

Dec. 12th 1854.

A rainy day and light winds from N. W. Course W. all sail out. No obs.

Dec. 13.

Pleasant and light gales from the same quarter. Course W. Having become tired of this kind of luck we are now about to split the season and go to the River Platte and try for Spr. This afternoon lowered again but attempts proved fruitless. "O for a ledge in some vast wilderness". At 4 P.M. Shot Bark Dove Capt. Rose of New London 3 mos. out 75 whale Legst 2 boats by a typhoon in the gulf and one by being run into by a merchant ship doing other damages at same time To night carrying sail Lat. 36° 32' Lon. 14° 32'.

Dec. 14.

Beginning with strong breezes and rain nothing above 5 sails. Afternoon moderate set N. E. G. sail wind changed to N. S. W. Steering N. N. W. Light showers till night - now clear. No obs.

Dec. 15.

Commencing stiff breezes from N. Course N. S. W. Weather cloudy but pleasant. After dinner began repairing the stove. It is truly a Cape. At 4 P.M. caught a porpoise. At sunset the wind died away to almost a calm. After dark I fiddled

to the boys while they danced away quite merrily. Their propensity for dancing seems lately to have been on the decline yet occasionally it is revived with considerable spirit as on the present occasion. After giving them several tunes I went off into the devil's dream and suddenly sloped at which point to use their own expression it came near breaking some of their legs. Luckily however nothing more serious than a few missteps was the consequence.

Lat. 35° 20' Lon. 17° 00'

Dec. 16.

Fine wind and weather and chance once more has favoured us. Out here where we hardly expect to see whales we have been so dreadful lucky as to strike and kill one with just no trouble at all to day. It must be purely superficially accidental. Got him along side early and by night finished cutting. The works will soon be going. Lat. 34° 20' Lon. 17° 35'.

Dec. 17 Sunday.

Came in with good breeze from the Eastward and fair weather. Boiling oil. Afternoon had some light showers but ^{at last} terminated in clear weather and small breeze. No obs.

Dec. 18.

The wind continues from the same quarter and weather pleasant. Finished trying