

May 25th 1854.

Strong gales and a very rugged sea on nearly all day thick and gloomy weather made a sail just at night and she must have tacked as we did not near her any as long as we could see. Under double top sail and Spencer and J. J. W. S. sail no observation.

May 26.

Continues this morning same but after dinner sea begins to subside and at 3 P.M. wind abated so that we got whole J. sails on again Lat. 16° 31' Long 6° 14'.

May 27.

Another pleasant day has come and gone. The weather moderated during the night and wind light. For other changes we have seen only finbacks and porpoises. A large army of the latter infested the water around us for some time caught none of them. As for finbacks I am tired of the sight of them. Occasionally they defile us into the belief that they are or might be whales of a different species when a long way off. But when we see the gaff top sail the peaked fin coursing through the water and get a glimpse of their tall thin stout which betrays their kind sometimes at a long distance we are undecided. It is seldom we take them for more than they are. At 1 P.M. raised a sail spoke her in about and hour as she

Came down from the windward proud to be the Bark John Dawson commanded by Capt. Cromwell from New Bedford had a short gam she is one year out with her Sp. and left St. Helena not long since.

To day it is just one year since we left home and what an eventful one it has been to me destined to remain fresh in my memory. Many serious reflections arise when I think how many different changes have been wrought both happy and mournful in the last 12 mos. at home. Should I could have a letter then I should know what changes have taken place but that consolation is denied me now though I hope it will not always be thus.

"What is a letter? let affection tell
A tongue that speaks for those who absent dwell."
how true. Lat. — Long —

May 28. Sunday.

Weather comparatively good. St. Helena bears E. by S. 40 miles. John Dawson has been in sight all day to windward. Had a violent head ache this afternoon which I suppose will last till sleep brings relief. I have been thus far remarkably blest with good health and will not complain of slight indisposition.

May 29.

A fine day with light winds. Saw 4 or 5 to day the principal food of Sp. whales and a good sign of them to abs. Suppose the island to be nearly ahead and bearing E.