

175 day out

Tuesday June 7th 1853

Commenced with very pleasant weather. Started the work at 2 P.M. lowered for whale. The last boat fastened but the happened to be one of the sailors he run to the windward and he was obliged to quit. Big one but he will be larger before we can catch him again the boats came too the ship and we sent them for another but he mistrusted trouble and left for parts unknown. Returned at 6 and took in sail. The day terminated with very bad weather rain and wind but although it rained fast we continued to boil and set up shocks. Lett Long

Wednesday 8th

The weather has been more favourable although the sun has not shown himself but as long as we have a plenty of blubber we shall get along nicely. The watch below a plenty of sleep and a plenty to eat. Lett Long West

Thursday 9th

Finished boiling about 11 in the evening and the wing shifted to the E. side and set in to rain at 7 in the morning took in the main top sail. the sail was wet and the yard was layed square and the sail blowed hard against the mast which made it rather hard to put with cold fingers. It happened that I was one of the unfortunate ones on the yard and the 2 boats was standing very comfortable on deck singing out bear a hand and relet it up. The sail being hard aback I told him if he would cant the yard a little so as to spill the sail that we could get it up easier when he commenced with rather enough to sink the ship telling me if I did not shut up my head and foul the sail he would come up there back my dam jaw off. I made no reply at such nonsense but I was certainly surprised for I expected better language from one made a little lower than the angels (but how dreadfully depraved). When I reached the deck a few words passed. He said he would not have braiced the yard if I had staid up there all day I told him that I did not expect for would but if I had been in his place and he is mine that I should have braiced it for him. He said he had learned one way to lay a yard and he knew that was right I told him if that was right I never saw one right so ended. I have been to sea over 6 years and never had such language used before.

178

Friday June 10th 1853

Moderated in the afternoon but foggy. Worked off deck after breakfast lowered for a whale which had gone out of sight off the weather gauge while we were eating breakfast but the Captain felt fishy notwithstanding the fog which was so thick that we could not see 1/2 a mile. The boats pulled to the windward and we were felt in with the gentleman a long way out of sight of the ship but we could not track him. Returned after an absence of 2 hours. At Mission lowered for 3rd time. Started 100 lbs oil in the tanks got about 5 on deck. Mr. Wadsworth appears to be very pleasant to me and shows signs of repentance. I thought he would come to himself soon like the prodigal but I fear not to the same extent. I am away for him to send.

Lett Long West

Saturday June 11th

At 2 P.M. the boats returned. The whales went off to the windward and left us. The sun shining bright at intervals. It is regarded as wonderful here as we do not see it hardly once a week. All hands washing clothes. At 4 P.M. lowered for another whale. Reduced him a couple of hours and he left us. Well it was cold and rugged. Returned and took supper and doubled reefed the top sails and came below to sleep glad to get off. This weather makes me think of my comfortable home. I thought while I was in the boat that it was wonderful that there was anything sufficient to induce any one to leave home and to come especially the 2nd time but as it is I think it will never be so with me again if I live to reach home again. About 8 A.M. lowered again for a couple of whales about 1/4 of a mile off our lee beam we got close to them when they settled just out of dart. They did not show themselves again and we returned cold and wet but the 3 harboured boats were sent to the windward for other whales. They chased about 2 hours but with no better success. Returned at 10. For cold and particular enquire of the boats crews. Fog and rain and wind is all we seem to be the prevailing weather here this month so far but we are in hopes of better weather soon. When we first reached the ground we expected such but this month we are looking for better weather but I fear we shall have to look to another country for it. They have better at home no doubt. Well we do not wish to be ingratefull.

Lett Long West