

No 12

Hamilton Bermuda Feb. 25th 1869
Lorenzo Firce Esq
New Bedford

Dr Sir I have dis-
charged the mate for drunkenness and
negligence of duties - all along since
our arrival here I have put up with it in
hope that we should soon be at sea
and then matters would be all right
But it has been growing worse and worse
all the time - Yesterday I was ready
for sea - sent the Pilot on board to get
the ship down the Bay - The mate ob-
jected to getting underway and resisted the
Pilot's orders for awhile - quarrelling
with him and then went below and
turned in drunk - The ship was got
underweigh worked down about half of
a mile and tied up to a buoy for the
night and then the Pilot got drunk
too - In the morning blowing on - lines
parted and the anchor let go - Mate
allowed or sent the men on shore for liquor
in the night - In the next morn Pilot
wished to get underway - Mate did not
wish to and the men or a part of them
would not - I went on board sent
the Pilot on shore and requested the
mate to come on shore for his discharge

as I thought this was most too much
Had I discharged him at first should
have got clear of much trouble and expense
Instead of maintaining discipline he
has mingled with the crew and become
as one of them until he has lost all
respect for himself or they for him -
Under the pretence of buying some trifling
thing he has sent them on shore to get
and smuggle liquor on board for him and
then he would join in drinking it, giving
the boatsteers and men - counter-
pancing them in their foolish proceeding
he seemed not to care so that he could get
rum - so has matters proceeded
from bad to worse until I thought it
for the interest of the voyage for him to
be discharged - In the doing of which
I have no malicious feelings to be grat-
ified - In general as an officer and
whaleman I have no fault to find
although I have seen better and many
worse - He has now reduced himself
to such a state that I think it would
materially injure the voyage to keep him
on board the ship - I did not wish
to retain him all my officers as we had
done well and if anything should happen
that we did not do as well the coming