

Park Paltie Jan 13th 1858

Sat 9th In morning just after daylight Dick put
to the masthead and the second mate
saw something like a dead
whale two points or so to the west. It was
nearly as dead calm as the second mate
boarded away his boat and started. The
Bark sailed and was only about 12
miles to windward of us. but the second
mate got up to the foremast and put an
iron in him. They found four Heermanns
in him, mated Sperry Pigeon, and about 10
fathoms of line. We hoisted on to him
about 11 A.M. and had him all cut in by
the 1st Mate.

Sun 10th I am trying out last night the whale
has made about 45 lbs of oil. been
sailing almost dry day but with no
success. On side and breast again on my
spearly at times. so that I have not
been on deck at all to day. fine mate
but a strong breeze

Tuesday Monday last my boys were returning
to the Captains with the hope of seeing
whales. but have only seen one since we
commenced sailing this way except one that
had a blue chair fast to him. the
morning land and blanket piece
nearly in the blue room. on spoke
Bark Luffeardies and she was sailing
in a large whale I have not been
on deck since I came aboard. The
Captain and Mr. Stivers and both my
kind come down to see me and as often
as once a day and sometimes two or
three times. I am taking medicine but it
does not seem to do me much good
but I think I am better than I was
at first

Park Paltie Jan 20 1858

127

Sun 17th Dear Mother how I do wish I could see
you and more. I get so homesick, and
I know I am puny and cross. some days
I cannot get out of my bunk at all
I blame the Captains (wrong gully I know)
nothing he does but give me the right
medicine. but it is a very bad place to
be sick at sea. I do not think I
shall get well until we get in port
again. For the past 3 days we
have had a heavy gale of wind all
day taken in by the masthead. it is now
day tolerably pleasant and there comes three
cold rains and unpleasant. and I do
not think I can get well until we
get out of it. The second mate has just
killed a porpoise. this makes 10 since
we being in New Zealand

Sat 22nd I am still confined with these pains in
my breast side and shoulders. to day for the
first time I have been on deck most of
the forenoon. the sun shines out bright and
it is very warm and pleasant. but having
strong my hand had up to the sails so far
all the work. and I can assure you
it is very uncomfortable for me lying here
my back and the ship rolling. the way she
does. sometimes I feel as if I could
as soon die as live. but I feel much
better today and I am in hopes we shall
get out any more such bad weather
Mr. Stivers and the Captain are with
me more or less every day and are
very kind. and the same disposition
seems to be manifested by all my
shipmates. I find the weather makes for
great differences with me a bright sunny day
I feel quite smart. but a rainy cloudy day
I can hardly move in my bunk