

Journal on board

S.P.O. 11 December 1871

Wednesday Nov 29

A strong breeze. at six o'clock sperm whales were seen all around the ship. so we lowered after sailing awhile to leeward the second mate struck a good sized whale but in hauling the second hiron the line was cut nearly off. so near that it soon parted and we came on board.

At ten o'clock we were close to them again so three boats lowered and chased until three but without success. so came on board and got dinner

At four we lowered again and the third mate struck a whale the mate struck second boat. and we soon had him turned up and alongside two sails in sight and both whales

Thursday Nov 30

Good weather. finished cutting at three and then started the regatta

Friday 1.

December 1873

Friday Dec 20

A pleasant day. all hands have been out of tobacco since we left port and today our sufferings were relieved

Saturday Dec. 20.

Foggy. and rainy. finished boiling this morning. and stowed down about forty barrels one sail in sight. that a whaler

Sunday Dec. 30.

This has been truly a day of rest. Clean decks. to stretch out on and everything seems right. nice. two or three or whales in sight.

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O. December 1871

Monday Dec. 4th

Very pleasant. three whales in sight finished stowing down the oil before breakfast. then scrubbed ship and now we are all right once more. stowed down 85 bbls. making us 740 bbls

Tuesday Dec. 5th

Foggy and calm in the morning. at about eight o'clock the fog cleared up. and we were close to three ships the *Maize Martha* and *M. Star*. the *Maize* boat came alongside but did not make a long stay.

Wednesday 6th

A gale of wind. three sails in sight. we were under close reefed topsails and then the thing is it is. no mastheads

Thursday Dec. 7th

A strong south wind today. nothing to be seen except our three chums the *Maize Martha* *Morning Star* and *Maize*.

Friday Dec. 8th

Quite pleasant weather. but for myself I am miserably cold and a stiff neck and about two thirds sick. Oh! dear I am bad enough.

Saturday Dec. 9th

Pleasant as the same time on the weekday and winter although it is summer here. several sails in sight. whales and merchant men. no work for us.

Sunday Dec. 10th

Calm in the morning. the *Maize* was to leeward of us with four boats down but we soon found out she was chasing blackfish. wet and squally in the afternoon so it is here Sunday is just as good a day to catch blackfish as any