

Lying alongside ready for cutting tomorrow
Lat. $36^{\circ}18'$ Lon. $17^{\circ}30'$

Nov 30 - 1853

Finished cutting in at 12. No. Started the works at 2 P.M. Have had a hard days work of it the wind blowing a gale and the Bark rolling badly in an ugly sea. Truly these are the times that the sailor earns his money. No obs.

Dec. 1

Light gales and pleasant with a heavy swell. Saw sprouts but could not make them out. Lat $36^{\circ}00'$ Lon. —

Dec. 2

Wind changed to S. E. and light fair weather. Made a sail to windward. Have nearly finished trying out — 9 P.M.
Lat $35^{\circ}44'$ Lon. —

Dec. 3

Raised whales again and chased them but without success. They were going so very fast to windward it was impossible to come up with them. Have also stowed down 75 bls. the quantity yielded by our last whale. Uncommonly tired tonight. Lat $36^{\circ}10'$ Lon. —

Dec. 13

Once more blest with fine weather after having had during the 9 days past nothing but heavy seas storms of rain squalls and gales from almost every quarter the latter at times very severe almost blowing away the little storm sails of our ocean home. During such drag outs the elephant is displayed in all his colours. Our gallant Bark however bears her up proudly and majestically against these mighty tempests of the deep. Like a graceful swan she rides the angry waves as if in defiance of the terrible gales that move them. In fact I have now learned to look upon her as one of the safest and most comfortable among the numerous host of vessels that plough the ocean and one that is destined to transport us through our perilous to that glorious freedom soil where my memory so often in imagination carries me. Sailors are wont to be proud of their craft so like others in their way I am proud of the Iowa. This afternoon caught a porpoise. Lat $34^{\circ}06'$ Lon. $14^{\circ}47'$

Dec 14.

Commencing fine. Ending squally. Right whales appear to be quite plenty but not easily taken. Saw them again and hunted without success. Find them very cautious. Lat $34^{\circ}30'$ Lon. $13^{\circ}58'$