

January 12th 1854

Fine weather continued and wind light. Another glimpse at the mighty "Leviathans" of the deep this morning and all our boats down in a twinkling. This time found our victim quite still as if sleeping on the water & which probably he might have been doing for aught I know. At any rate by pulling or paddling with as little noise as possible gave the boats a fine chance for surrounding him. but just then he slowly retreated from the surface and some fears were entertained that he would make his appearance next time out of harm's way. This depended on whether he had any perception of our approach or not which was soon decided in our favor as his broad back rose out of the water close to Capt's boat. Slow as night and spouting as early as old tilly. Capt. laid round for him and as he came soaking along he little dreamed that he was so soon to be spouting out large volumes of his life's blood. Just as got within dart the Boatsteerer let him have it and then for a little while he quickened his motion but soon got sick of his bargain when the Capt. who every body knows is a thorough whaler gave him a few good lances. In a short time he was dead along and at 5 P.M. had finished cutting in through the largest we have taken. Soon after started the works. Lat 36°20' Long 98°7'

Jan. 13.

Weather continued Charming Under short sail and boiling. Saw whales a long way off did not lower. Just at night saw a sail Lat 36°31' Long 100°5'

Jan. 14.

Last night wind died away to nearly a calm and continued with very pleasant weather. At 4 P.M. spoke the Bark A. Houghton Capt Marble of Fall River 6 mi's out for whale. Lat. 36°21' Long. 98°46'

Jan 15.

No Changes. Saw a sail this morning supposed to be the Houghton out of sight before noon on our weather bow. Finished trying about 8 A.M. Afternoon cleared up decks &c. Lat. 36°41' Long. 98°0'

Jan 16.

Fresh gales and fair. Stowed down our last whale 125 bls. being the largest "fare" we have yet realised. I hope instances of the kind may not be wanting in the future while we will endeavor to increase their number. Stowed out our reefs afternoon with a view to looking over the ground again. Lat 38°54' Long. 94°0'