

May 23^d 1855.

First part light airs, latter strong breezes from N.W. Sercera the only island in sight - bears to night N.W. 40 miles. Tacked at 6 P.M. heading about N.N.E.

May 24.

A strong gale from same quarter under short sail with a bad sea on. Saw an English merchant ship under double reefed top sails and courses. Meeting frigate. Lat. 26° 21'

May 25.

Still lying to in a gale. Had some rain. St. Michael's and Sercera in sight.

May 26.

The gale continued till 10 A.M. when it began to moderate and got more sail on. Saw a brig sailing E.N.E. tonight sea quite smooth. Lat. 38° 58' Lon. 26° 01'.

May 27. Sunday.

Commencing with strong breeze from N.W. and a long swell on. Towards night moderating. We are just 2 years on to day and I have been glancing into the far past when I was first minded to try whaling with scarcely a perception of its realities, and following all the little and great events up to the time of my departure. Many of them the result of my determination of bidding adieu to every

object of interest and affection for a long long absence. Two years ago the last farewells were breathed with sadness and regret.

Till then I knew not how hard it would be to part from them. Nothing like the trial had been presented. Then however though not apparently it was inwardly and strongly felt. How little varied has been my life since then? The same general tone of monotony has characterized it all. Sometimes it is true interrupted by exciting scenes - rare occasions.

The sight of land such as I never saw before produces new emotions and instills new life such as contrast strangely with the settled and would-be-contented aspect of our company. The sight of whales - the joyful sound of "there she blows" instantly suppresses the gloomy countenance with pleasure and imparts that energy and activity which is almost indispensable on such occasions. Apart from this and a gale of wind now and then which calls for action there is very little to interest and drag out the qualities of the mind on a long voyage like ours which is destined I fear to comprehend 3 years. But let us hope it will terminate happily at least. It cannot be wishing too much after the ill luck that has befallen it thus far) and that we will then hasten to embrace our long remembered friends. Have read little to-day. Lat 39° 48' Lon. 26° 11'.