

From Hong Kong Toward the Arctic, in May 1851

Saturday May the 11th

Commences with a light air from the N.E. and pleasant weather, the ship standing by the wind to the east, the middle part of brisk breeze from the N.E.W. and cloudy, the ship with all sail set heading N.E. from 6 to 8 AM a thick snow storm, at 10 the weather fair and warm, the mast heads, Lat by Chron 53.57, Long by Chron 163.00

Sunday May the 11th

Commences with a brisk breeze from the N.E.W. with an occasional snow squall, the ship with all sail set by the wind heading N.E. at 1 P.M. saw a Right Whale going quick to the N.W. did not lower the boats the middle part fresh breeze with clear cold weather, at day light 3 AM saw four sail, & saw Bearings Island bearing for Compass N.E. 8 West 45 miles, at 8 AM spoke the ship Gideon Howland of New Bedford & months 400 bbls, the Capt went on board to buy some bars, Ends with a fresh breeze & some cloudy, Lat by Chron 54.36

Monday May the 12th

Commences with a fresh breeze from the N.E.W. & the weather cloudy, the ship with all sail set heading to the N.E. in company with the Gideon Howland the South part of Bearings Island bearing North & Copper Island bearing E.N.E. at 8 P.M. the wind hauled to the N.E. same time tacked to the N.W. at 11 tacked to the East and at 1 AM tacked to the N.W. at 3 AM the wind veered to the N.E.W. and tacked ship heading N.E. at 9 a brisk breeze from the N.W. and kept the ship N.E. by N. the latter part a brisk breeze with cold & cloudy weather, Nothing of the whale kind Lat by Chron 55.40 North Long by Chron 168.10 East

Tuesday May the 13th

Commences with a fresh breeze from the N.W. & cold cloudy weather, the ship with all sail set steering N.E. by N. at 6 P.M. the wind hauled to the North and tacked to the N.E.W. at 1 AM tacked to the E.N.E. and at 8 AM tacked to the N.E.W. the latter part a light breeze from the North and pleasant, saw several fin backs the Gideon Howland in company Lat by Chron 55.54 N. Long by Chron 169.19 East

Wednesday May the 14th 1851

All this 24 hours a brisk breeze from the Northward, with clear cold weather, the ship with all sail set by the wind heading N.W. & W.N.W. saw several fin backs through the day & at 11 AM saw a Right Whale going very quick to the Westward Lat by Chron 56.40 North, Long by Chron 166.09 East

Thursday May the 15th

These twenty four hours commence with a brisk breeze from the North & fair weather the ship with all sail set heading to the W.N.W. the middle part a light breeze & cold & cloudy weather, at 5 AM saw Polar Whales and lowered four boats & struck one to the Starboard boat & at 8.30 took him to the ship, at 9.30 began to cut, the latter part a light breeze from the N.W. and pleasant Lat by Chron 57.00 North Long by Chron 165.30 East

Friday May the 16th

Commences with a light breeze from the N.W. & pleasant weather, Employed cutting at 3 P.M. finished and set sail heading N.E. at 5 P.M. began to boil the middle part a strong breeze from N.E.W. and at 6 AM wore ship to the West the latter part a moderate breeze and pleasant, Lat by Chron 57.14 North Long by Chron 165.10 East

Saturday May the 17th

Commences with a light breeze from the N.E.W. and pleasant, the Watch Employed Boiling at 1 P.M. lowered three boats for a Whale & struck one to the West boat & at 3.30 took him to the ship at 9 began to cut and at 10 P.M. finished, & got supper, the blubber room full & all the Whales body on Deck, at 10.30 began to boil through the Right light breeze & pleasant, the Watch Employed cutting up the blubber and stowing it in the fore hatch way at 10 AM got the Decks clear & Double reefed the top sail & at 12 M wore ship to the W.N.W. Ends with a fresh breeze from the S.W. and cloudy weather Lat by Chron 57.00 North Long by Chron 165.25 East

Sunday May the 18th Commences with a fresh breeze from the S.W. and cloudy weather, the ship with Double reefed top sail, the Watch Employed Boiling, through the night moderate & cloudy, at 5 AM let the reef out of the main top sail & set the main top gallant sail at 9 AM saw Whales & lowered & chased them without success the latter part increasing breeze from the S.E. & cloudy weather Lat by Chron 57.25 North Long by Chron 165.05 East