

Dec. 31st - Calm at daybreak. Thick fog. Wet hold after breakfast. Dawn, light breeze from the S. W. The unusual amount of bad weather we have had this season has set nearly all hands to "scrim-shoring" which was carried in so extensively last season on Japan. The teeth of the last whale we took has furnished plenty of material, and the young ladies at home will have a large supply of jugging knives to mark their pies &c, while we shall probably have the satisfaction of eating some of them.

At 4 P.M. the wind hauled to the S. & E. It rained furiously nearly all night. We furled everything but a close-reefed main topsail & fore topmast staysail. I had the middle watch on deck from 10 till 2, and with my watch-mates ushered out the old year and the new one in amidst a doleful howling of the elements. Just as the man at the wheel sang out "eight bells" while we were grouped together in the mist, we received a New Year's present in the shape of a tremendous sea that hurled us to windward drenching us to the

skin &c &c.

Three years out with 1100 barrels

1856.

Jan. 1st - Cloudy & rainy. Strong breeze from S. E. &c &c.

Jan. 2d - Fine. Strong breeze from E. Close-hauled, heading S. by E. Lat. 32. 37 S. Long. 165. 05 E.

Jan. 3d - Fine. Strong breeze from the Eastward. Close-hauled, heading S. E. Bound to the "Three Kings." Sunrise, saw a barque 12 miles off the weather beam, close-hauled with her starboard tacks aboard. 10 A.M. tacked heading S. E. by E. Passed the stranger at 11

A.M. He showed English colors. Lat. 33. 26 S. Long. 165. 46 E.

Jan. 4th - Fine. Fresh breeze. 1 A.M. passed a stranger about a mile off could not make him out. Sunrise, fresh breeze. S. by E. Saw the stranger astern on the other tack. Tacked, heading S. by E.