

Capt. Place from New Bedford 33 miles
out 1.50, alt. 100 whale. Had a short
gam but saw no acquaintances. Lat.
22°32' Lon. 9°12'

Feb 24, 1854

Another bright day. The mill was
in sight, and also several other sails.
Beech busy setting up main lower rigging
which had become quite slack.
Lat. 22°56' Lon. 8°35'

Feb 25.

No change. Lat. 22°58' Lon. 9°50'

Feb 26, Sunday

Without any change in the
weather. Have had to day a change
in the scene which though not exactly
the kind we could wish will not
doubt as a thing uncommon remain
for some time fresh in memory especially
as I was one of the actors in the
drama which came well nigh being
a tragedy. About 9, A.M. and just
before the time for relieving mast-head
Phillip O. Telanegan one of the former
hands, then up forward was observed
to show signs of derangement - tearing his
cap frantically, extending his arms at the
risk of falling, and making all the gestures
peculiar to objects of insanity. Suddenly he

descended from aloft in his downward
course coming across some of his clothing
hanging in the rigging quick as thought
he tore them off and threw them over
board and almost without stopping
reached the deck. Next he repaired
to the fore-castle and took up a defensive
position then with knife in hand
commenced cutting and tearing his
blanket and other articles of clothing.

All this time we were quietly disposed
in the cabin reading telling stories or
looking each other in the face caring
but little how the time passed so it
passed pleasantly and at the first intimation
of trouble in the camp the mate
started followed by one of the boat-tenders
and myself to see what the matter was
and found him in the act of cutting up
his bed. He had been threatening with
they said a terrible expression to
butcher the first man who attempted
to interfere with the mission he said
he was instructed to perform so though
he might have been easily overpowered
all seemed to be afraid of him and
no one had ventured to take a single
step for the purpose. As soon however
as he saw the mate he ceased awhile
from his work and seemed to regard him
with a fierce look which soon began
to change to one of fear as the mate