

Bark Baltic June 23rd 1857

Mon 22nd This has been a most fatiguing day for the Bark Baltic. At 11 am our morning watch on deck & at daylight a very thick fog set in. at about 3 am it cleared a little when Blackhawk got up on the tryworks & saw a light which got 3 ships together from the ship. For Marshall had to haul back the main yard. then went down in the cabin called the Old Mate & Old man. then called all hands & landed away the Boat. we were down about 15 minutes & the fog set in so thick. we were obliged to come on board again. in about 2 an hours time it cleared & we went away the fog. we lowered away again. when we saw 3 whales all together our boat went in to one of them & old Blackhawk put 2 harpoons in him solid. he took us through the water at a frightful speed. he soon went down & came up light along side of the boat & commenced cutting the float with his head & stove his so that she leaked very badly. but in the mean time our stinks had given him his death wound. so that he was spouting blood. we cut our line & got on board as good as possible with a boat all swarmed to pieces & very many of us half drowned & froze. the second watch brought the whale alongside of the ship. we had an awful hard time cutting him in. the fluke chain parted & we thought we had lost him some but he did not go down. & we put another fluke chain on him & got at 10 o'clock at night got the first piece in the rubber room. while Frank the Portugese was improving cutting off the bone of the whales head. the two glauced

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& must not let it get cutting it very serious. It has been blowing a gale of wind all day accompanied with heavy rain. & I can assure you my Dear Mother I was very glad to see the last blanket piece come over the side of the ship. It is a large whale & the old man thinks will make us 1000 lbs of oil. after finishing my got our supper & the old Mate came forward & told all hands to turn in. & stand by to turn out at 3 in the morning again.

Tues 23rd I now felt so sore & stiff as I did this morning my arms are as I could raise them up to my head. It is my business when cutting in to whale to attend the falls & yesterday they were so wet & gnarly that they would take me up to the millers by the jaw. the old man tried to assist me but this was no use. around would go the fall & down go the blanket piece nearly hauling my arms off. built a fire my dear the creels this morning at 6:00 am and tried trying out cutting the bone from the head. I had cannot imagine why Dear Mother had highly in prize to find a new rest & ship at such times as these our watch stood on deck until 2 past 6 then went below & got breakfast. came up again & broke out a cask of bread. the rest of the forenoon for rest & sleep. while lay in a under ake supped on tipsail. heavy sea and blowing rain.

Wed 24th Always when we have a whale. we have what is called try matches that is 4 matches in the 24 hours 6 hours for each match. no day match. still blowing strong: while lashed. trying out