Washed off

Sunday July 23rd 1854.

There three meetings have passed that I could not attend. Oh how I then let rejoice to I could be with my brethren and sisters and join with them in praising the Lord for his goodness but in a body I cannot but by God's grace I hope to meetings and the ordinances of his people. But still I have great cause to rejoice for his grace which has supported me to this time and the prospect that still attends the faithful. It has rained nearly all day but I have been very busy engaged in reading the History of the Reformation having finished the 3rd Volume and I feel to bless that I am so weak when I have anything to encourage me and the good men of the 16th century so strong with so many enemies to oppose them. Lord help the weakness of thy poor servant in prayer.

589 Monday July 24th

At 3½ in the afternoon lowered the Larboard boat for a school of whales which was about 3 miles to the windward. The wind very light. We all waited anxiously for the report. She returned at 5 having made up their minds it was a sulphur bottom and they supposed it had been dead 2 or 3 months as the blubber was putrid. There was no marks of violence on the body so the cause of his death is unknown. He may have died of old age. Latter part a strong breeze from the S.S.W. with some rain. Stood in within 3 miles of the S.E. point of Rayes Island and then hove her on the off shore tack. The fastrope of the M. sail parted and split the sail half way up to the yard. Repaired it on the yard and set it again. 3 hours after the foot rope of the Mizzen topgallant sail parted and split the sail in the same way; did not repair it. Soon after the M. topgallant sail gave out altogether. Sent it down and bent another. The fish has a hole in it large enough to crawl through. Overhauled and running rigging are both very bare. Now have main topgallant halyards. So ends.

590 Tuesday July 25th

Very pleasant again. Not cold in the night. This is a strange way as we have nothing to do strength the day. The Captain sent us a good large slice of nice fruit cake and soon after presented me with a fat stock and dix a seaman and a counter sink. She is remarkably clever lately. Got a boat [illegible]

To near the Shore to Lift!

Wednesday July 26th 1854

590 This has been a very pleasant day and the wind has been fair part of the day but it has been the right to the pumps to good. Steering W.S.W. for Rose Island. Rayes Island in sight bearing a little to the W. of us. These are very little times nothing to do for the comfort of the crew. Commenced making a hoop for the main tiers. All hands a mending which I unlucky to make. Saw a few small fin backs. Wind all to day.

Thursday July 27th

591 Another warm and pleasant day. No fresh and there has been nothing done of importance. Saw plenty of grampuses puffing pigs and killers. Rayes Island in sight to the S. of us and no wind to get clear from it. Wind shifting.

Friday July 28th

592 Warm and pleasant still with a light air from the S.E. Tacked within a mile of a cascade. Gave Rayes, Rose and Montague Islands also a plenty of killers puffing pigs and seals and a few birds and a large shark, it was not a large.

Saturday July 29th

593 At 3 P.M. dared a sail off the weather bow. The sight of a sail caused great excitement here for we are very anxious to see the W.T. Wheaton so all hands had to go to the mast head to see for themselves. Myself and the Captain with the rest, we went up after supper and stayed till 8 in the evening but after all I could not see her. The Captain could hardly see her with the spyglass and the night spread her curtain of darkness which totally obscured the distant object of our anxiety. We tried hard to see her again at daylight but could not make it out. Wind very calm. Got bottom at 30 fathoms. Within 6 miles of Montague Isl.

Sunday July 30th

594 The weather continues calm. At 7 in the evening found ourselves within 2 miles of the land and a constant setting us still nearer so all hands were called and commenced towing her off shore. Towed till midnight when we had to get the anchor off the bow and drop it in 24 fathoms of water about a quarter of a mile from a perpendicular shore. At 2 took breakfast and our anchor the descent of birds and roar of the surf and a fair tide and a light head wind and put the boats ahead and towed till noon and was all night in drifting in 20 fathoms water 3 miles from the shore. So ends the last Sabbath of this Spring and a pleasant