

United States of America
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
District of New Bedford

On this nineteenth day of August
in the year of our Lord One thousand eight
hundred and fifty, before me Willard
B. Taylor a Notary Public duly commissioned
and sworn, residing in the City of New
Bedford County and Commonwealth of said
partially appeared John Flanders, master
and Alvin Flanders one of the crew of the
Schooner *Perseus*, a pilot boat employed
of Chilmark, a pilot boat employed
in cruising off Gay Head and Block
Island, and being by me severally examined
and sworn did declare and depose the
several matters hereinafter stated and
set forth, to wit:

That they the said appearers being on
board the Schooner *Perseus* appeared on Friday
the 16th day of August instant, even cruising
S.E. from Block Island, when at about
10 o'clock in the forenoon they descried a
vessel bearing from them about S.W. by S
having the appearance of being disabled or
unmanageable from some cause to them
unknown; that they immediately made
sails and stood toward her and pursued
in bounding her about 20 miles S. from
Block Island. On boarding her they
found her to be the Schooner *Perseus* of
Belfast, laden with coal, and abandoned
by her officers and crew, there being no
person on board. Her sails were all
badly split and torn, so that none of them
could be used or made fit for use without
considerable repairs. There was about four
feet of water in her hold, and one of
the hatches being off, some water was

over the deck found its way into the hold by
that opening. She was also evidently leaky.
On going below they discovered no chests or
trunks of clothing, and no papers relating
to the vessel or her cargo except the shipping
articles, which they perused. After completing
their examination of the vessel, they considered
it expedient to endeavor to get her into
a Port, and taking her in tow of the *Perseus*
two men were put on board the *Perseus*
to pump her out and repair the sails, while
their course was directed toward Annapolis.
But as night came on the wind headed
them off and they were obliged to shape
their course for the Vineyard Sound. Having
pumped the *Perseus* till they had freed
her, they ascertained that she was leaking
below, and they have been obliged to
pump from one hundred to four hundred
strokes of water per hour from that time
until her arrival at this Port. On Saturday
the 17th they obtained two additional men
to assist them, and that night anchored
in the Vineyard Sound. Toward morning
however the weather assumed a threatening
aspect when they took their anchors and
went into Fairhaven Cove, stopping there
all Sunday night, and on Monday
(this) morning about 9 o'clock again
got underway and proceeded in reaching
this Port and coming to anchor at about
5 o'clock P.M.

That they have at great peril to themselves
and their vessel, and with unremitting
labor and watchfulness, succeeded in getting
the said Schooner *Perseus*, into a place
of safety and now seek by this declaration
and protest to place themselves in a
position to procure a suitable reward
for the perils and labor so incurred