Bark Baltic Dec 31st 1855

Sun 28th The their watch caught a large Horse Porpoise in their watch last night & we had it for Breakfast this morning. the way it is prepard at sea is to take it hash it up very fine seasoned with sage pepper & Salt and then made in small balls & fried or salted in pork & I can say from experience it is proper good. Blackfish fastened to two fine got away. Mr Stowers succeeds in bringing another fin in making in all 4 to day. they come in large schools playing breathe as ships bows & are fastened to from the martingale. their flesh looks like fresh beef & the small quanity of blubber taken from them is very valuable worth about $3 a pound we have on board some 30 galls of Porpoise oil at present. We have now commenced cruising for Right Whale having gone as far South as we intend to in Lat 51.45 S. Sinbacks in any quanity flowing on all sides of us but no other kind of whale as yet

Mon 29th Bread

Being busy trying out the Porpoise Blubber to day we have had nothing to do for the past week but stand our regular watch & Masters as the weather is quite cool which ships have no work except that that is absolutely necessary in cold weather you call the Decks to keep warm night. In the day time it is very pleasant only about 3 hours that it is so all Dark in these latitudes, we are cruising West West west in search of R whale

Tues 30th

Blowing a [redacted] gale of wind Double reefed topsails & no other sail on except Storm Staysail.

Wed 31st

The last day of 1855 has been an unlucky one for the forward hands. on board of

Bark Baltic January 1st 1856

Bark Baltic. some one has scratched an image and the letters II II & O which has made the old man out of humor and he has taken the wheel house having those why are obliged to stand wheels exposed to the bitter cold rain Hail & wind. because one man has scratched a little on the wheel house all hands are obliged to suffer. and are liable to catch their Death cold. For it is very cold down in these latitudes. It hardly a night passes that we do not have a very cold rain. we are obliged to stand two hours & two and a half & any one in one of these cold hard rains cannot help getting thoroughly drenched & he escapes without a heavy cold he is lucky, & many a man has taken his Death cold under much less exposure. The Captain says the House shall not go on again until the fiend act who has done it. and no one knows who has done the Deed. Nothing else is talked of but who wrote on the wheel House. no one of course knows who is the man. all Sail is set again & we I think are bound off to the ground steering the same to day.

Wed 2nd

The old man is in an awful bad way on account of the scratching on the wheel House. He was intending he said to give us the same grub he did on last New Years day Viz Burger Cake Cheese Plum Duff &c to day nothing more than common & he has stopped our butter which we have had ever since leaving New Bedford. Last night [redacted] heavy gale of wind sprung up accompanied with Hail & rain. It seemed to please the old man very much to see us poor fellows standing at the wheel exposed to all the wind rain & Hail. Every one of us puts on all our Donkey contains with the oil suit and on rain