

Journal on board

June 1870

Saturday May 28

Better weather and I felt better but not in very high spirits today we are in the Gulf stream in just such water as I used to go in swimming I almost wish I was there

Sunday May 29

Good weather today but I think I have begun a hard job to write for I don't see anything to write about saw a school of porpoises and several sails

Monday May 30

Good weather in the morning but equally in the afternoon saw several finbacks I don't think this will be a very bad life after all

Tuesday May 31st

One week from home and it seems nearer one year. we have good weather and things go on very well saw finbacks and sails

June 1870

Wednesday June 1st

Good weather all day it seems quite pleasant to have nothing to do these pleasant days and if my disposition had been different from a lazy one I would not be here we spoke a schooner bound from New York to Demerara. saw more finbacks

Thursday June 2

Good weather all day and nothing to be seen it is a strange life to me

Friday June 3rd

Another fine day. at seven O'clock raised a school of sperm whales. two boats lowered the starboard and waist the mate struck a small whale - they called it small - but if anyone had told me it would make 200 bbls. I should not doubt it - got him alongside at eleven O'clock and cut him in

Bk Alfred Gibbs

June 1870

Saturday June 4th

Pleasant weather but unpleasant work this is worse than the barnyard-boiling blubber - but it was finished at night finbacks yet in sight and cleared up a little

Sunday June 5th

At seven this morning raised a school of sperm whales and two boats lowered I was one of the waist boats crew this time the mate struck this time and the other whales left got him alongside at noon and cut in in the afternoon

Monday June 6th

Squally and wet. tried out the blubber and finished at about three O'clock

Tuesday June 7th

Raised a large school of sperm whales at eight O'clock all of the boats lowered and the first second and fourth mates struck. but the fourth mated line got foul with ours - the 2d mated - and he had to cut. waist and starboard boats got each a whale which we commenced cutting on at about 3 O'clock

Wednesday June 8th

Finished cutting this morning at about eight O'clock. had a strong breeze and I was seasick again. raining throughout the night

Thursday June 9th

Strong breeze during the day we finished boiling just before dark nothing in sight

Friday June 10th

A good breeze. and under short sail. we put the oil below 26 bbls. in all and 15 days out not very bad - I should think

Saturday June 11th

A pleasant day scrubbed her off nothing to be seen or nothing to write about but my own feelings and they are not particularly pleasant just now