Off Kodiak Looking for Whales!

890 Lat [illegible] Wednesday May 23rd 1855

My little Daughters sixth birth day has passed I have thought much of the little blessing today and would give much to see her but have got to wait a long time yet The day has been calm and pleasant Have seen nothing but California greys and finbacks The Capt and myself have been busy all day making jagging knives I am right glad to see him so deeply engaged The 2d Mate making tooth-picks So ends

Lat 56.. 18 N.

891 Thursday May 24th

Another pleasant day has gone and no whales have been seen Thus the season passes away and we are getting very poor pay We still continue at the old stand making fancy articles we are doubly encouraged because we think how pleased the pretty ones will be to have them when we get home

Lat 55.. 28 N.

892 Friday May 25th

To-day we have had a light baffling wind sometimes ahead and sometime astern with light showers of rain Course E. The Capt put a stop to all Scrimshanting excepting that done by the Venerable Wm H. Chappell who can be found at the old stand ready to wait on his numerous customers Small favors thankfully received The Capt has given it up too because all the rest thought they had a perfect licence to scrimshaw when he did

Lat 54.. 42 N.

893 Saturday May 26th

The week has passed and we have done nothing toward filling the ship so we are no nearer home I think if our friends saw how poor we feel and how discouraged they would pity us a little We shall keep trying till the end of the season then we shall try to get home We have had a pretty fresh gale of wind from the W. Driving the ship 9 P. under whole topsails

Lat 52.. 57 N.

894 Sunday May 27th 1855

We can truly say we have had a pleasant Sabbath here to-day as the elements are concerned and I think I might go a step further and say there has been nothing unusual to mar its beauty are prevent any from enjoying it spiritually as well as temporally I believe many think of the happy meetings at home but have not heard the pleasant sounding bells or see the people obey its invitation but no doubt such things have taken place They are all asleep now so I will turn in and read a little and dream of home

895 Monday May 28th

The 28th day has been a very disagreeable one in consequence of a steady cold rain with a gale from the E. Steering to the Northward under double reefed topsails At daylight saw a (cat had [illegible] blot!) Devil to the windward and as we are [illegible] to see a ship to enquire about whales we luffed to her but she paid not attention to us. Some supposed it was a merchant ship and others think she was a man of war. Lat on the Plates yet no Obs.

896 Tuesday May 29th

The gale continued from the ENE but less rain At daylight saw a school whales [illegible] and as soon as the news reached the Capts ears he ordered the fore and main topsails to be taken in with the foresail and by the time that little old job was over we saw a whale we luffed to immediately Have seen whales twice since but we have got to wait ill better weather

Lat 53.. 59 N.

897 Wednesday May 30th

It is now about 2 O'clock at night and I have just returned from the ship Illinois having spent the much of the night on board. Took an extra supper with Capt Covil an old acquaintance of mine She is 20 days out with about 1 hundred bbls sperm. The ship Good in sight a neighbor with [illegible] a whale about noon but we did not see it [illegible] and lost sight of it [illegible] Saw a piece of it at 5 just before we speak the ship