

A LETTER TO JAMES DELANO FROM HIS FATHER JABEZ DELANO

James when I went to sea my father gave me no word of council, but his whole life, was one of examples, and as such I was bound to practice as he had pointed out.

It now becomes your duty to look back on the pathway of your father. What in him you may discover to be just and good. It is for you to imitate, the frail and faltering to reject, remembering always that a life of honest integrity, chaste and pure purposes bring a reward that nothing aside from them possibly can. Now is the time for you to shape your life wright. If you neglect to ingraft the seeds of moral purity and stern uncompromising integrity now, weeds of error rise and immorality will be sure to spring up and choak and kill out all that is amiable lovely and good. It remains to be seen whether you possess sufficient innate forms of character to eject the evil that lurks with in, and in its stead cultivate and nurish the pure and the good. This end can be reached but only by decided. No to the wicked, and a sincere yea to the good. To this and moral purity is first to be maintained. Never corrupt your body by indulgance use neither tobacco or strong drink. Crush the temptation to the earth. Never indulge in profaine and low vagabond talk when this is gowing the round. Keep silant take not part in ot whatever. But try to introduse a higher pureer conversation, inprove all leasur time to some useful purpose, make it a point to learn somethig every day. Remember that you honestly do as well as you possibly can even if you know that some things are wrong. Never join with those who grumble and find falt. By all means keep on the sinde of the Capt. and offisers, it matters not how unjust they may appear to you mind and keep true to the last. Never be tempter to desert the vessel. Stick to your agreement come wat may. When you gow on shor spend the time allowed you in a rational and concestant manner. Try to cullivate a taste for the ground the subleme in nature, examine the rocks and collect specimens, get the nape bones of every kind of fish that you cam. Labil the bone x mark in your journal the kind of fish it belons to, curious shells are in demand and sometimes in opening sea fish species of fish and crab are found in them of rair kinds. These should when quite perfect be preserved, which may be done by putting them in to strong pickle. They are sometimes verry valuable, should you visit any Islands such as Bermuda or Trinidad you could get many specimens of volcanic or trap rock. Do not let any oportunity of ths kind pass unimproved any stones containong mixtures ore

interesting. Some times you will see beaches of sand as white as fine salt, get samples a 1/2 pint is enough of a kind. If you get a large sperm whale measure his length by marking the rail abreast of his head x fluke. Then if his jaw is saved get the weight of his longest and smallest tooth, and so on with smaller whales. You should observe the peculiar character of the water whenever you fall in with sperm whales its color its thick muddy appearance its fish x its birds, and you will soon be able to tell whether you are on sperm whale ground or not. The gelly substances are the test in this case. Observe close and you will get the run of it. The veins of sperm whale water.

Run North x South or parallel with the coast they are generally narrow East x West. all the secret of finding and keeping among whales depend upon these principles. When ever you are away from sperm whale water you will find the ocean verry blew x verry clear. Consequently verry barren and in such water no whales can exist there are but few men who understand the philosophy of finding the sperm whale. If you are observing you will soon be able to understand my directions.

Now in conclusion I would say that I had rather see you anything but impure and immoral. He that becomes viceous, looses every thing, while he that is virtuous has every thing to hope. Trust in th goodness of god, never sleep with out first praying to him. That you may be kept from the evil and the present danger and when you find yourself out upon the ocean remember the Sabbth day, and try to make up for the many you have misspent at home. The Bible is the best book yhat ever blessed the world, never more neglect it. Remember that such reading sive a ??? mind, which is a treasure that roques can not rob. Be kind to all, cultivate pure friendship with all that is worthy and so get to your self a good name whee of you may never be asshaimed.

You have all our wishes and ??? put on the true man, write letters in advance so that when you speak a vessell you can send them with out delay. I have written rather haistily but never mind, it is like your old goose of a father.

Jabez Delano

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when this is going the round, keep silent take no part in it whatever. but try to introduce a higher purer conversation, improve all leisure time to some useful purpose, make it a point to learn something every day - Remember that you honestly do as well as you possibly can, even if you know that some things are wrong - never join with those who grumble and find fault - by all means keep on the side of the Capt^t and officers - it matters not how unjust they may appear to you mind and keep true to the last - never be tempted to desert the vessel - stick to your agreement come what may. - When you go on shore spend the time allowed you in a rational and consistent manner - try to cultivate a taste for the grand the sublime in nature - examine the rocks and collect specimens - get the Vape bones of every kind of fish that you can. label the bone & mark in your journal the kind of fish it belongs to. - curious shells are in demand - and sometimes in opening sea fish - species of fish and crab, are found in them of rair kinds - these should when quite perfect. be preserved, which may be done by putting them in to strong pickle. they are sometimes very valuable - Should you visit any Islands, such a Bermuda or Trinidad - you could get many specimens of volcanic or Trap rock - do not let any opportunity

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