

No 18

Bark Daniel Webster Nov. 3d 1878
W. C. N. Swift Esq
New Bedford

Dear Sir

While lying at Teneriffe obtaining water we saw whales twice, two days in succession. I kept regular must heads while lying there and chased the whales both times. The first time we saw them it was late in the day and the Palmator's boats the P. was underweigh gallied them but Mr. Chaurquand got very close to a large fellow just at sunset, when he went down.

The next day we saw them again, and several vessels had their boats out chasing but it was our chance and Mr. Pope went on a "struck" a 100 bbl. whale and parted line. I could blame no one, my opinion is that the 2d Iron cut the line, as it parted about four fathoms from the iron and two strands had the appearance of being cut. The line was in good order. No rot. I am very particular with my lines. I had I got the whale should have ^{skipped} ~~landed~~ him at Teneriffe, ^{there waiting for a vessel} ~~a vessel lying~~.

We have had light winds since leaving S. on the 30th ult. and our progress is slow.

I presume we have three boats now, not including the Starb. that we can depend on in catching whales and am in hopes we shall do something. So far I like Mr. Ridington very much, another man gotten from Mr. Williams in a boat. He seems to know what a boat is, and it remains to be proved if he knows what a whale is made of.

I intend trying for Pt. whales providing I am in season. If I cannot find them shall look for Spar. off the River on our old ground. Should I do much shall probably be at Montevideo in April or May. Should I not get oil enough to make an object in shipping, go to the Falklands for water and possibly try the North Atlantic another season. Much depends upon the success I meet with.

I shall try to crop all the grounds I can in making my passages, and trust you may ^{get} hear a good report from the Dan. Webster. Rest assured that no stone shall be left unturned in order to make the voyage a successful one, as both my interest and repu-

tation is at stake.

Since Joe. Elson deserted many facts, not to his credit have come to light. He not only deserted himself but enticed a number of others to do the same. He disposed of the greater part of his clothing on the M. G. and I believe he premeditated desertion from the first. In order to hasten the ship into port he preached the doctrine of Sauray among the men, and dead men as officers passed it along. The Steward also done his share of mischief, and if the watch officers did not ^{join in and} encourage it they done nothing to check the proceedings. Mr. Williams & Wyman were the watch officers, Mr. Pope an all day man. Mr. Wyman does not head the watch now as he is altogether too lax. He is a capital man at the masthead and throws a splendid Iron and that is about all, I shall try to keep him for those two qualities.

A new ^{Port} Customs Officer arrived out to Fayal previous to my departure from there and about the first of his official acts was to levy a tax of ten Dollars per ship as a health fee. Masters, myself included, paid this under protest. We could not get a clearance without, and the opinion is prevalent that the amount will be refunded. The prices are fast becoming expensive for whaling although the freight of oil are quite low. The outside expenses at this end of the route are high.

Mr. Chaurquand does not seem at all strong, still I am in hopes he will hold up for the remainder of the voyage.

Mrs. Borden join in kind regards to yourself and family.

Yours Most Truly
J. B. Borden

P.S. Geo. C. Morse & Spencer Thomas who deserted from my ship, at Fayal last fall, subsequently shipped on board the Pt. Reindeer capt. Baker. You will therefore please collect their indebtedness to Pt. Daniel Webster. Their bills on ship board are \$2.50 each, cash, and they have an interest in my last fall's shipment.

Prices of Tobacco are ruling low at the stores, on account of large quantities brought in by ships and the failure of crops for the last two years. I disposed of only about 2000 lbs @ 35¢ & 38¢. The best that could be done.