

Thursday evening 3rd July 1856.

At boarding house of Wm Hocum in
New Bedford Massachusetts.

Waiting to be shipped on board
a whaler: occupy the time in reading, smoking,
sleeping & eating!

Look forward with strange mixture
of feelings - Hope of getting a ship: fear of
not being accepted: distrust of my own courage
to face danger: determination to rush blindly
if unable coolly and reflectingly, into every
thing that nature shrinks from: feeble efforts
to imagine my own condition at the end of
a three years cruise: shall I emerge from
that course of training improved in body
& mind or the contrary? Will the inclinations
I now suffer from be weakened or strengthened?

New Bedford is a thriving but
not a pleasant city -

Reading consists of Macaulay's History
of England & Scott's Rob Roy Foster's Essays,
Ten Thousand a year: which last have
just finished - A powerfully constructed
story: but the author shows too plainly
that he is an intense aristocrat - Is it not
a foolish & unwarrantable conclusion that
the offspring of nobility & rank is certainly
& necessarily noble in mind & body while the
children of low life or of illegitimate connections