

Mar 31st - The wind has moderated a little though there is still a heavy sea. Nothing to do on deck. I myself am engaged in my first attempt to make a "sinnett hat".

April 1st. Many an "April Fool" will be made. I presume to say, and it is not entirely forgotten here. It is a great moving time I suppose at home, though on board ship we shall probably keep the same lodgings this year. Squally and rainy last night.

April 2nd. Pleasant weather but rather chilly. We are now on the Japan whaling grounds, a great place for sperm whales.

Apr 3rd. The weather has moderated and it is now almost a dead calm. As we have leisure now, we are making all the necessary preparations for "North West" and I hope they will not be in vain.

Apr 4th. We are now sailing through thousands of "Portuguese men of war" which are in great schools all around the ship. We shall probably be on the right whaling ground in about two days. Lat $30^{\circ}3'$, and we are nearly on the Tropic.

Apr 5th - A fresh breeze this morning, which kept increasing, so that we took up top gallant sails, and double reefed the topsails; before night however we had all sail taken in but double reefed main top sail, which we set.

Sun. Apr. 6th - We close reefed the main top sail during the night, as it was blowing a gale of wind. There is a very heavy sea on, and the ship rolls so as to roll the rail all under, and take the boats to leeward of the cranes. Plenty of "Nautilus" are floating by the ship, and we have taken a number.

Apr 7th. It continues blowing a perfect "screacher" with a very heavy sea; occasional squalls of rain.

Apr 8th. The wind abated a little to day, and we have got the mission stay sail on to her, which serves her considerably; we have had "quarter watches" ever since this now commenced.

Apr 9th. The wind has gone down to day leaving a good steady breeze. A great quantity of "right whale" feed is around the ship, and "fin backs" were seen close to us. Several thick fogs have come up to day, so that we could scarcely see the ship's berth ahead.

Apr 10th. The weather begins to grow quite cold, and a very heavy dew falls during the night, much wind, but frequently foggy.

Apr 11th. We took in sail this morning as it began to blow, and lay all day under double reefed topsails, rainy and squally; plenty of whale feed is around the ship and also innumerable lots of "Portuguese men of war".

Apr 12th. Made sail this morning, with little wind; a large sun fish was close along side this morning. The blacksmith is at work repairing the cranes which were broken during the last gale. The "old man" has fitted up a nice place for three of us who live in the steerage (the boat steerer having moved into the cabin) so that we live comfortable as can be. One of our boat steerers, now heads the "starboard boat" and one of the forward hands steers him. I now go in this boat (the "old man" having changed with Mr Williams the End Mate).

Sun. Apr. 13th. Took in sail this morning as it was rather squally, and at night took in the fore top sail and "lay to" all night, with quarter watches.

Apr 14th. Made sail this morning; nearly a dead calm all day; took in sail again at night as we did on the whaling grounds. The weather begins to grow pretty cold, so that we are again putting on thick clothes. We are now somewhere in the region of 40° S Latitude, and about 170° W Lon. We are off the whaling banks, and there is quite a difference in the temperature of the air.

Apr 15th. We loosed the topsails this morning but reefed them again before dinner, and soon had all sail in but "double reefed main top sail," and I got a yard