

William Scoresby – Remarks in Short Amongst the Ice at Greenland On Board the Henrietta Capt. Bean, April – May 1787

Wednesday April the 4 at Noon made the West Ice of Greenland in Latitude 70° 58 N Longitude 8° 30' West, by account, as soon as we saw the ice, we'd all hands to unstow the boats and get oars, masts, sails, compasses, seal clubs, knives steels & C^a. all ready to go a sealing, then sail'd in amongst the Ice and fell in with several ships, but none got any Seales. It continued fine weather until the 6, When Hard gales of Wind came on from the WNW, and NW. with Sleet Snow and thick Weather, then our Indeavours was to get Clear of the Ice as soon as Possible for the safety of the ship and our Lives. When we got clear of the Ice, we continued Laying too, and turning to winderd when we could, until the 14th, when a moderate breeze came on from the NNW. Then steared in amongst the ice and spoke the Unity Capt. Smith, he made the Ice the 6 of this month in Latt. 71 30 N. and several more ships that have been there 3, 4, and 5 weeks and got no Seales.

The 16th spoke the Hope C^{pt}. Webster of Whitby with 120 seals she pict up a boat and her crew the 9 of this month belonging to the Adamant C^{pt}. Harper, that had left the ship in thick Weather and has them on bord, We still continued our Expedition in the lookout for Seales, but only captured two. It's been so Exposed to gales of wind, thick weather & Excessive Cold so that we could not expect maney.

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If a Sealing you think we have Been
mistakes is soon made, when Ships in this trade
for shelter and aid, Companions have made
when ice doth abraid, the Ships are afraid
when they are tos't by the Waves of the Sea.

April ye 20	So now the Western Ice we leave and pleasant gales we doe receive.
Sat. ye 21	Makes us harpoons Splice in and Span For to proceed our plan ... Wind NNW
Sun, ye 22	Then in amongst the Eastern Ice . Wind from NNW to East The pleasant weather did justice Obs Latt 7° 3" 6
Mon. ye 23	Until Beans Island we did see Which Bore North six Points Easterly...Wind Variable. The distance twenty Leagues might bee...Obs. Latt. 7° 3" 43 And Nought Bu'd ice ton all roun to see
Tue. ye 24	We then A Western Course Direct...Wind NNE When pleasant Gales us doth pertect
Wedn. ye 25	And coyled our lines as we do run from NNE to East The SouthEast Ice all for to Shun
Thurs. ye 26	But soon Hard gales Doth Us entice . Wind ESE and To make our ship fast to the Ice, very hard frost For Maney a Ship this dat their bee That's lost by Ice and lofty Sea
Fri. ye 27	Then comeing more moderate and clear, Wind ENE. Whilst Whale Fish Aplaying they were Latt. 7° 21N
Sat. ye 28	The lines did part the fish we lost, Wind N ^{rly} Hear Providence Doth on uss frown, Latt. 75 28 N And we've lost that which wa'nt our own, Tho some of them Reflect and Sware, 35 ships The Fish was lost for want of care in sight

EOP 10

From Monday April ye 30 to May the 5th 1787

By acidance the Precidant with force aboard us went
Losing a Fish was Nought to this
Our Ice and main stem Broken is
Our Spritch yeard and anchor stack,. May the 9th Obs 75 41 N
Our Davids and our David choks,

Three of our boats He stove & swampt
That Unhuman White Haven scamp
This seem'd intended that he did
Oars capturing, then from us fled
All Hands Imploy'd for to Repair
The Damage that he did us their
Hear we did a week or more spend
The Boats and Ship all for to mend—
And got Beset as you do see
Which upset all our Fishere

