

64 days

Tuesday February 15th 1853

First and middle part a light breeze from the N.W. and foggy steering S.W. Latter part pleasant At 8 P.M. lowered for a right whale Started our oil into the tanks of which we have a couple that hold 1.57 bbls apiece So ends

The tanks hold 1399 gals apiece

65

Wednesday February 16th 1853

At One P.M. the boats returned after chasing him 5 long hours first to the windward and then to the leeward he would let the boats come within half a ship's length and then would say as plain as he could say Thus far shall they come and no farther so we left him and came on board and reefed topsails The wind blowing fresh and continued washing ship a disagreeable job and rather a lengthy one as our ship has bulwarks five feet high with skylights and round house The women have much of this kind of work to do and if they disliked as much as I do I pity them So ends Saw porpoises

66

Thursday February 17th

Commenced with a strong breeze from the N.W. and pleasant steering S.W. At sunset the wind increased Doubled reefed the fore and main topsail Took jib and M. and M. topsails At 3 in the morning the wind halled W and increased to a gale All hands was called and we took in all sail to a foretopmast stayrail and main spencer It rained a sea head first which stove in two boards of our bulwarks between the stamens abreast of the foretopmast backstays A very singular looking place for water to make It smells of Cape Horn Lat about 50. 17

67

Friday February 18th

First part the wind died away as we set whole topsails mainsail and jib Wind S.W. steering S. Middle and latter part wind halled to the W and increased to a gale again Took all in again and hove too under close reefed mainsail I believe it allways here It is summer here and I hope I shall never be here in the winter Lat 52. 23 Long about 50

Thermometer
stood 50.
Water 51.

Off Cape Horn

68

Saturday February 19

Commenced with a strong wind from the West and pleasant weather set double reefed topsails S.W. at sunset the wind halled S. At daylight it changed S.W. at 6 in the morning saw the Coast of America Coast of Patagonia 40 miles off the weather bar dirt about 40 miles let the reefs out of the topsails and set main top gal sail steering by the wind to the S.W. along shore The weather cool.

Sunday February 20

69

Continued to steer for the straits to the S.E. At 2 P.M. saw a sail ahead who was a trying to force his way through the fogs with us At sunset passed him it proved a french merchant ship who continued to beat against a head wind with us but it is slow work for us and a great deal slower for him At Meridian we left him almost out of sight to the leeward This is truly a rugged country We are now beating through the straits of Dr. (Mars) and it does me much good to view this land of desolation this barren waste the mountains covered covered with snow and the hills largely sifted over sparingly with green The iron hand of time has taken fearful hold and have left finger prints that can never be erased It fills me with wonder and surprise to look at it Here the hungry and discontented philosopher could fill himself with doubt and grow fat with wisdom and would be better satisfied with his native home although it had not possessed all the charms and conveniences he could have wished Gods works are truly wonderful Ends with very fair weather though cool Saw finback

70

Monday February 21

At sunset we could see our way past the Southern extremity of Terra del Fuogo after beating all one night and one day The wind S.W. steering by the wind to the S.W. the weather cool but pleasant Latter part the wind increased to a gale double reefed the topsails and took in the jib and mainsail This weather cold with frequent squalls of sleet hail and rain This is very disagreeable weather but I cannot complain for we are in a good comfortable ship with a plenty to eat and time to reflect upon the past and anticipate for the future and I feel thankful for what we now enjoy but the sooner we get out of it the better I shall like it A merchant ship in sight supposed to be the one that passed us the day we took the whale

Thermometer
stood 42.
Water 46.