

Journal on board

S.P.O. 1 August 1871

Friday Aug. 25th
Good weather once more: pleasant indeed a light breeze from the south set the sails to gallant lead and other light sail

Saturday Aug 26th
Good weather: nothing in sight.

Sunday Aug 27th
Good weather: nothing in sight except clouds, birds, ship, sea &c

Monday Aug 28th
Good weather: two sails in sight when night we have some thing to write about I would really like to make some specimens if I could only get over the conscientious scruples, so we go and so we doubt you when we are under double reefed topsails

Tuesday Aug 29th
A gale of wind: was under double reefed main & sail and crew reefed fore nothing in sight and work, none

Wednesday Aug 30th
A gale of wind: at eleven o'clock our Cook J. Smith who has been very sick and unable to shake above a wheeler came on deck and went over in the fore chains and soon we began to look for him, but in vain we looked, whether he was washed overboard or from some cause did not care to care - the latter some few seemed to think - but certain it is we never saw more of him, wore shir immediately but all we saw was his cap and all we will see until "the sea gives up its dead"

Aug 30th
A gale of wind yet: no men aloft and nothing in sight from deck

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O.

September 1871

Friday Sept. 1st 1871
Strong breeze from the south but set more sail, and had men aloft, but they did not discover anything, that I am aware of

Saturday Sept 2d
Not much wind, finbacks, humpbacks, and such kind of fish but not the kind we are looking for. I think we could take care of one just as well as not now, but winter time is the first part of the play

Sunday Sept 3d
Just five months ago today since we left Tahiti and it does not seem longer than five weeks at the longest, nothing in sight

Monday Sept 4th
A fine day with a light south wind just such a day as I like to chase whales, when I can really enjoy the gun, but some days I would prefer to be eased but such days are scarce and are kept

Tuesday Sept 5th
A gale of wind: was under close reefed topsails, nothing in sight, was on the Port tack until night then we rounded

Wednesday Sept 6th
Nothing in sight and no work, a gale of wind, were under close reefed topsails, and on the Starboard tack

Thursday Sept 7th
I think our seasons work must be nearly or quite complete, so not a sign of sperm whale or anything to make oil shall we see this is how truly the "hell monkey" of a sea faring life, this day has been pleasant the greater part at least, made sail this morning and steered S. S. E. as long as the wind permitted then we were obliged to shorten sail