Chasing a few Gray Heads

872 Saturday May 5th 1858

We have seen two grand rollers for a chance to-day but they would not give us a chance to inquire them unless chasing them of the ground may prove so. Lowered 3rd time. Lowered immediately after breakfast for two and very near but they only spout 3 or 4 times. Returned at 8. In the afternoon lowered and pulled 3 miles to the windward the wind being very light. Chased 3 hours and returned without satisfaction. Finished an ivory case for letter paper for the Captain's lady.

873. Tuesday May 6th

Another rainy day. Death is nearly over. A plenty of whales in sight but too thick to lower. I do not grieve any about it for I had a little rather keep the death thick to catch whales though it is thought hard by nearly all whalemen to do so. But the good Book says "in it ye shall do no work" and I believe that to be right and try to go by it.

874 Monday May 17th

Has been foggy and nearly calm all the day. All have been idle but me and I have turned a dozen knobs for drawers. Part for the Capt and the rest for myself. I think I shall need more drawers I intend to put in the closet. Some think it is counting chickens before they are hatched but I believe it will come to pass. The Capt is very cleaver and has been since we left the Islands so of course every thing goes smooth.

875 Tuesday May 18th

Whales in sight in the morning and wind light with fog. Lowered 1st time. The Capt took the waist boat and the 2nd mate to steer him and started after thinking he might cheat the fellow but he found his mistake in less than a half an hour. The whale went off and the Capt returned. The boys have been sent up all the masts and they could get no nearer than two days. Returned at 10 A.M. Saw several whales in the afternoon but they were going too quick. It is now night and we have taken in all sail but a double reef the topsails [illegible]

876 Wednesday May 19th 1858

The most of the day has been thick and rainy and met with a young gale from the E. Towards night it was thickened up by a Westerly wind and we saw the Island of Celebes (Bearing E by S in the evening) Wind W. Eleven years ago today I had married little Wife for the first time in my life. Lowered to see her round Terminate 6 Sperm Whales one for Myself and Master for Mr Crosby. I think I shall get a chest full if we do not fall in with the Ship Columbus of New Bedford speaking. The Capt paid a visit leaving parts in work alone. The boys have been so afraid to touch the Cross and provision the gang and [illegible] they are having a jolly time. So I will take in and render an bill the writing till the end of day if they choose. Mr Cross not much better.

877 Thursday May 20th

We have seen one right whale today but did not lower for him as he was gotten by the Ship having got too near him before we were aware of it. We are sorry for that as it has been a good day for whaling. I manage to keep busy at some job sometimes turning knobs for Mr Price's locks and sometimes letter stamps and fitting spring to [illegible] &c &c. Mr Cross off duty having spit a great quantity of blood today. Gave a ship.

878. Friday May 21st

Another gale from the E with rain lying to under short sail. It makes it easy for the sailors as they have nothing to do (after taking in sail) and stand greater weather. I still keep to low dirk by burning my ship. Made a small screw-driver today with other jobs but I am about ready to lay by such work and take care of oil. It will pay better. Mr Cross recover blood still but I believe a little thin yesterday. Valued at 45 Dirk

879. Saturday May 22nd

Thick weather with drizzly rain the most of the time. The Capt had just got to turning his [illegible] in the thick Columbus of [illegible] speaking. The Capt paid a visit leaving parts to work alone. The boys have been so afraid to touch the Cross and provision the gang and [illegible] the Cross recover and provision the gang and [illegible] they are having a jolly time. So I will take in and render an bill the writing till the end of day if they choose. Mr Cross not much better.