

Bark Daniel Webster Cruising off

Remarks January 9th

Comes in with a gale of wind and rain from S. E. blowing heavy in squalls. Ship lying to under main and mig. staysails heading up E. N. E. One sail seen in sight. in the P. M. saw a Bark steering off to the W. saw her haul her wind and sail to the E. Wind hauling gradually to the S. E. at night S. W. but rainy all night. Ship heading to the S. S. E.

Thursday January 10th

Comes in with fresh breezes from W. and hazy weather. overcast and rainy by spells. Ship lying to under main sail. One sail seen in sight we call the Petrel in sight to the leeward. saw her reef off to the S. E. kept off also. at 10 P. M. saw Sperm Whales going quick to windward at 11 P. M. lowered all four boats and soon after Mr. Maynard went on to a 70 bbl. Bull and mired. by the Quails boatsteerer had a good chance. The whale then turned to windward boats in chase. The ship we call the Petrel got up to the whales and struck the whales then turned to leeward and started off fast. our boats followed them until sunset without success. Do not think the Petrel got her whale as we saw a boat with sail out as though she was chasing at sunset. In the P. M. saw another sail to windward we call the A. Blake at dusk shortened sail. No Obs.

Friday January 11th

Comes in with moderate breezes from N. W. and fine weather. Ship by the wind cruising on different tacks at 9 A. M. kept ship south with the view of going near the Reef. Nothing in sight all the A. M. in P. M. two sails one steering to the S. W. and the other saw several pieces squid and much Gulf weed. Lat 28° 27' N Long 78° 34' W

Martinetella Reef in the Winter of 1878

Saturday January 12th

Comes in with moderate breezes from the E. and fine weather. Ship steering S. after making sail in the morning heading E. N. E. all night on Starboard tack. Saw in the M. plenty of cut squid - some twenty or thirty pieces - also saw plenty of Gulf Weed. Saw also two sails one to the leeward steering to the W. the other to the S. W. Watch employed about ship. Lat 27° 46' N Long 78° 20' W

Sunday January 13th

Comes in with moderate breezes from S. E. and cloudy weather. Ship steering S. W. with all prudent sail out at 8 A. M. saw a sail a large ship steering S. to the N. E. - soon after saw a whaling schooner standing to the N. E. with all sail out at 10 A. M. saw a sulphur Bottom which we first mistook for a sperm whale - at 3 P. M. spoke Sch. Petrel over 40 bbls. Sperm both vessels standing to the S. W. until 3 P. M. then wore to the E. Took in sail at sunset. Lat 27° 50' Long 78° 58'

Monday January 14th

Comes in with moderate breezes from N. W. and squally weather. Ship by the wind to the E. & S. E. all night at 6 1/2 A. M. kept off to E. with all prudent sail. Schooner Petrel in sight to the W. at 8 saw her manouvering as though she saw whales. luffed the wind at 9 saw the schooner's boats down head to windward about 10 miles. made all sail on the ship and commenced working up. One other schooner the A. Blake in sight and saw her manouvering. at 1 P. M. saw the whaler take a whale by the side and at 2 saw her signal at mainmast and her ensign at the peak. went on board & found she had two whales of 40 bbls. each according to their calculation & they, Capt. Mate & 2d mate agreed to have one whale to cut and boil for one half makes. I take one in tow but being quite dark and the whales being together could not clear them without some trouble left the whale alongside the schooner at 8 P. M. took him to the ship and wore to the W. under reef sail. No Lat. Long 78° 48'