4th Thick a short time in the morning afterwards
cleared up fine, the pleasantest day of the season
Cape Sisburne in sight but the wind is ahead and we do
not make much progress in beating. We are now
40 miles from where we took our oil last season.
Saw a whale after tea which we thought must be a
bow-head, but it proved to be a fin-back an unheard
of circumstance in this ocean. 14 ships in sight at
9 P.M. The Barometer goes up slowly which indicates pleasant weather.
5th A thick fog in the morning, cleared up several times
for a short time through the day. In the afternoon quite
a strong breeze. About 8 P.M. we very nearly came in
contact with the Ship Champion saw her in the fog
only just in time to escape her. I have feared land and
ice in fogs before but I never thought so much about
ships. We spoke with Capt Coffin after passing him, he
says that he thought he had seen three bow-heads that day.
6th A strong breeze which soon increased to a gale. Six
ships in sight the Speedwell close by us. passed the Robert
Edwards the Caravan and the Champion. After tea the
gale increased and bade fair to be the most severe of the season.
7th The gale through the night and this forenoon was very severe
but about noon it moderated a little, the Speedwell still in
sight. I wish it was good weather so that I might visit Mrs
Gills if we could not see any whales, that is I forgot the most
important intelligence to note in my journal of yesterday
We saw a ship "fairly and truly" cutting in a whale the first
we have seen this season. We have not even seen a smoke
nor spoken but one ship that has taken a whale, surely these
are hard times indeed. We are supposed to be on the ground
now where the whales were taken last year, but if the weather
is to be as rough as it has been since August came in there will
be a small chance of taking oil providing we see the whales.
A thick fog every day in July and a gale of wind thus far
every day in August. Who will say these are not hard times? —
About 9 P.M. saw what we suppose to be three right whales —
The end of Journal Vol. 1st