

Journal on board

S.P.O. 11 February 1872

Tuesday Feb 6

The same kind of weather. wet and cold nothing in sight from deck and no men aloft.

Wednesday Feb 7

"When winds breathe soft along the silent deep.
The waters curl the peaceful billows sleep:
A stronger gale the troubled wave awakes.
The surface roughens and the ocean shakes."

Thursday Feb 8th

Rain squall fog squalls and wind squalls in a word squally

Friday Feb 9th

Today no mastheads for squalls

Saturday Feb 10

Quite pleasant. set the main to gain of this morning, and stood along on the starboard tack and raised two sails both whales and one cutting

Sunday Feb 11th

A strong breeze. the John Carver passes along to windward of us. we was under close reefed fore and main topsails

Monday Feb 12

Thick weather. one sail in sight. this is the only thing to be seen from aloft. but on deck something could be seen that looks bad.

Tuesday Feb 13

Quite pleasant weather but the weather and something good to eat plenty of it. and no work does not always keep one feeling well, nothing in sight

Bark Alfred Gibbs

S.P.O.

February 1872

Wednesday Feb 14

A strong breeze. and cold. several sails in sight. this morning at about five o'clock we raised a large sperm whale. and lowered. and after chasing him about eight hours. gave up the chase. came on board and got breakfast.

Thursday Feb 15

Almost a gale of wind. from the South nothing in sight and no work

Friday Feb 16

The weather has changed for the better but one man's humor has changed it is true. and as he is the Pilot - know-what-to-call-him. it makes it unpleasant. several whales in sight

Saturday Feb 17th

Pleasant. today and if that sperm whale would only show us his "heavy and ponderous tail" or his spout. I think we would get near enough to touch it with an iron pole.

Sunday Feb 18th

Pleasant weather. we was on the starboard tack. when we raised three whales gamming and soon we was one of the number. they were the Conchise. Louis sailed Oct. 10th 1871 Leon. Luce and John Carver Houlard.

Monday Feb 19th

Nearly calm. at one o'clock P.M. raised a large school of sperm whales going to leeward in about an hour three boats lowered and in the course of another hour the second mate struck a 50 lb bull. a real horse to run and a mule to kick in hauling on to him we got stone and two men (kanakas) knocked out of her a long way from the boat. the line was cut instantly and while the mate struck the whale the three mates cleared the wreck of its occupants