

Lying at anchor in Prince of Wales Sound
Saturday May 13th 1854.

Calm and cloudy though pleasant. At 5 P.M. the 3rd and 4th boats returned after going as far as they could in that direction having seen a finback and killers but no cow heads. To have been something pleasing from the rest who took another direction. I went a claiming again this afternoon with a boat crew accompanied by one from the other ship and managed to get a bushel to each boat which was considered wonderful as the beach was covered with large stones which we had to pry off with iron poles. The Captains went a fishing and gawing but got no fish but shot an eagle and rook and her nest of two eggs so all we lack for making ice cream is lemon bream and sugar. At night it did in rain and continued through the day so we fear the poor fellows in the boats are not having so good a time as we are. This morning went on board of the Wheaton and spent the day and such living. I never saw at sea as on ship board before. They have one of the best cooks this side of C.B. and I believe he makes the best clam Chowder of any one in the world excepting my wife of course or Anville D. and other things in full proportion and I have enjoyed myself as much as my nature would bear so far from my wife. I wish she could have come and I know she would have been pleased with the victual of out with the society. The fore mast hands went a gawing again today in the rain; it was a voluntary act and they did well.

Sunday May 14th
Commenced the Sabbath very unpleasantly. The weather was not only rainy and windy but there appeared something still more unpleasant. I will say in the first place all hands were called at half past six in the morning to haul up the starboard chain and bend it on to the anchor the wind blowing strong with some rain. This was bad enough but while I was assisting in shackling the chain to the anchor I saw the Captain leaving Burns in the messen rigging I then saw him perseveringly at work flinging him with a piece of rigging. I do not know how many times he struck him but I think about 15 or 20 not more. I inquired to know the cause and learned the following facts - When he relieved the night watch they gave him the orders left them by the Captain but instead of paying attention to them he laid down the orders till the one that gave them to stick them up his ass. So it was an aggravating affair. I am sorry it should have happened and I am sorry the Captain should have been so much annoyed. The 3rd and 4th boats arrived at 8th morning. The 3rd boat had a cow head and the 4th boat had a cow head and a cow head.

Our boat in an evening of yesterday

Back of my first born of years ago

Struck him with a piece of rigging

Monday May 15th 1854

At 4 in the afternoon two more of our boats arrived the 2nd and 3rd boats with nothing favourable having seen nothing but humpbacks and finbacks. They returned much fatigued. Last night about midnight while they were trying to sleep on the beach under their boats the tide raised so high they found themselves all affloat; everything got wet and one man lost his blanket. They then put off and started in a gony gal and a plenty of rain. In the morning they found another place, landed and built a fire cooked their breakfast and dried their clothes and started for the ship where they arrived at the time above stated. We went on board of the W.T. Wheaton after dinner, hove up her anchor and warped her two towlines length ahead clear of rocks which showed themselves at low tide not more than a ship's length from her stern. This was quite a job for Sunday but it was necessary work. The night and forenoon rain and snow but notwithstanding the weather. The W.T. W. 3rd boat and our 4th boat started on another expedition with provisions enough to last a week. The 3rd boat has not been heard from yet. There is now two boats from each ship on their way. The rest of us eat sleep and go a visiting and claiming. I begin to feel rather uneasy not having earned anything since last August.

Tuesday May 16th
This has been a winter day with a continual fall or rain and snow but as cold as it was it could not keep the Captains from a hunting party. It held up a little after dinner and they took provisions and a boat from each ship and started. About 3 hours afterward they sent a boat for a tent and other things such as supper salt, ketchup, etc. for the purpose of staying the night although so extremely disagreeable weather. They immersed themselves in the evening by drinking and singing with a large fire which they kept a going all night. They shot and cooked 3 ducks for their supper so made out very well so far as eating was concerned and tried to make us believe they had a good time but they did not succeed in convincing me. Toward morning the wind increased to a gale from the E. and all hands were called and we got the starboard anchor off the bow about an hour before the boats came. They had to pull against a head wind and I presume by their appearance the rain did not add to the pleasure of the passage. We took breakfast and all hands went below and all of us in the stowage turned in and slept till the clock began to rattle for dinner. We then turned out and served them when they all turned in again but we are now snoring and breathing hard while I record our proceedings. I sleep till 11 P.M.

The 3rd and 4th boats arrived at 8th morning