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Monday December 19th 1853

To day we have been favoured with a fresh breeze from the N.W. and pleasant weather steering N.W. for the Gulf of California there to look for sperm whales. Looking for them and catching them is two things. This is still music bills growing large and getting nothing to make them small, but it cannot be helped. Saw a humpback.

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Tuesday December 20th

Wind and weather pleasant and favourable steering by the wind to N.W. At 6 in the morning saw the Island of Socorro bearing W. Saw a plenty of blackfish at the same time for which we lowered after breakfast. T. H. Cushman took the starboard boat in the Captain's place and I went in the Larboard boat in his place. At 10 took three to the ship. The starboard boat claimed one the Larboard boat 1, and the starboard boat one so it will be seen that Mr. H. is making rapid headway toward preparing himself for another voyage and I fear his ambition will be the means of separating that little family at Marshfield too frequently and at long intervals. I am glad my ambition is in another direction. At noon finished flensing the blackfish.

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Wednesday December 21st

We are still blessed with fine weather and a pleasant breeze from the N.W. All hands mincing the blackfish blubber with sheath knives finished at 5 P.M. Three Islanders in sight. Lat 20.39 N.

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Thursday December 22

Continues the same. At 7 in the morning commenced boiling the blackfish blubber. At 10 lowered for more. The Captain went in his own boat and Cushman took the Larboard boat in Mr. Marble's place as that gentleman has lately received a 2nd extract of the Derrera and did not wish to get wet. I steered Mr. Cushman and am glad to say we got one to each boat but did not get them to the ship till 2 o'clock which be in tomorrow's day. Saw a schooner steering in toward the land to the south.

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Laying off and on at Cape St Lucas.

Friday December 23rd 1853

At 4 P.M. the wind being light and a plenty of blackfish we lowered to have a little more fun. I went with Cushman again in the Larboard boat and in a few minutes we had a fish along side and went for another but it was no go. The Captain took one, Mr. Gambert two and Mr. Manchester struck one but the iron came out after the fish died. Took them at the ship at dark 6 o'clock. Worked on them all night and finished mincing at noon. Ends with strong wind and squally. Cape St Lucas in sight steering for it.

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Saturday December 24th

This is the more pleasant. At 1 P.M. saw a bark and a steamer. I then lowered the bow boat and pulled for her in hopes of getting some crew papers but the boat returned in about 3 hours the steamer had been over a going faster than we had supposed. Saw two other ships shortly after. At dark within 4 miles of the tower and spoke the bark who was lying off and on. It proved to be the Baltic of Mr. R. Captain Brook. 2500 tons. Charles Wright had a brother on board he went and had a short gallop. At 6 in the morning took breakfast and the Captain started for the shore with a boat's crew and we started the trywork. The 4th mate went on board of the Baltic again and stayed till 11 when he returned with the Cooper. Tallman a ship mate of the Carpenter, and an acquaintance of mine. A plenty of humpbacks all round. So goes the voyage.

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Christmas

Sunday December 25th

Christmas has passed and perhaps not so pleasantly as at home. We have been too busy for Sunday. A shore boat came off and brought a bag of onions and an order from the Captain for 2 boxes of tobacco but they concluded to stay all night and after breakfast they left us. At 11 P.M. our Captain came with one man short. It seems Mr. Brown privately took his leave while the rest were asleep. It appears he had rather trust himself with the wild beasts on shore than to trust himself with the tame ones on board of the ship. I am sorry he has gone for he was a good fellow. Shape of our course to the south. Captain Brook is to take him if caught and bring him to us in the Gulf of California. It is cooler at home but I hope my poor wife and little ones have enjoyed it.