

June 22nd 1855

The last 2 days were fair but saw nothing. About 11 A.M. raised 14 whales and all hands were on the look out to get a glimpse of them for the first time. We then changed our course and stood for them. Did not see them again until 4 P.M. at which time we lowered away for them. I did not go in the boat. After considerable pulling the Larboard boat struck one which was soon killed and taken along-side without much difficulty.

Now for the first time in my life I had an opportunity of seeing a real bonafide whale alongside of our own ship after witnessing the capture at a distance. I had heard many descriptions of whales and whaling before I resolved to set out myself but I now found that I had entertained but an imperfect idea of the reality not only in regard to the capturing but of the whales themselves the form of which notwithstanding all I had heard and seen in print I never well understood. This our first was they said who were capable of judging a small one which would probably yield from 25 to 30 bls. But to me it appeared like a monster and the idea of whales making 4 times that quantity and size proportioned seemed at first almost incredible.

At being late after securing the whale the cutting was deferred till next day. At 7 took in a spread of canvas and lay under short sail during the night. Lat 33° 10' Lon. 72° 00'

June 23rd

Commencing with fine weather and light E. wind. At 5 A.M. commenced cutting in and at half past 12 had our work going trying out. The ^{sea} which before had been quite smooth now began to rise and the wind to increase and at 3 P.M. became so rugged as to cause the Boat to roll badly and therefore greatly impeded our progress of cutting in which in smooth weather would probably not have been remarkable for dispatch a large number of the hands being "green". This was however successfully terminated at about 4 P.M. and too without any loss of oil by any accident whatever. Although several "blazing pins" and other small articles were "literally smothered" owing to the swaying to and fro of the huge blanket pieces as they were hove up put in motion by the rolling of the vessel.

In cutting in bad weather there is manifestly much danger of life to those whose business it is at times