

545
Trying to catch a few whales off Kodiak

545 days out

Monday June 11th 1854

We have been busy sailing to day and lowered twice for whales. The last time lowered two boats at 4 in the evening and took the gear with a view of shooting the whale in the small ones got encumbered enough to do so but the powder had run out of the gun so that it was not enough to carry the lance 4 fathoms from the boat. The boats returned at 9. We have done as little work today as the Captain thinks necessary under present circumstances.

Weather very pleasant and nearly calm. Go on another day

546. Monday June 12th

The wind changed to the S.E. and gradually increased to a strong whole sail breeze. Early in the morning saw a plenty of whales. Took breakfast and lowered. The Larboard boat struck and killed him the first lance before another boat could get to him.

The Larboard struck another shortly after and set him to spouting blood but he behaved so bad and ran directly from the other one (Mr. Laker). The Captain thought best to cut. He is probably dead before this time. Took the whale to the ship at noon but it was after one before we got the flock chain on as the flock ran off that we are for taking them to the parties before we got the chain on so we were obliged to make several tracks before we could catch him. I feel disappointed for I had figured for 2 whales.

Tuesday June 13

547 After dinner commenced cutting. We had scarcely been at it more than a half an hour when we parted gear to cutting and parted. Took a knot in it but soon parted it the second time, then it was thought best to bend a new one. We then hove away and parted the other knot that and made it answer. Took one lip and the throat and got it up till better location as it was rather rough and rainy. Started the tryworks in the rain but it cleared off before morning so after breakfast commenced cutting again and finished at noon and started the tryworks again.

Wednesday June 14th

548 Wind S.E. and a little inclined to be squally. Broke out the Larboard side of the forepeak and commenced stowing stowing oil. Very busy sailing, scraping, &c. Saw several whales but they were driven off too fast for us. Let rather over 50 or 60.

Thursday June 15th 1854

549 At 6 P.M. finished stowing a quantity of 115 bbls. when it set in raining and blowy double reefed the topsails. I had the accounts of all night in this weather and must forget those who have shot on deck and boiled in the wind and cold rain. Toward morning the wind changed to the Westward and cleared off which made more agreeable. One watch boiling, the other asleep.

Friday June 16th

550 Fair weather. Employed in sailing. After breakfast lowered the Larboard boat for a whale but without success. At 11 lowered the Larboard and Larboard boats for a long whale and the Larboard boat struck. The Captain lowered and went to his assistance. The whale behaved very saucy with his tail but they soon sickened him. Commenced breaking out the after hold for stowing oil and to today our great astonishment we found two casks entirely empty and five others partly leaked out. There were new western casks and we felt sure they would take our hard earned oil. The Larboard home safe but the fire must have been the cause of the leakage. The Captain gave Burns a very severe flogging for being caught in the fore-castle while the rest was at work. He said he went for his flock. Cans with the

551 The night got stove bad. Broke. Saturday June 17
gunguole stant and lower top streaks

At 3 in the afternoon lowered the whale to the ship and took dinner; hauled on and finished cutting at 9 in the evening. This seems to be the time for us to finish. We are always a little behind the times.

552 The night and forenoon rather rugged. All hands busy some boiling some scraping some and others breaking out the after hold and stowing oil and one Mr. H. Chappell fitting casks as fast as his nature will bear. Saw more whales but found it not time to take them.

Sunday June 18th

553 The day has been the busiest day since we left home and in evening I have had time to think it was Sunday and had not time to think of my friends but now I have retired for a few hours rest. My mind wanders far away to my dear ones and my heart swells with gratitude to Him who has protected me to the present time. We have spent this day I prize so much in sailing, stowing oil in the after hold and setting up stacks which has kept me particularly busy. Saw a plenty of whales but too large to lower.