

Barb Battie May 11th 1857

Sat 9th to make up for the leisure of the day, we have been mending & mending & mending our points in the forenoon. We commenced standing eight minutes, mast made & went on mid. sail as the weather was too cold to stand, the usual height two & two and a half hours. Took latitude in 37°30' north and went to run for more. Begins to the northward and then we expect to see whales. About 6 P.M. a fine breeze sprung up on equator the yards at stud & in sails & on any off at the rate of 7 knots an hour. The foremast we got on the making ground the latter it will suit all hands as my want to get up and get sail for North America as soon as possible.

Sund 10th For the past 3 days I have been unable to write as we have had a very violent gale of wind, so that a part of the crew were obliged to lash themselves in their bunks. Sunday in the morning it was blowing a strong breeze, but the wind was fair so that the old man hung on to the sail until the last moment. However before the Dog watch we had taken in all the left sails & close reefed foretop sail & doubled reefed the maintop sail for two hours / more reef sail was taken in and we were lying too under close reefed main topsail which lashed to all hands & land the wind came from the S.W.

Mon 11th The gale still continuing all hands & land except our boats crew, the old man has not been able to take the land for some days past, but thinks he is about the right lat & longitude & see whales there is not the usual ground on which we were a year ago at this time. But the

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Captain thinks it fair as good but if it should prove not to be he intends going to Bristol Bay which is about 16 degrees from here. The wind has backed & is now coming from the North & it is as cold as the last forenoon. The old ship is rolling no suspicion under on each side there is a mighty heavy sea on, tried the pump but she still continues tight - as a bottle.

Wed 13th It is tremendously cold this morning. Had twelve hours in last night - I can assure you it goes high. If I ever get back to the States again I shall not have all night in my bed & a good warm fire in cold matter to come in another whaling voyage I am sure. I often imagine how comfortable you are and sitting around the fire hearing the cold wind whistle around the corners of the house & the snow & hail pattering against the windows. You then may think of the absent one, but you console yourself with the thought - perhaps this dreadful matter cannot reach him. But I can assure you it does & flows much faster here than you or I ever saw it on shore for there is no hills nor mountains but one dead field of water. Just before the foretop sail & close reefed it & I thought my fingers would freeze before we got down in deck. Lashed jib & aback reef out of maintop sail & set the mainmast's hauled out the spritsail in our first watch in deck.

Thurs 14th Strong breeze all day carried maintop sail & fly it until about 1 P.M. it then commenced blowing with some appearance of another gale of wind. Took in all sail except jib sail & close reefed maintop sail. Our watch had a