

Copy of the letters to the Agent, Dec 10th 1855

Sir, as the mail leaves very soon I improve the opportunity to inform you of my arrival at this place on the 5th Inst. I obtained 1700 lbs of oil, and about 20000 lbs Bone on the last cruise, it was my intention to ship the oil home and fit for another season, in the Chetah, I have not seen a sperm whale during the cruise, I am confident that it would pay well to go another season, but I find by the tenor of your letters that I cannot fit for another season, for if I go to the coast to ship oil and Bait I should lose too much time perhaps half the season. I think that I shall make as short stay here as possible and then come towards home. I report 1000 lbs of oil and 20000 lbs Bone and think it will turn out that at home I write this in haste as the mail leaves soon, I shall write you all the particulars before I leave here and remain your Obedt Servant,
James S. Hargard,

Second Letter same date
to C. St. Howland.

Sir, I have just mailed a short letter to you, but as it don't leave until tomorrow I will now give more particulars. I arrived here on the 5th ult. after touching at Fido, and Mowee, but rec'd no letters at those places. I think there is oil enough to turn out 1700 lbs at home, there is many of the old Paper Shucks worked over, the contents of which we have never ascertained, but the lower half will not take more than 50 barrels, and there is 250 Petroleum Sacks, and about 24000 lbs of Bone. I have been very unwell for several weeks and am still hardly able to get about. My crew is in a bad condition. Several of them have the Scurvy, there is now four in the hospital one died on the 3rd Inst. his name John Perry, on my arrival here I rec'd no letters for three days. I agreed with Capt. Swift to ship my oil and Bone home in the Benjamin Rush of Warren, and fit for another season.

But after I had been here three days, your letter came to hand and I found by the tenor of them that you request me not to ship oil and Bait at these islands. I am so situated now that I cannot leave here for several weeks, even if I decided on going to the coast to ship oil, taking into consideration the uncertainty of finding a vessel there, and the delays and detentions consequent thereon. I have concluded to work towards home and am in hopes to get something on the way. I shall have to buy some provisions here, but I fear the ship takes from 100 to 600 Strakes in 24 hours and wants caulking, but caulks are now very dear, and wages very high. You seem to find much fault about the Draft, the expenses here last fall, but I think it would cost something to go to any other Port. The Prospect looks good for 10000 to 20000 lbs the next season which would pay well, but considering my present circumstances, the idea of going to the coast to sell oil &c. it is altogether out of the question. For I know that I should lose part of the next season and perhaps make a poor seasons work of it, which would only make the bad matter worse.