

as well as for others who find them slow? So day we tried them every way when we first lowered got them to leeward and led them a life but they could and did go much faster than we while in sight but at the very rising saw them 2 miles to windward going like wild horses. They had doubtless got on their course for they did not vary a point in the four rising that we pursued them and when we left they were so far off that we had to look 2 or three times to see them.

The Count ourselves unfortunate because we have seen whales many times without getting near enough with hard pulling and sailing to give our boatsteers a chance to try them and thus far they have proved themselves well qualified in striking them as nothing has yet been missed.

It must be a queer chance that we always fall in with the fast ones when we are particularly blest with light winds as today. However, the case may be we are not yet altogether hopeless though Heaven knows how many more such fruitless attempts it will take to make us so. Let's hang contentedly on the consideration that "whatever is is right" Lat.

16°40' Lon. 6°50'

May 13.

Calm and lovely but not exactly suiting our purpose of cruising. The island is out of sight we shall no doubt see it occasionally while cruising about here Lat 16°46' Lon. 6°51'.

May 18th 1854.

The last four days have been fraught with strong gales and ugly seas which have tumbled us about under double reefed sails & take it most unmercifully keeping our deck in a very uncomfortable condition by sending this spray almost continually over us a condition which if everything else failed would after having witnessed it for many successive days have the effect of counteracting those ideal attractions which a green hand is wont to cherish for a sailor's life.

The sea in all its different phases is said to have its attractions for those who study from the noblest impulses the grandeur and sublimity which it exhibits when terribly agitated or the peace and tranquillity it shadows forth in a calm when the waters are at rest.

This is no doubt true of those who are not compelled to view it every day. It is easy for those who are on terra firma to go down to the sea and find something interesting in each succeeding wave and when tired of gazing seek something else among the thousand of artificial or natural attractions. But when after many months of you have looked upon the same alternating calms and boisterous motions of its surface and have become familiar with the non-variety of all around you you will then begin to tire of sameness and seem only collectively the days which can scarcely be distinguished one from another only by the change