

8 Sail in sight, Capt Wilcox gave me one half of a hog. Cape Thadus to the West of us about 20 miles off.

Sunday May 3rd Light northerly wind from 4 miles warm weather, Ice melting fast, No whales to be seen & ships encompassing, Saw the 4 ships to the West of us in the morning in the ice, Land in sight of us to the West and West of us about 20 miles off. In the morning we fished all the oil on deck abaft on the quarter, the bow, and Chase & small anchor, then fished the things in the fore hatch abaft in the main hatch, and got the ship stem out of water so we could find the hole in the stem for a hole plug. We found the old hole to be low so we boared a hole in the stem further up and burnt it out large enough for a big life. Then we rigged an outer bobbly and set it up and put over the iron keel grating with a mat in it over the fore on the stem, and stowed things back to their places. At half past 6 PM I ordered the lead yards braced round to keep the ship from coming around and ordered the staysail shrouds fauled over twice. The mate did not seem to like it and talked back to me in a blaggard way. I told him to go below out of my sight & I could get along without him, he said he would not do it.

Monday May 4th

Strong gales from East, and a thick snow storm. Ice packed close around us, we took in all sail, 2 ships in sight to the East of us. All hands employed in stowing down oil in the main hatch. This is a cold storm. We are to the East of Cape Thadus. We found that the salt water has been over the ground tier in the lower hold and spilt all our fresh water in the ground & turned black.

Tuesday May 5th

Light wind from NE to SE & 8.4 N. in quite warm, some snow & ships in sight to the East of us. Watched scraper the head of bow, and at 5 PM took 2 tubs of salt water to clean the bow. I went off on the ice and shot 2 gulls and I fell through the ice and got one leg wet. Capt Piquet came on board and spent the day with me. Bad travel in the ice, saw greater number of flocks of ducks flying to the North. Lat by 6.52 PM.

Wednesday May 6th

5. I fast night. Set double reefed topsails and tried to head the ship to the Eastward to get higher the other ships. Blowing on leaving from East, 11 PM took in the topsails. Through the fore boom blew a gale and a cold snow storm. Latter part of the day the sky cleared of pleasant. Saw 4 ships 12 miles to the SE of us. Fast in the ice & 4 ships encompassing us to the East of us. Land plane in sight to the West. But the thousand branches on the bow. At 3 PM set reefed topsails and worked some Easterly toward our friends. Saw a bear head.

Lat by 6.54 Long by Ch 179, 42 West

Thursday May 7th

In the morning took the wind from ESE and blew up. Took in all sail. Leaked some ice in the pots & washed off the ship through the bow. I went on board the Florida on half past 10, found the ice to thin and maybe for walking. Blowing a gale and the ice & ships began to move long. Set the staysail a while. The 3 ships to the SE of us are coming up with us & the 2 ships to the ESE of us go away from us by the ice and current. The ice is very thin about here and will go away soon. Land in sight to the West.