

Dec 1871

Sunday 17th This morn at three all hands were called to cut in the whale. The wind was blowing very hard and there was a very heavy swell so it was very bad cutting. I did not get up. about five o'clock I heard the cutting stage break down and heard several voices screaming "See among the members. throw me a rope". I ran at once that they were overboard and was dreadfully frightened. I jumped from boat and then saw the deck started for the boat but lost the boat. I saw of Leo's voice and thought he had been washed away. I could not go up but sent the Steward, Oh the agony of that moment it is indescribable. May I never feel it again. Steward soon returned saying they were all safe on deck. The stage parted and Leo, the mate and the boatman fell into the water and the sea was so heavy swimming was impossible. Leo was thrown from the stage as it fell. put on a hold of a rope hanging by the side of the ship and he kept up until the men helped him on board. he was so heavily clothed and being very heavy himself could not get up alone. the others got in without trouble. Leo was quite exhausted when he got in. Oh how thankful we should be for Leo's escape. May it be the means of saving us from our Heavenly Father. May it be to us a sign ready for in an hour that ye think not the summer may come. The finished cutting about seven o'clock but lost the head and throat. I have finished a letter to Sam and Hattie and read Martin's old letters. We have had a very rough day with a very heavy sea here but flying (the) with cloudless sky. Ambrosia eighteenth yesterday my feet were and keep him happy and this will be offered to God again on our native Island.

Dec 18th Have had a very rough unpleasant day with a heavy sea and wind. Commenced cutting this morn at 11.55 but it is so rough we are obliged to cut very slowly. I have finished Lumber's cap. Dec 19th The weather is some better but the wind continues unfavorable. I have cut out a lot of 44.48. All Coburg shoes for myself. Have had a severe day 61.57 headache most of the day. finished baking this afternoon. The whale with three men about thirty five lbs. Wednesday 20th Had but very little wind during the night but some but quite a breeze all day. so we cut 45.40 have made a little on our course. Have cut 63.15 Steward shows the oil. Broken out Sugar, rice, Coffee and Butter. I have been down on my knees. Thursday 21st This morn about ten o'clock sighted land. The mast at the south of St. Louis Gulf. found chronometers to be all right. Sub 47.32 about noon some up overall and this afternoon Sub 47.27 have had several squalls come very severe one but it did not last very long. have now a very strong breeze. clouds so are waiting off shore. I have been at work on my shoes. Robin by has quite a sore finger caused by scratching off the joint of a needle in it. Friday 22nd Have had a very rough day. have cut only very little sail out. and we have been bobbing about half the forenoon is rising and we hope for better weather. The wind is still unfavorable. we are trying to work to the Southward. have finished the coffee which must sleep and left off by noon. it is now all done but the smelter I wish shall try to finish that tomorrow. have had to cut all a hard.

Sat 23rd Have had a very little wind and have finished a Merchant's head has been in sight. Sat 24th 10 all day. I have finished my dress tonight.