

Barth Baltic Nov 23rd 1856

but my men had the Harpoon gone in to the whale than he rounded and went down so swift as to take nearly all the line. The old mate took stumps around the larger head and head on with all his might - the line parted and the whale was loose from us. There was a fib, but the whale soon came up on top of the water fighting and roaring. I on took our oars and the old mate his large Burnt Gun and we pulled up on the whale again and he shot his Burnt Gun, which caused him to roll and throw his head and tail up in the air at an awful rate. soon we heard the Burnt Gun off in the whale. The old mate flung him 2 or 3 times and then he spouted up the thick black blood some 15 feet up in air. we knew he was as good as a dead. in about an half an hour time he turned up on his back and came up the sheet. we soon got him along side of the ship and cut him in the same night. we hoisted in his 9 gallons of blubber on Deck

I was very tired when I turned in last night - we had a hard days work yesterday no match blow for our watch until 11 PM. ship moving we are busy cutting up the whale's head which contains the Spermaceti. the most valuable part of the whale. this Spermaceti is in what is called a case in the middle of the whale. head we take a piece and bail it out. it looks as clear as water and out of a large sperm whale there is taken out of this case

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24th fifty and sixty lbs of Spermaceti.

we commenced trying out the blubber last night and we are a greasy looking set of individuals. we shall finish in our midnight watch

25th we got all through last night and to day we are cleaning the oil off the cutting gear and the ship. the whale made us 38 lbs. we have stowed it all down in the lower hold and bottom Decks. everything now means its ordinary appearance. we are now in Latitude 4 degrees South nearly under the sun and the Decks are so hot you cannot lay your naked hands or feet upon them. The wind has nearly all died away. but what little there is, is right aft. and we are steering South. Sail 200 was going out from aloft this morning about 10 miles off on our weather bow. we luffed up to see if we could make out who she was but they kept off. and we were not out of sight. first sail we have seen since leaving Port Black Hawk. we saw a Porpoise in our first watch last night. we got him in on Deck. skinned and now he is strung up on the main stay all ready for the cook to prepare. In Dog watch caught a large shark this is the first one of these animals we have ever caught. we hauled him in Deck and skinned him. the skin is very useful in many ways. The mouth looked large enough to swallow a man whole