

Dec 1869

Sunday Dec 27th Have had a foggy day with light wind. Wrote to
 Lat 42.33' Wind is slightly ahead. Mr. Holmes wrote his letter.
 Lon 54.37' crew went down fishing tonight but caught nothing.
 I have been busy this morning for Santa Clara.

Tue 28th
 Christmas is nearly gone, and it has not been very
 merry one to me. For I have felt unusually sad this
 Lat 42.6' afternoon, as I look forward this same day to be a little
 Lon 54.7' on Earth to be there yet. I can hardly say that I
 desire long life, except when I look on my little
 child. I then feel that I do have a strong desire
 to live to take care of him, and my feet give me
 grace and patience to train him in the way he should
 go. I would ever dearly to hear from home, but I
 will try to be patient. We have had pleasant weather
 during the day, with a head wind. Have seen nothing.

Wed 29th
 Have had a pleasant day. With light wind and
 Lat 42.10' now at seven o'clock it is almost calm. Thisafter
 Lon 54.38' noon a school of Porpoise played around the ship.
 for some time. We then tried to catch one but did not
 succeed. There is one sail in sight going the same
 way we are. I was sick all day yesterday, but in
 better today. Have been working on a job for George
 boat. Ericson has commenced learning his letter today.

Thurs 30th
 The weather is still pleasant and wind favorable.
 Lat 42.25' have been putting on the sail, nearly all day. This
 Lat 42.18' afternoon had a little excitement for a short
 time as whales were raised and for a little while
 they were thought to be sperm. But proved to be
 Humpbacks. We are now nearing the land and hope
 to sight Cape Blanco tomorrow noon. To test the
 chronometer, Mr. Fisher is better and commenced
 doing duty yesterday afternoon. Commenced a letter to
 Sam and Elsie last night. There are large quantities
 of kelp in the water around the ship. But few birds.

Friday 31st
 It is now nine o'clock in the eve. We have had a
 pleasant day with head wind and very little rain. The
 moon raised Humpbacks but could not get near

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Lat 42.15' Humpbacks 15 little
 Dec 27th enough to land at six o'clock. The raised a large
 school of Humpbacks, and soon after lowered the boat.
 Lat 42.44' The Starboard Boat did not go down, they have taken one
 Lon 54.38' after chasing a long time and are now trying to get
 him along side. It will be a long job. I fear it will
 be done before it is finished. But if he makes a good
 job of oil the people will soon be forgetting this war.
 I finished all I could do to the job. This afternoon have
 been knitting on my stockings.

Sat 30th
 The Boats succeeded in raising the Humpback
 boat night, and got it alongside at half past seven.
 Lat 42.33' George did not go to bed but built stoves on
 Lon 54.33' the sofa an hour or two and then all got up
 and went to cutting in. Finished about six
 this noon. And today have been getting it ready
 to try out. I have cut my flannel sack and
 packed it. This afternoon about one o'clock saw
 the land distant about fifteen miles from
 the Horn. Ores. to be about eight, and the old
 one to far to the East about three. I saw
 a schooner, a long distance from us. The men at
 the masthead has just sung out there Ores.
 It is now seven o'clock. I have had some
 squalls during the day but it is now quite clear.

Sat Jan 1st 1870.
 The have had a pleasant day with a head wind. I
 Lat 42.25' was sick all day yesterday, but feel better today.
 Lat 42.14' yesterday it was very rough, all day, so did not
 commence boiling the Humpbacks until this morning.
 I have finished my Stockings commenced a long
 ago. I would like to know how the folks
 at home are prospering.

Sun 4th
 We have been having very rough weather but it is better tonight.
 Lat 42.14' It was so rough last night. I slept but very little. Have been sick
 Lon 54.8' for several days. But my health has improved with the weather.
 We are now on good ground for Saint John. and hope to
 get some tomorrow. I have finished my blue flannel sack and
 packing. I should feel quite happy if I could hear from the
 ones at home and know they are all well.