

1833. Remarks on board Ship Nile of New Bedford

November

Monday 18

Begins with a fresh breeze from the northwest and clear weather. Finishes cutting in the whale, cleared up the deck. Took in the fore & main topsails, set the mast & commenced hauling strong breezes throughout the night, at 7 A.M. the wind shifted to the S.W. and steadily with small rain; latter part of the day strong gale and clear. Employed in boiling.

Lat. Obs. 37° 40'

Tuesday 19

Begins with strong winds from the southwest and clear weather at 9 P.M. heavy squalls of wind and some rain, the remainder of the night, and the morning more moderate with a heavy squall south from the S.W. Employed in boiling. Took in the foremast at 9 A.M. in the morning set foremast & fore & main topsails.

Lat. Obs. 37° 12'

Wednesday 20

Begins with a strong breeze from S.W. by W. and clear weather at 5 P.M. saw sperm whales lowered 2 boats but could not get up with them going very quiet. To the westward, took in the fore & main topsails, at 10 P.M. quite moderate at the topsails, jib & spanker, about 11 the wind veered to W. strong breeze the remainder of the night, at 5 were to the northward at 7 were back to the southward, finished boiling in the morning broke and and began stirring down. Strong breeze from W. S.W. and hazy with a heavy sharp wind from the S.W. much trouble.

Long Obs. at 3 P.M. 48° 52' Lat. Obs. 37° 55'

Thursday 21

Begins with a fresh breeze from the northwest and cloudy finished stirring down the oil, took 2 cups in the topsails at 11 P.M. took in the fore & main topsails, at 3 A.M. took in the foremast, at 4 again in the forenoon, the wind veered to S.W. near ship to the S.W. at 9 P.M. saw a sperm whale going N.W. Lat. Obs. 37° 5'

Friday 22

Begins with a heavy gale from the southwest, flying clouds and a very sharp sea in the afternoon squalls of rain and the wind gradually veering to the south, middle the wind more moderate, in the morning set the foremast, and the continuing to abate let out reef at jib, spanker, mainmast & all three topgallantmasts.

Lat. Obs. 37° 42'

Saturday 23

Begins with a moderate breeze from the southwest and a very heavy night, middle calm, at 6 A.M. a breeze sprang up from the northward, which soon after hauled to N.W. and freshened with clear weather. Employed this day in repairing a foremast & M.T. by sail.

Long Obs. at 1 P.M. 50° 4'

Lat. Obs. 38° 22'

James Townsend Master; On a whaling voyage.

1833

December

Saturday 7

Begins with a strong breeze from the S.W. and flying clouds steering to the S.W. The wind moderating gradually, at 5 P.M. made the land, the Northwest part of the Fox Island Islands, then hauled to the westward, took in sail at 8 and hauled too to the S.W. middle the wind light, latter part the wind hauled to the S.W. and a strong breeze. Saw a boy which showed English colors, working to the S.W.

Long Obs. at 3:40 P.M. 63° 25'

Lat. Obs. 50° 39'

Sunday 8

Begins with a strong breeze from the S.W. & hard flying clouds steered S.W. the north side of the Islands; at 8 P.M. took in sail and hauled too to the N.W. middle the wind more moderate, at 8 made sail & steered S.W. at 10 the wind hauled to S.W. & squall of rain took in some sail & steered S.W. Saw a number of finbacks.

No Obs.

Monday 9

Begins with a strong breeze from the southward, thick & raining in the afternoon & cleared up some, middle a moderate breeze from the S.W. latter part very light nearly calm. Saw a great many finbacks, birds &c. but no right whales.

Lat. Obs. 50° 16'

Tuesday 10

Begins with a light breeze from the westward and clear weather in the afternoon a pleasant breeze, middle a squall of rain with some lightning, latter part a pleasant breeze from N.W. and from weather, pumped some water out of the ground tier and filled the cask with salt water. By the lat. & long. by the judged the ship must have been in an easterly current the last 24 hrs.

Long Obs. at 2 P.M. 59° 18'

Do at 4:40 P.M. 58° 12'

Lat. Obs. 51° 10'

Wednesday 11

Begins with a moderate breeze from the eastward and fair weather at 4 made the land about Eagle Point, took in sail & lay by till morning, then made sail and steered on for the land, at 8:40 the Point bore N.W. for compass Dist 11 miles, at 9 hauled to the south when clear of the land steered N.W. at 11 saw a right whale low-ered and got fast slightly soon after the men drew & the whale went off quick to the S.E. Ends with light wind from S.E. & clear at 4:40 A.M. got on M. by which we found our time 1° 50' too far west.

Thursday 12

Begins with light winds from S.E. and fair weather, at 7 the wind hauled from the S.W. middle quite moderate, latter part strong gale & squalls of hail & rain off the land. The latter part of the day ran along shore from the westward toward Eagle Point, at 10 P.M. were ship and steered to the southwest off the land.