

May 1859

Sunday May 1st 1859

This day commenced with a light breeze and rainy cleared off about six P.M. Middle part fine weather. This afternoon about 1 P.M. raised a large school of Blackfish and lowered for them and the second mate got fast to two but saved only one. The mate's boatsteele darted twice and the mate once but neither of them fastened. As for myself I had only one chance and then I missed him changed ends with the Captain but did not get very near them again. The two we have got will make about two barrels of oil. The land has been in sight all day. Sunday is considered a day of rest but not on board of a Whaleship when Whales or Blackfish are around.

120 days out. Wind S.E. Course West.

Lat 10° 51' South

Monday May 2nd 1859

This day commenced with a fine breeze and thick rainy weather, cleared off about 7 P.M. and set the mastsheads. This forenoon started the try works to boil out the Blackfish and got through about noon. This afternoon the 2nd mate at work on the foretop gallant, the cooper setting up sheeks and the carpenter making blinds for the cabin windows. Very high land in sight on our Starboard bow and beam. About 4 P.M. raised a school of Blackfish and lowered for them but did not get very near them as they were going to windward faster than the boat could pull. Sold the clothes of Littlefield at auction.

121 days out

Wind S.E.

Lat 10° 26' South

Tuesday May 3rd 1859

This day commenced with a fine steady breeze and quite clear. This morning sent down the Fore-top Gallant mast and rigging and covered the eyes of the Regal and fixed the service of the top Gallant rigging. This afternoon spliced in the dorel eyes to the backstays and got the mast aloft again and hauled taut the stays and knocked off work. There has been quite a number of Humpbacks in sight and the water has been full of fish called Butt the land still in sight on the Starboard beam and quarter.

Wind S.E.

122 days out.

Wednesday May 4th 1859

This day commenced with a fine breeze and clear. This morning between 6 and 7 called all hands and lowered for Blackfish but did not get any. Fine weather all day and the watches at work on the Foretopgallant rigging, the second mate this afternoon covering the eyes of the Mizen rigging. Lowered twice this afternoon for more Blackfish but could not get near them. In sitting up the foretopgallant rigging parted one of the Puttack shrouds which was of iron and having no blacks with on board we put up a rope one. The carpenter painted the mizen topgallant mast, and made a hear for the Foretopgallant cross trees.

123 days out.

Wind S.E. and clear

Thursday May 5th 1859

This day commenced with a fine steady breeze and thick hazy weather. This morning lowered twice for Blackfish but did not get near them. This forenoon finished the Foretopgallant rigging and shortened the left on the Foretopgallant.

This afternoon broke out the after hold for provisions and filled the butt with water and finished work about 4 past five. There has been nothing in sight today of much consequence just before sunset Ben thought he saw something that looked like a school of sperm Whales but turned out to be nothing but a tide ripple.

Wind S.S.E. and fine weather.

124 days out.

Friday May 6th 1859

This day commenced with a moderate breeze and quite clear. This morning put the new boat on the cranes and the old one across the stern. This forenoon the watch engaged in taring down some of the rigging, also broke out the main hold for butter and Flour. This afternoon the watch taring down some of the mizen stays after 4 P.M. broke out the sail room for a topsail to bend in place of the one that is up forward which is nearly new. There has been nothing in sight but a few Cowfish and Porpoises.

Wind S.S.E.

125 days out

Lat 11° 46' South