

No. 20.
Bark Daniel Webster March 10th 1879
W. C. N. Swift Esqr

Dear Sir

I suppose that with others you will be expecting a letter from me. I have nothing of importance to communicate. The potatoes you sent me at Pagan last fall, rotted badly. At Teneriffe they appeared to look well and I had hopes of helping them, and did not detain a supply there, but in getting into warm weather and when I could obtain no others, lost by rot those you sent me. I had very light winds the entire passage. While working through the doldrums just north of the line, after exposing myself to the squalls and heavy rains for several days, was taken down ^{on the 28th} by typhoid fever. I became so low that it was thought advisable to put the ship off for Pernambuco for medical advice. The ship came to anchor outside the bar and a Doct. was sent for. He came on board, and pronounced the danger over - the fever broken up - I was quite smart that day, and had no doubt I should get along nicely, - got under weigh the same day and shaped my course for the Tristan Ground, intending to crop all the sperm whale grounds I possibly could. Two days after leaving Pernambuco I was taken worse and grew worse from day to day, until I was not expected to live; when it was thought advisable to put away for Montevideo. We were now within about three days sail of Tristan ground. We arrived at Montevideo on the 7th Jan. For twenty-eight days the fever raged, and the greater part of that time I was reduced to such extreme weakness, that for four days I neither spoke nor moved. To Mrs. Borden's tender care and nursing I owe my life. I was gained gaining on our arrival at Montevideo. I was taken on shore to land and put myself in a Doct's care, where I remained two weeks, and gained enough strength to walk about a little. It was my intention to send Mr. M. out with the ship on a three months cruise, but he being sick or nearly so, and for some other reasons, was concluded to let the ship wait and go myself as soon as possible. I was very weak, and went to sea against the advice of many. But I took medicines with me, and

am now at date of this, in a fair way of recovery.

On leaving Montevideo it was my intention to go out on the Falk Banks and the 49,141 ground, taking the sperm whale ground along the edge of the Bank down to near the Falklands, but I had light airs and calm for nearly two weeks, and not making much progress and finding that I could not get on the Falk Banks ground until the last of Feb, at which time the season is up, I changed and my course and came in on the Main Banks, and have now been cruising here about four weeks, and seen nothing.

The Europa is reported with 1200 bbls. George & Lisson 450 ^{do} & Arnold & Co 450 ^{do} & Josephine 180 of sperm, all taken Nov Dec. & Jan. The Europa & the other two ships took their oil to the N of lat. 40 quite close to the land. Capt Long has been unable to find the Right whales this season. Vessels are now cruising from the River San Plate to Cape Virgin, but there has been no whales seen for a long time.

I intend to remain here until about May, then go in at the Falklands for water, I am in hopes of falling in with whales before I go in, but I fear they Right whales have ^{either} been killed or driven away from the Banks.

Yours Respectfully
G. B. Borden