

The first sperm whale we took this voyage rising 100 lbs made the same strong fishy smell in boiling. But the blubber was fat and white and I thought of little of the strong smell. I should like to know if whales whose principle food for a season was fish made different oil from those whose food was squid.

Give me what information you can on this point. Why one cask of our oil should be so much heavier than the rest, is a matter I cannot account for.

I know of no reason why all our oil should not be alike. The two casks that had contained right whale oil and thoroughly drained could not have made any perceptible difference to the weight of oil.

I regret that prices are down so very low but we must keep doing the best we can, get all the oil we can, make our expenses as low and sales as high as possible.

I am in hopes that times will improve, that we may get more oil, and better prices, and able to make both ends meet at the closing of the voyage. It is hard to believe "there is anything in luck" but sometimes matters lean strongly that way. If so, are liable to change any moment. But I believe that a strict attention to business, and a rigid economy are the best guarantees to success.

Should the winds prove favorable I may work down on the Wm Allen Ground again but will endeavor to keep you posted in regard to my movements, and inform you in time for letters to reach me at my next port.

Unless I do well, or see the chance for whales, think I had better go south. Should I remain in the north Atlantic with the view of cruising on Whatenilla Reef or the Charleston Ground, and have say 400 bbls of oil to ship. I think Bermuda is the best place. we can depend on getting freight from St. Georges to N. Y. a 50¢ per bbl. Light dues 8¢ per ton & Pilotage for a vessel of 14 ft. 4 7/8 in & 26 ft. 8 in out. \$13.14, 3rd 165-82 to which add. Light dues 4th per ton on 327 tons a \$26.16 Total \$41.98 which is the bulk of port charges. Should we go to Fayal later we must have moorings, costing from 50 to 75 dollars.

Mr. Dabney gave me moorings last fall and paid expenses in oil. Still it cost me about 40 dollars to get my anchor when I went to sea. From Fayal we

must go somewhere for water. We cannot work to good advantage at Fayal. so we sometimes wait a week to do an hours work in getting off oil.

Mr. Monquard comes home with the understanding that he is to join the ship again in the fall.

But in case he is not well enough to come out Mr. Pope will act as mate. Mr. Pope is a smart capable man & a good man. I am in hopes we shall get some oil even if Mr. M. is not on board. You must not feel discouraged on account of Mr. M's coming home, and come to the conclusion that there is no one on board to catch a whale. Mr. Pope has taken the greater half of my oil. I want Mr. M. to get cured before he comes out. I shall go in my boat as often as the weather will allow, and I think we shall get some oil. Shall try to get all into my nets as soon as possible. The Phy. at St. George told me that Mr. M. had the neuralgia in its worst form, perhaps the newspapers of home had something to do in increasing the neuralgia.

I was surprised on arriving at Bermuda to find there my daughter, Mrs. Wm A. Sumner from St. Louis, came out on account of her health, and as we or I could not remain on shore with her, she came on board with us. to take me cruise and then home. We did not know of her coming.

Should of course consulted you in regard to an arrangement of this kind, were there any means of doing so. I trust you will not feel alarmed as I have no doubt all will go along as smoothly as ever.

I advanced Mr. Monquard \$10 then Bonds sterling his receipt I forward you. He has no bill on board the ship.

I think the weather has been rather rough all through the N. Atlantic the past winter. Old cruisers on Whatenilla Reef say they never had such bad weather there before. Only once did I get three good days together. In general I think a good vessel can cruise on the Wm Allen ground all winter, and unless you know of some better place propose cruising there and Whatenilla Reef next winter. Providing I do not go south, should I remain north propose going to Bermuda in the fall, shall save time and expense by doing so, especially if I end the season on the Banks. but will endeavor