

Dec 30 - 1853

No favorable changes in wind and weather. Still under double reefed topsails
Lat $36^{\circ}39'$ Long $10^{\circ}39'$

Dec 31

Pleasant weather but not good luck greets us once more. Light breezes from S.E. by. Saw whales several times and lowered for them but after chasing and chasing were obliged to give it up they were so very shy and went through the water such a streak that we could not begin to get near them. Alas! will success ever attend us? Doubtless by the will of Providence it may but I must confess that after our oft repeated but ineffectual attempts the prospect is anything but cheering.

At 6 P.M. spoke Bark Dominga Capt. Tripp of New Bedford 20 months out and boiling! Whew lucky fellow that I am heartily glad for him though that of course will not ameliorate our own condition or brighten the prospect that looms up like a dark lantern ahead.

But we thank fortune we know now how much luck has to do with getting whales and how much depends in these days of their shyness about their being slow and if we could find them still or comparatively so as he seems to have done we too might get

a hack at their pretty pictures! Well we will not grasp too eagerly at the future in due time it will all be unrolled to our gaze. Lat $36^{\circ}18'$ Long $10^{\circ}35'$

Jan. 1 - 1854 - Sunday

Wind still hangs in same quarter and light. A smooth sea and a very pleasant day altogether. Lat $36^{\circ}00'$ Long $10^{\circ}40'$

Jan. 2.

Unchanging. Sent down No. 1 sail and bent another in its place the former being very much worn will be repaired. Lat $36^{\circ}09'$ Long $10^{\circ}18'$

Jan. 3.

Came in with rain and light wind from the old quarter bring with it all that monotony usual on the occasion which was only disturbed at noon by the appearance of a sail and that so distant that it seemed scarcely to belong to the same hemisphere with ourselves. This afternoon it cleared away and at 5: lowered for whales but did not chase them long owing to their long distance and the lateness of the hour and of course without success. No obs.

Jan. 4.

Fine weather and luck coming

