

Bark Pacific Dec. 4th 1875 No 18
Messrs. Swift & Perry
New Bedford.

Gentlemen

I wrote you from Teneriffe on the 10th ult. advising you of drawing on you at that place on 10 days a Bill of \$345.40 in favor of Mr. H. Dalney.

The money was mostly to settle with a boatsteerer since discharged at Brava, shipped there a year ago. I have shipped at that place two more boatsteerers advanced them each about \$30.

The one I shipped a year ago was a good man, and I tried to keep him, but at Fayal he had a letter from his wife that she had been and still was then very sick, and wished for him to come home. So at Teneriffe I made arrangements for settling with him. He was shipped for only one year. Still I had hopes of keeping him, but on arriving at Brava, he was discharged.

On my way down off the Cape de Verde I fell in with whales and had one missed. The chance was a good one, and the weather fine, and had the whale been struck the school would undoubtedly have brought to and given us a chance for a good cut.

as the whales were very quiet, and seemed perfectly at home.

The boatsteerer that missed came from Phave in the ship, before the mast, but had been made on the voyage. He is now forward again and have consequently shipped two more at Brava, and I think they are good men - time will tell.

I have been in hopes all the voyage of getting along without drawing on you an amount greater than my remittance, and perhaps I shall now, but settling with a boatsteerer for his share in 600 bbls of oil, and advancing and expenses for two boatsteerers, has called heavily on the balance remaining in your hands.

I intend to remain south until the first of April longer if I find whales, then make the best of my way to the Morris Ground, touching at Dominica for water and Bermuda for potatoes.

My reason for touching at Dominica are economical ones - plenty of good water without expense - no port charges. Water at Fayal cost 12 1/2 per bbl, and we must use our sacks to obtain it.

Then half the time the water is not fit for use. Then moorings at \$40 or \$45 make port charges count up. At St. Michael's the most desirable place of the two we can get good water free of cost, but port charges will about balance and an ordinary water bill & moorings at Fayal.

After leaving the islands in Aug. I worked to the W on the old grounds about the 2/40's and the O.S. ground - saw whales next day after leaving Flores and took one 60 bbls. since then have seen nothing until off the Cape de Verde.

The whales the past season have been farther south than in former years very few having been seen up to mid. of Oct. about the 2/40's, or to the north of that except on the Morris Ground. Ships cruising further south saw the most whales. - Janet 25 times.

Osprey 17 times and so on, but Capt. that stuck to their old grounds north saw little or nothing.

Nothing was seen this year where Capt. Cornell took his oil last year. But he found whales considerable to the south of there.

My steward was taken sick on the M.G. In a short time I was satisfied he was a serious case. On arriving at Fayal I took him to the Doct. who informed me that the steward would be all right in a few days. still thought he should remain on shore for awhile, as the steward did not wish to remain on shore he was supplied with medicines and went out in the ship, for a few days he seemed to be gaining but by the time I had reached within one days sail of the Banker he was much worse and I was satisfied he would never be better on shipboard.

I then started for Flores in order to land him. One week after and when within one days sail of Flores he died.

He was an excellent steward, the best I ever saw on board of a ship. We did all that could be done for him, but without avail.

My present steward was my cabin boy in the Co. M. and he is doing nicely.

I cannot understand how it is the copper on the ships bottoms is so soon worn out. I commenced coming off when only eighteen months out, and now is very ragged so much so, as to materially effect the ship's sailing.

We are feeling very anxious to see whales and catch them, and hope we shall be able to report a good seasons work next spring.