

King-fisher, they keeping off for Mongomui, and we bound to the Eastward. Long. 178.056. Lat. 11.00

Dec. 30th - Very light airs. Clear weather. At daylight we saw a stranger hull up off our weather bow. Exchanged signals with her at 9 o'clock. She showed a

with D.W. m.t. - probably the Daniel Webster, of Chambracket. Dec. 31st - Calm, and light airs. The D.W. went out of sight to leeward this forenoon. Heading E.S.E. Sunset, light breeze. Lat. 11.00 E.

1855.

Jan. 1st - Cloudy, with rain. Strong breeze. Heading N. by W.

The two years that have passed since we left the States has seemed to me to be equal to an ordinary life-time. But to look forward and know that still another year, and more, is before us, to be passed in the same monotonous way, it is enough to give a poor devil like me, who has seen some of the ups and downs of this world, a mortal antipathy to whaling generally, if not to the sea particularly. It is my humble opinion that any one who can obtain an honest livelihood ashore, should not seek to better his condition by becoming a sailor, for in nine cases in ten he will fail. Whatever they may say to the contrary the life of a seaman before the mast is a dog's life, and on my part I have seen no officers whose station I envied, although some of them think as much of their billet, as if they were Lord High Admiral.

At 10 o'clock it was blowing a gale. Lay to under a close-reefed main topsail and fore topmast staysail. 3 P.M. wore round on the larboard tack. 4 P.M. set main staysail. Blowing very hard; heavy sea on. Heading S.E.

Jan. 2d - Gale abated. Wore ship. Very heavy swell, and cloudy. Strong breeze. 9 o'clock set fore topsail. Squared the yards, course N.E. by N. Lat. 32.300. 1 A.M. N.E. Furlled fore topsail at sunset. Broke out box of tobacco. Sunset, furlled fore topsail. Long. 178.546.

Jan. 3d - Fresh breeze. Course N.E. by N. Made all sail. Set new dead lights into the fore-castle deck. Put main staysail below. Lat. 30.38 E, long. 179.41 W. Our 2d mate finished making a log to-day, and