

met his death like a hero - No duellist
ever faced a muzzle with more coolness.

We have fine weather & head SSW. -
One of the pigs which we took aboard at the ~~W. S. S.~~
was slaughtered today: ~~we anticipated a taste of fresh~~
~~meat at this~~



Wednesday 24 Dec 1856
Steering SSW - mild weather
Fin back whales seen round the ship in great
plenty -

Stand by for Cape Horn

Thursday Christmas 25th Dec 1856

Weather rather damp and chilly. Steering SSW and
making good time - with all sail set.

In the afternoon a number of fin back whales
seen. Our first mate lowered his boat and tried to get
a shot ~~with~~ at them with the bomb lance; but the
fish were too cunning to let him get near
them. We saw two seals at a long distance.

Friday 26th Dec 1856 49
the Staten Land is plain sight ^{about} 20 miles to
the S.W.

This is the first land seen since leaving
the port of Valparaiso in September last - The
view today is delightful considering ~~where~~
~~we are~~ the latitude. The tract of country
called Staten Land ~~appears~~ presents the aspect
of being very rugged and mountainous.

Patches of snow still remain on the ~~far~~ sides
and summits of the mountains - ~~lower~~
~~down towards~~ the coast appears of a dingy
green hue.

A ~~small~~ small bird flew into the rigging
today and after resting a moment started again
for shore - It ~~it~~ looked like the snow birds of U.S.

In a day or two more we hope to be in
the Pacific if we are favored with a fair breeze -
Since leaving the Rio Plata ~~our~~
the days have lengthened very fast until
at present we have but about 3 to 4 hrs
of darkness - In perfectly clear weather there
seems almost no night at all.

Right glad am I for one that ~~the weather~~
~~is mild~~ it is the season of summer
and that it is ~~darkness~~ and not daylight
the days are long and not the nights.

Staten Land from S.W.

