

Journal of a Whaling voyage on board the  
the Maria L. Sparks Capt. Henry Sparks Master

Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup> 1878

at 11 AM got under weigh with the wind S W  
and stood out to sea in company with the S. S.  
Hesperus, steering S E middle and latter part  
with breeze from S W all sail set seaward

Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 1878

came in with fresh breeze from the S W  
lay up S E by S all sail out - four fathoms  
and then fresh middle part the same  
latter part light air from the S S W lay up S E  
all sail out 10 miles. Lat 40 19 N

Sunday May 5<sup>th</sup> 1878

came in with light air from S S W lay up S E  
middle part the same all sail out six fathoms  
latter part moderate with heavy swell seaward  
Lat 40 32 N

Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> 1878

came in with breeze from the S and  
squally with rain lay up S E by E middle  
part wind the same the weather looking  
bad put the vessel under the reef foresail  
Breeze off the by sail and Breeze off the pile  
latter part calm with heavy swell from the  
West vessel rolling badly 10 miles

Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> 1878

came in with light air from the S S W  
with rain steering S E with heavy swell  
from the S E middle part strong breeze vessel  
in the Gulf Stream saw a whaling bark  
to leeward under short sail steering to the  
S E latter part strong gale from the S W with  
a heavy sea running steering S E 10 miles