

him on to a 40 bbl whale, square off and on wood & black skin and he missed! Soon after, the same lowering, carried him on to a 20 bbl whale and he missed again! But he is smart & a good man in the boat on on board the ship.

Perhaps you will want to know about Abattoir Reef for a cruising ground. I think favorable of the place. The ground is small and one or two vessels is enough to cruise there. The feed collects there in large quantities, and when whales strike on there they are apt to remain some time. I have never cruised on a ground where I have seen such a large amount of cut squid. I saw whales there but once on the 10th of Jan, and whales were seen but once, by schooner Petrel, after that, I left there Feb. 8th.

The report is current that whales have never been seen there in Feb. But I have but little faith in the report, but with four weeks cruising there this Jan, whales were seen but twice. I saw a number were seen there in Nov. & Dec. The Golden City saw them 12 times since leaving Brunswick. Again,

All large whales, and about every time a good chance, but lines parted, or were lost, or iron drew almost every time, and it is thought by masters of experience that such work has been the means of driving the whales from the ground. The striking of one whale, and allowing him to escape with the lines does more, in making the whales wild and shy and drive them from the ground than killing a dozen under ordinary circumstances.

After leaving Matavilla Reef came up on the Charles ton Ground. There Mr. Allen cruised in the Pacific have seen whales here five times. Three times all large, and twice large and small together. With fair luck should have taken 400 bbl. of oil.

I have seen the whales, but not the chance to take them, saw whales just at night, in a gale and had them missed. I wished to remain longer here, but leave partly on account of Mr. Mearns who is sick! off duty! He has been quailing for several months, but did not give up entirely until about three weeks ago. The complaint of a constant pain in the head, and nothing we can do and we have tried everything, seems to do him

a bit of good. He seems to be wasting away, is very weak and emaciated. He either has some constitutional complaint, or a severe case of the neuralgia. I doubt very much if he is able to prosecute the voyage. I must obtain medical advice at Bermuda for him, and also for a fireman's hand, which fell from the main topsails yard into the blubber room below. This was about the 1st of Feb. We could but wonder that he was not killed by the fall, and our wonderment was increased to find in him not a bone broken, still one arm he has not been able to use, otherwise he is as well as ever. We have done all that we could do for him, but he does not recover the use of his arm.

We left the C. Ground yesterday for Bermuda.

P. S. Bermuda March 23rd 1878

This will be handed to you by Mr. Mearns. He comes home per steamer from here.

Yours &c
G. B. Borden

No 10
Bark Daniel Webster March 23rd 1878
Wm. C. M. Christ Esq.
New Bedford

Dear Sir

Please excuse the brief closing of my last No 9 at Bermuda. I did not think of sending at all from there, but as Mr. Mearns was coming home, thought you would expect to hear from me. Mr. M. went on shore as soon as possible on arrival at Bermuda 21st, too late for the steamer, she sailed that day. Mr. M.'s case was not decided on until I was ready for sea. I consulted with the most eminent Phy. of the Islands, & he informed me, that Mr. M. should go through a regular course of medicine & it would probably be months before he would be strong enough to go through with his regular duties. I thought best, and it was also the request of Mr. M. to send him home, with the understanding of joining the ship again in due season. Mr. Pope is a good officer & whalerman - has taken the largest share of my oil, and the same number of whales as Mr. M. 24 each.