

After some more words between them the boatster becoming enraged at his insolent language told him he should go if not willingly by force and pretty soon too at which Phillip as stoutly refused letting him if he wanted a look out to take it himself.

This brought them to blows Sam pulled off his jacket and made a rush at Phillip. Phillip grabbed Sam by the neck and Sam grabbed Phillip by the neck both held on for a little time pretty hard. Phillip was much the stoutest he had great strength but Sam was the limberest & a limber as an eel. he had the advantage. He soon squirmed away from Phillips grasp and made a lunge at his throat. He held on with an iron grasp and Phillip was nearly strangled his arms hanging powerless by his side when the Capt. having heard the scuffle made his appearance to the astonishment of both (it is against the rules to fight here) and parted them not however in time to prevent Phillip from getting several bruises which I dare say will last him a long time and serve to remind him that he is not sole master and cannot do exactly as he pleases. Capt. faced him and gave him a severe lecture after which Phillip went quietly to his station no doubt wishing he had done so sooner and thereby escaped a manly. Sam was also reprimanded for not calling him in the first place instead of fighting it out himself.

Fighting when one can avoid it is but a poor way for obtaining satisfaction. It is a disgusting sight to see two human beings come together with the intention of injuring each other all they possibly can. Yet in self defence it is justifiable and if necessary, I would strike as hard as I could but hope there will be no occasion. How much better to live quietly than to be always in a broil with those around us. Still it is almost impossible to find a ship's crew who are altogether disposed to do so. When a man has been a long time at sea his true disposition is plainly exhibited for several reasons - one is that society can have no restraint over his actions and he becomes so constantly used to the same faces that he forgets the effect and cares but little what they think of him - that is one who is disposed to act contrary to sea regulations as in the case of Phillip. No doubt as we have had we shall continue to have our "ups and downs" during the voyage from those who are inclined to evil. Have seen some squid to day the food of sperm whales and several turtles. The ground begins to look like whaling. O that we might see them. But we are getting quite settled to this hard luck though I often wonder how some of us can dwell so calmly upon month after month without seeing the least change in our favour. So is it. Time to day passed chiefly in reading. Lat 34° 23' Long 44° 41'