

Journal on board

S.P.O. May 1871

Thursday May 25

Good weather a light breeze from the South in the afternoon saw good looking spouts to windward but what good are they to us with no wind to get them?

Friday May 26th

Good weather one sail in sight no work and nothing to see. a light southerly wind

Saturday May 27

There are few changes of weather on log. weather in this book. today we are here to under a close reefed main topsail in a gale of wind

Sunday May 28

I comfort to be had today reading for by the time we get interested in a book it has to be put aside and poor Jack must crawl under cover or stand exposed to biting squalls of rain and hail and he thinks himself in luck if he does not have to mount up aloft such is the life of a sailor "Oh! what ample share of toil and care we whalersmen undergo"

Monday May 29

And today we have a gale of wind. still duty is imperative. it must be done rain or shine blow high or blow low nothing to reward our labor except the sight of a few humpbacks and porpoises

Tuesday May 30th

Wind was high until noon when it began to rain. rained until night then we made sail but a calm it was

Wednesday May 31

Good weather. fine. flukes, humps, and spout-holes in sight but they did not belong to sperm whales

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O.

June 1871

Thursday June 1st

Nearly calm and rainy. humpbacks finbacks porpoises and other worthless-horn-fish but a pig we did kill in the afternoon

Friday June 2d

It was a fine morning in June and we were going along merrily on the Port tack with a good crowd of canvas for us to carry. but before noon we came down to double reef

Saturday June 3d

This morning the wind blew a gale and now it is calm. This afternoon from the lower main hold the work came. also the 'cunt'

Sunday June 4th

A calm with nothing in sight a dull day although the sun shone brightly

Monday June 5th

A calm. we have carried sail now for three days. what can such work mean? one more week a day at this and the sticks will go. if they do I shudder at the thought of such a thing

Tuesday June 6

A strong breeze. we were here to under double reefed topsails. I did not think we could carry so much sail a great while longer

Wednesday 7th

Nearly calm. two merchant ships in sight this is much more pleasant for a change than gamming 'codos lampo' as the Spanish say

Thursday June 8th

This morning it was squally. now it is calm we are as bold now as in other calms all sail set. Merchant ships and black fish in sight

Friday June 9th

Good weather a light breeze from the South finbacks humpback &c. in sight. began overhauling blocks