

Journal on board

S.P.O. 11 October 1871

Friday Oct. 6th

Called all hands at five o'clock and commenced cutting. at seven had breakfast at ten they were down in the bilber room and before four o'clock the junk was cut up and a roaring fire going under the pots splendid weather this for our work.

Saturday Oct. 7th

Boiling all day, nothing in sight the wind was blowing half a gale. had nothing set except a close reefed main topsail.

Sunday Oct. 8th

No mastheads. the wind was blowing strong from the South. boiled all day until 10 P.M. then cooled down.

Monday Oct. 9th

The wind had abated. so commenced boiling this morning. finished just before dark all hands this afternoon stowing down no men aloft. close reefed topsails set.

Tuesday Oct. 10th

Oil all stowed down by 10 o'clock and then commenced scrubbing ship. this last fore stowed down 85 bbls. making us 675 bbls.

Wednesday Oct. 11th

Pleasant weather. one sail in sight supposed to be the Martha. and one Mocha ship. we were under double reefed topsails.

Thursday Oct. 12th

Another fine day. numbers of finbacks in sight. but nothing more. a porpoise was struck which created as much excitement as anything and then curses were heard and hope that he would escape.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

October 1871

Friday Oct. 13th

Squally and rain. land in sight. Chili somewhere near Gal. merchant vessels and fin backs in sight no work for us.

Saturday Oct. 14th

Good weather. as pleasant a day as could be seen. a large man-of-war passed us in the morning nothing more in sight except Blackfish and porpoises.

Sunday Oct. 15th

Good weather. land in sight in the afternoon gammed the Martha she had taken five whales since we gammed before.

Monday Oct. 16th

Squally. all day. nothing in sight but finbacks appearances tell me we are bound in.

Tuesday Oct. 17th

A fine day. made sail in the morning as usual. and in the afternoon saw porpoises breaching. and as they looked like sperm whales run for them. at five they were round the ship and the second mate went out to strike them. when he fell overboard. the ship was going ahead about four knots the two sail haldards were thrown one to him which he caught. a man by the name of Black jumped overboard and slipped a bowline around him. and we hauled him in. then made sail and now for Talcahuano.

Wednesday Oct. 18th

Fine weather in the morning. but calm. at eight a light breeze sprang up. and land there in sight. at eleven got up cable at three let it run out and at five went ashore in Talcahuano. hell enough here now not an American vessel of any kind laying here.

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