

Journal on board

A.C. 11 November 1870

Thursday Nov 11

A strong breeze yet, could not start the work yet, or not until ten o'clock A.M. then sails in sight, we were under close reefed main & sail

Friday Nov 12

Called all hands at six this morning and began stowing down finished at five

Saturday Nov 13

Finished stowing today, began this morning to scrape bottom this afternoon had to quit work and take in sail down to close reefs the last two whales made us 200 bbls.

Sunday Nov 14

Nothing to do but make and keep things secure for the winter is blowing somewhat

Monday Nov 15

A gale of wind, have to secure main & jibs, raving and cold, one sail in sight

Tuesday Nov 16

Good weather finished scraping bottom this afternoon and fast enough we were to an it out of the way, one sail in sight

Wednesday Nov 17

Stowed down the remainder of the oil and this set stowed down 215 bbls. making us 375. all told, but as a new fore staysail the old one having been torn from the rope by the sea.

Thursday Nov 18

A nice breeze and fair and main & jibs set with courses carried us along at a fair rate in the afternoon saw a spot that looked like a porpoise or whale but the boat passed and then a fin was discovered on his back

Friday Nov 19

Simba and him & back by the miller, in the afternoon a squall came up so quickly that it was necessary to sell all heads and we soon had her scrubbing under close reefed to sea

Bark Alfred Gibbs

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Saturday Nov 19

Calm in the morning, and in fact not much better any part of the day, nothing in sight

Sunday Nov 20

I think we must be bound around Cape Horn our course is S.W. and all sail set, how much talk there is about C. Horn now, what a dangerous place it is &c. each one of the old sailors trying to tell bigger lies than the others

Monday Nov 21

Good weather, was under top sail, and courses, set, the good Bark is blowing her way towards the Horn

Tuesday Nov 22

Nearly calm for the first time since after that we had a nice breeze, course S.W. nothing in sight

Wednesday Nov 23

Such a day, not a word of wind, scrubbing ship, coldness, the gages on the sideboards, half an inch thick, not salt water and sand did this dirty and now she looks quite respectable, course S.W.

Thursday Nov 24

Thick fog, could not see a ship's length, a light breeze, and a South course

Friday Nov 25

One hour it would be clear the next thick fog would set in and so it went during the day same course, nothing in sight

Saturday Nov 26

Good weather, have been having some trouble with a cross man and today he was put in the starboard watch, he seemed sane on some subjects

Sunday Nov 27

On our course yet when we can head it when not of course must do the best, pleasant weather

Monday Nov 28

Saw a whale this morning with top gallant sails set so we set our own double reefed topsails but could not catch her, good weather, plenty of wind