

56 days

Monday February 7th 1853

First part a eleven knot breeze from the N.W. and pleasant weather. At sunset doubled reefed the topsails. In the middle watch we was struck with a severe squall with lightning which almost rolled me out of my berth. I thought she was a going over. But it did not last more than a half an hour when it was succeeded by a calm. Latter part a light breeze from the S.E. Tacked ship to the West. Saw porpoises and a plenty of birds. Lat 41. and something

57

Tuesday February 8th

We have now got into cold weather and where we expect blustering weather. It is very disagreeable standing mast heads this weather. Saw Finbacks and porpoises struck a por and drewed. The watch employed in picking oysters. A sail in sight steering for Cape Horn. Poor fellows. Wind N.W. Steering S.W. To ends.

58

Wednesday February 9th

Commenced with a light breeze from the N.W. and fine weather. Middle and latter part a good whole sail breeze and pleasant but cold. It seems to be our turn to have cold weather for we got clear of a bleak winter at home and with it all its comforts. Steering S.W. Saw a sail and finbacks and a killer. To ends.

59

Thursday February 10th

To day we have had all kinds of weather that any one could wish in the night we had a severe tempest. The wind N.W. Steering S.W. Tack in and made sail 2 or 3 times. Latter part pleasant. Saw porpoises and

Friday February 11th

60

Commenced with a fresh breeze from the N.W. and fine weather. At 1 P.M. saw 3 or 4 right whales. At 2 P.M. took a net to lower for them and at 4 the larboard boat fastened and set him to sporting out his life's blood the first lance. Took him to the ship at 6.

Off the Main Booms.

and commenced cutting finished at 11 in the evening and at midnight took tea set the watch at 1. who commenced clearing away the head and clearing up the deck. This is new work for many of us but pleasing to all. On the 11th to get.

At 9 A.M. saw an other and because we got one we thought we should get him so we lowered the boats and pursued him. Saw a merchant ship and blackfish. Lat 41. 48 South

61

Saturday February 12th

The weather most beautiful. At one P.M. the boats returned without success the whale going too fast to the windward. At 2 1/2 P.M. lowered again for a large shoal of what we supposed to be sperm whales about 10 miles distant. The wind being light we lowered and took chase on nearing them they proved to be tide rips returned much disappointed at 5 P.M. and commenced boiling. Laid with the main yard to the mast through the night and at daylight squared the yards steering E by N. looking for more whales. To ends. Wind N.W.

62

Sunday February 13th

The weather has been most beautiful but it has not appeared to me to be the Lord's day for we have been very busy a boiling and clearing up. Back I can hardly tell when I spent such a sabbath before. I have to rest on the sabbath. I love to think of my duty both as regards my present and eternal welfare and that of my friends around me but it is supposed to be best to make hay while the sun shines. At Meridian finished boiling a 95 lbs whale oil. Saw finbacks

One took out of the slop chest No 26.

63

Monday February 14th

The weather the same. At 3 P.M. lowered the boats for a whale. Pulled for him about 3 hours and was obliged to give him up for somebody else who has no whale. Laid with the main yard a back through the night and divided the 30 and 40 into two parts each. At daylight hoisted foreward. At 7 A.M. saw another right whale. Lowered the 3 larboard boats and pulled for him so long as we could see him and returned and shaped our course for Cape Horn. Steering S.W. wind N. To ends.