

Part 8 Baltic Dec 23rd 1856

if he catches any one asleep on Deck in this cool matter of mile thick steam or mist for a mile at growth up to. Light mists strong fall & by heading S by W the sea are raised & freshen. but the nights are quite cool & a good deal of dew falling in are in lat - 40° South

Christmas Beautiful weather with very light mists being cold but about the ship & by heading the third mate Mr Marshall who made but watch in the night time altogether as Mr Sturges is all day on Deck and has all night in. I think Mr Marshall the finest man for an officer on Board of the Baltic.

Reading 3

Sat 23rd Wash Day once more. I have with me got through washing & drying stockings & my rags & borrowed Book of Mr Marshalls. Suffering about Deeds reading in secret off Deck watch the Jayillians eye was say about from aloft off there. She blew - all hands work in the rigging in short order and saw a whale spouting about 2 miles to windward, as soon as we saw him I sprang on him it to be a Finback. & we passed along on our way, you might as well try to catch the wind, although there has been instances of these being harpooned & killed. The old mate made me a very nice cake today from a piece of a sperm whale jaw that we took from the last season. I intend keeping the cake & making it a present to Brother Billy if ever I live to get home again. Still heading South with very light mists still close to the wind making making a course about South East. if we do not get a breeze on shall not see mid winter very soon

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23 From to Christmas. but it is just as good as any other day on board of ship. Last season at this time we were laying becalmed in the Straights of Blumano off of Cape Horn.

24 In our midnight watch in square the yards and we now steering our course S. S. E. with a good stiff breeze making about 9 knots. it kept blowing in all day and now it has increased to a strong gale of wind. Sturges said to know in & on are making 12 knots

25 I had the most difficult time I ever had since coming aboard the ship last night. it was blowing great guns & dark as tar when Mr Marshall hung out the up main Royal (the most lofty sail in the ship) after clearing up the sail. he said lay up there one of you and feel the sail. no one must so I started. After getting up there I found the back stays all blown off and the sail holding only by the davits. The mast up there where I was is not longer than your arm. I hung on as well as possible. the ship was rolling so the scuppern nut under in rack side. After working up there and four blocks came up & we succeeded in furling the sail. I want no such job again. Going to stir S. S. E. there is too much at the wheel & it is impossible to keep her steady. & spouts. This Christmas day passed off the same as all other days only we had nothing to do.

26 Fine weather but cold. took latitude to day in 47° 10' South square steering S. E. sent up Royal yard & the sail is all right again. I am in hopes I shall not have to furl or haul it again in a heavy gale of wind

27 Sat 27th Two of us washed to day as if was so cold most of our watch went in the forehold and kept busy mending our garments