

Wm R. Baltie May 31st 1857

Sat 30th Commenced blowing in hard midnight, match on Dick last night - in took in & fished all the light sails & this morning reefed topsails & set the mainsail. I made all preparation for a gale of 4 days length. The barometer has fallen lower than the last day than it ever did before this voyage & that indicates very proven weather. Filled up cisterns with yesterday afternoon with fresh water. Steered on the wind making about 1/2 by E with a gale of wind. Saw a large Humpback & 4 other whales spouting 3 points on the horizon 1/2 mile off. Though certain my head raised a sight whale at last. For he turned black, regular & acted precisely like a right whale, but when my goby man in him on our mistle Latitude by observation 53° 36'

all 4 miles

Sun 31st This is the last day of light & sunny May. But with us light has had a cold snow & drizzly month and much different from the month of May at home. In the first watch on Dick last night they were obliged to take in all sail & a violent snow & hail storm came pouring down on us poor sailors at an awful rate. It is indeed a hard task the poor sailor has particularly in these cold latitudes. In command right after night - as we pass our cold & lonely Dick. with the same deep and mysterious sea on which we live, and with the same stormy skies which are above & which is our only roof. Our land has the same dismal warnings from the winds & the waves. it is our continual routine of bitter cold gales of wind falling in & making sail. there is no change

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in lower latitudes there are a thousand objects to interest our attention. at night the starsaurus alone would interest you for a life's time. positively this shall be my last cruise in these high latitudes. Saw a fine school of right whale porpoises this afternoon but the fold mans orders are so contrary in regard to fishing on the sabbath we must stand by & get on for the martingale & try to strike one of them. Just before 8 o'clock (or 7 PM) the cry from the boat was that she blew - Mr. Smith said the spout & pronounced it a right whale soon we saw his head & flukes then the cry was all hands ahoy & stand by the boats. we hurried away but the whale was a going to fast to the windward after pulling for an hour & a half glared up the chase. we have derived no great benefit by seeing this whale & that is in my boat & boats crew watches again

Mon 1st

Dick is all sail last night and had 7 1/2 hours in my gun. This morning soon after daylight the lookout at the masthead (a little fellow by the name of Dick who by the way has the sharpest eye of any person in the ship) sung out, Humped! He was in the course of two hours by the aid of a spy glass you could see the towering cliffs covered with snow. I should judge they were some 200 ft above the level of the sea. just before 4 o'clock in the morning watch the wind all died away & I do not think we have got ahead 10 miles for the past 12 hours. Landed away the waste boat & put a shooting party & fished all the morning and got one little Quab. we are now standing in for the land. & I should say it was some 50 miles distant. we intend if possible on the