

Feb 19th 1865.

Still remains quite calm and the sun shining brilliantly. Have been very busy in our several duties about the Bark and she still looks as if she needed much attention in the way of tar and paint.

Saw nothing but grampuses, with which the ocean seems at times to be lined.

Lat. $34^{\circ}36'$ Lon. $44^{\circ}58'$.

Feb 20.

Gentle breeze from N. E. in the first part. Weather increasing. Weather beautiful beyond description. Made a sail this morning to leeward and to night she is on our lee bow yet heading N. N. W. Looks like a Spouter. Lat. $34^{\circ}12'$ Lon. $45^{\circ}33'$.

Feb 21.

Wind from same quarter. Weather changed to rainy till night. Clear again. All sail set. Saw a sail this morning on the same tack as ourselves. Afternoon she tacked and stood for us being nearly ahead. Came within 3 miles and then kept off free out of sight on our lee beam just before dark. She was a strange looking craft a low black hull and raking masts could not make out what she was and why she stood towards us and then ran off. To night we are on the S tack. Steering E. S. E. with sail reduced as usual. Lat. $33^{\circ}15'$ Lon. $45^{\circ}36'$.

Feb 22.

Calm and squalls of rain. Rather a dull prospect for whales. Have seen 5 sails during the day all merchant men. Capt. took a boat crew and went on board the nearest one about 3 miles distant. Being recently from New York she gave us some papers chiefly dailies from which we gleaned a few items of intelligence but no news from home as we hoped there might. It appears that the laboring poor of that city from want of employment and owing to the unusual severity of the winter season are reduced to almost the extremes of poverty and suffering. Was glad to notice that a movement by the influential ones in various ways was being made towards their relief. Of other places I learned but little but have no doubt that want will be felt more or less all over the northern states. Surely now is the time for those who have enough and to spare to put forth their hands and do the deeds of charity. Whilst there are thousands rolling in wealth and splendor our laboring people ought not to suffer for the very necessities of life when tied to their labor they look for their well filled coffers. Also obtained some accounts of the war in the East. Have not yet read all the papers but a few have been most ^{of the} ~~most~~ ^{thoroughly} scrutinized through every column. So anxious are we get news. If papers are so prized with what emotion should we receive a letter written expressly