

Chas Phelps

Cruising for Sperm
Friday February 9th 1849

Blowing a fresh breeze from the ESE and quite rough. At 8 AM under whole top sails jib and main sail. At 6 shortened sail to a double reefed fore and single reefed main top sail. At 8 luffed to the wind, SE & latter part blowing strong from SE & E. Set single reefed top sails jib and main sail, heading by the compass SE by E.

S. 4.27
124.50Saturday Feb 10th

Blowing fresh from SE by E and rugged. Heading by the compass SE by E under single reefed top sails jib and main sail. Nothing seen. Moderate. Middle part took in jib main sail and mizen top sail. At 1 wore ship to the NNE. Latter part strong breeze and rugged. Set jib main sail and miz top sail.

S. 4.42

Sunday Feb 11th

Strong breeze and rugged. Heading NNE. under single reefed top sails jib and main sail. Nothing seen. At 1 wore ship to the S. Latter part smart breeze. Set whole top sails, main sail fly jib and main top gallant sail. Nothing seen.

S. 4.57

Monday Feb 12th

Smart breeze from the ESE and good weather. Heading by the compass S with whole top sails fly jib and main top gallant sail. At 6 shortened sail to whole top sails and jib. Middle part moderate. At 1 wore ship to NNE. Latter part lively winds. Set all sail.

S. 5.11

Tuesday Feb 13th

Lively winds from the E and good weather. All sail set heading by the compass NNE. Middle part under whole top sails and jib. Latter part smart breeze. Set all sail. Nothing seen.

S. 3.47
125.31Wednesday Feb 14th

Lively winds from the E and good weather. All sail set heading NNE. Middle part under whole top sails. Latter part fresh breeze. Set main sail and main top gallant sail.

2.22

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Thursday Feb 15th 1849

Strong breeze from the E and rugged. Heading NNE under whole top sails and main top gallant sail. Nothing seen. Middle part under single reefed top sails. Latter part lively winds. Set all sail.

S. 6.45
124.25Friday Feb 16th

Lively winds from the E and good weather. All sail set heading NNE. At 4 lowered for Blackfish. Struck one and arose from him. Middle part light winds. At 1 wore ship. Latter part at 6 wore to the NNE. Nothing seen.

M. 1.25
125.02Saturday Feb 17th

Light winds from the E and good weather. All sail set heading NNE. At 4 showed. At 5 packed to the S. Split the fly jib. At 6 took in top gallant sails and main sail. At 8 took in miz top sail and jib. At 12 hauled back the head yards. Latter part smart breeze from ESE. Set whole top sails and main top gallant sail and stand SM. Untent the fly jib. At 8 saw a Sperm whale. At 9 lowered. At 11 struck him and soon killed him. Old dog.

Sunday Feb 18th

Light winds and good weather. At 1 got the whale along side. At 2 began cutting. At 6 had the head off and body rolled in and quit for the night. Middle part moderate and lying with head yards a back heading NE. Latter part at 6 hauled on the plank and cut it in and at 7 began tailing the case. Raked out 5 barrels and they were in on deck and finished it. At 12 had it overboard again and braced full. A whopper in the whale marked ROSE X.

S. 0.09
125.45Monday Feb 19th

Lively winds from the E and good weather. Set the jib and fore top sail heading NNE. At 2 began boiling body. Middle part the same. Latter part set whole top sails. At 9 wore ship. Boiling.

M. 1.43

Tuesday Feb 20th

Lively winds and good weather. Heading SE by E under whole top sails and jib. Boiling. Middle part the same. Latter part light winds. Set the main top gallant sail and stand SM by S. At 11 showed.

1.53 M