

though no doubt most welcome series of fine days with clear skies, comparatively smooth water and plain sailing. The diary is a record of the trifling incidents that make up such a voyage: a schooner is seen homeward bound; a brig is sighted on the northern horizon; another sail is within speaking distance for half a day. The brothers play chess during the day, and join the other cabin passengers with singing and dancing in the evening. May 11 they are becalmed, and the boys amuse themselves watching the antics of a shoal of porpoises, and fishing for sea-weed which from its appearance must have floated north from the Gulf of Mexico; two or three whales are seen blowing just above the horizon, and another appears a few hundred yards from the ship; nautili float past, 'looking queerly like large mice'.

On the 13th of May they are half-way between land and land, to the delight of the passengers. The following day brought nasty weather again, the ship laboured hard, the trunks again slid about the cabin and 'even the pillows had to be tied to the bed', a quantity of pig-iron broke loose in the hold, adding to the general confusion and filling the passengers with alarm. On the 18th they passed several large icebergs, and the following day were reported to have reached the Great Banks. 'A great many fishing schooners were seen, with small boats floating about; towards evening it gets foggy, and while sitting in the cabin we hear a great crying on deck: a large schooner lies at anchor, right ahead, not having been seen in the fog until we were a couple of ship's-lengths off; we would have struck her amidships if our course had not been immediately altered. That night we sailed with two lookouts and had bells ringing continually. Some of the passengers took precautions against the ship's sinking during the night, such as sleeping with their clothes on, pocketing their money, and having a bag of biscuits handy to throw into the small boats.'

'May 22. It is now four weeks to-day since we left Glasgow. We began to wash a few handkerchiefs, and I had just gone on deck to put them out to dry, when greatly