

*Barge Fortune of Ben Bedford Capt Davis
Cruising in the Arctic Sea August 17 1852*

Remarks on board Tuesday 17 Commences with strong breeze from the N and clear sky. I under double reef top sail at 3 PM hauled up & set the main sail and Jib. Saw seal ships at 4 PM saw ice and the land at 6 PM spoke ship Election of Newfoundland Capt Clark and changed signals with Navigator of Sandwich. Middle East much the same. At last strong breeze from N thick hazy weather hindering sight. Saw plenty of deer fish so only intended to net few.

Remarks on board Wednesday August 18
Strong breeze and thick hazy weather hindering sight. Under double reef top sails saw seal ships saw seal walrus.

Middle East fresh breeze took in the Jib and mainsail. Set the fore top sail. Latter part much the same. No Ch.

Remarks on board August 19
Commences with strong breeze from N heading 16 under double reef main top sail and fore sail at 10 AM wore ship. Heading 11 thick hazy weather saw three ships heading to the eastward. Latter part much the same. Seal land, 18 Ch.

Remarks on board Friday August 20
Commences with strong breeze & heading 11 under double reef main top sail and fore sail saw seal ships. In the fore saw one seal so he whaling at 6 PM saw one Polar whale. Toward three boats without success came on.

Board and set the fore top sail heading 11
At 12 PM wore ship heading 16. Latter part strong breeze top sail lowered. Three boats with out success at 5 PM toward three boats saw boat struck iron bar. Boat went on and darted. Plenty of ships in sight. Saw nothing so ends. 18 Ch.

Remarks on board Saturday 21
Commences with strong breeze from N heading 11 under double reef top sail. Plenty of seals in sight. Boat got whaling of it without success. Saw seal ships cutting. Middle East calm. Latter part much the same. Saw plenty of seals. Boat got whaling of it without success so ends. 18 Ch.

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Remarks on board Sunday 22 Commences with like breeze from N heading 16 by 11 with main yard aback. Under double top sail plenty of seals in sight but still toward three boats saw boat struck iron bar. Boat did not go in at 8 PM came on board saw seal ships. Some boiling some cutting. Latter part strong breeze from N heading 11 at 4 PM rain did whale. Toward one boat and took him along with at 5 PM came cutting at 7 PM got through and wore ship and spoke ship. Capt. D. of Ben Bedford Capt Dyer so ends. Still in sight. 18 Ch.

Remarks on board Monday August 23
Commences strong breeze from NE heading 11 and 12 under double reef top sail. Match employed clearing up deck getting ready for boiling. Saw seal ships some cutting. Still in sight. Latter part like breeze. Match employed boiling. Saw seal ships one boiling so ends. This day 18 Ch.

Remarks on board Tuesday August 24
Commences with like breeze from NE heading 11 thick hazy weather. Match employed boiling. Saw seal ships some cutting. Middle East fishing boiling. Latter part saw seal ships toward three boats without success at 12 PM toward three boats without success so ends. Boiling left duty. 18 Ch.

Remarks on board Wednesday August 25
Commences with like breeze from NE heading 16 under double reef top sail. Thick hazy weather at three PM closed up time. Set the main top & sail saw seal ships saw one boiling. Latter part like breeze all hands employed stanning down. Oil in the after hole so ends. Boiling left duty. 18 Ch.

Remarks on board Thursday August 26
Commences with like breeze from NE heading 11 under double reef top sail. Thick hazy all hands employed stanning down. Oil in the after hole saw seal ships some boiling. Latter part much the same. Got through stanning down. Boiling left duty and went two boats. 18 Ch.