

Ship Cyrus whaling on the Coast of Peru. P. West. master 1805

Monday May - 20th Moderate trade winds at S E and fair weather throughout this day steering off West with all sail set in hopes of raising the spout, or sign of spermaceti, but without seeing anything living in the sea, except one Snafish which we caught at 6 P.M. I judge myself to be 88 leagues Distance from the Continent of Peru in this Parallel of Latitude and on blue water, having not seen any green water off from before.

Tuesday May - 21st Gentle breezes at S E and fair weather. Continued our Route off to the W. all this day, saw a large school of Blackfish, down boats killed two and took them on board one of them stove my boat slightly, so that I took her in repaired her and put her upon the quarter again in these B-fish we found fresh sperm, which is a convincing proof of the Bait being here for spermaceti, but none to be seen at 6 P.M. my Distance from Land, I judge to be 110 L^g.

Wednesday May - 22nd Gentle breezes and fair weather all of this day, at 6 A.M. made all sail as usual in the morning, steered off West at 10 saw some sort of whale to y^e Southward, steered for it but it proved a humpback, so hauled in to y^e N E and close by the wind which prevailed at E to E S E judging myself to be about one hundred and thirty leagues Dist. from the Port of Lima, and as far from the Land as there is a prospect of finding whales, but saw nothing but one school of Blackfish to day, and not one spout of a spermaceti since the first of this month in Lat 16-20 & Dist from Land 15th at 7 P.M. have two under courses headed in N E

Thursday May - 23rd Gentle breezes at E S E to S S E and fair weather at 8 A.M. heard whales round the ship, and by the regularity &c of their sporting, supposed them to be spermaceti. Headed in about E S E turned the hands out, made all sail and stood in E N E (wind at S E) until 5, then back to y^e Southward but at daylight nothing could be seen of them continued standing to S E till 11 A.M. without seeing anything but a school of B-fish, so tack to y^e N E and stood in by the wind all day till 6 P.M. when the Land Dist. 105.

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Friday May - 24th fresh flows and light winds every 4 hours throughout this day, at 5 A.M. made sail and steered E N E, wind at S E having a short chop of a sea on wave four humpbacks but not a sign of any spermaceti. Employed at refitting y^e Mathews & at taring the Rigging for y^e aft, Dist. from Land 75 Leagues

Saturday May - 25th Gentle breezes at S E and fair weather throughout this day standing in N E with a slack sail by the wind, saw 5 or 4 humpbacks, no other fish of any sort, at 5 P.M. saw a strange sail bearing E S E 1/2 S 1/2 E, at 6 lost sight of her, continued on Long 80.50, carrying all sail all the latter part, at 7 back to ship & stood the remaining part of this 24 hours heading S S W by the wind Employed as necessary at fitting up the Rigging, &c. &c.

Sunday May - 26th Gentle breezes at S E and fair weather all this day at 6 A.M. being in about the place that we were in at 7 last evening, saw the same sail bearing E N E 5 Leagues continued standing in E N E with a full sail, and drove up with us fast, that at 2 P.M. (the wind inclining E S E) got near enough to her to discover her hull &c. she appeared to be a large Spanish Ship, mounting upwards of twenty guns as she had one tier fore & aft, run out of a black Bulwark and Hammocks stood in a warlike manner. As the Cyrus has much the advantage of Sailing and Winds steady, & spack under his lee (at 2 P.M. he tack to y^e S E) and hoisted his (colors) which the Spaniard took no notice of. So kept steady on to the N E and at 4 P.M. lost sight of the Spanish Ship at 7 having changed the water from blue to Reddish colour try'd for bottom with 150 fathoms but found none, so have too Long 79.00 No fish seen to day, Distance from Land I judge to be 80

Monday May - 27th Commenced Gentle breezes at S E & low weather lying off & on under short sail as usual. At 5 A.M. made sail steered N E on redish water. At noon rounded and found 80 water, fine Black white, and Red Sand, the weather being very lowry could not see more Dist than 6 or 5 L^g no Land in sight, judged it to be 20 Leagues Distance from Ship and steered off W N W from the soundings without allowing the colour of the water. Nothing to be seen to day, Dist. from Land 120 and rounded nothing.