Tuesday May 11th
586
- Commenced with a strong double reef topsail
breeze crew employed at boiling, A.M. commenced
blowing down oil, some fog, saw several Whales, at
10 A.M. struck a whale