

so had the mouth of all day on deck.  
 Le bon temps vien dra, doucement, tres  
 doucement ceit arai mais certainement"

This digression was rendered necessary in order that the reader of this nondescript log or journal might show cause as the lawyers say for delaying his entries herein for so many days. If the reader will pardon the omission he will strive to do better in future.

~~On Monday~~ Our first "raise" was made on a fine Sabbath afternoon about a week after sailing when "blackfish" were "sung out" from the mast head. I think I am not ~~totally~~ incorrect in calling this fish a miniature edition of the sperm whale. The latter had been often described. The usual length of the blackfish is 15 to 20 feet and they average yield about 2 barrels. The oil is about the value of ~~20~~ <sup>not</sup> ~~10~~. They are <sup>not</sup> unlike the whale in their manner of swimming when pursued and are I think rather more shy about being approached by a boat.

In a calm sea such as we had on this Sunday it is very

difficult to take them and our boats after some hours of hard rowing were entirely unsuccessful.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 1856

In consequence of the causes above mentioned it will be necessary to give but a very brief account of the events principal events that have taken place up to this date.

We are 54 days out from New Bedford. ~~today~~.

about a week ago blackfish were seen and a small one was killed, brought on board and converted into oil.

He was a "calf" about 15 feet long and of the girth of a half pipe wine measure. The yield of oil was but about half a barrel. Half a loaf to.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September as I think I have mentioned sperm whales were seen close to the ship and pursued without success.

There was a high sea running at the time and though all on board were greatly mortified at our want of luck yet perhaps had a whale been taken, it would have been nearly impossible to have cut him in.

Had the whales been seen half an hour earlier it is possible one might