

parties had been offering for 30¢ tobacco for better than mine. Parties in Flores with whom I contracted last fall for about 500 lbs. receiving pay in advance, but not being able to deliver the tobacco. This fall refused to accept of it, and I was obliged to refund the money. Their excuse was that they needed the money to purchase supplies with. The real fact was that they could buy tobacco at a much lower rate than I had contracted for with them.

Sunday ^{even} Nov 10th

Today we have been chasing all day a large lone sperm whale. We saw him just before daylight, being very irregular I supposed he had seen the ship, but as he did not get regular I came to the conclusion that some body had struck him. The winds were very light and as he was going just about as fast as the ship, did not lower our boats until after 11^{AM}, and then I expected from the whale's actions he would be a bad whale one to strike. In about an hour and a half Mr. Pope got up very near to the whale and darted, but the whale being on the look out saw the boat and threw himself bodily from it, the boatsteerer darting both irons but only just able to prick the whale. The boats continuing the chase until sunset when they gave him up. The boats done all that could be done, and I can blame nobody.

Yours &c

J. B. Borden

No 19

Montevideo Jan. 20th 1879

Mrs W. C. R. Swift

Dear Sir

At the request of Capt. Borden I write you a few lines informing you of his health. We arrived at this place fourteen days ago to procure medical advice for the Capt. who has been sick since the 29th of Nov. He was taken ^{very} sick when near the Equator, and we touched at Pernambuco sent and had a doctor come on board, who thought all danger past, and pronounced him in a fair way of recovery.

We left the same day, 36 hours after leaving without any apparent cause. He was taken worse and grew so sick that he deemed it advisable to put off for this place. But at one time I had no idea he would live to get here. We had very light winds, and a few days before arriving there was a change for the better. And since, he has been slowly recovering and today proposes to go to sea. He is still very weak but I am in hopes he will soon be well.

He at first intended sending the ship out in charge of Mr. Chauguand but finally decided differently as his health is very poor. He also has been under the Doctor's charge ever since we came in, but is also better. During the time the Capt. was sick there was two men sick, and they are not yet fully recovered. We have had many things to discourage him, but the Capt. feels quite hopeful that he shall get a voyage.

We are now bound a right whaling and hope to get a good seasons work. Expect to touch here again previous to July.

Yours truly

J. B. Borden

per Thebe A Borden