Sunday 21st Decr 1856

Steering full and by ~~with a fair breeze~~ — The atmosphere today at noon is pleasant but the mornings and evenings are very chilly ~~and~~ though we have seen no ice or snow as yet.

~~The latitude of the~~ We are very near the Falkland Islands and ~~the~~ are now heading about SW. in order to pass between the Falklands and the mainland.

Have ~~so~~ seen no ~~to~~ Sperm or Right whs. since last date.

Last Sunday 15th inst gammed whaleship Mary Frazer of N. B. — They have been out since 30th Sept last: took two bkfish no whales; lost bowboat in a gale off Rio Plata — The M. F. is bound to the Ochotsk Sea.

Friday 19th inst Bark Valparaiso Capt Gilton ~~Gifford~~ ~~hove in sight~~ was seen bearing down at daybreak: she passed round our stern and ~~went off to windward within a few miles~~ kept company till afternoon when we gammed —

We had been in company with this ship for a week off the Rio Plata — ~~and had~~ They had lost ~~two~~ boats and part of their ~~quarter~~ bulwarks in a gale but to counterbalance this illfluck had killed a large sperm whale.

Not being able to finish cutting in before dark, the whale's head ~~could not be~~ was made fast ~~to~~ the bows, but ~~it~~ the weather came on to

~~tackle-fastening~~ it was unfortunately lost blow and ~~they had the misfortune to lose~~ it — ~~Quick work~~ However they obtained 50 bbls oil if the head had been saved the yield would have been ~~near~~ 100 —

The V's people were in excellent spirits — She left us at dark steering SW by W ~~nearly west~~ while we were going SW. — Yesterday about 5 A.M. while the sky was ~~quite~~ clear and the sun shining brightly a ~~sq~~ violent gale came very suddenly upon us from the SW. — All hands were called and all sail but close reefed topsls & spencer taken in as soon as practicable — It was reported that the Capt'n saw land just about sunrise and supposed it to be the Falkl Islds. but I doubt the truth of the report.

~~The have not seen~~ The Valparaiso ~~was~~ ~~The gale continues~~ seen to commence reefing her topsails before we felt the gale — Since then we have not seen her —

Monday 22nd Decr 1856

Last evening a penguin or "wangin" was shot off deck by our cabin boy.

I have read of the stupidity of the penguin ~~the penguin~~ and this one gave ~~good~~ proof of more stupidity than I think I ever saw before in any living thing — He was shot at twice ~~the~~ when a little distance from the ship and as soon as the gun was loaded the third time he swam directly up to within a yard ~~two feet~~ of the vessel and the charge striking the water close to his back