

had recourse to books in order to dispel the gloom which still in a degree prevailed owing a good deal to the weather itself no doubt. In some quarters I thought it had become quite settled. But I wondered not when informed that it sometimes continued for weeks influenced in some measure by circumstances favorable or not to the common cause. At length the rain over the sun once more shined forth bright and warm imparting a more general feeling of cheerfulness all around.

We now found by a change in the water that we were in the gulf stream and contrary to the usual aspect here the weather remarkably fine.

Some of the foremast hands now began to row and the prospect was a short seizure at the longest but the Stewards illness seemed to continue unabated.

At about 3 P.M. saw blackfish again lowered two boats and chased them awhile but returned without success. I am privileged to pull the bow oar in the Starboard boat which I did on this occasion.

Still now I had been thinking that if whales one half as numerous as blackfish we would soon fill our ship and astonish by our unexpected appearance amongst them 'the folks at home'.

But I now find I had yet to learn the difficulties attendant on the capturing of whales and the improbability of always getting them when seen. The same thing I have no doubt listened to at home scores of times thinking that perhaps they might exaggerate a little. But experience however light-like my own will cause any one advancing from a green state to draw fresh conclusions in regard to it and comparing nearer ^{with} the old story.

June 2nd

These 24 hours remarkably fine. The wind having changed during the night to W. blew quite fresh affording us a good chance of testing the sailing qualities of the good bark Iowa and it was decided that she was a fast one after a fair and impartial trial far says the Capt. She steers like a christian and "ploughs the water like a thing of life".

At 2 P.M. had cleared the gulf stream having had a pleasant though owing to light winds somewhat lengthy passage across. A change in favor of the sick had also taken place which was probably owing in a great measure to our good weather. Nearly all were now able to do duty.