

On Whale Ground

Saturday April 27th 1855

The thermometer stands at 42° F. During the night had a small quantity of hail the wind blowing strong from the N.W. steering by the wind to the Westward. The boys complain of the cold but it does not get into my shoes yet. Today I have made a saw and a chalk line near on a new place. Schoffels protest. Fanning about 250 per day on an average getting a few tools ready for home. Lat 53° 1' 33" N.

Sunday April 28th

We have seen the close of the last darkness in April. This time away which reminds me of the possibility of improving it as it passed. The boys will be over in about eleven months and the voyage of life may be over before that with some of us. We have had a few light squalls of snow and hail with a plenty of wind and dark water all day. Have taken in the foretopail twice and set it again. The weather is tedious but we have a plenty of provisions in the cellar and are blessed with good health and appetite. Thermometer stands at 42°. Lat 53° 2' 44" N.

Monday April 29th

We are in about the right place for whales but as yet there is nothing of the kind in sight. I don't know but it is just as well for if the good ocean was full of them the weather is too tedious for fishing. The weather is cold and we have had frequent squalls of snow and the boys have enjoyed themselves by way of snowballing each other. The Captain is very good natured lately and we all get along first rate. I keep to work below while the rest do nothing but take care of the ship and that is not much work now as the wind is short and being enough to take care of herself with a very little assistance. Lat 54° and a little more.

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Tuesday May 1st 1855

My day has begun with a fine morning. The night was dark but it has been over so warm and should have been a pretty flower or daisy the promise of a bird in a green shed of grass but I am glad it is not so still though I may be mistaken. The dwelling is old and pretty green. The garden shows the promise of spring and the birds are here. I have imagined that many pretty girls have passed in the bushes on their way after flowers to them. My baskets and I am glad that they call them and to take the sweetness of the morning air. I hope my family have enjoyed its healthy fragrance too.

Wednesday May 2nd

Cold and disagreeable. Windy with rain. Steering N.W. W. Land. The passengers and my friends are expecting to see something better soon. Waiting patiently.

Thursday May 3rd

The whales have at last been seen and they are plentiful. We were diving in sight but it was dark and a double kept to feed. Because so we could only grow slightly fat by looking but we expect to be greasy fat before long. We kept a raising them through the day and it is in the afternoon it is directed so we tried them for 2 hours but they were rather shy for now. We must try again the first chance. There will be some I suppose.

Friday May 4th

To day we have seen 8 or 10 scattering whales and 2000. and chased them for 10 miles in the forenoon but they are looking out for enemies and have suspected us to be of that class. We do not let our sight be enough to put in a day with the whale. I am a little bit of the whale. But it is in the direction of the whale. We did not take any advantage though we were close to the whale. The weather has been fair but the wind is now cold from the frozen regions of the north. We are looking out for night.