

Pleasantly I hope from the bottom of my heart with all those nice refreshments in the form of turkeys chickens miniature pigs and vegetables which are known to be associated with its observance. Doubtless no pains have been spared to render the edibles agreeable to the palate and fair to look upon.

May be some nature has again mantled the earth with her snowy bail and the "merry jingling bells" tell of the speed of the many happy ~~hearts~~ ^{ones} wrapped in furs with warmer hearts to shield them from the cold.

It is indeed pleasant to surmise that the folks at home have used the means which are at the disposal of most of our people for securing a day of true happiness with relatives and friends well met for the occasion and that while amidst all their enjoyments they sometimes turn their thoughts to ourselves so far away. Though with limited means for enjoyment in that belief and counting on seeing them again we are comparatively happy. The day has been a pleasant one and steering W. N. W.

with a stiff breeze from S. S. W. made considerable headway over the chopping sea which is beginning to smooth again. For dinner in addition to the usual programme we had bread pudding pies and cake all very good and dispatched with a superior relish. We have five small pigs raised on board which it seems quite a pity to kill so young and thriving but as our corn is getting low it is reported that one will be sacrificed at the dawn

of the new year while the others will only be preserved a little longer for a similar fate.
Lat 32° 50' Lon 29° 50'.

Dec. 26th 1854.

Still pleasant Wind fresh this morning steering W. Towards night increasing. Commenced on the boat again which was suspended when we took our last whale. It is indeed a sorry looking thing having in addition to the injuries received in the encounter received another by fire which proved to be about as distracting in its effects leaving but a small and weak foundation to build upon.

This happened a few days ago while it was secured on the house and so near the stovepipe that it caught fire from it some sparks happening to alight on several rough boards arranged to protect it from the smoke. Before it was discovered its disastrous effects were quite apparent having burned some of the planking and timbers to a coal. By the application of large quantities of water which we always find over the side however it was easily subdued.

A consultation has since been held by the most experienced boatmen in which many spirited arguments were produced both for and against the chances for its recovery. Some alleging that the wound was a mortal one and passing the art of man with all his skill to heal others declaring that it was not at all improbable that it might be brought once more to a sound