

Bk Ocean Steed May 29<sup>th</sup> 1869  
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Sir

I did not think of writing you without having something to write about. But as we are about touching at Nyal I know that you will expect a line from me and I am with regret must say obliged to report clear. In April I cruised up in the Gulf Stream where we saw whales a number of times last spring but saw nothing there. By the way I have seen a report that the Pilot boat Hope on a cruise in April, got soundings in Lat. 41.25, Long 63.10 in 49 fathoms, sandy bottom.

This is just on the northern edge of my ground and I cruised all about there in April and saw nothing but green water. I did not sound however. In fact I have seen nothing but green water from there to nearly up to the islands, all the way across, north or south, go whichever way I may, all or nearly all was green water - only now and then a small patch of blue.

I cannot account for it unless the Banks have shifted to the southward. Constant gales from the West have been blowing until the mid of May. The wind not changing from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April up to the 25<sup>th</sup> of May,

and with the constant gales from the West we have had a very strong easterly current, as far south as the Lat. of 34 I experienced a strong easterly set, and also found green water.

I have seen nothing but once that I could call Sperm Whales. Then it was blowing a gale with rain and they were caught to windward. I tried hard to hold up but could not against the strong gales and currents.

This was near the Ocean Steed ground and it is the only place that I have seen that looked like a <sup>white</sup> ground, since leaving it last fall. I have considerable faith in that place - Still this spring it was covered with green water.

One month ago I some thought that I might have acted injudicious in taking the route that I did. But I can hear of no ship that has done anything this last winter either north or south, and had I another winter before me think I might try the same general route again, subject of course to such little variation as I might choose to make.

I intend now on trying the Morris ground and should I get oil there shall shut her here again in Aug or Sept - but should I not be able to find whales by the mid of Aug shall work to the West for the Ocean Steed ground.

Five months out we had taken all our oil