

Tuesday 28 Oct 1856 (4 PM)

About midnight on Sunday the 26th a tremendous violent Gale set in from NE accompanied by rain and the storm has continued up to the present hour, though since this morning the force of the sea ~~has~~ ^{is} slightly abated - Under ~~or~~ ^{on} her close reefed maintopsail & foresail the bark stands ~~up~~ ^{before} it however but the night watches are pretty severe on the greenhands. When I turned out at 11 P.M. yesterday it was my turn to relieve the wheel and soon as I reached the deck I started aft for my host. The night was ~~at~~ as dark or darker than I ever before experienced, and rain fell in torrents and as you strained your eyes looked over the side all that you could perceive was the great white crest surmounting the pitchy blackness of the ~~sea~~ ^{mighty deep} as the grow appeared a hillside with the ship at their foot and great rollers far below in ~~valleys~~ ^{and} in liquid valleys.

For about four hours
We had but 4 hours out & a tough time it was. Wet & chills to the bone. How glad we hailed the sound of the bells as they proclaimed that it was no the turn of the barboled to take the deck and that we poor drowned wretches might go below strip off ~~our~~ ^{our} wet clothing and in one damp bunk take what poor comfort we might for the space.

of 4 hours. Though ~~we~~ ^{the} sail on our bark is still only confined to topsails & foresail yet we saw a merchant brig bark this morning going on carrying ~~logs~~ ^{logs}! This is the difference between merchantmen & whalers.

Our friends of the Necla were separated from us by this spell of weather and it is doubtful when we shall see them again.

Friday 7th Nov 1856.

In a week from tomorrow we shall have been out 3 months from N.R.

We have not lowered for fish since my last date - I suppose we are within 5 or 6 degrees of the latitude of the vicinity of La Plata - Off the water & night ~~ground~~ ^{vicinity} of the mouth of this river is considered the best sperm whaling ground in the Atlantic Ocean and our bark will probably cruise hereabouts for a month then we shall be off for the Horn.

To day the weather is very fine but in the beginning of the week we had a gale ~~from the southward~~ ^{with rain}. The seas were very high, higher I think than the ones we encountered in the Gulfstream.

It seems strange to speak of cold winds