Saturday April 16th /70

Commenced with a light-air from the N.E. & continued so all the day working to the N.E. saw no sign but a finback. Starboard boat on deck fast. We have saw whales forty eight times this voyage and have taken about seven hundred barrels. During the first twenty four times we saw them we took five hundred & sixty barrels. then the Captain took my boat away from me, & took it himself. since that time we have taken about One hundred & forty barrels. During the 24 times of seeing the whales we have struck thirteen large Sperm whales & saved one whole one and the body of another. And now I will ask the reader how much less oil do you think we should have got had I had my boat all the season as I had ought to have had. We have lost all our lines but three boat lines. I think we have lost Seven lines. Mr Hall two myself one. Mr Hedly one. Mr Carrington three. I wonder what Mr Gifford will say when he hears this.

Sunday April 17th /70

Commenced strong from the S.E. at daylight and saw sail heading about N.E. & E. about 8 AM. Mr Hall raised a Sperm whale at 4.20 PM based the three boats by it being so near night there was only one chance. saw one or two whales just dark so my from the boat, and saw one spouting quick to windward. perhaps one of the boats was over one of the whales. but there was no chance to ascertain how far they were under water before we lowered as there was but a little daylight.

Lat 8 Long W

Monday April 18th /70

Commenced strong light from the S.E. Employed in shifting stowing to the N.E. & middle part during the afternoon. & the

Lat 8
Long W

Tuesday April 19th /70

Commenced nearly calm. Employed repairing the N.T. sail but it again at 3 PM light-air from the N.W. At I had the day watch below I was intending to take in all after the commenced to shorten sail. the boy came & sung out for me. the season I did not go up, was this. I & Mr Hedly have a regular sea watch & stand. & Mr Carrington & Mr Carrington have slept below of late since they have shortened sail. but I suppose it is for spite. well all right as long as I am well & able I ought not to complain. well it cannot be very long for the longest. In all of my going to sea he is the first boy or officer that ever tried to harm me.

Wednesday April 20th /70

Fine weather and season breeze from the N.W. steering different course. saw nothing but a finback. Lat 8 Long W

I was asleep in my berth. just before I went to sleep I thought I was in my Loving Wife's arms. I was not to sleep but lay with my eyes closed. & for about one moment I thought I looked down and saw my Wife standing at my side. it seemed as you pass your hand on my right shoulder. it was of natural as it was not a dream. I cannot describe for I opened my eyes & was awake. it was something which was not natural. I would be willing to pay a little money to experience it the second time although it lasted only a few moments. P.S. I do not write much of late as I expect to meet you very soon. God grant that I may. E.Hedges.

Thursday April 21st

Commenced with a moderate breeze from the N.W. nearly N.N. steering to the Wd during the forenoon. & during the afternoon steering to the S.E. & E. saw several finbacks & sky. but a very few gonys and small birds. I have noticed that there is a flock of birds on this ground when there is any whales in sight.