

Journal on board

November 1870

Thursday Oct 27

Yet joggins-or jiggins rather along toward the whaling ground I suppose. But we will not drift there if it is a great distance off under double reefed topsails.

Friday October 28th

Squally through the day. nothing but few backs in sight and no work going on.

Saturday Oct 29

Good weather. saw hump back cow and calf which were quite a sight to me. saw other spout but they were too far off to be certain they were.

Sunday Oct 30th

Nothing to report the area from the masthead except hump backs though the "Optics" were extended ever so far over the vast deep.

Monday Oct 31st

Good weather in the morning but in the afternoon took in everything but close reefed topsails strong breeze almost a gale.

November 1870

Tuesday Nov 1st

In the track of merchantmen again. several of them in sight also whales. hump backs, &c.

Wednesday Nov 2nd

Calmer. was at work in the after hold hump backs showing themselves again & others.

Thursday Nov 3rd

Good weather with a light breeze. at six (Larkin) raised right whale off the lee beam the larboard and waist boats lowered and the mate stuck a stick. we could not catch him to strike second boat so the starboard boat lowered and struck him bomb lance and hand lances soon did their work and at ten had him alongside at four had him within started the work.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

November 1870

Friday November 4th 70

Was boiling all day. saw flukes in the afternoon but it was thick and foggy and could not see a spot.

Saturday November 5th

Calm in the morning finished boiling at about eleven o'clock at the same time raised whale off our lee beam the larboard & waist boats lowered the whale began to run to leeward and gave us a long chase at last he hove to and the mate ran over him and got store but got one iron in him fortunately he did not run any more and we took his line hauled up and put our iron in and let go the mate's line. we finished him without further trouble and had him alongside at three o'clock and had him cut in by 10. the whale we got the 3d was a 90 lbs. two sail in sight much at noon.

Sunday Nov 6

Drizzly, foggy, rains, and disagreeable especially for our work stowing down. but we finished stowing down before noon and started the work. nothing in sight but hump backs.

Monday Nov 7th

At seven this morning raised a whale and two boats lowered larboard and waist chased to windward until they went out of sight then saw more to leeward and third mate stuck a small whale he sunk when he was spouting thick blood. hauled him up and had him cut in at four and fired up.

Tuesday November 8th

Was sailing steadily all day. just before sunset saw whales off our weather bow. two boats lowered but did not chase them long. did not see them but once after we lowered. stowing down here now in high spirits all.

Wednesday Nov 9th

Boiled water from them it blew so we had to cool down. one sail in sight.