

July 1870

The house or canoe brought off more mats & cost brought six, we had eight before. That Mr. Sanga gave us. So we have quite a quantity some of them are very nice ones. Should be fine to return and have a time of our own they will be very useful. I have cut and washed a calico dress, and washed a lot of clothes it was the hardest washing I have done. Cuffs clothes were very dirty. Washed by working in the tub. Lillian's dress also unusually dirty. The Humphack smoke is very bad. Clean clothes remain clean but a very short time. The Stanek Boatman is still feeble, unable to go in the boat but does not suffer much pain. Has a great appetite.

Wednesday, 20th

This morning launched three boats. Two have returned leaving the third boat with a whale. Twelve or fifteen miles from us. This afternoon about five, saw a French steamer. Come down near us the Capt came on board he wanted coal. He spoke but little English so Capt called one of the crew a Frenchman down into the cabin to talk with him. He stayed but a few minutes. Was sent to Congo for Palm Oil. I have some and wanted my clothes, and some raisins for a cake.

Thursday, 21st

Weighted anchor about half past five and started to look for the boat. Got the whale alongside about half past eleven. It was a small whale. The sharks had eaten him very badly. So it was bad work cutting him up. and the shark chom pieces. He was lost nearly one third of what was brought alongside. are sailing out will finish by nine o'clock. We dropped anchor again in the old anchorage about half past five. I have been working on my dress. The boats went down after whales this afternoon, but they were going very fast and we were anxious to anchor before dark so did not chase them down.

July 22nd

This morning launched the Starboard and Larboard Boats and they have been chasing whales all day in sight of the ship. This forenoon saw a whale guide near and the other two boats went down but he was going so fast could not get near him. This afternoon saw a number and several again, and the other boats came down to them at dark they were fast and all four boats quite near together. They off and to the fast to two but were so far from the ship we could not tell certainly. It is now nearly eight o'clock and they have not returned. The Capt has just spoken them. He can hear the call. We have several lanterns hung out for to guide them. I have been working on my dress and let down another that was too short. This morning another canoe came off to us they brought a box of their Manufacture they asked a dollar, at first. Capt gave them six gold coins cloth for it. They wanted the cloth. It is quite a curiosity, and will also be very useful.

July 23rd

The Starboard and Larboard Boats advanced about eight o'clock having the other boats about five miles off. With a dead whale. and soon after their return have anchor and went to them, got the whale alongside about eleven last eve. I did not return until the boats were all here. as soon as the boats were up dropped anchor again just when they met with the whale, in sight of the place where we left the "Hector" fast to this whale first, and Mr Holmes killed it. He also claims the one. The sharks eat as fast. He fastened to it but his men swam out and then Mr Holmes fastened and killed it as the "Hector" had no room in it. The whale of course belongs to Mr Holmes. This whale is large but the blubber is thin. The Starboard and Larboard Boats have seen down twelve, and struck one but did not fasten. I have finished my dress with the exception of Button holes and Buttons.

Humphack's Whaling 30th file