

an hour which was time enough to allow the Captain to pull ~~all~~ with our letters which he delivered to one of the Custom House boats thus saving a charge of \$12 which for late harborage fee. We were soon again on our course with a fair breeze.

Friday 10th October 1856

Nothing else of great importance up to this date. We have spoken several outward bound whales and a number of merchantmen but none homeward bound and no ships who brought with them from the States.

This is our 55th day out: we are bowling along with on the larboard tack heading West by North and steering full and by the wind or full & by. We are probably very near the line — It has been should have crossed it before but for light and baffling winds.

How often have my eye glanced over the Equator on the map!

One year ago if my present situation had been described by anyone as what was to be my lot in a single twelve months I should have smiled with perfect incredulity.

At that time I had just begun to recover from the sense of loneliness I felt when I climbed down the side of the ~~Illinois~~ Steamship Illinois sprang into the Pilot's boat and watched the great hull

of the steamer as it bore from me all those most dear to my heart. Then my attention was turned to the Law - Bruce - Delay all that.

Sunday 12th Oct 1856

Fair breeze: running about 6 or 7 knots. Heading about

Since leaving New Bedford we have had almost unbroken continual warm weather and today it is exceedingly pleasant though with a breeze which is somewhat destructive to straw hats in case they do not fit tight on the head.

About 4 or 5 weeks ago the whale ship Wm & Eliza hove in sight. They sailed from N. Bedford about a month before ourselves. When she came up with us she reported having taken two whales. It was on Sunday afternoon that she first spoke, as a boat's crew came aboard of us and had a good

There were two or three among them whom I had boarded with in New Bedford. It was exceedingly pleasant to see a face which I had known even for a week. Some one said that the ~~Wm & Eliza~~ were to keep company for the cruise but how true the report was