Remarks from May ye 5 to May ye 25

Most of the time we were Being in sight (When clear W^r) of 30, 50 and once of 100 Sail of Ships and we used every Indiver at all oportunity to get a Pasiage to the Nrd. The Ice laying so close that weve been prevented, though at the same time there were several ships that got their passage to the Nrd they being so squandred among the Ice. — Tuesday the 15th we'd on board of us, C^{pt}. Moffatt, the Escitor, of Escitor, C^{pt}. Harper, the Adamant, C^{pt}. Ward, the Marlboro, both of Whitby, and C^{pt}. Elice that lost the D Mary of Hull, the 26th of April last, he and some of his men being on board the Marlboro, they were consulting which was the best way to get a Pasiage to the Nrd. They agreed to run to the SE the Ice being blackest that way and the wind W^{rhv} but we were soon parted and every one doth make the best of his way and the wind at all oportunity.—

EOP 11

The 20 of May struck a Fish and lost hir, by the Line running foule we then being in 70 30 N Latt. and as if we were Beset tho the ice were slack allround yet had no pasiage aney way from amongst it the Marlboro and a parsil of Dutch men in sight. We had some straglin fish aboute us but could not come nigh them they were so very shie being fritned with the swell among the ice.

May the 23 and 24th fine W^r, Wind SW fast to the Ice.

It's yesterday we had half Watch
to man the boats the Fish to catch.
But soun the fish we saw was fled
The Boring Ice them fritened.
But now today the air's serene.
The swell is folen,
The frost is keen
When the Leviathon doth return
Ten we're in hopes to hook him on
If Providance doth favor show.
T'il set all straight tho weve lost two
And in friendship make I us t return
When this Disastros voyage is done.

EOP 12

Remarks from the 24th of May Onwards, the 25 & 26 of the same month

Soe several straglin fish but could not come nigh them. The 27th the ice opening and the Wind Westerly we indivered to the Nrd where we Obs. 7^o 5 57 Latt. Several ships in sight we still kept pressing hir to the Nrd & Erd amongst the ice (so that none of our indeavours was a wanting to proceed our intended Fishery). So that the 4 of June got within about 15 leagues of the Eastern Land in a large hole of water, then being in good hopes of getting our pasiage to the Nrd on the 5 observed 7^o 6 31 and in 12 hours time were close beset in company with 15 sail, the Lively of Whitby Fountain of Linn Friendship of

London and most of the others Foriners, here we got close beset so that all the eindeavours of man is in vain to get clear until Providance sets us free, sou to keep melancholy thoughts out of our mind w're imploy'd with makeing points, gaskins Panches for the lower Riggin and the stitching of sails etc. we likewise paid great attention in gaising at the sun on the 15th day she was Eclipsed, at the midle of the Eclipse she appeared like the moon at 4 days old, and bearing by compass was WbyS Nearly, on the 16th observe latitude 77° 40 N and our obs. on the 5 of that same month 76° 31 N being beset all the time betwixt the observations makes it appear that the Ice drifts bodily to the NNWrd along the land as we were at about 15 Leagues distance from the land at both observations.

Hard gales from the southerd which cosed a great swell
Brings snow and thick weather that's disagreeable
the Wind to the Northerd when it comes it is clear
then seeing all Round us our spirits doth chear
and makes us more Easy in all this Distress
While beset in the ice we are comfortless

EOP 13

We still keep close beset, and seems to drift back to the Srd, as our observation on this day was 77° 2 8 being June the 18th, and clear weather. We soe 22 sail most of them in our condition on Friday ye 22. The ice slact being calm we tow'd the ship to the southerd among sailing ice. The 23 had straglin fish foe which we had a fall of all the boats after em, and as the ice opened we endiver'd to to get clear of it, and got into clear water On the 25 of June were we fell in with several ships some got fish and going home. But more ready to bear us. Among which was the Lively of Whitby, with hir we kept company she'd 1 fish and a thousand seales We then in a whole sea of water about 28 leagues by computation from yhe East Land. & m 7° 4 and 7° 5 Latt. until the 20of July. Then we stear'd to the Srd and Wrd Intending to make John Main Island but being mostly thick weather was prevented tho Ice did not interfere, the 26 of July Observed 71° 29N & the Wind NE we set sail to Srd. as we had not seen a fish since the 24 of June. We'd a count of 16 sail that was betwixt a field and floo of ice all in great distress.

EOP 14