

Bark Daniel Webster Cruising in the North Atlantic Ocean in the year 1878

Thursday February 14th

Comes in with strong gales from S. with heavy showers of rain & thunder & lightning. Ship lying at anchor with the two whales along side. at 7 hooked on to the whales and cut them in - the weather very rough - at 9 got the whales in. the wind having changed to the W. with fine weather. In the P.M. cleared away the heads, masts, sail and cruised to the S. - saw several finbacks through the day & much Gulf Weed.

Lat. 31.23 N. Long. 75.40 W.

Friday February 15th

Comes in with strong gales from the W. & S.W. with cloudy & hazy weather. Ship by the wind to the S.W. with all prudent sail out cruising. Water employed in boiling at 2 P.M. got through the two whales turning up on deck 26 bls. - Saw through the day three or four finbacks. Nothing more in sight.

Lat. 30.53 N Long. 75.48 W.

Saturday February 16th

Comes in with moderate breezes from N.W. and fine weather. Ship in the A.M. to the W. in the P.M. to the E. saw through the day three or four finbacks and one school of porpoises & two sails steering to the E. - water clear and blue with much Gulf Weed.

Lat. 30.58 Long 76.23 W.

Sunday Feb. 17th

Comes in with moderate breezes from the W. and fine weather. On making sail in the morn. steered to the E. but did not stand long on that course. On seeing a vessel in the N. apparently distressed hauled up for her. at 10 A.M. spoke the partially dismasted three masted schooner "Harriet V. Keller" of New Haven 8 days from New York for Matanzas, Cuba. 3 days previous in a sudden change of wind pitched down by the main & masts & main & masts by the deck. had fitted up jugs, masts and now bound on the coast for masts. sent letters by her and obtained 6 bls. of potatoes @ 2.50 per bl. - Saw Sperm Whales going milk to windward - lowered & chased with big boats, but unsuccessful.

Lat. 31.00 Long 76.45 W.

Monday February 18th

Comes in with strong gales from W.N.W. and cloudy weather. Ship by the wind to the S.W. all the A.M. in the P.M. to the W. under easy sail all day. Nothing in sight all day but one sail steering to the E. but little Gulf Weed and no sign signs of whales seen today - at sunset continues the same.

Lat. 30.46 no Long.

Tuesday Feb. 19th

Comes in with strong gales from the N. canting to the E. Ship by the wind to the W.N.W. with all prudent sail out cruising. - Saw one sail, a schooner, to the leeward that has the appearance of a whaler. - No sign signs of whales. at night the schooner to the leeward shortened sail.

Lat. 30.15 N Long. 75.40 W.

Wednesday Feb. 20th

Comes in with fresh breezes from the S.E. and hazy weather with the appearance of rain. - After making sail in the A.M. kept ship N.N.W. with all prudent sail out, cruising. The schooner we saw yesterday and took for a whaler, in sight this morning after making sail she steered to the N.N.W. - saw her manœuvring several times as though she was following whales. - About 11 passed through large quantities of Gulf Weed - saw several finbacks through the day. - Water blue and clear. - Saw two sails in the P.M. steering to the E.

Lat. 30.49 N Long. 76.05

Thursday Feb. 21st

Comes in with strong gales from S.E. and hazy weather with some rain. Ship cruising to the E. under easy sail in the A.M. In the P.M. to the E. with nothing but storm staysails out - very tide, rippy all day - saw one school of porpoises and one albacore. - but little Gulf Weed seen to day. but many Portuguese men of war. water blue and clear. - just at night saw a sail steering to the N.E.

Lat. 31.00 N Long. 76.10 W.