

532 days

Monday May 29th 1854

To day we have had the pleasure of seeing eight whales twice but as we were troubled with a double reef to repair & a leak to mend we could make but little progress toward them. The first one we conversed for at 4 in the evening but he took a dislike to the proceeding and left us. The others 4 in number we tried after breakfast but it was so rainy and rough the boats could not overtake them so they returned and stood quiet watches till better weather.

533

Tuesday May 30th

Another is sent and it has been rainy and foggy all day so we could do nothing although there was a plenty of whales round us all day. This seems too bad the time is a going and nothing is coming in the season will soon be over and what will be said the Saratoga has not got oil enough to go home with? I am sometimes afraid it may be so but it does seem some good to see them if we cannot get them. The black was thrown over the wheel to day striking the bell several times with his heels as he went over but it did not hurt him as good luck would have it. Thousands of birds in the air.

534

Wednesday May 31st

My Fairing month has passed. Shall I be at home with my little family next May? I hope so but dare not say so. I have read my letters again to day and it makes me feel as though I could not be kept away from them another season. We lowered for 2 whales this morning at 7 o'clock and the vessel went within striking distance and Pierce got an iron in but drew a minute after. They thrashed till 9 and came on board. The Capt. asked Pierce why he did not get the other iron in and at the same time flew at him with his fists and then knocked his head against the rail in a frightful manner and told him to straighten his iron telling him to pierce another whale if he thought it best or any body else. This is heart sickening but we must stick it. We saw other whales but they were going too fast. We saw a plenty in the afternoon but it was too foggy. Last season at this time we had about 500 bbls on board now the have not made a beginning to get whales but have commenced fighting the world may when will brotherly love commence. I don't want to know.

More fighting!

Lowered once

535

Thursday June 1st 1854

Before we start the "very month of June" I can seem to see my little trees in their beauty and feel pleased that nature is still faithful whether I am present or absent and how blessed is the thought that not only my trees are clothed in beauty but my little family prosperous and happy. The same watch, the same sustains them and in this season all things are safe.

Well here am I toiling for them still but as yet rather unsuccessful but not discouraged. The day has been pleasant but nothing in sight but fimbarks. The watch repaired the fly while I make little presents for the Ladies at home which shall I do them?

Friday June 2nd

More luck. At 8 in the forenoon lowered for whale and the vessel went within striking distance but they both came out after taking out half the line although Mr. Bell said they were put back to the hitches. We then hoisted up the vessel but the others chasing other whales. The Captain blamed Pierce and told him not to go in the boat again till he was told to. While they were getting their line and iron ready the boat struck another and the whale struck the boat and capsized leaving a small hole in the side. The crew was picked up by the other boats and all returned to the ship at 12. The steven boat crew nearly killed through. So it is a plenty of whales but we cannot catch one. A ship close too a chasing whales.

Saturday June 3rd

The wind continued to increase and the sea continued to rise till it was rather risky whaling. At 4 P.M. the ship ran down and shook us it proved to be the Emerald Capt. Jagger of a Fair Harbor 33 months out. Had taken 3500 bbls but had sent the most of it home. Captain Jagger came on board and stayed till 8 in the evening. They had taken 4 whales this season and lost one man killed by a whale and a boat badly hurt so after all we are better off than they are - we have taken no oil and lost no men.

Our turn will come soon perhaps. There was a plenty of whales all round all the forenoon but it was once thought too rough to lower. Lowered for one white Capt. Jagger was on board but we could not catch him. He ended round N.E. Clear and cold.