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Charles Francis Hall's Expedition Diary Volume III, First Expedition August 1860 - November 1860

Extracted on Apr-17-2024 05:01:14

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Sunday Aug 19th 1860

A fine morning. About 10 O Clock an Esquimaux in his kayak came along-side; soon an Oo-miu with 3 families with their tents, Dog, tuktu skins etc. They had but little provision as lent from tuk-tu were to be seen

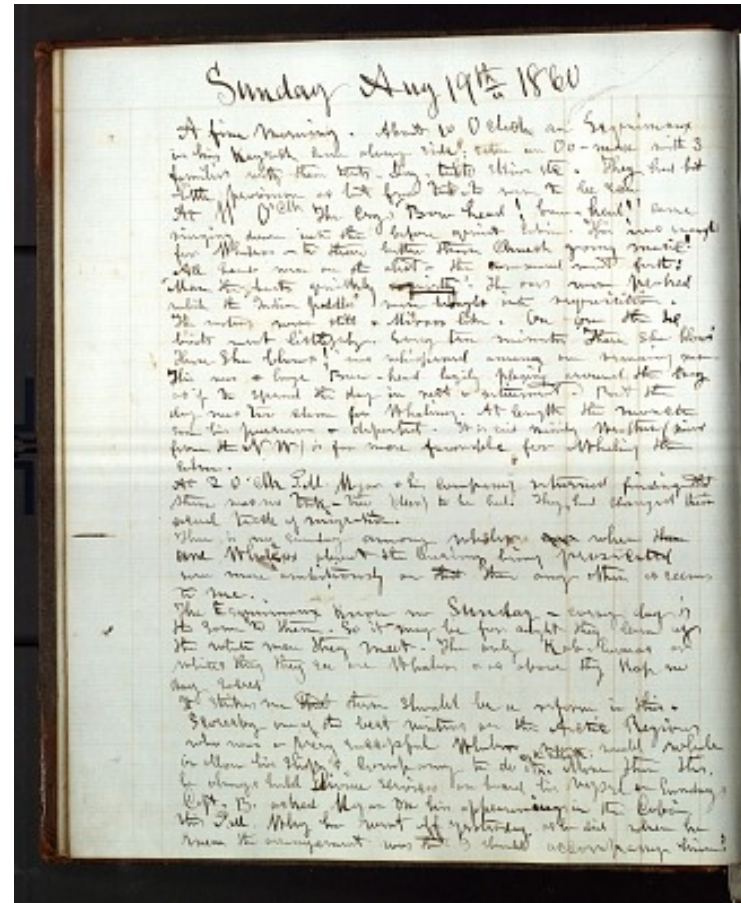
At 11 O'clk The Cry: 'Bow head! bow a head!' came singing down into the before quiet cabin. This was enough for Whalers - to them better than Church going music!

All hands were on the alert - the command went forth: Man the boats quickly & quietly! - The oars were perched while the 'Indian paddles' were brought into requisition. The waters were still & Mirror like. On - on the boats went listlessly. Every ten minutes 'There she blows' There She blows! was whispered among our remaining men. This was a huge Bow-head lazily playing around the Bay as if to spend the day in rest & retirement. But the day was too cl[?] for Whaling. At length the monster saw his pursuers & departed. It is said windy weather (wind from the NW) is far more favorable for Whaling than calm.

At 2 o'clk P.M. Myan & his company returned finding that there was no tuk-tu (deer) to be had. They had changed their usual track of migration. There is no Sunday among whalers ~~exc~~ when there are Whal[^][es] ~~ns~~ about the business being prosecuted ever more ambitiously on that than any other as seems to me.

The Esquimaux know no Sunday - every day is the same to them. So it may be for aught they learn of the white men they meet. The only Kabloonas or whites they see are Whalers & as above they keep no day sacred

It strikes me that there should be a reform in this. Scoresby one of the best hunters on the Arctic Regions who was a very successful Whaler never would whale or allow his Ship's Company to do it ~~on~~ on the sabbath ~~on~~ on the sabbath. More than this, he always held Divine services on board his vessel on Sunday, Capt. B. asked Myan on his appearing in the Cabin this P.M. Why he went off yesterday as he did when he knew the arrangement was that I should accompany him!



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