Monday 24 Nov 1856

Yesterday and last night gale and heavy sea which has somewhat moderated at this 12 m. though she still rolls a good deal; one of our ~~bar~~ f-t mst backstays parted on Sunday morning was spliced and set up.

A week ago last Saturday the white Valparaiso Cove in sight and we gammed. We kept near in all the week and on last Saturday the two barks again exchanged visits. It was my first watch below and ~~thus~~ some good fun we had. 3 of the Vs crew who came aboard were really fine appearing fellows & entertained us with ~~some~~ well spun yarns.

We had also some very good singing from one of the Vs men.

About 9 oc they went aboard their vessel and our fellows returned —

It was a dark night and a rough sea on but the passage between the two ships was made with great rapidity & safety.

The crew of a whaler soon become quite skillful in ~~the operation of~~ lowering & hoisting boats, one of the most which always requires care and is sometimes unpleasant as well as difficult.

~~Drunk is a diabolical one and from the ... many of those humiliating frightful stories with which usual papers are filled.~~

Yesterday Sunday our Capt hoisted & lowered the flag of the ensign thrice as signal to the V of his departure for Cut Hf° which is not far from that Cape Horn of which we hear so much.

Tuesday 25 Nov 1856

Last night was one to be remembered. At dark the barometer pointed to "very stormy" and it told a true tale.

Before sending the watch below our captain ordered the ~~[illegible]~~ pumps to be emptied; this was soon done as our bark is as tight a vessel as almost any whaler you can find — the bright lashing net sail taken in but a reef in foresail, foretopsail & mizzen; a bright light placed in the rigging; and took other precautions: the hatches were battened down on Sunday the 23rd. The Starboleens had their watch below from 7 to 11 PM: the coverings of the forecastle hatchways just as we seemed to be buried in a hollow of water. At about 1/2 as we supposed we were roused by the noise overhead and soon after by the shout of "All hands on deck!". ~~which we obeyed and~~

We were soon up and in the midst of one of those scenes of confusion which arise when a staunch ship is exposed to the utmost fury of the elements. The watch on deck were furling the foretopsail, the foresail was already taken in.